

My Final Chapter

No, dear reader; I am not planning anything radical, nor am I preparing to breathe my last. You have no reason for sudden alarm. However, you may truly be astonished when you discover what revelations I have to share in this article.

My opening text from the Bible for this writing is 2 Thess. 2:3, 4 with my emphases added.

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; Who opposed and exalted himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

My main excerpt from the Spirit of Prophecy will be *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, page 213.

When this time of trouble comes [the “time of Jacob’s trouble”], every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death. (1882; emphases and brackets mine)

Some years ago, I compiled many of my tracts over a 20-year period into a book and entitled it *Finally... Out of Darkness, Into His Marvelous Light*. The last chapter of that book ends in the following way:

In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord’s servants will be tried. They have faithfully given THE FINAL WARNING, looking to God and to His word alone. God’s Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word that the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ’s ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave the results with God.

THE FINAL WARNING is going forth to Adventists first. The message has swelled to a “loud cry.” “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, Come out of Babylon fallen, and go ye out to meet Him!” Trim your lamps and go ye “in with Him to the marriage.” [Adapted from *The Great Controversy*, pages 604-608]

When I finalized this writing, I knew that more was to come, but did not have enlightenment enough to put it on paper. Prophetically, I had merely substantiated and expanded on what was already predicted by the authors of *The SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, page 822 [brackets supplied].

An image to the first beast [of Revelation chapter 13] would be an organization functioning on much the same principles as that beast’s organization [Papal Rome]. Among the principles by which the first beast operated was the use of the secular arm to support religious institutions. In imitation the second beast [United States of America] will repudiate its principles of freedom. The church will prevail upon the state to enforce its dogmas. State and church will unite, and the result will be the loss of religious liberty and the persecution of dissenting minorities [groups sued by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for trademark infringement].

Recently, the CSDA Church was having a Sabbath chat online, and the subject of the “international (or universal) Sunday law” (or some alternative fulfillment) came up for discussion. This is because some decree on an international level is expected to threaten the saints with destruction. It was obvious in our online dialogue that few of us had a clear understanding of what this would be and how it might come about.

This subject has compelled me to do a more intense study and seek YAH in fervent prayer. Thankfully, I was able to uncover some keys that may unlock much of the mystery surrounding the very close of last day events.

Since my book was not adequately completed, I have chosen to entitle this article *My Final Chapter*. Surely, however, this does not mean that I shall cease writing as the Spirit moves me.

Creation Seventh Day Adventists have taken the lead in Christendom for explaining the concept of “conditional prophecy” in a concise manner. Certainly, every Christian should have had some cursory exposure to this idea, since nearly all denominations teach that the promises made to the nation of Israel often find their fulfillment in the Church or “Spiritual Israel.” Bible students are familiar with the story of Jonah the prophet, which is a classic example of conditional prophecy. There are prophecies *obviously* conditional, and then there are others *not* so obvious. For a thorough treatment of the topic, please see <http://195.201.255.234/Binary/books/Highway/HOHV1.pdf> (pages 164-167), along with the following links: <http://195.201.255.234/Binary/newmoons/NMDec07.html>, <http://195.201.255.234/Binary/newmoons/NMJan08.html>, and <http://195.201.255.234/Binary/newmoons/NMFeb08.html>.

As many already know, CSDAs regard the “national Sunday law,” that was to be passed by Congress and enforced in the United States, as one of Ellen G. White’s conditional prophecies. It is not out-of-bounds to interpret her writings and arrive at spiritual or parallel applications. And this is precisely how we came to view the substitution of the oppressive SDA trademark law for the national Sunday law expected to restrict liberty of conscience for commandment-keeping Adventists. The salient principles are exactly the same in both instances.

I believe it has generally been concluded that the national SDA trademark crisis in the USA would expand to a world scale, moving from country to country until some sort of international decree would be handed down by the single most powerful judicial body in the world. One immediate problem arises however—what body is that? In fact, what world court would be authorized to decree an international Sunday law (providing that *were* to be the fulfillment of Ellen White’s prophecy)? We know of no such body, and while the United Nations might be considered to wield significant world powers, they are not capable of condemning religious heretics. In fact, it is senseless to think the United Nations would completely disapprove a minority religious sect by unanimous decree rather than to protect them from international persecution so far as possible. There is actually a branch agency of the United Nations (the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees –UNHCR) that has expressed a level of sympathy for the cause of persecuted Creation 7th Day Adventists in America.

Another look at last day events from the published works of Ellen G. White, taking great pains to define her terms by her own writings, has revealed some interesting and surprising conclusions. Let us now take space to go through the analysis.

First of all, I wish to list the various phrases employed by Ellen White when she was writing about the experience of the saints during their time of persecution and while facing the threat of extinction.

- a. “powers of the earth” / “powers of earth” / “powers of this earth” / “highest earthly powers”
- b. “leading men” / “our leading men” / “ministers and leading men” / “leading men of the earth”
- c. “highest religious authorities” / “rulers of the people”
- d. “highest human authority”
- e. “highest earthly authority”

It is wise to allow the writings of Ellen G. White to be their own expositor when seeking definitions of terms and phrases. I will take the five categories above and deal with them separately.

a. The “**powers of earth**,” and variations thereof, are readily understood to be prophetic beasts, civil governments, or others wielding the “sword of Caesar.” Read the following quotes taken from the writings (you will note that I have added emphases and brackets to better represent my impressions):

When this time of trouble comes [the “time of Jacob’s trouble”], every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly [i.e., aiming to destroy] conflict with **the powers of earth** that are marshaled [arranged for battle] by the dragon host, make God their defense. The [death] decree has been passed [via agreement or vote before the gathering of the “powers of the earth”] by **the highest earthly authority** that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death [destruction resulting from court-mandated sanctions]. (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 213; 1882; emphases and brackets mine)

God had a work for [Luther] to do. He must suffer yet for the truth. He must see it wade through bloody persecutions. He must see it clothed in sackcloth, and covered with reproach by fanatics. He must live to justify it, and be its defender, when the mighty **powers of earth** should seek to tear it down. (*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 4b, page 121)

The **powers of this earth** will unite with the powers from beneath to oppress God’s people. [...] When Satanic agencies shall unite with the professed Christian world in opposing God, these words of the prophet will be fulfilled [Rev 13 – regarding the mark of the beast]. (*Signs of the Times*, Nov. 7, 1900; brackets and emphases mine)

To Daniel was given a vision of fierce beasts, representing the **powers of the earth**. (*Amazing Grace*, page 15)

He was obedient to all His Father’s commandments. Wickedness has filled the earth; it is defiled under the inhabitants thereof. The high places of the **powers of earth** have been polluted with corruption and base idolatries; but the time has come when righteousness shall receive the palm of victory and triumph. (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 2, page 209)

The **powers of earth** and hell will manifest a terrifying, destructive activity. But the eye of faith will discern in all these manifestations harbingers of the grand and awful future, and the triumphs that will surely come to God’s people. (*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, Feb. 28, 1893)

While all the **powers of earth** and hell are combined to destroy, God guards his children still. The Lord would not have his people in continual fear, hence he does not reveal to them a thousandth part of the efforts of their great adversary to allure and destroy. If they could discern the wonderful power of God constantly exerted in their behalf, would not their hearts be filled with gratitude for his love, and with awe at the thought of his majesty and wondrous power. (*Signs of the Times*, Dec. 2, 1880)

We should not rush into danger unless God sends us there; nor should we call our brethren cowards because they are cautious in their plans that they may not unnecessarily provoke **the rulers and powers of the earth**. (*Review and Herald*, April 22, 1890)

Luther trembled as he looked upon himself--one man opposed to the mightiest **powers of earth**. (*The Great Controversy*, page 132)

Four mighty angels hold back the **powers of this earth** till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict, but they are held in check by the angels. (*Last Day Events*, pages 238, 239)

A terrible conflict is before us. We are nearing the battle of the great day of God Almighty. That which has been held in control is to be let loose. The angel of mercy is folding her wings, preparing to step down from the throne and leave the world to the control of Satan. The principalities and **powers of earth** are in bitter revolt against the God of heaven. They are filled with hatred against those who serve Him, and soon, very soon, will be fought the last great battle between good and evil [the Battle of Armageddon]. (*Last Day Events*, page 250; brackets and emphases mine)

The hidden ones have been scattered because of man’s enmity against the law of Jehovah. They have been oppressed by all the **powers of the earth**. They have been scattered in the dens and caves of the earth through the violence of their adversaries, because they are true and obedient to Jehovah’s laws. But deliverance comes to the people of God. To their enemies God will show Himself a God of just retribution. . . . (*Maranatha*, page 290)

The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his

triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations [“powers of the earth”] to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked **powers of earth** to destroy the people of God. All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law. (*Christian Service*, page 157)

The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. When the laws of men are exalted above the laws of God, when the **powers of this earth** try to force men to [violate their individual consciences], know that the time has come for God to work. He will arise in His majesty, and will shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity. The earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. (*Maranatha*, page 262; emphases and brackets supplied)

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. (*Early Writings*, page 41; emphases mine)

An apostate church will unite with the powers of earth and hell to place upon the forehead or in the hand, the mark of the beast, and prevail upon the children of God to worship the beast and his image. They will seek to compel them to renounce their allegiance to God’s law, and yield homage to the papacy. Then will come the times which will try men’s souls; for the confederacy of apostasy will demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah, and repudiate the truth of his word. Then will the gold be separated from the dross, and it will be made apparent who are the godly, who are loyal and true, and who are the disloyal, the dross and the tinsel. What clouds of chaff will then be borne away by the fan of God! Where now our eyes can discover only rich floors of wheat, will be chaff blown away with the fan of God. Every one who is not centered in Christ will fail to stand the test and ordeal of that day. While those who are clothed with Christ’s righteousness will stand firm to truth and duty, those who have trusted in their own righteousness will be ranged under the black banner of the prince of darkness. (*Review and Herald*, Nov. 8, 1892)

Satan is ever seeking to bring about a state of things in which righteousness may be termed unrighteousness, and unrighteousness righteousness. What are we to do? – We are to keep in living connection with the God of heaven, ranking in his army and under his banner, and we cannot afford to be in such gross blindness that we cannot discern truth from error. We want to know what is truth. Many say, “The whole world is keeping the first day of the week, and do you think that all the great and good men are in error?” God is going to bring around a condition of things where the good men and the men in authority will have an opportunity to know what is truth indeed. And because a people will not bow the knee to the image, and receive the mark of the beast in the hand or the forehead, but will stand to the truth because it is truth, there will be oppression, and an attempt to compel the conscience; but those who have known the truth will be afraid to yield to the powers of darkness. God has a people who will not receive the mark of the beast in their right hand or in their forehead. God has a place for his people to fill in this world, to reflect light. You are God’s sentinels. Christ says of his people, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.” We are to stand the trial and test of persecution because of allegiance to the truth. Not a move has been made in exalting the idol sabbath, in bringing around Sunday observance through legislation, but Satan has been behind it, and has been the chief worker; but the conscience should not be compelled even for the observance of the genuine Sabbath, for God will accept only willing service. The question is asked, Shall we not obey the powers that be? – Yes, when they are in harmony with the higher powers that be. God made his law for all the universe. He created man, he gives the bounteous provisions of nature, holds our breath and life in his hand. He is to be recognized, his law honored, before all the great men and the highest earthly powers. (*Review and Herald*, April 15, 1890; emphases added)

b. The preponderance of the evidence suggests that the phrase “**leading men**” and its variations refers to religious leaders, whether Adventists, Jews, or otherwise. Examples from the writings are as follows:

Priests and rabbis were in that congregation of hearers, but these were not the ones addressed. With all their learning, with all their supposed instruction in the mysteries of the law, with all their claims of knowing God, they revealed that they knew Him not. To these leading men had been committed the oracles of God, but Christ declared them to be unsafe teachers. (*Review and Herald*, Aug. 22, 1899; emphases added)

I heard the voice of earnest, agonizing prayer from a few who still remained with the companies who were in darkness. The ministers and leading men were passing around in these different companies, fastening the cords stronger; but still I heard this voice of earnest prayer. Then I saw those who had been praying reach out their hands for help towards that united company who were free, rejoicing in God. (*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 1, page 146; emphases mine)

Some of **our leading men** are inclined to indulge the spirit manifested by the apostle John when he said: “Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name; and we forbade him, because he followeth not with us.” Organization and discipline are essential, but there is now very great danger of a departure from the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. What we need is less dependence upon mere form and ceremony, and far more of the power of true godliness. (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 461; emphases mine)

When Christ’s mission on earth was ended, and he ascended to his Father, he left the church and all its interests as a sacred trust to his followers, bidding them see that it was kept in a flourishing condition. This work cannot be left to the ministers alone, nor to a few leading men. Every member should feel that he has entered into a solemn covenant with the Lord to work for the best interests of his cause at all times and under all circumstances. (*Signs of the Times*, April 21, 1887; emphases mine)

c. I suggest that “**highest religious authorities**” and “**rulers of the people**” both refer to those religious leaders who have the greatest responsibility and authority within a specific religious community. I am also including in this section “**the leading men of the earth**” since that phrase appears applicable to the same class. Here are examples from the inspired writings.

The time, the place, the occasion, the intensity of feeling that pervaded the assembly, all combined to make the words of Jesus before the Sanhedrin the more impressive. The highest religious authorities of the nation were seeking the life of Him who declared Himself the restorer of Israel. The Lord of the Sabbath was arraigned before an earthly tribunal to answer the charge of breaking the Sabbath law. When He so fearlessly declared His mission, His judges looked upon Him with astonishment and rage; but His words were unanswerable. They could not condemn Him. He denied the right of the priests and rabbis to question Him [did not submit to legal “discovery” sessions], or to interfere with His work [His divinely-mandated duties]. They were invested with no such authority. Their claims were based upon their own pride and arrogance. He refused to plead guilty of their charges, or to be catechized by them [in order to discover incriminating evidence]. (*The Desire of Ages*, page 211; emphases and brackets added)

As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the [trademark injunction], the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand, will make them objects of universal execration. 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; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion [over the name] and lawlessness [violations of trademark laws]. The same argument eighteen hundred years ago was brought against Christ by the “**rulers of the people**.” “It is expedient for us,” said the wily Caiaphas, “that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.” (JOHN 11:50) This argument will appear conclusive [to the “**highest earthly authority**”]; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment [court-ordered sanctions], and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death [or “root out the hated sect”]. (*The Great Controversy*, pages 615, 616; emphases and brackets mine)

I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages [their normal places of residence], and associating together in companies, and living in the most solitary places [isolated from church fellowship]. Angels provided them food and water [from YAH’s Table], while the wicked were suffering from hunger and thirst [because of no spiritual food on their tables]. I saw the leading men of the earth [the religious leaders to whom the oracles of God had been given] consulting together, and Satan and his angels busy around them. I saw a writing [a formal resolution – the “death decree”], copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the [requirements of the trademark injunction], the people were at liberty after a certain time, to put them to death [or “root out the hated sect”]. (*Early Writings*, pages 282, 283; 1858; brackets mine)

d. The fourth category of phrases is “the highest human authority.” We can only find this specific wording in one occurrence. It is rather intuitive that Mrs. White intended to address the work of a legislative body with supreme authority – perhaps only in a hypothetical manner, from the wording she employs in the statement. There is no indication that she was citing any particular existing entity, though she may have been implying some reference to the United States Congress that was supposed to alter the constitution via an amendment, and finally, make void the law of God by passing an oppressive national Sunday law billed as the “Christian Sabbath.”

There can be no amendment made to the law of God; for “the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.” Should the voice of the highest human authority announce an amendment or an addition to the law of God in any human legislature, such an announcement would be registered on the books of heaven as treason. It would be placed on the same list as the presumptuous claims of the first great rebel who was cast out from heaven. (*Review and Herald*, March 26, 1895; brackets mine)

e. We now come to what may be called “the bottom line” in our discussion. This lone phrase, “**the highest earthly authority**,” is the one that has puzzled Adventist students of prophecy for decades. What could this *authority* possibly be? It is definitely momentous, for this entity is the very one that “passes” the dreaded “death decree” that will be enforced, or at least effected, “in different lands” or “in different parts of the land” (whichever phrase best describes the prophetic fulfillment).

When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof [from Creation Seventh Day Adventists]. (*The Great Controversy*, page 635; emphases and brackets mine)

I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages [their normal places of residence], and associating together in companies, and living in the most solitary places [isolated from church fellowship]. Angels provided them food and water [from YAH’s Table], while the wicked [“dragon host”] were suffering from hunger and thirst [because of no spiritual food on their tables]. I saw the leading men of the earth [the religious leaders to whom the oracles of God had been given] consulting together, and Satan and his angels busy around them. I saw a writing [a formal resolution or decree], copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the [requirements of the trademark injunction], the people were at liberty after a certain time, to put them to death [or “root out the hated sect”]. (*Early Writings*, pages 282, 283; 1858; emphases and brackets mine)

When this time of trouble comes [the “time of Jacob’s trouble”], every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host [an army of wicked people and angels], make God their defense. The [death] decree has been passed [via agreement or vote of “the dragon host” before the marshalling of the “powers of the earth”] by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death. (*Testimonies for the Church*, page 213; emphases and brackets mine)

The same argument eighteen hundred years ago was brought against Christ by the “**rulers of the people**.” “It is expedient for us,” said the wily Caiaphas, “that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.” (JOHN 11:50) This argument will appear conclusive [to the “**highest earthly authority**”]; and a [death] decree will finally be issued [“scattered in different parts of the land”] against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment [because of their refusal to give up the name CSDA], and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death [or “root out the hated sect”]. (*The Great Controversy*, page 615; emphases and brackets mine)

I need to take a brief diversion here as there is a slight ambiguity to unravel in this regard. It says, “...*the people* will conspire to root out the hated sect.” The prophecy further states, “...*the people* were at liberty after a certain time, to put them to death.” It is vital to find out who “the people” are, for they are the active agents in this religious genocide. The inspired writing, unequivocally defines “the people” as those under the authority of their religious rulers. So, we can answer the question, “What *people* are to be stirred to eliminate the saints – those who keep the commandments of YAH and have the faith of YAHshua?” Exercising sound reason and spiritual discernment, it must mean that *the members* of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide are “the people.” Consider the following Scripture as it applies here:

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. (Rev. 15:2; KJV)

This describes the saints “that had gotten the victory” over four different things: 1) the beast, 2) the image of the beast, 3) the mark of the beast, and 4) the number of the beast’s name. We already fairly understand the first three, because these have been associated with the SDA trademark lawsuits in the jurisdiction of the United States up to this date. It has been suggested and taught that “the number of his name” is the *literal number* issued by the registering agent – United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). However, when one gets the victory over the mark itself, overcoming the associated number for that mark is obviously included as part of that victory.

It would be redundant to say a person got the victory over “the mark by name” and “the mark by number,” supposing these to be two separate victories. Let me drive my point home more succinctly. Revelation 14:11 says, “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” It does *not* say, “...and whosoever receiveth the mark *and number* of his name.” Those individuals falling under the curse are 1) worshipping the beast, 2) worshipping the image of the beast, and 3) receiving the mark of the beast by name, and that, *because* they are members of “the number of his name.” The remnant that avoids this divine punishment must not 1) worship the beast, 2) worship the image of the beast, or 3) receive the mark of the beast’s name. They must also not 4) allow the “number of his name” to effect a change of mind either by arguments or threats of reprisal.

In case you request more support, let me turn to the author of Acts. “And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)” (Acts 1:15) For “number of names,” *The SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, page 128 comments: “**Number of names.** Literally, ‘crowd of names,’ that is, group of persons.” (*cf.* Rev. 9:16; Num. 1:1, 2; 26:53)

This “number of his name” is to be applied to *the membership* of the entity holding legal ownership of the name in question. That is to say, those who subscribe to the name “Seventh-day Adventist” via SDA Church membership are the ones who will ultimately agree or disagree with the actions of “the rulers of the people,” or General Conference Committee. Those who are baptized into the SDA Church have vowed, covenanted, to support and uphold the organization. In so doing, they are corporately accountable for the actions of “the leading men” on their behalf. Logically, the fourth thing to be overcome by the saints is the world constituency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (*i.e.*, “the number of his name” – or the number of persons subscribing to the trademarked name).

Up to this time, the world constituency of Seventh-day Adventists has not been afforded an opportunity to present their support or disapproval in the controversy of *General Conference Corporation v. McGill, et al.* The legal actions have been restricted to the jurisdiction of the United States (“two-horned beast” of Revelation 13) under the direction of “the leading men” at the GC headquarters in Maryland. In fact, the whole conflict has been kept under a lid by GC administrators, and that, probably motivated by a fear of stirring up “the people” against themselves. It is reasonable to assume the necessity of the world membership becoming involved as the conflict continues by widening in scope. At any rate, I believe I have made my case for “the people” meaning SDA Church members at large.

In order to decipher the phrase “highest earthly authority” adequately, I must lay a little more groundwork. Before escalating this trademark lawsuit to an international level, it will be indispensable to enlist the input of the international General Conference Adventist constituency. The United States composes only a minority of the worldwide SDA members (almost one million compared to 14 million worldwide); consequently, some larger forum will be required to secure the blessings of the world Seventh-day Adventist community prior to “the dragon host” marshalling “the powers of earth” against the saints.

Another factor potentially affecting the SDA administration in the United States is finances. In order to extend the trademark lawsuit into the world field, it seems a sizeable increase in litigation budget would be essential. As it now stands, the General Conference has been frustrated in its failed attempts at collecting the \$35,567 in attorney fees assessed as a sanction against Pastor McGill. It is only rational that “the leading men” will be obliged to seek support from the world delegates allocating extra funds for the purpose of exterminating the “troublers of Israel” – that is, “the hated sect.”

I will note another related dynamic. World governments (“the powers of the earth”) will not search out *civil* violators on their own volition. They must be “marshaled” by some complainant. Then the violator has to be found in contempt of a court’s order in that particular local jurisdiction. A person or sect cannot be hunted down generally without legal justification. This condition has only been met in the United States so far. In addition, reaching that stage of seriousness has taken over four years of litigation in federal court. As a result, there must be an organized and “simultaneous movement” instigating a plan to “root out the hated sect” if it is to be accomplished within a reasonable period of time. This can easily be orchestrated by a popular religious persecuting authority – “the highest earthly authority” that is in union with the “kings of the earth.”

Let me add this; the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, as a universal corporate body, has not yet been brought to full accountability in the judgment of the living for the evils perpetrated by the General Conference Corporation and “the leading men.” A formal decision or decree rendered in favor of said evils, and accomplished by vote of SDA Church representatives seated in an official session, would effectively “fill the cup of iniquity” for the corporate Church worldwide. Individual members would be informed of the decree via “a writing, copies of which [will be] scattered in different parts of the land.” Each person is then tested with respect to the decree. This completed process, in prophetic sequence, coincides closely with the termination of human probation and onset of “the time of Jacob’s trouble.”

The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state—men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. “So,” says the Saviour, “shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man’s destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy’s offer to guilty men. (The Great Controversy, page 491; emphases supplied)

On every hand [the saints] hear the plottings of treason and see the active working of rebellion; and there is aroused within them an intense desire, an earnest yearning of soul, that this great apostasy may be terminated and the wickedness of the wicked may come to an end. But while they plead with God to stay the work of rebellion, it is with a keen sense of self-reproach that they themselves have no more power to resist and urge back the mighty tide of evil. They feel that had they always employed all their ability in the service of Christ, going forward from strength to strength, Satan’s forces would have less power to prevail against them. (The Great Controversy, page 619; brackets and emphases added)

Allow me now to cite from the writings of Ellen G. White and one statement made by her husband, James White, to establish just what “**the highest earthly authority**” *was* in their time and *is* in our day as well.

The General Conference is the highest earthly authority that we acknowledge, designed to take the general oversight of the entire work connected with the message which we have to give to the world. Our State conferences take the oversight of the work in the several States; and they are amenable to the General Conference. Our simple church organizations, for the benefit of local assemblies, are amenable to the State conferences. (Ellen G. White Biography, Vol. 2, page 374; James White)

But when, in a General Conference, the judgment of the brethren assembled from all parts of the field, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be stubbornly maintained, but surrendered. Never should a laborer regard as a virtue the persistent maintenance of his position of independence, contrary to the decision of the general body. . . . God has ordained that the representatives of His church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference, shall have authority. (Christian Leadership, page 2; emphases and brackets mine)

I have been shown that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any one man. But when the judgment of the **General Conference**, which is **the highest authority that God has upon the earth**, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered. (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, page 492; emphases and brackets mine)

[**Re: the Jerusalem Council**] Judas and Silas were sent with these apostles to declare to the Gentiles by word of mouth the decision of the council: "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well." The four servants of God were sent to Antioch with the epistle and message that was to put an end to all controversy; for it was the voice of the **highest authority upon the earth**. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 195, 196; emphases and brackets mine)

Am I saying that "the highest earthly authority" is "the General Conference in session?" That is precisely what I am concluding, though I need to revert back to the initial Scripture at the top of this essay for further explanation.

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; Who opposed and exalted himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sited in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thess. 2:3, 4; emphases mine)

We should all agree that the Apostle is referring to "antichrist" in most illustrative terms. He intimates that antichrist will be revealed *after* the "falling away" or apostasy of the *then* true church. It had not yet occurred in Paul's day, of course. His description leads us to believe that antichrist will be sitting "in the temple of God" and basically impersonating the Almighty Himself. When interpreting this, it seems a bit difficult because full-blown antichrist would not actually be sitting in the *true* temple of God. YAH would have previously called His faithful ones out of the apostasy at the time antichrist was "revealed." From that point forward, antichrist would no longer be sitting "in the temple of God," but on the seat of Satan in "the synagogue of Satan."

I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where **Satan's seat** is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. (Revelation 2:13)

Christ speaks of the church over which Satan presides as the synagogue of Satan. Its members are the children of disobedience. They are those who choose to sin, who labor to make void the holy law of God. It is Satan's work to mingle evil with good, and to remove the distinction between good and evil. Christ would have a church that labors to separate the evil from the good, whose members will not willingly tolerate wrong-doing, but will expel it from the heart and life. (*Review and Herald*, Dec. 4, 1900)

In the counsels of the synagogue of Satan it was determined to obliterate the sign of allegiance to God in the world. Antichrist, the man of sin, exalted himself as supreme in the earth, and through him Satan has worked in a masterly way to create rebellion against the law of God and against the memorial of his created works. (*Signs of the Times*, March 12, 1894)

The fact I am seeking to establish here is that the place antichrist sits is where "the temple of God" *was* prior to the complete fall of the apostate church. Adventists refer to the Pope as antichrist. He is definitely *not* sitting in the "temple of YAH." But, he *does* sit in a place that *was*, prior to his take-over, considered a sacred place – the "Holy Catholic Church." I am referring to the pure apostolic Christian Church preceding the falling away.

In like manner, Creation Seventh Day Adventists have identified the "image of antichrist," and present threat to the saints, as the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. This "legal fiction" sits "in the temple of God" so to speak, since the SDA Church *was* the pure and true church prior to her fall. The GCC of SDA has blasphemed the Almighty by its testimony that the name SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST is sourced, owned, and controlled by itself alone and exclusively. The GC Corporation fulfills all the requisites

delineated by Paul in 2 Thess. 2:3, 4. However, not one CSDA member will agree that the GCC has any *rightful* connection with the temple of YAH. Surely, you have followed my theme.

Let me parallel the above argument using my opening Ellen White excerpt from page one.

When this time of trouble comes [the “time of Jacob’s trouble”], every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death. (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 213; 1882; emphases and brackets mine)

In this particular paragraph, the servant of God employs the phrase “highest earthly authority.” It is undeniable that in the 1800s, a confirmed Adventist interpreting the phrase in isolation would have recognized it as the General Conference in session. If read in the above context, one might have conjectured it to mean the Papacy. But what about the interpretation in our time? Can it be said that the General Conference in session is the “highest earthly authority?” Certainly, it would not occur to Creation Seventh Day Adventists, because we removed ourselves from the fallen organization that now qualifies as “the synagogue of Satan.” However, identifying a parallel with the writings of Paul to the Thessalonians, we can conclude that the *original application* of the phrase does satisfy our prophetic proposition.

It makes perfect sense to say that modern antichrist (the General Conference Corporation of SDA) in league with the dragon host (“the people”— members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church) are the very ones who pass the decree to “root out the hated sect.” And this can only be done by a vote or agreement of the corporately-accountable international SDA community, and that, by an *official* session of the General Conference, whether during a regular or specially-called general assembly of delegates representing “the people.”

The next regularly scheduled General Conference Session is to be held in 2015. But, there is a reasonable certainty that matters now looming could produce an unforeseen urgency among the leading men. What is the catalyzing situation? Recently, a high-tier law firm agreed to represent *McGill et al* at the United States Supreme Court level. It is not yet known if the Supreme Court will hear the case, but if they do, this will place the General Conference plaintiffs in a complicated position. “Why?” you may ask. Let me explain.

In 1993, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) was passed by Congress. Over the following years this Act has come under heavy scrutiny, being subjected to extensive debate, even dividing federal courts on the intended applications of law. *McGill et al*, defendant, raised a RFRA claim in the SDA trademark lawsuit, but the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals denied the appellant any benefit from said defense because the circuit court panel ruled that the RFRA cannot be claimed in private party lawsuits.

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was a strong proponent of the RFRA prior to its enactment. Their particular interest was in preserving religious liberty among the American Adventist constituency when faced with Sabbath accommodation litigation. Ironically, the outcome of *Gen. Conf. Corp. v. McGill et al* at the appellate level reduces the potential for General Conference constituency benefits under any RFRA claim. The opinion rendered by the three-member panel of Circuit Judges against *McGill et al*, applied the RFRA in what would normally be an adversarial decision to the General Conference plaintiffs (*e.g.*, if they were suing a private party to gain an Adventist’s Sabbath accommodation, it would not apply by law).

When the General Conference plaintiffs become aware that *McGill et al* is being represented at the Supreme Court echelon, and that the question before the Court is the recent RFRA application as opined by the 6th Circuit, they are going to be severely tested. Why? Please examine the following points:

1. If they argue that the RFRA *does not* apply in private party lawsuits (in agreement with the 6th Circuit opinion), they will be “shooting themselves in the foot” so to speak. That is not the application they envisioned for themselves when supporting the RFRA in the early 1990s.
2. Conversely, if they argue the RFRA *does* apply in private party lawsuits, attempting to secure a beneficial use of the RFRA for their constituents in future Sabbath accommodation lawsuits, they favor their adversary in the instant lawsuit and stand in *opposition* to the 6th Circuit opinion against *McGill et al*. In reality, they cannot select this option. Why? It would not make any sense for them to agree with their adversary, and it would appear to mean certain defeat.
3. Should *McGill et al* prevail at the Supreme Court, the case would be remanded to the 6th Circuit for further deliberations. In this circumstance, the General Conference plaintiffs would risk losing the case altogether, meaning the loss of power to enforce their religious trademark SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST against *McGill et al*.
4. This fourth point is of the greatest importance for our consideration. If *McGill et al* wins the RFRA argument at the Supreme Court, allowing for RFRA claims in private party lawsuits, the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists *cannot* prevail against another defendant in a SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST trademark lawsuit in federal court.
5. There is a fifth scenario to consider in our discussion. It is possible, and perhaps probable, that the General Conference plaintiffs might win the Supreme Court deliberation. Such a verdict would uphold the 6th Circuit Court opinion, finalizing the fate of Creation Seventh Day Adventists and all other groups wishing to use the name “Seventh-day Adventist” in association with their religious observances. This outcome might well accelerate the bold attempts of the GC to eliminate all offending sects, and especially the CSDA.

It is my contention that under the first four above-mentioned conditions, the General Conference plaintiffs will be motivated by the urgency to forestall any risk of losing power to enforce their SDA trademark. What action might be expected from such a predicament? The General Conference “leading men” *must* “consult together” devising a plan to “root out the hated sect” quickly and internationally. If *McGill* is completely silenced prior to further court decisions, any potential for harm stemming from *McGill* is nullified.

Under the *fifth* point listed above, the actions of the GC leading men, emboldened by their success, would be motivated to “protect their good name” by every possible means, including the enlistment of their world-wide constituency and pressing for international trademark protection.

What, then, might move the General Conference Committee (“the leading men of the earth”) to place the trademark lawsuit controversy before the world body for contemplation? What I have discussed above provides probable cause. It is also highly likely, and probable, that as the result of CSDA incarcerations (or attempts at such) in the United States, news will finally reach SDA members through a variety of means. Some of those in membership will register their complaints and disapproval with the General Conference

headquarters. This can potentially escalate to the degree that administrators who are seeking to extend the trademark lawsuit internationally will be reluctant to make the decision on their own. Thus, in either an emergency session (motivated by my last discussion above) called *before* 2015, or at the regular General Conference Session in 2015, the controversy will be placed on the agenda for discussion and vote. During one of the above-mentioned meetings, the representatives of the SDA Church from the world field will finally decide that Creation Seventh Day Adventists must be completely silenced. As developed above, this procedure will culminate in the “death decree” mentioned by the Spirit of Prophecy.

Whether the General Conference plaintiffs win or lose at the Supreme Court, their fervor to silence and “root out the hated sect” will be augmented. Why? 1) Prior to the Supreme Court hearing, there is motivation to eliminate CSDA before a potential loss, 2) In the event of a loss at the Supreme Court, the embarrassment and anger would likely propel them in a desperate move to prevent CSDA from encouraging other dissident groups to use the restricted name, and 3) Following a *triumph* at the high court, they must be fortified in their resolution to silence the little flock, knowing that none can stop them. An additional consideration is that other countries would be influenced to varying degrees by the United States Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals decisions; thus, marshaling the powers of earth would be made easier.

Let us take another look at *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 213 with additional brackets added.

When this time of trouble comes [the “time of Jacob’s trouble”], every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly [*i.e.*, aiming to destroy] conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled [arranged for battle] by the dragon host, make God their defense. The [death] decree has been passed [via agreement or vote prior to the marshalling of the “powers of the earth”] by the highest earthly authority [an official General Conference session] that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death [destruction resulting from court-mandated sanctions]. (emphases and brackets mine)

A prophetic description of the matter is clearly stated by Ellen G. White in the following paragraph:

Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority [Creation 7th Day Adventists] who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation [leading men] will join with the lawless and the vile [see 1 Tim. 1:9, 10] to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members [the SDA Church at large] will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals they will stir up the passions of the people [affecting SDA members worldwide]. (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 450; brackets mine)

Imagine if you will *this* scenario: The General Conference administration receives knowledge that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the *McGill et al* appeal on the RFRA claim. Noting that virtually nothing substantive has been accomplished to enforce their permanent injunction against CSDAs via court sanctions to this point, the leading men are moved by a sense of desperation. They immediately fear the feasible consequences, both financially and legally. Carnal nature drives them to remove all stops, realizing that they are powerless to accomplish a work of religious genocide on the world scale without the mobilization of the world constituency as described by Ellen White above.

So, let me review what I have deduced in this article including a few additional insights. I am confident that the *principles* of the Spirit of Prophecy must be fulfilled, including, “These apostates [SDA Church leaders, ministers, and laity] will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren, and to excite indignation against them.” (*Christian Service*, page 158; brackets mine)

Creation Seventh Day Adventists *are* “an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs [...] will betray the saints and report them to the

[authorities] as those who disregard the institutions of the people.” (*Spalding and Magan Collection*, page 1; brackets mine) We do not recognize the institutions of the General Conference to be in harmony with God since their complete fall in 1988, and we regularly protest their unholy church-state union by pen, voice, and the information highway on a world scale.

Since the General Conference has not been particularly successful in 1) shutting down the CSDA Church on the Internet, 2) collecting the attorney fee sanction of \$35,567, 3) securing limited discovery to assist them in the permanent injunction enforcement, and 4) enforcing the court order to permanently dispose of the church signs at Guys, TN, they are faced with another course of action – the initiation of a plan to “root out the hated sect” throughout the world. This requires enlisting “the people” to thoroughly eradicate “the troublers of Israel” – resulting in religious genocide.

This plan of religious genocide is no small task. The General Conference cannot undertake a project of such magnitude without agreement from their international community of believers. Thus, they organize an agenda that includes every SDA mission post in the world. By way of some form of official international session, the General Conference obtains a resolution of solidarity to combine efforts in extinguishing the world presence of Creation Seventh Day Adventists, including Internet websites, properties, and organizations. This amounts to the “universal death decree” prophesied by Ellen G. White.

Because the General Conference desires to preserve their “good name” and image among international societies and their own members while carrying forward their “witch-hunt inquisition,” they offer CSDAs a time of probation whereby they may recant and voluntarily submit to the terms of the decree. If, after a certain period of time designated in the decree, the CSDA members do not relinquish their stand, it is ordered that all members of the SDA Church, including leading men and laity, should do all in their power to marshal “the powers of earth” against the saints in different lands where CSDAs are thought to operate. In this way, it is decided that Creation Seventh Day Adventists will forever be silenced.

One part of this scheme is interesting to note. The small space of time afforded in the decree, offering CSDA members opportunity to repent and cease their “lawless activities,” is the very last period of human probation made available for the world in general and Seventh-day Adventists in particular. While the CSDA community receives the seal of the living God by their unrelenting decision to obey YAHWEH, the Adventist rebels and others exposed to the contest have one last chance to accept “the truth as it is in YAHshua.”

Some of the timeline penned by Ellen White is difficult to nail down precisely. Even if we were following the *literal* fulfillments of her national Sunday law and universal death decree prophecies, some of the writings become problematic when reconciling the *exact* chronology of events. With the reevaluation of those *conditional* prophecies and applying what is coming to pass in *our* generation, we can see many parallels do exist and a timeline can be prepared in a reasonable fashion to reflect a very close approximation to what was expected in the original scenarios. I have included a simple timeline at the close of this essay.

Let me offer one example of what I mean when speaking of chronological difficulties. In one of Ellen White’s description of things, human probation would close silently, the seven last plagues would be poured out, and during these plagues the wicked would blame the saints for the judgments falling on them. Allow me to quote her as follows: “These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob’s trouble.” (*Maranatha*, page 268) Here we are led to think the time of Jacob’s trouble actually begins at some time *following* the close of human probation. In other quotes, however, the beginning of Jacob’s trouble *coincides* with probation’s close.

In *our* generation, Creation Seventh Day Adventists (the saints) would not be accused by the world of bringing on the seven last plagues because most of the world would not even know of our existence. You will recall the quote I used earlier in this work that indicates the saints are “an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs [...] will betray the saints and report them to the [authorities] as those who disregard the institutions of the people.” And, we now understand that “the churches and nominal Adventists” are the modern-day SDAs that have betrayed us to the United States government for disregarding the Lanham Act and United States Code, along with several other state laws. We further understand that the problems brought to bear upon the General Conference policy-holders are like plagues being blamed on Creation Seventh Day Adventists. We are *not* concluding that the seven last plagues are to be spiritualized away however.

The wicked *will be* enraged against the righteous, but not because they conclude we have brought on the seven last plagues. The hostility will be generated by their inability to “silence the voice of dissent and reproof,” not to mention the supposed “confusion” being caused in different lands by our use of the trademarked name SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST. Already, an Internet source has reported, “The corporate Seventh-day Adventist church has begun to roar like a lion by using the arm of the state to silence a small dissident church who believe they have a God given right to use the name ‘Seventh-day Adventist’ to identify their beliefs and practices.” (<http://shepherds-rod-speaks.org/2010/03/sda-corporate-church-speaks-like-a-dragon/>)

The Savior has said, “**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.** (Matt. 6:10) **Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**” (Matt. 18:18) Creation Seventh Day Adventists believe the words of Christ and know the will of YAH is going to be performed in earth, as it is in Heaven. That is why we shall not fear what man may do to us. The time of Jacob’s trouble is right upon us. Like the experience of Christ on the cross, it will appear that YAH has forsaken us; but at the appointed time the saints will glory in their deliverance from sin and sinners. One remaining challenge for the saints before the close of human probation is to overcome the “number of his name.”

Every day, every hour, self is to die; self is to be crucified, and then, when the time comes that the test shall come to God’s people in earnest, the everlasting arms are around you. The angels of God make a wall of fire around about and deliver you. All your self-crucifixion will not do any good then. It must come before the destiny of souls is decided. It is now that self is to be crucified, when there is work to do; when there is some use to be made of every entrusted capability. It is now that we are to empty and thoroughly cleanse the vessel of its impurity. It is now that we are to be made holy unto God. This is our work, this very moment. You are not to wait for any special period for a wonderful work to be done; it is today. (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 1, page 179)

Dearly beloved, we are almost home. “But [we] must wait yet a little longer. The people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism.” “**He that endureth to the end shall be saved.**” (Mar 268; Matt. 10:22)

Writing from Africa – original
Pastor “Chick” McGill
October 14, 2010

Revised and updated: May 20, 2015

April 18, 2011, the US Supreme Court announced their denial of my writ of certiorari. This decision ultimately ended all my options for appeal in the *Gen. Conference v. McGill, et al* trademark case.

In the latter part of the year, while I was still on mission in Uganda East Africa, I was instructed by Father in Heaven to return to the United States and face the ire of the dragon. He told me that some were reproaching the name of Christ by saying that I was hiding in Africa, taking safe-haven from the consequences of the trademark lawsuit. This false accusation implied that because of my cowardice, I intended to stay out of the jurisdiction of the Federal court in Tennessee. The Spirit revealed to me that the General Conference wanted me jailed because of my non-compliance. They assumed coercion by incarceration would be adequate to force me into full compliance with the permanent injunction requirements.

I notified the Creation Seventh Day Adventists in America that I would be returning to the Guys, TN property for our spring camp meeting 2012 which was to convene early April. Upon my return to the US, I received an email from the General Conference attorneys saying a warrant for my arrest would be issued by the court if I failed to comply with all relevant orders by April 15th.

Following the camp meeting, which ended only days before the deadline date, my associate Lucan Chartier and I departed in his automobile for Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI where we deposited information about the lawsuit in care of the Center for Adventist Research. Interestingly, a letter dated July 30, 2012 from Merlin D. Burt to me reads: “We appreciate so much your donation of the Creation 7th Day Adventist Church (a DVD, the book ‘Finally Out of Darkness, Into His Marvelous Light’, and loose papers) to our Center. They are a welcome addition to our collection.”

From Andrews University, we traveled to Southwest Adventist University in Texas. We distributed fliers to raise awareness of the SDA trademark lawsuit at every SDA church and Adventist center we could find throughout our travels. Eventually, we arrived in Southern California where we had fellowship with friends.

My wife Barbara remained in Guys during my road trip, and she notified me that the authorities had come to the church property there looking for me. An arrest warrant had been issued in May, and I was regarded as a “fugitive at large.” It was also finally determined that Brother Chartier was “wanted” as well.

My associate and I developed plans to turn ourselves over to the proper authorities, but we desired to conduct press conferences prior to being apprehended. The Father had instructed me to surrender myself at the University Church, Loma Linda, CA. My plan was to give a statement to media on Sunday, July 15th near the rear entrance of the University Church on public property. Media representatives revealed my intentions to the Seventh-day Adventist leaders in Loma Linda, so a “wanted poster” was published to assist employees as they looked-out for me.

It was Friday, July 13th nearing sunset, and I was walking the SDA church grounds in Loma Linda when a security guard engaged me. When he confirmed my identity, I was immediately arrested and taken to the very spot where I had intended to be apprehended on Sunday. Once the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy arrived, I was taken to the San Bernardino County Central Detention Center and booked on a “civil commitment.” The story is widely published online via a host of newspapers, network TV news, and YouTube videos. Most of the relevant parts are available at <http://www.pastorwalterchickmcgilllawsuit.net/>. I was released on Sabbath, August 11, 2012 after serving 30 days in lock-up.

On November 12, 2012, General Conference Attorney, Joel T. Galanter of Adams and Reece drafted a status letter to me, dictating the General Conference demands for full compliance with the permanent injunction among other things. (http://pastorwalterchickmcgilllawsuit.net/PDF/Nov12_2012letter2mcgill_galanter.pdf) Since that time, Creation Seventh Day Adventists have been promoting petitions at <http://LibertyPetition.com/> in order to convince the General Conference to drop the lawsuit against me and my fellow members.

April 23, 2014, I launched a national prayer walk across America, beginning at Kill Devil Hills, NC. I completed the coast-to-coast pedestrian journey April 29, 2015 at the Pier in Santa Monica, CA. During the year of this walk, my wife and I promoted our Liberty Petition website at Seventh-day Adventist churches across the nation. We also met with city officials in each town that we walked through, letting them know about the online petition supporting the cause of religious liberty in America.

Because of the significant media coverage of my incarceration in 2012, it would appear that the General Conference lost some of their motivation to harass me. Back-lash from the negativity of the lawsuit placed the General Conference in a precarious position. They had intended to avoid publicizing the case, but with the spread of media came the heightened awareness among the Adventist constituency. Needless to say, many members and denominational workers were not pleased with the General Conference actions.

The initial installment of this paper suggested a list of possible outcomes based primarily on conditions related to a US Supreme Court review. I had not treated the result of a writ denial by the High Court. However, their denial equals the same consequence as a GC win. Point #5 (above) stated the following:

There is a fifth scenario to consider in our discussion. It is possible, and perhaps probable, that the General Conference plaintiffs might win the Supreme Court deliberation. Such a verdict would uphold the 6th Circuit Court opinion, finalizing the fate of Creation Seventh Day Adventists and all other groups wishing to use the name “Seventh-day Adventist” in association with their religious observances. This outcome might well accelerate the bold attempts of the GC to eliminate all offending sects, and especially the CSDA.

As it turns out, the General Conference was emboldened by the refusal of the Court to review my case; consequently, they proceeded with contempt of court actions which precipitated my incarceration. When I first wrote this paper from Africa, I had no intentions of returning to America to face consequences there, because my goal was to let the General Conference open a trademark infringement case in Uganda and test their ability to prevail on the international scene. God’s instruction for me to face the court system in America pre-empted any international court action from the General Conference.

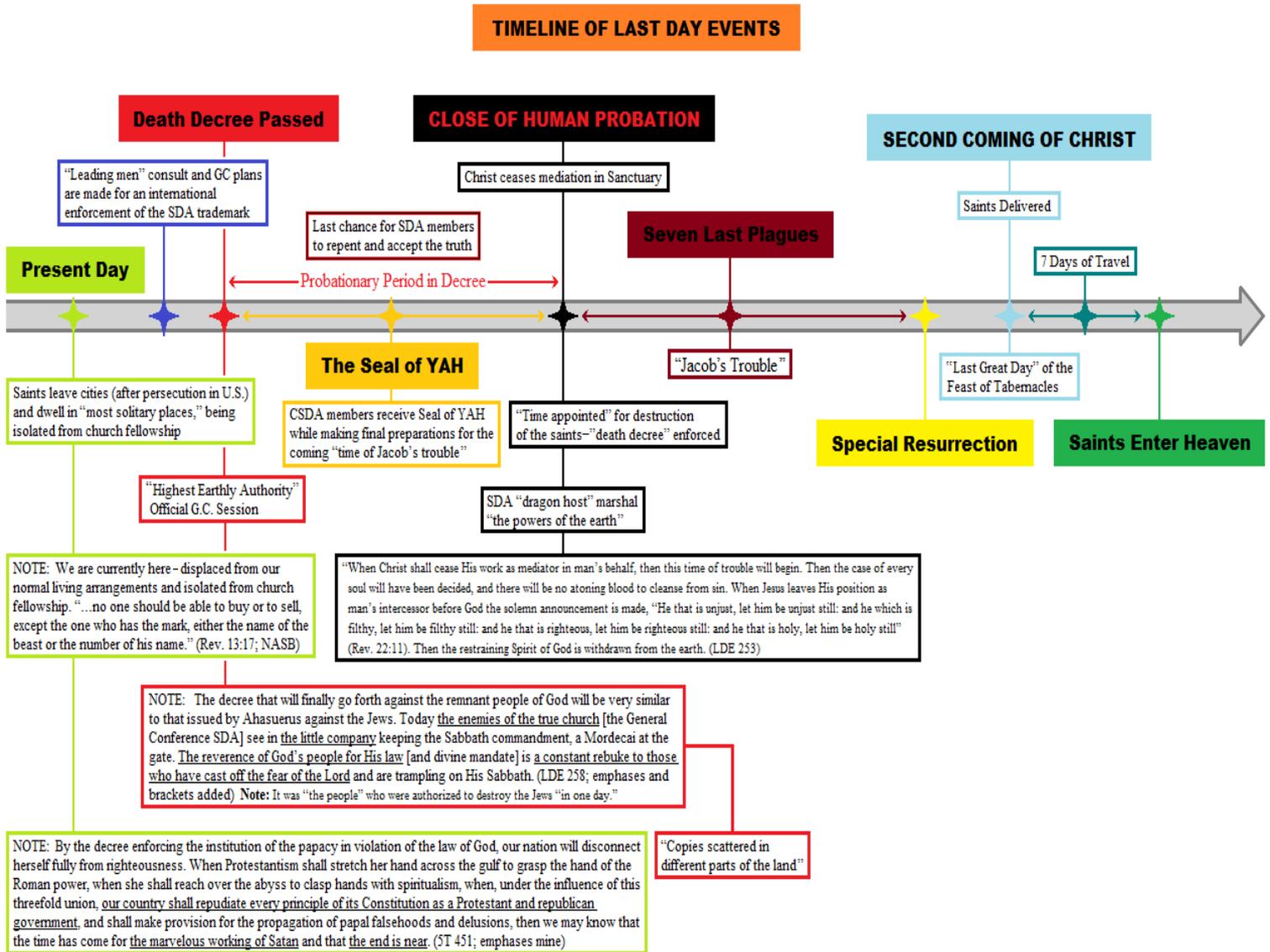
What I have not mentioned to this point in the article is that the General Conference attorneys had requested the Federal court to incarcerate me “with keys-in-pocket.” This means I could have possibly been jailed indefinitely. On a civil commitment with keys-in-pocket, a contemnor is held in custody until they comply with all necessary court orders. For me, that would have been tantamount to life in prison, because I have never countenanced a thought to recant my religious beliefs. Fortunately, the Tennessee Federal Court Judge refused to approve the proposed contempt order and modified it to carry a 30-day commitment only.

See the Proposed Order of Contempt and Sanctions drafted by the GC attorneys: http://pastorwalterchickmcgilllawsuit.net/PDF/ProposedContempt_highlights.pdf.

My mission in East Africa has been suspended for an undetermined period of time, since God has presently called me to labor for the blinded Adventist constituency in America. As I continue to promote the Liberty Petition online petitions, it is my hope that the SDA trademark lawsuit will finally be dropped by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. What remains unknown and unpredictable is what will transpire at the upcoming General Conference Session to be held July 2-11, 2015 in San Antonio, TX. Will the world church in session deal with “the hated sect” of Creation Seventh Day Adventists?

Perhaps the winds of strife will be held for a time, but we know that eventually God’s people must face a renewed assault from the beast, his image, and the false prophet. May God’s will be done in our lives.

Graphic timeline prepared by David P. Aguilar:



TIMELINE OF LAST-DAY EVENTS

