

# **ARE WE AT THE END?**

## **NAVIGATING THE FINAL EVENTS BY THE SURE WORD**

Dearly Beloved of the Father,

*“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.” (Jesus Christ, Matthew 24:6).*

Our post-WWII generation is in its most volatile state since that terrible, earth-consuming war of arms. But another species of war is being fought today, on a more pervasive and invasive scale than most could have ever anticipated. Given the widespread accessibility of instant communication technology today, we can now easily see dangers mounting on every side, country by country. It would be enough to be aware of the wars and rumours of wars, and the famines, pestilences and earthquakes happening in diverse places. But even on top of this, more than ever before witnessed in earth’s history (other than maybe the times of the Tower of Babel), we have all been coalesced and virtually forced to deal with a “new normal”, under the paradigm of worldwide health crisis. The *diverse* nature of the calamities Christ prophesied about upon mount Olivet are now wanting to be overshadowed by a *single, uniform* threat, of which our lives seem to be in danger if we do not comply with the singularly offered solution. While the barrel of a gun or some other clearly dangerous weapon would always have seemed to be the greatest threat with which we could encounter in this life, now we are forced to consider whether unseen pathogens or the injection of a needle may pose a greater, more insidious threat. There is perceptible peril on every side—whether you take the injection, or decide not to take the injection.

For all this, the common citizen the world over would be easily tempted to be deeply concerned, anxious, and even stressed. Naturally, there will be strong concerns over the unpredictability which affords the current social climate. But what says these times of the present truth Christian who believes the Bible whole-heartedly, and accepts the prophecies therein? How are they interpreting the times? Has the unexpected worldwide onslaught—complex and sophisticated, yet irrational and unreasonable (all at the same time)—startled you to consider whether we are at the very end? The drastic unsettling of our lives, especially in these last days, can certainly bring on the thought that things are indeed at the very end.

But there are questions every Bible-believing, prophecy-trusting Christian must ask ourselves in light of these things. In this study, we would attempt by the Word, to answer questions like these:

**#1** Are we at the end of sorrows, or the beginning of sorrows? Have we considered Christ’s admonition that “all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet”? (Matt.24:6).

**#2** Are there clear, concrete, unavoidable prophecies which must be fulfilled (and it will take time for their fulfilment), before we can even safely expect that the end of all things is at hand?

### Introductory Text

**MATTHEW 24:3-36 (KJV)>>** <sup>3</sup>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? <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. <sup>5</sup>For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. <sup>6</sup>**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.** <sup>7</sup>**For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers**

places. <sup>8</sup>**All these are the beginning of sorrows.** <sup>9</sup>Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. <sup>10</sup>And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. <sup>11</sup>And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. <sup>12</sup>And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. <sup>13</sup>**But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.** <sup>14</sup>**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.** <sup>15</sup>When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) <sup>16</sup>Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: <sup>17</sup>Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: <sup>18</sup>Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. <sup>19</sup>And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! <sup>20</sup>But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: <sup>21</sup>For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup>And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. <sup>23</sup>**Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.** <sup>24</sup>**For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.** <sup>25</sup>**Behold, I have told you before.** <sup>26</sup>Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. <sup>27</sup>For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. <sup>28</sup>For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. <sup>29</sup>Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: <sup>30</sup>And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. <sup>32</sup>Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: <sup>33</sup>So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. <sup>34</sup>Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.** <sup>35</sup>Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. <sup>36</sup>But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

### **Christ taught a clear distinction between the *beginning* of the end and the *very end***

I would urge us to notice that Christ, in His Olivet prophetic discourse, more than once warned about not being misled about when the end shall be and what shall take place. He even begins the prophecy by warning about deception. It is clear that Christ wanted us to be on the lookout for situations having the propensity to deceive us (whether intentionally or unintentionally deceitful), particularly as they relate to the end of all things. We had to be careful about manufacturing a time of trouble beforehand. Notice how He admonished on this point:

**MATTHEW 24:6-8 (KJV)>>** <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. <sup>8</sup>**All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

Our Saviour reassured his disciples, “See that ye be not troubled,” “The end is not yet,” “All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Why would Christ keep reassuring His servants that they should not get ahead of themselves, bringing forward undue projections about the end? Why is He repeating the point? He is doing so exactly because there would be the great temptation to do so when people see dramatic events taking place around them. Over-reaction is very easy under these circumstances, and, in this volatile state, it is easy for deceiving agents to fill that space.

**MATTHEW 24:23-25 (KJV)>>** <sup>23</sup>Then if any man shall say unto you, **Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.** <sup>24</sup>**For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.** <sup>25</sup>**Behold, I have told you before.**

### **Deceptions and False Prophecy targeting the Remnant**

Notice Christ was consistent in His warning that great vigilance was necessary in evaluating everything we see and hear (even purporting to be from God), regarding the time of the end. The deceptions would come and increase again and again, becoming so overmastering that they could *possibly* deceive the very elect. It should be clear to us that, of all people, the elect of the end times—the remnant church—would be the target of great attack along these lines. Notice the Spirit of Prophecy laid it out clearly, speaking in reference to popular SDA church.

Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath. While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace Barabbas, and by their actions say, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Let all who read these lines, take heed. Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His church. He says, "I will go forth and be a lying spirit to deceive those that I can, to criticize, and condemn, and falsify." Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has had great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message the Lord has sent, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is. {TM 409.2}

**Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.** If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. "If thou hadst known," said Christ, "even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." {TM 409.3}

### **The *Pharmakeia* Deception**

**REVELATION 18:23-24 (KJV)>>** <sup>23</sup>And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee<sup>[Babylon]</sup>; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: **for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries<sup>[Gr. *pharmakeia*]</sup> were all nations deceived.** <sup>24</sup>And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

G5331 **φάρμακεία pharmakeia** (far-mak-ei'-ah) n.

**1. the use of drugs, potions, and enchantments**

**2. poisoning ("pharmacy")**

**3. (by extension) the occult, witchcraft**

**4. (by implication) the remedy, the cure**

{literally or figuratively}

[from G5332]

*KJV: sorcery, witchcraft*

When Christ was warning about the elect being possibly deceived about the end times, He was not alluding to worldlings deceiving the elect, but the "church" deceiving the elect. With that said, there are so many who have been afforded as bright stars in Adventism, who are even saying at this stage of earth's history that it is inconsequential to your spiritual welfare the matter of whether you consent for drugs to be injected into your body. Have they not read Revelation 18:23, which says that by "Babylon's sorceries"<sup>[*pharmakeia*, drugs]</sup> were all nations deceived"? Have they not read 2 Corinthians 5:10, which says that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his

body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”? Have they not read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:17, which states that “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are”?

How can professed teachers of Scripture counsel their flocks that receiving Babylon’s *pharmakeia*—now drug injectables—is a “personal” matter which can be decided either way? How do they even dare to say that the same Holy Spirit may instruct one to take the drug injectable, and yet instruct another not to take the drug injectable? How is it that on so serious a point—where all nations have consented to tie religious, economic, social welfare on such a drastic scale—you can afford to respond thus to the flock: “I will not counsel you as to what is the explicitly right or wrong thing to do in this situation. You have to make up your own minds”? What cowardice and betrayal of sacred trusts!

If someone asked you whether they should believe on Christ, would you respond as follows: “Well, I’m not going to testify about whom you should or should not believe. I’ll just leave some information with you, and you can make up your own mind”? Ludicrous! Such will never convict the sinner! That is not preaching Christ and life and righteousness. That is weakness and neutrality. Even worse, this is the approach being taken by many professing Advent teachers during this worldwide emergency. Take the warning from the Spirit of Prophecy:

If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God. {3T 280.3}

### **What you do with your body—the Lord’s temple—is a Religious Question**

While zooming in on this *pharmakeia* test which should clearly be discerned as a waymark in the line of end-time prophecy, this point must clearly be stated to the Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy affirming remnant. **You cannot willingly and unrepentantly take Babylon’s drug injectable and be saved!** You will be judged guilty before Christ, for you have accepted the workings of sorcery produced by man in concert with Satan, and placed drugs into your body for which no transparent evidence has ever been provided as to what exactly is in it, whether it is safe, effective, or necessary at all. From the very onset of the matter, the Bible unequivocally condemns drugs as witchcraft (the same *pharmakeia* in the Greek), as works of the flesh, as something for which you must repent of, or you shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

**GALATIANS 5:19-21 (KJV)>>** <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup>Idolatry, **witchcraft**<sup>[Gr.pharmakeia]</sup>, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**REVELATION 9:21 (KJV)>>** <sup>21</sup>Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their **sorceries**<sup>[Gr.pharmakeia]</sup>, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Like Asa, the rebellious king of Judah, those who have opted for the drug injectable have “sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.” (2<sup>nd</sup> Chron.16:12-13). Go and read what was the end of king Asa. Those who have consented to the drug injectable out of “trusting the science” of worldly men, or chosen it out of fear, or out of perceived convenience, have refused to trust in the God who made man whole and gave him His commandments. They have more faith in the idol of “science” falsely so-called, than to believe in the commandments and promises of God’s Word. These are God’s commandments—inclusive of the natural laws of health—of which the promise was made: “If thou wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the LORD that healeth thee.**” (Exo.15:26). Not scientists, not vaccine companies, not regulatory agencies, not doctors, not politicians, but the Lord Jehovah your Creator is the same One that heals you!

If you have ignored God’s Word, refused His promises, rejected His warnings, and trusted in the world, how can you expect to be right with God? Is it even sensible to dismiss God’s Word as non-applicable, and trust in a world of fleeting,

convoluted propaganda, spouted by a highly compromised segment of the scientific, media, and political classes? And could we still think the love of the Father is in us while taking such a course?

**1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN 2:15-17 (KJV)>>** <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

For those who have ears to hear and a heart to receive the impressions of the Spirit, you only have two choices in this “health” crisis:

1. If you *have not* already, do not consent to take the drug injectable at any eternal cost to your soul.
2. If you *have* taken the drug injectable, repent to God wholeheartedly, accepting that you sinned in giving in to the world’s wishes instead of God’s promises. Repentance means acknowledging you sinned, and that in Christ, you will not repeat the same sinful course (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 7:9-11). If truly sincere, I know God, through Christ, will secure the best will for you according to your circumstance. “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Heb. 7:25).

### **False Prophecy associated with the *Pharmakeia* Deception**

It must be submitted that the classification of false prophet applies to those professed teachers who ignore the sure fulfilment of prophecy of this end-time *pharmakeia* deception, found in Revelation 18:23. To distance the current worldwide agenda from any moral or spiritual implications is blindness of the grossest kind. To blind the flock from the clear choice between righteousness and sin during this time of forced drug consumption, and warn them only to be concerned about the issue of the mark of the beast yet future, is the worst kind of spiritual miscalculation. It is midnight-dark presumption to think that with the level of active apostasy in the popular SDA membership, that they dare surmise the only thing they need to get right is deciding to choose the seventh day instead of the first. To think that you can profess to keep the fourth commandment while breaking the other nine, and still be saved—amazing!

Indeed, would not Satan and his agents be exultant to know that the vast numbers of those claiming to be the remnant are resigning themselves to potential sickness, death and eternal loss, while under the false comfort that they will make it to the mark of the beast test? It is like the Jews of old who clung to the temple of Jerusalem whilst under the Roman siege (circa AD 70), assuming that God would preserve them. Christ’s prophecy upon Olivet, warning of the temple’s destruction was of no help to their blindness and arrogance. They followed their blind leaders under the banner of false prophecy and died in the siege they could have escaped from, had they received Christ’s messages during his ministry. The blind leading the blind went into an eternal ditch. And what we have before us today—the current blindness of the professed remnant—could likewise be seen as a most overmastering delusion.

### **Understanding the Sure Word of Prophecy makes the difference**

Our Saviour said that, *if possible*, the very elect would be deceived. We may ask ourselves: what would take away the elect’s vulnerability to being deceived? The answer: **knowing the sure word of prophecy**. This is what we are aiming to make clear here. To carefully weigh all of what the prophets have said would take place in the last days—every detail—and recognize when and how they are to be fulfilled. We need to catch the full significance of all the prophetic warnings, recognizing that when our Lord Christ expressed that “**all** these things **must** come to pass,” He meant exactly that.

**MATTHEW 24:34-35 (KJV)>>** <sup>34</sup>Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled**. <sup>35</sup>Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

## The “Beginning of Sorrows” and “the End” have a degree of separation

We must be careful today not to make the *beginning* of the end the *very end*, because Christ makes a strong degree of separation between the two. All does take place on this side of Daniel’s *time of the end* delineation (post-1798), yet nevertheless there are a number of things which are to take place between the “beginning of sorrows” and “the end”. Even the “sorrows” which Christ expressed—*odin* in Greek translation—illustrates the necessary progression of events.

G5604 ὠδίν **odin** (o-deen') n.

**1. a pang or throe, especially of childbirth**

[akin to G3601]

*KJV: pain, sorrow, travail*

The meaning of *Odin* has direct reference to the birthing pains associated with the labour of a pregnant woman. It is common knowledge that a woman’s labour is progressive, and can be very protracted, lasting for hours which can even extend for more than a day before the actual coming forth of the baby. The contractions (described frequently as “pangs” or “travail” in the KJV) are intermittent, with longer time intervals at first, and as the labour progresses, the intervals get shorter and shorter. The strength and frequency of the contractions increase with time, until it reaches the greatest level of pain and reflexive force necessary to push the child out of the womb into their new world. The final moments just before the child is gushed forth are undeniable; you can sense emotionally and physically that the child will be out any moment. It is excruciating for the mother—many have felt that like even death was upon them and they could not go on without some release—but with true courage and support they can persevere to that climactic end. Then, in a final determined push, a child is born into the world.

What an object lesson Christ gives simply by comparing the end times of the world to childbirth! It is so fitting and intricate when you think about it. One of the strong principles we can take away is that there is certainly a degree of separation between the initial *labour* and the actual *delivery* of the child, though they are part of the same progressive process. It is just the same with the “beginning of sorrows” and the “end” of all things, applicable to closing up of this world. Comparing once more: if you are to give birth the natural way, you cannot sensibly expect the birth at the onset of the labour. You will be terribly disappointed and possibly frustrated with all that you will have to go through before you even reach the birth conclusion. You may even give up, and seek the intervention of man before you even make any attempt to endure to the end. Doing things God’s way, you cannot skip the line of progression and correctly navigate to the final outcome. It is the exact lesson to be applied to our spiritual experience in navigating the final events of earth’s history. We must endure step by step, not expecting that we can just skip out the necessary progression of events, and yet end up successfully navigating the course. “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved,” is the promise Christ left with us—we must believe it.

## There are concrete conditions which shall determine the “end of all things”

This is why Christ has told us of what to expect during the last-day “labours” of earth’s history—the beginning of sorrows. And *the end* of that beginning of sorrows—the real *end* of all things—has more concrete conditions to it than many do realize.

**MATTHEW 24:13-14,33-34 (KJV)>>** <sup>13</sup>But he that shall endure unto *the end*, the same shall be saved. <sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. . . . <sup>33</sup>So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. <sup>34</sup>Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, **till all these things be fulfilled.**

Taking Christ’s words as they read, what actually brings about the very end of all things? **the gospel of the kingdom being preached in all the world for a witness!** The faithful preaching of the everlasting gospel—bringing in a time of the restitution of all things necessary to be observed according to the scriptures—that is the final thrust which brings forth the great expectancy, the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 14:6-12; Acts 3:21). Sis. E. G. White said it this way in

*Prophets and Kings*, page 678: “In the time of the end, every divine institution is to be restored.” So the end of all things is contingent solely on the scriptural consecration and worldwide evangelism carried out by God’s people. That, and nothing else more chiefly, will determine the very end. The same principle is shown in the sealing of Revelation 7.

**REVELATION 7:1-4 (KJV)>>** <sup>1</sup>And 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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup>Saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.** <sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

The preparation of God’s people is paramount for the end of all things to take place. Hence, if it is clear that His people as a unified body have not yet fully come to view, and if it is clear that there is more preparation needed among even the sincerest of the trying remnant, and if it is clear that the everlasting gospel—carrying the full import of the three angels’ messages—has not yet faithfully gone into all the world for a witness, then we cannot expect that we are at the very end just yet. It matters not of the agenda the rulers of darkness are currently carrying out; it matters not whether millions or billions of people *en masse* may potentially get sick or die in a matter of months or years; it doesn’t even matter what the Roman Papacy is currently doing. Why? Because at the end of it all, the true final movements will be *in reaction to* the consecrated experience of God’s people giving the everlasting gospel. The conclusive final events are in distinct reference to the character and work of God’s people—there is no greater determining marker than this.

The Lord, through Sis. White, clearly instructs us that the warnings of the *Loud Cry* (Rev.18:1-5), uniting with the third angel's message, “constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.” {GC 604.1}. Have the corruptions of the apostate churches, and the explicit call to “come out of her my people,” been given in any significant way just yet worldwide, by the uniformed witness of a consecrated remnant? No. Has obedience to the fourth commandment been made the special point of contention worldwide, being the question on everyone’s lips? No. At the point where we are, the great question is, Will you take the drug injectable? If we are honest to the prophetic word, and not bypassing or convoluting the delineation of final events, we know that we are not yet at the juncture of fully giving the Loud Cry.

It is the very clear and fulsome sounding of the Loud Cry which places the end-time Sabbath question into the forefront of the world’s attention. And it is *in reaction to* the Loud Cry that the authorities are stirred to enact the *Sunday Law*. E. G. White’s *The Great Controversy* makes this correlation very clear.

This scripture [the *Loud Cry* of Revelation 18] points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. . . . **In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the Decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred.** {GC 603.2}

**As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and**

**other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith.** But their steadfast answer is: "Show us from the word of God our error"--the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths. {GC 607.1}

The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus." Acts 3:19, 20. {GC 611.3}

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

### **More Left in the Delineation of Prophecy than many think**

As we could see from the study, there are momentous prophecies and promises left to be fulfilled. Yes, the final movements will be rapid ones, but we must understand that they must take place in their order. And this will logically take time: time to prepare and time to execute. Just so we can seriously understand that there is much more in the closing scenes that we have yet to realize, I will just mention various subjects associated with the three angels' messages which still have yet to be perfectly fulfilled in the experience of God's people. (Supporting quotes will be available in the appendix of this presentation):

1. Country Living
2. Health Reform
3. The Sealing and Shaking of the Remnant
4. Precise, Undeniable Divine Judgments upon the Cities prior to the Seven Last Plagues
5. The Loud Cry of the Third Angel, powered by the Latter Rain
6. The True Implementation of the Sunday Law in the USA and worldwide
7. The Eastern Question (The final destiny of Islam), and the Subsequent Close of Probation

### **Conclusion**

The apostle Paul was inspired to give this counsel to the church in Thessalonica:

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-3 (KJV)>>** <sup>1</sup>Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, <sup>2</sup>*That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.* <sup>3</sup>*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.*

It has been my humble effort to share with you in the same spirit as above, appealing to all of us to be more patient, guarded and focused spiritually, rather than anxiously anticipating a time of trouble before it is due. Notice the same apostle who spoke voluminously about Christ's Second Coming in many epistles, was yet earnest in the same mind not to have the church prematurely expect the day of Christ to be "at hand." He was not fostering unbelief; he certainly was not



scoffing. He understood that souls could be deceived by false prophets, and stirred into extremism and false paths, if they were not informed and reminded as to the things of prophecy which must surely come to pass first. It is this same spirit which characterized Christ as He laid forth His instructions on the end times from Mount Olivet. In Paul's context, the present truth about which the believers needed to be apprised, was the prophesied falling away of the early Christian Church towards the eventual forming of the papal hierarchy. The believers of Paul's day from Thessalonica seemed to hardly realize that they were many things yet unfulfilled before they could expect Christ to return—to the point that, looking from posterity, we recognize they would be waiting in the grave nearly two thousand years before any such consummation. Well, apostle Paul did certainly give them a more accurate prophetic context than they were initially interpreting. This is why sound prophecy is so especially important, as apostle Peter likewise expressed.

**2 PETER 1:19 (KJV)>> 19We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.**

In our day, contemplating all the prophecies from Christ and His prophets, we must also be strongly reminded of the things yet to come to pass, and the logical delineation of those events. When we can trace the events given by the sure word of prophecy—in their expressed order, understanding that *all* of them *must* be fulfilled—then we will gain a more accurate, sober realization of what is required of us, and strive for mastery in Christ accordingly. We can better measure where we are and where we ought to be in light of God's providence, and the necessary time it may take to be fulfilled. Studying the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy in light of end-time preparation should form the greatest occupation of our energies. All other news or speculations, intriguing though they may seem at times, can be safely ignored.

In my humble opinion, we have enough to do with having to endure the *pharmakeia* test which is before all of us worldwide. Projecting onto the end of all things, ahead of unfulfilled prophecies, is not the wisest course for those humbly aiming to “follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” (Rev.14:4). We do not know whether we will live or die tomorrow: “Sufficient to the day is the evil thereof.” (Matt.6:34). Far more individuals than we would think better of in the past are compromising as we speak; and many more may very well be tempted to compromise in the future before God interposes to vindicate His faithful remnant. “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” (1<sup>st</sup>Cor.10:12). There is more left in the prophecy puzzle, but we need to pass the providential tests step by step in order to proceed. Indeed, I am convinced that more than anything else since the *Great Disappointment*, this *pharmakeia* test will bring about the greatest shaking thus far among the professed Advent people. Let us pass this test of faith first, having done all to stand. I close with a most fitting encouragement from Sis. White:

**Live the life of faith day by day. Do not become anxious and distressed about the time of trouble, and thus have a time of trouble beforehand. Do not keep thinking, “I am afraid I shall not stand in the great testing day.” You are to live for the present, for this day only. Tomorrow is not yours. Today you are to maintain the victory over self. Today you are to live a life of prayer. Today you are to fight the good fight of faith. Today you are to believe that God blesses you. And as you gain the victory over darkness and unbelief, you will meet the requirements of the Master, and will become a blessing to those around you. {HS 142.3}**

May you occupy in the sure Word, and choose the right each moment going forward, even as you submit to the Spirit of Christ unto the eternal reward. Amen.

**Yours in the Faith,**  
**Stone Cryer.**  
(*Luke 19:40*).

## APPENDIX - SOME TESTS NOT YET COMPLETELY FULFILLED IN THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S LAST-DAY PEOPLE

### Health Reform.....

Those who have received instruction regarding the evils of the use of flesh foods, tea and coffee, and rich and unhealthful food preparations, and who are determined to make a covenant with God by sacrifice, will not continue to indulge their appetite for food that they know to be unhealthful. God demands that the appetites be cleansed, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. *This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a perfected people.* {9T 153.4}

December 10, 1871, I was again shown that *the health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord.* It is as closely connected with the third angel's message as the hand is with the body. The law of Ten Commandments has been lightly regarded by man, but the Lord would not come to punish the transgressors of that law without first sending them a message of warning. The third angel proclaims that message. Had men ever been obedient to the law of Ten Commandments, carrying out in their lives the principles of those precepts, the curse of disease now flooding the world would not be. {3T 161.1}

Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetite and lustful passions, and not violate the law of God. Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may see our sin in violating the laws which He has established in our being. All our enjoyment or suffering may be traced to obedience or transgression of natural law. Our gracious heavenly Father sees the deplorable condition of men who, some knowingly but many ignorantly, are living in violation of the laws that He has established. And in love and pity to the race, He causes the light to shine upon health reform. He publishes His law and the penalty that will follow the transgression of it, that all may learn and be careful to live in harmony with natural law. He proclaims His law so distinctly and makes it so prominent that it is like a city set on a hill. All accountable beings can understand it if they will. Idiots will not be responsible. *To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel's message to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord.* {3T 161.2}

Ignorance is no excuse now for the transgression of law. The light shines clearly, and none need be ignorant, for the great God Himself is man's instructor. All are bound by the most sacred obligations to God to heed the sound philosophy and genuine experience which He is now giving them in reference to health reform. *He designs that the great subject of health reform shall be agitated and the public mind deeply stirred to investigate; for it is impossible for men and women, with all their sinful, health-destroying, brain-enervating habits, to discern sacred truth, through which they are to be sanctified, refined, elevated, and made fit for the society of heavenly angels in the kingdom of glory.* {3T 162.1}

#### **Additional Reading:**

*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 119, par. 1. {CTBH 119.1}

*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, p. 378. {3T 678}

*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, pp. 135-137. {7T 135}

### Country Living.....

The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the

decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. *It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.* {5T 464.3}

We cannot fail to see that the end of the world is soon to come. Satan is working upon the minds of men and women, and many seem filled with a desire for amusement and excitement. As it was in the days of Noah, every kind of evil is on the increase. Divorce and marriage is the order of the time. **At such a time as this, the people who are seeking to keep the commandments of God should look for retired places away from the cities.** {Ms85-1908.12}

Years ago I was shown that God's people would be tested upon this point of making homes for the homeless; that there would be many without homes in consequence of their believing the truth. Opposition and persecution would deprive believers of their homes, and it was the duty of those who had homes to open a wide door to those who had not. I have been shown more recently that God would specially test His professed people in reference to this matter. {2T 27.3}

Precise, Unmistakable Judgments upon the cities prior to the Close of Probation .....

*Bible history is to be repeated. Calamities will come, calamities most awful, most unexpected; and these destructions will follow one after another.* If there will be a heeding of the warnings that God has given, and if churches will repent, returning to their allegiance, then other cities may be spared for a time. But if men who have been deceived continue in the same way in which they have been walking, disregarding the law of God and presenting falsehoods before the people, God allows them to suffer calamity, that their senses may be awakened. {Ms35-1906.26}

*The Lord will not suddenly cast off all transgressors or destroy entire nations, but He will punish cities and places where men have given themselves up to the possession of satanic agencies.* Strictly will the cities of the nations be dealt with; and yet they will not be visited in the extreme of God's indignation, because some souls will yet break away from the delusions of the enemy and will repent and be converted, while the mass will be treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath. {Ms35-1906.30}

The Lord bids the abandoned of this our day to fill up the cup of their iniquity to its full measure. *God will arise speedily in His authoritative power and will pour out His wrath on those who have been working through Satan's science to deceive if possible the very elect.* {Ms35-1906.31}

We are living amid the perils of the last days. *The wrath of God is preparing to come upon all the cities – not all at once but one after another.* And if the terrible punishment in one city does not cause the inhabitants of other cities to be afraid and seek repentance, their time will come. When the Lord ariseth to shake terribly the earth, He will not cease until His work in punishment is done. *The destruction will begin in certain places, and the destruction of life will be sudden and but few will escape.* There is not to be given an encouraging thought that the gospel of Jesus Christ will be accepted by the large majority of men prior to His coming again the second time with power and great glory. I am instructed by revelation to say that most solemn and overwhelming judgments are determined upon all people who have the light before them in the Word of God, but who do not follow it. {Ms233-1902.4}

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. Some of our people were standing there. "It is just as we expected," they said, "we expected this." Others were wringing their hands in agony and crying unto God for mercy. "You knew it," said they, "you knew that this was coming, and never said a word to warn us!" They seemed as though they would almost tear them to pieces, to think they had never told them or given them any warning at all. {Ms188-1905.13}

The next scene presented was a messenger in a house, who took a map, and showed them on that map where were cities, where were villages, where there were places that should be visited. And there were only a few places dotted here and there where they had visited. Here are those that can go forth, and will they go forth? He pointed to these places, to the cities and villages and the different places that have not been worked – scarcely nothing done in them. Here were men and women that knew the truth. {Ms188-1905.14}

#### **Additional Reading:**

*Letter 158, 1906, par. 8.* {Lt158-1906.8}

*Review and Herald:* September 10, 1903 par. 2 | July 5, 1906 par. 10 | February 21, 1907 par. 1.

#### **The Sealing and Shaking of the Remnant.....**

There is a spirit of desperation, of war and bloodshed, and that spirit will increase until the very close of time. **Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads – it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved – just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come.** Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land to give us warning, that we may know what is coming. {Ms173-1902.25}

#### **The Loud Cry of the Third Angel, powered by the Latter Rain .....**

God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome, if they would not be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Said the angel: "God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people." Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: "They are joined to their idols, let them alone," and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation. {1T 187.1}

I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere,

and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message. {EW 279.1}

**The True Implementation of the Sunday Law in the USA and worldwide .....**

Brethren and sisters, would that I might say something to awaken you to the importance of this time, the significance of the events that are now taking place. I point you to the aggressive movements now being made for the restriction of religious liberty. God's sanctified memorial has been torn down, and in its place a false sabbath, bearing no sanctity, stands before the world. And while the powers of darkness are stirring up the elements from beneath, the Lord God of heaven is sending power from above to meet the emergency by arousing His living agencies to exalt the law of heaven. Now, just now, is our time to work in foreign countries. *As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.* Our people are not half awake to do all in their power, with the facilities within their reach, to extend the message of warning. {6T 18.2}

*The Lord God of heaven will not send upon the world His judgments for disobedience and transgression until He has sent His watchmen to give the warning. He will not close up the period of probation until the message shall be more distinctly proclaimed.* The law of God is to be magnified; its claims must be presented in their true, sacred character, that the people may be brought to decide for or against the truth. Yet the work will be cut short in righteousness. The message of Christ's righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel. {6T 19.1}

History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon. *All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath.* This is Satan's plan to make of no account the day instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of creation. {ST, May 6, 1897 par. 14}

*The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world.* In a limited degree, it has already gone forth. In several places the civil power is speaking with the voice of a dragon, just as the heathen king spoke to the Hebrew captives. {ST, May 6, 1897 par. 15}

Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. Force is the last resort of every false religion. At first it tries attraction, as the king of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. So it will be now. The Papacy has exercised her power to compel men to obey her, and she will continue to do so. {ST, May 6, 1897 par. 16}

**The Eastern Question (the fate of Islamic Turkey), preparatory to the close of Human Probation, according to the closing prophecies of Daniel.....**

According to a consistent, line upon line interpretation of Daniel 11:45 (also the view held by our SDA pioneers), it can be seen that the *king of the north* in the last days represents the region of Turkey under Islamic rule. The words of Gabriel to Daniel indicate that this Islamic power from Turkey is prophesied to completely usurp the religio-political seat of Jerusalem, away from the hands of modern-day Israel. Strikingly, the prophecy also states that the said Islamic supremacy will come to an overt end thereafter, and "none shall help him." Just after this verse (Daniel 11:45), we have the solemn declaration of Daniel 12:1, proclaiming the onset of the *time of trouble*. The *time of trouble* marks the close of human probation, wherein the wrath of God is poured out upon the earth in the form of the seven last plagues. Two leading pioneer Bible expositors—Uriah Smith and Stephen Haskell—shared and published the same conclusions on this the *Eastern Question*. These conclusions were echoed by other SDA pioneers, and were conclusions which E. G. White had no issue supporting.

"At that time." What time? - The time to which we are brought by the closing verse of the preceding chapter, - the time when the king of the north shall plant the tabernacles of his palace in the glorious holy mountain; or, in other words, when the Turk, driven from Europe, shall hastily make Jerusalem his temporary seat of government. We noticed, in remarks upon the latter portion of the preceding chapter, some of the agencies already in operation for the accomplishment of this end, and some of the indications that the Turk will soon be obliged to make this move. And when this event takes place, he is to come to his end; and then, according to this verse, we look for the standing up of Michael, the great prince. This movement on the part of Turkey is the signal for the standing up of Michael; that is, it marks this event as next in order. And to guard against all misunderstanding, let the reader note that the position is not here taken that the next movement against the Turks will drive them from Europe, or that when they shall establish their capital at Jerusalem, Christ begins his reign without the lapse of a day or an hour of time. But here are the events, to come, as we believe, in the following order: (1) Further pressure brought to bear in some way upon the Turk; (2) His retirement from Europe; (3) His final stand at Jerusalem; (4) The standing up of Michael, or the beginning of the reign of Christ, and his coming in the clouds of heaven. And it is not reasonable to suppose that any great amount of time will elapse between these events. {1897 UrS, DAR 319.2}

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. {1901 SNH, SDP 247.3}

The prophetic guide carried the prophet on, and revealed the contest between modern nations; he saw the final struggle between the north and the south, and pointed to Constantinople as the seat of contention in the last days. Nations should turn their gaze toward the present occupants of that city and patiently await the removal of the Turk into the "glorious land." For "he shall come to his end and none shall help him." {1901 SNH, SDP 251.1}

Elder [Uriah] Smith spoke on the Sabbath question to a large congregation this morning, and this evening he speaks on the Eastern question. I feel so grateful that Brother Smith is not lost to the cause. He seems fully and thoroughly united with us; seems like Brother Smith of old. Oh, thank the Lord! {Lt55-1884.6}

The evening meeting was largely attended. Elder Smith spoke with great clearness, and many listened with open eyes, ears, and mouths. The outsiders seemed to be intensely interested in the Eastern question. He closed with a very solemn address to those who had not been preparing for these great events in the near future. {Lt55-1884.7}

*"And he [Jesus] answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." (Luke 19:40).*

 AMEN.