

Out of the Cities

Introduction: Read Matthew 24:15-16

I. Jerusalem - An Example - Matt. 24:1-3

1. Two reasons for mixing the prophecies
 - a. Mercy shown to disciples
 - b. Jerusalem an example of the world at the end
2. Nearly forty years of mercy after these predictions
 - a. These predictions fulfilled to a “T” (Matt. 24)
 - b. Additional signs - GC 29
 - c. “Strange being” - GC 30
3. Abomination of Desolation - Matt. 24:15-18
 - a. Compare Lk 21:20-22 & Mrk 13:14-16
 - b. Roman siege under Cestius - “Idolatrous Standards” set up - GC 26
 - c. Withdrew without apparent reason (See GC 30)

II. Abomination in Holy Place - Modern Application

1. Big Clue – Luke 21:20-21/GC 26/
 - a. Pagan Rome to Papal Rome (2Thes. 2:1-4)
 - b. Catholic Record, Sept. 1, 1923 – “Sunday is our mark of authority... the Church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.”
 - c. 2nd Beast enforces mark - Rev. 13:15-17
 - 2nd beast = U.S.
 - Does the bidding of the first beast - vs. 12
 - Mark of BeastSee Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 464-465

III. Brief Look at Sunday Legislation

1. Sunday laws in the Colonies
 - a. 1619 - Virginia = required attendance at Sunday services - death penalty for third offense. Not enforced.
 - b. Colony passed a law in 1624 imposing fines for absence from church.
 - c. Sunday laws passed by other American colonies, notably those that became New England States.
 - Forbade working, sports, jesting, sleeping late, drinking, even walking or riding except to lawful assemblies.
 - Purpose: protect Sunday as a day of worship in fulfillment of Sabbath commandment.
 - Punishment: Ranged from economic disabilities to death
 - Historical records document colonists' being fined, put in the stocks, or publicly whipped.
2. Sunday laws in the States of American Republic
 - a. Most states carried over Sunday laws inherited from the colonial charters.
 - b. These laws for the most part have remained un-enforced on the statute books.

- c. Some Exceptions:
 - 1870's - SDAs in Vermont, Michigan, and California arrested for Sunday labor - these cases dropped by judge or jury.
 - July 1878 - Samuel Mitchel of Quitman, Georgia was arrested and sentenced to 30 days in jail. Due to unsanitary conditions his health was affected - became invalid and died 7 months later.
 - 1892 - Three SDAs in Henry Co., Tennessee were forced to serve in a chain gang.
 - 1895 - 18 SDA church members, including the principal and teachers of the school, were indicted, convicted, and sentenced to the chain gang. An attempt was made to prosecute every male member of the SDA church in Springville, Tennessee
 - 1959 - Sunday laws in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania declared unconstitutional by Federal Court.
 - 1973 - Ohio State Legislature rescinded the State Sunday Closing law.
 - 1974 - Virginia amended there Sunday law.

3. Federal Sunday Law

1. 1888 - Sen. H.W. Blair of New Hampshire introduced a Sunday bill into the United States Congress enforcing Sunday in all Federal territories as a "Day of worship". Also introduced a religious-education amendment to the Constitution.
2. Both were supported by the NRA - National Reform Association.
 - NRA organized in 1863
 - Purpose: Amend the constitution, declare the country a "Christian Nation", place "All Christian laws, institutions, and usages, on an undeniable legal basis in the the fundamental laws of the land"
 - In 1888 Ellen White warned that a Constitutional amendment bringing with it Federal Sunday legislation would bring oppression on followers of God. RH, Dec. 18, 1888

IV. Abomination in the Holy Place

1. Review:
 - a. Roman armies set up idolatrous standard
 - b. Papal Rome working through U.S. to enforce false Sabbath.
 - c. 1888 - Attempt in congress to pass law
2. An amazing statement:
 - a. 1885 - "The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation, in the decree enforcing the papal Sabbath, will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains." Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 464-465
3. The sign recognized:
 - "The protestant world have set up an idol sabbath in the place where God's Sabbath should be, and they are treading in the footsteps of the Papacy. For this reason I see the necessity of the people of God moving out of the cities into retired country places. . . ." Letter 90, 1897
 - "We must show to the world that we recognize, in the events that are now taking place in connection

with the National Reform movement, the fulfillment of prophecy. That which we have, for the last thirty or forty years, proclaimed would come, is now here; and the trumpet of every watchman upon the walls of Zion should raise the alarm.” {RH, January 1, 1889 par. 3}

- Get out of the large cities as fast as possible.--Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 195. {CL 12} (1900)
- "The time has come, when, as God opens the way, families should move out of the cities. The children should be taken into the country. The parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the dwelling may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it, that may be cultivated." Man. 50, 1903
- "More and more, as time advances, our people will have to leave the cities. For years we have been instructed that our brethren and sisters, and especially families with children, should plan to leave the cities as the way opens before them to do so. Many will have to labor earnestly to help open the way." RH, Sept. 27, 1906
- "God will help His people to find such homes outside the cities." MM 310 – 1902

V. Time Running Out

1. For 100 years, we have had time to act!
2. With the new Catholic Catechism and Dies Domini - we see the advance of Rome again - returning . . .

“In the night I was, I thought, in a room but not in my own house. I was in a city, where I knew not, and I heard expression after expression. I rose up quickly in bed, and saw from my window large balls of fire. Jetting out were sparks, in the form of arrows, and buildings were being consumed, and in a very few minutes the entire block of buildings was falling and the screeching and mournful groans came distinctly to my ears. I cried out, in my raised position, to learn what was happening: Where am I? And where are our family circle? Then I awoke. But I could not tell where I was for I was in another place than home. I said, Oh Lord, where am I and what shall I do? It was a voice that spoke, “Be not afraid. Nothing shall harm you.”

I was instructed that destruction hath gone forth upon cities. The word of the Lord will be fulfilled. Isaiah 29:19-24 was repeated. I dared not move, not knowing where I was. I cried unto the Lord, What does it mean? These representations of destruction were repeated. Where am I? “In scenes I have represented that which will be; but warn My people to cease from putting their trust in men who are not obedient to my warnings and who despise My reproof, for the day of the Lord is right upon the world when evidence shall be made sure. Those who have followed the voices that would turn things upside down will themselves be turned where they cannot see, but will be as blind men.

These words were given me from Isaiah 30: “Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.” [Isaiah 30:8-15 quoted.]

I was instructed that light had been given me and that I had written under special light the Lord had imparted.”--Ms. 126, 1906. (Diary, August 23, 27, 1906.)

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Isaiah 30:25

John 7:37 – Rivers, etc.