

Seventh-day Adventists believe that Bible prophecies predict a resurgence of papal power, with legal enforcement of its mark of authority, in the last days. That, we understand, is when the "mark of the beast" will be imposed -- in connection with the last great religious crisis affecting all mankind (Rev. 13:16,17). That is why Seventh-day Adventists have such deep convictions concerning the Sabbath as a coming test.¹³⁰

Again in their book, Questions On Doctrine, the Seventh-day Adventists say:

Sabbatarian Adventists all recognize that the Sabbath was not a test in centuries past, but believe the restoration of the Sabbath to be part of the last great revival of neglected and forsaken apostolic truths -- a part that will be given emphasis in connection with God's last message in preparation of a people to meet their returning Lord.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the prophecies of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13, relating to the beast, refer particularly to the Papacy, and that the activities and future persecuting power will come into sharp focus just before the return of our Lord in glory. It is our understanding that the Sabbath will then become a worldwide test.

Thus it was that the Adventist heralds of Sabbath reform came to make a further logical application of the mark of the beast -- holding it to be, in essence, the attempted change of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment of the Decalogue by the Papacy, its endeavor to impose this change on Christendom, and the acceptance of the Papacy's substitute by individuals. We believe that in the end of time, in the light of clear divine prohibition, all men will be brought face to face with a decision to accept or reject Sunday observance.¹³¹

Again in their book, Questions On Doctrine, the Seventh-day Adventists say:

We hold the firm conviction that millions of devout Christians of all faiths throughout all past centuries, as well as those today who are sincerely trusting in Christ their Saviour for salvation and are following Him according to their best light, are unquestionably saved. Thousands of such went to the stake as martyrs for Christ and for their faith. Moreover, untold numbers of godly Roman Catholics will surely be included. God reads the heart and deals with the intent and the understanding. These are among His "other sheep" (John 10:16). He makes no mistake. The Biblical principle is clear: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

¹³⁰Questions On Doctrine, op. cit., p. 179.

¹³¹Ibid., p. 181.