

PART 1 of 4- THE SIGNAL OF PROBATION CLOSING IS FOUND IN CHRIST'S PARABLES; ISLAM'S ROLE IN THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

(Parable of the Fig Tree Shooting Forth & Waiting Ones)

*What are we admonished to read for these last days? Ans. **Matt 24**. Why? The predictions of the prophecies in this chapter are fulfilling and are to be explained since they are of major consequence that will decide the destiny of souls! The prophet states that this parable was being fulfilled in her day. Why? Because of the Eastern Question. They were watching for the last prophecy of Daniel 11:45 to be fulfilled—when the Turk would take residence in Jerusalem—when probation on the world would soon close (Dan 12:1).*

The **twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew** is presented to me again and again as something that is to be brought to the attention of all. We are today living in the time when the predictions of this chapter are fulfilling. Let our ministers and teachers explain these prophecies to those whom they instruct. Let them leave out of their discourses matters of minor consequence, and present the truths that will decide the destiny of souls. {GW 148.2}

What does Matthew 24:3, 6-8 and 30 show? Ans. Christ's answers the questions of the disciples regarding the signs of the end of the world and His coming... "wars, rumors of war, earthquakes etc but end not yet; beginning of sorrows; then the Son of man coming in the clouds".

Matt 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? **24:6** And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **24:7** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. **24:8** All these [are] the beginning of sorrows.

When studying the parable of the fig tree, keep the following text in mind that shows once the harvest is past and summer is ended, PROBATION IS CLOSED. So summer = probation has closed.

Jer 8:20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

Matt 13:38-39 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one]; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

We want to trace Islam through our recent history. We see here in Isaiah 30:25 the fulfillment of 911 (you can read about it in 9T 11-14 in "The Last Crisis" Chapter foretelling 911.) Islam was involved and they prided themselves as being involved in 911. "Who reads the warning of the fast fulfilling signs of the time?"

Since 911, the Spirit of Prophecy (lessor light, moon) has helped us to see the fulfillment of 911 and the Bible has been opening unto us 7 fold (7 fold means "seven times.") The understanding of the "seven times", (aka as the 2520/ the "judgment") proclaimed by the 1st angel's message (Rev 14: 6, 7) has been opened more fully to SDA's since 911! c

Isa 30:25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers [and] streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, **when the towers fall** (911). **30:26** Moreover the light of the moon (Spirit of Prophecy) shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold (7 times/ 2520), as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

Seven
Fold

But **who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times?** What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians "**knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away.**" **Matthew 24:39. They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen.** And today the world, utterly regardless of the **warning voice of God**, is hurrying on to eternal ruin. {CCh 38.5} {9T 14.1}

11th
Chapter
of
Daniel

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. **The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment.** Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. {CCh 38.6} {9T 14.2}

A biblical generation is 40 years. In 31 A.D., Jesus said this generation will not pass till the destruction of the temple be fulfilled; 39 years later. In 70 A.D., that prophecy was fulfilled. Jesus gives another parable FOR OUR DAY- THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE. LET'S FOLLOW THIS CLOSELY.

Continuing in Matthew Chapter 24 we are to learn a parable of the fig tree. This is the last sign given to us, a parable of the fig tree. In this parable, everything prior to our day was literal (earthquakes etc) and, now parable is applied figuratively. In less than 40 years, Jerusalem was destroyed (31 AD to 70 AD was less than 40 years). When this **last sign (parable of fig tree)** in our day is fulfilled in verse 34, "this generation will not pass away till all these things be fulfilled"; that is, from when Turkey (Islam) first comes on the scene in America on Sept 11, 2001 (see 9 T 11-13) to when they take residence in Jerusalem in fulfilling **Daniel 11:45** (it's already been 19 years since 2001) the parable will be fulfilled and the 2nd coming will quickly follow! This will become clearer as we proceed with proof texting Matthew 24.

Matt 24:32 Now learn a **parable of the fig tree**; When his branch is yet tender, and **putteth forth leaves** (springtime), ye know that summer [is] nigh: 24:33 So likewise ye, **when ye shall see** (we are to **watch**) **all these things**, know that it (close of probation) is near, [even] at the doors (door of Most Holy Place soon to close). 24:34 Verily I say unto you, **This generation** (40 years) shall not pass, **till all these things be fulfilled.**

Luke 21:25-32 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And**

Shoot
Forth

he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that **summer** is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, **when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.** Verily I say unto you, **This generation** shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

A Vineyard and a Fig Tree are Symbolic of Israel

Thou hast brought **a vine out of Egypt**: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. **Psalms 80:8**

I found Israel **like grapes in the wilderness**; I saw **your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree** at her first time: [but] they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto [that] shame; and [their] abominations were according as they loved. **Hosea 9:10**

A tree can be a symbol of God's people:

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in **Zion**, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be **called trees of righteousness**, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Consider how this "shooting forth" comes to pass which shows us that the kingdom of God is at hand. Rain causes the garden to "spring forth"; latter rain is the word of God (doctrine). So this "bring forth," "go forth," "shooting forth" is a message from God; it's in His Word.

What causes the garden to shoot forth/ bring forth, blossom and bud? Ans. The Rain.

Isa 55:10-11 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 55:11 **So shall my word be that goeth forth** out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.

Deut 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Doctrine
as Rain

What is represented by the bud and blossom in the springing forth? Ans. Fruit; the Righteousness and praise in God's people.

Isa 61:11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

So this message from the Word of God, that contains this "shooting forth," will produce precious fruit—the fruit of the Spirit of God in His children to give the Loud Cry (latter rain) message.

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

In what day is the fruit produced? Ans. In the day of the east wind. Please keep this phrase "east wind" in mind as we continue. It will be shown its connection to Islam.

Isa 27:2, 6, 6-9 In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. 27:3 I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest [any] hurt it, I will keep it night and day. 27:6 He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit. 27:8 In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind. 27:9 **By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged**; and this [is] all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.

East
Wind

A second and third witness in the books of Mark and Luke to the parable of the fig tree "shooting forth" in Matthew 24 above.

Mark 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves (*springtime*), **ye know that summer is near** (*close of probation*): 13:29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, [even] at the doors. 13:30 Verily I say unto you, that **this generation** (*40 years*) shall not pass, till all these things be done.

Luke 21:7 And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign [will there be] when these things shall come to pass? 21:29 And **he spake to them a parable**; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; 21:30 When they now shoot forth (*springtime*), ye see and know of your own selves that summer (*close of probation*) is now nigh at hand. 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. 21:32 Verily I say unto you, **This generation** (*40 years*) shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

Please note that parables are to be treated the same as figures according to Miller's rules No's 6, 9 & 10.

RULE VI God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and **parables**, and in this way the same things are often time revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different **figures, and parables**. If you wish to understand them, you **must combine them all in one**.

RULE IX “Parables are used as comparisons to illustrate subjects, and must be explained in the same way as figures by the subject and Bible. Mark iv.13. See explanation of the ten virgins, Miller's Lectures, No.xvi. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.7}

RULE X “Figures sometimes have two or more different significations, as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time. 1. Indefinite. 2. Definite, a day for a year. 3. Day for a thousand years {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.8}

We need to figure out what the fig tree is to “shoot forth,” “spring forth,” “putteth forth”: (see Luke 21:25-32 above) Matthew repeats this same message as Luke.

Matt 24:32-34 Now learn a **parable** of **the fig tree**; When his branch is yet tender, and **putteth forth** leaves, ye know that **summer [is] nigh**: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, [even] at the doors. Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**

Grasshoppers and locusts are one in the same.

Nah 3:17 Thy crowned [are] as the **locusts**, and thy captains as the great **grasshoppers**, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, [but] when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they [are].

Joel 1:4 That which the **palmerworm** hath left hath the **locust** eaten; and that which the **locust** hath left hath the **cankerworm** eaten; and that which the **cankerworm** hath left hath the **caterpillar** eaten.

The Bible is to be its own expositor. So what clues do we have to the “shooting up/ forth”?

*What is connected to the **beginning of the “shooting forth” in the parable? Ans. Grasshoppers. The latter growth was in the time of “mowing” down, it’s the reaping time... the last of the King’s harvest. When you see the grasshoppers you know that you are at the beginning of the shooting forth which is the last harvest.***

Grasshoppers

Amos 7:1 Thus hath the Lord GOD showed unto me; and, behold, he formed **grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth**; and, lo, [it was] the **latter growth** after the king’s mowings.

*With what people group are these grasshoppers associated? Ans. The **Midianites** who are the **Children of the East** who came up like grasshoppers are the **Ishmaelites**. **GRASSHOPPERS** are referred to as children of the east.*

Judges 6:3 And [so] it was, when Israel had sown, that the **Midianites came up**, and the Amalekites, and **the children of the east**, even they came up against them; 6:5 For **they came up** with their cattle and their tents, and they came **as grasshoppers for multitude**; [for] both **they** and their camels **were without number**: and they **entered into the land to destroy it**. 7:12 And the **Midianites** and the Amalekites and all the **the children of the east** lay along in the valley like **grasshoppers for multitude**; and their camels [were] without number, **as the sand by the sea side for multitude**.

Judges 8:22 Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of **Midian**. 8:24 And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they [were] **Ishmaelites**.)

Gen 37:27 Come, and let us sell him to the **Ishmeelites**, and let not our hand be upon him; for he [is] our brother [and] our flesh. And his brethren were content. 37:28 Then there passed by **Midianites** merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the **Ishmeelites** for twenty [pieces] of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. 37:36 And the **Midianites** sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, [and] captain of the guard.

Ishmael is Abraham's son. The children of the east (Ishmael), were sent eastward. They lived in the east, in the wilderness.

Gen 21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of **God called to Hagar out of heaven**, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of **the lad** where he [is]. 21:20 And God was with **the lad**; and he grew, **and dwelt in the wilderness**, and became an archer. Genesis 25:5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. 25:6 But unto **the sons of the concubines**, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and **sent them away** from Isaac his son, while **he yet lived, eastward**, unto the east country.

Lived in the east

We know that Ishmael is of the Children of the East and so we now will trace his second born son, Kedar, as men of the east as well. They have camels. Camels are in the desert. These are the grasshoppers.

Gen 25:13 And these [are] the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: **the firstborn of Ishmael**, Nebajoth; and **Kedar**, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,

Jer 49:28 Concerning **Kedar**, and concerning the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite, thus saith the LORD; Arise ye, go up to **Kedar**, and **spoil the men of the east**. Jer 49:29 Their tents and their flocks shall they take away: they shall take to themselves their curtains, and all their vessels, and their **camels**; and they shall cry unto them, Fear [is] on every side.

Kedar

Let's find more Biblical details about these GRASSHOPPERS. These children of the east ride camels and are of the tribe of Kedar (ISLAM). They are inhabitants of Tema from Arabia. [An interesting side Note: Kedar will fall within a year (under the 6th plague; 7 plagues lasts a year (Rev 18:8)!!]

Isa 21:13 The burden upon **Arabia**. In the forest in Arabia shall ye lodge, O ye travelling companies of Dedanim. 21:14 **The inhabitants of the land of Tema** brought water to him that was thirsty, they prevented with their bread him that fled. 21:15 For they fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, and from the bent bow, and from the grievousness of war. 21:16 For thus hath the Lord said unto me, **Within a year**, according to the years of an hireling, and all the glory of **Kedar shall fail**: 21:17 And the residue of the number of archers, the mighty men of the children of **Kedar**, shall be diminished: for the LORD God of Israel hath spoken [it].

Within 1 Year

Therefore shall her plagues come in **one day** (a year), death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong [is] the Lord God who judgeth her. Rev 18:8

The Princes of Arabia are the Princes of Kedar. They are from the east.

Eze 27:21 **Arabia**, and all the **princes of Kedar**, they occupied with thee in lambs, and rams, and goats: in these [were they] thy merchants.

These princes of Kedar and Tema are the sons of Ishmael. Ismael is a descendant of the ISLAMIC people, the children of the east.

Genesis 25:12 Now these [are] the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid, bare unto Abraham: 25:13 And these [are] the names of the sons of **Ishmael**, by their

names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and **Kedar**, and Adbeel, and Mibsam, 25:14 And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa, 25:15 Hadar, and **Tema**, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah: 25:16 These [are] the sons of Ishmael, and these [are] their names, by their towns, and by their castles; **twelve princes** according to their nations.

How is the “east wind” brought about? Ans. The “east wind” brings the locusts (Islam) which will cover the whole world (Egypt represents world). East Wind is always connected with the grasshoppers.

Exodus 10:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the **land of Egypt** for **the locusts**, that they may come up upon the land of **Egypt**, and eat every herb of the land, [even] all that the hail hath left. 10:13 And Moses stretched forth his **rod over the land of Egypt**, and the LORD brought **an east wind** upon the land all that day, and all [that] night; [and] when it was morning, **the east wind brought the locusts**. 10:14 And **the locusts** went up **over all the land of Egypt**, and rested in **all the coasts of Egypt**: very grievous [were they]; before them there were no such **locusts** as they, neither after them shall be such.

Locusts

From where does the “east wind” come? Ans. From the Wilderness; the wind of the Lord from the wilderness.

Hosea 13:15 Though he be fruitful among [his] brethren, **an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness**, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

Where is this wilderness located? Ans. In the desert. So the east wind comes from the desert which is where the Children of the East (descendants of Ishmael) live.

Exodus 19:2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come [to] **the desert** of Sinai, and had pitched in **the wilderness**; and there Israel camped before the mount.

Arabian
Horse

Where is the Arabian located? Ans. In the wilderness/ desert. The east wind is connected to the shooting forth that are grasshoppers from the east (from where the descendants of Ishmael live-they are of Arab descent).

Jeremiah 3:2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as **the Arabian in the wilderness**; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

The Arabian horse is in the desert. What are the locusts likened unto? Ans. Horses; the faces of men (Ottoman Empire/ Islam). These men are from Arabia in the desert. Again, locusts figuratively represent Islam, the descendants of Ishmael.

Rev 9:7 And **the shapes of the locusts [were] like unto horses** prepared unto battle; and on their heads [were] as it were crowns like gold, and **their faces [were] as the faces of men**.

What is this angry horse connected with that is seeking to break loose over the face of the whole earth, bringing death and destruction? Ans. The four winds

Angels are holding the **four winds, represented as an angry horse (Islam) seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path.** {20MR 216.6}

The destruction that is coming is like a whirlwind. The east wind (Islam) brings destruction.

Prov 1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and **your destruction cometh as a whirlwind**; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Destruction comes as Whirlwind

What begins to happen when the **shooting forth** (Islam) is **first seen in 2001**? Ans. The iniquity of Israel will be **purged**, sins will be taken away and fruit will be produced—characters will be formed in the image of Christ. An interesting side note: In the day of the shooting forth, it states, “thou wilt **debate** with it, the east wind.” Since 2001, Adventism has **debated** over the credibility of the event of 911 to be connected with the fulfillment of Scripture!

Isaiah 27:8 In measure, when it **shooteth forth**, thou wilt **debate** with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of **the east wind**. **27:9** **By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged**; and this [is] all **the fruit to take away his sin**; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, **the groves and images shall not stand up**.

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. **1Cor 10:11**

Ps 51:7 **Purge** me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Interesting texts using the word “**shoot**”:

2 Kings 13:17 And he said, Open the window **eastward**. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, **Shoot**. And he shot. And he said, **The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance**, and the arrow of deliverance **from Syria**: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

Jeremiah 50:14 Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, **shoot** at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD.

Job 8:16 He is green before the sun, and his branch **shooteth forth** in his garden.

Ezekiel 36:8 But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall **shoot forth** your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come.

Psalms 11:2 For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily **shoot** at the upright in heart.

Psalms 64:4 That they may **shoot** in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they **shoot** at him, and fear not.

Ezekiel 31:14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither **shoot up their top** among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.

Everything going on with RADICAL ISLAM today is a sign that we are in the last generation and that it is all about to wrap up... no need to fear... these locusts (Islam) cannot touch God's true people, but if you are following the traditions of Rome, you are a target if you:

Eat pork

Drink alcohol

Use tobacco

Dress immodestly

Use a steeple

Follow after any of the erroneous teachings of Rome (Babylon)

Jesus continues in the parable of the fig tree in verse 42, and commands us to “watch.”

Matt 24:42 **Watch** therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

There are many who do not understand the prophecies relating to these days and they must be enlightened. It is the duty of both **watchmen** and laymen **to give the trumpet** (7th trumpet, Rev 11:15) **a certain sound**.—Evangelism, 194, 195 (1875). {LDE 16.2}

So when we watch what Islam is doing and see Islam take residence in Jerusalem, we know that probation is about to close (Dan 12:1) which will follow with the seven last plagues to the Second Coming of Christ. [This information can be obtained in another study.]

This “watching” connects us to the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25! Only the wise will be watching and know because they have “oil” (character AND knowledge of the 3rd angel connected with Islam) and will be ready to give this Loud Cry message which also declares that Christ is about to return to the earth.

Parable
to
“watch”

Matt 25:13 **Watch** therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Anyone connected to the Papacy is a target for Islam. God's last day remnant are written in the Koran! Isaiah 60 shows that many of the descendants of Ishmael will come to a knowledge of the truth. Who has that truth? Ans. Seventh-day Adventist have been set apart to give the trumpet a certain sound. Locusts play a part in the warning (7 last plagues) of the third angel's message.

Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history ... {5T 716.2}

The parable of the fig tree will show us where we are in prophetic history and is the last crisis to come upon us—the wrath (7 last plagues) of God delivered by Islam.

Job 20:23 [When] he is about to fill his belly, [God] shall cast the fury of his **wrath** upon him, and shall **rain** [it] upon him while he is eating.

Jer 21:5 And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in **anger**, and in **fury**, and in **great wrath**.

What causes God to pour out his **wrath (plagues)** in judgment under the third angel's message by Islam? Ans. Because his professed followers have apostatized and are worshipping the sun. These are those who are keeping Sunday.

Ezekiel 8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, [were] about **five and twenty men**, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. 8:17 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen [this], O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to **provoke me to anger**: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. 8:18 Therefore will I also deal in **fury**: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, [yet] will I not hear them.

Here in Ezekiel 9 we see these 6 men (Islam) with slaughtering weapons (the plagues) in their hands. They will slay those who do not have God's seal (his mark- Rom 4:11) and will start with the church leaders. Also notice they come from the north—this is the king of the north (Islam), in Daniel 11:45.

Eze 9:1 He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man [with] his destroying weapon in his hand. 9:2 And, behold, **six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north** (Dan 11:45), and **every man a slaughter weapon in his hand** (Islam); and one man among them [was] clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar.

What does Spirit of Prophecy admonish us to study regarding God's *wrath* that is coming? Ans. Ezekiel Chapter 9. What causes his wrath to come? Ans. Because they refused to humble their souls and to be converted.

Study the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. The time is short. God is calling. Will you hear? Will you receive His message? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity. {Lt106-1909.17} 18MR 236.2

I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, and would give no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—one, two and three—the first, second and third angels' messages. Said the angel, Woe to him who shall move a block, or stir a pin in these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received. {1SG 168.2}

Jesus is COMMANDING us to WATCH, NOT FOR HIS SECOND COMING, BUT HIS CLOSING MOVEMENTS IN THE SANCTUARY WHEN HE LAYS OFF HIS PRIESTLY ATTIRE, THE CLOSE OF PROBATION:

Jesus has left us word: "Watch (Dan 11:45; *when Turkey invades and occupies Jerusalem*) ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly (close of probation) He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mark 13:34-36) We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, who is to bring the morning, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping. What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep (2nd Coming). No; but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, (Dan 12:1 close of probation) and when the mandate goes forth: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still." (Rev 22:11) {2T 190.1}

When Jesus ceases to plead (close of probation) for man, the cases of all are forever decided. This is the time of reckoning with His servants. To those who have neglected the preparation of purity and holiness, which fits them to be waiting ones to welcome their Lord, the sun sets in gloom and darkness, and rises not again. Probation closes; Christ's intercessions cease in heaven. This time (close of probation), finally comes suddenly upon all, and those who have neglected to purify their souls by obeying the truth are found sleeping. They became weary of waiting and watching; they became indifferent in regard to the coming (close of probation) of their Master. They longed not for His appearing, and thought there was no need of such continued, persevering watching. They had been disappointed in their expectations and might be again. They concluded that there was time enough yet to arouse. They would be sure not to lose the opportunity of securing an earthly treasure. It would be safe to get all of this world they could. And in securing this object, they lost all anxiety and interest in the appearing (close of probation) of the Master. They became indifferent and careless, as though His coming (close of probation) were yet in the distance. But while their interest was buried up in their worldly gains, the work closed (close of probation) in the heavenly sanctuary, and they were unprepared. {2T 191.1}

Satan's DECEPTION regarding our watching Christ's last movements in the sanctuary above which is in the proclamation of the third angel's message; to Come out and not receive the plagues of ISLAM!

Says the great deceiver: "We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath, reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man's salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also. {4SP 337.2}

Watch for the Close of Probation

Satan's Deception

“And after these things,” John writes, “I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory [4th angel of Rev 18 repeating the 2nd angel & joining the 3rd angel’s message of Rev 14]. 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 the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 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.**” [Revelation 18:1-4.] **This is the message Satan would have silenced.** {Lt232-1899.23}

Message
Satan
would have
silenced

At the present time, when the end of all things earthly is rapidly approaching, **Satan is putting forth desperate efforts to ensnare the world. He is devising many plans to occupy minds, and to divert attention from the truths essential to salvation.** . . . {Ev 705.3}

Even though Satan is trying to divert our attention, we are to allow nothing else to absorb our attention from the proclamation of the 3 angel’s messages as the destiny of our soul hangs upon the manner in how it is received (lived out/ proclaimed/ acted upon).

In a special sense watchmen and light-for a perishing world. **They have been given of the first, second,**

Nothing else to absorb
our attention

Destiny of Souls

Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as bearers. **To them has been entrusted the last warning** On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. **a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation and third angels’ messages.** There is no other work of so great importance. **They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.** {Ms53-1910.6}

I was shown three steps—one, two and three—the **first, second and third angels’ messages.** Said the angel, Woe to him who shall move a block, or stir a pin in these messages. **The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.** {1SG 168.2}

If God’s people are connected to Rome (not in obedience to all of God’s commands- not sealed) in any way (i.e. cross/ phallic symbol on church building, eat pork, drink alcohol, women dress as a man or immodestly) you will be a target for Islam.

Rev 9:3 **And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth:** and unto them was given power, as the **scorpions** of the earth have power. 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree (*people*); **but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.** 9:7 And the shapes of the **locusts** [were] like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads [were] as it were crowns like gold, and their faces [were] as **the faces of men.**

Amazing! Scripture foretold how many Muslims there would be bringing forth destruction. There are 1.3 to 1.5 billion Muslims in the world of which 200 million are radical Islam (those who will go forth to destroy).

Rev 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen [were] **two hundred thousand thousand** (200 million): and I heard the number of them. 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, **having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone:** and the heads of the horses [were] as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued **fire** and smoke and **brimstone.**

Fire &
Brimstone

We also note that the **fire** and **brimstone** in Rev 9:17 was dealt out to the fall Constantinople, the fall of Eastern Rome under the Ottoman Turks (Ottoman Empire). The Turks once again will be used (the 3rd angel's message in Rev 14:9-10) to deal out the **wrath** (plagues) of God upon the disobedient and those who are not sealed.

Rev 14:9 And **the third angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of **the wrath of God**, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be **tormented with fire** and **brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Plagues, wrath of God and vials of wrath are synonymous.

Rev 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, **seven angels having the seven last plagues**; for in them is filled up **the wrath of God**.

Rev 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the **seven angels**, Go your ways, and pour out the **vials of the wrath** of God upon the earth.

ISLAM'S (FOUR WINDS) CONNECTON WITH THE FIRST 5 PLAGUES

Revelation Chapter 9 refers to the scourge of Islamic Turks as “fire, brimstone, torment” and “plagues”:

Rev 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates [*Turkish army uniform*] of fire [red], and of jacinth [blue], and brimstone [yellow]: and the heads of the horses [were] as the heads of lions [*canons with lion heads*]; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone [see 1850 chart and cannon photos].

Rev 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed [*Greek Eastern Roman Empire in Constantinople*], by the fire [Rev 14:10], and by the smoke [Rev 14:10], and by the brimstone [Rev 14:10], which issued out of their mouths [*“Firearms first used by Turks on horseback”- 1843 & 1850 Charts*].

Rev 9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails [Isa 9:14]: for their tails [were] like unto serpents [*tail fuse of cannons like a “serpent”*], and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

Rev 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues [Rev 14:10] yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Revelation 9 “torment”:

Rev 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill [*to conquer*] them, but that they should be tormented [*to harass by sudden excursions and assaults- 1838JoL, PSC 151.1*] five months [30x5 = 150 days/ years: JULY 27, 1299- JULY 27, 1449- 1 month = 30 days *Gen 7:11; 8:3*]: and their torment [see 1838 JoL, PSC 150.1] [was] as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

Compare language of Revelation 9 above with torment, fire, brimstone and plagues (wrath) of the third angel of Revelation 14:10-11:

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath [plagues- Rev 9:17, 20] of God, which is poured out without mixture [*without mercy*] into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone [*Islam on scene- Rev 9:18; final perdition of ungodly men; lake of fire Rev 20:7-9 When inflicted? Rev 19:20; see Isa 34:8-10*] in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image [*those clinging to traits of mother & will attempt a sweeping persecution against the truth & the people of God*], and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

The 1st Plague – sores upon men

The 2nd Plague- sea becomes blood

The 3rd Plague- rivers/ waters becomes blood

The 4th Plague- men scorched with sun/ fire

The 5th Plague- Darkness upon the beast

Plagues 1-4 connected with Joel 1.

When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, (close of probation; Dan 11:45-12:1) the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark (Revelation 14:9, 10), will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God's people. Says the revelator, in describing those terrific scourges: “There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image.” (1st plague) The sea “became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.” (2nd Plague) And “the rivers and fountains of waters ... became blood.” (3rd Plague) Terrible as these inflictions are, God's justice stands fully vindicated. The angel of God declares: “Thou art righteous, O Lord, ... because Thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.” Revelation 16:2-6. By condemning the people of God to death, they have as truly incurred the guilt of their blood as if it had been shed by their hands. In like manner Christ declared the Jews of His time guilty of all the blood of holy men which had been shed since the days of Abel; for they

possessed the same spirit and were seeking to do the same work with these murderers of the prophets. {GC 627.3}

In the plague that follows, power is given to the **sun** “**to scorch men with fire**. And men were scorched with great heat.” **Verses 8, 9. (4th Plague)** The prophets thus describe the condition of the earth at this fearful time: “The land mourneth; ... because the harvest of the field is perished.... All the trees of the field are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.” “The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate.... How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture.... The rivers of water are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.” “The songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord God: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.” **Joel 1:10-12, 17-20**; Amos 8:3. {GC 628.1}

These **plagues** are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful **scourges** that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final **judgment, wrath** is poured out unmixed with mercy. {GC 628.2}

In that day, multitudes will desire the shelter of God’s mercy which they have so long despised. “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.” Amos 8:11, 12. {GC 629.1}

The 3^d Plague- rivers/ waters becomes blood compared with 1st plague of Egypt

The first plague, turning the water of the **river Nile and of all canals into blood** (Exodus 7:19), was directed against the source of Egypt’s very existence. The river Nile was regarded with religious reverence, and at several places sacrifices were offered to the Nile as to a god. {PP 758.2}

Joel 1:17-20: the fourth plague (see *The Great Controversy*, page 628). Compare these passages in Joel with Revelation 16:8, 9 (**fire/ great heat**); Revelation 9:4, 6.

In the first fulfillment of Revelation 9, judgment was mingled with mercy. After probation closes, there is no mercy for the transgressor.

Winds

Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth; and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, **there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.**

The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear. "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. . . . They have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate. . . . The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth." **Isaiah 24:1-18.**

"Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a **destruction** from the Almighty shall it come. . . . the seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate." "The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." **Joel 1:15-18, 12.**

"I am pained at my very heart; . . . I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, **the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.** (7th trumpet is Islam just as the 5th and 6th were) **destruction upon destruction** is cried; for the whole land is spoiled."

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down." **Jeremiah 4:19, 20, 23-26.**

Jeremiah 4:6 also says, "Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for **I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.**" (Islam comes from the north)

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." **Jeremiah 30:7**.

"Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." **Isaiah 26:20**.

"Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, Even the Most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any **plague** come nigh thy dwelling." **Psalms 91:9, 10**. *Education*, pages 179-181

Elder A.T. Jones also makes a very interesting comment in connection with the book of Joel. He did not have enough information to tie the prophecy in Joel with the King of the North because in his day Turkey was "the sick man of the east". But today, as we watch the Muslim Brotherhood causing all the uprisings in the Middle East in their quest to resurrect the Ottoman Empire and reestablish the Caliphate, the connection between Joel and the King of the North becomes crystal clear.

In his book, Elder Jones parallels the destruction of the Roman Empire "by the mighty armies of the peoples of the north" when the beast (the papacy) was formed, to the "utter ruin of the world, by the mighty armies of another people" (the King of the North) when the Image of the Beast is formed. He refers to it this way;

The result, to the Roman Empire, of the making of the Beast in the Roman Empire, and by the Roman Empire, was the utter ruin of that empire. This ruin was accomplished by the mighty armies of the peoples of the north marching forth under the first four of the Seven Trumpets. And the result, to the world, of the making of the Image of the Beast, and the worship of the Beast and his Image, in the world and by the world, will be the utter ruin of the world, by the mighty armies of another people marching forth under the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet, accompanied by the mighty notes of "the last trump." And concerning this, it is written: [**Joel 2:1-11** quoted]. A.T. Jones, *The Great Nations of Today*, page 202.

5th Plague- Darkness upon the beast

An interesting quote (locusts = Islam) of the plague of Egypt that resembles the 5th plague of darkness in the future:

The Lord next sent the dreadful **plague of the locusts**. The king chose to receive the plagues rather than to submit to God. Without remorse, he sees his whole kingdom under the miracle of these dreadful judgments. The Lord then sent **darkness upon Egypt**. The people were not merely **deprived of light**, but **the atmosphere was very oppressive, so that breathing was difficult**; yet the Hebrews had a pure atmosphere, and light, in their dwellings. (1SP 217.2)

6th Plague- We know the Turkish power will be extinguished under the 6th plague:

"The **Turkish power designated as the River Euphrates**, which has been separated and md between the East and the West, gives way; and like the rushing together of mighty storm clouds. The armies of the earth, striving for the territory, meet in the valley of Jehoshaphat, -- the ancient meeting place for Egypt and Assyria, known in the Hebrew as Megiddo, and in the Greek as **Armageddon**. The word itself means "the place of the troops," and the history of battles fought there, typifies the last great contest between nations **under the 6th plague.**" (SNH SSP 284)

An interesting note: The locusts are part of the first 5 plagues and Islam comes to its end under the 6th plague. In the natural world, the life cycle of a locust is 5 months!



Revelation 9 shows the connection of the locusts (Islam) that are like unto horses with the "faces of men".

Rev 9:3 **And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth:** and unto them was given power, as the **scorpions** of the earth have power. 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree (*people*); **but only those men which have not the seal of God**

in their foreheads. 9:7 And the shapes of the **locusts** [were] **like unto horses** prepared unto battle; and on their heads [were] as it were crowns like gold, and their faces [were] as **the faces of men**.

➔ **The connection of the angry horse (with faces of Men- Islam) to the four winds:**

Angels are holding the **four winds, represented as an angry horse** (Islam) seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the **whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path.** {20MR 216.6}

**Destruction
Angry
Horse**

Winds represent strife over the whole earth. Four Angels hold back the “four winds”.

**Four
Winds**

The **four winds** of **heaven** striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power. {GC 439.3-440.0}

After these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the **earth**, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. Rev. 7:1 Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds **of the earth**. Terrible **destruction** is forbidden to come in full. The ... **winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat**, while the angels hold the **four winds**, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are **sealed** in their foreheads. {Mar 175.1}

**Four Winds = Angry
Horse = Islam = 7 last
plagues**

➔ **She connects the four winds (Islam) to the seven last plagues:**

I saw that the four angels would hold the **four winds** (Islam) until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, **then the seven last plagues** will be poured out. These **plagues** enraged the wicked against the righteous, and they thought that we had brought the **plagues** down upon them, and if they could rid the earth of us, then the **plagues** would be stayed. {Ms2-1849.2}

Soon He will say to the angels who are holding the four winds, “Let the plagues loose; let darkness, destruction, and death come upon the transgressors of my law.” Will He be obliged to say to those who have had great light and knowledge, as He said to the Jews, “If thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes”? {RH October 8, 1901, par. 15}

Now is the time for us to do our appointed work. Now is the time for us to reveal living faith. I ask you to prepare for what is coming upon the earth—**plagues**, war, and confusion of nations. I pray that the Lord may hold the **four winds** until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. We have no time to halt between two opinions. Let us do the work that must be done in these last days—set our own hearts in order, that they may be purified, refined, elevated, and ennobled. {Lt115-1899.3}

**Political
Strife**

If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God's people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? **John sees the elements of nature--earthquake, tempest, and political strife--** represented as being held by **four angels**. These **winds** are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God's church. **The angels of God do His bidding, holding back**

the winds of the earth, that the **winds** should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be **sealed** in their foreheads. The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrising). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the **seal** of the living God, or of immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the **four angels** to keep in check the **four winds** until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose. {TM 444.3}

Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are **sealed** in their foreheads. **The nations of the world are eager for conflict;** but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and

**Sealed in
foreheads**

anguish. **Deadly instruments of warfare** will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. **All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of Satanic agencies.** But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the **great battle** of Armageddon. {1MR 145.3}{7BC 967.0.}

1-3 (ch. 16:13-16; see EGW on ch. 5:11; Eph. 4:30). Probationary Time Running Out.--**Already kingdom is rising against kingdom. There is not now a determined engagement.** As yet the **four winds** are held until the **servants of God shall be sealed** in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation (RH Nov. 27, 1900) {7BC 968.1.}

Just before we entered it [the time of trouble], we all received the **seal** of the living God. Then I saw the four angels **cease** to hold the **four winds**. And I saw famine, pestilence and **sword, nation rose against nation**, and the whole world was in confusion (Day-Star, March 14, 1846). {7BC 968.1.} {7BC 968.2.}

Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. **The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.** The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the **four winds** until the servants of God are **sealed** in their foreheads (RH Jan. 28, 1909). {7BC 968.3.}

Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. **It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.** {GC 589.1}

Hurricanes, Storms, Tempest, Fire, Flood, Disasters are angels restraining four winds

The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. **Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause.** Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the **four winds** that they shall not blow until the servants of

God are **sealed**; but when God shall bid His angels loose the **winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.** {6T 408.1}

Haskell connects the four winds to Islam.

"I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the earth. . . . And I saw another angel ascending from the **east**, having the seal of the living God; and he cried . . . saying, Hurt not the earth . . . till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." **These angels** now hold **the winds of strife**, waiting for the church of God to prepare for his coming. The sealing angel goes through Jerusalem (the church) to place the seal of the living God on the foreheads of the faithful, and while this work goes forward, **Turkey stands as a national guidepost to the world, that men may know what is going on in the sanctuary above.** {1901 SNH, SDP 248.1}

God's eye is upon his people, and he never leaves himself without a witness in the world. No man knows when Turkey will take its departure from Europe, but when that move is made, earth's history will be short. Then it will be said, "He that is unjust let him be unjust still, and he that is righteous let him be righteous still." **To-day is "the day of preparation."** The fate of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome is recorded for the edification of the nations of to-day, and the lessons taught by all center in the events just before us. **While the world watches Turkey, let the servant of God watch the movements of his great High Priest, whose ministry for sin is almost over.** {1901 SNH, SDP 248.2}

The first 6 plagues (Rev 16:2- 12) are literally poured out upon mankind, thus why the 6 slaughtering men of Ezekiel 9. The seventh angel pours out his vial (plague) into the air (Rev 14:17), not poured on the earth, but the air. The seventh and final plague is universal (hail-Rev 16:17, 21), following the 2nd coming of Christ.

Rev 16:17 And the seventh angel (7th, last plague) poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done (2nd coming of Christ).

I was shown that the **judgments** of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but [rather] in this way: **they place themselves beyond His protection**. He **warns**, corrects, reproveth, and points out the only path of safety; then, if those who have been the objects of His special care **will follow their own course independent of the Spirit of God after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them**. It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land bringing calamity and distress, sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey. Storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short, and if he is not restrained we shall see more terrible manifestations of his power than we have ever dreamed of. {Lt14-1883.8}

God will use His enemies (Islam/ Turkey) as instruments to punish those who have followed their own pernicious ways whereby the truth of God has been misrepresented, misjudged, and dishonored. These enemies of God are living evidences of the truth of His Word; they are fulfilling that which holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. God does not forewarn His people of trifles; the repetition of caution and warnings shows that there is importance in that which was spoken. Do those who claim to want light treat the light with the respect which is due? {Lt44-1894.17}

God will also use Islamic Turks to help spread and finance the gospel message! And as a result, many will be converted to the truth!

Isa 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. 60:4 Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at [thy] side. 60:5 Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. 60:6 The **multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah**; all they from Sheba shall come: they **shall bring gold and incense**; and they shall show forth the praises of the LORD. 60:7 All the flocks of **Kedar** shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

Genesis 12:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when **the Egyptians** shall see thee, that they shall say, This [is] his wife: and they will kill me, but **they will save thee alive**. 12:13 Say, I pray thee, **thou [art] my sister**: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and **my soul shall live because of thee**.

Every eye is centered on that one spot, and has been for years. **Turkey** is known universally as the "**Sick Man of the East**," and the only reason he does not die is because intoxicants are administered, figuratively speaking, by first one nation then another. **The time will come when he will remove from Constantinople, and take up his abode in Palestine; that is, plant his tabernacle between the Mediterranean and Red Seas**. Time and again the world has been brought to realize that the end of all things is near at hand, for all know that when the **Turk** steps out of Constantinople, there will be a general breaking up of Europe. They may not name this impending conflict the **battle of Armageddon**, but God has so named it. In the Crimean war of 1853-1856, the world trembled for **Turkey**, and, lest the crisis should be precipitated, England and France came to the rescue, and Russia was bidden to stand back. In the **Russo-Turkish war of 1877**, the powers of Europe united to sustain the life of **the sick man**. {1901 SNH, SDP 247.3}

"I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the earth. . . . And I saw another angel ascending from the **east**, having the seal of the living God; and he cried . . . saying, Hurt not the earth . . . till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." These angels now hold **the winds of strife**, waiting for the church of God to prepare for his coming. **The sealing angel goes through Jerusalem (the church) to place the seal of the living God on the foreheads of the faithful, and while this work goes**

forward, **Turkey** stands as a national guidepost to the world, that men may know what is going on in the sanctuary above. {1901 SNH, SDP 248.1}

God's eye is upon his people, and he never leaves himself without a witness in the world. **No man knows when Turkey will take its departure from Europe, but when that move is made, earth's history will be short.** Then it will be said, "He that is unjust let him be unjust still, and he that is righteous let him be righteous still." **To-day is "the day of preparation."** The fate of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome is recorded for the edification of the nations of to-day, and the lessons taught by all center in the events just before us. **While the world watches Turkey, let the servant of God watch the movements of his great High Priest, whose ministry for sin is almost over.** {1901 SNH, SDP 248.2}

5th trumpet 1st woe was the Saracens of the east... the Muslims with Turkey at the head (Rev Ch 9)

6th trumpet 2nd woe Ottoman Empire with Turkey at the head. It's always been the Arab people who are today called Muslims (Rev Ch 9)

7th trumpet 3rd woe **Radical Islam** will bring death and destruction under the last plagues (wrath) of God (Dan 11:45; Rev 11:15)

There are many who do not understand the prophecies relating to these days and they must be enlightened. It is the duty of both **watchmen** and laymen **to give the trumpet** (7th trumpet, Rev 11:15) **a certain sound.**—Evangelism, 194, 195 (1875). {LDE 16.2}

Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict, but they are held in check by the angels. **When this restraining power is removed there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels with their living cargo will be entombed in the great deep.** All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of Satanic agencies, but they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.—The S.D.A. Bible Commentary 7:967 (1900). {LDE 238.3}

Time is almost up!

The **first and second watches are past. We are in the third watch, waiting and watching** for the Master's return. **There remains but a little period of watching now.** I saw some becoming weary; their eyes were directed downward, and they were engrossed with earthly things, and were **unfaithful in watching.** They were saying, In the first watch we expected our Master, but were disappointed. We thought surely he would come in the second watch, but that passed, and he came not. We may be again disappointed. We need not be so particular. He may not come in the following watch. **We are in the third watch, and now we think it best to lay up our treasure on the earth, that we may be secure against want.** Many were sleeping, **stupefied with the cares of this life, allured, by the deceitfulness of riches, from their waiting, watching position.** {PH098 15.2}

This [is] **the third [time]** I am coming to you. **In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.** 2 Cor 13:1

Rapidly men are ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen, restlessly **waiting and watching** the movements of their leaders. Some are **watching** and **waiting** and working for our Lord's appearing, but **the greater part of the world** are rapidly falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. **They look for a god in humanity,** and Satan personifies the one they seek. **Multitudes** will be so deluded through their rejection of truth that they will accept the counterfeit, and **humanity will be hailed as God.** {Lt54-1895.17}

Note 2. Page 225.—That a wrong use is often made of the text **[Matthew 24:36]** is evident from the context. One question of the disciples was concerning **the sign (when Turkey/ Islam takes residence in Jerusalem- Dan 11:45) of Christ's coming (close of probation)** and of the end of the world. This question Jesus answered. In **verse 29** he gave **signs (signs in sun, moon and stars for the pioneers and also a sign for our day in the parable of fig tree in verse 32: Locusts = Islam, Amos 7:1),** and said, "When ye shall see **all these things, know that it (close of probation)** is near, even at the doors." (**Doors of the sanctuary- Christ is soon to step out of MHP!**) **Verse 33.** One saying of the Saviour must not be amade to destroy another. Though no man knoweth the **day** nor the **hour**

(close of probation), we are instructed and required [for it is in the imperative] to know when it (close of probation) is near, even at the doors. And we are further taught that it will be as fatal to us to disregard his warning, and refuse or neglect to know, (close of probation) as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when (close of probation) the flood was coming. Verses 37-39. And verses 44-51 show in what light Christ, when He comes (close of probation), will regard and reward those whom he finds watching and teaching his coming, (close of probation), and those denying it. "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching." Luke 12:37. {4SP 496.2} [Brackets in the original]

* "Blessed are those servants who when the Lord cometh (close of probation) shall be found watching." (Luke 12:37; Prov 8:34) "Yet a little while and he that shall come will come (close of probation) and will not tarry." (Heb 10:37) (See also Hab 2:3) YI August 25, 1886, par. 4}

Christ had bidden His people watch for the signs of His advent and rejoice as they should behold the tokens of their coming King. "When these things begin to come to pass," He said, "then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." He pointed His followers to the budding trees of spring, and said: "When they now shoot forth (Islam on the scene), ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21:28, 30, 31. {GC 308.2}...

It was needful that men should be awakened to their danger; that they should be roused to prepare for the solemn events connected with the close of probation. The prophet of God declares: "The day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Who shall stand when He appeareth who is "of purer eyes than to behold evil," and cannot "look on iniquity"? Joel 2:11; Habakkuk 1:13. {GC 310.2}...

The prophet Jeremiah, looking forward to this fearful time, exclaimed: "I am pained at my very heart. . . . I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried." Jeremiah 4:19, 20. {GC 310.2}

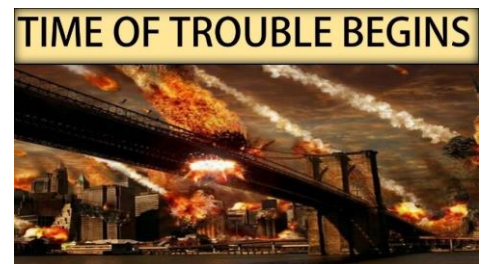
"That day is a day of wrath (7 last plagues), a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm." Zephaniah 1:15, 16. "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, . . . to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Isaiah 13:9. {GC 310.3}

The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready. {GC 594.1}

"Not the trial, or trouble of the saints; but it is a trouble of the nations of the earth, caused by 'seven last plagues.'" WLF 9 (referencing Daniel 12:1)

Uriah Smith, 1897; Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 297

"The time of trouble mentioned in Daniel is not a time of religious persecution, but of national calamity. There has been nothing like it since there was — not a church, but — a nation. This comes upon the world. This is the last trouble to come upon the world in its present state. . . . There is no reference here in Daniel to future time after the trouble here mentioned; for this closes up this world's history. It includes the seven last plagues of Revelation 16, and culminates in the revelation of the Lord Jesus, coming upon His pathway of clouds in flaming fire, to visit destruction upon His enemies who would not have Him to reign over them."



DESTRUCTION UPON CITIES/ BALLS OF FIRE

Copenhagen/ Balls of Fire

I think of this city given to beer drinking, card playing, gambling, dancing, and revelries; and if they hear the last message of mercy, they mock the message and the messenger **as in Noah's day, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" (close of probation)** [2 Peter 3:4.] All things remain as they were from the beginning. When the message has fallen upon their ears of **the threatened wrath of God (7 last plagues)** upon the despisers of His mercy, they have **mocked at the words of warning. Self-indulgence, love of pleasure, and sin so engross their minds that they care for none of these things. The dwellers in Copenhagen will be awakened only too late, as were the dwellers in Sodom. As they awoke in the morning of that eventful day** when the retributive **judgment** of God fell upon the wicked city, they thought to commence a day of godless riot, **when suddenly [from] the sun shining [in the] heavens were hurled balls of fire upon the doomed capital.** What a scene of misery and screams of anguish and distress was that day of retributive judgment. {Ms15b-1886.9}

Isa 37:33 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come **into this city**, nor **shoot** an **arrow** there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

Zech 9:14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his **arrow** shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall **blow the trumpet**, and shall go with **whirlwinds** of the south.

Cities

Thursday, August 23, 1906

In the night I was, I thought, in a room but not in my own house. I was in a city, where I knew not, and **I heard explosion after explosion.** I rose up quickly in bed and saw from my window large **balls of fire. (Islam?) Jetting out were sparks, in the form of arrows,** and buildings were being consumed; and in a very few minutes the entire block of buildings was falling, and the screeching and mournful groans came distinctly to my ears. I cried out, in my raised position, to learn what was happening: Where am I? And where is our family circle? Then I awoke. But I could not tell where I was, for I was in another place than home. I said, Oh Lord, where am I and what shall I do? It was as a voice that spoke, "Be not afraid. Nothing shall harm you." {Ms126-1906.6}

I was instructed that **destruction hath gone forth upon cities.** The Word of the Lord will be fulfilled. (Isaiah 29:19-24) was repeated. I dared not move, not knowing where I was. I cried unto the Lord, What does it mean? These representations of destruction were repeated. Where am I? **"In scenes I have represented that which will be; but warn My people to cease from putting their trust in men who are not obedient to My warnings and who despise My reproof, for the day of the Lord is right upon the world when evidence shall be made sure. Those who have followed the voices that would turn things upside down will themselves be turned where they cannot see, but will be as blind men."** {Ms126-1906.7}

These words were given me from (Isaiah 30): "Now go, write it before them in **a table**, and note it in a **book (Habakkuk 2:2)**, that it may be for the time to come for ever and for ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children **that will not hear the law of the Lord:** Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits." [Isaiah 30:8-15, quoted.] {Ms126-1906.8}

August 27, 1906

Last Friday morning, just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep, but was not in my home. **From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses,** and from these **balls fiery arrows** were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being destroyed. **The terror of the people was indescribable.** After a time I awoke and found myself at home. {Lt278-1906.5}

I see that the end is near, and I wish to do my work quickly. This morning I awoke at one o'clock. I felt very weak, but by claiming the promises of God, and by bracing myself in His strength, I have been enabled to write page after page in my diary before daybreak. **The word comes to me: "Fail not, neither be discouraged. The Lord is your helper, your strength. Put your trust in Him, and He will sustain you. His light will shine**

upon your pathway. Look unto Jesus, and you shall not be broken, nor can you be overcome by Satan.” {Lt278-1906.6}

Nashville

When I was at **Nashville**, I had been speaking to the people, and in the night season, there was an **immense ball of fire** that came right from heaven and settled in Nashville. There were **flames** going out like **arrows from that ball**; houses were being consumed; houses were tottering and falling. {Ms188-1905.13}

In the night season I had a presentation. I did not seem to be in my own home in St. Helena. I was, I thought, awakened in the night with a **great noise of cries of distress**, and I saw the whole heavens lighted up. There were **balls that looked like fire falling**, and these **balls looked as if full of arrows**, and **wherever they struck there were great calamities**. Houses were set on **fire**, and no human effort could extinguish the flame. **The earth quaked, and homes were falling with a crash**. I heard the distressing screeching and praying. There was confusion everywhere. I said to someone, Do look. That is the most striking representation of what will be in the last day. Revelation 18. Voices were proclaiming the events taking place. Read and understand, for it will surely be. Chapter 19 of Revelation will ere long be fulfilled. Revelation 21. There were voices proclaiming the words of these chapters. With great power was the message given. {Ms126-1906.14}

In the night I was, I thought, in a room but not in my own house. I was in a city, where I knew not, and I heard explosion after explosion. I rose up quickly in bed and saw from my window **large balls of fire. Jetting out were sparks, in the form of arrows, and buildings were being consumed**; and in a very few minutes the entire block of buildings was falling, and the **screeching and mournful groans** came distinctly to my ears. I cried out, in my raised position, to learn what was happening: Where am I? And where is our family circle? Then I awoke. But I could not tell where I was, for I was in another place than home. I said, Oh Lord, where am I and what shall I do? It was as a voice that spoke, “Be not afraid. Nothing shall harm you.” {Ms126-1906.6}

9/11- New York/ Islam

On one occasion, when in **New York City**, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: “How can we best glorify God?” The Lord was not in their thoughts. {9T 12.1}

The scene that next passed before me was an **alarm of fire**. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: “They are perfectly safe.” But **these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch**. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines. {9T 13.1}

But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? **No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world.** Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians “knew not (**close of probation**) until the Flood came, and took them all away.” **Matthew 24:39. They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen.** And today the world, utterly regardless of the **warning voice of God**, is hurrying on to eternal ruin. {9T 14.1}

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. **The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. (Islam; Dan 11:45)** Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. {9T 14.2}

“I am pained at my very heart; ... I cannot hold my peace, because thou has heard, O my soul, **the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.** **Destruction upon destruction** is cried; for the whole land is spoiled.” **Jeremiah 4:19, 20.** {9T 15.2}

Those who have **broken their covenant** with God will in that day be without God and without hope. {9T 16.1}

“Not the trial, or trouble of the saints; but it is a trouble of the nations of the earth, caused by ‘seven last plagues.’” WLF 9

Watch/ Know not the hour of the Close of Probation

The great truth of **Christ's second coming** is ever to be kept before the church. "Let your loins be girded about," we are admonished, "and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that **wait** for their lord, **when he will return from the wedding (close of probation)**; that **when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately**. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find **watching**: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.... Be ye therefore ready also: for **the Son of man cometh (close of probation) at an hour when ye think not.**" (Luke 12:37, 38, 40) {RH November 13, 1913, par. 3}

Because we do not know the exact hour of Christ's coming, (close of probation) we are commanded to watch. "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find **watching.**" (Luke 12:37) Those who **watch** for the Lord's return do not wait in idle expectancy. **They purify their hearts by obedience to the truth.** With **vigilant watching** they unite earnest working. **Because they know that the Lord is at the door (of the sanctuary),** their zeal is quickened to cooperate with divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. **These are the faithful and wise servants,** who give to the Lord's household their portion of meat in due season. **They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable.** As Enoch, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, **so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation.** {RH November 13, 1913, par. 4}

Now is the time to prepare for the coming **(close of probation)** of our Lord. Readiness to meet him cannot be attained in a moment's time. **Preparatory to that solemn scene there must be vigilant waiting and watching, combined with earnest work.** So God's children glorify him. Amid the busy scenes of life their voices will be heard speaking words of encouragement, faith, and hope. All they have and are is consecrated to the Master's service. {RH November 13, 1913, par. 5}

But like the dwellers in Sodom, those who refuse to serve God will be awakened only when it is too late. As the sun rose for the last time upon the cities of the plain, the people thought to begin another day of godless riot. All were eagerly planning their business or their pleasure, and the messenger of God was derided for his fears and his warnings. **Suddenly as a peal of thunder from an unclouded sky fell balls of fire on the doomed capital.** {RH November 13, 1913, par. 6}

Sodom

"So shall also the coming **(close of probation)** of the Son of man be." The people will be eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage, until **the wrath (7 last plagues)** of God shall be poured out without mixture of mercy. Men have been taught by their ministers to believe that the coming of Christ is to be spiritual, or is to take place in the distant future, and **the message of his soon return (close of probation) has been denounced as fanaticism or heresy.** Skepticism and "science falsely so called" have undermined faith in the Bible. The multitudes are striving to forget God, and they eagerly accept fables, that they may pursue the path of self-indulgence undisturbed. The people are hurrying to and fro, the lovers of pleasure intent upon amusement, **the money-makers seeking wealth;** and all are saying, Where is the promise of his coming? {RH November 13, 1913, par. 7}

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 there are few who take heed to the rapidly fulfilling prophecies, and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God.** {RH November 13, 1913, par. 8}

Atonement

Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. **The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above.** For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. **At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour's admonition:** "Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:33. "If therefore thou shalt not **watch,** I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Revelation 3:3. {GC 490.1}

We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. **Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement.** Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour’s admonition: **“Watch** and pray: for ye know not when the time is.” **Mark 13:33.** {CCh 348.5}

The Spirit of truth has a refining, elevating, heavenly influence upon mind and character. **We are to study the mind of Christ, and to receive the truth as it is in Jesus.** We are to **watch** and pray, to consult the living oracles of God. When any lust takes possession of the mind in any way or to any degree, and there is a yielding to fleshly desires, we lose the image of Christ in spirit and character. The work in the heavenly sanctuary becomes obscure to the minds of those who are controlled by the temptations of the evil one, and they **engage in side issues** to gratify their own selfish purposes, and their true moral standing is determined by their works. {RH January 21, 1890, par. 5}

Parable of Ten Virgins

It is in a crisis that character is revealed. **When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh (close of probation); go ye out to meet him,”** and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made **preparation for the event (Dan 11:45; Islam takes residence in Jerusalem).** Both parties were taken unawares; **but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation.** **So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death,** will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. **The great final test (ability to keep Sabbath) comes at the close of human probation (Dan 11:45-12:1), when it will be too late for the soul’s need to be supplied.** {COL 412.1}

The ten virgins are **watching** in the evening of this earth’s history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God’s service. All apparently wait for Christ’s appearing **(close of probation).** But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall. {COL 412.2}

Final Test (only those sealed will be able to keep the Sabbath)

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the **final test** shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the State, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, **the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.** [See Appendix, note 13.] {GC88 605.2}

Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel’s message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and State would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it

has been, the defender of religious freedom. **But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.** {GC88 605.3}

The third angel is leading up a people, step by step, higher and higher.
At every step they will be tested. {1T 190}.

When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They **have received "the latter rain," "the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,"** and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in Heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his **work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God."** [See Appendix, note 13.] **Then Jesus ceases his intercession in the sanctuary above.** He lifts his hands, and with a loud voice says, "It is done;" and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as he makes the solemn announcement: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still." [Revelation 22:11.] **Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for his people, and blotted out their sins. The number of his subjects is made up;** "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords. {GC88 613.2}

The whole life of Jesus of Nazareth among the Jewish people was a reproof to their selfishness, as revealed in their unwillingness to recognize the just claims of the Owner of the vineyard over which they had been placed as husbandmen. They hated His example of truthfulness and piety; and when the **final test** came, the **test which meant obedience unto eternal life or disobedience unto eternal death,** they rejected the Holy One of Israel and **became responsible** for His crucifixion on Calvary's cross. {PK 710.2} See also COL 293.3

The Christian has the mind that is in Christ. His hopes and aspirations are pure and noble; for he is growing up into Christ. In his daily life he reveals the fragrance of Christ's character. Day by day God works with him, perfecting stroke by stroke **the character which is to stand in the day of final test.** {YI May 16, 1901, par. 9}

AGAIN, THE FOUR WINDS (ISLAM) ARE THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES:

Those who think that they can please God by obeying some other law than His, and by performing works other than those which the gospel has enjoined, are mocking God. They are insulting the Holy One of Israel. **Warning after warning is given in the last message of mercy to the world. Appeal after appeal is made. The worst of sinners are to hear the call. All are to be given a final test.** Loath to give up, sorrowful, yet hoping, **Christ knocks at the door of the heart.** {RH October 8, 1901, par. 14}

When the Saviour saw in the Jewish people a nation divorced from God, He saw also **a professed Christian Church united to the world and the papacy.** And as He stood upon Olivet, weeping over Jerusalem till the sun sank behind the western hills, so He is weeping over and pleading with sinners in these last moments of time. **Soon He will say to the angels who are holding the four winds (Islam), "Let the plagues loose; let darkness, destruction, and death come upon the transgressors of my law."** Will He be obliged to say to those who have had great light and knowledge, as He said to the Jews, "If thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes"? {RH October 8, 1901, par. 15}

The truth for this time, the third angel's message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice (meaning with increased power) as we approach the great **final test.** This **test** must come to the churches in connection with true medical missionary work, a work that has the great Physician to dictate and preside in all it comprehends. ... The present truth for this time comprises the messages, **the third angel's message** succeeding the first and second. The presentation of **this message,** with all it embraces, **is our work.** ... **The third angel's message, in its clear, definite terms, is to be made the prominent warning;** all that it comprehends is to be made

intelligible to the reasoning minds of today.—Unpublished MS. (Lt 121, 1900). {Ms130-1905.7} (*parenthesis in original*)

Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. **The powers of earth**, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that no man may buy or sell, save he that has the mark of the beast, and, finally, that whoever refuses to receive the mark shall be put to death. [Revelation 13:15, 17.] The word of God declares: “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the **wrath** (7 last plagues) of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation.” [Revelation 14:9, 10.] **But not one is made to feel the wrath of God until the truth has been brought in contact with his mind and conscience, and has been rejected.** There are many in the churches of our country who have never, even in this land of light and knowledge, had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. Jesus reads every heart, and tries every motive. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Every one is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently. **The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty**; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. {4SP 422.2}

It has been repeatedly revealed to me that many professing Christians will, in the time of **final test**, be greatly disappointed. Many, many will fail to provide themselves with that righteousness of Christ represented in the parable by the wedding garment. They have trusted in their own righteousness and have not manifested the humility of Jesus Christ. They may be seated at the supper table with others, but Christ will recognize them, and will say to them, “How camest thou in hither not having on a wedding garment?” [Verse 12.] {Ms79-1908.6}

To every soul will come the searching test, Shall I obey God rather than man? {ST February 22, 1910, par. 12} (*Read this entire article, paragraphs 1-13 entitled, “The Final Test of God’s People”*)

We knew the date (Oct 22, 1844) when probation began, but no one knows when probation will close. We can only watch, pray and be ready!

At the **time appointed** for the **judgment** (*probation*)—the close of the 2300 days, in 1844—**began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins** (*probation begins*). All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny. Both the living and the dead are to be judged “out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” {CIHS 182.1}

In **Micah** we read: {Lt154-1906.16}

(Quote Micah 1:2-7; 2:1-5, 7, 12, 13; 3.) {Lt154-1906.17}

Oh, how soon the scenes of **destruction** and desolation will come and be universal, we cannot tell. “Be ye also ready,” saith the Lord; “for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (*probation closes*).” [Matthew 24:44.] {Lt154-1906.18}

In **Habakkuk** we read: {Lt154-1906.19}

(Quote 2:1, 2)—“it (*probation closing*) will not tarry” (**beyond the time appointed**). {Lt154-1906.20}

(Quote 2:3-20.) {Lt154-1906.21}

In **Zephaniah** we read: {Lt154-1906.22}

(Quote the entire book.) {Lt154-1906.23}

In connection with these Scriptures, read the first four chapters of the prophecy of **Zechariah** and the entire book of **Malachi**. {Lt154-1906.24}

These scenes will soon be witnessed, just as they are clearly described. I present these wonderful statements from the Scriptures for the consideration of every one. The prophecies recorded in the Old Testament, are the word of the Lord for **the last days** and will be fulfilled as surely as we have seen the desolation of San Francisco. {Lt154-1906.25}

The Lord Has a Time Appointed.--**The natural heart is not to bring its own tainted, corrupting principles into the work of God. There must be no concealing of the principles of our faith. The third angel's message is to be sounded by God's people. It is to swell to the loud cry.** The Lord has **a time appointed** when He will **bind off the work** (*probation closes*); but **when is that time? When the truth proclaimed for these last days shall go forth as a witness to all nations, then shall the end come.** If the power of Satan can come into the very

temple (*our hearts/ soul as a people*) of God and manipulate things as he pleases, the time of preparation will be prolonged.--Lt 83, 1896. {PM 389.5}

Jesus has left us word: "Watch (*when Turkey invades and occupies Jerusalem*) ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly (close of probation) He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mark 13:34-36) We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, who is to bring the morning, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping. What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep. No; but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, (Dan 12:1- close of probation) and when the mandate goes forth: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still." (Rev 22:11) {2T 190.1}

Matt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come (close of probation).

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass (*deceptions, persecution, disasters, pestilences*), and to stand (*as pure and spotless*) before the Son of man (at the close of probation).

The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready. {GC 594.1}

Unknown when probation ends

God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close, or when probation will have an end. Those things that are revealed we shall accept for ourselves and for our children; but let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty. It is our duty to watch and work and wait, to labor every moment for the souls of men that are ready to perish. We are to keep walking continually in the footsteps of Jesus, working in His lines, dispensing His gifts as good stewards of the manifold grace of

God. Satan will be ready to give to anyone who is not learning every day of Jesus, a special message of his own creating, in order to make of no effect the wonderful truth for this time. {1SM 191.1}

Letters have come to me asking me if I have any special light as to the time when probation will close; and I answer that I have only this message to bear, that it is now time to work while the day lasts, for the night cometh in which no man can work. Now, just now, it is time for us to be watching, working, and waiting. The Word of the Lord reveals the fact that the end of all things is at hand, and its testimony is most decided that it is necessary for every soul to have the truth planted in the heart so that it will control the life and sanctify the character. The Spirit of the Lord is working to take the truth of the inspired Word and stamp it upon the soul so that professed followers of Christ will have a holy, sacred joy that they will be able to impart to others. The opportune time for us to work is now, just now, while the day lasts. But there is no command for anyone to search the Scripture in order to ascertain, if possible, when probation will close. God has no such message for any mortal lips. He would have no mortal tongue declare that which He has hidden in His secret councils."--The Review and Herald, Oct. 9, 1894. {1SM 191.2}

Watch and Pray

I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place—when the mighty angel (*Rev 18; 4th angel*) will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; my message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning. Christ has told us to watch; “for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.” “Watch and pray” is the charge that is given us by our Redeemer. Day by day we are to seek the enlightenment of the Spirit of God, that it may do its office work upon the soul and character. O, how much time has been wasted through giving attention to trifling things. Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.—The Review and Herald, March 29, 1892. {1SM 192.1}

THE SACRIFICE THAT IS REQUIRED FROM THE WAITING, WATCHING ONES IN MARK 13:34-37

Mark 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: 13:29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it **(close of probation)** is nigh, [even] at the doors. 13:34 [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to **watch**. 13:35 **Watch** ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning **(close of probation)**: 13:36 **Lest coming suddenly (close of probation) he find you sleeping**. 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**.

Jesus has left us word: "**Watch** (Dan 11:45; *when Turkey invades and occupies Jerusalem*) **ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly (close of probation) He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**" (Mark 13:34-36) **We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master**, who is to bring the morning, lest **coming suddenly** He find us sleeping. **What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep (2nd Coming). No; but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, (Dan 12:1 close of probation) and when the mandate goes forth: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still." (Rev 22:11) {2T 190.1}**

When Jesus ceases to plead **(close of probation)** for man, the cases of all are forever decided. This is the time of reckoning with His servants. To those who have **neglected the preparation of purity and holiness, which fits them to be waiting ones** to welcome their Lord, the sun sets in gloom and darkness, and rises not again. **Probation closes; Christ's intercessions cease in heaven. This time (close of probation), finally comes suddenly upon all**, and those who have **neglected to purify their souls by obeying the truth** are found sleeping. They became weary of waiting and watching; they became indifferent in regard to **the coming (close of probation) of their Master. They longed not for His appearing, and thought there was no need of such continued, persevering watching.** They had been disappointed in their expectations and might be again. They concluded that there was time enough yet to arouse. **They would be sure not to lose the opportunity of securing an earthly treasure.** It would be safe to get all of this world they could. And in securing this object, they lost all anxiety and interest in **the appearing (close of probation) of the Master.** They became indifferent and careless, as though **His coming (close of probation)** were yet in the distance. But **while their interest was buried up in their worldly gains, the work closed (close of probation) in the heavenly sanctuary, and they were unprepared.** {2T 191.1}

If such had only known that the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary would close so soon, how differently would they have conducted themselves, how earnestly would they have watched! The Master, anticipating all this, **gives them timely warning in the command to watch. He distinctly states the suddenness of His coming (close of probation).** **He does not measure the time**, lest we shall neglect a momentary preparation, and in our indolence look ahead to the time when we think He will come, and defer the preparation. **"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not."** (Mark 13:34) Yet this foretold uncertainty, and **suddenness** at last, fails to rouse us from stupidity to earnest wakefulness, and to quicken our watchfulness for our expected Master. **Those not found waiting and watching are finally surprised in their unfaithfulness. The Master comes (close of probation), and instead of their being ready to open unto Him immediately, they are locked in worldly slumber, and are lost at last.** {2T 191.2}

A company was presented before me in contrast to the one described. **They were waiting and watching.** Their eyes were directed **heavenward**, and the words of their Master were **upon their lips**: "What I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch.**" **"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping."** (Mark 13:35-37) The Lord intimates a **delay** before the morning finally dawns. But He would not have them give way to weariness, nor relax their earnest **watchfulness**, because the morning does not **open** upon them as soon as they expected. The waiting ones were represented to me as looking upward. They were encouraging one another by **repeating these words: "The first and second watches are past. We are in the third watch,**

waiting and watching for the Master's return. There remains but a little period of watching now. "I saw some becoming weary; their eyes were directed downward, and they were **engrossed with earthly things**, and were unfaithful in **watching**. They were saying: "In the first watch we expected our Master, but were disappointed. We thought surely He would come in the second watch, but that passed, and He came not. We may be again disappointed. We need not be so particular. He may not come in the following watch. **We are in the third watch, and now we think it best to lay up our treasure on the earth, that we may be secure against want.**" Many were sleeping, stupefied with **the cares of this life** and **allured by the deceitfulness of riches from their waiting, watching position.** {2T 192.1}

Angels were represented to me as looking on with intense interest to mark the appearance of the weary yet faithful watchers, lest they be too sorely tried, and sink under the toil and hardships made doubly severe because their brethren had been diverted from their watch, and **become drunk with worldly cares and bequiled by worldly prosperity.** These heavenly angels grieved that those **who were once watching** should, by their indolence and unfaithfulness, increase the trial and burdens of those who were earnestly and perseveringly endeavoring to maintain their waiting, **watching position.** {2T 193.1}

I saw that it was impossible to have the affections and interests engrossed in worldly cares, to be increasing earthly possessions, and yet be in a waiting, watching position, as our Saviour has commanded. Said the angel: "They can secure but one world. In order to acquire the heavenly treasure, **they must sacrifice the earthly.** They cannot have both worlds." I saw how necessary a continuance of faithfulness in watching was in order to escape the delusive snares of Satan. He leads those who should be waiting and **watching**, to take an advance **step toward the world**; they have no intention of going further, but **that one step removed them that much further from Jesus**, and made it easier to take the next; and **thus step after step is taken toward the world, until all the difference between them and the world is a profession, a name only. They have lost their peculiar, holy character, and there is nothing except their profession to distinguish them from the lovers of the world around them.** {2T 193.2}

I saw that watch after watch was in the past. Because of this, should there be a lack of vigilance? Oh, no! There is the greater necessity of unceasing **watchfulness**, for now **the moments are fewer than before the passing of the first watch. Now the period of waiting is necessarily shorter than at first.** If we watched with unabated vigilance then, how much more need of double watchfulness in the **second watch. The passing of the second watch has brought us to the third, and now it is inexcusable to abate our watchfulness.**

The third watch calls for threefold earnestness. To become impatient now would be to lose all our earnest, persevering **watching** heretofore. **The long night of gloom is trying; but the morning is deferred in mercy, because if the Master should come, so many would be found unready. God's unwillingness to have His people perish has been the reason for so long delay. But the coming of the morning to the faithful, and of the night to the unfaithful, is right upon us. By waiting and watching, God's people are to manifest their peculiar character, their separation from the world. By our watching position we are to show that**

Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. {Lt79- 1900.34}

we are truly strangers and pilgrims upon the earth. The difference between those who love the world and those who love Christ is so plain as to be unmistakable. While **worldlings** are all earnestness and ambition to **secure earthly treasure**, God's people are not conformed to the world, but show by their earnest, **watching, waiting position** that they are **transformed**; that **their home is not in this world**, but that they are seeking a better country, even a heavenly. {2T 193.3}

I hope, my dear brethren and sisters, that you will not pass your eye over these words without thoroughly considering their import. As the men of Galilee stood looking steadfastly toward heaven, to catch, if possible, a glimpse of their ascending Saviour, two men in white apparel, heavenly angels commissioned to comfort them for the loss of the presence of their Saviour, stood by them and inquired: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." {2T 194.1}

God designs that His people shall fix their eyes heavenward, looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. While the attention of worldlings is turned to various enterprises, ours should be to the heavens; our faith should reach further and further into the glorious mysteries of the heavenly treasure, drawing the precious, divine rays of **light from the heavenly sanctuary to shine in our hearts**, as they shine upon the face of Jesus. **The scoffers mock the waiting, watching ones, and inquire: "Where is the promise of His coming? You have been disappointed. Engage now with us, and you will prosper in worldly things. Get gain, get money, and be honored of the world."** The waiting ones look upward and answer: "We are

watching. "And by turning from earthly pleasure and worldly fame, and from the deceitfulness of riches, they show themselves to be in that position. By watching they become strong; they overcome sloth and selfishness and love of ease. Affliction's fire kindles upon them, and the waiting time seems long. They sometimes grieve, and faith falters; but they rally again, overcome their fears and doubts, and while their eyes are directed heavenward, say to their adversaries: "I am **watching**, I am waiting the return of my Lord. I will glory in tribulation, in affliction, in necessities." {2T 194.2}

The desire of our Lord is that we should be **watching**, so that when He cometh and **knocketh** we may **open** to Him immediately. A blessing is pronounced upon those servants whom He finds watching. "He shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." [Luke 12:37] Who among us in these last days will be thus specially honored by the Master of assemblies? Are we prepared without delay to open to Him immediately and welcome Him in? **Watch, watch, watch. Nearly all have ceased their watching and waiting; we are not ready to open to Him immediately.** The love of the world has so occupied our thoughts that our eyes are not turned upward, but downward to the earth. We are **hurrying about**, engaging with zeal and earnestness in different enterprises, but God is forgotten, and the heavenly treasure is not valued. **We are not in a waiting, watching position.** The **love of the world** and **the deceitfulness of riches** eclipse our **faith**, and we do not long for, and love, the appearing of our Saviour. **We try too hard to take care of self ourselves. We are uneasy and greatly lack a firm trust in God. Many worry and work, contrive and plan, fearing they may suffer need.** They cannot afford time to pray or to attend religious meetings and, in their care for themselves, leave no chance for God to care for them. **And the Lord does not do much for them, for they give Him no opportunity. They do too much for themselves, and believe and trust in God too little.** {2T 195.1}

Faith in the ability of Christ to save us fully and entirely is the **FAITH OF JESUS.** {12 MR 193}

The **love of the world has a terrible hold upon the people whom the Lord has commanded to watch and pray always, lest coming suddenly He find them sleeping.** "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that **doeth the will of God** abideth forever." 1John 2:15-17 {2T 196.1}

I have been shown that God's people who profess to believe present truth are not in a waiting, **watching position.** They are increasing in riches and are laying up their treasures upon the earth. They are becoming rich in worldly things, but not rich toward God. They do not believe in the **shortness of time; they do not believe that the end of all things is at hand, that Christ is at the door.** They may profess much **faith**; but they deceive their own souls, for they will act out all the **faith** that they really possess. **Their works show the character of their faith and testify to those around them that the coming of Christ is not to be in this generation.** According to their **faith** will be their works. **Their preparations are being made to remain in this world. They are adding house to house, and land to land, and are citizens of this world.** {2T 196.2}

The condition of poor Lazarus feeding upon the crumbs from the rich man's table is preferable to that of these professors. **If they possessed genuine faith, instead of increasing their treasures upon the earth they would be selling off, freeing themselves from the cumbersome things of earth and transferring their treasure before them to heaven.** Then their interest and hearts will be there, for the heart of man will be where his greatest treasure is. **Most of those who profess to believe the truth testify that that which they value the most is in this world.** For this they have care, wearing anxiety, and labor. **To preserve and add to their treasure is the study of their lives.** They have transferred so little to heaven, have taken so little stock in the heavenly treasure, that their minds are not specially attracted to that better country. **They have taken large stock in the enterprises of this earth, and these investments,** like the magnet, draw down their minds from the heavenly and imperishable to the earthly and corruptible. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." {2T 197.1}

The sacrifice God is calling us to make is character building!!

Be ye therefore **perfect**, even as your Father which is in heaven is **perfect.** Matt 5:48

Jesus said unto him, **If thou wilt be perfect,** go [and] **sell that thou hast, and give to the poor** and thou shalt have treasure in heaven.

Selfishness girds many about as with iron bands. It is "**my farm,**" "**my goods,**" "**my trade,**" "**my merchandise.**" Even the claims of common humanity are disregarded by them. Men and women professing to be waiting and loving the appearing of their Lord are shut up to self. The noble, the godlike, they have parted with. The love of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, have so fastened upon them

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, Heb 10:26

that they are blinded. They are corrupted by the world and discern it not. **They talk of love to God, but their fruits show not the love they express. They rob Him in tithes and offerings, and the withering curse of God is upon them.** The truth has been illuminating their pathway on every side. **God has wrought wonderfully in the salvation of souls in their own households, but where are their offerings, presented to Him in grateful thanks for all His tokens of mercy to them?** Many of them are as unthankful as the brute

creation. The sacrifice for man was infinite, beyond the comprehension of the strongest intellect, yet men who claim to be partakers of these heavenly benefits, which were brought to them at so great a cost, are **too thoroughly selfish to make any real sacrifice for God.** Their minds are upon **the world, the world, the world.** In the forty-ninth psalm we read: "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him (for the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever)." (Ps 49:6-8) If all would bear in mind, and could in a small degree appreciate, the immense sacrifice made by Christ, they would feel rebuked for their fearfulness and their supreme selfishness. "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." (Ps 50:3-5) Because of selfishness and love of the world, God is forgotten, and many have barrenness of soul, and cry: "My leanness, my leanness." (Isa 24:16) **The Lord has lent means to His people to prove them, to test the depth of their professed love for Him. Some would let go of Him and give up their heavenly treasure rather than to decrease their earthly possessions and make a covenant with Him by sacrifice. He calls for them to sacrifice; but the love of the world closes their ears, and they will not hear.** {2T 197.2}

I looked to see who of those who professed to be looking for Christ's coming **possessed a willingness to sacrifice offerings to God of their abundance.** I could see **a few** humble poor ones who, like the poor widow, were **stinting themselves** and casting in their mite. Every such offering is accounted of God as precious treasure. **But those**

STINTING, ppr. Restraining within certain limits; assigning a certain quantity to; limiting. – 1828 Webster's Dictionary

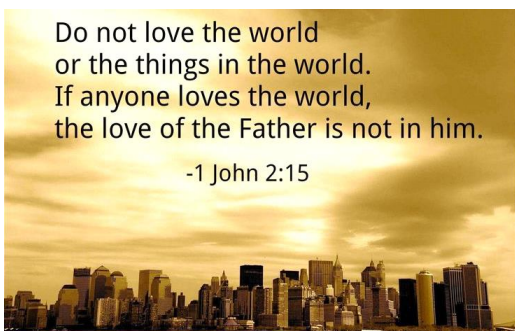
who are acquiring means, and adding to their possessions, are far behind. They do comparatively nothing to what they might. **They are withholding, and robbing God, for**

they are fearful they shall come to want. They dare not trust God. This is one of the reasons that, as a people, we are so sickly and so many are falling into their graves. The covetous are among us. Lovers of the world, also those who have **stinted** the laborer in his hire, are among us. Men who had none of this world, who were poor and dependent on their labor, have been dealt with closely and unjustly. The lover of the world, with a hard face and harder heart, has grudgingly paid over the small sum earned by hard toil. Just so

The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: **what lack I yet?** Jesus said unto him, **If thou wilt be perfect, go [and] sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come [and] follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.** Matt 19:20-22

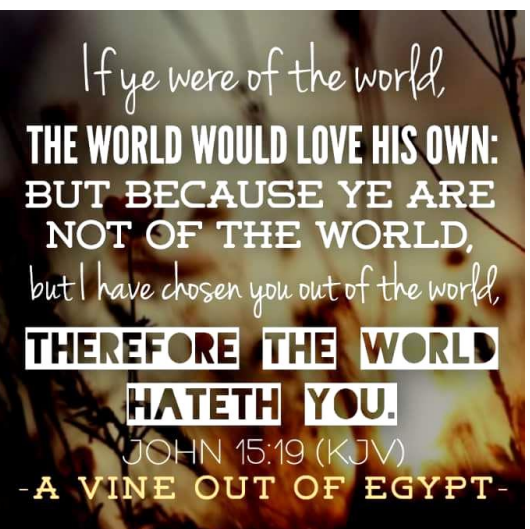
Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

-1 John 2:15



they are dealing with their Master, whose servants they profess to be. **Just in this grudging manner do they put into the treasury of God. The man in the parable had not where to bestow his goods, and the Lord cut short his unprofitable life.** (Matt 25:30) **So will He deal**

with many. How difficult, in this corrupt age, to keep from growing worldly and selfish. How easy to become ungrateful to the Giver of all our mercies. Great watchfulness is needed, and much prayer, to keep the soul with all diligence. "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." (Mark 13:33) {2T 198.1}



Consequences of Adam's Sin a Warning to Men

God is King, he is high and lifted up, and the train of his glory fills the temple. God is to be feared, he alone is to be worshiped. His laws are holy, the foundation of his government in heaven and earth. How weak and foolish is the position taken by finite opposers of his government, as they declare that the law of the Governor of all intelligences is abolished. Who put these words into the mouth of men? Certainly it is not the One who is mighty in counsel; for God will never contradict himself. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 1}

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward." One act of disobedience against the law of God on the part of the responsible human agent, could not be outweighed by a recompense of all the honors and kingdoms of this world. Yet Satan will present his most alluring temptations, and use his most deceptive arguments in order to persuade men to make void the commandments of God. Our only safety is in following the example of Christ, and meeting the tempter with, "It is written." {RH October 9, 1894, par. 2}

It would be wisdom on our part to make a study of the temptations of Christ in the wilderness, and with humble, contrite hearts, seek to understand their import, and learn their significance to us as individuals. It is not safe for us to enter in to controversy with Satan, or to linger to contemplate the advantages to be reaped by yielding to his suggestions. Sin is blinding and deceiving in its nature. Disobedience to God's commandments is too terrible to be contemplated for a moment. Sin means dishonor and disaster to every soul that indulges in transgression of God's holy law, which is immutable. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 3}

Although the consequences and the penalty of transgression of God's law have been clearly presented in the word of truth, many are proving disloyal to the God of heaven, and are teaching their children and the world at large by both precept and example, that the law of God is no longer binding upon the human family. Thus they are cutting souls adrift from the great moral standard of righteousness. In the near future it will be demonstrated that it would be better never to have been born than to have been a transgressor of God's holy law; for disobedience means dishonor and disaster. Light is being presented from the Scriptures on this vital question, and those who give no heed to the light will have to suffer the fatal consequences of their indifference to the heavenly message. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 4}

God has seen fit plainly to present in his holy word the consequences of the sin of Adam, which opened the flood-gates of woe upon our world, that men might be warned not to do as did Adam. The penalty of sin is death; and to listen to the deceitful temptations of Satan, to venture in the path of transgression, is to imperil the soul. We are not to follow the words of men, however wise they may appear to be, unless their testimony is in harmony with a "thus saith the Lord." Temptations will come to us in the most seductive guise, but it is at our peril that we turn from the plain command of God to follow the assertions of men. To follow the word of the Lord, to embrace the truth, involves cross-bearing and self-denial; but it is not safe to do otherwise than to bear the cross. As you see the light, walk in the light. Let a solemn, unalterable purpose take possession of you, and resolve in the strength and grace of God, that henceforth you will live for him, and that no earthly consideration shall persuade you to disown the divine law of ten commandments, and thus disown your Saviour and your God. Seek your counsel of God, and you will find that the path of obedience to his commandments is the path of the just, that "shineth more and more unto the perfect day." {RH October 9, 1894, par. 5}

The first step in the path of obedience is to surrender the will to God. This may seem a difficult thing to do; for Satan will present every possible objection, and will manufacture difficulties, and magnify perplexities before the mind; but take the first step, and the next step on the ladder of progress will be easier. The ladder of progress must be climbed round by round; but God is above the ladder, and his glory will illuminate every step of advancement. The path of faith and self-denial is an upward path; its way is heavenward, and as you advance, the misleading clouds of doubt and evil will be left behind. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 6}

No one need be blinded by any delusion. He who makes the word of God his guide and counselor, and will listen to no voice that would lead him to take the words of men instead of that word, will always dwell safely. Let him bring the principles of the law of God into his life to regulate and control his conduct, and his life will be a success. He will grasp the righteousness of Christ by faith, and becoming a partaker of the divine nature, will thus become a doer of the divine law. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 7}

Nothing but willing obedience on the part of those who profess to love God is acceptable in his sight. He has given to every man his work; but that work is in nowise of such a nature that the worker must needs show disrespect to any of the requirements of God's law. The wisdom and glory of every man's life is to make the ways and the will of God his will and his ways, and every one who takes a course that leads away from obedience to the law of God will meet with disappointment in his plans, failure in his life, and will suffer the loss of his soul at last. Who can afford thus to do? There is no madness in our world so disastrous as that which leads men to live in rebellion against God. We are now deciding our destiny for both time and eternity. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 8}

God has given us **probationary time** in order that it may be made manifest whether we will be loyal, obedient children, rendering obedience to his commandments, his statutes, and his laws, or whether we will persist in following a course of disobedience, and prove ourselves unworthy of eternal life. Those who will be doers of the words of Christ will have their names written in the Lamb's book of life; but those who will not obey God's law after light has come to them from the holy Scriptures, will be written among those whose fate is to perish. For those who choose to follow the traditions of men, and

are willing to be turned from the truth of God unto fables, and who train themselves to walk away from the path of God's commandments, and will not listen to the law of God, but take up with the vain excuses devised by man to continue in disobedience, would not listen to the voice of God in the heavenly courts, and would bring rebellion a second time into heaven. When the Father speaks, they hear him not; but their ears are open to hear the suggestions of the enemy of God and man. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 9}

God has waited long, and he is waiting still, to have the beings that are his by both creation and redemption, listen to his voice, and obey him as loving, submissive children, whose desire is to be near his side, and to have the light of his countenance shining upon them. We are to bear the third angel's message to the world, warning men against the worship of the beast and his image, and directing them to take their places in the ranks of those who "keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus." **God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close, or when probation will have an end.** Those things that are revealed we shall accept for ourselves and for our children; but let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty. It is our duty to watch and work and wait, to labor every moment for the souls of men that are ready to perish. We are to keep walking continually in the footsteps of Jesus, working in his lines, dispensing his gifts as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Satan will be ready to give to any one who is not learning every day of Jesus, a special message of his own creating, in order to make of no effect the wonderful truth for this time. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 10}

Letters have come to me asking me if I have any special light as to the time when probation will close; and I answer that I have only this message to bear, that it is now time to work while the day lasts, for the night cometh in which no man can work. Now, just now, it is time for us to be watching, working, and waiting. The word of the Lord reveals the fact that the end of all things is at hand, and its testimony is most decided that it is necessary for every soul to have the truth planted in the heart so that it will control the life and sanctify the character. The Spirit of the Lord is working to take the truth of the inspired word and stamp it upon the soul so that the professed followers of Christ will have a holy, sacred joy that they will be able to impart to others. The opportune time for us to work is now, just now, while the day lasts. **But there is no command for any one to search the Scripture in order to ascertain, if possible, when probation will close. God has no such message for any mortal lips. He would have no mortal tongue declare that which he has hidden in his secret councils.** {RH October 9, 1894, par. 11}

We are to be laborers together with God, and to follow Jesus' method of teaching. We are to be busy, to be weighted with the last message of mercy to a perishing world. We are to have the truth planted in the heart, and teach it to others as it is in Jesus. The world is in a very solemn period; for souls are deciding what will be their eternal destiny. Satan and his angels are continually plotting to make void the law of God, and thus to enslave the souls of men in the toils of sin. The darkness which is covering the earth is deepening, but those who walk humbly with God have nothing to fear. No one but Christ can save a single soul. But who are willing to be co-laborers with Christ? We are to see far more done in the world than has yet been done. The reason why more has not been done in the past is that men have held so firmly to themselves, and have thought that they were capable of doing some great thing. Satan tempted them because they were self-sufficient. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 12}

The truth must be preached in its purity; for the speculations and suppositions of men and boasted eloquence, will amount to nothing in these days. What we must have is the converting, transforming power of the Spirit of God upon life and character, and we must become as little children. The Lord says to his workers, "A new heart will I give you." O, what a work might be accomplished if every one who attempts to hold forth the word of life would do so in sincerity and truth, having learned and continuing to learn, of Jesus! What a work might be accomplished if the teachers of truth knew how to hide self in Jesus, so that Christ and not self might appear! O that all who profess the name of Christ would draw out their souls after God with yearning desire that they might be filled with his Holy Spirit. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 13}

The whole heart is to be given to God, else the truth of God will fail to have a sanctifying effect on life and character. But it is a sad fact that many who profess the name of Christ have never given their hearts to him in simplicity. They have never experienced the contrition of an entire surrender to the claims of Christianity, and the consequence is that the transforming power of the truth is not in their lives; the deep, softening influence of the love of Christ is not made manifest in life and character. But what a work of feeding the flock of God might be done if the under-shepherds were crucified with Christ, and were living unto God to co-operate with the Chief Shepherd of the flock! Christ calls upon men to work as he worked. There is need of a deeper, stronger, more constraining testimony on the power of the truth as seen in the practical godliness of those who profess to believe it. The love of the Saviour in the soul will lead to a decided change in the manner in which workers labor for the souls of those who are perishing. When truth occupies the citadel of the soul, Christ is enthroned in the heart, and the human agent can then say, "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." {RH October 9, 1894, par. 14}

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Compiled by M Harris 11/7/2020 Updated 2/27/21.