

# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN THE MARK OF THE BEAST IS ENFORCED

## 10 THINGS TO KNOW

It was 10:30 p.m. on May 31, 1973, and Indian Airlines flight 440 was descending to land at the New Delhi Airport. On board, passenger George Larson was sitting in the back row visiting with one of the flight attendants. Without thinking much about it, George unbuckled his seatbelt as the plane prepared to touch down, while a violent storm raged outside.

Suddenly, George felt a great impact as the rear of the plane slammed into the ground, throwing him from his seat. The plane then skidded across the tarmac, breaking apart while people screamed and sparks flashed.

George awoke lying amidst the wreckage. He tried to move but couldn't. His legs simply wouldn't respond to his brain's commands. He was stuck. Suddenly, an explosion lit up the scene as jet fuel from the broken aircraft caught fire.

George knew he had to act quickly or perish, so with all his strength, he pushed the debris off him and rolled onto the ground, then he began crawling away from the flames and wreckage, eventually reaching a place of safety.

Of the sixty-five passengers and crew on board, George was one of seventeen who survived.

It is said that in a major crisis or disaster, there is a 10-80-10 rule: 10% of the people panic, 80% freeze and do nothing (like a deer in the headlights), and 10% take action. George took action, and his life was saved.\*

Is there a spiritual lesson to learn from this story? Should God's people be prepared to take action during earth's final crisis? If so, what should that action be, and how can we have such a walk with God that we do not freeze or panic when the crisis comes?

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 27:12:

*"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself."*

Here the Bible commends the God-given common sense to look ahead and see what's coming and plan accordingly. In our story, George knew that if he didn't act quickly, he would perish.

Unfortunately, many are not spiritually prudent, and when the storm bursts, they will woefully cry out, "What shall I do?" They will panic or freeze instead of doing the right thing.

In this document, we will look at some simple, concise answers about a soon-coming prophetic event that will bring a storm of life-threatening trouble and persecution to our world. It includes the Bible's last warning sign that fore-shadows coming destruction. That sign is identified in Scriptures as "the abomination of desolation" (see Matthew 24:15), which is synonymous with the setting up and initial enforcement of the mark of the beast (see Revelation 13:16-17; 14:9-12). This study considers both the spiritual preparation needed and the practical action necessary for God's people when that fateful time arrives.

For the past 150 years, perhaps no prophetic sign has been pondered more than Jesus Christ's return, and no coming indicator has been focused upon more than the mark of the beast. God's people have known since the middle of the nineteenth century, in general terms, that a law enforcing the mark of the beast would eventually come.

Yet, as this event draws ever closer, little is being said regarding what to do when it arrives! This study was written specifically for those who are aware of the prophetic significance of a national Sunday law (the mark of the beast) being enforced in the United States.



If this is new to you, we urge you to watch White Horse Media's four-part series, *Startling Prophecies for America*, on our YouTube channel (also available on DVD).

It is surely true that God has true believers in every church, yet most of these are wholly unaware of the deep importance of the true Bible Sabbath. They have not understood that the seventh-day Sabbath was one of the richest spiritual blessings God gave to man at creation and was observed by God's people all through the Old and New Testaments. A study of history clearly points out that worship on Sunday did not originate from the teachings of the Bible, but from the traditions of man. (See the booklet, *The Truth About the Sabbath: Proof That the Seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) Is Still God's Holy Rest Day*, also available from White Horse Media.)

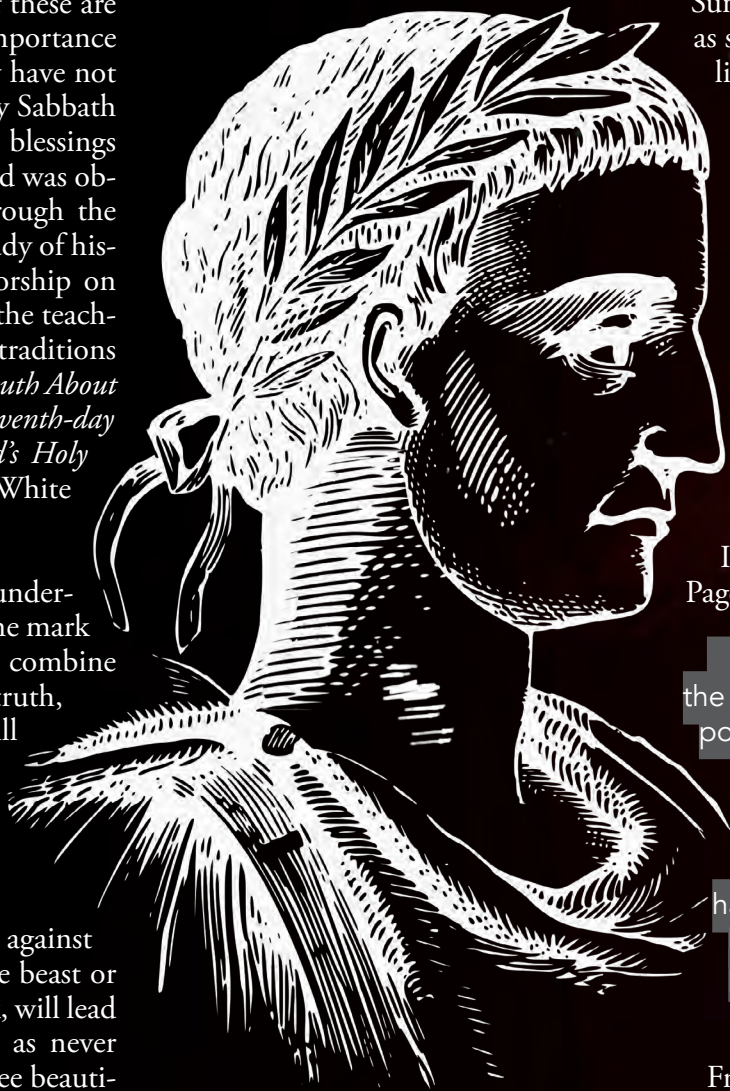
Likewise, many have not understood how, during the time of the mark of the beast as earth's nations combine into a unified opposition to truth, the enforcement of Sunday will become the great divisive issue bringing the Sabbath test before God's true people everywhere.

The resulting persecution against those who refuse to worship the beast or his image, or to receive his mark, will lead many to study the prophecies as never before. These people will then see beautiful truths in God's Word, of which they were previously unaware, and many will take their stand for Jesus Christ and His holy law, despite fierce opposition and challenges.

History reveals that worshipping on Sunday originated with pagan sun worship and that this substitute day slowly crept into Christianity in the early centuries. During those early times, large numbers of pagans entered the church, bringing many false beliefs and rituals with them, which were eventually accepted by the church and substituted for the truths of God's Word.

It's interesting to note that in Catholic literature, including many catechisms, the Roman Church claims it was respon-

sible for changing the Bible Sabbath into Sunday, though not from any direct command found in the New Testament, but from its own authority. *The Catholic Record* (September 1, 1923) even boldly stated that "Sunday" is a "mark" of the Church's authority.



On March 7, 321 A.D., the Roman Emperor Constantine, who had proclaimed himself a Christian, enacted the world's first Sunday law, which commanded the world to honor Sunday as the day of rest.

Most recently, in his world-famous encyclical "Laudato Si," Pope Francis has been pushing for a return to universal Sunday observance as the global answer to climate change.

In Revelation 13, Scripture identifies the Roman Catholic Church as the beast. In Revelation 14:9-12, the mark of the beast is identified as false worship or substitute worship in which man's traditions

(Sunday) are honored in place of God's Holy Word and His seventh-day Sabbath.

Revelation 13 goes on to describe a second beast or world power that will enforce or compel the world to honor Sunday. This second beast is described as starting off lamb-like (or with Christ-like qualities), but in the end, it speaks as a dragon. This second beast is a symbol of the United States of America.

In speaking of this second beast, Revelation 13:14 says that he "*deceiveth them that dwell on the earth... saying... that they should make an image to the beast.*" Here the Bible is describing a time when false worship will be substituted for true worship.

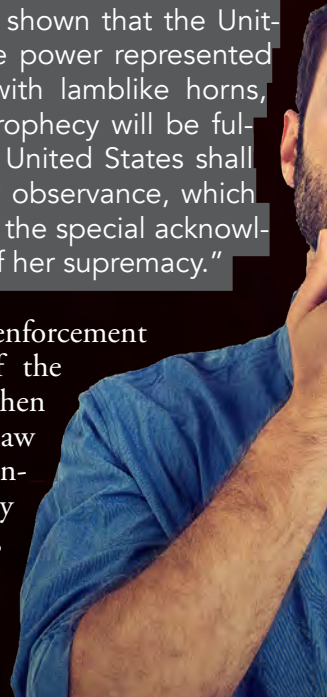
In the book *The Great Controversy*, Page 445, we find:

"When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."

From Page 578 of the same book:

"It has been shown that the United States is the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns, and that this prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy."

Thus, the enforcement of the mark of the beast occurs when a nationwide law honoring Sunday is passed by our legislators, signed by the president, and goes into effect



in the United States.

In Revelation 12:17 and 14:12, the Bible also states that God's people at the end of time will be identified as those who *"keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus."*

An October 2018 *Vox News* article carried this headline:

**"Why we need 'blue laws,' the religious tradition that sanctifies life outside of work."**

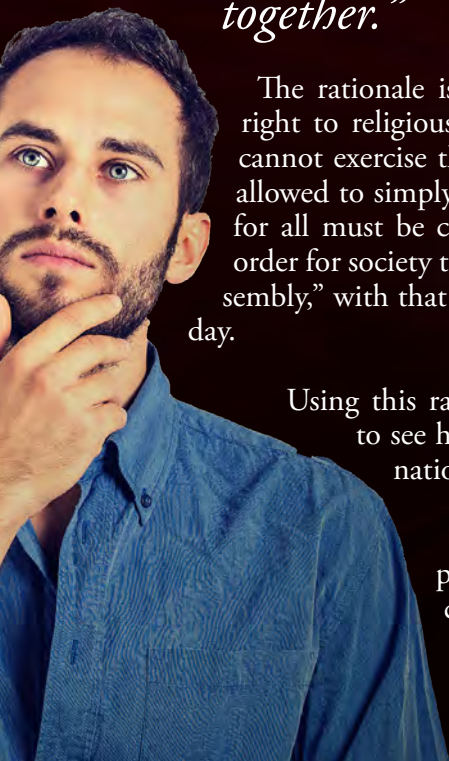
The article goes on to make the argument as to why America needs Sunday (blue) laws. It states:

*"Blue laws are also a way that the state enshrines a special time for citizens to exercise rights to assembly, religious and secular. Assembly requires that people have time off together, so it doesn't work to simply mandate that businesses close for any random 24-hour period, because that doesn't ensure that people have time off together."*

The rationale is this: Americans have a right to religious worship together. They cannot exercise this right if businesses are allowed to simply close anytime they wish; for all must be closed at the same time in order for society to exercise their rights of "assembly," with that time of assembly being Sunday.

Using this rationale, we realize it is not difficult to see how many will be convinced to support a national Sunday law.

They will say, "Our nation is divided, politics is polarized, morality has tanked, and the weather is crazy. We need to set aside time for people to return to God and be able to worship together, and that will involve everyone having the same day off to worship, along with time for family."



In addition, it will be said that requiring this national day of rest will improve the environmental health of the planet, reduce pollution, and save energy.

Many will be convinced by these arguments, even though Sunday is not the day of rest commanded in the Word of God. Eventually, all will be compelled to rest on a substitute day, enforced by law and based on man's traditions and papal power.



The significance of the passing of a national Sunday law in the United States is that this will be “the warning shot” to the entire world that the time of the mark of the beast has begun.

Prophecy tells us that at the time of this legislation, the world will be descending into a time of confusion and chaos when good is referred to as bad, and bad as good. At the same time, an overwhelming sense of one's final standing before God will come upon His people as they realize that the Final Times have arrived.

In this crisis, where will they turn?

Proverbs 18:10 says:

***“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”***

This is the answer for God's people at the start of the time of trouble. Notice here that it is the name of the Lord that is the strong tower. The word “name” in the Hebrew means position or character. It is that mark of absolute identity. To know the name of the Lord is to understand who God is, having a revelation of His character. It's to know Him in a relational way, so that when danger is near, we instinctively turn to Him, as children turn

to their loving (earthly) father.

This is where the righteous, in that evil time, will find safety. So, with that introduction, let us look at the ten most important things to know when the national Sunday law arrives, bringing the enforcement of the mark of the beast.

### **#1. ENSURE YOU HAVE A LIVING CONNECTION WITH JESUS CHRIST**

After the passing of federal Sunday law legislation in the United States, the world will have entered into the early time of trouble. During this perilous time, the judgment of the living and/or sealing will be going on in Heaven, as brought out in Ezekiel chapter 9 and Revelation 7. Human probation is soon to close as God's people are being sealed unto salvation, while the wicked are receiving the beast's mark.

Revelation 3:5 tells us:

***“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”***

Many who profess to be God's people, yet who choose to wait until the last minute to get ready, will suddenly find themselves unprepared for the test, and lost. This is not some arbitrary decision by God to keep them out, but when the crisis comes, their lack of faith simply cannot grasp the promises of God and hold on. In short, they do not have a living connection with Christ, one that reflects a developed trust.

Thus, “one thing is needful,” which is to know Jesus now. Whether you are reading this before the crisis hits, or during the crisis, you must realize that a living connection with our Savior is our only hope, and you must learn to exercise faith in Him.

To clarify, probation does not close at the initial passing of the Sunday law, not even for those in the church who aren't completely prepared. Though judgment does start with the House of God, meaning that God's people will be judged or



sealed first, we are also told that the Sabbath will be “the great test” for God's people too. When the mark is first enforced, some backsliders will return to the fold.

Yet, those who have waited until the last minute can only be saved with much soul searching, earnest agonizing prayer, and deep repentance for their foolishness. In the end, they will be truly sorry they waited so long to get ready.

The servant of the Lord tells us in *Christ in His Sanctuary* 188.1:

***“Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. . . . In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Savior's admonition: ‘Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.’ (Mark 13:33).”***



So, if we find we don't have that living connection, how do we get it?

We must make a committed decision for Christ to be Lord of our life. In essence, we must give ourselves to Him as He gave Himself for us.

What is a committed decision? Picture a wedding in which a young man and a young woman are about to be married. What does marriage mean?

It is a mutual commitment to be loyal and true to each other with all former romantic relationships left behind. A committed decision means one doesn't bring a former lover to live with them and their new spouse.

Yet, how many say to Jesus, "I love you with all my heart and commit to a new life with you, but do you mind if I bring some from my past to live with us?" We cannot have it both ways. Christ is calling for a committed decision today.

Jesus said in Luke 14:33:

***"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."***

Now, there is a vast difference between anxiety/panic over the desire for life, and the soul's innermost need of a lasting change, which is being transformed into the image of Christ. Those who wholly desire to follow Christ will wish to be like Him, regardless of their circumstances or

the surrounding crisis.

However, others only focus upon the saving of their human lives, as if they could carry their sinful state of mind into the Heavenly kingdom. They panic because they do not know what to "do." Their focus is an external one and not a sincere desire for a change of heart and life.

Thus, it is important to recognize our need for the transforming grace of Christ over a desire to continue our sinful existence and perpetuate a heart of selfish indulgence into eternity. As we recognize this, we pray and seek God with all our hearts, asking Him to make this change in us.

Jeremiah 29:13 says:

***"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."***

As we seek Him, we must exercise faith and trust what He says.

The Bible says:

***"The just shall live by faith."  
—Hebrews 10:38***

Thus, we step forward and take God at His Word, believing that what He says about forgiveness, transformation, and power applies to us personally, and refusing to let go of Him, regardless of circumstances. This is the committed decision of true faith.

## **#2. PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL HOLD THE FOUR WINDS OF STRIFE UNTIL THE THIRD ANGEL COMPLETES HIS WORK.**

Speaking of this time, we find the following quote in *Home Missionary*, August 1, 1889:

**"The prophet saw 'four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.' Another angel ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, 'Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our**

**God in their foreheads.' This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah."**

As God's people see trouble coming and many are unprepared and unwarned, they plead for an extension of time to finish His work.

A story in the Bible illustrates the need to hold back time so the work of God can be completed. We find it recorded when Joshua was fighting the Lord's battle inside the Promised Land. Often, Old Testament physical battles represent end-time spiritual battles. In Joshua chapter 10, we find this intense battle going on, and God fighting for His people.

During the battle, they see that if night comes, much of the work of God will be cut short and left unfinished, so by faith Joshua cries out to the Lord in Joshua 10:12-13:

***"Then spake Joshua to the LORD . . . in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies."***

Notice how Joshua asked the Lord for more time, and how God answered. By faith, Joshua commands the sun to stand still, for time to essentially be extended when it otherwise wouldn't be, so that the work of God can be finished.

Like Joshua, the people of God during the time of the Sunday law crisis realize the end has come, and many are unprepared and unprepared, so to finish their task, they plead with God to hold back the winds of strife until the third angel's message is fully proclaimed. Christ Himself sends angels to Hold, Hold, Hold, Hold, until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads, meaning until all have made their eternal decision and are prepared for what is coming.





**#3. IF YOU LIVE IN LARGE U.S. CITIES, FOLLOW CHRIST'S INSTRUCTIONS: LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. DON'T WAIT.**

If you live in small U.S. cities and towns, prepare to leave, but you do not have to leave yet.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:15-16:

*“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)” (Verse 15)*

*“Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.” (Verse 16)*



Here Christ gave his followers a sign to watch for, that they might know when sudden destruction was coming.

How does the Bible define the term “abomination of desolation?” In Luke 21:20-21 it refers to the time as when Jerusalem would be surrounded by armies.

Christ told the disciples that when Roman armies came and surrounded the city, planting their mark or standard on the holy ground outside its walls, then

they would know that destruction was pending and it was time to flee. He gave this sign almost forty years in advance, but it happened just as He predicted.

The historian Josephus tells us that the Roman army, under General Cestius, came and surrounded Jerusalem in A.D. 66. The Christians in the city knew this was the anticipated sign of coming destruction and that they were to leave, but they couldn't, for the city was surrounded. Then history records that the Roman general suddenly withdrew his forces and marched away.

When he did, the radical or violent extremist Jews within the city left and chased the Roman army, attacking them from the rear and causing great havoc.

While this commotion was underway, the Christians recognized the sign had occurred and the way was now cleared for them to leave immediately and flee to the mountains, exactly as Christ had told them.

This they did, and Christ's words came true:

*“Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:*

*Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes... But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.”*

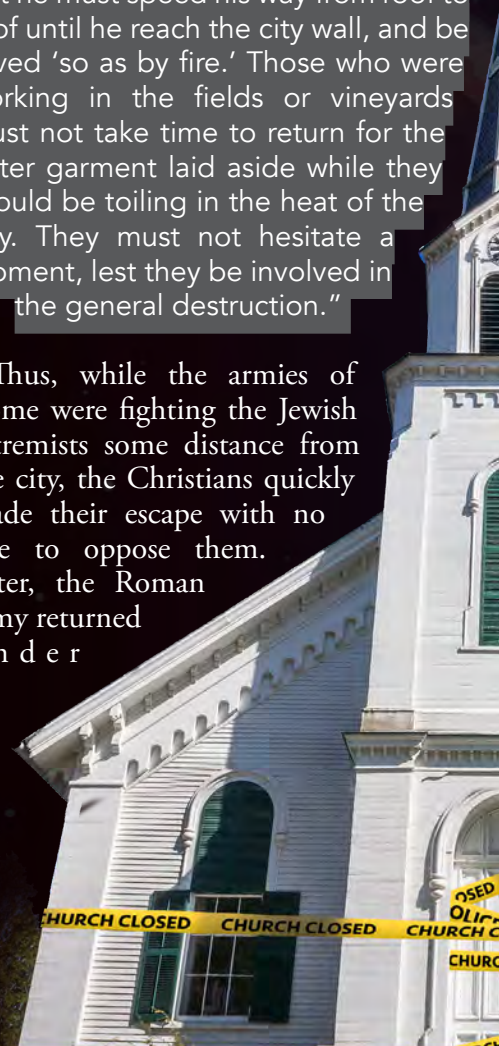
—Matthew 24:17-18, 20

Notice what the servant of the Lord says about this in *Spirit of Prophecy*, Volume 4, Page 26:

“Jesus declared to the listening disciples the judgments that were to fall upon apostate Israel, and especially the retributive vengeance that would come upon them for their rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah. Unmistakable signs would precede the awful climax. The dreaded hour would come suddenly and swiftly. And the Saviour warned his followers: ‘When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth let him understand), then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.’” [Matthew 24:15-16]

“When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, judgment was to follow so quickly that those who would escape must make no delay. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down through his house into the street; but he must speed his way from roof to roof until he reach the city wall, and be saved ‘so as by fire.’ Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction.”

Thus, while the armies of Rome were fighting the Jewish extremists some distance from the city, the Christians quickly made their escape with no one to oppose them. Later, the Roman army returned under



**NOT CROSS POLICE LINE -**

the leadership of General Titus. This time, though, the Roman armies would stay until the city was destroyed. Yet, history tells us not a single Christian died in the destruction, as they had recognized the sign and obeyed Christ's warning to leave the city.

Matthew 24 is recognized as a dual application chapter. This means the same prophetic words hold an application both in the days of the disciples as well as the last days. As there was a mark of ancient or pagan Rome placed upon holy ground in Jerusalem's day, so also near the end there will be a mark of modern or papal Rome placed on the holy ground during our day, and we've already seen what that mark is.

What is holy ground?

In the days of the disciples, Jerusalem (or holy ground) was the initial place from which the Gospel was taken to the world. What place would then be "holy ground" today?

When the mark of (papal) Rome comes upon holy ground, which is that nation that has been foremost in spreading the Gospel to the world (the United States of America), then know it is the sign that destruction is imminent and the time has come to leave the large cities.

In *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, Pages 464-465, we read:

"The time is not far distant, when, like



the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains."

If you live in the city, are you willing to follow Christ's instructions, though many will laugh and mock you? Like Lot, are you truly willing to leave with the clothes on your back, when the time comes? This will be a test of your faith.

If you live in the country, are you willing to open your homes and your hearts to those fleeing and who need a place to go? Like the early disciples, are you willing to live with others and have all things in common? Jesus commends such love and mercy in his followers.

As God opens the way, it is clearly better to leave the cities sooner, continuing our outreach to them (as Enoch did) from the base of a country home.

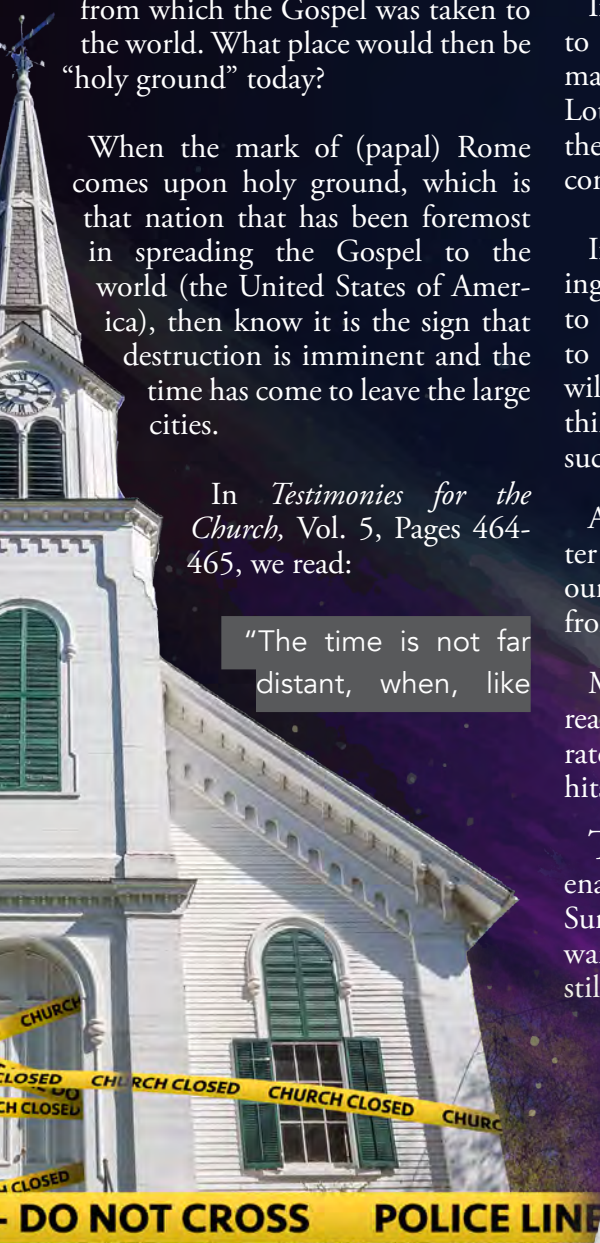
Many in God's church today do not realize that prophecy points to two separate occasions to flee when the final crisis hits.

The first takes place at the enactment of the national Sunday law, which is a warning to those still residing

in large cities to leave immediately, for judgment is about to begin. This type of fleeing is a relocation of one's home out of the large cities and into rural areas or small towns. In some cases, people may have to stay with friends or family. This is the type of fleeing we have just discussed.

The second time of flight is when God's people must leave the smaller cities and villages and flee before infuriated mobs who are angry because of the great work God's people have participated in during the Latter Rain and Loud Cry. When the second time to flee comes, we must leave with the clothes on our backs and head to the hills.

**Be very careful not to mix up the two occasions of flight.**



#### #4. REALIZE THAT GOD'S DESTRUCTIVE JUDGMENTS ARE ABOUT TO BE Poured OUT.

The Bible says in Joel 2:29-30:

*“And . . . in those days will I pour out my spirit.” (Verse 29)*

*“And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.” (Verse 30)*

The Latter Rain comes during the time of the outpouring of God's judgments still mixed with mercy. These judgments are designed to awaken people, and many will turn to the Lord as a result. Yet, the wicked will look upon these judgments as coming because Sunday is not more strictly enforced. Notice this quote:

“Men in responsible positions will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but from the sacred desk will urge upon the people the observance of the first day of the week . . .

They will point to calamities on land and sea—to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire—as judgments indicating God's displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed.

These calamities will increase more and more, one disaster will follow close upon the heels of another; and those who make void the law of God will point to the few who are keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment as the ones who are bringing wrath upon the world.” —*The Southern Watchman*, June 28, 1904

#### #5. TAKE YOUR BIBLES AND OTHER LITERATURE, AND GO VISIT THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU, WARNING THEM WHAT IS COMING.

It has become quite a common practice for individuals to trust what their



church or pastor preaches, but at the end of time, it is imperative for people to stand on the Bible and the Bible alone; for during earth's final crisis, evil spirits will be appearing as angels of light, urging people to follow doctrines of devils.

Thus, we need to warn the people about what is coming and teach them that the Word of God is their only safety.

Ellen White was once asked what she would do in the event of Sunday enforcement. Here is what she said:

“Said I, I have got that all mapped out in my mind what I will do, and what I will advise you to do. Make Sunday a missionary day. Go right out from house to house and carry the publications . . . that will teach them how to obtain eternal life.”

—*Manuscript 193*, 1905

Here, Sister White said we should make Sunday a “missionary” day. In the late nineteenth-century, there were those who misunderstood what they should do and thought by disobeying local Sunday closing laws and openly working on Sunday, they were pleasing God. Mrs. White corrected them on this.

“To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to call you lawbreakers. . . . One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense.”

—*Last Day Events* 140

Therefore, it is not wrong to make Sunday a missionary day. This is a more balanced and beneficial approach because our real focus is on saving souls. When the final Sunday laws hit, we should use Sunday as a day of missionary outreach, realizing that every spare minute should be used to warn those who have had no understanding of these last-day prophecies.

We are told in *Manuscript 64*, 1910:

“Now I want to say that night after night there is presented before me that all at once affliction and sorrow and distress will be brought upon our people.

They [Satan and his angels] . . . are preparing for it. Then what are we to do? We are to do the very best we can to enlighten the world while we can do it.”

If Satan and his angels are preparing, so should we.

#### #6. BE PREPARED FOR HARDSHIP, PERSECUTION, AND IMPRISONMENT.

In a society known for the rights of its individual citizens, the thought of suffering innocently does not bode well. Yet, of this unjust time, the words of Jesus ring true:

*“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”*

—*Matthew 5:11*

Referring to this time of trouble, the servant of the Lord says:

“Many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and many will be martyrs for Christ's sake in standing in defense of the truth.”—*Selected Messages* 3:397, 1889, and *Last Day Events* 150.1

During such a time, God's people must not yield to the temptation to “fight back,” for it is not the Spirit of Christ. When our funds are suddenly cut off or our travels are restricted without cause,





we are to maintain the peace of Christ and act just like He did when He stood before His accusers.

How does one prepare for persecution? Pray for Christ to change us and give us that patient endurance as seen in the life of Jesus. Plead with him to mold and shape us to be calm in every difficult situation. This type of preparation only comes as God does the work in us, and for this we must ask Him.

We are also counseled that during the time of trouble, God's people will be scattered, going from places of intense persecution to areas where persecution is less severe. This means we must be tuned into that still, small voice to guide us where to go when the time comes. The servant of the Lord states:

"The time is soon coming when God's people, because of persecution, will be scattered in many countries. Those who have received an all-round education will have the advantage where they are."

—Manuscript Releases 5:280, 1908

In that time, whether living in remote areas or imprisoned in dungeons, God's people will be sustained by their faith in Him.



## #7. REALIZE THAT THE LATTER RAIN IS NEEDED AND BE PRAYING FOR IT.

The Bible tells us in Habakkuk 2:14:

*"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."*

Again, we read:

"At this time, while there is so much war and famine and pestilence, while there are calamities by land and by sea, the truth is to be made known."

—Letter 18, 1900

The Latter Rain comes in its fullness during earth's early time of trouble. However, it doesn't come until after the church is shaken and the people of God earnestly pray for the Latter Rain.

In I Kings 18, Elijah prayed for rain after the test between true and false worship on Mount Carmel. He prayed seven times—then the rain came.

Likewise, during this coming time of terrible trouble, God's people are to look forward to the Latter Rain, the "refreshing" which comes from the presence of the Lord (see Acts 3:19). They will know and trust that God will fulfill His Word.

Again, we read:

"In the time of confusion and trouble such as never was since there was a nation, the uplifted Saviour will be presented to the people in all lands and in all places, that all who look may live."

—Letter 23b, 1894.7

Though the final crisis will be severe, even before probation closes, we must look past the confusion and trouble and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, trusting and doing exactly what He says.

## #8. BE PREPARED TO BE A MEDICAL MISSIONARY.

From the book *Last Day Events*, Page 80, we read:

"I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines

but medical missionary work."

After the enactment of the national Sunday law, wars, disasters, and pestilence will increase as America compels the world to follow its lead. During this same time, the message of God's people will be mischaracterized as a message of hate, extremism, and violence.

This will be due, in part, to the mistakes of those who say they are part of God's remnant, but who are actually foolish virgins without the Holy Spirit. These unbalanced individuals will resort to extreme and violent measures, which the devil will use to taint the opinions of society against all of God's people.

Thus, between the Sunday law and the Latter Rain, as society further restricts the work of God's people, they will find that the only way to minister to others will be through medical missionary work. As they do so, doors will open to reach hearts.



What constitutes true medical missionary work? Too often, we have passed it off as cold, rigid lectures, when this is not the case. Real medical missionary work starts with adopting the Spirit of Christ in considering the needs of others over your own. As God's people selflessly meet others' needs with loving care, many hearts will open to listen to God's truth.

A chaplain in the army during the Civil War was passing over the field when he saw a wounded soldier lying on the ground. The chaplain had his Bible under his arm, and he stooped down and said to the man, "Would you like me to read to you something from the Bible?" The

wounded man replied, "I'm so thirsty, I would rather have a drink of water." The chaplain hurried off, and as quickly as possible, brought the water. After the man had drunk the water, he said, "Could you lift my head, and put something under it?" The chaplain removed his light overcoat, rolled it up, and tenderly lifted the soldier's head, putting the coat under it as a pillow. "Now," said the man, "if I only had something over me. I'm so cold." There was only one thing the chaplain could do, and that was to take his coat off and cover the man. As he did so, the wounded man looked up and said, "If there is anything in that Book that makes a man do what you have done for me, let me hear it."

This is the spirit of true medical missionary work.



## #9. PRAY FOR WISDOM TO DISPOSE QUICKLY OF WHAT YOU DON'T NEED.

Unfortunately, the Bible tells us the end will come suddenly upon those who have hoarded their treasures rather than sacrificing for the cause of God.

"Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth.

I was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God through sacrifice. If they have their property on the altar, and earnestly inquire of God for duty, He will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in the time of trouble, and have no clogs to weigh them down." —*Counsels on Stewardship* 59.4

Unfortunately, some will not ask of the Lord, and when the time comes, they will lose everything that could have been used for God. Listen to this:

"Hoarded wealth will soon be worthless. When the decree shall go forth that none shall buy or sell except they have the mark of the beast, very much means will be of no avail. God calls for us now to do all in our power to send forth the warning to the world." —*The Review and Herald*, March 21, 1878, and *Last Day Events* 148.2

Thus, we see the need to pray for God's guidance to wisely and quickly dispose of what we do not need. Many will wait until the Sunday law and lose much when they have to flee.

However, any time prior to the restrictions on buying and selling, your cash or other assets should be used up quickly as God directs.

One area in which funds rapidly can be

used is that of publishing. Consider this quote:

"As long as probation continues, there will be opportunity for the canvasser to work. When the religious denominations unite with the papacy to oppress God's people, places where there is religious freedom will be opened by evangelistic canvassing. If in one place the persecution becomes severe, let the workers do as Christ has directed. 'When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another.' If persecution comes there, go to still another place. God will lead His people, making them a blessing in many places."

—*Testimonies for the Church* 6:478

We are told that canvassing work will also continue until probation closes. Thus, purchasing books containing Heaven-sent truth is but one example of an excellent way to use your money at the end of time.

## #10. REALIZE THAT A GREAT SHAKING, ALONG WITH SPIRITUAL DARKNESS AND CONFUSION, WILL SOON SURROUND GOD'S PEOPLE; THEREFORE, PRAY FOR YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND FOR A FAITH TO WITHSTAND THE TRIAL.

Between the time of the passing of the Sunday law and the Latter Rain, God's church will experience a terrible shaking. As the prophecy of Joel points out, the people of God will be sighing and crying during this time.

We find it recorded in Joel chapter 2 and verse 17:

*"Let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach."*

Here we find God's people at the end characterized as those who are earnestly interceding for their brothers and sisters in the faith.

So often, we in the church lament the sins of others, but how often are we praying for those people? Not simply a ten-second prayer filled with generalities, but a deep, earnest, agonizing prayer for their souls' salvation? How often do we pray for others as we do for our own children?

In addition to praying for others, like Christ, we will also have to wrestle for our own tempted and tried souls.

In Gethsemane, Jesus was surrounded by the darkness that Satan threw around Him, trying to convince Him to give up. "It's hopeless," we can hear the devil say to Christ. "If you go through with this, you will never come out of the tomb." In the same way, he will bring a similar attack upon God's people in the final crisis. We are told in the book *Counsels for the Church*:

"He endeavors to affright the soul with the thought that their case is hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes to so destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations, turn from . . . God, and receive the mark of the beast." —*Counsels for the Church* 352

One of the strongest temptations to come upon man in the end is the temptation to give up because he just can't make it. As we look at ourselves, it is true—in our strength, we cannot make it. We are destitute of any righteousness. But when we look away from ourselves and only at Christ—there is hope.\*\*

Psalm 4:5 says:

***"Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD."***

During the early time of trouble, the shaking of the church, and the Latter Rain, God's people will be offering to Him sacrifices of righteousness. This means they will be brought face to face with their own sinful hearts, and then willingly choose to turn away from self, whatever the consequences, or what it requires them to give up. They thus allow Christ to burn the dross from them, as silver and gold are refined.

The righteous are then brought to fully understand what it means to trust in Jesus.

The servant of the Lord wrote:

"The angel said, Some tried too hard to believe; faith is so simple ye look

above it. Satan has deceived some and got them to looking at their own unworthiness. I saw they must look away from self to the worthiness of Jesus and throw themselves just as they are, needy and dependent and unworthy, upon His mercy and draw by faith, strength and nourishment from Him."

—*Manuscript 5, 1850.9*

Isn't this the story of our lives, too? We make faith too hard by constantly looking at ourselves. It is by looking away, and by believing and trusting in Jesus, even in impossible situations, that victory will come.

What about those among God's people who suddenly find themselves unprepared during the final crisis? Many will be in this condition. Yet they can still find hope, just like the thief on the cross found hope when he realized he was unprepared to die.

Those at the end can still claim this promise:

***"Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me."***—*Isaiah 27:5*

God is in the business of saving people, even if they aren't fully prepared. His desire is that all would come to repentance and faith. Yet, we know from prophecy that most will refuse.

While the door of salvation is still open prior to the final sealing of God's people, those in the end can still find Christ, when they seek Him with all their

heart and willingly choose to trust in His promises. They take Christ at His Word, that forgiveness includes even them, and they grasp hold of His hand by faith. This is the faith that saves!

Do you want that type of faith today?

During the time of America's Civil War, it was sixteen days after the battle for Gettysburg. A father was called to the bedside of his son, a young colonel, who had been seriously wounded. After seeing his son, he went aside privately and asked the doctor, "Is there any hope?" The doctor shook his head, "No, the gangrene set in after the amputation and there is no way to stop it. An artery could go anytime. At the most, your son may live four days."

The father returned to the side of the son, who did not know his true condition. The son said, "Tell me, Father, have you spoken to the doctor? What did he say?" The father remained silent with grief on his face.

"Please tell me, Father." Sadly, the father shared with his son that nothing more could be done and that he would die. In fear, the boy cried out, "But I am not prepared to die, I am not ready. Please, Father, tell me how I can be ready. Tell me in such a way that I can get ahold of it. I know you have told others, now tell me too!"

There was silence. Then the father said, "Son, I see you are afraid to die."

"Yes I am," moaned his son.

"Do you feel guilty?" asked the father. "Yes," said the son, "I have lived a wicked life. You know how it is in the army."

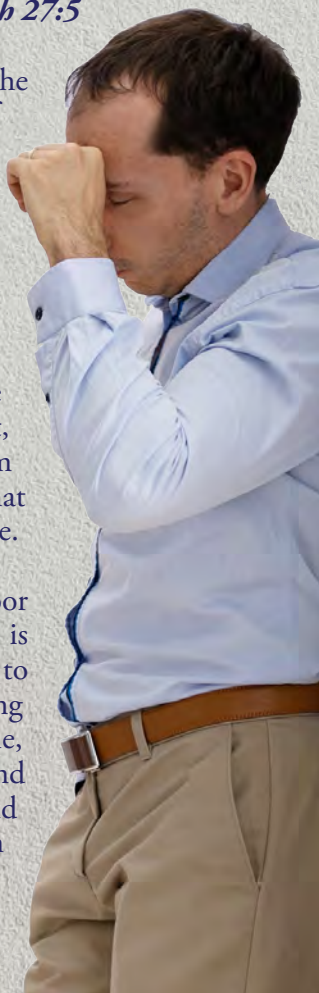
"Do you want to be forgiven?" asked the father. "Yes, that is what I want. Can I be, Father?"

"Certainly!" said his dad.

"Can I know before I die?"

"Certainly," said the father again.

"Please tell me, tell me so I can get ahold of it."



Then the father said, "Son, do you remember the time when you were younger and you came home from school, and I got upset with you for something you did? Do you remember how angry you were and how you insulted me with terribly harsh language?"

"I do," said the son. "I was remembering that the other day, and again I felt so bad about it."

"Do you remember," said the father, "how after your anger subsided that you came to me and put your arms around my neck and said, 'My dear father, I am so sorry for what I said to you. It was not your loving son that did it. I was very angry, won't you forgive me?'"

"Do you remember what I said as you wept on my neck?" asked the father. "I said, 'I forgive you with all my heart.'"

"Did you believe me?" asked the father.

"I certainly did!" said the son. "I remember how good it felt to be forgiven, and I loved you the more ever since."

"It is the same way with Jesus. Tell Him you are terribly sorry for your life of sin and wickedness, and He will say to you, 'I forgive you with all My heart.' Then believe that He does it, and it will be so."

"Really," said the son, "is it that simple? I can get ahold of that. I will do it!" And he did.

Later, we find the emotions of the father gave way, and he is weeping uncontrollably at the bedside of his son, but the son, with joy on his face, says, "Father, do not weep. I have made my peace with God and now I am happy. Even if I die, I am not afraid."

"Say, Father, I feel so happy that I feel like I will get well! In fact, I think I am going to get well." And from that moment on, his condition improved.

When the doctor came in again, he said, "My! You are looking better, Colonel!" "I am better," said the young man. "My father told me how to be a Christian, and I got ahold of it. I am going to get well now. Say, Doctor, you should be a Christian too; my father can tell you how."

The next morning, two of the other doctors came in to dress the wound. After undoing the bandage, they exclaimed in amazement, "The gangrene has been arrested! Your prayers have been answered, the colonel will live!" And the young man did live to go home, raise a family, and be a witness for his Redeemer!\*

So, in the coming crisis, God's people must connect with God by the hand of faith. In so doing, they will also live.

The Bible says that perfect love casts out fear. When we behold Jesus and realize His love for us, it motivates us to truly love Him in return. Then we will desire His purity, His selflessness, and His character. And as we do, we find that all fear is cast out of our lives, and we are made like Him. Then, like that young colonel, we will be changed as well.

Being prepared for the end comes through being transformed into the image of Jesus. It means having a living connection with Him and hearing His voice. It means renouncing the world and all that is in it and seeking after Christ for the complete change of heart that He alone can bring.

The good news is that it's still not too late. Today, Jesus is offering you that change of heart. All you must do is ask Him. Would you like to do that now?

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your goodness and love to us undeserving sinners. We confess our need of Your transforming power. We acknowledge a terrible crisis is soon to come upon the world, and we are not ready. It is only You,*

*Father, who can make us ready.*

*Please make the change in us that we cannot make for ourselves, so that only Christ will be seen in our lives. Help us to give up all, so You can fill us with Your mighty Holy Spirit, that the world may see Your power and behold Your image in the lives of Your people.*

*Thank You for Your promises that assure us of victory and the work You will complete in us, even as You said, Father, in Psalm 138:8:*

*"The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands."*

*For all this we ask in the infinitely praiseworthy name of Jesus, Amen.*

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\* Adapted from various online sources including a story from Zaria Gorvet, BBC Future, July 11, 2017, <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20170711-what-not-to-do-in-a-disaster>

\*\*For more information about the ways Satan will attack God's people in the coming crisis, watch our White Horse Media video called "The 3 Great Attacks Coming Upon God's People."