



SAVED TO SERVE

Pastor Andrew Henriques

www.prophecyagain.com

**The Great Controversy, pt. 36: The Impending Conflict.
Poland's Sunday Law, Jamaica's Crisis, Trump's State of the Union,
Flu Epidemic & States' Blue Laws Foretell Impending Conflict.**

1a. What is the title of chapter 36 of *The Great Controversy*? _____

2. What does the Impending mean? Answer: Imminent, close, near, approaching, brewing, looming, threatening.

3. To understanding the impending conflict in these last days, we must study the first conflict between Jesus and Satan in heaven, between Jesus and Satan on the earth during the first advent of Jesus.

4a. What has been Satan's purpose from the very beginning of the Great Controversy in heaven? _____

From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan's purpose to overthrow the law of God. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator, and though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. **To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God's law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued. Whether this be accomplished by casting aside the law altogether, or by rejecting one of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same.** He that offends "in one point," manifests contempt for the whole law; his influence and example are on the side of transgression; he becomes "guilty of all." James 2:10. {GC 582.1}

4b. Read Revelation 12:7-9,12,17; Isaiah 14:12-14; Psalm 94:20,21 and Deuteronomy 17:18; Matthew 4:1-11.

5. If Satan cannot get mankind to cast off the whole law, what will he tempt mankind to do? James 2:10 _____

6a. What is the last great conflict between Christ and Satan over? _____

In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus become incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures. **The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering--a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.** {GC 582.2}

6b. Read Revelation 13:15-17 and Revelation 14:9-12,13-16.

7a. What are the agencies of evil now doing, who will unite against truth and righteousness, just before the final conflict? _____

The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work. God's holy word, which has been handed down to us at such a cost of suffering and blood, is but little valued. The Bible is within the reach of all, but there are few who really accept it as the guide of life. Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but in the church. {GC 582.3}

7b. Read Revelation 16:13,14.

8. How are those three agencies of evil actively working? What doctrines do they present to destroy faith in the Bible? _____

The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work... **Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. The great facts of creation as presented by the inspired writers, the fall of man, the atonement, and the perpetuity of the law of God, are practically rejected, either wholly or in part, by a large share of the professedly Christian world.** {GC 582.3}

9a. Note: As the final conflict approaches, Satan inspires men to place human reasoning above the Bible.

Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it as an evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil at the Scriptures and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths. Many ministers are teaching their people, and many professors and teachers are instructing their students, that the law of God has been changed or abrogated; and those who regard its requirements as still valid, to be literally obeyed, are thought to be deserving only of ridicule or contempt. {GC 582.3}

9b. Read 1 Corinthians 1:21,22,25,27; Matthew 15:6-9; Jeremiah 9:23,24.

10a. As the final conflict approaches, Satan leads men to deify nature above the God who created nature.

In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Law-giver...

Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists--**the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions--is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.** {GC 583.1}

10b. Read 1 Kings 18:26-29; Malachi 4:4-6; Romans 1:21-25.

11a. As the final conflict approaches, how will Satan strike more boldly against the authority of heaven? _____

No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon men. {GC 584.1}

11b. Read Matthew 5:17-19.

11c. What arguments should we use against that erroneous theory? _____

Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; no government could exist without them; and can it be conceived that the Creator of the heavens and the earth has no law to govern the beings He has made? **Suppose that prominent ministers were publicly to teach that the statutes which govern their land and protect the rights of its citizens were not obligatory--that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed; how long would such men be tolerated in the pulpit? But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of states and nations than to trample upon those divine precepts which are the foundation of all government? {GC 584.1}**

11d. Note: Creflo Dollar: Satan wants us to keep the Law. Anyone who keeps the law is sinning. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFE72gQuq7A&feature=share>

12. Which nation showed us the terrible results of legislating that God's laws were not binding upon men? _____

Would we know the result of making void the law of God? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power in the earth. {GC 584.2}

13. Whose policies led to the rejection of God's law in France, during the Reign of Terror and the French Revolution? _____

It was popery that had begun the work which atheism was completing. The policy of Rome had wrought out those conditions, social, political, and religious, **that were hurrying France on to ruin.** {GC 276.4}

14a. What consequences will result, as men teach the people to regard lightly the commandments of God? _____

Those who teach the people to regard lightly the commandments of God sow disobedience to reap disobedience. Let the restraint imposed by the divine law be wholly cast aside, and human laws would soon be disregarded. Because God forbids dishonest practices, coveting, lying, and defrauding, men are ready to trample upon His statutes as a hindrance to their worldly prosperity; but the results of banishing these precepts would be such as they do not anticipate. **If the law were not binding, why should any fear to transgress? Property would no longer be safe. Men would obtain their neighbor's possessions by violence, and the strongest would become richest. Life itself would not be respected. The marriage vow would no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect the family. He who had the power, would, if he desired, take his neighbor's wife by violence. The fifth commandment would be set aside with the fourth.** Children would not shrink from taking the life of their parents if by so doing they could obtain the desire of their corrupt hearts. **The civilized world would become a horde of robbers and assassins; and peace, rest, and happiness would be banished from the earth.** {GC 585.1}

14b. Read Galatians 6:7,8; Hosea 8:7.

15. Note: One Voice Against Crime - 51 Mps Vote To Extend State Of Emergency <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20180131/one-voice-against-crime-51-mps-vote-extend-state-emergency>

House Passes Resolution To Extend St James State Of Public Emergency Until May 2. <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20180130/house-passes-resolution-extend-st-james-state-public-emergency-until-may-2>

Jamaica not in chaos, Holness assures Diaspora. http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Jamaica_not_in_chaos_Holness_assures_Diaspora?profile=1228

Gangsters use embalming fluid to kill. <http://jamaica-star.com/article/news/20180124/gangsters-use-embalming-fluid-kill>

Larry Nassar case: USA Gymnastics doctor 'abused 265 girls'. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-42894833>

Larry Nassar sentenced to up to 175 years in prison for decades of sexual abuse <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/24/us/larry-nassar-sentencing/index.html>

16. As the final conflict approaches, how does Satan work in the families, even in professed Christians households? _____

In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin. {GC 585.2}

17. The very men who preached that God's law is not binding upon mankind, which has led to the crises in society, will then persuade the masses of people to enforce what? _____

The teachings of religious leaders have opened the door to infidelity, to spiritualism, and to contempt for God's holy law; and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world. {GC 586.2}

Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called "Christian sabbath," and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. {GC 587.1}

18. POLAND LIMITS SUNDAY SHOPPING TO BENEFIT FAMILY LIFE... Poland's president on Tuesday signed into law a bill that largely limits trade on Sundays, saying it would benefit employees' family life. The legislation, worked out by the conservative government and the Solidarity trade union, is expected to draw protests from large Western supermarket chains that are the main target of the law. A large part of their profit is earned on weekends, when many consumers do their big weekly shopping trips. As of March 1, shops and markets will be closed on two Sundays each month. Only one Sunday a month will be open for trading in 2019, and starting in 2020 the legislation applies to all Sundays except before major holidays. <http://www.apnewsarchive.com/2018/Poland-s-president-has-signed-into-law-a-bill-that-largely-limits-trade-on-Sundays-saying-it-will-benefit-family-life/id-75beda61d10043a09a9e465c54783f74>

19. **"Free Sundays are what all Catholics, non-Catholics and non-believers need,"** Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki told Polish Radio ahead of a meeting of the Bishops Conference on Friday, which is expected to support the ban. **The idea was put forward last year by the powerful Solidarity trade union, backed by a million-strong petition,** and has been batted back and forth in a parliamentary subcommittee ever since. **The clerics are careful to base their argument on quality of life rather than religious grounds. "Families don't just need financial support, they need time for themselves,"** said the Archbishop of Katowice, Wiktor Skworc. **Solidarity chief Piotr Duda is holding out for "Four free Sundays a month, full stop, end of story".** Dziennik daily reports. <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-41025700>

20. The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began.--Letter 200, 1903. {CL 10.2}

The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force. In the world gigantic monopolies will be formed. Men will bind themselves together in unions that will wrap them in the folds of the enemy. A few men will combine to grasp all the means to be obtained in certain lines of business. Trades unions will be formed, and those who refuse to join these unions will be marked men.--Letter 26, 1903. {2SM 142.2}

21. POLL: Paramus Mayor Won't Change The Blue Laws...the mayor said that protecting the blue laws -- which prohibit shoppers from purchasing certain items on Sundays -- "has always been and will continue to be my number one priority." **The mayor and lifelong borough resident opined that quality of life overrules convenience. "There is probably nothing as important to our residents than quality of life.** It maintains balance between our businesses and residences," Richard LaBarbiera told Daily Voice. **"As long as I am in office, the protection of our beloved blue walls will always be priority number one."** <http://paramus.dailyvoice.com/politics/poll-paramus-mayor-wont-change-the-blue-laws/731965/>

22. Video: ND House Shoots Down Bill Ending Blue Laws in "Tent Revival" Floor Debate...**"Support the 3rd commandment and vote no on this bill,"** Rep. Sebastian Ertlet (R-Lisbon) told the House floor, referring to the edict that Christians "honor the Sabbath." **He said our society has taken "enough steps to push god out of our lives. We don't need to take one more step."** <http://www.inforum.com/opinion/columnists/4208563-port-nd-house-shoots-down-bill-ending-blue-laws-tent-revival-floor-debate>
<http://www.sayanythingblog.com/entry/video-nd-house-shoots-bill-ending-blue-laws-tent-revival-floor-debate/>

23. In our opinion: Communities yearn for religious and secular Sabbaths....**In the famous Supreme Court case McGowan v. Maryland, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote in defense of Maryland's "blue law" prohibiting commerce on Sunday. "The state's purpose is not merely to provide a one-day-seven work stoppage," he wrote. "The State seeks to set one day apart from all others as a day of rest, repose, recreation and tranquility** — a day which all members of the family and community have the opportunity to spend and enjoy together, a day on which there exists relative quiet and disassociation from the everyday intensity of commercial activities, a day on which people may visit friends and relative who are not available during working days. <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865686137/In-our-opinion-Communities-yearn-for-religious-and-secular-Sabbaths.html>

24. Question: Do Maryland's blue laws violate the Free Exercise and Religious Establishment clauses of the First Amendment? Conclusion: **No. The Court found that the blue laws did not violate the Free Exercise Clause because the employees allege only economic injury and not infringement on their own religious practices. The Court also found that the blue laws did not violate the division between church and state.** Sunday closing laws started out to facilitate church attendance in colonial America; however, the present Maryland laws are based on secular rather than religious state interests. **The laws are to improve the "health, safety, recreation, and general well-being" of citizens.** The present purpose of the laws is to provide a uniform day of rest for all. **The fact that this day is of particular significance for various Christian sects does not bar the State from achieving its secular goals.** <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1960/8>

25. What warning is given to God's people, based on the above point? _____

The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, **His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men.** {GC 587.1}

26. What two great errors will lead to the final conflict and the persecution of God's faithful people? _____

Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. **The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.** {GC 588.1}

27a. How will Satan use spiritualism to lead many accept Sunday and to persecute God's commandment-keeping people? _____

27b. Read Matthew 24:24 and Deuteronomy 13:1-3.

Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power. {GC 588.2} **Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded.** 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 and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium. {GC 588.3} Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, **and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith;** but at the same time he works as a destroyer. {GC 589.1}

28a. As the final conflict approaches, what will Satan do to divert the minds of the people from Bible prophecies and the work of preparation?

Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. **It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.** {GC 589.1} Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. **He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs,** and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them. {GC 589.2}

Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would--He 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. {GC 589.2}

28b. Read James 5:7-11; Job 1:6-22 and Job 2:7-10; Ecclesiastes 7:17.

28c. Read Luke 21:34-36; 1 Timothy 6:6-12.

29. As the final conflict approaches, what will Satan do to garner his harvest of unprepared souls? _____

30. What will Satan and his human agents do that will lead to the enforcement of the Sunday Law with persecution for the saints of God? _____

While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5. {GC 589.3}

And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. 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. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." 1 Kings 18:17, 18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah. {GC 590.1}

31. Tragic faces of the deadly US flu outbreak. <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2018/01/30/tragic-faces-deadly-us-flu-outbreak.html>

32. Flu crisis shows no signs of letting up: More than 30 children have died and hospitalizations soar to near record highs as the virus spreads further...New CDC figures show more than 30 children died this season; 10 this week...Hospitalizations have climbed up from 22.7 per 100,000 last week to 31.5...The proportion of elderly deaths from flu (compared to other causes) is also above average at 8.2 percent <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-5289859/Flu-crisis-shows-no-signs-letting-up.html>

33. Think Flu Season Is Bad? It Might Get Even Worse... "This is the first year we have had the entire continental U.S. be the same color on the graph." New strains may be coming. The influenza virus that's sickened millions of Americans this season is already the most widespread outbreak since public health authorities began keeping track more than a dozen years ago. Now, with the threat of more strains emerging, it might get even worse. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-16/think-flu-season-is-bad-it-might-get-even-worse>

34. Could flu be spread just by breathing?... That may not sound surprising, but the common wisdom among flu experts has been that flu was not an airborne virus but only spread by fairly large droplets, from coughing or sneezing. The new study found clear evidence that influenza patients breathe the virus out through their mouths and noses in tiny particles that can stay suspended in the air for minutes or hours... "Even if you are not coughing, you can still infect other people," he added. "Many people shedding virus into the air are shedding real, infectious virus." <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/could-flu-be-spread-just-by-breathing/ar-AAuUBqs?li=AA5LBhu&ocid=spartanntp>

35. Deadly California mudslide 'like Niagara falls' as hills turn to rivers of debris <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jan/10/california-mudslide-montecito-death-toll-wildfires-climate-change>

36. KY governor declares Sunday as day of prayer for school shooting victims <http://www.wsmv.com/story/37356976/students-returning-to-class-after-deadly-ky-school-shooting>

37. Trump says it will be hard to unify country without a 'major event' <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/trump-says-it-will-be-hard-to-unify-country-without-a-major-event>

38. When the final conflict comes, how will church and state leaders treat God's commandment-keeping people? _____

39. When the final conflict comes, how will church and state act? _____

The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; **and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected.** In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet's words: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." **Revelation 12:17.** {GC 592.3}

40. **Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth.** Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. **They will be accused of disaffection toward the government.** Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. **In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned.** A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives. {GC 592.1}

41. How may we discern the deceiver, the antichrist, under his disguises? _____

Satan's policy in this final conflict with God's people is the same that he employed in the opening of the great controversy in heaven. He professed to be seeking to promote the stability of the divine government, while secretly bending every effort to secure its overthrow. And the very work which he was thus endeavoring to accomplish he charged upon the loyal angels. The same policy of deception has marked the history of the Roman Church. It has professed to act as the vicegerent of Heaven, while seeking to exalt itself above God and to change His law. Under the rule of Rome, those who suffered death for their fidelity to the gospel were denounced as evildoers; they were declared to be in league with Satan; and every possible means was employed to cover them with reproach, to cause them to appear in the eyes of the people and even to themselves as the vilest of criminals. So it will be now. While Satan seeks to destroy those who honor God's law, he will cause them to be accused as lawbreakers, as men who are dishonoring God and bringing judgments upon the world. {GC 591.1}

42. What does God not do, in order to save us? _____

God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort--to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce--is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God. {GC 591.2}

Many are inquiring, "How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?" You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him. {SC 47.1} Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now choose to be Christians. {SC 47.2}