OPPOSING SUNDAY LAWS

The efforts in the 1880s to nationalize Christianity in the United States included a strong push to legally establish Sunday as the national day of rest. On May 21, 1888, Senator Henry W. Blair presented “The Sunday-Rest Bill,” which was introduced as “a bill to secure to the people the enjoyment of the first day of the week, commonly known as the Lord’s day, as a day of rest, and to promote its observance as a day of religious worship” (Alonzo T. Jones, The Two Republics [1892], 830). The bill would prohibit unnecessary work and recreation that disturbed others on Sundays, and would restrict Sunday mail, commerce, transportation, and military parades, among other things. The U.S. Senate held a public hearing on this bill on December 13, 1888, where Alonzo T. Jones, prolific author, speaker, and religious liberty advocate, voiced the concerns of Seventh-day Adventists and other religious minorities: “Our national Constitution embodies the very principle announced by Jesus Christ, that the civil government shall have nothing to do with religion, or with what pertains to God; but shall leave that to every man’s conscience and his God” (Alonzo T. Jones, National Sunday Law [1892], 43). He denied that the government had any right to legislate anything that pertains to our duties to God. On this basis he declared Sunday laws to not only be unconstitutional but also antichristian. Blair’s bill was defeated, but there’s still interest in the issue of Sunday legislation today. This week’s lesson will explore the prophetic significance of all attempts to legislate Sunday observance.
Write out Revelation 14:1–13 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verses 1–5. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the passage.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse.
Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How can we experience God writing His law on our hearts and minds today?

How can we give God our complete allegiance?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What does it look like for an individual to live with the seal of God on their forehead? For a body of believers?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL12-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 14:1–13?

Revelation 7:1–3
Revelation 12:17
Revelation 13:11–18
Exodus 20:8–11
Deuteronomy 6:1–9
Hebrews 8:10
1 John 2:3–6

What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.

What are some ways we can exercise our faith now, before the final conflict begins?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through this week’s passage?

Prayer Response:

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/RL12-6
Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/RL12-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Do God’s people receive a literal seal on their foreheads? What does it symbolize?

How has the Sabbath given you or your family opportunities to share your faith?

What elements within the Sabbath commandment give it the characteristics of a seal? Why is this so important?

What is the mark of the beast?

How many receive the mark of the beast while religious liberty remains?

Do you think it’s possible for the mark of the beast to begin amassing influence before religious liberty is eradicated?

How can we spiritually prepare for the great challenges that prophecy predicts?

How is God calling you to be more faithful to Him today? What areas of your life do you need to surrender and perhaps leave behind?

The Sabbath Controversy