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## Changing Calendars: The Abomination that Desolates

*God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God, so that when the testing time shall come, and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith, they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.*

*Agitate, agitate, agitate! The subjects which we present to the world must be to us a living reality. It is important that in defending the doctrines which we consider fundamental articles of faith, we should never allow ourselves to employ arguments that are not wholly sound. These may avail to silence an opposer, but they do not honor the truth. We should present sound arguments, that will not only silence our opponents, but will bear the closest and most searching scrutiny. . . .*  
CW 40

It would stand to reason that something as big as a complete change of calendars aimed at deceiving God's people should be in the Bible. It is. Amazingly, it's been there the whole time. A diligent study, consistently applying the principles of Biblical interpretation will reveal what has been hidden from casual study.

Jesus Himself referred to this calendar change - both when it occurred under the rising influence of the papacy and when it will be done again in this last generation. Two days before His betrayal, Jesus left the temple for the last time. Later that evening, as He rested on the Mount of Olives, Peter and Andrew with James and John came and asked Him to tell them about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world. (They thought those two events would happen at the same time.)

Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events . . . This entire discourse was given, not for the disciples only, but for

those who should live in the last scenes of this earth's history.<sup>1</sup>

Christ's warning against this masterpiece of deception is given almost word-for-word in both Matthew and Mark:

Matthew 24:15, 16 – “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.”

Mark 13:14 – “But when he shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judea flee to the mountains.”

In the destruction of Jerusalem, these texts had their fulfillment. Those Christians who were within Jerusalem heeded the warning and not a single Christian lost his life in the destruction of the city.

Adventists have always applied the primary application of these texts to a future Sunday law:

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

*As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return.*<sup>2</sup>

“When . . . our country . . . shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions . . . .” What is the greatest papal falsehood but that the current pagan/papal calendar contains the seal of God if you but worship on the seventh day of *its* week? What will be its delusions but demons impersonating long dead apostles, claiming that the scriptures have been corrupted over time and that the weekly cycle has been uninterrupted since Creation?<sup>3</sup>

Seventh-day Adventists have been correct in linking these texts in Matthew 24 and Mark 13 to

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<sup>1</sup> DA 628

<sup>2</sup> 5T 451, emphasis supplied.

<sup>3</sup> “The apostles, as personated by these lying spirits, are made to contradict what they wrote at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. They deny the divine origin of the Bible, and thus tear away the foundation of the Christian's hope and put out the light that reveals the way to heaven” (GC 557).

the Sunday law. The mistake has been in assuming that the Sunday law would be little more than a Sunday closing law with increasingly stiff penalties for breaking it. By referring back to the prophecies of Daniel, Christ has shed a floodlight on the true significance of the abomination of desolation and how that will appear disguised as a calendar change law.

There are not that many times that the abomination of desolation is even mentioned in Daniel.

They are:

Daniel 12:11 – And from the time that the daily\*<sup>4</sup> shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Daniel 11:30, 31 – He shall return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms shall stand in his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily\*, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Daniel 9:27 – And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 8:11-13 – Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily\* was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And a host was given him against the daily\* by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily\*, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

The desolation Jesus warned about is “spoken of by Daniel the prophet” only four times. It is interesting to note that three of those four times is always in connection with the “daily.”

It is also important to understand that each of those four references come under a generalized heading: they were visions Daniel received on the banks of the Hiddekel and Ulai rivers. “The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon come to pass.”<sup>5</sup> This is significant because, while it does not deny the truth of the historical interpretation, it opens the door to the possibility of a dual application. At the very least, it means that not all of Daniel, chapters 8-12, have reached their complete fulfillment.

There are three main schools of thought regarding the daily.

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<sup>4</sup> The word *sacrifice* is a supplied word and was not in the original text. Because it only confuses the true meaning, it has been left out. An asterisk has been put in its place to mark its omission.

<sup>5</sup> TM 112-113

1. It is believed the “daily” refers exclusively to the sacrificial offerings offered at the temple in Jerusalem. Those who hold this position believe that the little horn here referred to was Antiochus Epiphanes, a Roman conqueror, who disrupted the temple services and polluted its alters by offering pigs on the altar of burnt offering. Some believe that it refers to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A. D. 70.
2. Some believe that the “daily” is a symbol for paganism, as opposed to “the abomination that maketh desolate” which is believed to be the papacy. “Both terms identify persecuting powers; that the word for “daily,” correctly meaning “continual,” refers to the long continuance of Satan’s opposition to the work of Christ through the medium of paganism; that the taking away of this event is the same as that described in 2 Thess. 2:7 and Rev. 13:2.”<sup>6</sup>
3. It is also believed that the “daily” (or, more accurately translated, continual) refers to the continual High Priestly ministry of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary. Those who hold this view believe that the High Priestly ministry of Jesus was “taken away” when a human priesthood was put into place by the papacy. It is believed that the substitution of a human priesthood made of none effect Christ’s High Priesthood.

Seventh-day Adventists have never held to the Antiochus view simply because Antiochus Epiphanes did not fit the time periods or other particulars of the prophecy.

Within Adventism, various able Bible expositors have held both the second and third interpretations. In more recent years, more and more hold to the view that the primary application is the high priestly ministry of Christ, while a possible secondary application is paganism.

Ellen White made an interesting statement that sheds light on the subject:

Then I saw in relation to the “daily” (Dan. 8:12) that the word “sacrifice” was supplied by man’s wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that *the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry*. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the *correct* view of the “daily”; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed.<sup>7</sup>

This statement is in keeping with her numerous other statements supporting the teachings of the pioneers.

*The Lord will not lead minds now to set aside the truth that the Holy Spirit has moved upon His servants in the past to proclaim . . .*

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<sup>6</sup> *An Exhaustive Ellen G. White Commentary on Daniel*, Academy Enterprises, Inc., Vol. I, 251, editor’s comments.

<sup>7</sup> EW 74-75, emphasis supplied.

There are persons ready to catch up every new idea. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are misinterpreted. These persons do not consider that the truth has been set forth at the appointed time by the very men whom God was leading to do this special work. These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, *and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on "their word" who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages.*

It is true that there are prophecies yet to be fulfilled. But very erroneous work has been done again and again, and will continue to be done by those who seek to find new light in the prophecies, and *who begin by turning away from the light that God has already given.*<sup>8</sup>

In order to find new light, the student of scripture must first look to "the light God has already given." If, prior to the Great Disappointment, "nearly all were united on the correct view of the 'daily,'" then what was that "correct" view?

It was paganism. William Miller believed and taught that the daily was paganism; so did the majority of the Advent leaders.<sup>9</sup> It was only later that the idea came in that the daily was Christ's High Priestly ministry. Because we have not fully understood Daniel 8:11,<sup>10</sup> we have assumed that it must be the ministry of Christ, but a careful word study of that text reveals that the only thing the daily *can* be is paganism.

The confusion has stemmed from the fact that a surface reading of Daniel 8:11 gives a very different interpretation than what comes to light from a deep study of the words in that text.

Daniel 8:11: "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily was taken away and the place of his sanctuary was cast down."

The "he" referred to here is the little horn power (or the papacy) referred to in the preceding two verses. The "prince of the host" refers to Christ. A surface reading of this text, then, has been understood thus: "The little horn exalted himself against Christ and in doing this, the little horn took away the ministry of Christ by substituting a human priesthood instead. This made Christ's ministry of none affect. When he did this, the place of Christ's sanctuary was cast down (trampled underfoot)."

While the "little horn" does refer to the papacy and the "prince of the host" does indeed refer to Christ, the rest of the interpretation is not supported by the text.

## Daily

<sup>8</sup> 2SM 110, 111, emphasis supplied.

<sup>9</sup> From, *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Review & Herald, 1982, Vol. 4, 732, 1118 & 1119.

<sup>10</sup> "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down" (Daniel 8:11).

*Tamîd* (#8548): "This masculine Hebrew noun originates from an unused root word. The meaning is duration, extension, continuance, continuity; continually, perpetually . . . at all times, continuously without interruption . . ." <sup>11</sup> "The word itself does not mean 'daily,' but simply 'continual' or 'regular' . . . The idea of 'daily' was evidently derived, not from the word itself, but from that with which it was associated." <sup>12</sup>

The accurate definition of the word "daily" is what led William Miller to interpret the "daily" as a symbol of paganism. Miller and most of his associates believed that it was the continuance of paganism that was taken away by the papacy (symbolized by the little horn.)

### **Was Taken Away**

*Rûwm* (#7311): "A primitive root; to be high, actively to rise or raise (. . . literally or figuratively): - bring up, exalt (self), extol . . . haughty, heave (up), (be, lift up on, make on, set up on, too) high . . . presumptuously . . . promote, proud, set up . . ." <sup>13</sup>

Right here can be seen that the correct interpretation of Daniel 8:11 could not be referring to the ministry of Christ, because the little horn would not "presumptuously exalt," "lift up on high" and "actively promote" the priesthood of Christ. In fact, the very opposite was done.

### **Was Cast Down**

*Shalam* (#7999): "To be whole; to be sound, be safe; to be uninjured, to keep safe, to make secure . . ." <sup>14</sup>

When these correct definitions are inserted, the rendering of Daniel 8:11 is far different from what a surface reading suggests: "The little horn (papacy) magnified and exalted himself even to Jesus Christ and by him the continuous was presumptuously exalted. The result was that the place of his (the papacy's) sanctuary was made safe and secure."

This is the most accurate interpretation of Daniel 8:11.

The "continuous", or "continual" (which is the literal translation of the word "daily"), refers to the continuous weekly cycle of the pagan solar calendar. "Daily" is also defined as "continuously without interruption." This is a perfect description of the continuous, unending cycle of weeks of the pagan Julian and papal Gregorian calendars.

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<sup>11</sup> *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, King James Version*: "Lexical Aids to the Old Testament", 1675.

<sup>12</sup> *An Exhaustive Ellen G. White Commentary on Daniel*, Academy Enterprises, Inc., Vol. I, 251, editor's comments.

<sup>13</sup> *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, King James Version*: "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary", 107.

<sup>14</sup> *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, King James Version*: "Lexical Aids to the Old Testament", 1669.

By out-lawing the Biblical luni-solar calendar and substituting in its place a pagan calendar that cycled “continuously without interruption”, the papacy presumptuously promoted, exalted and lifted up on high *paganism*. This strengthened the papacy. Allied with paganism and the civil power, the papacy was strengthened and established so that “the place of his sanctuary” was made safe and secure.

The work of the papal church was to be of an exactly opposite character to that of Christ. Daniel in holy vision saw that he “would think to change times and laws.” The laws of God and the *time* of God *were to be changed* by this antichristian power. The laws of God are the only laws which men are prohibited from changing, for secular powers may change as they see fit the laws of secular governments. In the prophecy it is plainly shown that this papal power would with deliberate intention change the law of God . . .

The Papacy, claiming to be the vicegerent of the Son of God, is in truth the vicegerent of another power. She points to the Sunday institution as the sign of her authority; but in the change of the law and *time* of God, she is only doing that which Satan tried to do in heaven, - prove the law of God faulty, and the Lawgiver fallible.<sup>15</sup>

Again, the word “time” refers to years, or the calendar by which the years are counted. In referring to Daniel 7:25, “(he) shall think to change times and laws”, the focus has always been on the papacy changing the *laws*. The text predicts, though, that he would also think to change *times*. The above quote is interesting because it emphatically states that the little horn would not just *think* to do it – he has *done* it. Read it again: “The laws of God and the *time* of God *were to be changed* by this antichristian power . . . In the prophecy it is plainly shown that this papal power would with deliberate intention change the law of God . . . .”<sup>16</sup>

This is the warning Christ gave to His disciples to pass on to the final generation. When the papacy in league with Constantine presumptuously exalted paganism by imposing the continuous weekly cycle of the pagan calendar on the church, the abomination that makes desolate (the papacy) was put firmly into power; the place of its sanctuary was made safe and secure.

The word “abomination” means a disgusting, filthy or detestable thing: an idol. “The word is used to refer to idols themselves or anything associated with idolatrous practices . . . . Because idol worshippers are wholly identified with idols, they too are detestable.”<sup>17</sup> This abomination desolates, destroys, lay’s waste, ravages and devastates<sup>18</sup> the souls of men.

In Daniel 8:11-13, however, the “abomination of desolation” is referred to as the “*transgression* of desolation” (vs. 13). The reason is interesting – the other references to desolation speak of the abomination as complete and receiving the action of being:

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<sup>15</sup> ST Nov. 19, 1894, emphasis supplied.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Number 8251, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, King James Version*: “Lexical Aids to the Old Testament”, 1672.

<sup>18</sup> *Shamem*, #8074, *ibid.*, 1670

- 1) “set up” – Daniel 12:11;
- 2) Placed – Daniel 11:31;

In Daniel 9:27, the abomination is the thing that is actively making desolate.

Daniel 8:11-13, however, is describing the process by which the abomination is made complete. The word “transgression” is *pasha*. It means “a revolt (national, moral or religious): - rebellion, sin, transgression, trespass.”<sup>19</sup> It is derived from *pasha* which means “to break away (from just authority), i.e. trespass, apostatize, quarrel: - offend, rebel, revolt, transgress.”<sup>20</sup>

The exalting of a continuously cycling pagan calendar with no connection to the moon, was open rebellion, apostacy and revolt; it was breaking away from the just authority of heaven.

Because this is how the beast rose to power the first time, we can expect that this change of calendars will happen again, because: “History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted.”<sup>21</sup>

With this accurate definition of Daniel 8:11-13, the meaning of the other references to the abomination of desolation becomes clear.

We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has *nearly* reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy *will be repeated*. In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that “shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”<sup>22</sup>

It is time for all of Daniel to be opened and revealed to God’s people. In the above quote, the servant of the Lord clearly states that there is to be a repeat of what has happened in the past. *In that context*, she then quotes Daniel 11:31 which is one of the four instances in Daniel where the abomination of desolation is mentioned and it is again in relation to the “daily” or the continual.

Daniel 9:27 is the only time the abomination of desolation is spoken of without connection to the daily. However, there is again deeper meaning in this text than has been seen before.

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he

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<sup>19</sup> James Strong, #6588, *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, “Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary”, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990, 97.

<sup>20</sup> Number 6586, *ibid*.

<sup>21</sup> Mar 214

<sup>22</sup> 13MR 394, emphasis supplied.



shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” (Daniel 9:27)

Constraints of time and space do not allow an in-depth study of Daniel 8 and 9, however, the “he” referred to in this text has a dual application. It does indeed refer to Christ in this prophecy. For the final generation, though, it refers to the prince mentioned in the previous verse. This is the prince “that shall come” whose people “destroy the city and the sanctuary.” “City” can be a symbol of God’s church.<sup>23</sup> The people of this prince destroy what *God’s* people have just built, namely: the street and the wall.<sup>24</sup>

A well-established rule of prophetic interpretation is that if any part of a prophecy has not had a complete fulfillment, then the Bible student must look for a dual application or reapplication. This was a rule understood by the Millerites:

(Here is how) to know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy. If you find every word of the prophecy, after the figures are understood, is *literally fulfilled*, then you may know that your history is the true event. But if *one word* lacks a fulfillment [sic], then you must look for another event, or wait its future development. For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed.<sup>25</sup>

The prophecy of Daniel 9 is one of the clearest prophecies of the Messiah in the Bible. At the same time, not all of the particulars of the prophecy were fulfilled in Christ. Therefore, it is reasonable to look for a dual application to this passage.

Another proof that the primary application of Daniel 9:27 does not refer to Christ is found in the definition of the word “confirm”: “And he shall *confirm* the covenant with many for one week.” Confirm means “to be strong; by implication to prevail, act insolently.”<sup>26</sup> The Savior was never insolent. The papacy and the power behind the papacy (Satan) have always been insolent. This definition, while new to most, is in agreement with the rest of the text.

This text, along with Daniel 8:11, is the most important reference to the desolation warned of by Jesus. The marginal reading of “for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate” is “and upon the battlements shall be the idols of the desolator.” In order to understand the marginal reading, it is necessary to first understand the symbols employed.

The desolator, of course, is Satan.

**Battlements** are the highest places of a wall. Anciently, the archers would stand upon the

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<sup>23</sup> See Rev. 11:1.

<sup>24</sup> Daniel 9:25

<sup>25</sup> “Rules of Interpretation”, *The Midnight Cry*, Vol. 1, No. 1, November 17, 1842, emphasis supplied.

<sup>26</sup> “*Gâbar* (#1396) . . . to be strong; by implication to prevail, act insolently,” (James Strong, *A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990.)

battlements to defend their city against attackers. The wall is a symbol of God's law. "In obedience to God's law, man is surrounded as with a hedge and kept from the evil. He who breaks down this divinely erected barrier at one point has destroyed its power to protect him; for he has opened a way by which the enemy can enter to waste and ruin."<sup>27</sup>

What a God is our God! He rules over His kingdom with diligence and care, and He has built a hedge--the Ten Commandments--about His subjects to preserve them from the results of transgression. In requiring obedience to the laws of His kingdom, God gives His people health and happiness, peace and joy. He teaches them that the perfection of character He requires can be attained only by becoming familiar with His Word.<sup>28</sup>

The battlements of the law of God are the Sabbaths. Within the fourth commandment is found the seal of God:

The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath was changed by papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it, by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority.<sup>29</sup>

**Idols** placed upon the battlements are that which is placed on or over the battlements. If the battlements are God's Sabbaths, then what is referred to here is the idol sabbath:

Satan could not point to any time when the Lord had changed his holy rest day, when he had removed his sanctity from the seventh day of the week and placed it upon the first. Therefore he had to employ his deceiving power to make men believe that the fourth commandment had been changed.

The scheme of Satan has been successful, and he is well pleased that he can sway the religious mind by presenting a mass of false theories and innumerable conjectures and sayings of men . . . Thus he turns men's minds from the genuine to the false. The day instituted by God, when men should engage in the worship of Jehovah, is trampled underfoot, and Satan's invention--a spurious, idol sabbath--is exalted.<sup>30</sup>

All who will exalt and worship the idol sabbath, a day that God has not blessed, help the devil and his angels with all the power of their God-given ability, which they have perverted to a wrong use. Inspired by another spirit which blinds their

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<sup>27</sup> RC 69

<sup>28</sup> AG 61

<sup>29</sup> GC 452

<sup>30</sup> RH, September 6, 1898

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discernment, they cannot see that the exaltation of Sunday observance is entirely the institution of the Catholic church.

A corrupt union has been formed to tear down God's memorial of creation --the seventh day, which He hallowed and blessed and gave to man to be a sign between God and His people, to be observed throughout their generations forever. A period is coming when everyone will take sides between the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, which the Lord has sanctified and blessed, and the spurious sabbath instituted by the man of sin.

An idol sabbath has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura . . . Thus the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled underfoot.<sup>31</sup>

This text foretells a time when an idol sabbath will be super-imposed over the true Sabbaths which are the battlements in the wall that is God's law.

When these deeper meanings are understood, Daniel 9:27 reads: "And he shall be strong and prevail. He shall act insolently against the covenant with many for one week. In the midst of the week, he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and he shall super-impose his idol sabbath on top of the true Sabbath of the fourth commandment."

The papacy did this once already. When the papacy joined forces with the civil power, the two of them made God's calendar illegal. In its place, this beast power presumptuously exalted the pagan calendar of continuous weekly cycles. This is how the "daily" was "taken away" before – the "continuously without interruption" was "presumptuously set up on high" by civil legislation. The result was that this combination of religion with the might of the civil power insured that the place of the papacy's sanctuary was made safe and secure. It was unassailable for a long 1260 years.

It is foretold by Christ's warning in Matthew 24:14, 16 and Mark 13:14 that just this same action will happen again. Jesus' referral back to Daniel and the "abomination of desolation" is given for the last generation. Seventh-day Adventists have assumed that the Sunday law would simply be a Sunday closing law with ever more severe penalties for breaking it, until finally demanding that God's people work on the Saturday-Sabbath on pain of death.

The danger of holding such a narrow view of the Sunday law is that when a change of calendar takes place, Seventh-day Adventists will not recognize it for what it is – the long-expected Sunday law. Forgetting what has happened in the past has limited the church's understanding, but God has given warning:

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

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<sup>31</sup> 14MR 91

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.<sup>32</sup>

The result of forgetting the lessons of the past is tragic: "The great issue so near at hand [enforcement of Sunday laws] will weed out those whom God has not appointed and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain. Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. . . ."<sup>33</sup>

Not recognizing that the change of calendar law *is* the Sunday law, many will preach that we need to go along with it. It will be urged, "This isn't The Sunday Law. It's merely a change in how we measure time. Calendars have been changed through history; this is simply another change in the calendar. Do not bring a time of trouble on us all ahead of time. We are subject to the government which is set up by God. Don't stir up trouble over a non-issue."

The crisis is now upon us. The battle is to be waged between the Christianity of the Bible and the Christianity of human tradition. . . .

Prophecy represents Protestantism as having lamb-like horns, but speaking like a dragon. Already we are beginning to hear the voice of the dragon . . . There is the prospect before us, of waging a continuous war, at the risk of imprisonment, of losing property and even life itself, to defend the law of God, which is being made void by the laws of men. This Bible text will be quoted to us, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. . . . The powers that be are ordained of God" . . .

Those who shall seek to compel men to observe an institution of the papacy, and trample upon God's authority, are doing a work similar to that of the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees in the days of the apostles. When the laws of earthly rulers are brought into opposition to the laws of the Supreme Ruler of the universe, then those who are God's loyal subjects will be true to Him.<sup>34</sup>

It is a well-known adage that those who forget the lessons of the past are doomed to repeat their mistakes. It must be remembered: "History is to be repeated. That which has been will be again."<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Mar 214

<sup>33</sup> LDE 179

<sup>34</sup> RH, January 1, 1889

<sup>35</sup> Letter 65, 1898