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Council of Nicæa: Outlawing God's Calendar

The nominal conversion of Constantine in the early part of the fourth century caused great rejoicing; and the world, arrayed in robes of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the man of sin foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power--a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.

To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth, and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to the representative of Satan--the Bishop of Rome. SR 327

The Emperor was troubled. He knew his kingdom was not unified. His people were divided by religious beliefs, and it was affecting his government. He needed to have the men, *all* of the men in his realm, fight in his army. However, religion kept a large portion of them from enlisting. He called his councilors to arrange a meeting with the leaders of the Christian sect. These Bishops understood what the Emperor wanted. They, too, had long reaching goals. Craftily, and with consummate skill, they led him to a compromise that would allow all of them to achieve their respective goals.

The first step was to have the Emperor convert to Christianity. If Emperor Constantine became a Christian, the official state religion would be Christianity, rather than paganism. The pagans could keep their Holy Days the same; they could keep all their forms of religion, their idols and their festivals. The only difference would be that they would be called by Christian names. This would bring unity to the empire, and Constantine could get Christian men to enlist and serve in his army.

The Bishops, too, would gain in the compromise. Already, paganism had corrupted the faith of the Christians in Rome. By influencing the Emperor to make Christianity the state religion, they would gain in power and authority. Once Christianity became the religion of the empire, church membership would swell and their wealth and power would increase proportionately.

A vital step was the outlawing of the luni-solar calendar used for millennia by the faithful followers of God. Only by such civil legislation could the pagan Julian calendar be enforced and the Christians led into idolatry. The priests would preach the duty of supporting the "Christian" emperor and his new church that combined paganism and Christianity. So was born the Papacy, and so was lost the true calendation instituted by God, Himself, at Creation.

In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church.¹

Emperor Constantine, at the Council of Nicæa, changed both paganism and Christianity by combining them into a new organism. The true luni-solar calendar was forcibly eliminated and the pagan/Julian calendar with its continuous cycle of weeks was exalted and supported by the Church/State. The darkness of ignorance began to enshroud the world.

This is much more than dry, ancient history. This has huge import for the last generation who has been warned:

History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath. This is Satan's plan to make of no account the day instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of creation.²

Seventh-day Adventists need to know the history of the Christian church. This is vital because the devices Satan has successfully used before against the church of God, he will use again. *The Great Controversy* was written with the express purpose of shedding light on the *future*, not the past.³

¹ GC 53

² Mar 214

³ Ellen White herself wrote the introduction to *Great Controversy* and in it she explicitly spelled out her reasons for writing the book.

In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end as in all preceding ages. *That which has been, will be*, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan's deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect. Mark 13:22, R.V.

As the Spirit of God has opened to my mind the great truths of His word, and the scenes of the past and the future, *I have been bidden* to make known to others that which has thus been revealed -- to trace the history of the controversy in past ages, *and especially so to present it as to shed a light on the fast-approaching struggle of the future . . .*

In these records we may see a foreshadowing of the conflict before us. Regarding them in the light of God's word, and by the illumination of His Spirit, *we may see unveiled the devices of the wicked one*, and the dangers which they must shun who would be found "without fault" before the Lord at His coming.

. . . It is not so much the object of this book to present new truths concerning the struggles of former times, as to bring out facts and principles which have a bearing on *coming events*. Yet viewed as a part of the controversy between the forces of light and darkness, all these records of the past are seen to have a new significance; and through them *a light is cast upon the future*, illumining the pathway of those who, like the reformers of past ages, will be called, even at the peril of all earthly good, to witness "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."⁴

The *Great Controversy* is far more than just a history book - it, *the entire book*, gives a view of "the fast-approaching struggle of the future" and it does this by unveiling "the devices of the wicked one." It shows the "dangers which they must shun who would be found 'without fault' before the Lord at His coming." It would be well for all to study it more with this in mind. For the purposes of the present study, though, the focus will be limited to the change of the calendar.

Seventh-day Adventists have always assumed that the change over the worship day was simply from Saturday to Sunday. No. It was more, far more deceptive and diabolical than that. The change that took place was not simply a switch in the worship day of an already existent calendar. Nor was it a mere rearrangement of the calendar. Instead, it outlawed the Biblical luni-solar calendar and substituted the pagan solar calendar in its place.

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, "the mystery of iniquity" carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the

⁴ GC XI-XII, emphasis supplied.

customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church . . .

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of “the man of sin” foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power - a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.⁵

God’s luni-solar calendar was set aside and a pagan, solar calendar was accepted in its place. The prophecies of Daniel warned of this. The “little horn” spoken of in Daniel is a symbol of the papacy. Daniel 7:25 clearly spells out just what this power would do: “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

The “time, times and the dividing of time” refers to the 1260 years of papal supremacy that stretched from 538 A.D. to 1798. Because it is prophetic time (a day equals a year), it is broken down this way: 1260 days = 1260 years. Or, said another way, 1260 days = 3 1/2 years in literal time. A “time”, then, is a year. This text reveals that the little horn would think to change *years*. The law, of course, refers to God’s law. What hasn’t been recognized is that the little horn has indeed changed years - how they are calculated.

John Knox’ translation of Daniel 7:25 makes it even more clear: “He shall insult the Most High, he shall torment/wear out the holy ones of the Most High, and he shall attempt to change the calendar and the ordinance”

This change of calendar took place at the council of Nicæa in 321 A.D. The very first Sunday law was a law that outlawed the Biblical luni-solar calendar and substituted the pagan Julian calendar in its place.

Up until the Council of Nicæa, the Christian Easter, especially in the East, had been celebrated for the most part at the time of the Jewish Passover, and “indeed upon the days calculated and fixed by the Sanhedrin in Judaea for its celebration.”⁶ On the contrary, in Europe, “some earlier, some later, were intercalating the months The Europeans were placing their cycle at the equinox, and were celebrating the Passover on the next full moon after the equinox.”⁷ These contentions had agitated the churches of Asia since the time of the Roman bishop Victor, who had persecuted the churches of Asia for following the “14th-day heresy” as they called it, in reference to the Passover.⁸ But at the Council of Nicæa, “the last thread was snapped which connected Christianity with its parent stock.”⁹ The future Easter observance was to be rendered independent

⁵ GC 49-50

⁶ Heinrich Graetz, *History of the Jews*, Philadelphia, 1893, Vol. II, 563.

⁷ Joseph Scaliger, *De Emendatione Temporum*, Francofurt, 1593, 106.

⁸ Op. cit.; see also Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, Book V, Ch. 24.

⁹ Op. cit.; Graetz, Vol. II, 563.

of Jewish calculation according to these words, which have been attributed to Constantine:

“Henceforward let us have nothing in common with this odious people; our Saviour has shown us another path. It would indeed be absurd if the Jews were able to boast that we are not in a position to celebrate the Passover without the aid of their rules.”^{10 11}

This is a civil law enforcing the pagan calendar. Calendars calculate time and at the Council of Nicæa it was determined to remain independent of *Jewish* calculation. Changing the way time is calculated will affect when the Sabbath falls. Again, this was not merely a rearrangement of an existing calendar. The law made it illegal to use the Biblical luni-solar calendar and it persecuted those who still tried to use it.

In subsequent years, the Jews went through “iron and fire.”¹² The Christian [papal Roman] emperors *forbade the Jewish computation of the calendar*, and did not allow the announcement of the feast days. Graetz says, “The Jewish [and apostolic Christian] communities were left in utter doubt concerning the most important religious decisions: as pertaining to their festivals.”¹³ The immediate consequence was the fixation and calculation of the Hebrew calendar by Hillel II.¹⁴

Being unable to communicate among themselves and having to go underground in their observances, led them to “fix” the calendar. They tied it to the new moon *nearest* the vernal equinox. It was now independent of any barley harvest. This practice explains why the Jewish feasts of today are typically one month too soon. This is also why in 1844, the Jews observed September 23 as Day of Atonement rather than October 22. When mocked for insisting on a date that was contrary to that observed by the Jews themselves, the Millerites with confidence could say: “Every scholar knows that we are correct according to the original luni-solar calendar.”

The decrees of Nicæa “destroyed the Temple of the Law in Judea,” as it were, and the ancient regulation of Moses for harmonizing the course of the moon with that of the sun was ultimately replaced by calculations involving the vernal equinox,¹⁵ after which the nearest full moon was chosen to be the paschal moon. From this equinoctial point, the church built up her ecclesiastical calendar and its Easter feast. It is easy to gloss over the real significance of the Council of Nicæa and its bearing upon the Jewish system of time, for though the church desired to depart

¹⁰ Graetz, Vol. II, 564; see also Eusebius; *Life of Constantine*, Book III, Chapter 18.

¹¹ Grace Amadon, “Report of Committee on Historical Basis, Involvement, and Validity of the October 22, 1844, Position”, Part V, Sec. B, 17, Box 7, Folder 1, Grace Amadon Collection.

¹² David Sidersky, *Astronomical Origin of Jewish Chronology*, Paris, 1913, 640.

¹³ Graetz, Vol. II, 571.

¹⁴ Amadon, “Report of Committee on Historical Basis, Involvement, and Validity of the October 22, 1844, Position”, Part V, Sec. B, 17-18. Parenthetical comments and emphasis supplied.

¹⁵ Sidersky, *Chronology of the Jews*, 624.

from Jewish calculation, and to adopt a movable feast,¹⁶ yet in the end, it turned out that both the Jewish and Roman Catholic festivals came to be computed from the same point of time . . . the vernal equinox. Although it is clear that the responsibility for this change rests with the bishops of Nicæa, yet, according to Clavius, the church merely enjoined that which had been sanctified by the ancient Roman Pontiffs:

“The Catholic Church has never used that [Jewish] rite of celebrating the Passover, but always in its celebration has observed the motion of the moon and sun, and it was thus sanctified by the most ancient and most holy Pontiffs of Rome, but also confirmed by the first Council of Nicæa.”^{17 18}

When the term “Roman Pontiffs” is heard, “pope” is generally what is thought. But the ancient “holy Pontiffs of Rome” here mentioned referred to the original *pagan* heads of the Babylonian religion. In fact, even the title *Pontifex Maximus* now used exclusively by the pope originated in Babylon.¹⁹

Ellen White, in speaking of how paganism absorbing primitive Christianity affected the Sabbath, states:

The spirit of concession to paganism opened the way for a still further disregard of Heaven's authority. Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified (Gen. 2: 2, 3), and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as “the venerable day of the sun.”²⁰

Satan, who hates the law of God, not only *thought* to change “times and laws” – he has *done* it. The Sabbath is more than a memorial of creation - it is a sign between God and His people. It is a sign of their loyalty to Him, and of His ability to make them holy.²¹ The Sabbaths are God's appointed times to meet with His people and sanctify them. When believers meet with the Father at His appointed time, on His appointed day, He fulfills His part of the covenant - He does for them that which they cannot do for themselves. Satan has sought to disrupt this by substituting a calendar that designates a spurious sabbath. And he has done it so successfully and so long ago, that were it not for the mercy of God, no one would have ever seen it.

In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree

¹⁶ Christopher Clavius, *Romani Calendarii A Gregorio XIII P.M. Restituti Explicatio*, 54.

¹⁷ Clavius, 54.

¹⁸ Amadon, “Report of Committee on Historical Basis, Involvement, and Validity of the October 22, 1844, Position”, Part V, Sec. B, 18.

¹⁹ For an in-depth look at how the Roman Catholic religion is merely pure paganism in a Christian disguise, read *The Two Babylons: Or The Papal Worship Proved to be The Worship Of Nimrod And His Wife*, by Alexander Hislop, England, 1916.

²⁰ GC 52

²¹ “I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.” Ezekiel 20:12

making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church.²²

Seventh-day Adventists have been mistaken in assuming that the only change made was a change from Saturday to Sunday. According to David Sidersky in his *Astronomical Origin of Jewish Chronology*, "It was no more possible under Constance to apply the old calendar."²³

It should be recognized and made perfectly plain that the plan of the church and of the modern Jewish calendar as well, to regulate the Passover with reference to the position of the sun at the spring equinox, and of the full moon next after, has to be referred back, according to Clavius, to the "most ancient and most holy Roman Pontiffs," and has no connection at all with the original Mosaic command.^{24 25}

The whole world has wondered after the beast – even modern Jews themselves have settled upon a cycle that follows a regulation of the Roman Catholic church.

Life spans today are so short that it has worked to Satan's advantage. This whole change of calendars took place nearly 1,700 years ago! The words of Ellen White have great force when seen in the light of this ancient change of calendars:

There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation.²⁶

The calendar now in use, named after Pope Gregory XIII, is but a continuation of the old pagan solar calendar implemented by Julius Cæsar in 46 B.C. and adopted into the church by the Council of Nicæa.

The differences between the "full-moon-of-barley-harvest" Mosaic rule, and the "first-full-moon-after-the-vernal-equinox" Nicæan regulation of the church are vital. Though both were featured by a period of time, which was to be marked by

²² GC 52

²³ As quoted in Amadon, "Report of Committee on Historical Basis, Involvement, and Validity of the October 22, 1844, Position", Part V, Sec. B, 8, footnotes.

²⁴ Clavius, op. cit., 56; Sidersky, *Chronology*.

²⁵ Amadon, "Report of Committee on Historical Basis, Involvement, and Validity of the October 22, 1844, Position", Part V, Sec. B, 19.

²⁶ CW 35

the first light of the full moon, yet the barley-harvest period did not always coincide with the equinoctial²⁷ and both rulings were wide apart in character, purpose, and meaning. This will be seen by the following outline:

Barley Harvest Moon	Equinoctial Moon
1. A command of Moses for Jewish Time.	1. A decree of Nicæa for the church calendar.
2. Only one moon.	2. Could be two moons.
3. A permanent and regular control of Jewish feasts.	3. A very irregular index to the time of Easter.
4. Coincided with "first month," or Nisan.	4. Coincided with the sign, Aries, and often with Adar. ²⁸
5. A sure index to the crucifixion Passover.	5. Not the paschal moon which marked the death of Christ.

Of these two methods of determining a festival feast, the barley harvest has been commonly regarded as a period too elastic to represent an actual point of time. But be it noted, that the controlling conditions relating to the barley-harvest moon in the time of Christ were as exact, if not more so, than those which have thus far governed the vernal equinox in its control over Easter. The time of barley harvest in the Ashes-Valley field across the Kidron was remarkably accurate and permanent in its regulation of the passover festival. The latter rain extended into the first week in April, and very quickly thereafter the barley would ripen. Into this defined and limited period *one full moon only could occur*.²⁹

Three conditions: 1) the ending of the latter rain, 2) the regular period of the ripened barley, and 3) the fulling of the one moon possible in that limited time after the first week in April - exactly determined the paschal feast and all the other festivals of the Jewish year. The results were dependable and specific. *This was the rule which Moses had commanded*. It persisted to the generation in which Christ came, and definitely was followed by the Jews until the time of their general dispersion.³⁰ These facts lead to one vital conclusion: that *the Jewish year in the first century of the Christian era was governed by the barley harvest moon specification which had been ordained of God, and upon which the*

²⁷ The moons were different in leap years when an extra month was added to reconcile the lunar year to the solar year.

²⁸ Adar was the *last* month of the Jewish year, not the first.

²⁹ Emphasis original.

³⁰ Sidersky, *Chronology of the Jews*, 615, 624.

*application of astronomy in relation to the crucifixion year is definitely and consistently dependent.*³¹

Of course, the other differing characteristic between the two calendars is that the pagan calendar provides a continuous weekly cycle, while the Mosaic calendar has the weekly cycle start over each month with the observation of the new crescent moon.

There can be no question but that the little horn has done exactly what he thought to do and by observing a Saturday Sabbath, Seventh-day Adventists have, unknowingly, paid homage to that power which thought to (and did) change “times and laws.” In the last chapter, the question was asked, “Would God really allow the knowledge of His Sabbath to be lost?” The answer as given in Lamentations 2:6 is: yes. “The LORD hath caused the solemn feasts (*mo'ed*) and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion.”

This theme is expanded upon in Hosea, chapter two. Here the Lord is likening His people to an unfaithful wife who has gone whoring after other lovers. God's people have been an unfaithful bride to their Lord. The prophecy of Hosea applies to God's people. We like to quote the beautiful promises in the second half of that chapter as applying to God's people. These promises are precious. However, they must be looked at in context, and they are given in the context of God's betrothed having been unfaithful to Him. Therefore, the punishment is: “I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.” (Verse 11)

The “new moons” is a clear reference to the calendar by which the Sabbaths are figured, just as in Isaiah 66:23: “And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.” The Seventh-day Adventist church has used this text to prove that the Sabbath will be kept in the new earth. More than that, this text proves which *calendar* will be used throughout eternity, because on the pagan, solar Gregorian calendar, the new moons are not even noticed and definitely do not begin the months.

It was by compromise with paganism that the early Christian church lost its apostolic purity. This opened the floodgates to all of the deceptions of Satan. By not valuing and preserving the truth, the people of God lost it. When the truth of heaven is not cherished as it should be, God removes it; *He* causes it to be forgotten.

Hosea 2:14+ reveals just how we have forsaken our God, our heavenly Husband. It is by taking the names of Baal into our mouths and letting the worship of Baal structure our lives.

Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her . . . And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi³²; and shalt call me no more Baali.³³ For I will take away the

³¹ Amadon, Report of Committee on Historical Basis, Involvement, and Validity of the October 22, 1844, Position, Part V, Sec. B, 21. Emphasis supplied except where otherwise noted.

³² *My Husband*

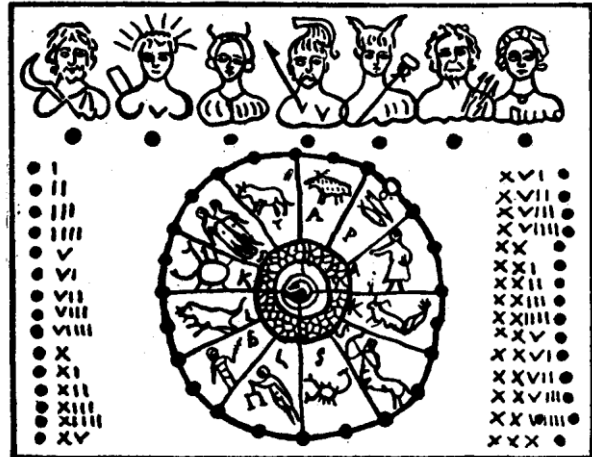
³³ *My Lord*, a generic title for God or Baal.

names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name. And in that day will I make a covenant for them . . . And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgement, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. . . And I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.³⁴

If “each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us”³⁵ then it is vital to look at this passage in light of the modern world. No one runs around claiming to be worshipers of Baal anymore. Verse 17 gives a clue just how this is to be applied: “For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.” The names of the weekdays: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, etc., are named after the planetary gods.

It is a curious fact of calendar history that the planetary week originally began on Saturn's day (*dies Saturni*). That was the highest day of the week. It was followed by Sun's day (*dies Solis*), Moon's day (*dies Lunæ*), etc. The pagans worshiped the seven planetary gods in the order they thought those planets orbited in relation to the earth. They thought that Saturn was closest to the earth, so it held the preeminent position of importance, as the first day of the planetary week.³⁶

In this Roman stick calendar from the Baths of Titus,³⁷ the days of the pagan, planetary week are represented by drawings of the seven planetary gods. The *first* was Saturn's day which Sabbatarians have assumed corresponded to the seventh and last day of the Biblical week, the Sabbath. It was only later that the days of the week were rearranged with Sunday as the first day and Saturn's day as the seventh. The twelve signs of the zodiac can be seen in the circle in the middle, and they stood for the twelve months of the year, six of which were also named after pagan gods.³⁸



The months of the Gregorian year and the days of the planetary week are irreparably pagan. It is these to which the passage in Hosea is referring. When Christians arrange their lives and their

³⁴ Hosea 2:14, 16-20, 23

³⁵ 3SM 338

³⁶ For a much more in-depth look at how the pagans assigned each of the 24 hours of the day to a planetary god based on their supposed position in relation to the earth, see *How Did Sunday Get Its Name?* by Robert L. Odom, Southern Publishing Association, 1972.

³⁷ R. L. Odom, *How Did Sunday Get Its Name?*, Southern Publishing Association, 1972.

³⁸ July and August were named after Julius Cæsar (who established the Julian calendar) and Augustus Cæsar (the Roman emperor mentioned in Luke 2:1-7). September, October, November and December were number words: “seventh”, “eighth”, “ninth”, and “tenth”, respectively, as the Roman calendar originally began in March.

worship days by a pagan, planetary calendar, the names of Baalim are taken into their mouths. It is impossible to find the correct Biblical Sabbath on a pagan, Gregorian calendar and in this God is forgotten.

By restoring to the final generation the knowledge of His true method of calendation, God is bringing them back to a primitive godliness. He says, "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her." What wilderness? The answer is found in Revelation 12. Here is given a depiction of the true church, the Bride of Christ, as a woman who has to flee into the wilderness.³⁹ "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days" (verse 6).

When the pure church accepted the practices of paganism the long night of the Dark Ages fell on her. The true church fled into the wilderness and there, after experiencing the desolation that comes from accepting other lovers, the Lord began to allure her back. The Protestant Reformation began restoring to her the light that had been lost. "The truth is an advancing truth, and we must walk in the increasing light."⁴⁰ God will advance no faster than His people can follow. Ever since the days of the Protestant Reformation, God has been "alluring" His bride (the church) back to Him, winning her heart to her True Love by showing her His beautiful love and care for her.⁴¹

The knowledge of the luni-solar Sabbaths is now being restored to the remnant church. This understanding should affect any preconceived ideas of the time of trouble. The one belief shared by both liberal and conservative Seventh-day Adventists is that the United States government will be foremost in making an image to the beast (the Roman Catholic Church). In simple terms: all are looking for a Sunday law. Keeping in mind that Ellen White was *bidden* to write *Great Controversy* in such a way as "to trace the history of the controversy in past ages, and especially so to present it as to shed a light on the fast-approaching struggle of the future",⁴² is it possible that the Sunday law will again come disguised as a calendar change law?

Think about it. Satan's main target is the Seventh-day Adventist church. Everyone knows about Sunday closing laws and all have assumed that is the form the Sunday law will take. But if you were Satan, and your #1 enemy was expecting that plan of attack, would you not try and slip it past without their notice? Ellen White warned the church to be aware of Satan's devices. Just as soon as people become aware of one device, the father of lies gives it a new twist. The next chapter will study the Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy references to this switch in calendars.

³⁹ A woman is always the symbol of a church. A whore is a corrupt church; a pure woman is the true church.

⁴⁰ CW 33

⁴¹ Revelation 12:1 provides a fascinating symbolic description of the true church. She is *standing upon the moon*. Feet are a symbol of possession (see Job 1:7 and Ruth 4:7 & 8). The significance of this text is very beautiful: the church is once again in possession of the knowledge of the true Sabbath and it provides her with an unassailable foundation.

⁴² GC xi, emphasis supplied.