

A man in a dark suit and tie is shown from the chest up, holding a glowing golden crown. His face is obscured by a dark, textured material, possibly a mask or blindfold. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the crown and the man's suit.

# THE CROWNING ACT

Satan's Personation of Christ and Counterfeit Second Coming

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# Stages of the Sunday Law

1. Refrain from working on Sunday (9T 232, 233; CT 550, 551)
2. Honor Sunday, but can still worship on Sabbath (GC 608)
3. Cannot worship on Sabbath, only Sunday (GC 607)
4. Death Decree (Rev. 13:15-17; GC 604)
  1. Law issued (EW 36, 282-283; GC 614, 615, 631)
  2. Effective date (GC 635; 5T 450)

**Second Coming!**

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**Part 3**

# 03. The Four Stages of the Sunday Law

 Norman McNulty

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 Last Day Events Explained

**03. The Four Stages of the Sunday Law**

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40:23

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# Stages of the Sunday Law

1. Refrain from working on Sunday

2. Honor Sunday, but can still worship on Sabbath

3. Cannot worship on Sabbath, only Sunday

4. Death Decree



- Universal Sunday Law enacted globally, no buying/selling

- Close of Probation and 7 Last Plagues begin



1. Law issued



- Time of Jacob's Trouble begins

2. Effective date

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# When?

1

1. Refrain from working on Sunday

2. Honor Sunday, but can still worship on Sabbath

3. Cannot worship on Sabbath, only Sunday

4. Death Decree

2

• Universal Sunday Law enacted globally, no buying/selling

• Close of Probation and 7 Last Plagues begin

1. Law issued

2. Effective date

3

• Time of Jacob's Trouble begins

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# Close of Probation

## Before

Revelation 13:13,14

He **performs great signs**, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

## After

Revelation 16:13-14,16

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, **performing signs**, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

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# Before the Close of Probation

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# The Rationale

Satan must exercise his greatest deceptions prior to the Close of Probation, before the fates of the wicked and righteous are decided. What use is it to deceive once everyone's minds have been made up?

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Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. **He will appear in the character of an angel of light.** 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 in “The Impending Conflict”**

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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. And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils.

**GC 589.3-590.1 in “The Impending Conflict”**

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We are warned that in the last days he [Satan] will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders **until the close of probation**, that he may point to them as evidence that **he is an angel of light** and not of darkness.

**7BC 911.5**

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In the last days Satan will appear as an **angel of light**, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the **Lord of the whole earth**. He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator's prophecy. [Revelation 13:4-18, quoted.]

**19MR 282.1**

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# After the Close of Probation

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Satan has long been preparing for his **final effort to deceive the world**. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden: “Ye shall not surely die.” “In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:4, 5. Little by little he has prepared the way for his **masterpiece of deception** in the development of spiritualism.

**GC 561.2 in “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”**

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He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but **it will be reached in the last remnant of time.** Says the prophet: “I saw three unclean spirits like frogs; ... they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” **Revelation 16:13, 14.** Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion. The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the **outpouring of the wrath of God.**

**GC 561.2 in “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”**

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Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on **the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up**, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

**Revelation 16:12**

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**As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ.** The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15.

**GC 624.2 in “The Time of Trouble”**

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The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: “Christ has come! Christ has come!” The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody.

**GC 624.2 in “The Time of Trouble”**

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In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed.

**GC 624.2 in “The Time of Trouble”**

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He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. **This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion.** Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying: This is “the great power of God.” Acts 8:10.

**GC 624.2 in “The Time of Trouble”**

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**Satan sees that he is about to lose his case. He cannot sweep in the whole world. He makes one last desperate effort to overcome the faithful by deception. He does this in personating Christ. He clothes himself with the garments of royalty which have been accurately described in the vision of John. He has power to do this. He will appear to his deluded followers, the Christian world who received not the love of the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (transgression of the law), as Christ coming the second time.**

**LDE 164.1**

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He proclaims himself Christ, and he is believed to be Christ, a beautiful, majestic being clothed with majesty and, with soft voice and pleasant words, with glory unsurpassed by anything their mortal eyes had yet beheld. Then his deceived, deluded followers set up a shout of victory, “Christ has come the second time! Christ has come! He has lifted up His hands just as He did when He was upon the earth, and blessed us.”...

**LDE 164.2**

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The saints look on with amazement. Will they also be deceived? Will they worship Satan?... One effort more, and then **Satan's last device is employed.** He hears the unceasing cry for Christ to come, for Christ to deliver them. **This last strategy is to personate Christ, and make them think their prayers are answered.**

**LDE 164.3-165.1**

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For forty days He fasted and prayed. Weak and emaciated from hunger, worn and haggard with mental agony, “His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.” Isaiah 52:14. Now was Satan's opportunity. Now he supposed that he could overcome Christ. There came to the Saviour, **as if in answer to His prayers, one in the guise of an angel from heaven.** He claimed to have a commission from God to declare that Christ's fast was at an end.

**DA 118.1-2**

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**Masterpiece of Deception**  
**Last Remnant of Time**  
**Crowning Act in the Great Drama of**  
**Deception**  
**Almost Overmastering Delusion**  
**Last Desperate Effort**  
**Satan's Last Device**  
**The Sixth Plague (Rev 16:13,14)**

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**For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

**Matthew 24:21-22**

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**Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. See, I have told you beforehand.**

**Matthew 24:23-25**

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Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will **the coming of the Son of Man** be.

**Matthew 24:26-27**

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And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

...

And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

**Revelation 16:13-14,16**

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And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

**Revelation 16:13-16**

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**Why would Satan wait  
until after the close of  
probation before unveiling  
his most potent deception?**

Hasn't everyone made up their minds?

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The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of **deceit** and destruction will reach its **culmination in the time of trouble.**

**GC 623.3 in “The Time of Trouble”**

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# Why...

- ...does Satan harass Job even though God said he would remain faithful?
  - ...does Satan tempt Christ even though it was prophesied that He would remain blameless?
  - ...will Satan attack the New Jerusalem after the Millennium even though it's impenetrable?
  - ...does Satan continue to these things even though he "knows" it's hopeless?
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# Why?

His objective is to prove God wrong.

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# Why?

If those God says are sealed fall after the Close of Probation, Satan wins the whole Great Controversy.

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Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God **without a mediator**. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil.

**GC 425.1**

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**Will Not**  
**vs.**  
**Can Not**

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As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. **He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God.**

**GC 618.3 in “The Time of Trouble”**

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Satan will endeavor to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless; that their sins have been too great to receive pardon. They will have a deep sense of their shortcomings, and as they review their lives their hopes will sink. But remembering the greatness of God's mercy, and their own sincere repentance, they will plead His promises made through Christ to helpless, repenting sinners. **Their faith will not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered.** They will lay hold of the strength of God, as Jacob laid hold of the Angel, and the language of their souls will be, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me."

**PP 202.1**

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**Satan does come as an  
“angel of light” before  
the Close of Probation.**

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And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

**2 Corinthians 11:14**

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“Angel of Light” doesn’t always refer to  
Satan’s personation of Christ.

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Everything in nature comes from God; yet Satan can inspire his agents with thoughts that appear elevating and noble. Did he not come to Christ with quotations of Scripture when he designed to overthrow him with his specious temptations? This is the way in which he comes to man, **as an angel of light disguising his temptations under an appearance of goodness, and making men believe him to be the friend rather than the enemy of humanity.**

**Christian Education 73.1**

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Satan comes to man with his temptations **as an angel of light, as he came to Christ** [in the wilderness].

**Confrontation 56.3**

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It is when **Satan appears as an angel of light** that he takes souls in his snare, deceiving them. **Men who pretend to have been taught of God**, will adopt fallacious theories, and in their teaching will so adorn these fallacies as to bring in Satanic delusions. **Thus Satan will be introduced as an angel of light** and will have opportunity to present his pleasing fables.

**Ev 360.1**

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I say to all: Be on your guard; **for as an angel of light Satan is walking in every assembly of Christian workers, and in every church, trying to win the members to his side.**

**Counsels for the Church, 324.3**

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**Satan, clothed in the garb of an angel of light, presents for the study of the human mind subjects which seem very interesting and which are full of scientific mystery. In the investigation of these subjects, men are led to accept erroneous conclusions and to unite with seducing spirits in the work of propounding new theories which lead away from the truth.**

**9T 67.3**

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We are warned that in the last days he [Satan] will work with **signs and lying wonders**. And he will continue these wonders **until the close of probation**, that he may point to them as evidence that **he is an angel of light** and not of darkness.

**7BC 911.5**

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Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. **He will appear in the character of an angel of light.** 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 in “The Impending Conflict”**

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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 in “The Impending Conflict”**

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# Appearing as an “Angel of Light”

- Under an appearance of goodness, as a friend and benefactor of humanity
  - As a heavenly angel (as to Christ in the wilderness)
  - Through false teachers and corrupted agents
  - Via false scientific theories
  - With purported faith in the Bible and respect for the church
  - By performing signs, wonders, miracles, and healings
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In the last days Satan will appear **as an angel of light**, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the **Lord of the whole earth**. He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. **Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator's prophecy. [Revelation 13:4-18, quoted.]**

**19MR 282.1**

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# **“Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator’s prophecy.” (Rev. 13:4-18)**

- 42 Months/1260 Day Prophecy
  - Rise of the USA
  - Image to the Beast
  - Mark of the Beast
  - No Buying or Selling
  - Death Decree
  - A long span of history!
-

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# “Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator’s prophecy.” (Rev. 13:4-18)

- 42 Months/1260 Day Prophecy
- Rise of the USA
- Image to the Beast
- Mark of the Beast
- No Buying or Selling
- Death Decree
- A long span of history!

“Then will kick off the final fulfillment...”

**or**

“Then will culminate the final fulfillment...”

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# “Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator’s prophecy.” (Rev. 13:4-18)

- 42 Months/1260 Day Prophecy
- Rise of the USA
- Image to the Beast
- Mark of the Beast
- No Buying or Selling
- **Death Decree**
- A long span of history!

“Then will culminate the final fulfillment..”



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# Summary

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# When?

1

1. Refrain from working on Sunday

2. Honor Sunday, but can still worship on Sabbath

3. Cannot worship on Sabbath, only Sunday

4. Death Decree

2

• Universal Sunday Law enacted globally, no buying/selling

• Close of Probation and 7 Last Plagues begin

1. Law issued

• Time of Jacob's Trouble begins

2. Effective date



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Satan will transform himself into “an angel of light” to perform a proliferation of supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles before the close of probation to unite the world to set up the image to the beast. But his personation of Christ in a counterfeit second coming occurs during the time of the sixth plague and the Time of Jacob’s Trouble, after the close of probation. This is “the crowning act,” “the masterpiece of deception,” and Satan’s “last desperate effort” to win the Great Controversy.

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# A Caveat and a Caution

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While I believe the weight of evidence points to it occurring after the Close of Probation. I remain open to the possibility that this deception occurs in the later stages right before the Close of Probation.

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If we expect Satan's personation of Christ as a prerequisite to the Sunday Law (early in the final events), we may end up caught by surprise if we're wrong.

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**Let none be discouraged** in view of the severe trials to be met in the time of Jacob's trouble, which is yet before them. They are to work earnestly, anxiously, not for that time, but for **today**. What we want is to have a **knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ now, and a personal experience now**. In these precious closing hours of probation, **we have a deep and living experience to gain**. We shall thus form characters that **will ensure our deliverance in the time of trouble**.

**OHC 321.2**

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A man in a dark suit and tie is shown from the chest up. His face is completely obscured by a dark, featureless mask. He is holding a glowing, golden crown with multiple points, which is positioned in front of his chest. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the suit and the crown.

# THE CROWNING ACT

Satan's Personation of Christ and Counterfeit Second Coming