

Leaves of Life



Tree of Life Ministries

New Edition 01

The Signs of the Times

**Part 1 – A Repeat of
History**

29 August 2023

“Looking down the ages, He saw the covenant people scattered in every land, ‘like wrecks on a desert shore.’ In the temporal retribution about to fall upon her children, He saw but the first draft from that cup of wrath which at the final judgment she must drain to its dregs. Divine pity, yearning love, found utterance in the mournful words: ‘O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!’ O that thou, a nation favored above every other, hadst known the time of thy visitation, and the things that belong unto thy peace! I have stayed the angel of justice, I have called thee to repentance, but in vain. It is not merely servants, delegates, and prophets, whom thou hast refused and rejected, but the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. If thou art destroyed, thou alone art responsible. ‘Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life.’ Matthew 23:37; John 5:40.

“Christ saw in Jerusalem a symbol of the world hardened in unbelief and rebellion, and hastening on to meet the retributive judgments of God. The woes of a fallen race, pressing upon His soul, forced from His lips that exceeding bitter cry. He saw the record of sin traced in human misery, tears, and blood; His heart was moved with infinite pity for the afflicted and suffering ones of earth; He yearned to relieve them all. But even His hand might not turn back the tide of human woe; few would seek their only Source of help. He was willing to pour out His soul unto death, to bring salvation within their reach; but few would come to Him that they might have life.” {Great Controversy, P. 21, 22}

Tree of Life Ministries

Tree of Life Ministries is a self-supporting, non-profit, Seventh-day Adventist ministry, which was officially registered in Germany in 2016. At present, the majority of its members are based in Austria.

Our mission is to prepare Seventh-day Adventists for the soon-coming Sunday law crisis and to teach the everlasting gospel of the three angel’s messages of Revelation 14, through seminars, video productions and written publications. We believe that we are living in the last generation, for whom the entire Bible has been written. Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. The different stories in the Bible typify events that will take place at the end of the world. History will repeat itself. We aim to teach the scriptures “line upon line” in light of their prophetic application to the final generation. This constitutes the “present truth” for this time, which is needed to prepare the church to receive the “latter rain.” By understanding the spiritual application of these histories, we can understand what “righteousness by faith” means and enter in to the true born-again experience.

Leaves of Life is a present truth periodical, which is mainly compiled and edited by Mark Bruce.

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Introduction

In the Bible the Lord demonstrates His character, that He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:9, 44:6, 46:9,10, Ecclesiastes 1:9,10, 1 Corinthians 10:11, 15:45,46, Revelation 1:8,11,17, 21:6, 22:13). Taking all the past histories, the Lord gives us clear instruction as to what will come at the end of the world. He does this so that we might fear before Him...

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, **that men should fear before him.**” (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

The Lord has brought together the stories of the Bible in such a way, that when He judges us for all our rebellion against Him, we will have nothing to say in our defence...

“And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And **he was speechless.**” (Matthew 22:12)

In spite of that, before He judges us, He will have exhausted every avenue to save His people and bring them to a knowledge of the truth...

“**Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**” (1 Timothy 2:4)

For the Lord knows that it is only a clear understanding of the truth, representing Himself, that will set us free from our bondage to sin...

“And **ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**” (John 8:32)

“Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

“And **this is life eternal, that they might know thee** the only true God, and **Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**” (John 17:3)

For this reason, in this study, we would like to look at the books of Matthew twenty-four, a parallel chapter to Mark thirteen and Luke twenty-one. These chapters pertain to the “Signs of the Times” for the last days, given by Christ Himself for us to understand. Allowing scripture to explain itself, let us now go through these sacred verses and allow the Alpha and Omega to take the things of old and explain to us the things that are to come.

The End - Judgment

When Christ went to the Mount of Olives to give His important speech, He was illustrating how His dealing with man is ever the same. Our God is a God of mercy and is long suffering towards us. However, there comes a time where that mercy will run out and judgment will come upon the sinner. In spite of this, the Lord does not leave us guessing as to when the judgment is and gives us clear signs to warn us, that we would not perish when that time comes. How does He do this? By pointing us back to how He dealt with man in history, to show us what will happen to us if we fail to heed His warnings...

“Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**” (Luke 13:4-5)

Sister White explains to us that this tower falling was a visible warning of what was to come upon Jerusalem, if they remained in their impenitence towards Him...

“Turning to the multitude, the Saviour said, ‘Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.’ **These startling calamities were designed to lead them to humble their hearts, and to repent of their sins. The storm of vengeance was gathering, which was soon to burst upon all who had not found a refuge in Christ.**

“As Jesus talked with the disciples and the multitude, He looked forward with prophetic glance and saw Jerusalem besieged with armies. He heard the tramp of the aliens marching against the chosen city and saw the thousands upon thousands perishing in the siege. **Many of the Jews were, like those Galileans, slain in the temple courts, in the very act of offering sacrifice. The calamities that had fallen upon individuals were warnings from God to a nation equally guilty.** ‘Except ye repent,’ said Jesus, ‘ye shall all likewise perish.’

For a little time the day of probation lingered for them. There was still time for them to know the things that belonged to their peace.” {Christ Object Lessons, P. 213, par.2,3}

As we can read, the tower falling was an illustration in miniature, of what was to come upon Jerusalem. In agreement with this, let us consider how Christ, when He left the temple for the last time, was also illustrating to them a sign of what was to come upon them at the destruction of Jerusalem...

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.** For I say unto you, **Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**” (Matthew 23:37-39)

“**But Israel as a nation had divorced herself from God.** The natural branches of the olive tree were broken off. Looking for the last time upon the interior of the temple, Jesus said with mournful pathos, ‘**Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.** For I say unto you, Ye shall not see Me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.’ Hitherto He had called the temple His Father's house; but now, **as the Son of God should pass out from those walls, God's presence would be withdrawn forever** from the temple built to His glory. **Henceforth its ceremonies would be meaningless, its services a mockery.**” {Desire of Ages, P. 620, par. 4}

Everything Christ did was for a purpose to illustrate the plan of salvation. When He left the temple, He went to the Mount of Olives...

“**And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple:** and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, **See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives,** the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:1-3)

Allowing scripture to explain itself, Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega, tells the disciples that the temple was to fall, pointing forward to a point in the future. However, what I would like you to see is that He is also marking this same destruction when He leaves the temple for the last time. Let us go to the book of Ezekiel, to chapter eleven, where the temple was surrounded by the Babylonians...

“But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD. Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.” (Ezekiel 11:21-23)

When the Lord pronounced the judgment upon Jerusalem, His glory left the temple and went to the mount on the East side of the city. Again, if we allow the scriptures to enlighten us, the book of Zechariah will explain to us that the mountain on the east of the city was the Mount of Olives...

“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.” (Zechariah 14:1-4)

“And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.” (Zechariah 14:12)

Notice, that scripture, in agreement with Ezekiel, first marks Jerusalem being destroyed, marked by the point where the glory departs from Jerusalem and goes to the Mount of Olives, where Christ then tells us that He will smite the nations that fought against Jerusalem. This is a point that will become clearer as we go through this study. For now, however, I just want you to see how Christ, when He leaves the temple, marking the close of probation, goes to the Mount of Olives, exactly according to how the scripture marks it out. Thus, illustrating Him, after He has punished Jerusalem, now going to punish the gentiles. To give more evidence for this, we know that the destruction of Babylon was to take place at the end of the seventy-year captivity...

“And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.” (Jeremiah 25:12)

Sister White parallels the captivity in literal Babylon with the dark ages of spiritual Babylon, during the one-thousand-two-hundred-and-sixty-year reign of the papal power ...

“Today the church of God is free to carry forward to completion the divine plan for the salvation of a lost race. For many centuries God's people suffered a restriction of their liberties. The preaching of the gospel in its purity was prohibited, and the severest of penalties were visited upon those who dared disobey the mandates of men. As a consequence, the Lord's great moral vineyard was almost wholly unoccupied. The people were deprived of the light of God's word. The darkness of error and superstition threatened to blot out a knowledge of true religion. **God's church on earth was as verily in captivity during this long period of relentless persecution as were the children of Israel held captive in Babylon during the period of the exile.**” {Prophets and Kings, P. 714, par. 1}

As with the seventy-year prophecy in Babylon, at the end of that time period spiritual Babylon was punished...

“**And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death;...**” (Revelation 13:3)

The Apostles John, in vision, is taken to the point prophetically in 1798 where this power is punished...

“**And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:** With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” (Revelation 17:1-2)

Therefore, both Christ and the Apostle John, are standing prophetically at the point where Babylon gets punished for the work she did in persecuting God's people. From this point, John is shown, just as Christ shows His disciples on the Mount of Olives, what has just come to an end and how it is going to repeat itself in the future. John is shown the deadly wound and thereafter how the deadly wound would be healed...

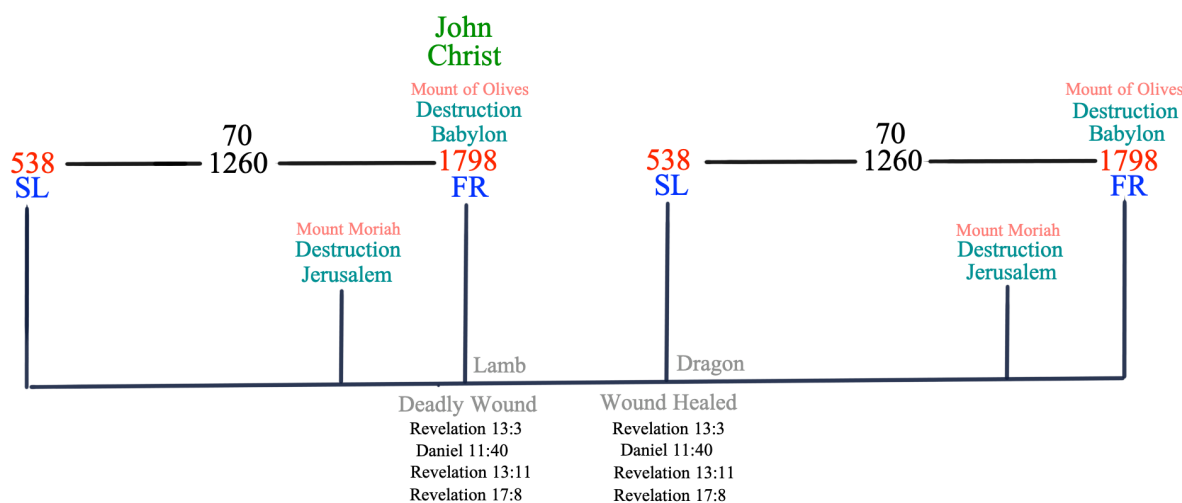
“**And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed:** and all the world wondered after the beast.” (Revelation 13:3)

“**And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind,** with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.” (Daniel 11:40)

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” (Revelation 13:11-12)

“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” (Revelation 17:8)

This is the very same warning that Christ gives from the mount of Olives. Using the histories that were to come, Christ was prefiguring events that were to mark the Sunday law at the end of the world. In agreement with this, we understand that John is standing at the end of the Sunday law that tests His Church first, and thereafter points forward to how that same test will repeat for all those who join themselves to God’s Church. Let us place this on a diagram so that we can visualise it...



Let us now go back to Matthew twenty-four and see how the Lord, like as He did to John in the Revelation, illustrate the same coming events for the end of the world.

When Christ left the temple, He told them that not one stone would be left upon another, prompting them to ask Him the question as to when this will come to pass...

“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, **Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**” (Matthew 24:1-3)

The disciples understood the destruction of Jerusalem to mark for them the second coming of Christ. Hence, they linked together with their question as to when Jerusalem would be destroyed, with the end of the world...

“With the overthrow of Jerusalem the disciples associated the events of Christ's personal coming in temporal glory to take the throne of universal empire, to punish the impenitent Jews, and to break from off the nation the Roman yoke. **The Lord had told them that He would come the second time.** Hence at the mention of judgments upon Jerusalem, **their minds reverted to that coming;** and as they were gathered about the Saviour upon the Mount of Olives, **they asked: ‘When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?’ Verse 3.**” {Great Controversy, P. 25, par. 2}

When Christ answered their question as to when this time will come, He replied by saying “be not deceived.” For many false prophets would rise up and try to deceive them in regards to what they wished to know...

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.** For **many** shall come in my name, saying, **I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**” (Matthew 24:4-5)

The Apostle Paul gave the same admonition to the early church upon this point, giving explicit instructions as to what must take place before Christ can come...

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, **That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled,** neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. **Let no man deceive you by any means:** for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**” (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3)

“The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, **foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power.** He declared that **the day of Christ** should not come, ‘except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.’ And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that ‘the mystery of iniquity doth already work.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7. **Even**

at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.” {Great Controversy, P. 49, par. 1}

The Bible and the SOP are plainly warning us to the point, that before Christ could come there had to be this period of darkness and persecution that preceded it and that they were not to be deceived by people claiming to the contrary. In line with that, Christ said that certain things must come to pass first...

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” (Matthew 24:6)

As we can read, when these wars and rumours of wars begin, the end is not yet. Christ goes on to say...

“**For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:** and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**” (Matthew 24:7-8)

These things are only the beginning of the birth-pangs, they must happen first before He can come. In Luke twenty-one, ye says this very clearly...

“But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: **for these things must first come to pass;** but the end is not by and by.” (Luke 21:9)

Therefore, when these events begin to come to pass, false prophets will arise and try to deceive many people upon the correct understanding of these events. When these events begin, they will claim to be Christ (meaning to be anointed) and say that these events mark His second coming...

“And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, **saying, I am Christ;** and the time draweth near: **go ye not therefore after them.**” (Luke 21:8)

Miller’s rule no thirteen, states that the Lord ensures that prophecy and history are in agreement. Also, the Alpha and Omega (Christ), uses the past histories to tell us plainly what is going to repeat in future histories, for “there is no new thing under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Therefore, let us look at a past history where these events were played out in type, to teach us what will come again in our time.

1848

In the year 1848, there was a great commotion in Europe, that began in France. The King of France gathered together the other kings of Europe and through this alliance sought to place the Pope back upon the throne. Had they succeeded in what they attempted to do, the deadly wound that had been afflicted upon the Pope in 1798, would have been healed and the Sunday law of Bible prophecy would have ensued. However, God's people were not ready in that time for a Sunday law. For this reason, the Lord used this history to typify our history where this will come to pass perfectly. Let us now read what happened when they did this...

“On the 21st day of February, 1848, when the courtiers of Louis Phillippe, of France, were gathered around him, he said: ‘I was never more firmly seated on the throne of empire than I am to-night.’ In the twilight of the next evening, wearing a ‘pea jacket,’ disguised as a hackney coachman, he fled outside the walls of the city of Paris seeking a refuge for his personal safety. **The cause of this great and sudden change is said to have been the result of some movement on his part favoring the papal usurpation, which offended his subjects and his soldiers.** He had on that day completed, in the city of Paris, a grand military review of the French army; and when their arms were stacked, he retired to the palace, **when suddenly a small boy jumped upon a cannon, waving a tri-colored flag, crying, ‘Down with the pope! Down with the pope!!’** The soldiers taking up the cry, it passed swiftly up and down the lines, gaining strength as it went, until connected with it was the cry, **‘And down with the king!’** In a few hours all Paris was a scene of wild confusion. The soldiers, with guns in hand, accompanied by a mob, were rushing for the king's palace. He, on being informed of the turmoil, hastened to escape under disguise.

“The commotion and unrest of France spread rapidly to other countries. Prussia, Hanover, Sardinia, Sicily, Naples, Venice, Lombardy, Tuscany, and Rome caught the same mob spirit. Within three months all Europe was astir, and over thirty empires and kingdoms were in the greatest disorder. **Thrones were burned in the streets, kings and emperors were fleeing and hiding for fear of losing their lives.** Politicians predicted that there would be a general revolution of the governments of the world.” {The Great Second Advent Movement, P. 271, par.1,2}

As we can read, the very act of the kings seeking to place the Pope back upon the throne and throw the people back into the bondage of the dark ages, filled the people with great anger and brought upon them civil unrest, which as we will read marks the signs recorded in Matthew twenty-four. Linked with those events, in the next paragraphs we can read about the First-day Adventists, who mistook these events for the “Day of the Lord.” In doing so they were fulfilling the warning that Christ had given upon the Mount of Olives, how that false prophets would arise and deceive many...

“Many of the Adventist ministers who had not as yet heard of the third angel’s message, saw this confusion, and supposed it must be the rallying of the nations for the battle of the great day of God Almighty.’ Revelation 16:13-15.

“Just at this time the Seventh-day Adventists were learning from the Scriptures that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment was the sign, or seal, of the living God, and that the time had arrived for the proclamation of the sealing message of Revelation 10:1-4, and they were devising ways and means of getting this message before the people. While the Seventh-day people were preparing for this work, the First-day Adventists were saying, ‘You are too late with your sealing message, for the battle of the great day and the Lord’s actual coming are right upon us.’” {The Great Second Advent Movement, P. 272, par.1,2}

At that time, the early advent movement who lived during the time of this revolution and in agreement with the Spirit of Christ, recognized these events as the ones He had warned them to look for and including Sister White, gave a faithful warning not to believe the foolish reasoning of these false prophets...

“December 16, 1848, the Lord gave me a view of the shaking of the powers of the heavens. I saw that when the Lord said ‘heaven,’ in giving the signs recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, He meant heaven, and when He said ‘earth,’ He meant earth. The powers of heaven are the sun, moon, and stars. They rule in the heavens. The powers of earth are those that rule on the earth. The powers of heaven will be shaken at the voice of God. Then the sun, moon, and stars will be moved out of their places. They will not pass away, but be shaken by the voice of God.

“Dark heavy clouds came up, and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back; then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God. The holy city will come down through that open space. I saw that the powers of earth are now being shaken, and that events come in order. War, and rumors of war, sword, famine, and pestilence are first to shake the powers of earth, then the voice of God will shake the sun, moon, and stars, and this earth also. I saw that the shaking of the powers in Europe is not, as some teach, the shaking of the powers of heaven, but it is the shaking of the angry nations.” {Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 111, par. 1,2}

As we can read, Sister White explains how the First-day Adventists were teaching that these events were the shaking of the heavens and the earth and not just the shaking of the earth, as found in Matthew twenty-four, illustrating the events that must precede His coming. She goes on to explain, that the point that Christ was pointing the disciples forward to, marks the point where the Holy City will descend at the shaking of the heavens and the earth. Lastly, she calls these beginning events the shaking of the angry nations. Let us now bring in another quote that will help us to see the work that the Seventh-Day Adventists were doing at that time...

“**I saw that the holy Sabbath** is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God's dear, waiting saints. **I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully.**’

“This view was given in 1847 when there were but very few of the Advent brethren observing the Sabbath, and of these but few supposed that its observance was of sufficient importance to draw a line between the people of God and unbelievers. **Now the fulfillment of that view is beginning to be seen.** ‘**The commencement of that time of trouble,**’ here mentioned does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. **At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel.** At that time the ‘**latter rain,**’ or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” {Early Writings, P. 85, par. 2,3}

Again, as we can read, Sister White explains to us that events that mark the shaking of the earth, or angry nations, marks the beginning of the Sunday law. Christ cannot come at this point, for everyone must pass through this test and be sealed, or receive the Mark of the Beast before he can come...

“...The Lord has shown me clearly that **the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes;** for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided...

“**In Revelation 13 this subject is plainly presented;** [Revelation 13:11-17, quoted].

“**This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed.** All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. **Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin, and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast...**” {Manuscript Release No 15, P. 15, par. 1-3}

This is in agreement with what we looked at earlier in the edition. Christ on the Mount of Olives was illustrating the punishment upon Babylon, paralleling the point where the Pope receives the deadly wound. However, as we read, that deadly wound was to be healed, marking the point where the Sunday law would repeat, illustrated in Matthew twenty-four by the shaking of the angry nations. That test when it comes is progressive. A law is not problematic of itself, it is only as that

law is broken does it become a problem. The Sunday law, when it is first enacted forces people to make a decision. All those who obey that law will be in agreement with the state powers and will receive no retribution. Only those who rise up in opposition to that law will eventually be delivered up to the authorities. The authorities in this case represents at its head, the USA, which is the power that will rule over all the world under a last world dictatorship. In the above quote, Sister White quotes Revelation thirteen, verses eleven to seventeen as a reference. Therefore, let us look at those verses so that we can bring the verses in Matthew twenty-four into harmony...

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and **he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon**. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. **And 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 in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” (Revelation 13:11-14)

In the next quote Sister White explains these verses for us according to history...

“**Under the symbols of a great red dragon, a leopard-like beast, and a beast with lamblike horns, the earthly governments** which would especially engage in trampling upon God's law and persecuting His people, were presented to John. **The war is carried on till the close of time**. The people of God, symbolized by a holy woman and her children, were represented as greatly in the minority. In the last days only a remnant still existed. Of these John speaks as they ‘which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’

“**Through paganism, and then through the Papacy**, Satan exerted his power for many centuries in an effort to blot from the earth God's faithful witnesses. **Pagans and papists were actuated by the same dragon spirit**. They differed only in that the Papacy, making a pretense of serving God, **was the more dangerous and cruel foe**. Through the agency of Romanism, Satan took the world captive. The professed church of God was swept into the ranks of this delusion, and for more than a thousand years the people of God suffered under the dragon's ire. And **when the Papacy, robbed of its strength, was forced to desist from persecution, John beheld a new power coming up to echo the dragon's voice, and carry forward the same cruel and blasphemous work. This power, the last that is to wage war against the church and the law of God, was symbolized by a beast with lamblike horns.** The beasts preceding it had risen from the sea, but **this came up out of the earth, representing the peaceful rise of the nation which is symbolized**. The ‘two horns like a lamb’ well represent the character of the United States Government, as expressed in its **two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism**. These principles are the secret of our power and prosperity as a nation. Those who first found an asylum on the shores of America rejoiced that they

had reached a country free from the arrogant claims of **popery and the tyranny of kingly rule**. They determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of **civil and religious liberty**.

“But the stern tracing of the prophetic pencil reveals **a change in this peaceful scene**. The beast with lamblike horns **speaks with the voice of a dragon**, and ‘exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him.’ Prophecy declares that he will say to them that dwell on the earth that **they should make an image to the beast**, and that ‘he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.’ **Thus Protestantism follows in the steps of the Papacy.**” {Signs of the Times, November 1, 1899, par. 3-5}

Notice it states that the two horned beast, representing the USA, is the last to wage war against God’s people, where it is to make an image to the beast that came before it. What is an image? Sister White says the following...

“**But what is the ‘image to the beast’? and how is it to be formed?** The image is made by the two-horned beast, and **is an image to the first beast**. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like, and how it is to be formed, **we must study the characteristics of the beast itself,—the papacy**. When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel, and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and **in order to control the consciences of the people she sought the support of the secular power**. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the State, and employed it to further her own ends, **especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the State will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.**” {Great Controversy, 1888, P. 443, par. 2}

An image to the beast is paying homage to the beast. It does this when it makes a Sunday law. However, it is also an image of the beast, meaning that it copies what the beast did before it when it persecuted the saints. Therefore, the image to the beast is an illustration of how the United States will not only copy the Papacy by making a Sunday law, but it will also repeat through the same means the persecution upon all those who refuse to accept that law. History is to repeat itself. Therefore, the pattern laid out in history teaches us how the United States will repeat what the Papacy did in the past. This is what Christ does for us through prophecy, when He takes all the past histories to show us what will come in the antitype at the end of the world...

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: **nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.**” (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

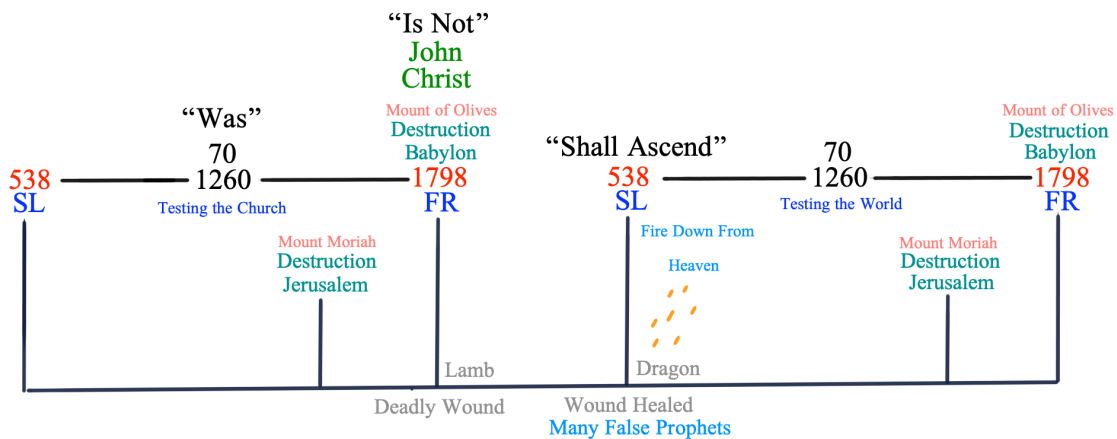
Part of that pattern, is that before they will seek to destroy you, they will first try to deceive you. Hence the first thing Christ said was: “take heed that no man deceive you.” Matthew 24:4

“Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. **Force is the last resort of every false religion.** At first it tries attraction, as the king of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. **If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them.** So it will be now. The papacy has exercised her power to compel men to obey her, and she will continue to do so. We need the same spirit that was manifested by God's servants in the conflict with paganism (The Signs of the Times, May 6, 1897).” {SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7, P. 976, par. 9}

This is what we read in Revelation 13, marking the Sunday law, in agreement with Matthew twenty-four, when the shaking of the earth begins and the false prophets seek to deceive the people...

“And 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 in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” (Revelation 13:13-14)

Therefore, the pattern that Christ lays out in Matthew twenty-four, is designed to give us a step by step run down of events, both internally and externally, as they come to pass in the Sunday law crisis. This we will see more and more as we proceed through this study. However, for the moment, let us consolidate the information we have looked at and place it upon a diagram so that we can see this more clearly in our minds...



Judgment Begins at the House of God

In God's word we understand that the Lord will deal with His professed people first, before he deals with the world. This can be easily illustrated in scripture. In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul states this point very plainly...

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; **to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**” (Romans 1:16)

“**But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth,** but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, **of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;**” (Romans 2:8-9)

Judgment must begin with those only who have the knowledge of what is right and wrong. Therefore, it can only begin with those who have been given an understanding of the scripture...

“For the time is come **that judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17)

All the past histories are for the end of the world. Hence the one-thousand-two hundred-and-sixty years of papal oppression is just typifying the Sunday law that will test God's people first. Once it has been complete, the civil powers will receive a deadly wound and a time of peace will ensue, leading to a point where Christ warns they will rise back up again, only this time to test the remainder of the world who accepted the truth. The only difference will be, is that this time there will be a people sealed with the Holy Spirit, just like Christ at His baptism, to go forwards to bring the gentiles to repentance. Hence our diagram is an illustration of the last day events, to test first the Church, followed by the world.

Turning our focus back to Matthew twenty-four, we have established that what Christ is warning us not to be deceived about, is the events that mark the beginning of the Sunday law, which we understand mark the beginning of the birth-pangs...

“**All these are the beginning of sorrows.**” (Matthew 24:8)

Let us now focus and understand the events that are next to be witnessed before the destruction of Jerusalem.

The Death Decree

As we have seen, the things that must first come to pass is the shaking of the angry nations, marking the point where they will make a Sunday law and where false prophets, both internally and externally, will rise up to deceive the people to the meaning of those events. Also, we read that first they try to deceive, but when the people do not accept the deceptions, Satan will resort to persecution. Turning back to Revelation thirteen, let us look at how this principle is related in those verses, beginning again with the deception...

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and **he spake as a dragon**. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And **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 in the sight of the beast; **saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” (Revelation 13:11-14)

The two horned power, through her false prophets, brings down fire from heaven, yet all those who refuse to bow down will eventually come face to face with death through a decree that will be made against them...

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” (Revelation 13:15-17)

Sister White tells us a nation speaks through its legislative bodies...

“The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. **The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities**. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. **The prediction that it will speak ‘as a dragon’ and exercise ‘all the power of the first beast’** plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast. And **the statement that the beast with two horns ‘causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast’** indicates that the authority of this nation is **to be exercised in enforcing some observance** which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.” {Great Controversy, P. 442, par. 1}

Sister White explains this in greater detail in the next quote...

“I saw that the two-horned beast had a dragon's mouth, and that his power was in his head, and that the decree would go out of his mouth. Then I saw the Mother of Harlots; that the mother was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them. She has had her day, and it is past, and her daughters, **the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints.** I saw that as the mother has been declining in power, the daughters had been growing, and **soon they will exercise the power once exercised by the mother.** {Spalding and Magan, P. 1, par. 4}

In the above quote, it begins with Sister White seeing in vision, the point where the two horned beast will make a decree. From a human perspective, it would be deduced that she is now referring to the point where they make a Sunday law. However, as we read on, it can be easily seen that this decree is referring to a point after the Sunday law is already in force...

“I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday.” {Spalding and Magan, P. 1, par. 5}

She states that the Saints, referring to God's people, are little known at this time. It therefore, cannot be referring to the SDA Church as a whole. There are currently around twenty-two million Seventh-Day Adventists worldwide, of which both the protestant churches and the Catholic church are more than familiar. Also, if we just read a little further, she states that the nominal Adventists, meaning Adventists in name only, will join together with the protestants to persecute those who stand fast for the Sabbath. It is therefore easy to see, that just like in the time of Christ, the majority of the Jews persecuted a faithful minority and history must repeat itself...

“A death chill was upon the Jewish nation. She was passing over a ground that at every advance step **was making her ruin certain.** She knew not the time of her visitation. **She knew not that divine light had departed from her,** that honor, uprightness, sincerity, and truth were lost unto her when she refused the Son of God. As a people their lives were no more to be lives of peace and hope. **The temple of the human soul was wrecked for eternity.** The truth was spoken by Him who had given His life to save the world that would not be saved: **‘If thou hadst known, even thou, in**

this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.' [Luke 19:42.] For a little time they would have a name to live; but they had no vital connection with God, and must die a spiritual death.

“And past history will be repeated. A determined conflict is to be waged in the Christian world. Men who are disloyal to the commandments of the living God will, in their supposed self-importance, be inspired by Satan to war against those who follow the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. And with separation from God’s favor, because of transgression of His law, will come departure from the principles, the spirit, and work of Christ. **The result will be that men will become inhuman in their actions toward their fellow men. They suppose that they can have no relief while there is a people presenting before the world the commandments of God which they ignore, while **they exalt their human laws** and make them more stringent to cover up their transgression of God’s law.”** {Letters and Manuscripts, Volume 12, Manuscript 112, 1897, par. 10,11}

“Behold in the destruction of Jerusalem the doom which the Jewish nation pronounced upon themselves in the words, ‘His blood be upon us and upon our children.’ [Verse 25.] Their prayer was heard. The blood of the Son of God was upon their children and their children’s children in **a living, perpetual curse.** The children of Israel who chose Barabbas in the place of Christ will feel the cruelty of Barabbas as long as time shall last. How was a national sin and a nation's ruin due to the religious rulers!

“The question has been asked, Will religious bigotry and fanaticism ever induce religionists of this age to do as did the Jewish nation? It seems impossible that we shall ever reject Christ and accept Barabbas. Shall we be guilty of a sin similar to the Jews, and cry out, ‘Not this man, but Barabbas’? [John 18:40.] It seems an impossibility. Men may say, Never, I can never reject my Saviour, disown Christ. **But they are to do this very thing.** Priests and rulers will bring about just such an issue, and **history will be repeated.** The development of sin, which is the transgression of the law, will be continually strengthening its tendencies to become more sinful, **to multiply by rejecting light and warnings and truth, and propagate a whole harvest of sin.**” {Letters and Manuscripts, Volume 12, Manuscript 112, 1897, par. 48,59}

Getting back to the quote from Spalding and Magan, we can see the very sentiments spoken of above being acted out against those who refuse to keep Sunday, by nominal Seventh-Day Adventists and the Protestants, who will join together with the Catholics to make a death decree...

“Then the Catholics bid the Protestants to go forward, and issue a decree that all who will not observe the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day, shall be slain. And the Catholics, whose numbers are large, will stand by the Protestants. **The Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast. And the Protestants will work as their mother worked before them to destroy**

the saints. **But before their decree bring or bear fruit, the saints will be delivered by the Voice of God.** Then I saw that Jesus' work in the sanctuary will soon be finished. And after His work there is finished, He will come to the door of the first apartment, and confess the sins of Israel upon the head of the Scape Goat. Then He will put on the garments of vengeance. Then the plagues will come upon the wicked, and they do not come till Jesus puts on that garment, and takes His place upon the great white cloud. Then while the plagues are falling, the Scape Goat is being led away. He makes a mighty struggle to escape, but he is held fast by the hand that leads him. If he should effect his escape, Israel would lose their lives. I saw that it would take time to lead away the Scape Goat into the land of forgetfulness after the sins were put on his head." {Spalding and Magan, P. 2, par. 1}

Notice in the paragraph above, it states that "the Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast." If we just go back to Revelation thirteen, where the two horned beast puts the Sunday law in place, it leads down to this point in scripture, marking the point where they make a death decree...

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast **should be killed."** (Revelation 13:15)

He, representing Satan through his agents, uses the Catholics to give their power to the protestants and through this union the whole world will seek to murder God's people. Hence the quote from Spalding and Magan, beginning in Par 1.4, is referring to the point where the death decree is enforced upon all those who refuse to bow down when the Sunday law is instituted.

Let us return now to Matthew twenty-four, where it will be seen that the next point where Christ is warning them about, is the point where they will come to persecute you and put you to death for refusing to be deceived and bow down...

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." (Matthew 24:9)

In agreement with the quote from Spalding and Magan, which states the nominal Adventists will join with the protestants to put you to death, Christ was very clear upon this point..

"And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death." (Luke 21:16)

"And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." (Matthew 10:36)

Their own brethren were Jews, prefiguring Seventh-Day Adventists, who will deliver up their own brethren...

“As the storm approaches, **a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message**, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, **abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition**. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and **when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side**. Men of talent and pleasing address, **who once rejoiced in the truth**, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. **They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren**. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, **these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them**, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” {Great Controversy, P. 608, par. 2}

Christ warned His disciples of this point and told them that when this comes, many will be offended of the gospel and reject Him and turn from the truth in fear of being persecuted...

“And **then shall many be offended**, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” (Matthew 24:10)

“**These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended**. They shall put you out of the synagogues: **yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service**. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. **But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them**. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.” (John 16:1-4)

“And blessed is he, **whosoever shall not be offended in me**.” (Matthew 11:6)

Speaking about the stony ground hearers in the parable of the sower, Christ said the following...

“But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, **but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended**.” (Matthew 13:20-21)

“**The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites.** They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. **This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers.** They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; **but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God.** They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. ‘They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.’ Ezekiel 33:31. **The apostle Paul points out that this will be the special characteristic of those who live just before Christ's second coming.** He says, ‘In the last days perilous times shall come: for men shall be lovers of their own selves; ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.’ 2 Timothy 3:1-5.” {Christ’s Object Lessons, P. 411, par. 1}

She also parallels the foolish virgins with Judas...

“There have been and always will be **tares among the wheat, the foolish virgins with the wise,** those who have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. **There was a covetous Judas in the church Christ formed on earth, and there will be Judases in the church in every stage of her history...**” {Signs of the Times, October 23, 1879, par. 10}

Hence, when persecution comes, it is our own former brethren, those who rejoiced in the truth with us, who will deliver up their brethren when persecution comes...

“Yea, **mine own familiar friend,** in whom I trusted, **which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.**” (Psalms 41:9)

“For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: **neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me;** then I would have hid myself from him: **But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.**” (Psalms 55:12-14)

Therefore, up to now, we can see that Revelation thirteen and Matthew twenty-four are pointing to the same history being fulfilled at the end of the world. However, before we go any

deeper into these events, I would now like to lay another line of thought upon the top of this pattern, in order for us to see this more clearly this structure.

The Time of the End

The time of the end illustrates the beginning of a time of trouble. It also illustrates the end of that time of trouble. Thus, encapsulating a period of trouble that typifies the seven last plagues. In order to understand this, let us bring forth evidences from God's word to illustrate this point. Let us begin with a quote that we are familiar with...

“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.”

“The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening **for the last great crisis.** Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

“The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.” {Testimonies to the Church, Volume 9, P. 11, par. 1-3}

The quote above begins with the statement: “we are living in the time of the end.” This expression is in relation to Daniel eleven and verse forty, which as we have already discussed marks the end of the time of trouble, where the King of the North (Babylon) is punished. However, thereafter, it is followed by the King of the North retaliating, marking the point where the time of trouble repeats, where the deadly wound is healed. The quote above is dealing with where the deadly wound has been healed, marking the point where the Sunday law is enacted and is in agreement with the signs of the times recorded by Matthew twenty-four. Here are several other quotes that correlates with this thought...

“We are living in the time of the end, when the judgments of God are in the land. Signs on every hand show that the agencies of evil are strengthening. Lucifer and his servants are working with unceasing activity. **In this time of peril the people who keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment are to be awake to the situation, prepared to resist the attacks of the enemy. While wickedness abounds on every hand, God's people are to be fully controlled by the Holy Spirit.**

Greater solemnity and earnestness should be brought into the work. All light and trifling words should be left unspoken. Believers should speak and act as a people who realize the solemn meaning of the events taking place.” {Australasian Union Conference Record, April 15, 1912, par. 18}

“**We are living in the time of the end**, a time crowded with **events in process of fulfillment**, all working to **bring about that great day when Christ shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven** with power and great glory. The last years of probation are fast closing. **The signs of the times—the wars and rumors of wars**, the strikes, murders, robberies, and accidents—**tell us that the end of all things is at hand**. Who can doubt the truth of the prophet's words. “The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand”? Many of the inhabitants of the world have given themselves into Satan's control. They co-operate with him, helping him to carry out his plans against the government of God. Under his guidance, men have lost their horror of bloodshed and murder.” {Review and Herald, May 13, 1902, Art. A, par. 9}

“**We are living in the time of the end. Thrones and churches have united to oppose God's purposes**. The association of man with man, which God designed should be a means of strengthening goodness and happiness, is used as a means of strengthening evil and of developing tendencies to rebellion. **Men have assumed despotic power, and human laws have been put in the place of the law of God.**” {Review and Herald, December 15, 1904, par. 1}

Notice, in the first quote from Testimonies, Volume 9, she states that the fast fulfilling signs declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. This is in relation to the question that the disciples asked Christ on the Mount of Olives. In agreement with this, in the third quote from Review and Herald, May 13, 1902, she states that the signs of the time are “wars and rumours of wars” as found in Matthew twenty-four, which we showed marks the beginning of the Sunday law. In agreement with that, both the quote above from the Australasian Union Conference Record and the last quote from Review and Herald, 1904, they both state that it is where church and state have come together to make oppressive laws, which break God's law. All these quotes begin with the same phrase, that “we are living in the time of the end.” Therefore, when you bring them all together with what we have looked at so far, we can begin to see how the truth is confirmed and strengthened. However, going back to the first quote from Testimonies, Volume Nine, she goes on to point forward to the place where the nations, headed up by the USA, will be punished for this apostasy...

“On one occasion, **when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven**. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. **Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used**. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: ‘How can we best glorify God?’ The Lord was not in their thoughts.

“I thought: ‘Oh, that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! **They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising.** They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man.’

“As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. **The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah.**

“The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: ‘They are perfectly safe.’ **But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.**

“**I am instructed that when the Lord's time comes,** should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God's appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition.”
{Testimonies to the Church, Volume 9, P. 12-13}

In the above paragraphs she is referring to great buildings being erected, which biblically are a symbol of man's pride, which she states will be brought down at God's appointed time. The appointed time is marking the end of the time of trouble, where Babylon will be punished, as found in Daniel chapter eleven...

“And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, **even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.**” (Daniel 11:35)

At the time appointed, which is the time of the end, marking the end of the time of trouble, Babylon receives her punishment for oppressing God's people, typified by the deadly wound in 1798. This punishment is also marked in Revelation chapter eighteen...

“And after these things **I saw another angel come down from heaven,** having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen,** is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. **For all nations have drunk of the wine of**

the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. **Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.**” (Revelation 18:1-6)

Sister White confirms this in this next quote...

“Now comes the word that I have declared that **New York** is to be swept away by a tidal wave. **This I have never said. I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story: ‘What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled.’** The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. **But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God's power.** From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. One word from the Lord, one touch of His mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine.” {Life Sketches, P. 411, par. 5}

Those great buildings are a symbol of their tower of Babel which was built in old times, illustrating the Sunday law. She goes on to illustrate how that the tower of Babel was typifying the Sunday law...

“Those that feared the Lord cried unto Him to interpose. **‘And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.’** In mercy to the world **He defeated the purpose of the tower builders and overthrew the memorial of their daring.** In mercy He confounded their speech, thus putting a check on their purposes of rebellion. God bears long with the perversity of men, giving them ample opportunity for repentance; **but He marks all their devices to resist the authority of His just and holy law.** From time to time the unseen hand that holds the scepter of government is stretched out to restrain iniquity. Unmistakable evidence is given that the Creator of the universe, the One infinite in wisdom and love and truth, is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, and that none can with impunity defy His power.

“**The schemes of the Babel builders ended in shame and defeat. The monument to their pride became the memorial of their folly.** Yet men are continually pursuing the same course—depending upon self, and **rejecting God's law.** It is the principle that Satan tried to carry out in heaven; the same that governed Cain in presenting his offering.

“There are tower builders in our time. Infidels construct their theories from the supposed deductions of sciences, and reject the revealed word of God. They presume to pass sentence upon God's moral government; **they despise His law and boast of the sufficiency of human reason.** Then, ‘because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.’ Ecclesiastes 8:11.

“In the professedly Christian world many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables, and they point to their tower as a way to climb up to heaven. Men hang with admiration upon the lips of eloquence while it teaches that the transgressor shall not die, **that salvation may be secured without obedience to the law of God.** If the professed followers of Christ would accept God's standard, it would bring them into unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His Holy Word, there will be divisions and dissension. **The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term ‘Babylon,’ which prophecy (Revelation 14:8; 18:2) applies to the world-loving churches of the last days.**

“Many seek to make a heaven for themselves by obtaining riches and power. They ‘speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily’ (Psalm 73:8), trampling upon human rights and disregarding divine authority. The proud may be for a time in great power, and may see success in all that they undertake; but in the end they will find only disappointment and wretchedness.

“The time of God's investigation is at hand. The Most High will come down to see that which the children of men have builded. His sovereign power will be revealed; the works of human pride will be laid low. ‘The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.’ ‘The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations.’ Psalm 33:13, 14, 10, 11. {Patriarchs and Prophets, P. 124, par. 3}

As we understand, 1989 typified the Sunday law, when The USA and the Papacy made their unholy alliance to bring down communism. However, just as those events typified the Sunday law, the bringing down of the towers at 911 (September 11th, 2001), was also typifying the punishment that will come upon them as found in 9 testimonies 11 and as was illustrated in the bringing down of the tower of Babel. History is to repeat itself, there is no new thing under the sun. The last point I would like to make from this, is when we go back and read through Testimonies to the Church, Volume Nine, it states that when they set up a Sunday law, that plagues begin to fall upon the land...

“... Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, **the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.” {Testimonies to the Church, Volume 9, P. 11, par. 1}**

She also confirms this by the quote that she wrote following that quote...

“We are living in the time of the end, when the judgments of God are in the land...”
{Australasian Union Conference Record, April 15, 1912, par. 18}

What I would like you to see from this, is how this time of trouble is the time where the Lord typifies His pouring out of the seven last plagues. Let us refresh our memory as to what Sister White stated in this quote, typifying the Sunday law...

“This view was given in 1847 when there were but very few of the Advent brethren observing the Sabbath, and of these but few supposed that its observance was of sufficient importance to draw a line between the people of God and unbelievers. **Now the fulfillment of that view is beginning to be seen. ‘The commencement of that time of trouble,’ here mentioned does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel...”** {Early Writings, P. 85, par. 2,3}

In the above quote she states that it is not the time of trouble where the literal seven last plagues are poured out. Yet if we understand that all prophecy must be typified first, then it is not hard to see how this is being illustrated through these plagues and judgments, when the Sunday law begins. This thought will strengthen as we go through these studies.

The last point I would like to do in this part of the study, is to compare and line up points in Matthew twenty-four, with the seven last plagues. In doing so it will help us to see how type meets antitype. To do this let us go to the book of Revelation, chapter sixteen, that deals with the seven last plagues. In that chapter, the first five plagues, leads us down to the sixth plague, where the threefold union are seen to join together and like at the beginning of the Sunday law, they are bringing down strange fire from heaven, to deceive the whole earth into putting the 144,000 to death...

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And **I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.** For 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.” (Revelation 16:12-14)

In line with this, in Matthew twenty-four, when the faithful are delivered up before kings and rulers, there are also false prophets rising up, paralleling the external deceptions of the Dragon, Beast and False prophet. This is just a repeat of what happens at the beginning of the Sunday law, when the threefold union come together, when the deadly wound is healed...

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And **many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**” (Matthew 24:9-13)

As we can read, when this happens, only those who endure unto the end shall be saved. As we read earlier, Sister White told us plainly that it is when the heavens and the earth are shaken that marks the point where God’s people are delivered, which we also understand marks the destruction of Jerusalem. Therefore, if we just go to the point in Matthew twenty-four, where the heavens and the earth are shaken, there we will see the sign that marks His coming...

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days **shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:** And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:** and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (Matthew 24:29-31)

In the book of Joel, chapter two, the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon is marked by the same sign, in agreement with Matthew twenty-four...

“**The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:** And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for **he is strong that executeth his word:** for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” (Joel 2:10-11)

In agreement with this point, in the seven last plagues, the beginning of the seventh plague is where the heavens and the earth are shaken, which also marks the point where God’s people are delivered...

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, **while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance.** Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. **In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: ‘It is done.’** Revelation 16:17.

“That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, ‘such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.’ Verses 17, 18. The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of a hurricane like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters. Babylon the great has come in remembrance before God, ‘to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.’ Great hailstones, every one ‘about the weight of a talent,’ are doing their work of destruction. Verses 19, 21. The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. The lordly palaces, upon which the world’s great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and **God’s people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free.**” {Great Controversy, P. 636, par. 3}

As we can read, God’s people are set free at “Midnight,” a point which will become clearer as we go through these studies. This is where the heavens and the earth are shaken, marking the beginning of the seventh plague. Remember, Sister White told us, when the heavens and the earth shake, God’s people will be delivered by the voice of God, just like is written above. Let us reread that quote so we can see that it refers to the same point prophetically...

“December 16, 1848, the Lord gave me a view of the shaking of the powers of the heavens. I saw that when the Lord said ‘heaven,’ in giving the signs recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, He meant heaven, and when He said ‘earth,’ He meant earth. The powers of heaven are the sun, moon, and stars. They rule in the heavens. The powers of earth are those that rule on the earth. **The powers of heaven will be shaken at the voice of God.** Then the sun, moon, and stars will be moved out of their places. They will not pass away, but be shaken by the voice of God.

“Dark heavy clouds came up, and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back; then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God. The holy city will come down through that open space. **I saw that the powers of earth are now being**

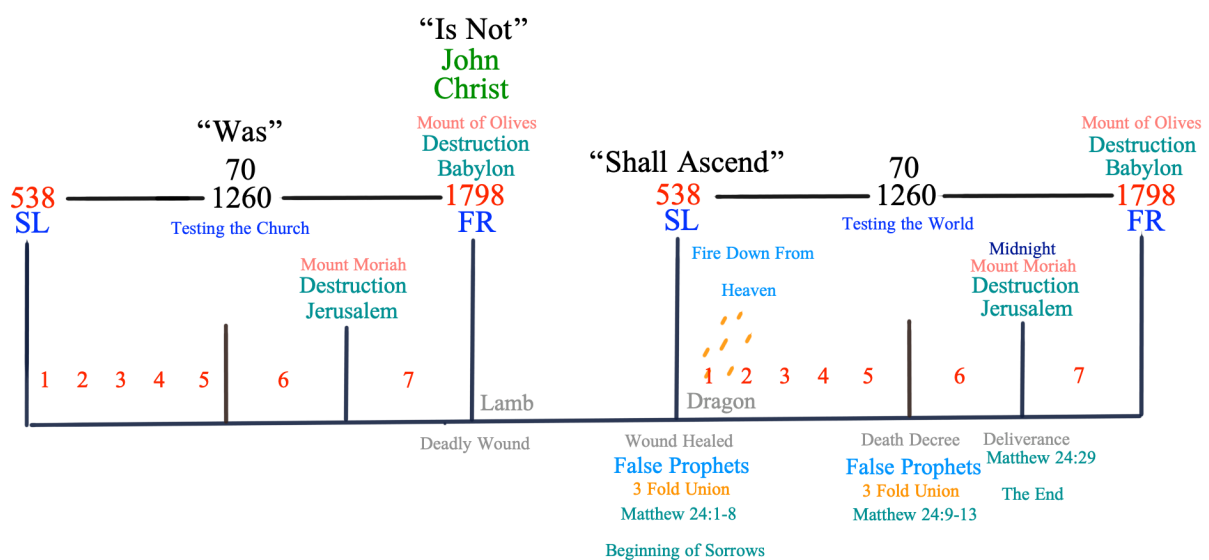
shaken, and that events come in order. War, and rumors of war, sword, famine, and pestilence are first to shake the powers of earth, then the voice of God will shake the sun, moon, and stars, and this earth also. I saw that the shaking of the powers in Europe is not, as some teach, the shaking of the powers of heaven, but it is the shaking of the angry nations.” {Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 111, par. 1,2}

In line with that, if we also just go back to the quote we read from Spalding and Magan, referring to the Sunday law, it states that God’s people are delivered by the voice of God...

“Then the Catholics bid the Protestants to go forward, and issue a decree that all who will not observe the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day, shall be slain. And the Catholics, whose numbers are large, will stand by the Protestants. The Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast. And the Protestants will work as their mother worked before them to destroy the saints. But before their decree bring or bear fruit, the saints will be delivered by the Voice of God... {Spalding and Magan, P. 2, par. 1}

It may not be fully clear at this point, but as we continue in the next edition and bring other points together, we will begin to see a clear pattern of events, leading down to the close of probation that are prefiguring what will happen during the seven last plagues.

To finish the thoughts that we have been looking at up to now, let us now look at this upon our diagram which will help us to visualise our understanding...



Summary

All the prophets are speaking about the end of the world. All things that have been, will be repeated, for the Lord brings things to pass first in history, so that we can know for certain what will come to pass in the future. Matthew twenty-four is a history of events that have happened in the past, that point down to the Sunday law crisis. That crisis will fulfill perfectly during the seven last plagues, where the threefold union will seek to destroy the 144,000, who will stand through that time without an intercessor in heaven and be delivered by the voice of God at Midnight. These things are all being fulfilled and prefigured during the Sunday law crisis, where the seven last plagues are being typified. The devil always tries to deceive first, then if those deceptions fail, then he will resort to eventually putting those who stand for the truth, to death. In our next edition, we will deal with the seven trumpets and show how they prefigure the seven last plagues and confirm the structure that we have laid above, to enable us to go deeper into these signs of the times in future editions. For now, let us think upon these things and as we go through, we will bring many evidences together to validate the things we have studied. God bless.

