

## Summarized Sequence of End-time Sabbath-related Events

(Hand-out for sermon: "Into the Lion's Den")

Bonnors Ferry Seventh-day Adventist Church

2010-10-30

1. **Long struggle** concerning God, His character, His government, His law (Begins in Genesis, ends in Revelation). "The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 582).
2. **Removal of law leads to sharp decline in morals**, fast-spreading corruption. "The doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world" (p. 585).
3. Removal of respect for His law means His **removal of His blessings and protection**. (Removal of this protection also leaves Protestants open to the deception of joining with Rome, which they soon embark upon.) The Lord. . . "will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same" (p. 589).
4. **"Papists, Protestants, and worldlings** will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a **grand movement for the conversion of the world**" (pp. 588, 589).

→ → → → We are today more or less here, at steps 3 and 4 and approaching 5 ← ← ← ←

5. Further societal consequences of removal of blessing and protection:
  - a. **"Populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation"** (p. 589).
  - b. **Natural disasters increase** (pp. 589, 590).
  - c. **Food shortages** (p. 590).
6. **General claim made:** "The fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called 'Christian sabbath'. . . the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society" (p. 587).
7. **Specific claim made:** "The class that have provoked the displeasure of heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity" (p. 590).
8. A full blend of church-state union now demands "that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God" (p. 591).
9. Seventh-day Adventists who are faithful sabbath-keepers "will be denounced as enemies of law and order" (p. 592).
10. **"Rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance"** (p. 592).
11. Rights of conscience not respected, laws passed. "All who refuse compliance will be visited with **civil penalties**. . ." (p. 604).
12. **Death decree.** "It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the state ought not to be tolerated. . . a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death" (pp. 615, 616).