

THE MOST FATAL LAST DECEPTION TO COME UPON GOD'S PEOPLE



The Parable of the Fig Tree

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}

Matthew 24: 32-42

32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near:

33 So likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

34 Truly I say to you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

42 Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord does come.

**Would it not be well for us to go under the fig-tree to plead with God as to what is truth?
{RH Feb., 18, 1890, par. 21}**

What is the most fatal last deception to come upon God's people? The only way to AVOID the deception is to BE AWARE of the deception! First, let's read some important statements from the pen of inspiration that will reveal this fatal deception of which the Jews and the antediluvian world were subject.

What are the most important truths essential to salvation?

Ans. The 3 angel's messages with the 3rd being of the greatest importance.

The theme of greatest importance is the third angel's message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels. All should understand the truths contained in these messages and demonstrate them in daily life, for this is essential to salvation. We shall have to study earnestly, prayerfully, in order to understand these grand truths; and our power to learn and comprehend will be taxed to the utmost.--Letter 97, 1902. {Ev 196.1}

The 4th angel of Rev 18 proclaims the 3 angel's messages of Rev 14 with the addition of what message?

Ans. The errors that have been entering the church since 1844! So, this means there are errors that have been taught within Adventism since 1844; since the great disappointment.

I saw another mighty angel [4th angel- Rev 18:1-2] **commissioned** to descend to earth, and unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. **Great power** and **glory** were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which went before and followed after this angel, penetrated every where, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel [of Rev 14 :8], is again given, with the addition of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time, and joins in the last great work of the third angel's message, as it swells into a loud cry. {1SG 193.2}

How is Satan involved with these truths that were set in stone from 1840-1844 by brining error the church since 1844?

Ans. They unsettle the confidence in and give up the testimonies which were once believed!

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The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. He will bring in spurious visions, to mislead and mingle the false with the true, and so disgust people that they will regard everything that bears the name of visions, as a species of fanaticism; but honest souls, by contrasting false and true, will be enabled to distinguish between them. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction. 2 SM 78

We are to repeat the 3 angel's messages that were given years ago (Including what they taught on Daniel 11:45). If we give a different message than what our pioneers gave in connection with the 3 angel's messages, then we ARE NOT REPEATING THE MESSAGES.

God is not giving us a new message. We are to proclaim the message that in 1843 and 1844 brought us out of the other churches. {RH, January 19, 1905}

(Rev 18:1-4 quoted) This is the message Satan would have silenced. Letter 232- 1899

The Testimony of Pioneer Workers. -- I have had presentations regarding the deceptions that Satan is bringing in at this time. I have been instructed that we should make prominent the testimony of some of the old workers who are now dead. Let them continue to speak through their articles as found in the early numbers of our papers. These articles should now be reprinted, that there may be a living voice from the Lord's witnesses. The history of the early experiences in the message will be a power to withstand the masterly ingenuity of Satan's deceptions. This instruction has been repeated recently. I must present before the people the testimonies of Bible truth, and repeat the decided messages given years ago. I desire that my sermons given at camp meetings and in churches may live and do their appointed work.--Letter 99, 1905. {CW 26.1}

Early Workers to Speak. -- God has given me light regarding our periodicals. What is it? -- He has said that the dead are to speak. How? -- Their works shall follow them. We are to repeat the words of the pioneers in our work, who knew what it cost to search for the truth as for hidden treasure, and who labored to lay the foundation of our work. They moved forward step by step under the influence of the Spirit of God. One by one these pioneers are passing away. The word given me is, Let that which these men have written in the past be reproduced. {CW 28.1}

What is the most fatal deception that is foretold in Matthew 24?

Ans. Not knowing the time of our visitation by the SIGN that Jesus gave to us for the close of probation which IS CONNECTED to the 3rd angel's message and the message of Daniel 11:45 as taught by our pioneers! In reading through Matthew 24, we can see the SIGN for our day (that has not yet been fulfilled), is located in the parable of the shooting forth of the fig tree. So, we need to know what the "shooting forth" represents.

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 of Christ's coming and of the end of the world. This question Jesus answered. In verse 29 he gave signs, and said, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it (close of probation) is near, even at the doors (Jesus is about to step out of the sanctuary)." Verse 33. One saying of the Saviour must not be made to destroy another. Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour, we are instructed and required (for it is in the imperative) to know when it 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, as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the flood was coming. Verses 37-39. And verses 44-51 show in what light Christ, when He comes, will regard and reward those whom he finds watching and teaching his coming, and those denying it. "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching." Luke 12:37. (4SP 496) *(italicized parenthesis added; the individual words "day" & "hour" were italicized in the original)*

Connected to the parable of the fig tree, a warning is pronounced in the book of Revelation, Chapter 18, of which we are admonished to "read it carefully":

A similar work will be accomplished when that other angel, represented in [Rev 18:1], gives his message. The first, second, and third angels' messages will be repeated (of Rev 14). The call will be given to the church, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." [Rev 18: 4.] [Rev 18: 2-5 quoted]. Take each verse of this chapter, and read it carefully, especially the last two: "And the light of [a] candle (Apostate Adventists & apostate Protestants) shall shine no more in thee... [Rev 18:23 & 24 quoted]. The parable of the ten virgins (Early Adventist history fulfilled in 1840-44 and "will be repeated to the very

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letter" RH Aug, 19, 1890, par. 3) was given by Christ Himself, and every specification should be carefully studied. A time will come when the door will be shut (shooting forth of fig tree, probation will close- Matt 24/ Mark 13).

Again, if we know not the time of our visitation that is revealed through our understanding the parable of the fig tree, the light of the candle [church] (as in Revelation 18:23) will go out in darkness if we are not true watchmen.

If left to the care of those who, while professing allegiance to God, know not the time of their visitation (close of probation- Matt 24/ Mark 13/ Islam on the scene), the light of the candle (see Rev18:23), or church, will go out in darkness. He who is a true watchman in this time of peril will work with tireless vigilance. He will keep faithfully the courts of the Lord's house. {23LtMs, Lt 4, 1908, par. 10} (parenthesis added)

Who are the true watchmen that proclaim the 3rd angel's message which includes proclaiming the warning sign of "the time of our visitation" -- Islam on the scene represented as the "shooting forth" in the parable of the fig tree; the event [our sign] to know that human probation is about to close?

In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them. {9T19}

Side Note: What are we told in reference to those who SET A TIME (a date, month or year) for His Coming or for ANY OTHER EVENT to take place?

Ans. Jesus told us to "WATCH", not for DEFINITE TIME but for the SIGNS (events) that will take place.

Since 1844, there is "time no longer" according to Jesus' own words in Revelation 10:6. To apply dates or times/ seasons to any prophecy as future, is to undermine and disregard the words of Jesus.

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. Acts 1:7

The times and the seasons God has put in his own power, and why has not God given us this knowledge? — Because we would not make a right use of it if he did. A condition of things would result from this knowledge among our people that would greatly retard the work of God in preparing a people to stand in the great day that is to come. We are not to live upon time excitement. We are not to be engrossed with speculations in regard to the times and the seasons which God has not revealed. Jesus has told his disciples (Matt 24) to "watch," but not for definite time. His followers are to be in the position of those who are listening for the orders of their Captain; they are to watch, wait, pray, and work, as they approach the time (Close of Probation) for the coming of the Lord; but no one will be able to predict just when that time will come; for "of that day and hour knoweth no man" [Matt 24:36- close of probation]. You will not be able to say that he will come in one, two, or five years, neither are you to put off his coming by stating that it may not be for ten or twenty years. {RH March 22, 1892, par. 10}

Let all our brethren and sisters beware of anyone who would set a time for the Lord to fulfil his word in regard to his coming, or in regard to any other promise he has made of special significance. It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." False teachers may appear to be very zealous for the work of God, and may expend means to bring their theories before the world and the church; but as they mingle error with truth, their message is one of deception, and will lead souls into false paths. They are to be met, and opposed, not because they are bad men, but because they are teachers of falsehood, and are endeavoring to put upon falsehood the stamp of truth. What a pity it is that men will go to such pains to discover some theory of error, when there is a whole storehouse of precious gems of

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truth by which the people might be enriched in the most holy faith. Instead of teaching truth, they let their imagination dwell upon that which is new and strange, and throw themselves out of harmony with those whom God is using to bring the people up upon the platform of truth. They cast aside all that has been said in regard to unity of sentiment and feeling, and trample upon the prayer of Christ as though the unity for which he prayed was unessential, that there is no necessity for his followers to be one, even as he is one with the Father. They go off on a tangent, and Jehu-like, call to their brethren to follow their example of zeal for the Lord. If their zeal led them to work in the same lines in which their brethren who have carried the heat and burden of the day, are working; if they were as persevering to overcome discouragements and obstacles as their brethren have been, they might well be imitated, and God would accept them. **But men are to be condemned who start out with a proclamation of wonderful light, and yet draw away from the agents whom God is leading.** This was the way in which Korah, Dathan, and Abiram did, and their action is recorded as a warning to all others. We are not to do as they have done, — accuse and condemn those upon whom God has laid the burden of the work. {RH September 12, 1893, par. 6}

During the period of the Millerites, what did the opposers reject?

Ans. They did not wish to hear of Christ's coming to judge the world in righteousness. Notice how she connects these rejectors with the unfaithful servants in Matthew 24.

They closed their ears to the clear and harmonious explanation of the text by those who were pointing to the close of the prophetic periods and to the signs which Christ himself had foretold as tokens of his advent. ...They did not wish to hear of Christ's coming to judge the world in righteousness (close of probation!). They had been unfaithful servants (Matt 24 language), their works would not bear the inspection of the heart-searching God, and they feared to meet their Lord. Like the Jews at the time of Christ's first advent, they were not prepared to welcome Jesus. Satan and his angels exulted and flung the taunt in the face of Christ and holy angels, that his professed people had so little love for him that they did not desire his appearing. (4SP 225)

Continuing with Matthew 24, we can see the same prophecy in Mark 13. Here she makes it very clear WHAT WE ARE TO WATCH FOR: the COMING OF JESUS (in Matt 24, Mark 13) that REFERS TO HIS COMING TO JUDGMENT NOT TO THE SECOND COMING. This is very important to understand.

What is Jesus telling us to watch for? NOTE: We cannot possibly "watch" for something if we don't know what it is to watch for and it has to be something that we can SEE in order to WATCH.

Ans. The close of probation by the SIGN Jesus has given us in the "shooting forth" of the parable of the fig tree at the end of the world. (This is also connected with Daniel 11:45) If you trace Matthew 24 or Mark 13 down along with the pages of history, you will find the ONLY event left that has not yet been fulfilled is the "shooting forth" of the parable of the fig tree. To understand this "shooting forth" we need to go back to the history of the Ottoman Turks (Islam today) in Revelation Chapter 9 to see the same language employed which will open the door of understanding to the these and other texts of Scripture, including Daniel 11:45. Remember, the Bible is its own expositor. This is why it is so important to understand the pioneer solid, immovable platform of established truths on these Biblical texts along with historical record that proves what they taught was absolutely correct. This enables us to accurately trace these past fulfilled prophecies down to where we are in the stream of time.

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;

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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}
(All italic emphasis supplied)

Along with the admonition to Watch, what is considered the time of the end of the world?

Ans. We know the “time of the end” began in 1798. But, the time of the end of the world begins when probation closes (as judgments upon wicked begins) and like the disciples, we are given “a sign of the approaching ruin”. For the Jews it was the approaching armies of Rome that surrounded Jerusalem and for us, it is the approaching armies of Islam when they invade Jerusalem that will bring destruction and ruin.

Referencing Matt 24:

Let men beware lest they neglect the lesson conveyed to them in the words of Christ. He has declared that he will come the second time, to gather his faithful ones to himself, and to take vengeance on them that reject his mercy. As he warned his disciples of Jerusalem's destruction, giving them a sign of the approaching ruin that they might make their escape (Lu 17:34), so he has warned his people of the day of final destruction, and given them signs (Islam Dan 11:45) of its approach, that all who will may flee from the wrath (7 last plagues) to come. Those who behold the promised signs are to “know that it (close of probation; then follows the plagues) is near, even at the door.” “Watch ye therefore,” are his words of admonition. “If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief.” The world is no more ready now to credit the warning than were the Jews in the days of our Saviour. Come when it may, the end (close of probation/ plagues) will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in traffic, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world's progress and enlightenment, and the people are lulled in a false security,—then, as the midnight thief steals (when you “steal”, you “TAKE” something) within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly, “and they shall not escape.” {4SP 38}
(shall not escape [taken]: Jer 34:3; 38:23; Eccl 7:26)
(Taken vs. Left: Lu 17:34; Matt 24:40-41- “TAKEN” G3880- Seized- The Lost; “LEFT” G863- Escaped- The Saved).”

How are we repeating the history of the antediluvian world? What question should we be asking ourselves?

Ans. By choosing not to know that they are living in the last days. They are not being watchful for the events (the SIGN) to let them know probation is closing. We should be asking, “Does this scripture refer to me? Lord, is it I?”

As the inhabitants of the antediluvian world “knew not” the time in which they were living, so the inhabitants of the world today know not, because they do not choose to know, that they are living in the last days. Christ has warned us to look for His second coming (close of probation). He says, “Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ... Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?” Everyone of us may well ask, “Does this scripture refer to me? Lord, is it I?” “Blessed is that servant,” Christ says, “whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, my lord delayeth his coming, and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Referencing Matt 24) {BTS June 1, 1902, par. 4}

Every Christian is now to stand in his lot. This is no time to be careless. The judgments of God are in the world. They will surprise many. Vessels filled with passengers will suddenly go down, and all on board will perish. Some one may be saved to bear witness to the intemperance of those on board, — the drinking, the card-playing, the swearing, the wickedness of every description. We need to watch, the Lord says, lest, coming suddenly, He find us sleeping in dreamland, or engaged in worldly projects and foolish diversions. {BTS June 1, 1902, par. 5}

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Again the prophet emphasizes the importance of understanding Matthew 24.

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}

We are warned about the danger of not understanding these events foretold in Matthew and Daniel.

The events connected with the close of probation [Matt 24:32; Dan 11:45] and the work of preparation for the time of trouble [Dan 12:1], 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 [Dan 12:1] will find them unready. {RH June 7, 1906, par. 3} *[emphasis supplied]*

In the Scriptures are presented truths that relate especially to our own time. To the period [close of probation] just prior to the appearing of the Son of man [2nd Coming], the prophecies of Scripture point, and here their warnings and threatenings pre-eminently ["above all"] apply. The prophetic periods of Daniel [Dan 11:45-12:1; last verse of prophecy in Chapter 11 to be fulfilled], extending to the very eve of the great consummation [Dan 12:2-3; 2nd Coming], throw a flood of light upon events then to transpire. The book of Revelation is also replete with warning and instruction for the last generation [Rev 14:6-12; 18]. The beloved John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, portrays the fearful and thrilling scenes connected with the close of earth's history, and presents the duties and dangers of God's people. None need remain in ignorance [This is why the prophet admonishes us to read Uriah Smith's book, "Daniel & The Revelation"], none need be unprepared for the coming of the day of God. {RH, September 25, 1883 par. 6} *[emphasis supplied]*

She connects Matt 24 directly with the three angel's messages stating, "THIS IS OUR MESSAGE." This makes perfect sense, since once probation closes, there will no longer be a need for proclaiming the 3 angel's messages.

Be assured that God gives no one authority to say that Christ delays His coming five years, ten years, or twenty years. "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" [Matthew 24:44] (*again, this is Coming to judgment; NOT 2nd Coming! —see 2T 191.1 quote above*). This is our message, the very message that the three angels flying in the midst of heaven are proclaiming. The work to be done now is that of sounding this last message of mercy to a fallen world. A new life is coming from heaven and taking possession of all God's people. But divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest. {17MR 17.2}

Again, in the book of Luke we are told to be watching for this same event.

"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- [brackets added]. THIS IS ALSO A GOLDEN TEXT

Blessed [is] the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors (*the doors of the sanctuary; when Jesus is about to step out & probation closes!*). Prov 8:34

Who are the watchmen that are to proclaim the three angel's messages? Ans. Seventh-day Adventist.

In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import — the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.

The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them. — Testimonies for the Church 9:19.

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What is the duty of the watchmen?

Ans. To give the trumpet a certain sound. Interesting Note: the 7th trumpet is part of the "shooting forth" of the fig tree.

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}.

The watchmen are to show the people where they are in prophetic history!

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}

So where do you go from here? Study the 9th Chapter of Revelation; the fall of eastern and western Rome by the Saracens and Ottoman Turks which will unlock the language of understanding Matthew 24 / Mark 13 (parable of fig tree) and Daniel 11:45 (Islam on the scene). Uriah Smith's book, Daniel and the Revelation and Stephen Haskell's books, The Story of Daniel the Prophet and The Story of the Seer of Patmos are very good history books which take the historical record into account as these verses are unfolded.

Occupy Till I Come, Part 2, by Brother Burns: <https://youtu.be/xVKrjwaf2yY>

Virgins waiting and watching

Waiting and Watching—an event/ a scene (singular)

The apostle exhorts the brethren, saying, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand ... in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Oh, what a day is before us! What sifting will there be among those who claim to be the children of God! **The unjust will be found among the just.** Those who have great light and who have not walked in it will have darkness corresponding to the light they have despised. We have need to heed the lesson contained in the words of Paul, "But I keep under my body, and bring it in subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." The enemy is diligently working to see whom he can add to the ranks of apostasy; but the Lord is soon coming, and ere long every case will be decided for eternity. Those whose works correspond with the light graciously given them will be numbered on the Lord's side.

We are waiting and watching for the grand and awful scene (close of probation; Islam brings the plagues) which will close up this earth's history. But we are **not simply to be waiting**; we are to be vigilantly **working with reference to this solemn event.** The **living church** of God will be **waiting, watching, and working.** None are to stand in a neutral position. **All are to represent Christ in active, earnest effort to save perishing souls.** Will the church fold her hands now? **Shall we sleep as is represented in the parable of the foolish virgins?** Every precaution is to be taken now; for haphazard work will result in spiritual declension, and that day will overtake us as a thief. The mind needs to be strengthened to look deep and discern the reasons of our faith. The soul-temple is to be purified by the truth, for only the pure in heart will be able to stand against the wiles of Satan. —TM 163.2

Members should not look to ministers to do the members' work—Look not to the ministers to do your work; **sleep not as did the foolish virgins**, who had no oil in their lamps. Have your lamps supplied with the oil of the grace of Christ. Should every one in the church let his light shine forth to others as God designs he should, what a work would be done. A **living church** will be a **working church.** Bring your powers to Jesus; put them into exercise. **Think, meditate, watch, and pray.** A close connection with Jesus will increase your power of accomplishing good, your intellect will be strengthened. The time (*after probation has closed*) that will try men's souls is just before us. **We shall then have no advocate (after probation has closed) to rebuke the devil, and plead in our behalf.** —The Review and Herald, September 22, 1896.

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ORDER OF EVENTS:

- Loud Cry Proclaimed & decisions made for or against Christ
- Probation Closes (Dan 12:1) - Jesus Comes to Judgment and exits Sanctuary
- Seven Plagues poured out upon wicked; righteous are protected
- About 1 year after plagues begin, Islam comes to their end under 6th plague
- Battle of Armageddon (all nations gathered together to go against Christ)
- 2nd Coming of Christ (Papacy is destroyed by brightness of His Coming in the clouds) under 7th plague

Please visit our [Daniel](#), [Revelation](#) and [Mark 13](#) pages (under the "prophecy" dropdown menu) for more details on this amazing history and prophecy.

Please also read the [John Bell letter](#) which exposes more of this fatal deception to which the Jews and the antediluvian world were subject. Let's be wise virgins and not make the same fatal mistakes!

SUMMARY

- 1) We should go under the fig tree to plead with God as to what is truth.
- 2) This parable is to be brought to the attention of all. We are today living in the time when the predictions of this chapter are fulfilling.
- 3) God is not giving us a new message. Our pioneers labored to lay the foundation of our work. We are to repeat the decided messages given years ago; the SAME message that our pioneers taught on the three angel's message of which the parable of the fig tree is a part.
- 4) Satan tries to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony and the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up. Revelation 18:1-4 is the message Satan would have silenced.

Rev 18:1-4

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, *Babylon* (the church) *the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.

5) Satan does not want people to know or recognize when probation is about to close (the time of their visitation), by the sign given to them in the parable of the fig tree "putting/ shooting forth!"

6) We are in danger of repeating the fatal mistake of the Antediluvians, Sodomites and Jews; of not knowing the time (close of probation being near) of their visitation until it was too late.

7) Jesus has left His words of admonition to "Watch ye therefore. If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief." He says, "Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ... Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?" Every one of us may well ask, "Does this scripture refer to me? Lord, is it I?"

8) Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers.

They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages.

There is no other work of so great importance.

They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.

We are to be true to the trust committed to us.

It is our duty as watchmen and laymen to give the trumpet a certain sound.

As watchmen, we are to show the people where they are in prophetic history.

THE MOST FATAL LAST DECEPTION TO COME UPON GOD'S PEOPLE

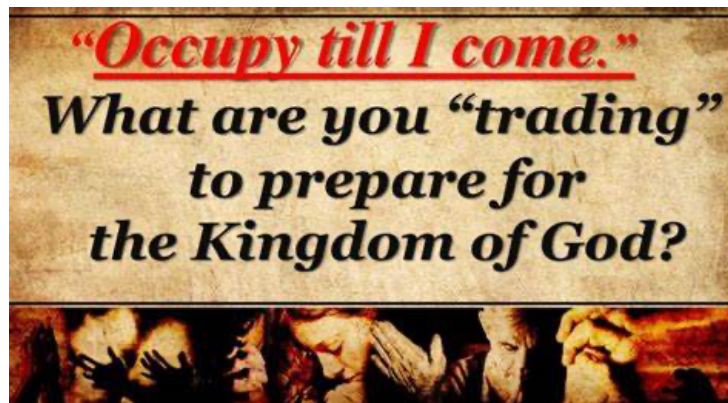
9) If the church does not know the events & understand the prophecies showing the nearness of the time of her visitation (close of probation), her light will go out in darkness.

10) This is our message, the very message that the three angels flying in the midst of heaven are proclaiming:

"Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" [Matthew 24:44] (again, this is Coming to judgment; NOT 2nd Coming! —see 2T 191.1 quote).

Will you be a faithful watchman and follow the admonitions given by our Lord?

I cannot find an instance in the life of Christ where He devoted time to play and amusement. He was the great educator for the present and the future life, yet I have not been able to find one instance where He taught the disciples to engage in amusement in order to gain physical exercise. The world's Redeemer gives to every man his work and bids him, "Occupy till I come." Luke 19:13. In doing this the heart warms to the enterprise. All the powers of the being are enlisted in the effort to obey. We have a high and holy calling. Teachers and students are to be stewards of the grace of Christ, and they are always to be earnest. {CT 309.1}



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