



**Bible Training Center**

# **End-Time Events**

**This incomplete copy is provided for evaluation.**

## End Time Events

Eden to Eden Restored.....	1
A Pattern of Warning before Judgment.....	5
Noah.....	8
Lot.....	12
Signs of the Times, Then and Now.....	15
The Sabbath, a Test of Loyalty.....	21
Little Time of Trouble.....	24
Shaking.....	30
Close of Probation.....	32
Jacob's Time of Trouble.....	32
Seven Last Plagues [unfinished].....	36
Second Coming of Jesus.....	36
Being Ready.....	38
How Shall We Live?.....	38
Our Last-day Warning [unfinished].....	43
Watching Servants [unfinished].....	44
Wilderness Wandering [unfinished].....	44
Satan's last-day deceptions.....	45
End-time Texts.....	50
God's Last Day Work.....	52
One World Religion.....	54
Heaven [unfinished].....	54
Destruction of Jerusalem.....	54

Soon there is to be trouble all over the world. It becomes everyone to seek to know God. We have no time to delay. . . .  
{LDE 153.3}

## Eden to Eden Restored

### Before the Fall

In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth. It was good, and very good. Everything was perfect. Everything was beautiful. God loves beauty, and He created much beauty. He created huge trees that gave wonderful fruit. He created flowers that were colorful and delicate and that each gave a special perfume. He created animals that played with each other and interacted with each other without anger or fighting.

It was in this environment that God created Adam and Eve. Adam was perfectly happy. There was nothing he wanted. There was no sin and no death. Everything contributed to his happiness. Adam sang songs of praise to His Creator. He interacted with the animals. He ate of the wonderful fruit. He drank water from the river of life. The animals were also content and peaceful. The birds were tame and flew from branch to branch in the trees singling sweetly.

While God created the animals in pairs, He first only created Adam single. But God knew that Adam would be happiest with companionship. He made Eve for Adam, for his happiness. With Eve he could share all his enjoyment in the things that God had made. Marriage was a gift given to man in Eden.

Where did God put Adam and Eve? In the garden. In nature. Country living. Where did God not put Adam and Eve? In the city, in a palace, in a big house.

God knew that Adam and Eve would be happiest if they stayed busy. He knew that they would be healthiest if they were out in nature. With their happiness and health in mind, God assigned Adam and Eve to work in the garden, to dress it and keep it. Genesis 2:15. But their garden was nothing like our gardens. Work in their garden was very enjoyable. The soil was rich and

produced fruit and flowers abundantly. God Himself visited them and taught them. God also assigned Adam to work with the animals.

In Eden, God also gave the gift of the Sabbath. God was very pleased with His work. He created the Sabbath for man to enjoy. Even in perfect Eden, man was to follow His example of observing the Sabbath by resting from regular activity and spending extra time reflecting on and studying God's creation. The more he would do this, the more he would recognize God's wonderful goodness and the more he would love and honor God.

God not only set aside one day as a memorial to creation, but he blessed that day and made it holy. Man was to observe this day to recognize that God is the all-powerful Creator. Man was to remember that he was created by God and that he was subject to God's authority. He was to meditate on God's power and His goodness. Without this weekly reminder, God knew that even in Eden, man would tend to forget God.

As Adam studied nature, he understood more and more of God's character and His glory. Wherever he looked, he discovered evidence of God's love and care for His creatures. Each time he made a discovery, he became more grateful to God and his heart became closer and more attached to God his Father.

God blessed His creatures abundantly. All the animals and Adam and Eve were perfectly happy. There were no pains or aches, no cold or heat, no hunger, no sickness, no angry words. There was only peace and safety and comfort and goodness.

God did all this for Adam and Eve. He gave them free access to the Tree of Life. From this tree, they could eat and live in this wonderful environment forever. They would continually increase in knowledge and wisdom and happiness. He only asked for one small thing in return: for them to recognize that He owned all things and was the Source of their blessing. He gave them all these abundant blessings and only one restriction: do not eat from one tree.

In His complete wisdom, God created Adam and Eve with their own minds. They were not controlled by God. God gave them the choice and the option to think for themselves and to make their own decisions. God gave them the capability to love and serve Him, but also the capability to disobey Him. This was the only way to maintain true happiness. Love does not come by force. Through perfect obedience, Adam and Eve could remain eternally happy.

Adam and Eve were created with no tendency to do or to think evil. They were perfect.

If Adam and Eve would have remained faithful to God for a period of time, God would have removed Satan's temptation tree and Adam and Eve would have been safe forever. God only intended to test their loyalty to Him to see if they were safe for eternal life. God gave them every advantage possible, including friendship with the angels and with God Himself. If they resisted temptation, God would know that they were completely loyal to Him and did not need to test them anymore.

Adam and Eve were to remain obedient to God's law. But they were to be free to choose obedience. God does not force. If God had forced obedience, Satan's accusation that God was selfish and arbitrary would have been justified. But God gave Adam and Eve complete freedom to choose their loyalty.

### **Between the Fall and Eden Restored**

Then sin came to this world. Man became separated from God. Perfect happiness and harmony were spoiled. And Satan determined to destroy those things that God had instituted for man's happiness. Throughout history, Satan has disrupted and tainted God's gifts.

God will restore perfect peace. But near the end of Earth's history, Satan will try one last time with great effort to block this plan to restore peace. In the last days Satan will focus His attacks on those things that God will restore: the marriage institution, the Sabbath, God's law, country living.

Marriage was a gift from God to man in Eden. Satan determined to mess up this perfect gift. Why is Satan so against marriage?

*“God wants the home to be the happiest place on earth, the very symbol of the home in heaven.” {AH 102.2}*

If Satan can mess up our conception of heaven and God through a messed up concept of marriage, he can diminish our desire to be with God in heaven.

As it was in the days of Lot, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. The marriage institution was ignored and people did as they pleased without regard to their happiness and without regard to pleasing God. One of the signs of the times is a renewed attack on the marriage institution.

The Sabbath was a gift from God to man in Eden and is intended to continue throughout eternity as a reminder that Jesus is Creator. Satan determined to mess up this perfect gift.

*When the foundations of the earth were laid, then was also laid the foundation of the Sabbath. I was shown that if the true Sabbath had been kept, there would never have been an infidel or an atheist. The observance of the Sabbath would have preserved the world from idolatry. {CET 86.1}*

The fundamental truth of the Sabbath will be a special object of attack. The issue of loyalty will be a crucial issue. Every soul will either receive the mark of God or the mark of the beast.

God had placed man under law in Eden. Satan determined to make this law void. Since Satan was Lucifer in heaven, he has been attempting to change God’s law or to lead people to believe that it has been changed.

*No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon men. {DD 29.2}*

Satan would make an attempt to change God’s law by claiming authority to change God’s holy day Sabbath to Sunday.

God placed man in the Garden of Eden (country living). Satan

determined to gather men into corrupt cities.

As in the days of Babel, people at the end of time will desire to congregate in the cities. Our call in the end time is to come out of the cities.

*Serious times are before us, and there is great need for families to get out of the cities into the country, that the truth may be carried into the byways as well as the highways of the earth. {CL 17.5}*

## **Eden Restored**

Although Satan will make special attacks on these things, God is ultimately the victor. Those who are faithful to God are victors with Him. When the great conflict between Christ and Satan is ended, God will restore everything back to its original condition. Only this time, it will be even better than before.

In Eden restored, we will be one big family, with God as our Father. The Sabbath is for all people of all ages, and will continue to be observed throughout eternity. God's law will remain unchanged and unchangeable throughout time. And while there will be a purely wonderful city of New Jerusalem, we will spend much time in the restored Garden of Eden, in nature, enjoying and studying creation.

*The great plan of redemption results in fully bringing back the world into God's favor. All that was lost by sin is restored. Not only man but the earth is redeemed, to be the eternal abode of the obedient. For six thousand years Satan has struggled to maintain possession of the earth. Now God's original purpose in its creation is accomplished. "The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." {AH 539.3}*

## **A Pattern of Warning before Judgment**

God always sends warnings before judgments. He also usually sends signs to accompany the warnings. These signs validate the warning and get people's attention. Those who believe these warnings and show that their belief is genuine by obeying God's commands do not suffer the judgments. They have living faith. Those who do not believe God's warning and disobey Him suffer the judgments.

## Chart

Take a look at this chart and notice the common pattern among all of these stories.

Warnings Before Judgments Chart					
Story	Warning	Sign	Command	Saved	Lost
Noah Gen 6-8	The end is near; I will destroy the earth.	Animals miraculously enter the ark.	Build an ark.	All who believed God (minority).	All who did not believe God (majority).
Lot Gen 19	The Lord will destroy this city.	Two angels make a crowd blind.	Get out of the city.	All who believed God (minority).	All who did not believe God (majority).
Pharaoh Ex 11-12	Firstborn will die.	Nine previous plagues	Sprinkle blood on the doorposts.	All who believed God.	All who did not believe God.
Jonah	In 40 days, Ninevah will be destroyed	Jonah preaching after being in the fish	Repent.	All who believed God (majority).	God did not send judgment.
Jerusalem Matt 24:15-20	Jerusalem will be destroyed.	City surrounded by enemies	Get out of the city.	All who believed God (minority).	All who did not believe God (majority).

## Chart Comments

God warned Noah that the end of all people was near and that He was going to destroy the earth. But He also instructed Noah how to build an ark to escape this judgment. The animals miraculously

entered the ark in an orderly manner by twos and sevens as a sign that God's Word was true. Noah and his family survived because they were righteous. They believed God's word and obeyed Him. Yet they were the minority.

God sent two angels to warn Lot of the destruction of Sodom. As a sign of God's favor and protection of the righteous, the angels blinded the evil crowd. Those who believed God's Word and obeyed Him survived. Those who mocked the message of truth did not believe or obey and were destroyed.

God gave repeated warnings about the ten plagues. God gave ample signs to prove to Pharaoh that He meant what He said. But each time, Pharaoh hardened his heart. The plagues fell on the wicked, but God protected the Israelites.

Jonah preached a message of warning to the inhabitants of Ninevah. This time, nearly all the city repented and heeded the warning. God did not destroy the city because the wicked repented and turned to Him.

Jesus warned His disciples to flee Jerusalem to the mountains when they saw the abomination of desolation. All who watched for this sign and obeyed Jesus' warning were safe when Jerusalem was destroyed.

### **EGW**

*God has always given men warning of coming judgments. Those who had faith in His message for their time, and who acted out their faith in obedience to His commandments, escaped the judgments that fell upon the disobedient and unbelieving. {LDE 13.1}*

*The word came to Noah, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me." Noah obeyed and was saved. The message came to Lot. "Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city" (Genesis 7:1; 19:14). Lot placed himself under the guardianship of the heavenly messengers and was saved. So Christ's disciples were given warning of the destruction of Jerusalem. Those who watched for the sign of the coming ruin, and fled from the city, escaped the destruction. So now we are given warning of Christ's second coming and of the destruction to fall upon the world. Those who heed the warning will be saved.--DA 634 (1898). {LDE 13.2}*

*Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given his disciples warning, and all who believed his words watched for the promised sign. After the Romans had surrounded the city, they unexpectedly withdrew their forces, at a time when everything seemed favorable for an immediate attack. In the providence of God the promised signal was thus given to the waiting Christians, and without a moment's delay they fled to a place of safety,—the refuge city Pella, in the land of Perea, beyond Jordan. {4SP 32.1}*

Review and Herald November 5, 1889 God Warns Men of His Coming Judgments

## **Noah**

Genesis 6-8

Read this passage and become familiar with the story.

### **Old Testament Story**

What were the people like in the time of Noah?

- 6:2 Men took wives from whoever they chose.
- 6:5 Wickedness of man was very great. His thoughts were only evil continually.
- 6:11-12 Corrupt, filled with violence

What was Noah like?

- 6:8 Noah found grace with God
- 6:9 Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations, and walked with God
- 6:22 Noah did all that God commanded him.

What message was given to Noah?

- 6:13-21 The end... has come. The end of how many? All flesh. Why? The earth is filled with violence. Build an ark.
- This message was detailed and specific.
- 6:17-18 Options of life and death were presented.

Why was Noah and his family saved in the ark?

- 7:1-2 Because they were righteous.

How long did Noah wait in the ark before the rain came?

- 7:10 seven days

How complete was the destruction on earth?

- 7:21 All living things died – animals and people

Where did the judgment come from?

- Rain fell from heaven.

Who were saved?

- 7:23 Those in the ark—Noah and those with him

For one hundred and twenty years Noah preached and clearly warned the people that God was sending judgment on the wicked. Noah believed God's warning and acted according to his belief. He had living faith. Hebrews 11:7

But Noah faced much opposition and ridicule for preaching an unpopular, but truthful message. The philosophers and scientists of the day predicted that a flood was impossible and that Noah's message was false. Noah could not argue against or refute their arguments. Instead of arguing with them, he only presented God's Word. He didn't mix more pleasing ideas or soften God's message. He delivered God's Word to the people.

Some people thought that God would give the wicked another chance if they rejected this opportunity. But Noah held firm with his teaching that the present opportunity to accept this present message would be the last opportunity they had.

The animals came into the ark in a miraculous manner. This was a sign that Noah's message was true. But the majority of the people rejected his message.

### **End-time Parallel**

Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27

What is the story of Noah an example of? The Second Coming of Jesus.

What were the people doing before the flood? Their everyday life, eating and drinking and marrying.

Did the people know or not know? They did not know.

Why did they not know? They must have chosen to ignore the

warning of Noah.

Who was taken away and who was left? All the wicked were taken and only Noah and his family were left.

Why were the wicked taken away? They did not know. They were not watching. They had ignored the warning.

Which group was larger, the lost or the saved? The lost.

## **2 Peter 3:3-7**

Who will come in the last days? Scoffers

What will the scoffers be saying? People say Jesus is coming, but He hasn't come yet. His promise must not be valid.

The scoffers forget something. What do they forget? They forget two main foundational Bible teachings: creation and judgment. They wish to be ignorant of the Sabbath truth and the Sanctuary truth.

<b>What the Scoffers Forget</b>	
<b>God's Creative Power</b>	<b>God's Destructive Power</b>
<b>Creation.</b> God created the world by His word.	<b>Flood.</b> God destroyed the world by the flood by His word.
<b>Continuing creative power.</b> The heavens and earth are preserved by His word.	<b>Coming judgment.</b> The ungodly will be judged by fire by His Word.

How did the scoffers forget? Willfully, by choice. They chose to forget.

The washing of the world with water is an example of the cleansing of the earth by fire.

## **2 Peter 2:5**

God did not spare the wicked in the flood, but saved godly Noah and his family.

## **Personal Application**

I want to be like Noah. I want to hear the end time message of my day and actively warn others. I want to be faithful in doing God's work and not become discouraged, even if I do not see results for a long time. I want to walk with God.

I do not want to be like the majority who heard the warning and ignored it. I do not want to mock messages of truth, but take them seriously and apply them in my life.

God has done everything possible for our salvation. He has given us warning after warning, sign after sign, and He has provided a way to be saved. How long will we remain ignorant? How long will we ignore the warning and the plainest signs of the times? How long will we continue living our lives normally without thought that the end of time is near?

## EGW

Sources: {RC 323}

*God tested the world when he sent, through Noah, a message to the antediluvians. He sent warning after warning that the world would be destroyed by the waters of the flood; but the wise men of the age despised the message, and showed contempt for God's messenger. They had so far separated themselves from God that they trusted to the imaginations of their own hearts, and cared not to know the will of God. But the unbelief of great and intelligent men did not prevent the fulfillment of God's pronounced judgments. The judgments came as God had declared by the word of his prophets that they would come. Only faithful Noah and his family entered into the ark, and were saved when the deluge engulfed the world. The days of Noah are pointed to as an illustration of the unbelief that will prevail at the end of the world. Says the Saviour, "But as the days of Noe where, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 2}*

*If a similar condition of things is to exist in our day, we should be intelligent concerning it, and have sanctified judgment, that we may not take a course like the course of those who perished in the flood. We should be so instructed that we will not follow a multitude to do evil. God has sent reproofs and warnings that men might repent of their transgressions, and forsake the evil of their*

ways, and so escape his threatened judgments. God has always made a refuge for those who have repented of their sins, believed in his love, and hoped in his mercy. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 3}

When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. . . . {LDE 230.2}

Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in, and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life, and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:39). Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men. . . . {LDE 230.3}

In that terrible hour they saw that the transgression of God's law had caused their ruin. Yet while, through fear of punishment, they acknowledged their sin, they felt no true contrition, no abhorrence of evil. They would have returned to their defiance of Heaven, had the judgment been removed. So when God's judgments shall fall upon the earth before its deluge by fire, the impenitent will know just where and what their sin is--the despising of His holy law. Yet they will have no more true repentance than did the old-world sinners. {CC 40.4}

## Lot

Genesis 19

### Old Testament Story

What were the people like in the time of Lot?

- 18:16-33 In the entire city, God found fewer than ten righteous people.
- 19:4-5 They were very wicked.

What was Lot like?

- 19:14 Lot repeated the warning given to him by the angels.
- Lot obeyed God's command

What message was given to Lot?

- 19:15 Take your family and flee the city.

How did the people accept Lot's warning message?

- 19:14 They thought he was joking.

Why was Lot and his daughters saved from destruction?

- Because they obeyed God; they fled the city and did not look back.

Why was Lot's wife destroyed?

- 19:17, 26 Because she disobeyed God by looking back at the city.

How complete was the destruction of Sodom?

- 19:28-29 The smoke went up like a furnace. The cities were destroyed.

Who were saved?

- Lot and his two daughters.

There were three categories of responses to the warning of coming judgment that God gave.

<b>Three Responses to Judgment Warning</b>	
Unbelief	Lot's family did not believe the warning. They thought Lot was joking.
Belief without faith	Lot's wife believed the warning, but her heart was in the city. Though a believer in the message, she was not obedient to God's command.
Belief with faith	Lot and his two daughters believed and acted.

### **End-time Parallel**

#### **Luke 17:28-30**

How were people acting in the days of Lot? Life as usual—they  
What happened to these people? They were destroyed.

How many of the wicked were destroyed? All.

Where did the judgment come from? Fire and sulfur rained down from heaven.

What is the story of Lot an example of? The day when Jesus will

be revealed.

## **2 Peter 2:6-8**

How complete was the destruction of Sodom? It was burned to ashes. The people became extinct.

What is the story of Sodom an example of? The destruction of the ungodly.

What were the inhabitants of Sodom like? Wicked.

What was Lot like? He was righteous and greatly disturbed at the wickedness of the people.

Who suffered judgment? Wicked.

Who was rescued? Lot.

## **Jude 1:7**

What were the inhabitants of Sodom like? Sexually immoral.

What is Sodom an example of? Punishment of the wicked by eternal fire.

## **Personal Application**

I want to be like Lot. I want to hear the end time message of my day and bring the message of warning to my family, even if they mock me. I want to be faithful in doing God's work and not become discouraged, even if my family think I am crazy.

I do not want to be like those who heard the warning and ignored it and even mocked it. I do not want to be like Lot's wife, who obeyed partly, but not fully; her heart was still attached to the things of this world.

## **EGW**

*Heavenly messengers visited Sodom, and told Lot of the impending destruction, and he was permitted to warn his relatives and friends, and to invite them to seek the protection of God. Lot earnestly besought them to believe his words. He knew that their destiny for life or death depended upon their decision to obey or reject the warning. But they had corrupted their ways before God, and Lot's message seemed to them but folly and madness. They mocked at his agonized*

*entreaties. He tarried long with them, so loth to give them up to their own unwise decision, that the angels had to take him by force and hurry him out of the city with his wife and daughters. The angel gave the command, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee." But notwithstanding the warning, Lot's wife, whose heart was in the city devoted to destruction, did not obey, but turned to look behind her, and was changed to a pillar of salt in the way. She did not appreciate the mercy that God had shown her, and was left as an example of warning for future generations. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 4}*

## **Signs of the Times, Then and Now**

(This section was gleaned from *The Desire of Ages* chapter 23 entitled "The Kingdom of God is at Hand.")

Over 6000 years ago, God promised that a Savior would come (Genesis 3:15). Adam and Eve were looking for Jesus to come back. But He did not come in their lifetime. They thought that maybe one of their sons would fulfill the promise of a Savior. Generation after generation waited and waited for Jesus to come. Over time, God gave them many prophecies and clues so that people could be ready when Jesus did come.

### **Signs of Jesus first coming**

- Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16 God promised Abraham the same promise He promised Adam.
- Deuteronomy 18:15,18 Moses was looking forward to the Messiah.
- Genesis 49:10 Jacob prophesied of the Messiah.
- Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5-6 descendant of Jesse/David
- Micah 5:2 The place (Bethlehem) was foretold.
- Isaiah 11:2-3; 61:1-3; 42:1-4 Jesus' work was outlined.
- Micah 5:1 People would strike Him on His cheek.
- Isaiah 50:6 People would pull out His beard.
- Isaiah 53 is very plain and clear about Jesus' sufferings.
- John 3:14 Jesus' manner of death was foretold.
- Zechariah 13:6 His hands would be pierced.
- Isaiah 53:7, 10, 12 An offering for sin.
- Isaiah 53:9-10 His grave.
- Psalm 16:9-10 His resurrection.

(See *Acts of the Apostles* chapter 22)

### **God's People Ignored the Signs**

After all these clear prophecies, the Jews should have welcomed Jesus and His work. But they were not ready when Jesus came, and they rejected Him. They even asked for more signs when signs were already given. Matthew 12:38-42 We do not want to be like the Jews, whom Jesus called hypocrites. Matthew 16:1-4

*“The Sun of Righteousness shining amid the moral darkness in such distinct rays revealed the contrast between sin and holiness, purity and defilement, and such light was not welcome to them. . . . Every miracle wrought by Christ convinced some of them of His true character, which answered to the specifications of the Messiah of prophecy, but those who did not receive the light of heaven set themselves more determinedly against this evidence. . . .”{CTr 243}*

### **Signs of Jesus' second coming**

Daniel 2 Everything in this prophecy has been fulfilled except for the last event: the rock that brings the never-ending kingdom.

Destruction of Jerusalem Matthew 24 talks about the destruction of Jerusalem. This was literally fulfilled. It also is an example of the last destruction of this world by fire. We'll talk in more detail about this later.

Tribulation Matthew 24 also talks about a period of time, 1260 years, when the church will endure a great tribulation. This period began in 538 and ended in 1798 when Berthier imprisoned the pope (deadly wound).

Earthquake, Dark Day, Blood Moon, Stars Fall Revelation 6:12-17; Luke 21:25; Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24-26; Joel 2:10,31; 3:15; Isaiah 13:10 Nations are distressed all over the world. These signs have happened, and we know that Jesus is coming soon.

November 1, 1755 Lisbon, Portugal earthquake was felt as far away as Greenland and northern Africa. Algiers was largely destroyed. In Lisbon, 70,000 or more population died. Many ran into churches for protection, but were buried alive in the rubble. What buildings survived the initial earthquake was destroyed by

fires for three days following. The sea rolled back and then thundered back in over 15 meters above its normal level. Other earthquakes have been as severe locally, but none other in history has been this severe on such a vast geographic area. {1897 UrS, DAR 444-449}

May 19, 1780 Dark Day of northern America. Nothing like this has happened since the time of Moses. A piece of white paper a few inches in front of the face was invisible. Chickens came in early to roost. Cows came back to the stalls. Frogs began singing. People lit candles in their homes. The general feeling was that judgment day had come. {1897 UrS, DAR 449-451}

May 19, 1780 Dark Moon. The moon turned red. Since the phase of the moon was a day past full, an eclipse was impossible. The darkness during the night was as unusual as the darkness of the day before since the moon was full the day before. {1897 UrS, DAR 453}

November 13, 1833 The stars appeared to fall out of the sky, all originating from one point. As a fig tree drops its figs (mangoes), just as the Bible describes. Other meteor showers like this have happened, but none as impressive as this one. {1897 UrS, DAR 453}

Widespread Calamity Matthew 24:6-8 Wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes. These also were partially fulfilled at the destruction of Jerusalem. But they will be more fully fulfilled in the last days.

False Prophets Matthew 24:11 Many false prophets will appear. False prophets did arise and led many into the desert. During our time there will be many false prophets, magicians, sorcerers, and people will follow them. But we must preach the Word only. We must individually study and pray to be able to discern the difference between true and false prophets.

Like the Days of Noah Luke 17:26-27 “As it was in the days of Noah...” Gluttony and intemperance are at the base of immorality. Satan is constantly tempting people to follow their taste and sacrifice their health and their life. Before Noah, the

land was filled with violence. War, crime, murder. Just before Jesus' return it will be this way.

**Like the Days of Lot** Luke 17:28-29 "in the days of Lot..." Sodomy is becoming more and more recognized as normal and acceptable by human laws. Until recently it was usually kept as a secret sin. But now people openly declare themselves sodomites without shame.

### Accidents

*"Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near!" {FLB 343.5}*

Maylasia Airlines flight 370 8.March.2014

God allows disasters to happen to awaken us and to turn us to Him. He remains in control of events on earth.

**Fraudulent transactions** are reported everywhere. Sin is becoming commonplace and people just do it out of habit without thinking.

**Three Angels' Messages** Revelation 14 The first, second, third messages are immediately followed by the white cloud - Jesus' return. We must remain faithful and keep God's commandments to the end.

**2300 Day Prophecy** 1844 The event at the end of the 2300 day prophecy is the finishing work of Jesus our High Priest in heaven. Day of Atonement (what were people doing? praying, fasting, searching hearts)

**Matthew 24:33** When you see these things, **know** that the end is near!

### **Will We Ignore the Signs?**

Are we any more ready for Jesus to come now than the Jews were in their day? We have plain prophecies that clearly show how the second coming of Jesus is very close. But we ignore the Word of

God and continue with our lives normally.

*The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and they knew not the time of their visitation. The years of the ministry of Christ and His apostles,--the precious last years of grace to the chosen people,--they spent in plotting the destruction of the Lord's messengers. Earthly ambitions absorbed them, and the offer of the spiritual kingdom came to them in vain. So today the kingdom of this world absorbs men's thoughts, and they take no note of the rapidly fulfilling prophecies and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God. {DA 235.2}*

*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." While we are not to know the hour of our Lord's return, we may know when it is near. "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6. {DA 235.3}*

How might we ignore the signs?

- We encourage conversation about unimportant topics (might include topics such as news, gossip, politics).
- We listen to truth, but do not take action. We have knowledge, but our lives remain unchanged. We know the right, but do wrong.
- Accepting wisdom of “wise men” rather than the wisdom of God.
- Reading the Bible to justify our actions.
- We continue with our lives as if Jesus was not coming soon.
- How might you be ignoring the signs?

**EGW**

*Hatred of the Romans, and national and spiritual pride, led the Jews still to adhere rigorously to their forms of worship. The priests tried to maintain a reputation for sanctity by scrupulous attention to the ceremonies of religion. The people, in their darkness and oppression, and the rulers, thirsting for power, longed for the coming of One who would vanquish their enemies and restore the kingdom to Israel. They had studied the prophecies, but without spiritual insight. Thus they overlooked those scriptures that point to the humiliation of Christ's first advent, and misapplied those that speak of the glory of His second coming. Pride obscured their vision. They interpreted prophecy in accordance with their selfish desires. {DA 30.2}*

The Saviour's coming was foretold in Eden. When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without the sight. From the days of Enoch the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent, but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away; the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, "The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth." Ezekiel 12:22. {DA 31.2}

At the time of Christ's first advent the priests and scribes of the Holy City, to whom were entrusted the oracles of God, might have discerned the signs of the times and proclaimed the coming of the Promised One. The prophecy of Micah designated His birthplace; Daniel specified the time of His advent. Micah 5:2; Daniel 9:25. God committed these prophecies to the Jewish leaders; they were without excuse if they did not know and declare to the people that the Messiah's coming was at hand. Their ignorance was the result of sinful neglect. The Jews were building monuments for the slain prophets of God, while by their deference to the great men of earth they were paying homage to the servants of Satan. Absorbed in their ambitious strife for place and power among men, they lost sight of the divine honors proffered them by the King of heaven. {GC 313.1}

Oh, what a lesson is this wonderful story of Bethlehem! How it rebukes our unbelief, our pride and self-sufficiency. How it warns us to beware, lest by our criminal indifference we also fail to discern the signs of the times, and therefore know not the day of our visitation. {GC 315.1}

Such is the sure result of neglect to appreciate and improve the light and privileges which God bestows. Unless the church will follow on in His opening providence, accepting every ray of light, performing every duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into the observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear. This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church. God requires of His people works of faith and obedience corresponding to the blessings and privileges bestowed. Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross; and this is why so many of the professed followers of Christ refused to receive the light from heaven, and, like the Jews of old, knew not the time of their visitation. Luke 19:44. Because of their pride and unbelief the Lord passed them by and revealed His truth to those who, like the shepherds of Bethlehem and the Eastern Magi, had given

heed to all the light they had received. {GC 316.1}

*Through the warning that God has sent to the world, an opportunity is given to all to escape the general ruin that is threatened to fallen Babylon... But this gracious message will be as generally rejected by the professed Christian world, as was the message of the Messiah by the Jewish nation. Only a few will receive the testimony of truth, for every influence that Satan can bring to bear against the reception of the truth of God will be employed. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 8-9}*

## **The Sabbath, a Test of Loyalty**

Satan has been challenging God's authority since he started the war in heaven. Lucifer's desire to become like God and set his throne above God's throne influenced a third of God's angels and caused them to turn their loyalty away from God. Just before Jesus comes back the second time, Satan will organize a final effort to challenge God's authority one last time.

Beginning long ago, he has influenced people to turn their loyalty from God to him. How has he chosen to do this? He works in a variety of ways from a variety of angles. But he has chosen to focus his special attacks on one of the Ten Commandments, because this one, more than the others, commands loyalty to God our Creator. For centuries, he has been attacking the fourth commandment, the Sabbath, and slowly leading people to accept Sunday in the place of Sabbath. Take a look at this brief outline of Sabbath history:

- [~4000 B.C.] The Sabbath was instituted by God at Creation.
- [~1500 B.C.] The Sabbath commandment was remembered on Sinai and written on stone.
- [Jesus' time] The Jews had made the Sabbath a day of heavy regulations so that it was unpleasant and a burden to observe. Jesus observed the Sabbath, but not according to Jewish traditions.
- [~30-100 A.D.] There is no evidence of a change from Sabbath to Sunday in the New Testament.

- [Early centuries A.D.] All Christians (including Peter, Paul, Jews, and converted Gentiles) observed the Sabbath in the early centuries.
- [321] Roman emperor Constantine declares Sunday as heathen festival.
- [325] Council of Nice declares Sunday as Christian festival.
- [364] Council of Laodicea declares work on Sabbath obligatory
- [589] Council of Narbon prohibits work on Sunday
- [692] king of west Saxons punishes Sunday-breakers with fines
- [772] synod in Bavaria decrees slavery for Sunday-breakers
- [1050] Council of Coy decrees Sunday to be consecrated entirely to hearing of mass
- [1201] pope furnishes a divine precept for Sunday observance
- [late 1500s] Episcopalians observe Sunday by church authority; the Presbyterians attempt to show Biblical support for Sunday
- Sunday was made a festival to honor the resurrection of Christ.

And so you see, slowly, slowly, across the centuries, Satan has been shifting the thinking of the world to disrespect God's holy Sabbath and to respect a false Sabbath instead. To a great degree, he has been successful. Thousands, yes millions of Christians now believing that Sunday is God's appointed holy day of rest.

Some people reason, "Our parents kept Sunday. And they learned about Sunday from their parents. And they learned about Sunday from the nice missionaries who told us about God and led us to become Christians." Most Christians probably believe that

Scripture supports Sunday observance, when in reality, there is not a single verse in the entire Bible that shows a change from Sabbath observance to Sunday observance.

If we would simply make the Word of God our source for truth and our only foundation, we would easily discover what God has commanded. But how many people today are living their lives, completely unaware of the last final test of loyalty that is coming soon to this earth! Perhaps they sincerely believe that they are following God. But they are unprepared to face the great test of loyalty about to be given to all mankind. When it is too late, many will sadly discover that their loyalty is really not to God, but to a false system of truth.

In our study today, we assume that you understand the basic Scriptural teaching on the Sabbath. If not, please study it out for yourself and see what the Bible teaches. For today, our objective is to understand why Satan has chosen to attack the Sabbath in the great final events of this earth's history. Let's look at a summary of the issues.

- God instituted the Sabbath for man's happiness. Observing another day will not bring us true happiness.
- God established the Sabbath as a memorial of creation and blessed and sanctified it. By remembering a day other than the Sabbath, man forgets that he is a creature created by our Creator. Any other day is not blessed or sanctified or holy.
- By observing the Sabbath, God's authority is recognized. By observing Sunday, man's authority is recognized.
- The Sabbath is a part of God's eternal Law. By encouraging Sunday in place of Sabbath, God's Law is set aside in favor of man's law, a temporary law.
- The Sabbath is a sign between God and His people. Any other day cannot be a sign between God and His people.

*When the foundations of the earth were laid, then was also laid the foundation*

*of the Sabbath. I was shown that if the true Sabbath had been kept, there would never have been an infidel or an atheist. The observance of the Sabbath would have preserved the world from idolatry. {CET 86.1}*

Those who remain faithful to God and observe the Bible Sabbath will experience many difficulties. Their loyalty to God will be seen as disloyalty to man. Their respect of God's government will be seen as disrespect for man's government. By submitting to God's authority, they place themselves in opposition to human authority.

*2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

*Revelation 13:17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

### **United States**

*The prophecy of Revelation 13 declares that the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns shall cause "the earth and them which dwell therein" to worship the papacy--there symbolized by the beast "like unto a leopard." . . . This prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy. . . . {LDE 129.2}*

*As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets have described as the time of Jacob's trouble. {5T 451.2}*

## **Little Time of Trouble**

### **Increased troubles and persecution**

The little time of trouble begins slowly during the time when Jesus is still ministering in the heavenly sanctuary, but shortly before He leaves. This "little" time of trouble will gradually increase as the Sabbath question becomes more and more prominent.

Starting with the United States, governments will begin to

enforce Sunday laws. Religious powers and civil powers unite against Sabbath keepers. They will treat Sabbath keepers as traitors and rebels who are disobeying law. But God's people remain faithful to God's law and cannot accept man's law in place of God's law.

Persecution will grow and become more intense. God's people will be forbidden to buy or sell in an effort to force them to submit to man's law. Some people will be put in prison. Others will be killed.

### **Persecution: Good or Bad?**

2 Timothy 3:12 says, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

I know that I do not go around looking for persecution. I do not naturally want to be persecuted. It is something I want to avoid. But Scripture tells us that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. I desire to live godly, so I can expect persecution.

Toward the end of time, however, this persecution will increase to a scale larger than ever before. Prophecy is clear that a time of great persecution is coming soon on God's people. Why will God allow this to happen? Apparently, something good will come out of it. But what good can come out of persecution? Take a few moments to consider this chart on the affects of persecution. Afterward, we will look at each item a little deeper.

Persecution: Good or Bad?	
Persecution Great	Persecution Non-existent
Faithful revealed	Faithful less known
Church purified	Errors creep in church
Good motives formed	Selfish motives formed
Numbers in church diminish	Numbers in church rise
Faith strong	Faith weak
Rely on God for strength	Rely less on God
Decisions made	Decisions postponed
Closer to God	Drift from God
Unity among God's people	Disunity among God's people
God's people/light scattered	God's people/truth congregate
Gospel work given impetus	Gospel work neglected
Character building accelerated	Character building slow
God's work more clear	Humans take credit

### **Why God Allows Persecution**

Why does God allow persecution to happen? We have no need to doubt that God has a good reason for allowing persecution. God is good and just. While we may not understand the answer to this question completely, we can rest confidently that God will make all things just in the end. And, if we think about it, I believe that we can see some positive aspects of persecution and begin to understand why God allows persecution.

God's people have become so relaxed and unconcerned about their spiritual life that they have become more like the world than like Jesus. In short, the church is dirty and needs to be cleaned up. Let us go through this list one at a time and take a closer look.

Persecution reveals who the faithful ones are. The faithful are like stars. The darker the night, the more brilliant the stars shine. The bigger the contrast between the character of Satan and the character of God, the brighter God's character shines out in the lives of the faithful.

Persecution purifies the church. During time of ease, errors creep into the church. But these errors are based on the ideas of man. When winds of persecution come, those who hold these errors are blown away, while those who are firmly rooted and built on the foundation of truth remain loyal.

Persecution reveals those who follow religion out of good motives. What is your motive for being a Christian? Why do you worship God in church? Is it because the pastor preaches great sermons? Is it because the music is really nice? Is it because the church building is extra beautiful or conveniently located near your home? These types of selfish motives do not endure persecution. Only those people whose motives are pure, who worship God out of love for Him, will endure persecution.

Persecution greatly reduces the number of members on the books. Some people feel that a popular church must be a good church. They feel that if there is church growth, the church must be doing something right. But here is a dangerous fallacy. A church can be popular or rapidly growing for the wrong reasons. When persecution comes, those who follow the majority or wish to be popular will not stay in the church.

Persecution strengthens faith. During persecution, people are forced to exercise their faith in God. During easy times, people do not exercise faith as often. Yet during the easy times is just the time we need to be exercising our faith.

Persecution leads people to rely more fully on God. During easy times, the temptation is to trust in ourselves. Sometimes we do not realize our need to rely on God. We have a tendency to feel self-sufficient, like we are strong and can live life ourselves. It is during trials and persecution that we realize most fully our need

to rely on God.

Persecution has a way of forcing people to make decisions for or against God. During easy times, we think “I know what I should do, but I’ll start tomorrow.” We postpone the decision to follow truth. And often, when we postpone this decision, we never fully make the decision. But during persecution, the urgency of making a commitment to God becomes very clear.

Persecution brings people closer to God. During easy times it is easy to drift away. We may not maintain a constant awareness of God throughout the day. We may not pray as frequently. We may neglect reading God’s Word. But during persecution God becomes more precious to us. Our relationship with Him becomes closer. Like the three men in the fiery furnace, God walked and talked with them as they were in the fire.

Persecution unifies God’s people. Human tendency is to focus on problems and issues that are not really important in light of eternity. Yet so often there are divisions and conflicts that are completely unnecessary. Disunity is a common thing during times of ease. If our focus was upward, on Jesus, we would forget everything that causes disunity among God’s people. Persecution has a way of unifying.

Persecution scatters God’s people, and as a result, truth is scattered. We Christians have a tendency to gather together in large groups. Adventist centers are often places where Adventists come to live, but never leave. We like social events. But we should learn some lessons from the story of the tower of Babel. God’s original intent for His people was that they scatter themselves throughout the world as lights until the whole world became followers of God. But people prefer to gather together and form centers. Persecution breaks up these centers and accomplishes God’s goal of spreading the gospel.

Persecution has a way of forcing God’s work to move along. Without persecution, God’s people often become lazy and neglect God’s work. They become self-centered and do not wish to put

forth the energy and time to do the work God has given them. Their work becomes more important to them than God's work. But persecution wakes people up to realize that God's work is more important than their work.

Persecution and trial develop character much more quickly than times of ease. During easy times, we are not likely to want to change our characters. But persecution brings a different perspective and rapidly accelerates character development.

Persecution makes God's work and character stand out clearly. We naturally want to take credit for our work; we forget that without God, we can do nothing. During persecution, works we do are not about how great we are and what we have done. Self loses importance during persecution. What we do during persecution, we clearly do for God and His glory.

### **No Time to Wait**

We have just spent some time thinking about persecution. Perhaps God is telling you that you need revival in your life. Perhaps you feel that if persecution were to come today, that you would not be counted among God's faithful few. Listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to you. Follow His promptings today. Wait no longer.

Do not wait until the time of trouble comes to experience revival and reformation in your life. If you wait until persecution is great, you will have waited too long. Now is the time to exercise faith. Now is the time to develop regular communication with God throughout the day. Now is the time to study Scripture and store away the gems of truth in your mind. Now is the time to develop and strengthen your relationship with God. It is our privilege to do this now.

When trials and persecutions do come in your life, however, do not grumble and complain. Instead, view them as blessings. God will not give you more than you can handle. He has promised grace and strength. He has promised to never leave you and to be with you always. And as we endure persecution and come out

victorious on the other side, we will be like gold refined in the fire.

*The persecution that came upon the church in Jerusalem resulted in giving a great impetus to the work of the gospel.... To scatter His representatives abroad, where they could work for others, God permitted persecution to come upon them. Driven from Jerusalem, the believers "went everywhere preaching the word." {AA 105.2}*

*God in His great love is seeking to develop in us the precious graces of His Spirit. He permits us to encounter obstacles, persecution, and hardships, not as a curse, but as the greatest blessing of our lives. Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience and advances us in the work of character building. The soul that through divine power resists temptation reveals to the world and to the heavenly universe the efficiency of the grace of Christ. {MB 117.1}*

## Shaking

Today we will talk about the remnant (reste), the shaking (crible), and the line of demarcation. We have already seen that God has always preserved an unchanging line of truth. God always preserves a remnant of people who are faithful to Him and who follow this line of truth.

As time continues, the line of demarcation or distinction between God's faithful people and the world becomes more and more clear. The line of demarcation among the various churches who reject truth becomes fuzzier and fuzzier until they all are about the same. People turn away from a "Thus says the Lord" attitude of thinking and would rather join with the majority.

For a long time now, God's people are thought of as insignificant, but that will soon change. As God's people become more faithful and true, and as others drift further from the line of truth, the difference will become more and more clear. Adventists will become prominent, and they will be blamed for trouble that is breaking out all over the world.

Religious powers that were lamb-like become dragon-like. (Revelation 13:1).

In the Dark Ages, persecution was great. God's people were purified and their visible numbers diminished greatly. Then when persecution mostly ended and the Dark Ages were finished, the church began to grow, but with increased unfaithfulness within.

But this time of relative ease will not last forever. A time of persecution is coming that will shake the church, and the church will again be purified just before Jesus comes. For now the wheat and the tares are growing together, but there will be a time of separation. The chaff and the wheat are together, but they will soon be separated. The shaking will blow multitudes (majority) away like dry leaves.

Now, the usual qualifications for a laborer for God are forgotten. Laborers are qualified by the Holy Spirit rather than by a university course. {GC 606.2} God's people go out and give the message that Babylon is fallen. Thousands hear this message. Questions arise in their minds, and they approach the authorities. This questioning of authority is treated as a contest of authority. God's Word is held up against the word of man, and Satan is enraged.

Persecution follows. God's people have one plea: "Show us our error from the Scripture." But Satan and his crowd treat their obedience and loyalty to God as rebellion. Believers are made slaves and put in prison. To the believers, truth becomes a treasure above all other treasures.

This will be a time of great shaking in God's church. The time of shaking has already begun, but it has begun gently. But it will continue to increase until the end of time.

### **Remaining Firm**

While we do not have the grace to endure persecution today, God will give it to whoever needs it when the time comes. We can fully trust that we are in God's hands during the time of persecution.

Our work now is to become firmly grounded in Scripture. Our work now is to develop our faith. Our work now is to receive the

truth into our daily lives.

## **Close of Probation**

There is a time in history when every person has made his decision to be loyal to God or to Satan. When this issue of loyalty is clear to everybody and when everybody has clearly made their decision, then probation has closed.

When probation has closed, all of God's people have been sealed and all of Satan's people have received the mark of the beast. There is no changing sides or opinions after this point. "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 20:11

Before this time, there will be martyrs for God. God will allow some of His people to be killed because this will result in more people saved for eternity. But once probation is closed and the decisions of all people are decided, there will be no need for martyrs. As God allows Satan to bring about a time of trouble like has never before been, God will protect His people.

We do not know when probation will close. The Bible does not give us a date. It just says, "Be ready." We must be ready all the time.

## **Jacob's Time of Trouble**

[*The Great Controversy* chapter 39 "The Time of Trouble"]

The little time of trouble grows gradually and increases in magnitude, but God restrains Satan's power. But once probation is closed, once every person has made his final decision, God allows Satan to show his power without restraint among the wicked. The terrible character of Satan is more fully displayed than ever before. The only restraint is that Satan cannot harm the righteous during this time.

### **Through, Out Of, not From**

*Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.* Jeremiah 30:7

These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation... Revelation 7:14

Some people teach that God's people will be saved *from* the great time of trouble, or tribulation. But Scripture is clear that God's people will be saved *out of* or *through* the tribulation. If I came *out of* the house, I was *in* the house. God will save His people *out of* the tribulation that they were *in*. But we do not need to be afraid.

Jesus, our Example, endured much persecution and knows how to comfort and protect God's people during this time.

Notice a few examples of people who were saved through the trial and not from it. They experienced the trial, but they had God's blessing and presence.

- Noah was saved through the flood, not from the flood. Angels watched over the boat.
- Daniel was saved through the lions' den, not from the lions. Angels shut the lions' mouths and they did not hurt Daniel.
- The three friends were saved through the fiery furnace, not from it. Jesus Himself was with them in the fire.
- The Israelites were saved as they passed through the Red Sea, not over it or around it. God opened a path of safe escape.
- Jacob was not delivered from wrestling, but through wrestling. God gave Jacob a mighty blessing.

### Jacob's Story

The story of Jacob is an illustration that helps us understand the great time of trouble that is coming. The chart below shows parallels between Jacob during his time of trouble and God's people during the great time of trouble. Because of these similarities, we often refer to the great time of trouble as Jacob's time of trouble.

Read Genesis 32:24-30 and *The Great Controversy* pages 616-621.

Jacob's Time of Trouble	
Jacob	God's People in End-time

Wrestled at night	Wrestle while surrounded by darkness of evil
Prayed for deliverance from Esau and his forces	Pray for deliverance from Satan and his forces
Lived in a foreign country	Are pilgrims and strangers
Traveled toward his native country	Are traveling to a better country, heaven, our final home
Filled with terror at the borders of the land	Filled with anxiety
Filled with self-reproach for his own sin	Filled with self-reproach for their own sins
Esau and his forces approach and threaten	As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble.
Satan had accused Jacob before the angels of God, claiming the right to destroy him because of his sin.	And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God.
Satan endeavored to force upon him a sense of his guilt in order to discourage him and break his hold upon God.	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.
Jacob's company unarmed, defenseless	God's people unarmed, defenseless
Almost driven to despair	Almost driven to despair

Only hope is God's mercy	Only hope is God's mercy
Only defense is prayer	Only defense is prayer
Leaves nothing undone to atone for the wrong to his brother	Search their hearts and make wrongs right
Wrestles alone with God	Must stand before God alone
Through humiliation, repentance, and self-surrender, this sinful, erring mortal prevailed with the Majesty of heaven.	They afflict their souls before God, pointing to their past repentance of their many sins, and pleading the Saviour's promise:
He no longer feared to encounter his brother's anger, for the Lord was his defense.	All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded.
Though disabled and suffering the keenest pain, he does not relinquish his purpose. Long has he endured perplexity, remorse, and trouble for his sin; now he must have the assurance that it is pardoned.	Though suffering the keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions.
Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life.	So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance.

## Seven Last Plagues [unfinished]

[Revelation 16]

... to further develop

These plagues come after Jesus' work in the heavenly sanctuary is finished and after probation is closed. God lets loose the four winds and the wicked nearly self-destruct each other in anger and fighting. Horrible destruction and natural disasters and problems plague and torture and torment the wicked people first with one problem and then with another. But angels protect God's people during this time.

*The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation and suffer for want of food they will not be left to perish. That God who cared for Elijah will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He who numbers the hairs of their head will care for them, and in time of famine they shall be satisfied. While the wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, angels will shield the righteous and supply their wants. To him that "walketh righteously" is the promise: "Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them." Isaiah 33:15, 16; 41:17. {GC 629.2}*

*Yet to human sight it will appear that the people of God must soon seal their testimony with their blood as did the martyrs before them. They themselves begin to fear that the Lord has left them to fall by the hand of their enemies. It is a time of fearful agony. Day and night they cry unto God for deliverance. The wicked exult, and the jeering cry is heard: "Where now is your faith? Why does not God deliver you out of our hands if you are indeed His people?" But the waiting ones remember Jesus dying upon Calvary's cross and the chief priests and rulers shouting in mockery: "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him." Matthew 27:42. Like Jacob, all are wrestling with God. Their countenances express their internal struggle. Paleness sits upon every face. Yet they cease not their earnest intercession. {GC 630.1}*

*Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ's patience. {GC 630.2}*

## Second Coming of Jesus

## **What will the Second Coming be like?**

Revelation 1:7 Every eye will see Him. That means both groups. Which group will you be in when you see Him? How would you feel if your eyes saw Jesus coming today?

Acts 1:9-11 Jesus will return like He left—in a cloud. Will you be ready when you see this cloud?

1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52 There will be the sound of a trumpet. This trumpet is louder than any trumpet I can play. This trumpet awakens the dead! We will meet Jesus in the air—not on the ground. Will you be in the group that meets Him in the air?

Matthew 24:27 Jesus' coming will be like lightning that comes from the east and flashes to the west. It is not a secret event. It is a rapid event.

## **A Place is Prepared for You**

John 14:1-3 Jesus is preparing a place for you. A nice place. More than a cement floor. More than painted. More than a tin roof... Will you live in the place that Jesus has prepared for you?

God has planted a flourishing tree that grows on either side of the river of life. Will you eat of this tree? You can if you drink of Living Water starting now and if you are like a flourishing tree now.

## **Appeal**

All who believed God and showed their faith by obedience, listened to the warning and were saved from destruction in the flood.

All who believed God and showed their faith by obedience, listened to the warning and were saved from destruction in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

All who believed God and showed their faith by obedience, listened to the warning and were saved from destruction in the night when the firstborn of Egypt were slain.

All who believed God and showed their faith by obedience,

listened to the warning and were saved from destruction in the city of Jerusalem.

All who believe God and show their faith by obedience, will listen to the final warning and will be saved from destruction at the end of time.

Jesus has shown the way. We must follow Him. Fix your eyes on Him. He is coming and will not tarry.

*Behold, I come quickly! Revelation 22:20-21*

### **Being Ready**

*Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand. Joel 2:1*

Many people are not ready. Many people in the Adventist church are not ready. They do not understand the time we live in. The signs are plain. And when it is too late, they will realize their mistake. When the mango trees have flowered, you know that mango season is very close. The signs have come.

*When you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Luke 21:31*

*But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Luke 21:34-35*

### **Parable of the Ten Virgins [unfinished]**

[Matthew 25:1-13; *Christ's Object Lessons* chapter 29 "To Meet the Bridegroom"]

...to develop later

Be watchful. Be ready. Do not ignore the signs. How many people will ignore the signs until it is too late like those in the time of Noah, Lot, destruction of Jerusalem!

### **How Shall We Live?**

We want to live in such a way that we will be ready when Jesus

returns. In the previous presentation, we studied the parable of the ten virgins. We know it is important to be ready, but what are some more practical ways to “be ready”?

The Word of God must work in our lives. The Holy Spirit must change our characters to be more like Jesus’ character. The more our characters are like Jesus, the brighter we shine like lamps in a dark place.

We want to be ready when Jesus comes. We can be ready by spending time in God’s Word and allowing it to work in our lives. We can be ready by allowing the Holy Spirit to change our characters, often through trials, to become more like Jesus. We want our lamps to be burning brightly through the Holy Spirit’s power when Jesus returns.

We do not have time now to focus on temporal things in our lives. We need to be thinking about eternal things. How are our actions now affecting our future? Are our actions helping us or hindering us in our goal of becoming more like Jesus? We should think about eternal things, heavenly things, spiritual things more and more and let other things take lesser priority.

*Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 2 Peter 3:11-14*

*Individually and as a people we have a most solemn work before us. There is a daily preparation of heart and mind to be gained in order that we may be fitted to work out the purposes of God for us. The perils of the last days are upon us, and at this time we are each determining what our destiny for eternity shall be. Individually we are to form characters that will stand the test of the judgment. Individually we are to give, in the church where we are, an example of faithfulness and consecration. {UL 274.2}*

*A preparation for the kingdom of God is no haphazard work. You cannot be*

religious at times and at other times irreligious.--MS. 57, 1909. {MM 202.1}

## Thoughts on Christ

The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitaly connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.--DA 324 (1898). {LDE 64.5}

Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation, of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion.--SC 103, 104 (1892). {LDE 65.1}

Soon there is to be trouble all over the world. It becomes everyone to seek to know God. We have no time to delay. . . . {LDE 153.3}

## Rooted in Christ

The only way in which men will be able to stand firm in the conflict is to be rooted and grounded in Christ. They must receive the truth as it is in Jesus. And it is only as the truth is presented thus that it can meet the wants of the soul. The preaching of Christ crucified, Christ our righteousness, is what satisfies the soul's hunger. When we secure the interest of the people in this great central truth, faith and hope and courage come to the heart.--GCDB Jan. 28, 1893. {LDE 151.1}

## Influenced by the Spirit

There is not an impulse of our nature, not a faculty of the mind or an inclination of the heart, but needs to be, moment by moment, under the control of the Spirit of God.--PP 421 (1890). {LDE 65.3}

The Spirit illumines our darkness, informs our ignorance, and helps us in our manifold necessities. But the mind must be constantly going out after God. If worldliness is allowed to come in, if we have no desire to pray, no desire to commune with Him who is the source of strength and wisdom, the Spirit will not abide with us.--OHC 154 (1904). {LDE 65.4}

## Daily Bible Study

No renewed heart can be kept in a condition of sweetness without the daily application of the salt of the Word. Divine grace must be received daily, or no man will stay converted.--OHC 215 (1897). {LDE 65.5}

Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the Word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts.--PK 626 (c. 1914). {LDE 66.2}

None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.--GC 593, 594 (1911). {LDE 66.3}

### **Memorize Scripture**

Several times each day precious, golden moments should be consecrated to prayer and the study of the Scriptures, if it is only to commit a text to memory, that spiritual life may exist in the soul.--4T 459 (1880). {LDE 66.6}

God's precious Word is the standard for youth who would be loyal to the King of heaven. Let them study the Scriptures. Let them commit text after text to memory and acquire a knowledge of what the Lord has said.--ML 315 (1887). {LDE 67.1}

Study the Word of God. Commit its precious promises to memory so that, when we shall be deprived of our Bibles, we may still be in possession of the Word of God.--10MR 298 (1909). {LDE 67.6}

### **Understand Three Angels' Messages**

Many who embraced the third message had not had an experience in the two former messages. Satan understood this, and his evil eye was upon them to overthrow them; but the third angel was pointing them to the most holy place, and those who had an experience in the past messages were pointing them the way to the heavenly sanctuary. Many saw the perfect chain of truth in the angels' messages and gladly received them in their order, and followed Jesus by faith into the heavenly sanctuary. These messages were represented to me as an anchor to the people of God. Those who understand and receive them will be kept from being swept away by the many delusions of Satan.--EW 256 (1858). {LDE 68.2}

### **Temperance**

As a prophet, John was "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." In preparing the way for Christ's first advent, he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming. The world is given to self-indulgence. Errors and fables abound. Satan's snares for destroying souls are multiplied. All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God must learn the lessons of temperance and self-control. The appetites and passions must be held in subjection to the higher

powers of the mind. This self-discipline is essential to that mental strength and spiritual insight which will enable us to understand and to practice the sacred truths of God's word. For this reason temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ's second coming. {DA 101.2}

## **Remaining Faithful**

Because of iniquity, the love of many grows cold; he who endures to the end will be saved; gospel preached, then the end will come. Matthew 24:12-14

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 2 Peter 3:11-12

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man. Luke 21:34-36

## **Increase Effort in God's Work**

By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:12, margin).--DA 633 (1898). {LDE 39.4}

At the end of a war, the enemy redoubles efforts. Satan is coming with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short. Revelation 12:12

## **Dangers**

entertainment, music

Baal Peor (wrong associations)

idol worship (spirit of dead, spiritualism)

possessions

When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists. "We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." FE 289

See PP 102: Before the flood, God sent warnings. The people were

living in transgression of His law. It is the same now. But many people feel like it is too much of a sacrifice to put away sin. Because they are not living their life in harmony with God's principles, they reject His warnings.

In the last days people will ignore warnings as they did in Noah's time. 2 Peter 3:3-4 People will cry "Peace, peace."

Luke 18:8 When Jesus comes, will He find faith on the earth?

1 Timothy 4:1 In the last days people depart from the truth.

2 Timothy 3:1 perilous times in the last days

It is not enough to give a nominal assent to the truth. Its principles must be interwoven with our life and character. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 10}

...The question of most vital importance for this time is, "Who is on the Lord's side? Who will unite with the angel in giving the message of truth to the world? Who will receive the light that is to fill the whole earth with its glory?" Those who cherish the light that they have, will receive more. Increasing light will shine about the souls who yield to the softening, subduing grace of Christ; and those who love the light, will be saved from the delusions of Satan. He will strive with intense energy to exhibit, through his miracle-working power, signs and wonders that will seem to eclipse the work that God will do in the earth. And all will be deceived except those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. We need light now at every step, lest we be swept away with the error of the wicked. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 12}

### **Our Last-day Warning [unfinished]**

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."

**How can we reject God's warnings?**

## Why do we sometimes reject God's warnings?

EGW

We are living in the last days, and the generation that is to witness the final destruction has not been left without warning of the hastening judgments of God. Says the apostle, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. . . . And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 7}

Through the warning that God has sent to the world, an opportunity is given to all to escape the general ruin that is threatened to fallen Babylon. The whole earth is to be lightened with the glory of this message, and hearts and minds will be prepared by its reception, for the coming of the King of kings. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 8}

### **Watching Servants [unfinished]**

...to develop later

*Let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6*

Study Luke 12:35-48

### **Wilderness Wandering [unfinished]**

...to develop later

**EGW**

*For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the*

*Lord's professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.--Ev 695, 696 (1883). {LDE 38.1}*

## **Satan's last-day deceptions**

### **Generations have Waited in Vain for Jesus to Come**

It is easy to think that Jesus has and always will delay His second coming. Perhaps He will never come back. For generations, people have said that Jesus is coming back soon. Yet generation after generation, we are still waiting. Some of us have given up waiting and watching and go about our lives as if Jesus will never return.

While there is room to doubt, let us not choose to doubt. Let us put our faith in Jesus and believe what God has clearly explained to us in Scripture. Listen to this warning: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed,..." 2 Thessalonians 2:3 God warns us not to be deceived. Jesus could not come back until this "falling away" and the revealing of the "man of sin."

Before Jesus comes, there needs to be a falling away, or a great apostasy. And there needs to be this "man of sin." There was a great falling away from the truth as people compromised and left true Christianity to follow papal authority. The "man of sin" reigned until 1798. Sometime after this date, then, we can be especially watchful for the signs of Jesus' coming. Before then, Paul says, Jesus couldn't come.

So did Paul preach the Second Coming of Jesus? Of course. But his message was not the same as our message. True, people have been looking forward to Jesus' coming since the time of Adam. But the message we preach today is a different message. How is our message different? Our message is one of urgency. The judgment is near. Jesus is coming soon. Before this date, the book of Daniel was a sealed book. Now, knowledge has increased and we have a special understanding of prophecy that no other group of people in history has had. {see GC88 356}

### **Professed Godliness**

*“...In these last days the agency of the evil one will be hidden under a cloak of godliness, so that if it were possible even the very elect would be deceived....”*  
{RH, November 5, 1889 par. 9}

Respectable people will give messages that sound truthful. They will use convincing arguments and mix these with Bible texts to promote error. Satan will do his work through people who appear to be converted. Spiritual leaders will preach and teach ideas that sound good to people who are not well educated in the Word of God. We need to test every argument according to the standard of the Word of God, no matter how pleasing or logical an argument seems.

### **Spiritualism**

*Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome.--GC 588 (1911). {LDE 157.2}*

*He [Satan] has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. . . . Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions.--GC 552, 560 (1911). {LDE 161.4}*

### **The Majority is Right**

Some of us have the idea that the majority is right. This concept seems to make sense in our minds. When I ask a crowd of 50 people, “What is 4+4?” the majority will probably reply with the correct answer: “8.” A minority may reply “16” or something else.

But we have already recognized the danger of thinking that the majority must be right. The majority are deceived because the deception is masterful. To follow the majority is not safe. The majority died in the flood. The majority died in Sodom. The majority worshiped the image and not God. The majority died in Jerusalem.

The majority of professed Christians will reject the last warning. The majority will accept the mark of the beast. Only a relative

few will accept and follow the truth.

But let us not become discouraged in thinking God's people are a minority. It certainly appears that way. But we do not know how to accurately measure a minority or a majority. We define the minority and majority according to our perceptions. But God views things differently.

*You say, We are in the minority. Is not God a majority? If we are on the side of the God who made the heaven and the earth, are we not on the side of the majority? We have the angels that excel in strength on our side.--Manuscript 27, 1893. {Te 257.7}*

## **Miracles**

Many people will be deceived when they follow miracle workers. In their minds they think, "This must be of God. These supernatural events prove it! This cannot be merely human power." We will see sick people healed, problems solved, and other miraculous things. It will seem like Jesus Himself is performing miracles. Only the careful Bible students will be able to tell the difference between true miracles of God and the deceptive miracles of Satan.

*2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,*

*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.--GC 624 (1911). {LDE 163}

Men under the influence of evil spirits will work miracles. They will make people sick by casting their spell upon them, and will then remove the spell, leading others to say that those who were sick have been miraculously healed. This Satan has done again and again.--2SM 53 (1903). {LDE 166.3}

It is the lying wonders of the devil that will take the world captive, and he will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. He is to work miracles, and this wonderful, miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world.--2SM 51 (1890). {LDE 167.3}

The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.--GC 593 (1911). {LDE 170.2}

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand. {GC 612.1}

## **Jesus is Delaying His Coming**

Luke 12:43

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut. {DA 636.2}

The angels of God in their messages to men represent time as very short. [See Romans 13:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 7:29; 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 17; Hebrews 10:25;

*James 5:8, 9; 1 Peter 4:7; Revelation 22:6, 7.] Thus it has always been presented to me. It is true that time has continued longer than we expected in the early days of this message. Our Saviour did not appear as soon as we hoped. But has the Word of the Lord failed? Never! It should be remembered that the promises and threatenings of God are alike conditional. [See Jeremiah 18:7-10; Jonah 3:4-10.] . . . {LDE 38.3}*

### **Maintain Good Reputation**

*The strongest bulwark of vice in our world is not the iniquitous life of the abandoned sinner or the degraded outcast; it is that life which otherwise appears virtuous, honorable, and noble, but in which one sin is fostered, one vice indulged. . . . Genius, talent, sympathy, even generous and kindly deeds, may thus become decoys of Satan to entice souls over the precipice of ruin.--Ed 150 (1903). {LDE 156.1}*

*We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices.--1SM 122 (1887). {LDE 156.2}*

*But none who wish to know the truth need be deceived. God has promised to give to his people the Spirit of truth, to guide them into all truth. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 9}*

### **Other**

Indulgence of Appetite

Neglect Prayer and Searching Scriptures

Accusers of Brethren

Brining Insincere into the Church

“It Doesn’t Matter What We Believe”

Study of Scripture without Prayer

Confuse Science and Religion

Miracles do not Exist

Trying to Understand Unrevealed Things

Spiritualism

Deny the Deity of Christ

Satan does not Exist

Second Coming Comes at Each Individual Death

Prayer is not Essential

Teach Error as Bible Truth

## **End-time Texts**

### **2 Timothy 3**

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

### **2 Peter 3**

#### **Daniel 12:4**

...many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.

#### **Daniel 12:10**

...the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

#### **Luke 21:31**

So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

#### **Luke 21:34-36**

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all

those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy \* to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

### **1 Thessalonians 5:4-6**

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin \* is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God \* in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

### **Hebrews 10:35-39**

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, And He \* who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the \* just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." \* But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

### **Zephaniah 1:14**

The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

### **Revelation 3:11; 22:7,12,20**

Behold, I am coming quickly!

### **1 Peter 2:9**

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous

light."

## **God's Last Day Work**

Joel in the last days young men see visions...

latter rain

As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation. {DA 634.2}

The Three Angels of Revelation 14:6-12 BY J. N. ANDREWS.

Desire of Ages chapter 69 On the Mount of Olives

end time messages: Noah, John the Baptist, Abraham

our only Refuge in the coming storm

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; but it is a part of the Gospel to warn the sinner of the doom that awaits the unbelieving and unrepentant soul. {ST, April 18, 1895 par. 10}

## One World Religion

GC chapter 35 Liberty of Conscience Threatened

God's Word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage-ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the Word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution. {GC88 581.1}

### Heaven [unfinished]

... to further develop

### Destruction of Jerusalem

The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. {GC 614.1}

### Jesus Sorrowful over Rejected Love

Jesus was about to enter Jerusalem. He sent two of His disciples to get a donkey for Him to ride on. Jesus had always walked from place to place, so the disciples thought that perhaps Jesus was going to make Himself King.

The Mount of Olives was covered in green. There were many trees full of lush leaves. Many people had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover feast and to see Jesus. As Jesus began to ride on the donkey toward Jerusalem, the people surrounded Him and sang songs of praise. Jesus is not dressed like a king, but the people were excited that He would set up an earthly kingdom.

*“The shout echoes from mountain and valley, “Hosanna to the son of David: . . . Hosanna in the highest.” “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” . . . [Matthew 21:9] Those who have once been blind . . . are the first to lead the way in that wonderful procession. . . One whom He has raised from the dead leads the animal on which He is seated. The once deaf and dumb, with ears opened and tongues unloosed, help swell the glad hosannas. Cripples, with buoyant steps and grateful hearts, are now most active in breaking down the palm branches and strewing them in His path as their tribute of homage to the mighty Healer. The leper, who has listened to the dread words of the priest, “Unclean,” . . . is there. The widow and the orphan are there to tell of His wonderful works. The restored dead are there. Their tongues, once palsied by the power of Satan, take up the song of rejoicing. . . The demoniac is there, not now to have the words wrenched from his lips by Satan’s power. . . . On the crest of Olivet the procession pauses.—Manuscript 128, 1899.” {CTr 253.5}*

From the top of the hill, the people with Jesus could see the city of Jerusalem. The view was very lovely and impressive. The people were happy and shouting “Hosanna.” Then they look toward Jesus to see how He is affected by it all.

Jesus can see into the future. He realizes that soon the beautiful temple will soon be abandoned by God. The veil will be torn in two as He was murdered by His own people, the Jews. Jesus cried as He thought about those who were disobeying Him. Jesus was hurt deeply as He thought about how His people would take Him unjustly and crucify Him.

Jesus had done so much for the Jews. If it was the Romans or the Gentiles who would do this, that would be bad enough. But it was His people who had rejected Him and who would murder him soon. He had given them special privileges and special blessings. He had hoped that they would accept Him. He had offered them salvation and eternal life, but they had rejected Him. He had loved them dearly. He had said,

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you are not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate.” (in Matthew 23:37-38)*

Jesus was crying. He was intensely sorrowful. He was deeply sad.

He had loved His people dearly, and they had rejected His last offers. “The tender tears He shed over Jerusalem were the last tears of rejected love.” {CTr 254.4} “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.” John 1:11 The people around Jesus did not know why He was crying, and they did not know about the terrible destruction of Jerusalem just a few years in the future. {from CTr 254}

### **Destruction Foretold**

Luke 19:41-44 Jesus then explained His tears a little bit. He foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, and that not one stone would be left on another.

Jesus continued on his journey on the donkey down the Mount of Olives and into the city of Jerusalem. When He arrived at the temple, He found it full of people buying and selling. He cleansed the temple.

Luke 21:5-6 Then Jesus commented again on the destruction of Jerusalem. It was a beautiful temple, but not one of its huge stones would be left on another.

Luke 21:7-19 The people asked Jesus when this would happen and what the warning signs would be. Jesus gave them a detailed list of many signs (which we will study later) of the end of the age.

Luke 21:20 Jesus returned to the topic of the destruction of Jerusalem. When they were surrounded by armies, they were to flee to the mountains quickly, without delay.

### **Jerusalem Destroyed**

All the predictions given by Christ concerning the destruction of Jerusalem were fulfilled to the letter. The Jews experienced the truth of His words of warning: "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:2. {GC 29.2}

Signs and wonders appeared, foreboding disaster and doom.... Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given His disciples warning, and all who believed His words watched for the promised sign... Without delay they fled to a place of safety--the city of Pella, in the land of Perea, beyond Jordan. {GC 30}

Terrible were the calamities that fell upon Jerusalem when the siege was resumed by Titus.... Thousands perished from famine and pestilence.... He [Titus] was filled with horror as he saw the bodies of the dead lying in heaps in the valleys.... Blood flowed down the temple steps like water. Thousands upon thousands of Jews perished.... The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown....By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control. {GC 33-35}

### **End-time Parallel**

*By the destruction of Jerusalem is symbolized the last great judgment of God that is to come upon the world.* {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 6}

Then, judgment fell on Jerusalem and it was utterly destroyed. But in the end, the magnitude of the destruction will be far greater and on a world-wide scale. We cannot even imagine the terrible events that are to come. But amid this destruction, God's people who remain living will continue to put their trust in Him and He will protect them. Not one person faithful to God will be destroyed.

### **Personal Application**

Will Jesus cry over you as He did over Jerusalem? Will He say, "-----, ----- (your name), why will you continue to reject the many warnings I have sent you? Why have you rejected the messages of the prophets? How I want to be close to you, like a chicken gathers her little chicks close to her! But you would not allow it. I have gone to prepare a house for you in heaven. But since you are not willing, your house here on earth is all you will see, and it will be left to you desolate."

Jesus has done so much for us. He has even given His own life. He can give nothing more, nothing of more value. He has given all that He can. He has done all that He can. He has loved you all that He can. He has given you blessings unnumbered. He has given

you gems of truth. He has given you the possibility of eternal life.

If you are not willing to accept what He has done, He will not force you. But He will cry over you. He badly wants to be with you for eternity. For one person to reject His offer of salvation will break His heart. He will be sorrowful. But He will not use force.

## EGW

*The Saviour's prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible scene was but a faint shadow. The second advent of the Son of God is foretold by lips which make no mistake: "Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." [Matthew 24:30, 31.] Then shall they that obey not the gospel be consumed with the spirit of his mouth, and destroyed with the brightness of his coming. [2 Thessalonians 2:8.] {4SP 37.1}*

*Let men beware lest they neglect the lesson conveyed to them in the words of Christ. He has declared that he will come the second time, to gather his faithful ones to himself, and to take vengeance on them that reject his mercy. As he warned his disciples of Jerusalem's destruction, giving them a sign of the approaching ruin that they might make their escape, so he has warned his people of the day of final destruction, and given them signs of its approach, that all who will may flee from the wrath to come. Those who behold the promised signs are to "know that it is near, even at the door." "Watch ye therefore," are his words of admonition. "If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief." {4SP 38.1}*

*The world is no more ready now to credit the warning than were the Jews in the days of our Saviour. Come when it may, the end will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in traffic, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world's progress and enlightenment, and the people are lulled in a false security,—then, as the midnight thief steals within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly, "and they shall not escape." {4SP 38.2}*

*When Christ came to the world, his own nation rejected him. He brought from heaven the message of salvation, hope, freedom, and peace; but men would not accept his good tidings. Christians have condemned the Jewish nation for*

rejecting the Saviour; but many who profess to be followers of Christ are doing even worse than did the Jews, for they are rejecting greater light in despising the truth for this time. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 5}

When Jerusalem was to be destroyed, the followers of Christ were warned of its impending doom. Christ had told his disciples what they were to do when certain things should come to pass. He said, "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." All who believed in the warning of Christ, escaped from the city, and not one perished when Jerusalem was overthrown. By the destruction of Jerusalem is symbolized the last great judgment of God that is to come upon the world. {RH, November 5, 1889 par. 6}







<http://deserttreeministry.org>

(DTM-EN\_class-notes\_End-Time-Events.odt) 2016