

— CHAPTER FOUR —

THE FALSE LATTER RAIN

OVERVIEW:

FROM COUNTERFEIT REVIVAL TO FULL-BLOWN FALSE LATTER RAIN

About 4,350 years ago, the wicked confederated together to build the tower of Babel and impose their rule on the world. If permitted to carry out their purposes, they would have blotted the people of God from the earth and Satan's triumph would have been complete.

But, in the near future, a similar objective will be in mind. In the name of Christianity, men will unify to require first a nation and then a world to break the fourth of God's ten moral laws.

Empowered by a strange **excitement**, **Protestants will unite with Catholics** in the attainment of their objective. As soon as they have **coerced U.S. Governmental leaders** to enact a **National Sunday Law**, the excitement in the fallen churches will intensify into a **false latter rain**. Because men have dared to defy God's laws and mandate a counterfeit on the populace, Satan will be permitted to work wonders. A counterfeit revival will precede the genuine. That counterfeit revival, discussed in the first video in a companion series to this book, brings on the National Sunday Law. But that counterfeit revival will continue on afterward. For purposes of clarification, we will call its extension, past the National Sunday Law, the "false latter rain." (You will find both names mentioned in the Spirit of Prophecy; she treats them as synonyms, not making the time distinction that we here do.)

Do not underate this false latter rain. As soon as the Sunday law is enacted, the power of demonic energy, display, and appearances swells into something quite massive. It is this power which in great measure enables the law to be rather quickly enacted by every other nation on the globe. The result is, what is called, a universal Sunday law. It probably consists of hundreds of separate national laws; all of which impose Sunday sacredness and demand worship of God on Sunday.

After the National Sunday Law is passed, the **latter rain** begins; and both the true and false rain

continue on concurrently together thereafter.

Satan will work miracles through his agents; and he will personate (appear as) Christ to the masses, work apparent miracles, endorse Sunday, and denounce Sabbathkeepers.

These spiritual manifestations, by Satan and his agents, are extremely important in the rapid working out of final events in the Sunday law crisis prior to the general close of probation. Without them, the intense zeal for strictest national and later universal Sunday law enforcement could never take place. Yet it will be Sunday enactment in the United States which will have empowered Satan to begin demonstrating such wonders. According to EW 261:1, Satan will raise an excitement before the National Sunday Law. According to 5T 451:1, the National Sunday Law will open the door for the marvelous workings by Satan.

Those final events, once begun, will follow one another rapidly.

Below we will list a suggested order of early events in the Sunday law enactment. You will note that, along with hatred of Sabbathkeepers, the religious excitement/false latter rain fervor is the engine driving forward the fierce passions of the Sunday-law advocates, both before and after the National Sunday Law is enacted. Let us briefly summarize again some of these early events in the National Sunday Law crisis:

A powerful **religious excitement, or counterfeit revival**, starts in the churches. This energizes Protestants, Catholics, and spiritists to work together, yet without disturbing any denominational leadership controls which are already in place.

A tentative **threefold union** of influential Protestants and Catholics, empowered by spiritist forces, begins to take shape. Hatred of Sabbathkeepers impels the churches to search for ways by which to push the U.S. Government into enacting sweeping Sunday enforcements. Please understand that, to all appearances, it is only a twofold union. The churchmen do not realize they are working with demons.

Under the empowered excitement, the threefold union forms rather quickly. Catholicism brings to

the union the doctrine of Sunday sacredness and provides the political support of millions of Catholics. Protestantism brings to it a driving leadership that coerces the U.S. Government to legislate and enforce it. For its part, spiritism provides the hypnotic and miracle-working power needed to carry the movement through to success.

The **National Sunday Law** is enacted by the United States Government. Initial passage of the law is done for political reasons, in order to win favor with the churches. At this point, the full power and extent of the Sunday-law movement is yet future.

The **False Latter Rain** begins. By their heaven-daring willingness to try to enact laws to overthrow those which God has given, Satan is permitted, by Heaven, to more directly empower the efforts of the threefold union to win the favor of all sides to the endeavor.

Spirits of demons, working with men, bring massive conversions to the movement and promote the bold, new solution to world problems. America, first, and Europe, second, will take the lead; and the rest of the world will follow. It is the amazing power underlying this movement that rivets the attention of the other nations and finally converts them to the Sunday-law bandwagon.

Enactment of the National Sunday Law in America has opened the way for **satanic wonders, appearances, and miracles** on a wonder-working scale never before witnessed by human eyes. The power of the false latter rain swells immensely.

These miracles change politicians, church men, and laymen into religious zealots, determined to enforce Sundaykeeping by whatever penalties are required, even if they include the imposition of imprisonment and death. **Nearly all are swept into the ranks**; although, before the loud cry begins, the great majority do not yet understand the issues involved.

Before passage of the law, there was only a religious excitement in the churches stirring them to a threefold union. At their behest, the law was enacted by politicians merely as a political favor. But, after the law is enacted, the marvelous working of Satan is unleashed to an astounding degree. Deceived minds now see the nationwide law in a new light; it has become the basis of a great, new world order, ushering in a millennium of peace and prosperity. Strictest enforcement of Sunday sacredness surely must be all that is needed to bring universal peace, prosperity, and the approval of God. That, apparently, is the only real sacrifice He asks of them. The gluttony, worldliness, and selfishness can continue as usual. The theologians declare that Heaven accepts the people just as they are; and they need not put away their sins.

Enactment of the law places the nation in the hands of Satan; and he is permitted to work more openly. The wonders which follow galvanize, first, America and, then, the entire world. The final crisis has come.

Let us now view the effect this false latter rain will have on, first, America and, then, on the rest of the world:

- 1 -

WHEN THE FALSE LATTER RAIN WILL OCCUR

1 - Sequence: According to Patriarchs and Prophets, 686, this special working of Satan will occur prior to the Second Advent.

"Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, points to **the special working of Satan** in spiritualism as an event to take place immediately **before the Second Advent** of Christ. Speaking of Christ's Second Coming, he declares that it is 'after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.' 2 Thessalonians 2:9."—*Patriarchs and Prophets, 686:1.*

2 - Sequence: According to Early Writings, 261, Satan will begin by raising an excitement in the fallen churches before the loud cry begins. (In a later study, we will learn that the loud cry begins just after the law is enacted. The plagues occur after probation ends.)

"I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and **before the plagues** shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and **before the loud cry** of the third angel is given, **he raises an excitement in these religious bodies**, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches."—*Early Writings, 261:1.*

As we learned earlier, this excitement, or counterfeit revival, will lead to the enactment of the National Sunday Law. It will be this strange excitement which will produce the threefold union and, through it, powerfully coerce Congress into passing the National Sunday Law.

But the excitement will not cease when the law is passed; it will intensify! Its enactment will permit Satan to exhibit devilish wonders which are astounding.

So Satan will be working both before and after the law, but especially so after it is passed. We must give a name to this: First, his heightened activity, which leads to the threefold union and the National

Sunday Law, we will call the "satanic excitement" or "counterfeit revival." Second, after enactment of the law, the continuation and mammoth deepening of that excitement into a full-blown working of wonders we will call "satanic wonders," "the false latter rain," or "the counterfeit latter rain."

This present study is about the post-enactment of the false latter rain and display of satanic wonders.

3 - Sequence: According to 5 Testimonies, 451, first will come the threefold union, then the enactment of the National Sunday Law, then the marvelous working of Satan.

"By the *decree* enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When *Protestantism* shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the *Roman power*, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with *spiritualism*, when, under the influence of this *threefold union*, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, *then* we may know that *the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan* and that the end is near."—5 Testimonies, 451:1.

In the above quotation, we are given a promised sign. The phrase, "the end is near," is a warning for those who have not yet done so, to begin moving to more retired places; cf. GC 30:2-31:0.

4 - Sequence: As we have earlier learned, according to Great Controversy, 464, Satan's counterfeit revival will precede the latter rain upon God's people. The faithful who understand the issues, who have not earlier done so, will separate from the fallen churches when the true latter rain begins falling.

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be, *among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness* as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. *The Spirit and power of God will be poured out* upon His children. *At that time many will separate themselves from those churches* in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His Word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time, to prepare a people for the Lord's Second Coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and *before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it, by introducing a counterfeit*. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out;

there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world."—*Great Controversy*, 464:1.

- 2 -

HOW SATAN AND HIS DEVILS WILL WORK TO CAPTURE AND DESTROY

SATAN WANTS TO OVERCOME EVERYONE

1 - Satan's objective is to lead and control every Christian in the world.

"We are approaching the end of this earth's history, and *Satan is working as never before. He is striving to act as director of the Christian world*. With an intensity that is marvelous he is working his lying wonders. Satan is represented as walking about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. *He desires to embrace the whole world in his confederacy*."—8 Manuscript Releases, 346:1 (1901).

2 - He wants to deceive and overpower all the faithful.

"The Word of God declares that when it suits the enemy's purpose, he will through his agencies manifest *so great a power* under a pretense of Christianity that, *'if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect'* [Matt. 24:24]."—*Manuscript*, 125, 1901.

"As the spirits will *profess faith in the Bible and manifest respect for the institutions of the church*, their work will be *accepted as a manifestation of divine power*."—*Great Controversy*, 588:2.

3 - There will be an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, which will captivate all but those grounded in Scripture.

"In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. There is *an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false*, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God's Word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. *Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world*, there we may be sure that God's blessing is not bestowed. And by the rule which Christ Himself has given, 'Ye

shall know them by their fruits,' it is evident that these movements are not the work of the Spirit of God."—*Great Controversy*, 464:2-465:0.

4 - Pray that you will be able to distinguish Satan's miracle-working power from divine power.

"Go to God for yourselves, pray for divine enlightenment, that you may know that you do **know what is truth, that when the wonderful miracle-working power shall be displayed**, and the enemy shall come as an angel of light, you may distinguish between the genuine work of God and the **imitative work** of the powers of darkness."—3 *Selected Messages*, 389:4.

FALSE TEACHINGS WILL BE TAUGHT

1 - Spirits of devils will declare the Sabbath to have been changed.

"The saints must get a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead, for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved friends and relatives, who **will declare to them that the Sabbath has been changed, also other unscriptural doctrines**."—*Early Writings*, 87:2.

2 - The lying spirits will contradict Scripture.

"The apostles, as personated by these lying spirits, are made to **contradict what they wrote** at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. They **deny the divine origin of the Bible**."—*Great Controversy*, 557:1.

3 - Satan will use two special doctrinal errors to capture the people.

"Through the two great errors, **the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness**, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome."—*Great Controversy*, 588:1.

THE SPIRITS WILL DEMAND SUNDAYKEEPING

The spirits will speak for Sunday sacredness, against the Sabbath and Sabbathkeepers, and declare that the laws of the land should be obeyed.

"The **miracle-working power** manifested through spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits **will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed** as the law of God. They will

lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony."—*Great Controversy*, 591:0.

GOD'S PEOPLE WILL BE CALLED LAWBREAKERS

1 - God's people will be called lawbreakers.

"While Satan seeks to destroy those who honor God's law, **he will cause them to be accused as lawbreakers**, as men who are dishonoring God and bringing judgments upon the world."—*Great Controversy*, 591:1.

2 - They will be accused as anarchists (against government rule), traitors, and opposed to law and morality.

"Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as **enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints** of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be **accused of disaffection toward the government**. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives."—*Great Controversy*, 592:1.

FANATICISM WILL OCCUR

1 - There will be shouting, drums, music, and dancing.

"The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. **There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing**. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions

.. .
"A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies **blend with the din and noise** to have a carnival [a synonym for celebration], and **this is termed the Holy Spirit's working** . . . Those things which have been in the past will be in the future. Satan will make music a snare by the way in which it is conducted."—2 *Selected Messages*, 36:2-3, 38:1.

2 - Men will engage in strange activities and call them the work of God.

"Let us give no place to *strange exercisings*, which really take the mind away from the deep movings of the Holy Spirit. God's work is ever characterized by *calmness and dignity*."—2 *Selected Messages*, 42:4.

3 - Fanaticism, tongues, and noise will be termed special gifts of God.

"*Fanaticism, false excitement, false talking in tongues, and noisy exercises* have been considered gifts which God has placed in the church. Some have been deceived here. The fruits of all this have not been good. 'Ye shall know them by their fruits.' *Fanaticism and noise have been considered special evidences of faith*. Some are not satisfied with a meeting unless they have a powerful and happy time. They work for this and get up an excitement of feeling. But the influence of such meetings is not beneficial. When the happy flight of feeling is gone, they sink lower than before the meeting because their happiness did not come from the right source."—1 *Testimonies*, 412:1.

MIRACLES WILL BE SEEN

1 - Through deception, Satan will produce apparent miracles. They are appearances which have no reality in fact.

"*Satan can, through a species of deceptions, perform wonders that will appear to be genuine miracles*. It was this he hoped to make a test question with the Israelites at the time of their deliverance from Egypt."—2 *Selected Messages*, 52:4.

2 - Satan will use miracles to demonstrate his power.

"The way in which Christ worked was to preach the Word, and to relieve suffering by miraculous works of healing. But I am instructed that we cannot now work in this way, for *Satan will exercise his power by working miracles*. God's servants today could not work by means of miracles, because spurious works of healing, claiming to be divine, will be wrought."—2 *Selected Messages*, 54:2.

3 - Satan will be able to counterfeit those miracles done by God's people. A counterfeit is not the reality, but it appears so.

"God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for *Satan will counterfeit the miracles* that will be wrought."—9 *Testimonies*, 16:1.

4 - Miracle-working power by the disobedient only proves their connection to Satan. We can know this, because God's true followers are obe-

dient to His laws.

"If those through whom cures are performed are disposed, on account of these manifestations, to excuse their neglect of the law of God and continue in disobedience, though they have power to any and every extent, *it does not follow that they have the great power of God*. On the contrary, *it is the miracle-working power of the great deceiver*."—2 *Selected Messages*, 50:4-51:0.

5 - The truths of the Bible are of greater importance than miracles performed in your sight. Never forget that.

"*The Bible will never be superseded by miraculous manifestations*. The truth must be studied, it must be searched for as hidden treasure. *Wonderful illuminations will not be given aside from the Word*, or to take the place of it. Cling to the Word, receive the engrafted Word which will make men wise unto salvation."—2 *Selected Messages*, 48:2.

6 - Only by Scripture will we be able to correctly identify the counterfeit when it appears.

"The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. *So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the holy Scriptures*. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested."—*Great Controversy*, 593:1.

7 - The people of God will not be misled when the time comes for the wondrous delusions of Satan to be manifest.

"Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform *wonderful miracles of healing* and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures . . .

"*But the people of God will not be misled*. The *teachings* of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshipers of the beast and his image, the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out."—*Great Controversy*, 624:1, 625:1.

DEMONS WILL APPEAR AS MEN

1 - Miracles and healings will occur and Satan will appear as an angel. The spirits will respect the institutions of the churches.

Because the devils are not concerned about corruption in organizational leaders, structures, committees, and their activities, they will be welcomed for the power they bring. Otherwise they might have

been feared and shunned by church, business, and political leaders.

"As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. **Satan himself is converted**, after the modern order of things. **He will appear in the character of an angel of light**. Through the agency of spiritualism, **miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed**, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and **manifest respect for the institutions of the church**, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power."—*Great Controversy*, 588:2.

2 - Healings and miracles will be performed in the presence of God's people in order to counteract their message before others and, hopefully, to overcome them.

"**The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight.** Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited?"—*1 Testimonies*, 302:2.

3 - Agents of Satan will, "by casting a spell," bring sickness upon people and then work an apparent miracle by removing it.

"**Men under the influence of evil spirits will work miracles.** They will make people sick by casting their spell upon them, and will then remove the spell, leading others to say that those who were sick have been miraculously healed. This Satan has done again and again."—*2 Selected Messages*, 53:2.

"Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God's Word declares that **Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power.** They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test."—*2 Selected Messages*, 53:3.

4 - Both Satan and his devils will appear in human form as living people.

"Satan will use every opportunity to seduce men from their allegiance to God. **He and the angels who fell with him will appear on the earth as men**, seeking to deceive. God's angels also will appear as men, and will use every means in their power to defeat the purposes of the enemy."—*8 Manuscript Releases*, 399 (1903).

5 - These demons will converse with God's people, and will try to convince others that God's people have a wrong message, a wrong faith.

"**Evil angels in the form of men** will talk with those who know the truth. They will misinterpret and misconstrue the statements of the messengers

of God . . .

"Have Seventh-day Adventists forgotten the warning given in the sixth chapter of Ephesians? **We are engaged in a warfare against the hosts of darkness.** Unless we follow our Leader closely, Satan will obtain the victory over us."—*3 Selected Messages*, 411:1-2.

6 - Devils in human form will even become workers in our denomination, and will speak in our meetings. We will be able to identify those who might be such spirits, because they will urge our people to disbelieve our historic message. (The following statement indicates it is discussing a present, as well as a future, event!)

"**Evil angels in the form of believers** will work in our ranks to bring in a strong spirit of unbelief. Let not even this discourage you, but bring a true heart to the help of the Lord against the powers of satanic agencies. These **powers of evil will assemble in our meetings**, not to receive a blessing, but to counterwork the influences of the Spirit of God."—*2 Mind, Character, and Personality*, 504:3-505:0.

7 - Satan will use all conceivable methods to ruin God's people; for he already controls so many others in the world.

"There is now need of earnest, working men and women who will seek for the salvation of souls, for Satan as a powerful general has taken the field, and in this last remnant of time **he is working through all conceivable methods to close the door against light that God would have come to His people.** He is sweeping the whole world into his ranks, and the few who are faithful to God's requirements are the only ones who can ever withstand him, and even these he is trying to overcome."—*3 Selected Messages*, 389:3.

8 - Spirits of devils, and their human agents, will work to convert leaders and people throughout the world to the grand new movement. They will perform healing miracles and say they have divine revelations.

"**Fearful sights of a supernatural character** will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. **The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them** in deception, and **urge them on** to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform **wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from heaven** contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures."—*Great Controversy*, 624:1.

9 - Spirits of devils will teach heresies and work miracles.

"Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends, and **declaring the most dangerous heresies**. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies, and **will work miracles** to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to withstand them with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils."—*Great Controversy*, 560:1.

10 - The world is already teetering on the brink of wholesale perversion and apostasy. By accepting spiritism and spiritist teachings, the world will have its morality destroyed.

"As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, **the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed**, and the profession of **religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity**. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches."—*Great Controversy*, 603:2-604:0.

11 - The churches will not be able to withstand the inroads of spiritism. (This would be because of their acceptance of the belief of innate, unconditional immortality.)

"The popular ministry **cannot successfully resist spiritualism**. They have nothing wherewith to shield their flocks from its baleful influence. Much of the sad result of spiritualism will rest upon ministers of this age; for they have trampled the truth under their feet, and in its stead have preferred fables."—*1 Testimonies*, 344:1.

THE DEAD WILL APPARENTLY APPEAR

1 - Devils will personate departed saints and sinners, so that they will appear to have returned from the dead.

"It is not difficult for the **evil angels to represent both saints and sinners who have died**, and make these representations visible to human eyes. These manifestations will be more frequent; and developments of a more startling character will appear as we near the close of time."—*Evangelism*, 604:3.

"It is Satan's most successful and fascinating delusion—one calculated to take hold of the sympathies of those who have laid their loved ones in the grave. **Evil angels come in the form of those loved ones and relate incidents connected with their lives, and perform acts which they performed while living**. In this way they lead persons to believe that their dead friends are angels hovering over them and

communicating with them. These evil angels, who assume to be the deceased friends, are regarded with a certain idolatry, and, with many, their word has greater weight than the Word of God."—*Last Day Events*, 161:3.

2 - Devils will come in the form of departed loved ones in order to deceive people. Satan has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness.

"Many will be confronted by the **spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies**. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions."—*Story of Redemption*, 398:1.

3 - Through these appearances, Satan will captivate and paralyze the thinking of many religious, professional, and political leaders. He will then use them to deceive still others.

"**The forms of the dead will appear**, through the cunning device of Satan, and many will link up with the one who loveth and maketh a lie. I warn our people that right among us some will turn away from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and by them the truth will be evil spoken of.

"**A marvelous work shall take place**. Ministers, lawyers, doctors, who have permitted these falsehoods to overmaster their spirit of discernment, will be themselves deceivers, united with the deceived. A spiritual drunkenness will take possession of them."—*Upward Look*, 317:6.

HEATHEN DEITIES WILL APPEAR AS INCARNATE

Well-known heathen deities (Buddha, Mohammed, Tao, Confucius, local devil gods, etc.) will appear to have returned to our world. They will exhibit great power. (We can be sure that such appearances will be used to advocate Sundaykeeping and will powerfully open the non-Christian nations to the counterfeit latter rain that is spreading across the world.)

"As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater **external parade of heathen power; heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves** before the cities of the world; and this delineation has already begun to be fulfilled."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 117:5-118:0.

SATAN PROMISES A MILLENNIUM OF HAPPINESS

As the excitement heightens to fever pitch, it will be declared that the entire world is about to be converted and the long-promised millennium of happiness is about to begin.

"Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the *conversion of the world* and the ushering in of the long-expected *millennium*."—*Great Controversy* 588:3-589:0.

SATAN WILL BRING TERRIBLE DISASTERS

1 - Through spiritism, Satan will appear as a healer with a better system of religion while, at the same time, he is destroying lives through intemperance and warfare, as well as through natural disasters which he has power to cause.

"Through spiritualism Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, *healing the diseases* of the people and professing to present *a new and more exalted system of religious faith*; but *at the same time* he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; *sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow*. Satan delights in war; for it excites the worst passions of the soul, and then sweeps into eternity its victims, steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.

"Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the *laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements* as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth, and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs; and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them."—*Great Controversy*, 589:1-2.

2 - At the same time that Satan is appearing among men as a great healer, he is bringing ter-

rible disasters so serious that large cities are being destroyed.

"While appearing to the children of men as *a great physician who can heal* all their maladies, he will *bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin* and desolation."—*Great Controversy*, 589:3.

3 - In all of this, Satan's objective is to blame the commandment-keeping people of God as the cause of the disasters.

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon *those whose obedience to God's commandments* is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be *declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday-sabbath*; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity."—*Great Controversy*, 590:1.

- 3 -

SATAN WILL PERSONATE CHRIST

There are two mentions, in *Great Controversy*, of Satan's appearance as a counterfeit Christ. It is significant that each mention of these appearances speaks of Satan's appeals to the people to hallow Sunday. Such appeals would more fittingly be given before probation closes, while men and women are still making their decision. However, in *Great Controversy*, it would appear that his personations are mentioned both before and after the general close of probation (GC 561-562 and 624-625). Thus it seems certain that some of these almost overmastering appearances will occur BEFORE probation ends, during the time of the marking, sealing, and loud cry. (Later in this study, we will analyze the second passage [GC 624-625] in greater detail.)

The quotations indicate that the appearance of Satan occurs after the U.S. National Sunday Law and before all the rest of the world has enacted it. It appears that Satan's personal appearances will help convince the non-Christian nations to unite in the fevered Sunday-law excitement that first grips America and, then, Europe. The sequence would be as follows: (1) The threefold union begins forming; (2) the National Sunday Law is enacted; (3) the marvelous working of Satan begins, culminating in the appearance of Satan as an angel of light who claims to be Christ. (4) Astonished at these occurrences (including the appearance of pagan non-Chris-

tian deities), other nations pass National Sunday Laws.

Satan's personation as Christ, along with satanic miracle working by his agents, will raise the enthusiasm about the Sunday law to a frenzy and carry that emotional high pitch into all other nations of earth, leading them to enact their own National Sunday Laws.

The following quotations, in addition, reveal that, when Satan personates, he will appear as a glorious angel claiming to be Christ Himself, not a mere man claiming to be a last-day "Christ."

1 - Sequence: According to 5 Testimonies, 451, first will come the threefold union, then the National Sunday Law, and then the marvelous working of Satan.

"By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When **Protestantism** shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the **Roman power**, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with **spiritualism**, when, under the influence of this **threefold union**, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall **make provision** for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that **the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan** and that the end is near."—5 Testimonies, 451:1.

2 - Sequence: According to Testimonies to Ministers, 62, first is the appearance of Satan and, then, the law of God will be made void throughout all nations.

"In this age **antichrist will appear as the true Christ; and, then, the law of God will be fully made void in the nations** of our world. Rebellion against God's holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God, and deify him. But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, 'Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her' [Rev. 18:8]."—Testimonies to Ministers, 62:1.

3 - Satan will appear to the Christian world and to those who have not yet decided for Sunday-keeping as the returned Christ. He will also appear to Sabbathkeepers and pretend to be the returned Christ.

The next quotation indicates that Satan will appear to be Christ near the latter part of the loud cry period as "one last desperate effort" to deceive the

entire world.

In this crisis, the only safety for Sabbathkeepers will be in obedience to the Word of God; for Satan's message will always be one of disobedience to that Word.

"Satan sees that he is about to lose his case. He cannot sweep in the whole world. **He makes one last desperate effort to overcome the faithful by deception. He does this in personating Christ.** He clothes himself with the garments of royalty which have been accurately described in the vision of John. He has power to do this. **He will appear to his deluded followers, the Christian world** who received not the love of the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (transgression of the law), as Christ coming the second time.

'He proclaims himself Christ, and he is believed to be Christ, a beautiful, majestic being clothed with majesty and with soft voice and pleasant words, with glory unsurpassed by anything their mortal eyes had yet beheld. **Then his deceived, deluded followers set up a shout of victory, 'Christ has come the second time! Christ has come!** He has lifted up His hands just as He did when He was upon the earth, and blessed us.'

'The saints look on with amazement. Will they also be deceived? Will they worship Satan? Angels of God are about them. A clear, firm, musical voice is heard, 'Look up.'

"There was one object before the praying ones—the final and eternal salvation of their souls. This object was before them constantly, that immortal life was promised to those who endure unto the end. Oh, how earnest and fervent had been their desires. The judgment and eternity were in view. Their eyes by faith were fixed on the blazing throne, before which the white-robed ones were to stand. This restrained them from the indulgence of sin . . .

"One effort more, and then Satan's last device is employed. **He hears the unceasing cry for Christ to come, for Christ to deliver them. This last strategy is to personate Christ** and make them think their prayers are answered."—Last Day Events, 164:1-165:1.

SATAN WANTS TO DECEIVE AND CONTROL THE WORLD

1 - One of Satan' objectives in his appearance is to deceive the Christian world.

"We are approaching the end of this earth's history, and **Satan is working as never before. He is striving to act as director of the Christian world.** With an intensity that is marvelous he is working with his lying wonders. Satan is represented as walking about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may

devour. He desires to embrace the whole world in his confederacy. Hiding his deformity under the garb of Christianity, he assumes the attributes of a Christian and claims to be Christ Himself."—8 *Manuscript Releases*, 346:1 (1901).

2 - Men will be astounded by Satan's appearance as Christ. They will deify him. That culminating act of apostasy will be the last step in fully eliminating obedience to God's law by all but the faithful. Not long after this, the general close of probation will occur and the plagues will begin falling.

"In this age *antichrist will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God will be fully made void in the nations* of our world. Rebellion against God's holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan *clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God*, and deify him. But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, 'Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.'"—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 62:1.

BOTH SATAN AND HIS ANGELS WILL APPEAR

1 - Both Satan and His angels will appear on earth as men, seeking to deceive the world. In that hour of crisis, holy angels will also appear in human form.

"Satan will use every opportunity to seduce men from their allegiance to God. *He and the angels who fell with him will appear on the earth as men*, seeking to deceive. God's angels also will appear as men, and will use every means in their power to defeat the purposes of the enemy."—8 *Manuscript Releases*, 399:1 (1903).

2 - Satan will appear, surrounded by his angels. He will work miracles of all kinds in the hope of deceiving God's people, not only the people of the world.

"It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And *Satan, surrounded by evil angels and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds*, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried

and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living Word: 'It is written.' This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely."—9 *Testimonies*, 16:1.

3 - This special masterpiece of deception will be taken to the entire world, and will captivate most men.

"*The enemy is preparing to deceive the whole world* by his *miracle-working* power. He will assume to personate the angels of light, *to personate Jesus Christ*."—2 *Selected Messages*, 96:1.

"Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden: 'Ye shall not surely die.' 'In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.' Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached *the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time*. Says the prophet: 'I saw three unclean spirits like frogs . . . they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world*, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.' Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His Word, *the whole world will be swept into the ranks* of this delusion. The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God."—*Great Controversy*, 561:2-562:0.

4 - The world that has rejected the truth will receive him.

"As the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near, satanic agencies are moved from beneath. Satan will not only appear as a human being, but *he will personate Jesus Christ; and the world that has rejected the truth will receive him* as the Lord of lords and King of kings."—5 *Bible Commentary*, 1105/2:4-1106/1:0.

SATAN WILL BE AGAINST GOD'S LAW

1 - Disguised as Christ, Satan will speak and do good, but will reveal his true character by turning the people against obedience to God's law.

"*Disguised as an angel of light*, he will walk the earth as a *wonder worker*. In beautiful language he will present lofty sentiments. Good words will be spoken by him, and good deeds performed. *Christ will be personified*, but on one point there will be a marked distinction. Satan *will turn the people from the law of God*."—*Fundamentals of*

Christian Education, 471:3-472:0.

2 - He will declare to men that the Sabbath has been changed to Sunday.

"He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him."—*Maranatha, 205:4.*

Note: Three facts will identify him as the anti-christ: (1) his hatred of God's law, which is shown by his urging of the people to keep Sunday holy; (2) his hatred of those who obey God's law, which is shown by his accusations against them and his call for the world to persecute them; and (3) his inability to come in the manner in which Christ will return the second time.

**HE CANNOT IMITATE
THE SECOND ADVENT**

Satan will not be permitted to imitate the manner of Christ's return in great power and with large numbers of angels. (Instead, all he can do is to appear suddenly on the earth, walk around, disappear, and then reappear elsewhere on the earth as he gives his teachings and works miracles.)

"Satan is not permitted to counterfeit *the manner* of Christ's advent."—*Great Controversy, 625:2.*

"He [Satan] will come personating Jesus Christ, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him as Jesus Christ. We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ. *What shall we do? Tell them that Christ has warned us against just such a foe*, who is man's worst enemy, yet who claims to be God, *and that when Christ shall make His appearance it will be with power and great glory, accompanied by ten thousand times ten thousand angels* and thousands of thousands; and that when He shall come, we shall know His voice."—*6 Bible Commentary, 1105/2:5-1106/1:0.*

HE WILL PERSONALLY WORK MIRACLES

1 - To the degree to which he is permitted, he will perform both counterfeit and actual miracles to convince men that he is the Christ.

"So far as his power extends, he will perform *actual miracles*. Says the Scripture: 'He . . . deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do,' not merely those which he pretends to do. Something more than mere impostures is brought to view in this scripture. But there is a limit beyond which Satan cannot go, and here he calls *deception* to his aid and counterfeits the work which he has not power actually to perform. In the last days he will appear

in such a manner *as to make men believe him to be Christ* come the second time into the world. *He will indeed transform himself into an angel of light*. But while he will bear the appearance of Christ in every particular, so far as mere appearance goes, it will deceive none but those who, like Pharaoh, are seeking to resist the truth."—*5 Testimonies, 698:1.*

2 - Personating Christ, he will work miracles and be worshiped. But the faithful will declare him to be Satan.

"*He will come personating Jesus Christ, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him* as Jesus Christ.

"We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ. *What shall we do?—Tell them that Christ has warned us* against just such a foe, who is man's worst enemy, yet who claims to be God; and that when Christ shall make His appearance, it will be with power and great glory, accompanied by ten thousand times ten thousand angels and thousands of thousands; and that when He shall come, we shall know His voice."—*Maranatha, 206:6.*

"If men are so easily misled now, how will they stand when *Satan shall personate Christ and work miracles*? Who will be unmoved by his misrepresentations—then professing to be Christ when it is only Satan assuming the person of Christ and apparently working the works of Christ?"—*2 Selected Messages, 394:4.*

3 - Claiming to be Christ, he will work miracles in the sight of the faithful. Only those clinging to Scripture will not be deluded.

"The time is coming when *Satan will work miracles right in your sight, claiming that he is Christ*; and if your feet are not firmly established upon the truth of God, then you will be led away from your foundation."—*7 Bible Commentary, 911/1:3.*

SATAN WILL BRING DOWN FIRE

1 - Claiming to be Christ, Satan will heal and bring down fire.

"You know that Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. *He claims to be Christ*, and he is coming in, *pretending to be the great medical missionary*. He will *cause fire to come down* from heaven in the sight of men, to prove that he is God. We must stand barricaded by the truths of the Bible. The canopy of truth is the only canopy under which we can stand safely."—*Medical Ministry, 87:5-88:0.*

2 - Satan will bring fire down from the sky.

"We must not trust the claims of men. They may,

as Christ represents, profess to work miracles in healing the sick. Is this marvelous, when just behind them stands the great deceiver, the miracle worker **who will yet bring down fire from heaven in the sight of men?**—2 *Selected Messages*, 49:3.

“It is the lying wonders of the devil that will take the world captive, and **he will cause fire to come down** from heaven in the sight of men. He is to work miracles, and this wonderful, miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 51:2.

“It is stated in the Word that the enemy will work through his agents who have departed from the faith, and they will seemingly work miracles, even to the **bringing down of fire** out of heaven in the sight of men.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 54:0.

“He doeth great wonders, so that **he maketh fire come down** from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do’ (Rev. 13:13-14). **No mere impostures are here foretold.** Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.”—*Great Controversy*, 553:2.

Note: Elsewhere we are told that Satan’s healing miracles are illusions, caused by casting spells and then removing them, and that his other miracles are also delusional, and not genuine. In 2 *Selected Messages*, 54, quoted above, he will “seemingly” work miracles, such as bringing down fire. So it is not real fire. In view of such consistent witness, perhaps the *Great Controversy*, 553, paragraph (quoted immediately above) means this: Satan and his agents will have almost overmastering power to actually deceive by what actually appears to the eye to be actual wonders (rather than by obvious sleight-of-hand or mere trickeries).

5 *Testimonies* 698:1 explains the above statement in *Great Controversy*, 553:2:

“Something more than mere impostures is brought to view in this scripture. **But there is a limit beyond which Satan cannot go, and here he calls deception to his aid and counterfeits** the work which he has not power *actually* to perform.”—5 *Testimonies*, 698:1.

And here is another statement:

“Those who look for miracles as a sign of divine guidance are in danger of deception. It is stated in the Word that the enemy will work through his agents who have departed from the faith, and **they will seemingly** work miracles, **even to the bringing down of fire out of heaven in the sight of men.** By means of ‘lying wonders’ Satan would deceive, if possible, the very elect.”—3 *Selected Messages*, 408:4-409:0.

HE WILL DECEIVE ALL EXCEPT THE FAITHFUL

1 - He will misrepresent, pervert, and misapply.

“Satan will take the field and personate Christ. **He will misrepresent, misapply, and pervert everything he possibly can.**”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 411:2.

2 - This false Christ will deceive all except those solidly founded in Scripture.

“A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama—**Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceptiveness of unrighteousness** in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies.”—8 *Testimonies*, 28:0.

“Satan is determined to keep up the warfare to the end. **Coming as an angel of light, claiming to be the Christ, he will deceive the world.** But his triumph will be short. No storm or tempest can move those whose feet are planted on the principles of eternal truth. **They will be able to stand** in this time of almost universal apostasy.”—6 *Bible Commentary*, 1106/2:1.

3 - Satan’s healings, miracles, and lying wonders will deceive all but those obedient to God’s Word.

“Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. **The sick will be healed** before us. **Miracles will be performed** in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the **lying wonders** of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many souls be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God, and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. **Faith in God’s Word, prayerfully studied and practically applied,** will be our shield from Satan’s power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ.”—*Maranatha*, 208:6.

4 - His lying wonders, fire from the sky, and miracles will captivate nearly the whole world.

“It is the **lying wonders** of the devil that will take the world captive, and he will **cause fire to come down** from heaven in the sight of men. He is to **work miracles**; and this wonderful miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 51:2.

Will you be prepared to stand up and declare that this beautiful being with the pleasing voice and angelic brilliance is none other than Satan?

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**THE GREAT CONTROVERSY PASSAGE,
PAGES 624-625**

We earlier mentioned that the appearance of Satan is stated in two passages in *Great Controversy*. The second passage is discussed both here and in Chapter 17 of this present book, *The Great Time of Trouble*. Our analysis, which you will read just below, indicates that the second passage occurs—or at least begins—prior to the general close of probation. If that is true, both passages would be located as beginning during the Sunday law crisis, before probation ends.

It is clear that the first mention (GC 588-589) of Satan's personation of Christ occurs before the close of probation. In connection with the second mention (in GC 624-625) of that personation, the context indicates that it ALSO occurs before the close of probation (or, at least, begins before probation closes; whether or not it carries over to after the Sanctuary ministry ceases, we do not know). In order to understand this for yourself, you will want to carefully read GC 621:2-625:1. It is the conviction of the present compiler that the second passage is referring back to an earlier experience.

The arrangement of that entire section is as follows: [1] Jacob's trouble (GC 615:2-620:1). [2] Flashback to before the close of probation time (GC 620:2-626:0). [3] More on Jacob's trouble (GC 626:1-627:1).

Let us now look at it more closely:

—Before flashback—

Discussion of Jacob's Trouble (GC 615:2-620:1).

—Flashback begins—

The preparation we should *now* be making (GC 620:2-623:3). Satan will *soon begin* presenting fearful sights of a supernatural nature to us, and will work miracles (GC 624:1). Satan will personate Christ (GC 624:2-625:2). We must *now prepare* for what is soon to come when Satan will appear as Christ and tell the people they should keep Sunday instead of the Sabbath (GC 625:3-626:0). The flashback section is dated to our time right now. It is telling us to prepare for the time that the Sunday law is enacted and Satan appears.

—Flashback has ended—

More discussion on the Jacob's trouble crisis, brought on by the death decree (GC 626:1-627:1). The plagues are poured out (GC 627:2 onward).

Here is this second *Great Controversy* flashback passage, which is obviously not talking about the time of the plagues, but an earlier time prior to the close of probation:

Fearful sights of a supernatural character

will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. ***The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception***, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived. ***Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself***, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. ***They will perform wonderful miracles*** of healing and will profess to have relations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures.

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ.

The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. ***In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness***, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while ***he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples*** when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones ***he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths*** which the Saviour uttered; ***he heals the diseases*** of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, ***he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday and commands all to hallow the day*** which he has blessed. ***He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name*** by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying: This is 'the great power of God.' Acts 8:10.

“But the people of God will not be misled.

The teachings of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshipers of the beast and his image, the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out.

“And, furthermore, ***Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ's advent.*** The Saviour has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of His Second Coming. 'There shall arise false christ

and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' Matthew 24:24-27, 31; 25:31; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. This coming there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world.

"Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from **the powerful delusion that takes the world captive**. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. **To all the testing time will come**. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. **Are the people of God so firmly established upon His Word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day**. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief."—*Great Controversy*, 624:2-626:0.

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THE FALSE REVIVAL WILL CONTINUE AFTER THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

It is of interest that the counterfeit revival, begun at the setting up of the image by the enactment of the National Sunday Law, will continue on beyond the general close of probation. (Later in this book, we will learn that the satanic enchantment will come to an abrupt end at the sounding of the Voice of God.)

1 - After probation closes, there will continue to be a satanic zeal in the forms of religion.

[After the close of probation:] "**The forms of religion will be continued** by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn; and **the satanic zeal** with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs will bear the semblance of zeal for God."—*Great Controversy*, 615:1.

2 - The warfare, by Satan and his agents, against God and His people will continue on down to the end.

"Satanic agencies in human form will take part in this last great conflict to oppose the building up

of the kingdom of God. And heavenly angels in human guise will be on the field of action. **The two opposing parties will continue** to exist till the closing up of the last great chapter in this world's history."—*Maranatha*, 167:5.

LAST DAYS APPENDIX

The following material was gleaned from our currently out-of-print book of unpublished manuscripts, entitled *The Last Days*, and is some of the best material from that volume on topics given in this chapter.

HEATHEN DEITIES

The Wicked Character and Seductive Influences of Persecutors of God's People Represented to John.—"As we near the close of time there will be greater and still greater external parade of heathen power. Heathen deities will manifest their signal power and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world; and this delineation has already begun to be fulfilled. By a variety of images the Lord Jesus represented to John the wicked character and seductive influences of those who have been distinguished for their persecution of God's people. All need wisdom to carefully search out the mystery of iniquity that figures so largely in the winding up of this earth's history . . .

"One of the marked characteristics of these false religious powers is that while they profess to have the character and features of a lamb, while they profess to be allied to heaven, they reveal by their actions that they have a heart of a dragon, that they are instigated by and united with satanic power, the same power that created war in heaven when Satan sought the supremacy and was expelled from heaven . . .

Agencies through Which Satan Is Working in Crowded Cities.—"Satan is busily at work in our crowded cities. His work is to be seen in the confusion, the strife, and discord between labor and capital, and the hypocrisy that has come into the churches . . . The lust of the flesh, the pride of the eyes, the display of selfishness, the misuse of power, the cruelty, and the force used to cause men to unite with confederacies and unions, binding themselves up in bundles for the burning of the great fires of the last days, all these are the working of satanic agencies . . .

The World Appears to Be Moving toward Destruction in a Dance Macabre.—"The world, who act as though there were no God, absorbed in selfish pursuits, will soon experience sudden destruction, and shall not escape. Many continue in the care-

less gratification of self, until they become so disgusted with life that they kill themselves. Dancing and carousing, drinking and smoking, indulging their animal passions, they go as an ox to the slaughter. Satan is working with all his art and enchantments to keep men marching blindly onward, until the Lord arises out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquities, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and no more cover her slain. The whole world appears to be in a march of death.”—*Manuscript 139, 1903, 5-6 (The Message in Revelation, October 23, 1903. See also 7 BC 966, 977-978; Ev 26; UL 310).*

SCIENCE

Satanic Science Will Become Stronger from Now Until the Close of Probation.—“Throughout the world satanic science will become stronger and more fully developed, from this time henceforth until Christ rises from His throne and puts on the garments of vengeance.”—*Letter 136, 1906 (to G.I. Butler, A.G. Daniells, and G.A. Irwin, April 27, 1906).*

SPIRITUALISM

Few Have Any Idea of the Superhuman Power that Will Work through Spiritualism to Capture the World.—“Spiritualism is about to take the world captive. There are many who think that spiritualism is upheld through trickery and imposture, but this is far from the truth. Superhuman power is working in a variety of ways, and few have any idea as to what will be the manifestations of spiritualism in the future.

The Falsehood of Natural Immortality Has Laid the Foundation for Spiritualism's Success.—“The foundations for the success of spiritualism has been laid in the assertions that have been made from the pulpits of our land. The ministers have proclaimed as Bible doctrines falsehoods that have originated with the archdeceiver. The doctrine of consciousness after death, of the spirits of the dead being in communion with the living, has no foundation in the Scriptures, and yet these theories are affirmed as truth. Through this false doctrine, the way is opened for the spirits of devils to deceive the people in representing themselves as the dead. Satanic agencies personate the dead and thus bring souls into captivity. Satan has a religion. He has a synagogue of devoted worshipers. To swell the ranks of his devotees, he uses all manner of deception.

As Men Reject the Truth and God's Spirit Is Withdrawn, Satan Will Work More Openly.—“The signs and wonders of spiritualism will become more and more pronounced as the professed Christian

world reject the plainly revealed truth of the Word of God and refuse to be guided by a plain, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ accepting instead the doctrines and the commandments of men. Through rejecting light and truth, many are deciding their destiny for eternal death, and as men reject truth, the Spirit of God will gradually withdraw itself from the earth, and the prince of this world will have more and more control over his subjects. He will show great signs and wonders as credentials of his divine claims, and through spiritualism will work against Christ and His agencies.”—*Undated Manuscript, 66, 1-6 (“Signs and Wonders of Spiritualism. See also Ev 602-603).*

LYING WONDERS AND MIRACLES

Satan's Lying Wonders and Corrupt Harmony among His Followers.—“We must be waiting and watching and working diligently that Satan may not preoccupy the field and bring the issue upon us before our work is done. Satan has his work all prepared that through his lying wonders he may deceive the world. He will bind men in bundles and claim that [the] world is on his side. A corrupt union will exist among the wicked of the earth, and men will be banded together to trample down the standard of righteousness—to please Satan and his evil angels, and to gratify a world at enmity with God and His law.”—*Letter 1, 1875 (to “Dear Brother,” October 12, 1875).*

Satan Deceives by Apparently Healing Those Whom He Has Tormented.—“The Word of God declares that when it suits the enemy's purpose, he will through his agencies manifest so great power under a pretense of Christianity that, ‘if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect’ (Matt. 24:24). The enemy is revealed in persons whom he has given power to work miracles. He creates sorrow and suffering and disease. Seeming to change his attributes, he apparently heals those whom he himself has tormented.”—*Manuscript 125, 1901, 6-9, 12-14, 21 (“The Unchangeable Law of God,” December 9, 1901).*

The World Appears to Be Moving toward Destruction in a Dance Macabre.—“The world, who act as though there were no God, absorbed in selfish pursuits, will soon experience sudden destruction, and shall not escape. Many continue in the careless gratification of self, until they become so disgusted with life that they kill themselves. Dancing and carousing, drinking and smoking, indulging their animal passions, they go as an ox to the slaughter. Satan is working with all his art and enchantments to keep men marching blindly onward, until the Lord arises out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquities, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and no more cover her slain.

The whole world appears to be in a march of death.”—*Manuscript 139, 1903, 5-6 (The Message in Revelation, October 23, 1903. See also 7 BC 966, 977-978; Ev 26; UL 310).*

Wonderful Scenes with which Satan Will Be Closely Connected Will Soon Take Place.—“The time will come, Christ tells us, when many deceivers will go forth declaring themselves to be Christ. The Saviour says, ‘Go ye not . . . after them’ (Luke 21:8). We need not be deceived. Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power.”—*Letter 57, 1904 (“To Our Leading Medical Workers,” November 12, 1903).*

How Men Under the Influence of Evil Spirits Will Work Miracles.—“Men under the influence of evil spirits will work miracles. They will make people sick by casting their spell upon them, and will then remove the spell, leading others to say that those who were sick have been miraculously healed. This Satan has done again and again.”—*Letter 259, 1903 (to “Dear Sister Hall,” November 23, 1903. See also 2 SM 350-353).*

If We Watch and Obey.—“Temptations will come, but if we watch against the enemy, and maintain the balance of self-control and purity, the seducing spirits will not be able to obtain one jot of influence over us. In the future you will see good reasons for the warnings given in regard to seducing spirits.”—*Letter 211, 1905 (to J.E. White, July 22, 1905).*

Apostates Will Go to Great Lengths in Departing from God.—“The Lord is in earnest with us. In His Word He has declared that many shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They will go to great lengths in departing from God . . . Satan is wide awake, and he will lose no opportunity to bind men and women to his plans, and to fasten them in such a way that before they are aware of it, they will find a yoke of bondage upon them.”—*Manuscript 122, 1905, 2-3, 5-6 (“A Solemn Appeal,” August 1905. See also PM 174-175).*

Satan’s Throne Is in this World.—“The seat or throne of Satan is in this world, and students of prophecy are to be fully awake regarding the powers they are to meet . . .

Satan’s Power Will Be Manifested as a Wonderful Blessing to the Race.—“There are those who greatly desire power, and who will use inventions that Satan places in their hands to gain power. The evil [one] has acquired wonderful power, and this power will be manifested as apparently a most wonderful blessing to the race.”—*Manuscript 78, 1905,*

6 (“A Message to Believers,” n.d. 1905).

By Exercising Faith and Prayer, We May Call Heavenly Angels to Our Side.—“We are warned that in these last days satanic influences will work with such power that, if it were possible, they would deceive even the very elect. But living amid these opposing forces, we may, through the exercise of faith and prayer, call to our side a retinue of heavenly angels, who will guard us from every corrupting influence. The workers who make the Word of God their guide, will walk in the light of the Lord, and be safe.”—*Letter 248, 1907 (to J.E. White and wife, August 16, 1907).*

God Will Distinguish with the Marks of His Favor Those Who Submit to be Molded by His Spirit.—“In this age, a time of satanic wonders, everything conceivable will be said and done to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Let believers say nothing to extol Satan’s power. The Lord will distinguish His commandment-keeping people with signal marks of His favor, if they will be molded and fashioned by His Spirit, and built up in the most holy faith, hearkening strictly to the Voice of His Word.”—*Letter 195, 1903 (to W.C. White, September 6, 1903).*

God Promises Deliverance from the Hour of Temptation.—“There are severe trials before every one of us, yet we need not fail. In the hour of temptation Christ will not leave His children, but will send His angels to minister unto them. He will answer their prayers for deliverance . . .

If We Will Grasp the Power that Christ Offers.—“Satan knows that his time is short, and he will put forth every effort in his power to destroy our faith in God and in His Word . . . But if we will grasp the power that Christ offers, seeking the Lord diligently, and watching unto prayer, we shall have all power and wisdom to meet the attacks of the enemy.

The Time Has Come to Take Our Stand Positively on Christ’s Side.—“Many of our people do not seem to realize that the time has come for everyone to take his stand positively on the side of Jesus Christ and the heavenly angels. By their indifference, by carelessness in word and act, they leave themselves open to the molding influence of the enemy. They seem asleep as regards to the issues that are now before the world.”—*Manuscript 35, 1908, 2, 3, 6-8, 11-12 (“Conflict and Victory,” a sermon preached in Oakland, California, March 7, 1908).*

Satan, Posing as an Intellectual, Insinuates Himself into Circles of the Intelligentsia through Spiritualism.—“Satan personated the serpent in Eden, regarding this creature as the best adapted for his line of temptations. Satan has been increasing in skillful methods by constantly practicing upon

the human mind. It is his one purpose to complete the work that he began in Eden, and work the ruin of mankind. Through his mysterious workings he can insinuate himself into the circles of the most educated and refined, for he was once an exalted being, in a high position of responsibility among the heavenly hosts. It is a mistake to represent him as a being with hoofs and horns, for he is still a fallen angel. He is capable of mingling the highest intellectual greatness with basest cruelty and most debasing corruption. If he had not this power, many who are charmed with his attractive representations and taken captive by his delusions would escape his snares.

Why It Is Not Surprising to Find a Species of Refinement in Those Inspired by Fallen Angels.—“In his synagogue Satan brings under his scepter and into his councils those agents whom he can use to promote his worship. It is not a strange matter to find a species of refinement, and a manifestation of intellectual greatness in the lives and characters of those who are inspired by fallen angels. Satan can impart scientific knowledge and give men chapters upon philosophy. He is conversant with history and versed in worldly wisdom.

Worldly Men Claim to Possess Higher, Grander Intellects than Christ Had.—“Almost every phase of talent is now being brought into captivity to the prince of the power of darkness. Worldly minded men, because they wish to exalt themselves, have separated from God, do not love to retain God in their knowledge, for they claim to possess a higher, grander intellect than that of Jesus Christ. Satan envies Christ, and makes the claim that he is entitled to a higher position than the Commander of heaven. His self-exaltation led him to despise the law of God, and resulted in his expulsion from heaven.

Satan Has Manifested His Character through the Papacy.—“Through the papacy he has manifested his character and wrought out the principles of his government.

“Satan will use his agencies to carry out diabolical devices, to overpower the saints of God as in time past he used the Roman power to stay the course of Protestantism. Yet the people of God can look calmly at the whole array of evil and come to the triumphant conclusion that, because Christ lives, we shall live also. The people of God are to advance in the same spirit in which Jesus met the assaults of the prince of darkness in the past. The evil confederacy can advance only in the course that Jesus Christ has marked out before them. Every step of their advance brings the saints of God nearer the great white throne, nearer the successful termination of their warfare.”—*Undated Manuscript 66, 1-6* (“*Signs and Wonders of Spiritualism.*” See also *Ev 602-603*).

SATANIC APPEARANCES

He Comes as a Beautiful Angel.—“Satan comes down as a beautiful angel, and presents lovely pictures before the eyes of those who have so perverted their ways before God that they do not see what they are or know what they need. The enemy has come down with great power, to work with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish.”—*Letter 259, 1903* (to “*Dear Sister Hall,*” November 23, 1903. See also *7 BC 35, 383; 2 SM 350-351*).

In the Final Conflict Satan Comes, Not Only as a Roaring Lion, but Also as a Seducer.—“We need to understand what we are to meet and how we are to meet it. We must know what efforts we are to make, so that in this perilous time we shall not be taken by the enemy’s devices. We know that the last great conflict will be Satan’s most determined effort to accomplish his purpose. He will come, not only as a roaring lion, but as a seducer, clothing sin with beautiful garments of light, that he may take human beings in his snare.”—*Manuscript 46, 1904, 1-3, 6-8* (“*The Foundation of Our Faith,*” a talk given at Berrien Springs, Michigan, May 18, 1904).

Evil Angels in Human Form Will Present Glowing Representations.—“Satan has his allies in men, and evil angels in human form will appear to men, and present before them such glowing representations of what they will be able to do, if they will only heed their suggestions, [so] that often they [ex] change their penitence for defiance.”—*Manuscript 122, 1905, 2-3, 5-6* (“*A Solemn Appeal,*” August 1905).

SATANIC INFLUENCE

Angels Preserve the World from Destruction because Some Have Never Yet Heard the Message.—“God’s angels are preserving the world from destruction, because there are some who have never yet heard the message of truth . . .

Those Who act a Part in Spiritualistic Deceptions Will Become as Mad Men When Their Deceptions Are Exposed.—“The development of these last days will soon become decided. When these spiritualistic deceptions are revealed to be what they really are, the secret workings of evil spirits, those who have acted a part in them will become as men who have lost their minds.

“The world is to be flooded with specious fallacies. One human mind, accepting these fallacies, will work upon other human minds who have been turning the precious evidence of God’s truth into a lie. These men will be deceived by fallen angels, when they should have stood as faithful guardians, watching for souls as they that must give an account. They have laid down the weapons of their warfare, and

have given heed to seducing spirits. They make of no effect the counsel of God, and set aside His warnings and reproofs, and are positively on Satan's side, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils . . .

Through Satan's Cunning Device the Forms of the Dead Will Appear.—"History is to be repeated . . . The forms of the dead will appear through the cunning device of Satan, and many will link up with the one who loveth and maketh a lie . . . Right among us some men will turn away from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and by them the truth will be evil spoken of.

Some Who Have Been Deceived Will Repent and Be Converted.—"Some who have been deceived by men in responsible places will repent and be converted. And in all our dealings with them, we must

"By the *decree* enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When *Protestantism* shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the *Roman power*, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with *spiritualism*, when, under the influence of this *three-fold union*, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, *then* we may know that *the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan* and that the end is near."

—5 Testimonies, 451:1

remember that none of those who are in the depth of Satan's snare know that they are there."—*Letter 311, 1905 (to A.G. Daniells, W.W. Prescott, and their associates, October 30, 1905. See also Ev 122, 180; UL 317).*

Satan's Angels Are Mingling with Men.—"Satan is using his science in playing the game of life for human souls. His angels are mingling with men, and instructing them in the mysteries of evil. These fallen angels will draw away disciples after them, will talk with men, and will set forth principles that are as false as can be, leading souls into paths of deception. These angels are to be found all over the world, presenting the wonderful things that will soon appear in a more decided light."—*Manuscript 145, 1905, 4 ("Diary," October 31, 1905).*