

# Satan's Personation of Christ

Does Satan personate Christ before or after the close of probation? The White Estate believes that Satan will personate Christ only after probation closes: (<http://ellenwhite.org/content/file/satans-impersonation-jesus#document>).

Here is how I understand the final events: increasing trouble will come upon the United States and the citizenry will demand that the federal government pass laws that will help restore God's favor upon this land. Sunday laws will be enacted in this country which will become increasingly oppressive to Sabbath keeping Christians. God's church militant will become the church triumphant as a result of the separation of the wheat from the tares that takes place through persecution brought about by the Sunday laws.

A universal Sunday law will follow a national Sunday law. Every nation of the world will follow the example of the United States. Why? It will be on account of the efforts of Satan personating Christ and urging all nations to pass Sunday laws. This will bring the world to its final test before probation closes.

Here are the inspired statements that support a pre-close-of-probation appearance of Satan as Christ:

**Satan . . . will come personating Jesus Christ**, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him as Jesus Christ. We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ. **What shall we do? Tell them that Christ has warned us against just such a foe, who is man's worst enemy, yet who claims to be God**, and that when Christ shall make His appearance it will be with power and great glory, accompanied by ten thousand times ten thousand angels and thousands of thousands, and that when He shall come we shall know His voice.--6BC 1106 (1888). {LDE 165.3}

The above statement cannot be speaking of a time after the close of probation because we will not be warning the world to not accept this false Christ once probation closes. After probation closes we will have nothing to say to the lost as we see in the following statement:

Then I saw Jesus lay off His priestly attire and clothe Himself with His most kingly robes. Upon His head were many crowns, a crown within a crown. Surrounded by the angelic host, He left heaven. The plagues were falling upon the inhabitants of the earth. Some were denouncing God and cursing Him. Others rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgments. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given. The sweet voice of mercy was no more to invite them. When the saints, and all heaven, were interested for their salvation, they had no interest for themselves. Life and death had been set before them. Many desired life, but made no effort to obtain it. They did not choose life, and now there was no atoning blood to cleanse the guilty, no compassionate Saviour to plead for them, and cry, "Spare, spare the sinner a little longer." All heaven had united with Jesus, as they heard the fearful words, "It is done. It is finished." The plan of salvation had been accomplished, but few had chosen to accept it. And as mercy's sweet voice died away, fear and horror seized the wicked. With terrible distinctness they heard the words, "Too late! too late!" {EW 281.1}

The United States passes Sunday laws and the rest of the world will be led to follow her example. Why will they do this? It will be because Satan appears as Christ in all parts of the world to get all nations on board with a universal Sunday law as we see in the following statements:

As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, **the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.** {6T 18.2}

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. 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. 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. 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}

The law of God will not be fully made void in all the nations of our world until after Satan appears as Christ:

**In this age antichrist will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God will be fully made void in the nations of our world.** Rebellion against God's holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God, and deify him. **But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her"** [Rev. 18:8].--TM 62 (1893). {LDE 168.2}

Laws enforcing the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath will bring about a national apostasy from the principles of republicanism upon which the government has been founded. The religion of the papacy will be accepted by the rulers, and the law of God will be made void.--7MR 192 (1906). {LDE 132.1}

We see in the first statement above that Satan personates Christ resulting in a universal Sunday law and as seen in the second statement, we see that it is Sunday laws that make the law of God void. After Satan personates Christ then the plagues will fall on this world. For the entire world to be tested over the mark of the beast, the entire world must first fully make the law of God void.

The personation of Christ by Satan is prophesied in the New Testament: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14

Here is a statement that verifies that 2 Corinthians 11:14 refers to Satan's personation of Christ:

**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}**

"Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator's prophecy. [Revelation 13:4-18, quoted.] This statement teaches us that Satan first personates Christ before Revelation 13 is fulfilled and Revelation 13 is fulfilled before the close of probation.

In Revelation 13 we see Satan, who is personating Christ, causing fire come down from heaven:

In Revelation we read concerning Satan: "**And he doeth great wonders**, so that **he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men**, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; **saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. **And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast**, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. **And he causeth all**, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man

might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:13-17). . . . {3SM 393.1}

Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary. He will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men to prove that he is God.--MM 87, 88 (1903). {LDE 167.4}

Satan, personating Christ, will cause all the world to be tested and the testing - for it to have any relevance - must take place before the close of probation:

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. . . . Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief. {GC 624, 625}

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Below is the manuscript from which the statement in the book, Last Day Events, pages 164, 165 is taken which, in isolation, seems to indicate that Satan personates Christ only after the close of probation. It is from this statement in Last Day Events that people have come to the conclusion that Satan will not personate Christ until after probation closes. But if you will read the full context I don't think this view is warranted. You will notice that he has first appeared to the world before he appears to the saints during Jacob's time of trouble. This harmonizes with everything else Ellen White wrote on this subject. When all that is written is considered **I think it is clear that Satan personates Christ both before and after probation closes.**

Ms 16, 1884  
Satan's Last Deception  
Portions of this manuscript are published in LDE 164-165.

Satan sees that he is about to lose his case. He cannot sweep in the whole world. He makes one more, 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. {Ms16-1884.1}

He proclaims himself Christ, and he is believed to be Christ, a beautiful, majestic being clothed with majesty and, with soft voice with pleasant words, with glory unsurpassed by anything their mortal eyes had yet beheld. These, 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." {Ms16-1884.2}

Here it was [that] the masterly effort of Satan would have deceived the very elect. But who were the ones blessed by him? Whom did he make glad? Whom did he honor? The combined powers of earth, the churches fallen by rejecting light and the messages of mercy Heaven had sent to heal Babylon but she refused. (Christ had declared the friendship of the world was enmity with God. Whosoever would be a friend of the world was the enemy of God.) The papal power, the man of sin which thought to change times and laws, that had presented a rival sabbath to the world to be worshiped, the apostate power who sits in the temple of God showing himself that he is God, the power that drank the blood of the saints is united with the Protestant churches, having two horns like a lamb but speaks as a dragon; the deceptions of spiritualism which have perpetuated Satan's lie uttered in Eden, "Thou shalt not surely die" [Genesis 3:4]—all these are bound up in bundles, a corrupt harmony under a corrupt leader. The blessing is pronounced by this false christ upon the worshipers of the beast and his image, [the people] who have received the mark of the beast and the mark of the image of the beast. {Ms16-1884.3}

Here is the only hope of God's people—the unerring word of Jehovah that there would be a remnant only in this trying time who would keep the word of Christ's patience, who would not worship the beast, papal Rome, or his

image (Protestants who are represented by the image beast with lamb-like pretensions but speaks as a dragon). “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:9-11. {Ms16-1884.4}

Appearances will deceive. The masterly miracle-working power of Satan has carried the whole world with them and the fallen churches, and those only who have [made] the Bible their study, who have the law of God engraven in their hearts, will stand the test of this time of satanic delusion and peril. If it were possible, Jesus tells us, they would deceive the very elect. Satan in personating Jesus Christ is worshiped as God. Shout upon shout of victory is heard in adoration and in praise. {Ms16-1884.5}

Angels of God are waiting the mandate from the divine Advocate which shall place man above the wrath of Satan. The Lord of heaven and of earth sorrows and rejoices over His repenting, believing children. Their steadfast [adherence to] principle was attended by loss, sacrifice, and peril. Their adherence to the commandments of God provoked calumny and [the] hatred of the disloyal and apostate churches. Whatsoever is not sustained by the Bible standard must not be entertained. Those who are the agents of Satan are vindictive, cruel, and like their master. Those who make the Bible their standard must expect abuse, outrage. In the cause of truth there can be no compromise. {Ms16-1884.6}

Jesus is looking from His throne upon His people. His interest is identified with His suffering brethren. With joy the angel hears the word from Jesus, “Take away the filthy garments from him and clothe him with change of raiment.” And He said, “Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.” [Zechariah 3:4.] Satan sees that he is about to lose his last chance of subverting these souls and he brings all the powers of his satanic generalship into intense activity. This last great act in the drama is in personating Jesus Christ. His disguise is discerned by none but those who are established in the Scriptures and acquainted [with] the word of God. **[possible page missing here]** {Ms16-1884.7}

The saints look on with amazement. Will they also be deceived? Will they worship Satan? Angels of God are about them. A clear, firm, musical voice is heard, “Look up.” There was one object before the praying ones—[the] final and eternal salvation of their souls. This object was before them constantly—that immortal life was promised to them who endure unto the end. Oh, how earnest and fervent had been their desires. The judgment and eternity were in view. Their eyes by faith were fixed on the blazing throne, before which the white-robed ones were to stand. This restrained them from the indulgence of sin. They were ripening for heaven. They had been cultivating spiritual mindedness, and striving soul, might, mind, and strength with persevering energy to copy the Pattern, that they might be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, and meet their Lord in peace. Their souls went out in all the intense longing for to see Jesus, and by beholding by faith the character and purity of Jesus they were being transformed into His image. They were being brought into close harmony with Jesus Christ, and they had indomitable purpose. They would not dishonor God; they would not receive the mark of the beast or of his image; they would overcome as servants and sons of God, that they might inherit all things. {Ms16-1884.8}

As a child lost weeps and longs for home, so did the remnant long to see Him whom their souls loveth, their Deliverer, Him in whom their hope of eternal life was centered. Pilgrims and strangers amidst labors, sorrows and conflicts, they turn the eye of faith heavenward, exclaiming, “Come, Lord Jesus, and come quickly.” Home—the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for them; how they long for their home in glory, how they long to enter within the gates of the city and dwell in the presence of Jesus forever. Their desires have been cherished long, and as Satan and his angels inspired the world, the church, and state against them, their souls with intense longings have cherished the soul-inspiring hope of overcoming and wearing the crown of life. Their character had obtained the heavenly mold that gave them discernment to see the disguises of Satan. Their understanding of Scriptures had given them a fixedness of purpose, an indomitable energy, which rendered them impossible to be molded or subdued by earth or hell. If they would be discouraged, Satan would have overwhelmed them. {Ms16-1884.9}

They count all things loss for the excellency of Christ. They could not be bribed or seduced or terrified. They were deaf to the siren song of pleasure, blind to the dazzling splendors presented before them to confuse, to allure, their senses. Worldly distractions, ambitions, honors were presented before them but only to be rejected. Indifferent to the threats and unmoved by terrors of the infernal powers, they could not be overthrown by Satan’s devices. {Ms16-1884.10}

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. But this answers to the last closing work, the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place. [Text ends here.] {Ms16-1884.11}