

# Before Probation Closes

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## OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

- "The Moral Purpose of Prophecy."
- "Europe and Armageddon."
- "How to Pray Effectual Prayers."
- "The Life Triumphant."
- "The Fire of His Jealousy."
- "The Deceitfulness of Sin."
- "In the Light of His Word."
- "Christ Conquers!"
- "The Certainty of the Third Angel's Message."
- "Armageddon - The Time of Spiritual Israel's Deliverance."
- "What Is Armageddon?"
- "Armageddon and the Advent."
- "Armageddon, the Battle of that Great Day of God Almighty."
- "The King of the North at Jerusalem." Etc.

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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“BEFORE the decree bring forth, BEFORE the day pass as the chaff, BEFORE the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, BEFORE the day of the Lord’s anger come upon you. Seek you the Lord, all you meek of the earth, which have wrought his Judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be you shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger.” (Zephaniah 2: 2, 3.)

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. BUT the day of the Lord WILL COME.” (2 Peter 3: 9, 10.)

### FOREWORD

As a people, we are proclaiming a greater message than at times is fully grasped. “We have a work of the largest magnitude and highest importance” (6 Testimonies, Page 406) - its world-wide nature is clearly presented in Matthew 24:14; 28:19; Revelation 7:1-3; 10:2; 18:1. It must “be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations” (Matthew 24:14). Our Lord commands: “Go teach all nations” (Matthew 28:19). While these heaven-sent orders have applied down the centuries of the Christian era, they have a special meaning for earth’s last generation. Repeatedly the servant of the Lord has emphasized that our message is world-wide. She says: “God has given us a worldwide message” (3 Testimonies, Page 388). “The message loses none of its force in the angel’s onward flight; for John sees it increasing in - strength and power until the whole earth is lightened with its glory” (5 Testimonies, Page 383). God’s last-day message contains a special warning regarding the coming of world-wide calamities, and the necessity of receiving “the seal of God” (Revelation 7:1-3) in order to be protected during “the time of trouble” and to be “delivered.” God’s last-day message proclaims “the hour of His judgment is come,” the fall of modern Babylon, and warns against the “worship of the beast and his image,” and the receiving of “his mark” (Revelation 14: 6-12).

These are not messages and warnings pertaining to certain restricted countries and peoples - they are to be proclaimed “in all the world . . . unto all nations”; “the whole earth” is to be “lightened with His glory” (Revelation 18: 1). Because the “godless” Soviet Communists at present influence, if not control, so much of the earth’s surface and nearly half of the world’s population, some are apt to imagine that these expressions regarding the world-wide nature of God’s last-day Message, must be understood as relating only to the nations of “Christendom.” Surely, it is said, or implied, the warning concerning the beast and his image and his mark could have little, if any, application, to those countries like Russia, or China, etc., governed as at present by “godless” Communists. Past history has surely taught us not to endeavor to interpret the prophecies by current political happenings. We have already seen how great changes have occurred in the political economy of nations, and the Spirit of Prophecy has informed us that “great changes” are yet to take place that will speed the world to its climactic hour before probation closes. The Lord’s servant has plainly declared that “the Sabbath question is to be the issue in the great final conflict in which all the world will act a part” (6 Testimonies, Page 352).

God’s last-day Message is to warn the world concerning its pre-probationary crisis hour when the whole of mankind will have to decide to obey God and receive His mark or sign of approval, or to obey “the man of sin” and receive his mark of allegiance. This message is the gospel to this generation. It is a message of personal salvation through an indwelling Savior. Its key-note is: “Christ in you the hope of glory.” The third angel’s Message is God’s great message of salvation; a message concerning vital, world-shaking events to occur before probation closes. To describe the fierce conflict between the forces of good and evil over the Law of God, the Lord has given some graphic prophetic pictures. These prophecies so clearly and so fully portray “the great conflict [“the Sabbath question is the issue”] in which all the world will act a part,” that Satan has put forth every effort to bring in confusion concerning these prophecies and cause some of God’s people to postpone until after the close of probation, prophetic events which will transpire before the door of mercy closes. The Lord’s servant says:

“Satan is constantly seeking to cast a shadow about these messages [‘of Revelation 14’], so that the people of God shall not clearly discern their import, their time and place” (6 Testimonies, Page 18). One of the means Satan has employed to becloud the clearer understanding of the messages of “the three angels of Revelation 14” so that some of God’s people do “not discern their import, their time and place,” is that of applying some of the prophecies (or portions of them) relating to these solemn messages, to

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speculative national events which are supposed to occur about the time of the 6th plague. When Satan has persuaded some to apply these prophecies depicting the world's pre-probationary crisis hour over the Sabbath, to speculative national events supposed to transpire after probation closes, he can then successfully persuade people to neglect the study of these prophecies, under the deception that they are not important because they are to be fulfilled after probation closes!

Politically today, the world is divided into the nations of the "east" and those of the "west." Should this weaken our teaching concerning the world-wide nature of the contents of our message, or do we discern the greatness of God's last-day message despite present political conditions? Would the message concerning the mark of the beast and the image of the beast be proclaimed in countries governed by "godless" Communists who at present are not led by the Papacy nor influenced by Protestants employing Papal principles of the Church, enforcing her dogmas through the State? Will the world remain divided into "east" and "west" from now until the time of the 6th plague, when, as some assert, "east" and "west" will meet in deadly combat in Palestine? Do those who still entertain this unscriptural idea, stop to consider the bearing of that speculative teaching upon the plainly declared statements from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy concerning the third angel's Message? If the "east" is to continue under the leadership of "godless" Communists, or pure "pagans," who will not "worship the beast and his image," how, then, will "all the world" wonder "after the beast?" What, then, of the inspired declaration that "all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him"? The third angel warns against the "worship of the beast and his image"- is that- a world-wide message, or is it confined necessarily to the nations of the "west"? If the explicit statements of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy mean what they say, then the warning of the third angel against the "worship of the beast and his image" must go to the whole world - including Russia, China, etc. Thus it will be readily seen that a belief in the magnitude of the third angel's Message, a belief that it is a world-wide message, automatically rules out the idea that the world will remain divided between "east" and "west" until the 6th plague. And a belief in the world-wide extent and greatness of the third angel's message reveals an understanding of the "great changes" that are destined to take place in present political conditions, resulting in the exaltation of the Papacy among the nations of the world and the consequent peril and threat of death to God's people "in all parts of the world" over the Sabbath - before probation closes.

In an earnest endeavor to exalt the majesty of the third angel's Message, and to assist the reader in obtaining clearer understanding of that message as he views the mighty events transpiring in the political world to-day, this booklet has been written. May the Holy Spirit Who indited the words of the prophecies guide us into a fuller understanding of the things concerning the third angel's Message, which, God's servant declares, "should engross the whole mind, the whole attention" (Early Writings, Page 118).

Louis F. Were,

April, 1951.

## ROME WILL CONQUER MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON!

Both the Vatican and the Kremlin are striving for world domination. Seventh-day Adventists, who are guided by the prophecies of God's Word and light from the Spirit of Prophecy, know the outcome. The prophetic finger points to Rome and Europe, backed by the mighty power of Protestant America as the dominating world powers until the very last hours of earthly history. Rome will "recover her lost supremacy"- "prophecy foretells a restoration of her power" (Great Controversy, Page 579-581). "The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head, the papal power, the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses" (7 Testimonies, Page 182). "Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin ... Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state." Ellen G. White in Revelation & Herald, June 15, 1897, quoted in "The Ministry," March, 1940.

"When the nation [undoubtedly U.S.A.] for which God has worked in such a marvelous manner, and over which He has spread the shield of Omnipotence, abandons Protestant principles, and through its legislature gives countenance and support to Roman Catholicism in limiting religious liberty, then God will

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work in His own power for His people that are true. The tyranny of Rome will be exercised, but Christ is our refuge” (Testimonies Ministers, Page 206). See also 5 Testimonies, Page 449-453; Great Controversy, Page 581, etc. “Let the principle once be established in the United States [as it will be], that the church may employ or control the State; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws. In short, that the authority of the church is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured . . . her former persecutions will be repeated.” Great Controversy, Page 581.

“The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done” (Great Controversy, Page 565).

Surely plainer language could not possibly be employed than these explicit declarations of Holy Writ: “And all the world [after the beast’s wound has been thoroughly healed] wondered after the beast” (Revelation 13:3) “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him” (Revelation 13:8); “And causes the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast ... saying to them that dwell on the earth ... as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: that no man might buy or sell” (Revelation 13:12-17). The crisis these verses portray will not be limited to what is known as “Christendom” Europe and America, etc.- but will involve the world. God’s last-day Message is a world-wide message which concerns “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Revelation 14: 6). See also Matthew 24:14; 28:19; Revelation 7:1-3; 10:2; 18:1. 3 Testimonies, Page 388; 6 Testimonies, Page 133; 5 Testimonies, Page 383; etc. “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man [whether living in Russia, China, Japan, or any other country] worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark.” (Revelation 14: 9).

### EXPLICIT DECLARATIONS FROM THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

“The Sabbath question is to be the issue in the great final conflict in which all the world will act a part” (6 Testimonies, Page 352).

“A great crisis awaits the people of God. A crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the’ ages is just before us” (5 Testimonies, Page 711). The context shows that this crisis refers to “the enforcement of the Sunday law.”

“The inhabitants of the world are to be arraigned before the judgment seat of God.”

“Soon the last test is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. At that time prompt decisions will be made” (9 Testimonies, Page 149).

“The great conflict that Satan created in the heavenly courts is soon, very soon, to be forever decided. Soon all the inhabitants of the earth will have taken sides, either for or against the government of heaven” (7 Testimonies, Page 141). The context refers to “the substitution of ... Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath.”

“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” (6 Testimonies, Page 18).

“Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world” (6 Testimonies, Page 395).

“The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world. Soon all the inhabitants of the earth will have taken sides [by the close of probation], either for or against the government of heaven” (7 Testimonies, Page 141).

“His [Satan’s] last opportunity to gain control of the world is now before him. Every soul [in any part of the world] that is not fully surrendered to God, and kept by divine power, will form an alliance with Satan against heaven, and join in battle against the Ruler of the universe” (Testimonies to Ministers 465). Before probation closes “all the inhabitants of the earth will have taken sides, either for or against the government of heaven,” “every soul” will have either “fully surrendered to God” or be under Satan’s banner-though the peak of the world’s combined rebellion against “the Ruler of the universe” occurs at the time of the 6th plague, for it is then that “the kings of the earth and of the whole world” (Revelation 16:14),

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are “fully united with Satan in his warfare against God” (Great Controversy, Page 656).

It would seem impossible for words to be employed to make a clearer declaration than these statements from the Spirit of Prophecy. From them we may know that “all the world,” “all the inhabitants of the earth,” “every country on the globe,” “all parts of the world,” will follow the example of the United States “in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false Sabbath.” By them we are guided in our interpretation of the prophecies depicting “the final conflict.” By them we may draw the obvious conclusion that Communistic Russia and her satellites could not (before the close of probation, and probably not until the sixth plague) overthrow “Christendom” (the countries spiritually tied to Europe, headed by America and the Vatican) - indeed, it obviously follows that in the event of the war impending between these two gigantic forces, Russia and her satellite countries would (probably after a mutually destructive conflict) all come under the influence of the United States and other countries of “Christendom,” at least for a brief period.

### **INTERPRETING LAST-DAY PROPHECIES BY THE FUTURISTIC SYSTEM DETRACTS FROM THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE AND PREVENTS A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF PRESENT-DAY WORLD CONDITIONS.**

Many, no doubt, have always believed something akin to this, though it is possible that all have not always discerned the full implication. Sometimes through not having a definite outline of a certain belief, it is possible to entertain two ideas which, in principle, contradict each other. For instance, some who believe in the immortality of the soul, glory in the thought that at death the soul is freed from the body, and yet they also teach the resurrection, when the soul will be once more united with the body. Some believe that at death, people go to heaven to be with Christ, yet they also believe in the Second Coming of Christ for His people. Some believe God is love, but still teach the horrors of an eternal hell-fire and the perpetual sufferings of the unsaved. Others believe in being free from the law, and boast about not being under the law but under grace -then advocate the enforcement of a national Sunday law! Many who maintain that in the Christian era we are free to keep any day we desire as the Sabbath, soon make it obvious that they object to the preaching of the 7th day Sabbath and declare that Sunday should be observed.

But such incongruities are by no means confined to Sunday keeping Christians, for despite clear light from the Spirit of Prophecy to guide the remnant church, some among us also hold contradictory beliefs.

That is, while teaching the third angel’s Message, they also, unwittingly, teach a part of the Futuristic system, which is Satan’s counterfeit of the third angel’s Message. A careful analysis of the Futuristic system reveals that the interpretation of Revelation 16:12-16 in connection with a supposed military conflict of all nations in Palestine, is an integral part of the Futuristic system and is actually opposed to the third angel’s Message. This system prevents people seeing the present fulfillment of prophecy by the Papacy.

Once the seeds of Futurism have found lodgment it is difficult to prevent them springing up in the mind and thus hindering the development or the full application of the principles of the third angel’s Message. The limited nature of this outline will not permit a lengthy examination of the principles of the Futuristic system, and point out where they are opposed to the foundational principles of God’s last-day Message, but briefly stated, the basic principle of Futurism is the strictly literal interpretation of the prophecies concerning “Israel and the Holy Land.” Scofield’s Bible (published to champion the Futuristic system), Page 918 (notes on Daniel 11), says: “Prophecy does not concern itself with history as such, but only with history as it affects Israel and the Holy Land.” Accordingly, Futurism interprets all prophecies in which Palestinian places or geography is employed, such as Daniel 11: 40-45; Revelation 16:12-16; Ezekiel 38, 39; Joel 3; Zechariah 14; etc., in a literal sense in relation to the literal Jews. This is the basic difference between Futurism and the third angel’s Message. Futurists consistently follow their erroneous system by applying all these prophecies, in which Israel and the geography of the land of Israel are portrayed, literally in connection with the literal Jews. But we are inconsistent when we apply “Israel” to the remnant church and yet apply literally the geography of “the land of Israel” to Palestine. That is, we interpret the term “Israel,” “Jew,” etc., in a world-wide sense in relation to the church but the land and geography of “the land of Israel,” always associated together with “Israel” in the Scriptures, we apply in a strictly geographical sense in relation to Palestine. Thus two systems of interpretations are employed,

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namely, the third angel's Message plus the Futuristic. It is the confusing of these two systems of interpretation that brings confusion into our ranks and causes those who unconsciously mix these two systems to fail to see the present importance to the remnant church of those prophecies which they interpret according to the Futuristic system. The evil One designed the Futuristic system to do this very thing to cause important prophecies to be applied to the future, to the time after the close of probation, and applying to the literal Jews in Palestine, instead of the world-wide remnant church, so that their present tremendous importance will be meaningless to God's people for whom they were written, and for the crisis hour before probation closes.

As a people, we proclaim a most wonderfully harmonious Message when the prophecies are interpreted in relation to the church. When interpreting the prophecies involving Israel and geographical features associated with Israel, in a world-wide, anti-typical sense in relation to the church, there is perfect harmony, but when this principle is not consistently maintained and some of the prophecies (such as Daniel 11: 40-45; Revelation 16: 12-16; Ezekiel 38; 39; etc.) are interpreted in a literal, Palestinian sense, then they are made to teach ideas which really detract from the majesty of God's last-day Message. Instead of depicting the great final conflict between truth and error, involving spiritual Israel and the Sabbath they are interpreted to refer to that which has nothing to do with God's last-day Message, and at such a time (after probation closes) that they are rendered valueless to God's people now, when they need the knowledge and strength those prophecies really impart.

By reading the notes in Scofield's Bible, it will be seen that all the prophecies which we as a people apply spiritually or anti-typically, in connection with spiritual Israel in all the world, are applied literally in relation to Palestine and the Jews. This fact alone should help Seventh-day Adventists to shun the Futuristic system when interpreting the last-day prophecies enumerated above. For a fuller consideration of the fundamental principles of interpretation upon which the third angel's Message is established, the reader is advised to obtain "The King of the North at Jerusalem. God's People Delivered. The relationship between Daniel 11:45 and 12:4 and "The Certainty of the Third Angel's Message Proved by Important. Principles of Prophetic Interpretation." (See advertisement at the back of this book.)

Seventh-day Adventists who are clear on the prophecies concerning the return of the Jews - applying them in an anti-typical sense in relation to spiritual Israel - should have no difficulty in applying the same principle when interpreting Daniel 11:40-45; Ezekiel 38; 39; Joel 3; Zechariah 14; Revelation 16:12-16; etc. All of these prophecies which bring in "Israel," "the land of Israel," "the holy mountain of Jerusalem," "Zion," "Babylon," "the river Euphrates, the Kings of the east," "the King of the north," etc., should be interpreted according to the same principle. If not, who is to determine which is to be applied literally in relation to Palestine, and which are to be applied anti-typically or spiritually in relation to God's people, the remnant church! The Spirit of Prophecy never deviates from the world-wide application in relation to the church of any prophecy no matter how much of Palestinian geography is mentioned in the prophecy. To deviate from this principle is simply to follow the Futuristic system which counterfeits the teaching of the third angel's Message.

One of our highly-esteemed writers, a man with undoubted integrity, has written: "Many people belonging to Christian churches have been led to look for developments in Palestine which will never occur. These views are wholly erroneous. None of these expected events will take place. These views are all perversions of the real truth of God. They were designed by the enemy of all truth to deceive God's people." The teachings which he rightly condemns are, however, based upon the Futuristic system, which the same writer follows when interpreting Revelation 16:12-16; Daniel 11:40-45, in reference to a supposed conflict of all nations in Palestine! He, too, when employing the Futuristic system, leads people "to look for developments in Palestine which will never occur"!

### THE PAPACY - NOT TURKEY IS THE KING OF THE NORTH.

In our previous publication - "The King of the North at Jerusalem"-we dealt with the principles of interpretation which enable us to know that Daniel 11:40-45 depicts the last-day activities of the Papacy as it marches triumphantly on toward its goal of supremacy, and to the place where it will again persecute the people of God. We cannot attempt, in this limited outline, to present again the reasons given for thus applying Daniel 11:40-45. We must be content to remind Seventh-day Adventist Bible students who thoroughly understand the interpretation of the many verses in the Old Testament dealing with the return of the Jews, that the interpretation regarding the king of the north is determined upon exactly the same basis.

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The Lord promised His people who were the captives of Babylon: “They shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers” (Jeremiah 3:18; 23: 8; 31:8). Three messages were given to ancient Israel to come out of Babylon (Jeremiah 50:8; 51:6, 45).

Our application of these things in connection with the remnant church is sustained by definite Scriptures. “Now all these things happened unto them for types [margin]: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The Revelator, depicting the final call of God’s people out of Babylon by the three-fold Message of Revelation 14:6-12, says: “I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people” (Revelation 18:4). Thus, Old Testament texts depicting God’s people coming out of “the north,” from “the north by the river Euphrates” (Jeremiah 46:6, 10), from the kingdom of “the king of Babylon,” the king of “the north” (Jeremiah 25:9, 11), are definitely applied in relation to God’s people coming out of spiritual Babylon, the modern “king of the north.” Thus the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45 can have no application to the literal city of Jerusalem, or to the land of Palestine, or to Turkey or Babylon W the literal north of Jerusalem. The whole prophecy can be understood aright only in connection with spiritual Israel and her foes.

When studied in this light, this prophecy is seen to contain startling information for God’s Sabbath-keeping remnant church. In graphic language they are given a clear outline of the resurrection to power of the Papacy that persecuted the people of God so bitterly in the Dark Ages. Any attempt to interpret this prophecy according to the Futuristic system, thus bringing the literal city of Jerusalem into the picture, will detract from God’s last-day Message and confuse the people of God. We shall again, later, refer to this prophecy as we show its application to the unfolding of the mighty struggle between the Papacy and Communism, which will result in the more rapid rise to power of the Papal hierarchy. But before so doing we shall again draw attention to the way in which interpreting prophecy according to Futuristic principles brings in confusion with regard to a clear understanding of the third angel’s Message.

### “THE KINGS OF THE EAST” COME TO DESTROY BABYLON AND TO DELIVER GOD’S PEOPLE.

Satan devised the Futuristic [the Palestinian] centered system of prophetic interpretation to blind people to the important truths of the third angel’s Message. Whenever the prophecies are interpreted according to this system, some important revelation concerning the remnant church or her enemies is covered by some erroneous teaching. By the interpretation of Revelation 16:12; Joel 3., etc., in connection with a supposed-military war of all nations in Palestine, Satan succeeds in covering over a mighty truth of great importance to the people of God. “The Kings of the East” refer to the armies of Heaven, and they descend from Heaven by way of the eastern skies to destroy the forces of Babylon and to bring eternal deliverance to the people of God. We must refer the reader to my other publications where abundant evidence for this teaching is presented from the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy. Faced with the colossal forces of Babylon, as the remnant people of God will be ere long, the true teaching concerning Revelation 16: 12 will be to them one of the most comforting and assuring of all prophetic declarations. By the erroneous teaching that “the Kings of the East” refer to the nations to the east of the literal city of Jerusalem, Satan has endeavored to make this mighty message meaningless to the people of God in their conflict with the powers of evil. In “The Moral Purpose of Prophecy” the writer has shown that, when interpreted by the principles of interpretation employed throughout the Spirit of Prophecy (which we have followed in our publications), such verses as Revelation 16:12, though definitely applicable to the second coming of Christ, have a message to-day for the people of God. Our Lord, Who comes at His second advent to bring eternal deliverance to His people, is able and willing, by His Holy Spirit, to deliver His people from sin and the things of Satan each day and each hour. But, the military interpretation of Revelation 16: 12 conveys no moral message for God’s people for the present, neither could it profit God’s people after probation closes. An extended analysis of the Palestinian-centered interpretation of Revelation 16:12 would show that it is out of harmony with the principles of the third angel’s Message.

During the last war some of our expositors of the prophecies taught that Japan was referred to as “the kings of the east” (Revelation 16: 12), declaring that she was destined to continue her conquests until she reached Palestine, where, some suggested, conjunction would be made with Hitler’s then triumphant armies. But was it not perfectly obvious that that teaching could not have harmonized with the facts of America influencing the world to force the consciences of men and cause them to keep the false Sabbath before the close of probation? The time element alone in this speculative teaching could not have been

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harmonized with the established facts concerning our message how could the prophecies concerning the Papacy and Protestant America have been fulfilled, the loud cry proclaimed in all the world, and all the other clearly-outlined pre-probationary events be fulfilled and yet Japan have succeeded in continuing her conquests and meeting other powers in Palestine under the 6th plague? The two teachings were really self-destructive, yet they were taught together!

### THE PAPACY - NOT RUSSIA - IS DEPICTED IN EZEKIEL 38 AND 39.

It is a cause for rejoicing that the number of our workers who teach that Russia is referred to in Ezekiel 38, 39 grows less, but if a war broke out between Russia and the “western” world those who do not follow certain Bible principles of interpretation would be tempted to give voice to confused ideas and make false prophecies concerning Russia, as some did regarding Japan during World War II.

As the writer has explained at length in other publications, “Gog,” mentioned in Ezekiel 38, 39, refers to the leader of the hosts attacking Christ and His church, “the Israel of God.” This is the interpretation given by the Holy Spirit in Revelation 20: 8, 9.

Should a war be waged between Russia and the “western” world before the close of probation, the reader is urged to remember that the Scriptures plainly declare that before probation closes “all the world”-including Russia is yet to wonder after the beast. And remember, too, that the Scriptures also plainly declare that the United States is to cause “the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast” (Revelation 13:3, 8). “Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States in all parts of the world” (6 Testimonies, Page 395). “Every country on the globe will be led to follow her example” (6 Testimonies, Page 18).

A realization of the greatness of the third angel’s Message would have prevented some from uttering false prophecies concerning Japan in the last war, and should prevent anyone from uttering false prophecies regarding Russia, if a war should break out involving Russia before probation closes. An analysis of the prophecy of Ezekiel 38, 39 reveals that Gog is pictured as controlling nations over a vast area around “Israel” and of preparing them “for a long time” (Ezekiel 38: 6-8, Fenton’s Translation), for an attack upon “Israel.”

By applying this prophecy to Russia, it is necessary to believe that Russia will conquer most of Europe and North Africa as far as “Libya” and “Ethiopia,” and after “a long time” invade Palestine to attack “Israel.” Apart from the incongruity of Russia (applying this prophecy according to the false system of interpretation known as “Futurism”), conquering territory far removed in North Africa sometime before attacking “Israel” in nearby Palestine, this presents a picture of Russian success over “a long time,” and over papal territory and power, which is at variance with the clear light of the third angel’s Message.

When this grand and inspiring prophecy is interpreted as a picture of the “agencies of evil” “combining their forces and consolidating” (9 Testimonies, Page 11), preparatory to an attack upon “the Israel of God,” the church, it presents a clear picture in harmony with the light of the third angel’s Message. Ever since the rise of God’s last-day Message, Satan has been preparing for “the final conflict” when he hopes to destroy the remnant people of God. The prophecy of Ezekiel 38, 39 will meet its fulfillment when the world, headed by the Papacy, and assisted by the false prophet, makes “war” upon those “which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 12:17). As Satan has sought to hide this truth by his usual means of counter-interpretation, (as he has done with this prophecy in the world generally for over a century), so we may expect that he would again put forth great efforts to hide this important truth from God’s people, should a war with Russia occur before probation closes. However, those who believe the third angel’s Message concerning the beast, and the false prophet, leading “all the world” into deception concerning “the mark of the beast” will not entertain speculative teachings which are really at variance with the clear light of God’s Message.

Had we, during the last world war, unwaveringly taught the one great message concerning Christ - and, by contrast, anti-christ, and “the false prophet” that would rise to prominence among the nations, and finally restore power to anti-christ without any extraneous political speculations concerning Japan, China, etc. (events which did not come to pass, and thus discredited our system of interpretation), we could now more confidently point out the accuracy of our interpretations concerning the United States’ remarkable growth and power, her rise to such heights of strength and commanding influence in the world in these latter days in fulfillment of Revelation 13. However, should war with Russia break forth and we preach the message without further false prophecies (concerning Russia and Ezekiel 38, 39, etc.), being associated

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with it, our message will commend itself to many, as it will be seen that the beast and the false prophet are more and more leading the world along the path outlined in the prophecies of the Book of Revelation.

Whenever the prophecies of Revelation 16:12-16; Daniel 11:40-45; Ezekiel 38, 39; Joel 3; Zechariah 14, are interpreted in relation to a supposed military conflict in Palestine, such interpretations bring in confusion, and at times contradictions, regarding the third angel's Message, and the reason for this is because two messages are then proclaimed instead of only one-the certainties of the third angel's Message. That is, as if in addition to the prophecies concerning the "war" upon the remnant church by the beast and the false prophet, over the image to the beast and the mark of the beast, there is another set of prophecies dealing with "war" among nations in Palestine. Such a view fails to discern the fact that it is those very prophecies which depict, in pictorial symbolism, the great conflict over the Law of God. God has only one message for His people to proclaim (Revelation 14:6-14, and therein nothing is said regarding Turkey, Russia, etc.), and all the prophecies deal with that one message. Because Palestine seems to be brought into the pictures of the prophets does not mean that those prophecies are now to be interpreted literally in relation to Palestine, for the whole plan of salvation and the third angel's Message is pictured in the geography of Palestine. The church - spiritual "Israel"- having taken the place of national Israel, is always pictured in the Bible as if it still abides in "the land of Israel." I must refer my readers to my other publications where this principle is enlarged upon. In them are revealed the principles upon which rests understanding of the third angel's Message as taught in the Spirit of Prophecy.

### REVELATION 14:6-12 OUTLINES THE MESSAGE WE ARE TO PROCLAIM TO THE WORLD.

In Revelation 14: 6-12 is depicted the message to be proclaimed by God's people; the true worship of God, the holiness and perpetuity of God's Law, the Judgment, salvation through the blood of Calvary, and the intercession of our Lord Jesus the great High Priest, the true Sabbath, etc. The warning against the false system of worship - the beast, its image, the enforcement of the mark of the beast by the false prophet, etc. "The message of Revelation 14 is the message that we are to bear to the world" (8 Testimonies, Page , p. 27). God's people are nowhere instructed to preach this message, plus another about a military war in Palestine involving Russia, China, Japan, etc.-the so-called "Kings of the East"- against "Christendom," the nations of the "West." When such things are preached in addition to the clearly-defined third angel's Message, it results in confusion among God's people, and causes some to minimize the importance of the message. The third angel's Message is a world-wide message, and the nations to whom that message is preached all come under the same category as acceptors or enemies of that message - they either receive "the seal of God" or "the mark of the beast." They will either become members of "the Israel of God" or be labeled followers of the beast and the false prophet.

Because of their confusion, produced by the interpretation of the above-mentioned prophecies in relation to Palestine, some believe that the message pertains to the "Western" world - yet we send Missionaries to all countries of the world, and we are definitely informed that "the same crisis [concerning the enforcement of the mark of the beast] will come upon our people in all parts of the world" because "Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States" (6 Testimonies, Page 395).

God does not refer to the people of the world as those of the "east" and those of the "west." When He outlined the message His people are to proclaim He used no such designation (Revelation 14. 6, 7, etc.). With the rejection of the Jewish nation, the literal city Jerusalem ceased to be the center of Bible prophecy, so that it is a purely human device to refer to nations to the east of Jerusalem as "the Kings of the east," the "pagans." The interpretation which makes the "dragon" of Revelation 16:13 refer to these so-called "eastern" nations, contradicts the- explicit statement of the Spirit of Prophecy which declares: "Kings, and rulers, and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of anti-Christ, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints. In their enmity against the people of God, they show themselves guilty also of the choice of Barabbas instead of Christ" (Testimonies to Ministers, Page 39). This, of course, is the teaching of the Scriptures. By comparing Revelation 16:13 with Revelation 19:19, 20, we see that the dragon, coupled with the beast and the false prophet in Revelation 16:13, refers to the "kings" who are coupled with the beast and the false prophet in Revelation 19:19, 20. Thus the so-called "eastern" nations are not specifically pointed out in Revelation 16:13, but the "kings" "in all parts of the world" who enforce the papal Sunday are designated the "dragon."

Writing of the messages of "the three angels of Revelation 14," the servant of the Lord says, "Satan is constantly seeking to cast a shadow about these messages, so that the people of God shall not

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clearly discern their import, their time and place” (6 Testimonies, Page 18). As the writer has shown in other publications, the interpretation of prophecies (Revelation 16:12-16; Daniel 11:40-45; Ezekiel 38, 39; Joel 3; Zechariah 14, etc.), in relation to a supposed military war in Palestine, casts a shadow over the third angel’s Message, confuses the issues involved, and belittles the grandeur and certainty of God’s last-day message. “We are in danger of giving the third angel’s Message in so indefinite a manner that it does not impress the people. So many other interests are brought in, that the very message which should be proclaimed becomes tame and voiceless. Our message is a life-and-death message, and we must let it appear as it is, the great power of God. We are to present it in all its telling force. Then the Lord will make it effective.” (6 Testimonies, Page 60, 61).

When these prophecies (enumerated above), which are sometimes applied in relation to a supposed military battle in Palestine, are interpreted (as they undoubtedly should be) as vivid descriptions of the great conflict between the forces of good and evil - and particularly “the final conflict” over the Sabbath, involving “the Israel of God”- there is revealed nothing but a beautiful harmony in the presentation of God’s last-day Message. When these prophecies are thus interpreted, the third angel’s Message is presented with mighty power: with clarity the preacher is able to show that the conflict depicted in these prophecies concerns loyalty to the Law of God, and fellowship with the Lord Jesus, the almighty Captain of the Lord’s hosts. By interpreting these prophecies in this way, the people can be made to see that they either are on the Lord’s side in the mighty conflict over the Law of God, or on the side of His enemy. The Lord’s servant gives us a view of the conflict: “In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world’s insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel. The battle raged. The Captain of our salvation was ordering the battle” (8 Testimonies, Page 41-42). “The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering - a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition” (Great Controversy, Page 582).

When interpreted as depicting the conflict between good and evil, the prophecies (sometimes applied to a Palestinian war between nations), outline the mighty clash of the two armies over the Law of God, as depicted by the servant of the Lord.

## 2. DESTRUCTION OF CITIES FORETOLD

The prophetic word declares that the days preceding the return of our Lord would be characterized by anger among the nations and by consequent great destruction (Revelation 11: 18). It is only within recent years that the full significance of this remarkable prediction could have been fully appreciated. Twice in the lifetime of the present generation has the world had a blood-bath, and now looms up the possibility of a Third World War, which threatens destruction on such a colossal scale that staggers the imagination. The dreadful destruction of life and property which occurred in the frightful horrors of the recent “total war,” would be greatly exceeded by the appalling disaster and destruction of World War III. How wonderfully accurate the prediction that the anger of the nations would be characterized by destruction. Cities, villages, houses, factories, materials, commodities, airplanes, tanks and other war equipment, ships, human life, etc., ruthlessly destroyed by “angry” nations. The Scriptures are definite that world conditions are to deepen in intensity and grow in extent. With the catastrophic destruction of World War II as a measure, we can at least form some idea of the far greater devastation to be wrought in the event of another cataclysm. We have reached the time foretold by the Revelator. Are other parts of the world to know the fearful fury and devilish destruction of total war? The Revelator declares that the destruction wrought by “angry” nations will not be confined to Europe and the eastern lands, but will involve “the earth.” Without unduly stressing the use of the term “the earth” in Revelation 11:18 and Revelation 13:11-14, the writer suggests that in the event of war with Russia, America would suffer some destruction of her cities.

The reader is requested to observe that the Spirit of Prophecy teaches that before probation closes, God’s judgments will be seen in the world (Isaiah 26:9; 5 Testimonies, Page 136, 212, etc.). When describing conditions leading to the world’s crisis hour, before the close of human probation, the Lord’s servant says: “Satan delights in war. It is his object to incite the nations to war against each other; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God. While

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appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he [Satan] will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced, to ruin and desolation. And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday-Sabbath, that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced, and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troubling of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity” (Great Controversy, Page 589, 590).

It will be observed that the Lord’s servant speaks of pre-probationary events when men can make “preparation to stand in the day of God,” and when God’s people will be presenting “the claims of the fourth commandment”- which they will not be doing after the close of probation. It will also be noted that when “populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation,” and there is “famine and distress . . . and thousands perish by pestilence . . . then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils.” With such accusations, and “communications from the spirits,” the false Sabbath will be enforced by the law of the land for the “restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity!”

As the United States is prophesied to lead out in the enforcement of the Sunday-Sabbath, which will be preceded by “populous cities” being “reduced to ruin and desolation,” it may not be altogether assuming too much to come to the conclusion that some of America’s populous cities will share the same fate that awaits cities in other parts of the world. One might come to the conclusion that as the movement for the enforcement of the papal Sabbath is preceded by the destruction of “populous cities” and that movement commences in America, the destruction of some American cities causes the people of that country, who see such frightful ravages of war, to head the movement of enforcing the Sunday-Sabbath in order to obtain “divine favor and temporal prosperity!”

Surely “the instant destruction” of “beautiful mansions” caused by “an immense ball of fire” which fell among them, described by the servant of the Lord in Volume 9, Page 28, includes those in America. Destruction by incendiary bombs, robotic bombs, or atom bombs seems indicated in this remarkable description given by the Lord’s servant long before the employment of such deadly instruments of death in modern warfare.

In a message of urgency to God’s people, the servant of the Lord has written: “O that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry!”-E. G. White, in “Review and Herald,” September 10, 1903.

Again, in 1906, the Lord sent a message through His (servant: She wrote: “Last Friday morning just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep, but was not in my home. From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable.” - Letter 278, 1906.

Again, three years later, still before the first bombs of World War I had fallen, she penned this warning: “The time is near when large cities will be swept away, and ell should be warned of these coming judgments.” - Manuscript 53, 1910.

Doubtless there has been a partial fulfillment of these startling predictions in World Wars I and II, but that a further fulfillment are still to come seems obvious by the fact that no campaign has yet commenced in which the destruction of cities is attributed to those who keep and preach the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment. The context of the statement in “The Great Controversy,” pages 589, 590, shows that when “populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation,” it is at a time when the work of evil and the deceptions of Satan are farther advanced than they are at present - at a time before probation closes when there will be greater agitation concerning the observance of Sunday.

Of course, not all this destruction will occur before probation closes, for we are informed that after probation closes: “Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old desolation everywhere” (Great Controversy, Page 614).

According to the prophecies of Holy Writ the conditions on earth will get worse and worse (2 Timothy 3:13; Matthew 24: 6, 7, 8), fluctuating for a time, but, finally, in the midst of the “time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation” (Daniel 12:1), Jesus will return to save His people. The Spirit of Prophecy also declares that earth’s troubles will multiply right up to the end: “Soon grievous troubles

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will arise among the nations - troubles that will not cease till Jesus comes. The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the desolation by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand" (Review and Herald, November 24, 1904). See also Early Writings, Page 33, 34, 85, 86.

The greatest time of trouble to occur while the door of mercy is still open will be when the work of salvation is closing. At that time God's people will proclaim "the Sabbath more fully." Then it will be clearly seen that the prophecies such as Daniel 11:40-45; Ezekiel 38, 39; Joel 3; Zechariah 14; Revelation 12 to 19 have no reference to a supposed military war to be fought in Palestine, but are vivid descriptions of the final conflict over the Sabbath, involving "the Israel of God," the remnant people of God. With mighty power the message will be proclaimed that the whole world must take sides. Either in the armies of evil under the banner of "the mark of the beast" against the Government of Heaven, or with the despised remnant on the Lord's side, under the banner of "the seal of God."

The work will be completed "in a terrible crisis" (5 Testimonies, Page 463). "At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully" (Early Writings, Page 33). "The commencement of the time of trouble, here mentioned, does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in cheek so as not to prevent the work of the third angel" (Early Writings, Page 85, 86).

### 3. WILL THERE BE WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE USA?

Interpreters of prophecy are not appointed to be prophets: nowhere in the prophecies are we informed concerning Russia at war with the United States, nor are we informed concerning Russia or any other specified nation engaging in war with any other nation. The Bible was not written to give us this information. It is a book dealing with salvation from sin, and depicts the "controversy" between the forces of good and evil until "the final conflict" over the Sabbath. We are fully informed concerning this all-important theme.

However, there is reason for believing that the Papacy desires war between Russia and American-led forces. Mr. P. W. Petter, well-known English Protestant, states: "For the past four years the Papacy has actively operated to promote a third World War, in the leadership of which Great Britain is to be associated with the United States of America. The object of the Papacy, in this procedure, is to enlist the help of the Great Powers in checking the Progress of Russian Communism, which it recognizes as its deadly enemy, threatening its very existence. With other Protestant leaders in various countries, especially in Australia and the United States of America, I have raised my voice in the past three years to warn the British people of the dangerous position in which they were placed. This threatened war, more terrible in its hideous cruelty, and in its consequences, than any war in the past, is now right upon us, and it will not be stopped unless there is a complete change in the national policy, both of our Government and of the Opposition Party" ("The Rock," February 1, 1951).

An article in "The Rock" (15/02/1951) declares: "It was Pope Pius XII who called for war on Russia, and who tried to force the issue by saying, 'the time for reflection is past, now is the time for action.' The world is aware (although the newspapers will not print it), that it was insidious Roman Catholic propaganda which forced President Truman to launch his country into a Vatican-inspired war, which is calculated to embitter, if not destroy, all major nations of the world."

A warning also comes from an ex-priest, Lucien Vinet, that the Pope, through his world-wide chain of bishops is hopeful of involving the world in war between Communistic Russia and the Protestant democracies, to their mutual extinction and his own advantage. To prove this, Vinet has tabulated evidence from various sources. He says:

"The world knows that atheistic Communism and domineering Roman Catholicism are today in a death fight. We all know too that Protestantism is to Roman Catholicism as detestable an enemy as Communism. Rome has no favors or peace for either. Today, especially since Protestant democracies are at odds with Russia, Roman Catholicism diplomatically 'flirts' with some influential Protestant groups or individuals in order to win their support in her fight to maintain her political and religious system throughout the world.

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“There is no doubt that Rome wishes a war now between the democracies and Communistic Russia. We have often heard bishops and priests talk of that future blessed event, during World War II. Even some German prisoners of war had heard about it. One of them, who had been in Rome during the Nazi occupation, told us one day: ‘In the next war, we will be allies, and we will not fight for Hitler or for Churchill, but we will be fighting for the Pope.’

“It is apparent that Rome now favors a bloody conflict between Russia and other nations. The Pope himself has recently confirmed this statement. We read in the Winnepeg Free Press of September 6, 1948, the following warning of the Pope to the German people, but, observe well, this war is to be for the Pope - not for the German people.

‘You May Have to Fight,’ Pope Warns Germans.

“VATICAN CITY, September 6 (Associated Press)-Pope Pius XII told German Catholics Sunday they may have to fight to the last drop of blood’ for the independence of the Roman Catholic Church. ‘It was the Pope’s first speech to the Germans since the end of the war. Delivered in German,’ it was broadcast by the Vatican radio on the occasion of a Catholic celebration in Mainz.’

“The Pope is ready to bless Protestant Crusades which would destroy Rome’s enemy. Canadian Roman Bishops and priests, who organized various schemes during the last war to snatch young men from serving in the armed forces, will now call such a conflict a ‘holy war’ and will favor conscription.

“It has been remarkable that, since democratic countries have had serious difficulties with the Russian Government in Germany, Rome has tripled her propoganda against Communism. Atheistic Communism was just as wicked, it seems, before the last War as it is today, yet never before have so many Rome-inspired books, lectures and official Roman pronouncements been made against Communism, than since the crisis in occupied Germany.

“The reason behind this anti-Communist fervor, is that Rome wishes to accelerate the outbreak of war. She hopes to win the victory of the minds, and to demand afterwards, a greater share, as an ally, in the control of schools and political affairs of the democratic nations. Rome will claim that victory over Communism has been engineered by her, while high officials of Protestantism toured the country and wrote books praising Russia.

“We heard of this great hope of Rome; that is, a war between Russia and the Protestant democracies, in 1940, during a visit to a famous Jesuit priest in Mexico City. We were still a Roman priest then and being an unusual visitor, he confided to us his experiences acquired at the Roman Curia in ‘the Vatican.

“He told us that the Bishops of the world had received instructions from Rome in 1938 to favor a war against Russia and to do their utmost to discourage a war between anti Communist nations.

“Today, ten years later, we realize that the Roman orders are still in force. Before and during World War II, we have seen the Roman Hierarchy discouraging conscription and using all sorts of little schemes to prevent our young men from serving in the Armed Forces. In the United States, Archbishop McNicholas, of Cincinnati, Cardinal Dougherty, of Philadelphia, and all Roman Bishops of the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, bitterly opposed conscription or any war measures. This was in 1940.

“Now that a war is possible, not against Fascism, but against Communism, the Roman Hierarchy is pleading for conscription. The Vatican has officially approved the war preparations of the United States, and Cardinal Spellman, of New York, openly pronounced himself for universal military training in the United States. (Catholic Brooklyn Tablet, 27th March, 1948.)

“In French Canada, where military conscription is traditionally opposed by the Hierarchy, the extraordinary outbursts of anti-Communistic propoganda by the Jesuits and the unusual pronouncements of the Roman Bishops, during this bitter international crisis, are very significant.

“We must not forget that Communism is more a rival to Roman Catholicism than an enemy. Communism has more in common with Roman Catholicism than with any other religious body. Communism has thrived best in Roman Catholic countries. Rome is, therefore, much more opposed to the political and international brand of Communistic action than it is opposed to its atheistic doctrines. What Rome detests in Communism, and what it fears most is its anti-Roman policy rather than its anti-Christian philosophy.

“This scheme of Rome to lead Protestant democracies to war against Russia, and then win the peace for itself by its greater demands in the government of our social, national, and educational affairs, is

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not known by the average Roman Catholic" (I Was a Priest," pages 137-140, by Lucien Vinet).

To the question: "Will there be war between Russia and the United States?" the answer would be "Yes, if the Papacy has its way." And Rome, as in the last war, will see that Protestants do most of the fighting. Avoiding anything in the nature of making a prophecy, the writer, however, feels constrained to say at least, that the Papacy has been successful in stirring up wars down through its long eventful career, and circumstances seem propitious for the accomplishment of its present ambitions.

As the reader is no doubt aware, the Roman Catholic church has been praying for sometime for the "conversion" of Russia. It will be recalled that in 1917 occurred the Fatima "miracle." In the autumn of that year, three Portuguese children "saw" (or so they said), a vision of the virgin, who announced that she would return to see them on certain specified dates, which she subsequently did. The fame of the "miracle" spread far and wide, and a huge crowd assembled to see "the Queen of Heaven" descend. But the crowds were destined to disappointment. "The Holy Mother of God" duly appeared to the children, out no one could see her except them. On the last occasion, however, the sun, it is said, performed a whole series of acrobatic tricks; all of which struck terror into the superstitious beholders and predisposed them to believe in the "miracle." The subsequent growth among Roman Catholics of the Fatima cult is remarkable, and is a pointer to future developments.

The substance of the message originally delivered by "Our Lady of Fatima" was concerned primarily with Russia, for which land Roman Catholics were to pray, and expect an answer to their prayers in the "conversion" of Russia. It is not without its significance that an image of "Our Lady of Fatima" is now on a world-wide tour, and that multitudes of poor, deluded devotees of Roman Catholicism are flocking to see this image. Does this indicate that the Church of Rome now considers the time is ripe for a world-wide "Crusade" to "convert" Russia? As Rome employs force in order to bring about "conversion" to her faith, it would not be surprising if she exercised pressure upon the nations under her influence to bring about a war in the "conversion" of Russia. Should such a war eventuate, and it result in the subjugation of Russia to American and Papal-led forces, doubtlessly it would be heralded as a remarkable demonstration of the power of "Our Lady of Fatima," a confirmation of the "miracle" of Fatima. The door would thus be opened wide for further apparitions of the de facto goddess of the Roman Catholic world. Miracles form a part - and a very important part of Roman Catholic evidence, and they happen when they are wanted in the interests of the church. (See Great Controversy, Page 575, 576.) Thus Spiritualism will be more and more associated with the exaltation of the Papacy. In this way we can understand better why the Lord's servant declares that to speak against the manifestations of evil spirits will eventually "be considered blasphemy" (Early Writings, Page 86, 87). As messages from the evil spirits declare that Sunday should be observed, ardent Protestants will rejoice that their teachings are thus confirmed (see Great Controversy, Page 590, 591), and in this way union with Rome will be made easier (5 Testimonies, Page 451; Great Controversy, Page 588). Pointing to the time when Protestants would combine with Papists in persecuting the people of God, the Lord's servant says:-

"To John this persecuting power is represented as having horns like a lamb, but as speaking like a dragon. As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater external parade [the image of 'Our Lady of Fatima,' is now on a world-wide parade] of heathen power. Heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world. And this delineation has already begun to be fulfilled. All need wisdom carefully to search out the mystery of iniquity that figures so largely in the winding up of this earth's history" (Testimonies to Ministers, Page 117, 118).

Indicating the approach of the final scenes, factors and circumstances among the nations are developing in favor of Papal schemes, and we are hastening on to the time when "many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset God's people on every side. Intensity is taking hold of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth. Study Revelation in connection with Daniel; for history will be repeated" (Testimonies to Ministers, Page 116).

Guided by the prophetic Word, we know that there will be a deterioration of understanding and goodwill among the nations, that the nations will be "angry," that there will be destruction, that wars and famines and earthquakes will betoken that the judgments of God are in the world, that "large cities will be swept away," that pestilences will rage, that things will come to such a sorry plight that the Papacy, allied to the false prophet, will be able to bring about an enforcement of the mark of the beast, as a means of turning aside God's wrath, that "all the world" is to wonder "after the beast," that Protestant America will cause "the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast," and that, therefore, if a war did

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eventuate between Russia and America before probation closed, no matter how much destruction she rained upon American cities, America is destined to emerge, temporarily at least, with sufficient power to influence Russia and other "foreign nations" to "follow" her example (6 Testimonies, Page 395), in the enforcement of "the mark of the beast." We know, too, that this position of America's national power and glory would not be for a long duration. In this connection, notice the following statement from the pen of the servant of the Lord:

"The time is very near when man will reach the prescribed limits. Wicked men and the church harmonize this hatred of the law of God, and then the crisis comes. Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the Man of Sin. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will be speedily followed by national ruin." - Ellen G. White in Review and Herald, June, 1897, quoted in "The Ministry," March, 1940. See also 7 Testimonies, Page 141.

We will refrain from quoting startling statements issued by eminent men in the United States, giving gruesome figures of anticipated loss of human lives and destruction of cities in the event of war with Russia. Such destructiveness appalls us. While nothing can be gained by unduly conjuring up the frightful horrors of a "total war" between the gigantic forces that are being mustered today for potential conflict, yet there must be some sober thinking about this fearful possibility. Sober thinking not only of the loss of life and of material damage, but of how such a calamitous conflict could bring about "great changes" and "the final movements," which are to "be rapid ones"- thus hastening the time when God's people will be brought into conflict with the powers of earth.

In a possible war between Russia and her satellites and American-led forces, Papal and Protestant powers would combine to preserve what is called "Christian civilization." In continuance of that same objective, that same combination would be carried over into the controversy over the observance of Sunday, which, it will be maintained, should be enforced to restore the "divine favor" and to preserve "temporal prosperity."

Whether by war with Russia or whether by Russia's internal disruption, the Word of God is explicit that the United States will be in a position of power to cause "the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed" (Revelation 13:12-17). It is concerning this coming world crisis that the Lord sends His world-wide message of warning (Revelation 14:6-14).

This world crisis and the world-wide message of warning will precede the close of human probation, for it is after this crisis hour that the saints, having rejected "the mark of the beast," receive "the seal of God." This is the test which comes to all the inhabitants of the earth - to all the nations, including Russia, China, etc. - before the close of probation.

However, whether or not there is war between Russia and America, the Word of God explicitly declares that "all that dwell upon the earth shall worship" or obey "the beast and his image" (Revelation 13:12-15; 14: 9, etc.), and that the restoration of the power of the beast will be accomplished with the aid of the mighty power of the United States. The present policy of appeasement toward, and co-operation with, the Vatican, is one of the most outstanding marvels of these latter days. The United States that arose from groups of people fleeing from the tyranny of Rome in Europe, and vowing to build a nation upon the principles of the complete separation of church and state. A nation that has arisen to such magnificent heights by following Protestant principles, is now fraternizing with Rome, and paving the way for the restoration of her supremacy!! This co-operation with Rome by Protestants in political positions is, of course, mainly to ensure the active support of the Papacy in their policies, and to combine Roman Catholics and Protestants in the face of the formidable threat by "godless" communists. But those who are adopting this policy know not that they are opening the door that has barred Rome's progress for so long; they know not that Rome will employ the opportunity thus afforded her to quickly mount the steps to supremacy.

"God's Word has given warning of the impending -danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and feel what the purpose of the Roman element." (Great Controversy, Page 581).

Despite protests and opposition from influential Protestant circles, the present policy of the United States is to yield to the pressure of the Vatican. It is not the purpose of the writer to point to the individual instances wherein the United States has recently shown its co-operation with the Vatican, but the

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appeasement policy has become so noticeable that nonplussed, if not bewildered, Protestants ask in dismay, "Will the Pope Rule the World." Under this heading, the stalwart Protestant paper, "The Rock" (January 25, 1951), cites a number of instances wherein Papal plotting is aided and abetted by American cooperation, and says: "A review of America's activities both during and since the war shows that they are the power which the Pope is using today all testify to the fact that the United States has now become the 'sword of the Roman Catholic Church.' Is it not certain, therefore, that Protestant America is being cunningly led into the conflict, the only outcome of which is that, after it is over, the only countries strong enough to rule the world will be the Roman Catholic countries who have fattened and prospered while the combatants became exhausted?" In the same issue of this paper appeared another article, "Roman Catholic Power in U.S.A.," in which were given facts concerning the men who occupy important strategic positions in the United States.

In part, the article says, "When some years ago the American Protective Association and similar voices warned that the Roman Catholic political machine was set to undermine this Republic, the cry seemed more of fanaticism than of prophecy. Today it has become a grim reality. Smoothly, silently, without a whisper of religion, Roman Catholics are slipping into offices high and low." After presenting some pointed pertinent facts, the article proceeds: "We could stand upon any American height, as did Hannibal on the acropolis of Italy, and say 'Yonder lies Rome.' Rome is behind a very great part of this war hysteria. Not a politician, not a candidate, not an editor will expose this drive. Through control of the Press, the Radio, Congress, every department of government, the whole American people have been frightened into believing they must, even as a Protestant nation, devote all, pour everything to the side of Roman Catholicism in its fight with Communism. The wealth of the church in this country surpasses the dream of a Midas. Through 'dummies' the Pope owns 702 millions of real estate, tax free. The invisible wealth is not to be estimated. Controlling interest in railroads, bank, stock, insurance stock, industrial stock, no end. The church control of government is so complete that it pays no taxes, makes no report of funds, although taking out corporation papers." Further facts are then given revealing that the hand of Rome is upon many of America's levers of State, and is in control of a number of strategic positions which are being employed to further the plotting of the papacy.

Avro Manhattan, author of "The Vatican in World Politics," wrote a piece for a recent issue of "The Humanist," entitled "Fifty Years of Political Catholicism," in which he said: "There are indications that history is repeating itself. As after the first World War, the real menace of Communism became the springboard from which Right-wing totalitarianism was established in Europe, so now the same menace, perhaps more concrete than in the past, is helping the Catholic church to consolidate herself politically and spiritually, all over Europe; indeed, to penetrate as never before the very citadel of American democracy.

"The democratic forces of both continents, while accepting political Catholicism as an ally the better to cheek Communism, seem to forget that such an alliance ultimately might turn out to be as pernicious as a surrender of democratic principles, either to the forces of the Right or to those of the Left. What lovers of freedom should remember, however, is the incontrovertible fact that the Catholic church's exertions against Socialism are not motivated by her desire to safeguard civil liberties in a Red-threatened society, but, on the contrary, by her desire to oust Socialism in order to further her own dominion!" (Quoted in "The Rock," January 11, 1951.)

The late Dr. L. H. Lehmann (ex-priest editor of the "Converted Catholic," U.S.A.), in a stirring warning to Protestants not to be caught with Roman Catholicism's Communistic bait, wrote: "Communism has been instrumental in giving the Roman Catholic church its biggest build-up in the history of this country. In Europe, also, the Vatican has made its post-war militant political Roman Catholicism indispensable to the Allied Occupational forces in the cold war against Russia. Although Communism thrives best in the Pope's own country of -Italy, the United States has come to depend upon the Vatican's political strategy to stave off any further encroachments of Communism in Western Europe!"

This intimate Vatican-America partnership poses a serious question for Protestants. Should they continue to protest against the church of Rome now that the Pope of Rome has become a powerful political ally against the dreaded enemy - Communism? Already Protestants are being told they must forget their religious differences with Rome, and join in a common anti-Communist front with the Pope. Those who publicly criticize Rome's political, social, and religious doctrines, are branded as Reds or Red-sympathizers, and are even made to appear unpatriotic. This, of course, at the present, has not become very prominent because a number of influential Protestants of various denominations continue to utter their voices in defense of the freedoms and liberties that came out of the Reformation, and they feel that they

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cannot now abandon the Protestant Reformation and fall into the clutches of Rome just because the Pope dresses up in the cloak of Democracy and professes to lead a “holy” war against Russia. However, when, later, there is a popular demand for legislation enforcing the observance of Sunday as a means of preserving the “Christian way of living,” many who today protest against Rome will join in the movement to set up an image to the beast. Concerning that time, the Lord’s servant has declared:

“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the morals of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government” (Great Controversy, Page 592).

### 4. ROME’S BRIEF TRIUMPH OVER SOVIET COMMUNISM

A global war involving Roman Catholicism and Soviet Communism is now being waged with increasing intensity. These two great forces are contending for world supremacy. Today men speak of the alternatives as “Rome or Moscow,” “the Vatican or the Kremlin, Rome or Russia.”

The similarity between these contending powers is noteworthy: both are totalitarian and both aim at nothing less than world domination; both are intolerant; each one believes that it is destined to accomplish its aim, and each is promulgating its philosophies with the zeal of crusaders. Throughout the world millions of men and women are fighting in the ranks of these clashing ideologies, and the contest becomes fiercer and the armies larger with the passing of time. Each day draws mankind nearer the precipitation of a crisis of the first magnitude, a crisis producing the most momentous results; a crisis involving the whole world in general and Seventh-day Adventists in particular; a crisis which, according to the prophetic Word, must occur before the close of probation.

It is unfortunate for unsuspecting Protestants that the issues are not clear-cut. Communism is inextricably woven with Russian imperialism, and Roman Catholicism is inseparable from so-called “Christian civilization!” Russia’s vitality affects Protestant countries, and the circumstances throw Protestant powers as partners with Rome against Russia. Many leading personalities have referred to the present Peril to “Christian civilization.” Mr. Winston Churchill has declared: “We are now faced by perils both grave and near, and by problems more dire than have ever confronted Christian civilization, even in this 20th century of storm and change.” Because the perils and problems are so “grave and near,” problems more dire than have ever confronted Christian civilization, some leading Protestant politicians are being influenced to

believe that the present situation demands at least a measure of co-operation with Papal political plans. It is a frequent note in Soviet propaganda that the Vatican is the “prop of imperialism,” and the protagonists of Rome, on their part, make no secret of their hopes for the ultimate realization of the exaltation of the Papacy among the nations.

Throughout its world agencies, Rome is working upon the susceptibilities of Protestants by “playing up,” if not actively provoking, the Communistic scare. Present-day developments surely indicate that the stage is being set, just as the prophetic Word declared it would be, for the final act in the drama, and they reveal how easily the nations, seeking to escape from the perils of Communism, will find themselves unwittingly entangled in the web of Rome which is being so subtly woven to catch them.

For a long time, Seventh-day Adventists have pointed to the prophecies of the books of Daniel and Revelation, and have declared that the Papacy would rise once more to political power among the nations, and that Protestant America and other Protestant countries would assist her to reach her goal of preeminence. For various reasons, the United States has tended to ally her political aims with the Roman Catholic parties in Europe. In many countries, the U.S. and the Vatican have many interests in common. In facing the Russian colossus, each looks to the other for mutual assistance; having a common enemy throws them together as brothers in arms. Should the threatened conflict between Russia and “Christian civilization” become a terrible reality, Roman Catholics and Protestants would no doubt declare it a “holy war”; embattled Christianity versus “godless” Communism. If it came, this threatened conflict would probably be the most frightful holocaust ever unleashed by the gods of war. Some think that, despite atomic bombs, etc., it might be a long war of attrition. Indescribable destruction would probably be visited upon many countries - including the United States, “the arsenal of democracy” - and out of the welter of ruin would emerge the triumphant figure of “the man of sin,” “the beast, the king of the north,” who aspires

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to be seated upon the throne of world dominion. Under the symbol of the “woman,” the Revelator describes the short exaltation of the Babylonian “whore” among the nations, followed by her sudden, headlong flight to destruction: “For she said in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God Who judges her” (Revelation 18: 7, 8).

The prophetic Word declares that the nations of “Christian civilization” will assist the Papacy to attain her temporary triumph: “And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb [“in the person of His witnesses” (7 Testimonies, Page 182)], and “the Lamb shall overcome them” (Revelation 17:12-14). “For God hath put into their hearts to fulfil His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the Words of God shall be fulfilled” (Revelation 17: 17). Thus is foretold a Papal resurrection to power. That the Papacy would receive a death stroke, but would be resurrected to persecute again is repeated three times in Revelation 13: 3, 12, 14, and also three times in Revelation 17: 8-10. “All the world wondered after the beast and all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him,” repeats the prophet, John, pointing to events following the resurrection of the Papacy’s political persecuting power. In Revelation 17, the Revelator refers again to this final, brief hour of Papal triumph, declaring that, following her re-emergence from “the bottomless pit,” the nations of “Christendom” would “agree” with the Babylonian “whore,” giving her “their power and strength” for “one hour.” But after this brief space of time, “the ten horns which you saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire” (Revelation 17:16). Babylon’s flush of triumph will quickly change to the ashen hues of death, for the unerring Scriptures decisively state that, after her temporary resurrection to power, she will “go into perdition.”

## 5. THE FINAL MOVEMENTS WILL BE RAPID ONES

The servant of the Lord has declared: “Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones” (9 Testimonies, Page 11). An intensity has taken hold of mankind - things are moving rapidly toward the climax of Satan’s kingdom. Says the prophet: “The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hastens greatly” (Zephaniah 1: 14). Moffat’s translation reads: “The Eternal God’s day is near, speeding apace, rushing like a warrior.” God’s last warning message to the world is depicted as an angel flying “in the midst of heaven” (Revelation 14: 6,7).

The Scriptures declare: “For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth” (Romans 9:28). Commenting upon the first chapter of Ezekiel, the Lord’s servant says: “The bright light going among the living creatures with the swiftness of lightning represents the speed with which this work will finally go forward to completion” (5 Testimonies, Page 754).

From these and other inspired statements, it is obvious that the Lord is overruling to bring about fast-moving events that will usher in the final scenes in the great drama of sin. The ever-increasing intensity of present conditions and current happenings proclaim in no uncertain voice that we are rapidly approaching the crisis of the ages. “The final conflict” between the forces of good and evil will not be long delayed. That day so often foretold in Holy Writ, that long-awaited, yet dreaded, climactic hour is not far away.

“Great Changes Are Soon to Take Place in Our World.” Before earth’s final, pre-probationary crisis could come, before “the man of sin” could have restored his “lost ascendancy,” before Rome could “recover her lost supremacy,” and enjoy “a restoration of her power,” before “the triumph of Rome” could be “assured” and “the tyranny of Rome” be “exercised,” before “all the world” would wonder “after the beast,” before “all that dwell upon the earth” would “worship him” and Protestant America set up “an image to the beast,” before “the world” [with its “storm and war and variance”] could be united “under one head -the papal power, to oppose God in the person of His witnesses” (7 Testimonies, Page 182), there would have to be “great changes to take place in our world” (9 Testimonies, Page 11), but when they do occur “the final movements” will be “rapid ones.”

“Great changes” have already occurred in the political and international world. A survey of events

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that have transpired since World War I can leave no one in doubt that we have been hastened from one crisis to another. Those who have studied the background of the two World Wars are convinced that whatever ambitions were in the breast of the recent leaders of aggression in Germany and Italy, the papacy assisted those ambitious plans of conquest, hoping thus to achieve its ambitions. The papacy is a totalitarian power, and is opposed to democracy. Any attack upon Protestant democratic governments assists the papacy's ambitions, and so Rome has allied herself with those at war with democratic countries.

Pope Leo XIII declared: "We hold upon earth the place of God Almighty" ("Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII," page 304).

The coronation ceremony of the Pope of Rome includes the following declarations: "Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns, and know that thou art the Father of princes and kings, Ruler of the World, and Vicar of our Savior Jesus Christ."

The Papacy demands "complete submission and obedience of the will to the church and to the Roman Pontiff as to God Himself" ("Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII," page 193).

Millions not only believe this teaching, but they are working by all manner of means to bring about the fulfillment of what they think is the will of God. It is impossible to be a true Roman Catholic and not to work to this end.

In his Encyclical, "Libertas Humanan," Leo XIII declared; "It is absolutely unlawful to demand, to defend, or to grant unconditional freedom of thought, of speech, of writing, of worship."

The Roman Church teaches that to refuse to allow her to be united with the State, and to dominate it, is an impious act, and a revolt against Christ. The law of the church relating to the freedom of the conscience was laid down by Pius IX in his famous Encyclical and Syllabus, published December 8, 1864, and which is as follows:-

"Cursed be they who assert liberty of conscience and of worship, and such as maintain the church should not employ force. The State has not the right to leave every man free to embrace whatever religion he shall deem true."

Numbers of such extracts could be given to show that the teachings of the Papacy are directly opposite to the glorious principles of freedom laid down in the Constitution of the United States. What a wonderful standard of liberty America has exalted before all the world. Is it not an incredible "change" that the foremost apostle among the nations of civil and religious liberty should now be fraternizing with a power that, in principle, is violently opposed to the essence of American tradition? The American leaders know that the great religious wars of Europe were stirred up and urged by the Pope and his advisers, that all through the Middle Ages and at the Renaissance period the Popes kept Italy in turmoil and bloodshed for their own family and territorial advantages, that they kept all Europe in turmoil for two centuries after the Reformation; that the Vatican has always been, and is to-day, the storm center. They know the inglorious part played by the Vatican in World Wars I and II, yet the United States is allied to this totalitarian power against another totalitarian power - Communistic Russia. America would not be thus allied to the Papacy except for the "great change" that has come into existence in international affairs.

There was a time when America could keep out of European politics, but now she is compelled for her own existence to take a leading role in the security of Europe, for, if Russia controlled all the resources of Europe, she would be in a position to seriously endanger America. When the United States signed the Atlantic Pact she ended 160 years of American tradition against alliances and entanglements with Europe." To-day Europe is not the battleground of European powers, but the domain of conflict between two non-European powers - Russia and America. So changed have world conditions become that the United States can no longer live in splendid isolation, relying upon the broad waters of the Pacific or the Atlantic Oceans to keep her from the troubles of the Old World. Airplanes and other modern, space-annihilating inventions have forced her to be vitally interested in what are now her near neighbors. No longer are Europe, the "Far East," etc., far distant parts, and an aggressive move by Russia (as she seeks to strengthen herself for what she regards as the inevitable clash with capitalistic America), in any part of Europe or Asia, compels America to seek to frustrate Russia's ambitions.

Another "great change" that is fast hastening the coming world crisis, is the world-wide spread of Soviet Communism. Communists are deliberately exploiting industrial disputes, and by a subversive plan, are inflicting slow strangulation in order to wreck defense and development programs. Communist inspired disputes are designed to weaken nations at times that suit the policy makers of the Soviet Union. Strikes and industrial chaos in various parts of the world are inseparable from the grim possibilities of war between Russia and American-led forces, for there does not seem any doubt that Communistic elements are

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assisting their spiritual Fatherland by hindering the war potential of nations opposed to Russia's imperialist designs. Concerning the activities of Communistic forces, Mr. Winston Churchill, in his Boston address, says: "But these 14 men in the Kremlin have their hierarchy and a church of Communist adepts, whose missionaries are in every country as a fifth column."

In various countries, those in favor with Russia's Communistic ideology, have expressed themselves that, in the event of war with Russia, they will oppose their own nation's war effort, and do all they can to assist Russia. Leaders of Communistic parties in various countries have declared that they would welcome the Soviet army if it entered their territory, and that Communists would cause strikes in industry in the event of war with Russia. Leaders in the Kremlin are relying upon numbers of faithful devotees to their ideology doing all they can to produce conditions favorable to the progress of chaos and confusion in various countries during peace-time, and acts of sabotage in war-time. How strong is Moscow's influence on distant lands has been shown by the way reputable citizens of various countries have spied for the Soviet, and divulged vital information to Russia concerning the atomic bomb, radar, key munitions plants, the defense plans, and the political intentions of the Western Allies.

"The Russians did not, like other nations, depend for their information upon professional agents or paid traitors, but upon the co-operation of an ideological 'Fifth Column,' Communist sympathizers who were prepared, because of their beliefs, to betray, either wittingly or unwittingly, their country's technical or political secrets" (The Herald, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1947).

At the time of the prosecution of a prominent scientist who had betrayed national secrets to Russia, Mr. Winston Churchill said: "The difference between the Soviet system (of espionage) and others is that in the Communist sect it is a matter of religion to sacrifice one's native land for the sake of the Communist Utopia." In disclosing national secrets to Russia, some scientists, and others, have declared that they acted as they did to make a contribution "to the safety of mankind," believing "the capitalist democracies were the enemies of human welfare and progress."

Leaders at the Kremlin believe that a great economic crash will come in the United States, which will affect the whole Western World. Such a time of internal distress and social upheaval would provide a psychological opportunity for the spreading of the anticipated world revolution. Communists believe that the inevitable hour is sure to come. They are working to that end, and watch for its approach as Christians watch for the signs of the coming of Christ. Communists believe that the hour of destiny is about to strike.

What a "great change" has taken place in the capital and labor world during recent years. No longer can strikes be regarded as mere local affairs in which the working man is protesting against some injustice in wages or working conditions, hours, etc. After taking into account cause for genuine grievances concerning purely local conditions, a vast amount of industrial strife and chaos is stirred up by political moves, and that, too, of an international character.

While recognizing the many benefits that have accrued to the working man through Trade Unions, it is to be noted with considerable regret that the power of Trade Unions is being employed more and more for political - and religious - reasons. Behind many things done nowadays in Trade Unions, -there is either the Roman Catholic or Communistic element at work. The strife between Roman Catholicism and Soviet Communism is being fought out in many trade union circles in distant lands. There is a constant jostling for positions of power, as both sides realize the world-wide nature of the struggle. The masses of mankind are mere pawns in this colossal struggle for power. Everywhere disturbing elements are working against peace, producing a ferment among men, keeping the strata of society in a state of tension. We have come to the times of confusion outlined by the Spirit of Prophecy - a confusion that is destined to grow worse and worse, until in desperation Protestants join with Roman Catholics in passing stringent Sunday laws as a means of bettering the unsettled, portentous state of society.

## 6. THE AMAZING ACCURACY OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

The amazing accuracy of statements made by the Spirit of Prophecy is revealed as one carefully studies the essence of the prophetic word. The present writer, in his previous publications, has pointed out numbers of instances where statements made by the Spirit of Prophecy, without apparent Scriptural support, are proved to be the actual teaching of the Scriptures as God's servant emphatically declares, see 5 Testimonies, Page 665. However, such Biblical confirmation can be produced only after much patient,

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prayerful analysis of the Word of God. When one considers the hundreds of statements made by the servant of the Lord that can be thus proved to be supported by the Scriptures and only by the most painstaking effort - one is convinced beyond possible doubt of the positive inspiration of the Spirit of Prophecy. As we shall have occasion later to point out, to cite two simple illustrations, the application, in Christ Object Lessons, Page 319; Desire of Ages, page 635, 636, of Revelation 16:15 (mentioned under the 6th plague), to pre-probationary decisions. And the application, in Great Controversy, Page 657, of Jeremiah 25: 33, to events following the opening of the 7th plague (compare Great Controversy, Page 636, 653-657), are examples of the accuracy of interpretation revealed throughout the Spirit of Prophecy.

So much is involved in an apparently simple statement from the pen of the servant of the Lord. The declaration that we have already considered, that “great changes are soon to take place in our world,” involves gigantic issues, which have developed since it was uttered. Not only have there been changes, but there have been great changes in the political structure of the whole world. To write fully on all that is implied in this statement would require a separate chapter, or even a book, but in this limited outline, the writer must confine himself to two “great changes” mentioned in the Spirit of Prophecy, as signs indicating the nearness of the final scenes before the close of probation. These two “great changes” are today thrown automatically together in our consideration of present-day world trends. The first is the friendly attitude of the United States to “the Roman power.” Writing of pre-probationary times, the Lord’s servant says: “When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with Spiritualism; when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country [U.S.A.] shall repudiate every principle of its constitution as a Protestant and Republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of Papal falsehoods, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near” (5 Testimonies, Page 451).

From this extract, and from others that could be given, we are informed that, before probation closes, the United States will lead the Protestant world in making friendly overtures to the Papacy. The final act of co-operation between these great powers would not be accomplished in one sudden act, but, through a neglect of the study of the Scriptures, there is a breaking down of Protestant standards and a spirit of compromise - a process being hastened on by Papal propaganda, and the grave threat to their mutual interests and preservation from the forces of Soviet Communism. Today, the amazing “great change” of the attitude of the United States toward the Papacy is taking place before the eyes of astonished Protestant thinkers.

The second “great change” to which we draw attention is that concerning Trade Unions and Industrial strife. The Lord’s servant declares: “Trade unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon the earth such a time of trouble as has not been since the world began” (Mrs. E. G. White, General Conference Bulletin, 1903, page 200).

Pointing to the coming days of strife, the Lord’s servant says: “At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims. The spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution--all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France” (Education, page 228). (Emphasis mine.)

The reader will have already observed from the facts produced that the two “great changes” we particularly refer to at this time, are inseparable today. Capitalistic America, with its bulging banks, is being thrown into partnership with wealthy Rome in opposing Russia’s ambitions. Strikes and industrial chaos are being produced by Soviet based Trade Union leaders who have imbibed the godless philosophy of Communism - or by Roman Catholic Trade Unionists (who obey instructions from Rome’s agents), when Rome considers the time ripe to again scare or stir up the Protestant communities with the “Communist threat” by “the tools of Moscow” which helps Protestants and others to favor Rome’s crusade against Communism. We see “the centralizing of wealth and power,” in a general worldwide sense, in the nations of “Christendom,” headed by America and the Papacy. Though mixed with Russian imperialism, yet we see “the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims” and “the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution,” in the Communistic forces headed up by the Russian colossus. Practically the entire world is composed of these two mighty opposing forces.

What a “change” has taken place from the days when the servant of the Lord wrote her inspired

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words. Who then could have foreseen that the political structure of Czarist Russia would be so drastically changed that the leaders of that nation would be possessed with a fanatical zeal to change the economy of the capitalistic world! Who, then, could have foreseen that local capital and, labor strife would be lifted into the worldwide realm of mighty, grave international affairs, 'and that it would imperil the peace of the world! Who, then, could have envisioned such a tangling of the skein of political, world events that the local struggles between Capital and Labor would become so involved in international affairs that it would influence Protestant America to fraternize with the Papacy! These two apparently separate signs mentioned by the Lord's servant as indicating the nearness of the final scenes before the close of probation, are resolving themselves as integral parts of one general picture of world conditions that will bring about the restoration of the power of the Papacy. Rome and Moscow are striving for world supremacy, and through their agents the world is heading for a crisis when jostling for vantage ground must end in chaos and conflict of catastrophic proportions. If, before the close of probation, war broke out between Russia and the nations of "Christendom" led by America - it would bring about "events of the greatest magnitude" - "great changes" that would precipitate "the final movements" (9 Testimonies, Page 11), for, with Russia temporarily subdued, the Papacy would quickly rise to that position of power among the nations so frequently described in the prophecies of the Bible and of the Spirit of Prophecy.

While there will be much unrest and bloodshed in the world during the time when the Papacy will have its supremacy restored, yet the Bible declares that the forces of world revolution will not completely succeed until after the close of probation, and particularly after the 6th plague, but that then will be the greatest bloodshed of all human history - the scenes of the French Revolution will be re-enacted upon a world-wide scale. Says the servant of the Lord: "As the angels of God cease to hold in cheek the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old: "Desolation everywhere, strife and bloodshed" (Great Controversy, Page 614). The earth became one vast field of strife" (Great Controversy, Page 655).

God says: "I will overthrow the kingdoms of the heathen, every one by the sword of his brother" (Haggai 2: 21, 22). In a number of places in the Scriptures the same picture is presented. "They shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand, of his brother" (Zechariah 14:13-see also Judges 7:22; 1 Samuel 14:20; 2 Chronicles 20:23). "Every man's sword shall be against his brother" (Ezekiel 38:31). This terrible work of slaughter is in progress when Jesus returns to bring everlasting deliverance and joy to His people; then He destroys "the remnant" of the wicked with the power of His word (see Revelation 19: 21).

Moscow's aim of world revolution will eventually be fulfilled, but should Russia go to war with the United States and Western Europe before that final day of revolution and slaughter, she will be subdued, at least temporarily, for the Bible prophecies are definite that the United States will assist the Papacy to reach its goal of supremacy - a supremacy, however, which it will enjoy for a short time, for it will be swept away by the "multitudes" who will turn upon their spiritual leaders, when the intervention of God at the 6th plague reveals the terrible deceptions of "Babylon the Great"-then, the revolutionary storm will burst in all its fury, but too late to benefit Russia's imperialistic designs or Communists in general.

The prophecies clearly teach that it would not be Moscow but Rome, not the Kremlin but the Vatican and the United States that would win should a conflict with Russia occur before the close of probation.

## 7. THE PAPACY OBTAINS SUPREMACY

If the Scriptures were believed which portray the supremacy of the Papacy in the closing events of the conflict between the forces of good and evil, some of the speculative teachings concerning a supposed conflict in Palestine, as the fulfillment of prophecy, would automatically be ruled out. In His Word, the Lord has sought to set the facts clearly before His people so that they may know and prepare for the gigantic events which are coming upon the world, the "great changes" that will occur in the political world that will enable the Papacy, before probation closes, to attain to its goal of world supremacy. "Great changes" that will enable the Papacy to retain its power until the 6th plague.

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The Lord does not exaggerate when He declares that “all that dwell upon the earth shall worship” the beast (Revelation 13:3, 8, 12-17). This statement is repeated several times - would the Holy Spirit of truth thus emphasize this tremendous fact and not mean it? Surely we should not entertain theories which contradict such plain utterances! There is no room for believing that the forces of the world will then be comprised of the Papacy, and an opposing group comprised of Russia, China, etc., who are supposed to be symbolized by the “dragon.” The “dragon” is declared in the Spirit of Prophecy to refer to the “kings” who enforce the mark of the beast, and assist the Papacy reach and retain its goal until the close of 6th plague. We shall show later that it is not until the 6th plague that “the words of God shall be fulfilled” with reference to the persecutions of God’s people by the beast through the “kings.” Until then the Papacy will employ the power of the “kings, and rulers, and governors [who] have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints” (Testimonies to Ministers, Page 39).

The Revelator reveals how the Papacy obtains its power through the co-operation of these “kings, and rulers, and governors,” and declares that the power thus given to it will continue “until the words of God shall be fulfilled” (i.e., concerning the Papacy persecuting His people), as they will be, at the opening of the 7th plague. The Revelator says: “And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. For God hath put into their hearts to fulfil His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which you saw is that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth” (Revelation 17:12-18). “That great city Babylon, that mighty city” (Revelation 18:10, 18), is the symbol of “the great whore,” “Babylon the Great” (Revelation 17:5; 19:2), which is yet to reign “over the kings of the earth” (Revelation 17:18). It is with “the kings of the earth” that she commits “fornication” (Revelation 17:2; 18:3). It is “the kings of the earth and of the whole world” (Revelation 16: 14) that she employs in her warfare against the people of God (Revelation 12:17). It is thus that “these [“kings”] shall make war with the Lamb.” (Revelation 17:14) “in the person of His witnesses” (7 Testimonies, Page 182). Thus the dragon, or the “kings,” are depicted as being associated with “the beast and the false prophet” in “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:13, 14; 19:19, 20).

“Under one head, the Papal power,-the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses” (7 Testimonies, Page 182). This includes Russia, China, etc., in with the rest of the world, for we are explicitly informed in the Spirit of Prophecy: “As America shall unite with the Papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false Sabbath, the people of every country in the globe will be led to follow her example” (6 Testimonies, Page 18). “Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon people in all parts of the world (6 Testimonies, Page 395). “The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God becomes universal” (7 Testimonies, Page 141). “A universal decree will denounce these [Sabbath-keepers] as deserving of death” (Prophets and Kings 512).

Thus the Papacy will be supreme in the world, and will say: “I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” That this refers to events before the close of probation is obvious by the fact that the next verse declares: “Therefore shall her plagues come in one day” (Revelation 18:7, 8).

For details concerning the connection between Babylon in the Old Testament and Babylon in the New’ the reader is requested to see my other publications. Babylon in the Old Testament was built upon the river Euphrates, Babylon described in the book of Revelation is also represented as being upon the river Euphrates -compare Revelation 17:1 with Jeremiah 51:13. The angel said to John: “The waters which you saw, where the whore sits [i.e., upon the waters of the Euphrates], are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” (Revelation 17: 15). That is, these are the same people to whom God’s last-day, world-wide message is proclaimed - see Revelation 14: 6. In other words, the people of the world will all be compelled to come under the temporary dominion of the Papacy. The position of absolute monarch occupied by Nebuchadnezzar, the literal king of Babylon (Daniel 2:38), will be duplicated when the Papacy will be exalted among the people and shall say (in the pride of Nebuchadnezzar, who boasted of the “great Babylon” he had built -see Daniel 4:30), “I sit a queen” (Revelation 18:7). The expression “Great Babylon,” used by Nebuchadnezzar, forms the basis of the Revelator’s description of spiritual Babylon - see Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:18; 18:2, 10, 16, 18; 19:2.

By its beliefs, the Papacy, when it has the power, must persecute those who will not bow to the will of the Vatican. The world supremacy depicted in the prophecy, will be exercised to compel all on pain

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of death to bow down to the dictates of the Roman Hierarchy. The Scriptures are explicit in declaring that Protestants, while no doubt still believing themselves to be Protestants, Will be deceived into working with Rome by employing the State to enforce the mark of the beast. "The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and in this work, papists and, Protestants unite" (Great Controversy, Page 607). "Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death" (Great Controversy, Page 604). "As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment-keepers." (Great Controversy, Page 625).

Speaking of "the experience of God's people in the closing up of the great day of atonement," the Lord's servant says: "Satan numbers the world as his subjects, he has gained control of the apostate churches, but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God" (5 Testimonies, Page 472, 473). This refers to a period commencing just before probation closes. "In the closing up of the great day of atonement," See also Prophets and Kings, Page 587-588. But continuing on until the climax of the 6th plague and opening of the seventh.

### 8. PROVIDENCE PERMITS THE PAPACY'S BRIEF TRIUMPH

Down through the ages, the Lord has had His hand over human affairs. Between the contending forces of good and evil there have been moves and counter-moves. In the philosophy of historical events can be seen the marvelous superintending hand of the infinite God. When Satan has created forces to crush the truth and people of God, the Lord has raised up other forces to counteract the designs of Satan. God sets one evil power against another evil power, so that they will be so occupied with each other that His people are thus permitted to carry on their work of spreading abroad the knowledge of God and His plan of redemption centered in our Lord Jesus. Many instances could be drawn from history.

Before sin is finally condemned at the second advent of our Lord, the Lord's providence will permit the Papacy's brief triumph to demonstrate before all the universe that so long as the Satanic principle exists that God's holy Law can be changed even when in supposed honor of Christ's death and resurrection - it will always lead to man persecuting his fellowman. This will be all the more noticeable after a long period during which the principles of liberty and freedom have had such a wide acceptance, and the persecution actually commencing in a country established upon the high Protestant platform of freedom of conscience! When the world combines its forces to destroy God's people, it will be demonstrated to the universe what Satan would have done had he the power. When he obtains world power, excepting over the remnant church, he will employ that power for the destruction of those who do not bend to his will. To bring about this demonstration for the last time, the Lord permits the Papacy to rise above all her foes, temporarily. The nations will "agree" with the beast, "and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled" (Revelation 17:12-18).

The Lord permitted the Papacy to have supremacy for 1260 years, in order to reveal the evils of "the mystery of iniquity." That supremacy was mainly confined to Europe, and by God's providence it was held in check. But in the last days, for a very brief time, the Papacy will be permitted to have world supremacy.

The Lord permitted the rise of Mohammedan powers to counteract the power of Roman Catholic forces. As Roman Catholicism rose in strength, Mohomedan hordes came forth to afflict Papal power. For centuries the Mohammedans held the Papacy in check, and prevented them from extirpating entirely the true believers in the Lord. The Turks were a scourge in the hand of the Lord against Roman Catholic designs, they succeeded in breaking into Europe as far as Vienna. The servant of the Lord has written concerning the manner in which the Turks were providentially sent to deter Charles V from carrying out his vows to stamp out the Protestant movement in Germany. She says: "God's providence had held in check the forces that opposed the truth. Charles V was bent on crushing the Reformation, but often as he raised his hand to strike, he had been forced to turn aside the blow. Again and again immediate destruction of all who dared to oppose themselves to Rome appeared inevitable; but at the critical moment the armies of the Turk appeared on the eastern frontier (Great Controversy, Page 197).

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In those days the prophecy was fulfilled: “The earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth” (Revelation 12:16).

As the 1260 years of Papal supremacy period drew to its close, the Lord overruled that forces favoring religious and civil liberty grew in strength until the Papal yoke was largely thrown off. In the French Revolution was revealed the revolt against Papal authority. Seeing the evils of Roman Catholicism, and knowing no other kind of Christianity, many who revolted against Roman Catholicism, turned to a godless philosophy of Communism. Today, too, the most fruitful field for Communism is in Italy and other countries where Roman Catholicism has the support of the state, and where its social evils and inherent weaknesses are thus more plainly revealed.

In 1798 “the king of the south” (i.e., Egypt, the symbol of “atheism” (see Great Controversy, Page 269), did “push at him” (i.e., the Papacy), “the King of the North.” The deadly wound was inflicted upon the beast (Revelation 13:3, etc.), but this death-stroke is prophesied to be followed by a resurrection to power again (Revelation 13:3, 12, 14; 17:8, 11). In Daniel 11: 40-45 is outlined the return to power of this ancient enemy of God’s people: country after country is to come under the control of “the king of the north.” This conquering power will get the upper hand of the forces of atheism that have threatened to bring about his ruin: “He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt [the symbolism of “atheism”] shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over the precious things of Egypt.” Lands far distant will come under the power of Rome: “The Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.” Only one thing will prevent him from having world control (5 Testimonies, Page 472, 473, etc.), before probation closes - the people of God, who will proclaim the last warning message with a loud cry. This message will come with mighty power from the throne of God (“the north,” see Psalm 48:2; Ezekiel 1:4; Isaiah 14:13, 14; etc.), and, coming down to the earth, will (as all angels and messages from heaven are thus represented in the Scriptures (see Revelation 7:2; 14:6, 7, 8, 9), come “out of the east.” In Ezekiel 43:1, 2, the glory of the Lord that would cause the earth to shine “with His glory” is said to come “from the way of the east.” Quoting from this passage in Ezekiel 43:1, 2, the Revelator declares that the angel who comes to sound “the loud cry” comes “down from heaven,” (i.e., the east) (for all things coming from heaven, due to the rotation of the earth upon its axis, from west to east, appear to come “down from heaven” by “the way of the east.”).

Referring to the completion of the work of God before the close of probation, the Lord’s servant says: “I was pointed down to the time when the third angel’s message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people. The last great warning had been sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message” (Early Writings, Page 279). The loud cry will be given with such mighty power that the king of the north will become greatly troubled thereby; “therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly make away many” (Daniel 11:44).

Today Communism stands between the Papacy and its goal of political supremacy. In the prophecy, Protestants are pictured as saying: “Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” (Revelation 13:4). This supine spirit of falling into line with Papal pressure, rather than opposing it, will become more and more evident among many so-called Protestants as world conditions become worse, and still worse. The Papacy does not fear a resurgence of powerful Protestantism against her, for no serious cry has been raised against her many encroachments in recent years. Papal intrigue, and patronage of rulers and dictators who were responsible for World Wars I and II, has not brought upon her the well-merited maledictions of those who have suffered from these wars. Though of recent date she has flaunted her pagan principles in Protestant countries, Protestant politicians, thinking it advisable in the face of Communistic aggression, are yielding to her pressure, and, by granting her favors here and there, are strengthening her political power.

Communism is the one great barrier between her and her goal. This barrier she regards as a serious hindrance to the acquisition of world control. This barrier she seeks to remove. The Scriptures declare that she will overcome this tremendous barrier-“the land of Egypt shall not escape”: the countries that have adopted “godless” Communism will not escape her control. “He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt” (Daniel 11:42, 43).

Communism and all the forces of “anti-clericalism,” or those who oppose the teachings of Christianity as exemplified by the Papacy, were permitted (toward the end of 1260 days of supremacy) by the Lord to rise up against the authority and power of Rome. To-day this communistic element prevents the Papacy rising to complete power, but the prophecy points to the time when in the providence of God, the

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power of Communism will be temporarily subdued, thus enabling the king of the north (the beast of Revelation 13) to obtain its “lost supremacy.” Then, the remnant people of God, alone in a hostile world, will be the object of the hatred of “the man of sin” and “the false prophet.” Says the servant of God:

“Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that all, ‘both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ shall conform to the custom of the church by the observance of the false Sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death” (Great Controversy, Page 604).

This “war” against the remnant church (Revelation 12:17; Daniel 11:44) will be waged with the greatest ferocity and power all the political and spiritual power the Papacy has employed in the past, it will again employ in “the final conflict.” “The great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time. All the depths of Satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed during the struggle of the ages, will be brought to bear against God’s people in the final conflict. The coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed” (Great Controversy, Page 9, 10).

The forces of Babylon will plan to wipe out completely all those who will remain loyal to the Law of God. The spirit of hatred and intensity will increase as the Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth.

The Spirit of prophecy says: “As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God.” (Prophets and Kings, Page 587, 588). Satan moved “upon the heathen nations to destroy them utterly” (Prophets and Kings, Page 583). This, of course, is precisely what is mentioned in Daniel’s last prophecy regarding the king of the north: “He shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many” (Daniel 11:44). Concerning the original word for the expression “utterly to make away,” Dr. Strong says: “The whole (specifically, a sacrifice entirely consumed), whole burnt offering (sacrifice).” Newton says: “The original word we translate ‘utterly to make away,’ signifies to anathematize, to consecrate, to devote to utter perdition, so that it strongly implies that this war should be made upon a religious account.” Thus the prophecy points forward to the time when the restored and revived Papacy will “go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to make away many” of God’s children, but the promise is that “at that time thy people shall be delivered.”

When the prophecy concerning the king of the north is applied to the Papacy, the connection between his phenomenal activity and success, and the deliverance of God’s people becomes obvious. Without this application, some are puzzled to know what the ending of Turkey (when this grand prophecy is mistakenly belittled and applied to Turkey), supposedly brought to view in Daniel 11:45, has to do with the deliverance of God’s people mentioned in the next verse of the prophecy (Daniel 12:1)! Obviously there is no such connection. But when seen in the light of Daniel’s earlier prophecies, as well as the time periods of Daniel 12, and the prophecies of the Revelation, we find nothing but a wonderful harmony throughout the prophecies concerning the Papacy. The Revelator declares (Revelation 13 and 17) that the Papacy would receive a “Deadly wound” which would render it powerless for a period, but afterwards the “Deadly wound” would be healed and all the world wonder “after the beast.” The same thing is taught in Daniel 11:40: at “the time of the end” “the king of the south,” or “atheism,” did “push” at the Papacy and inflicted “the king of the north” with a “deadly wound” that caused it to cease from its deadly work of persecuting God’s people. The study of the subject of the king of the north without a connection between him and the persecution of God’s people (mentioned together in the prophecy), shows a failure to grasp the essence of the prophecy. The question asked in Daniel 8: 13, 14 is “How long ... the host to be trodden under foot?” is partly answered in Daniel 9, but its fuller explanation is presented in Daniel 11:40, and again in Daniel 12:5-7, and verse 8. “How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? That is, how long shall the king of the north be permitted to persecute and kill God’s people? When the Book of Revelation depicts the Papal persecutions of the Dark Ages, he quotes from Daniel’s prophecies concerning the sanctuary and the treading under foot of God’s people by the king of the north. He pictures the saints as asking “How long, O Lord, holy and true, does Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6: 10).

In Daniel 12: 7, the Lord takes a solemn oath that the power of the king of the north, the Papacy, would be taken away at the end of the 1260 years: that would be “an end of breaking in pieces the power of the holy people.” (Revised Version). In His wisdom, the Lord permitted the rise of atheistic forces, and the spirit of liberalism generally, to overthrow the power and authority of Rome. Yet the Lord has told us that

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“the deadly wound” is to be “healed,” and that when it is healed the Papacy will regain its lost supremacy. It is to outline the Papacy’s restoration to power that the Lord inspired Daniel to present the tremendous success which would come to the Papacy just before it comes to its end - this is forcefully presented ‘In Daniel h: 40-46. Pointing to “the final conflict,” the prophet Daniel directs our attention to the resurrected power of the king of the north. Daniel likens the campaigns of the king of the north to that of the overflowing of a mighty river - the Euphrates - (Daniel 11: 40, American Translation): “The king of the north shall sweep through many lands like an overwhelming flood.” That “flood” will surge “into the glorious land” (verse 41) - where God’s people dwell - and, as in the time of the Assyrians, “the waters of the river [the Euphrates] strong and many shall pass through Judah even to the neck” (Isaiah 8: 7, 8). As a man nearly drowned by the inundating flood, with his head only above the swirling waters, so the city of Jerusalem, in the days of Hezekiah, seemed at the mercy of the invaders. But God intervened. The flooding waters were dried up. Thus shall it be when the king of the north floods into the anti-typical land of Israel and reaches to “the glorious holy mountain.”

The waters of the Babylonian “flood”-- the waters of the great river Euphrates - will flood the land and threaten to engulf “the holy city” (Daniel 11:45; Revelation 11:2). But the Lord Who gave Daniel this prophecy “by the side of the great river”; that Lord Who stood “upon the waters of the river” when He made the solemn oath that He would end the persecution of His people (Daniel 12:5-7), will dry up the waters of

“the great river Euphrates” (Revelation 16:12): the king of the north “shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (Daniel 11:45).

That we have presented the true interpretation concerning the activities of the king of the north and his acquisition of political power enabling him to “go forth with great fury” and bring about the passing of a death decree “to destroy, and utterly make away many” of God’s children, will be seen by noticing carefully the following application made by God’s servant of the deliverance of God’s people mentioned in Daniel 12:1:

“The wicked rushed upon the saints to slay them [Daniel 11:44]; but angels fought for them. Satan wished to have the privilege of destroying the saints ... but Jesus bade His angels watch over them. God would be honored by making a covenant with those who had kept His law, in the sight of the heathen [this is an inspired comment on Ezekiel 38:16-23; 39:7, 23, 28; Joel 3, etc.] round about them (see Joel 3:12); and Jesus would be honored by translating, without their seeing death, the faithful, waiting ones who had so long expected Him. God would not suffer His name to be reproached among the heathen. He would manifest His mighty power, and gloriously deliver His saints. For His name’s glory He would deliver every one of those who had patiently waited for Him, and whose names were written in the book [this is a definite reference to Daniel 12:1]. The people of God who had faithfully warned the world of His coming, would be delivered” (Early Writings, Pages 282-285).

## 9. FACING DEATH BEFORE PROBATION CLOSES

When Seventh-day Adventists fully appreciate the fact that they will face a death decree before probation closes, and that this great world crisis is outlined in the prophecies which some apply to a supposed national conflict to be fought in Palestine, they will thank God for the light He has given concerning this coming crisis. They will cease to regard vital prophecies as “unimportant”; they will esteem the consideration of those prophecies as a precious privilege and duty.

The prophecy points to “the final conflict” over the Sabbath in which all the world will act a part: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). See Great Controversy, Page 592. During the 1260 years of its supremacy, when the Papacy made “war with the saints,” it persecuted and killed the people of God. When the prophet employs the same word “war” in Revelation 12: 17, when depicting the final conflict over the Sabbath, he intends to convey the same meaning.

Concerning the false prophet, who is prophesied to associate with the beast in persecuting the saints, the prophetic word says: “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should

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be killed” (Revelation 13: 15). In accordance with his custom of bringing us to the main feature or climax of his prophecy, then giving an account of the events leading up to that climax, John, after presenting the climax, the giving “life unto the image of the beast” to kill those who will “not worship the image of the beast” - then proceeds to show that this climax will be preceded by a period when decrees will be issued, boycotting those who will not receive “the mark of the beast” (Revelation 13: 16, 17). That is, at first, Sunday laws will be passed, followed by more and more stringent laws. But after threats have not resulted in God’s people relinquishing their hold on the true Sabbath, finally a decree will be passed outlawing dissenters and declaring that death will be meted out to all after the expiration of a certain time - a period apparently extending several months.

Before the close of probation the saints will be faced with the threat of death. Speaking of “the experience of God’s people in the closing up of the great day of atonement,” the Lord’s servant says: “Satan numbers the world as his subjects, he has gained control of the apostate churches, but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God” (5 Testimonies, Page 472, 473). This refers to a period just before probation closes – “in the closing up of the great day of atonement.” See also Prophets and Kings, Pages 587, 588.

Writing of pre-probationary time, the Lord’s servant says: “The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul ... The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands, and conformed to worldly customs, will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. In the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan’s supreme effort is made to cause ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to a false rest-day, these faithful ones will ‘shine as lights in the world’” (Prophets and Kings, Page 188, 189, see also 5 Testimonies, Page 81).

That the saints face death before probation closes is again shown by the following statement: “Urged on by Satan, the rulers of this world are seeking to destroy them. While Satan was urging his accusations, and seeking to destroy this company, holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro, placing upon them the seal of the living God” (5 Testimonies, Page 475). While ‘The rulers, of this-world are seeking to destroy’ the saints, they are said to be afflicting their souls, and “Pleading for purity of soul,” and

They are adorned with “the spotless robe of Christ’s righteousness.” “Their names are retained in the Lamb’s book of life. They have not been turned by the dragon’s war. Now [having stood this test] they are eternally secure from the tempter’s devices.” See Prophets and Kings, Page 591.

“He [John] saw the church brought into deadly conflict, with the beast and his image, and the worship of that beast enforced on pain of death” (5 Testimonies, Page 752).

As shown by the context, “the decree which is to go forth against the people of God.” (5 Testimonies, Page 450), demanding their worship of the beast ‘on pain of death’, will be issued before probation closes. “The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey His law” (5 Testimonies, Page 450). “By the decree enforcing the institution of the Papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. Then we may know that the end is near, that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets have described as the time of Jacob’s trouble” (5 Testimony, Page 451) This is the sign indicating that probation is shortly to close: “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” (5 Testimonies, Page 451, 464).

Referring to “the time of trouble” (explained in Early Writings, Page 85, to include “a short period just before” the plagues “are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary”), the Lord’s servant says: “We all fled from the cities and villages, but were pursued by the wicked, who entered the houses of the saints with a sword. They raised the sword to kill us, but it broke, and fell as powerless as a straw” (Early Writings, Page 34). The previous paragraph says: “And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches. I

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saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed.”

Writing again of the same events preceding the close of probation, the Lord’s servant says: “And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday-Sabbath, that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced, and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troubling of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity. While Satan seeks to destroy those who honor God’s Law he will cause them to be accused as law-breakers, as men who are dishonoring God, and bringing judgments upon the world” (Great Controversy, Page 590-592).

Having informed us that the saints leave the cities when the decree is passed, enforcing the observance of Sunday on pain of death, just before the close of probation, we understand the setting of the statements in Early Writings, Pages 282-284: “As the saints left the cities and villages, they were pursued by the wicked, who sought to slay them. But the swords that were raised to kill God’s people broke and fell as powerless as a straw” (Early Writings, Page 284).

“The Great Controversy,” page 631, refers to the wicked assailing the saints, “in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall as powerless as a straw.” This experience, we have noticed, occurs from the time probation is about to close, and also subsequent to that decisive hour, but before the time for the execution of the death decree. In the sentence before the one just quoted, we read: “Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment-keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and, before the time specified, will endeavor to take their lives” (Great Controversy, Page 631).

The worship of the image of the beast is enforced on pain of death -see Revelation 13:15. The first plague is poured out upon “the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped [or obeyed] his image” (Revelation 16: 2), thus we can see that the death decree extending to a certain time, has been passed before probation closes and before the outpouring of the first plague. By the second and third plagues water is turned into blood. The reason is given as to why “the rivers and fountains of waters became blood”: “And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, because Thou has judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou has given them blood to drink; for they are worthy” (Revelation 16: 4-6). The comment given in the Spirit of Prophecy reads: “By condemning the people of God to death they have as truly incurred the guilt of their blood, as if it had been shed by their hands” (Great Controversy, Page 628).

In 5 Testimonies, Page 212, 213, the death decree is associated with the standing up of Michael, the time of trouble, the seal of God, and ends with this statement: “The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death.” This definitely suggests that the decree is passed before the seal is given, which according to Early Writings page 48, seems to be the last act before Jesus leaves the Sanctuary. As is well known, the seal and the mark are received at the same time: “While one class by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God” (Great Controversy, Page 605).

The death decree will precede the time of “Jacob’s trouble!” Comparison is made in, Great Controversy, Page 615, 616, between the arguments employed in bringing this decree about, and the experience of Jesus under Caiaphas: “The persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand [regarding the enforcement of the observance of Sunday], will make them objects of universal execration. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the State, ought not to be tolerated; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion and lawlessness. The same argument eighteen hundred years ago was brought against Christ by the ‘rulers of the people.’ ‘It is expedient for us,’ said the wily Caiaphas, ‘that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not’ (John 11: 50). This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob’s trouble!” This term “the time of Jacob’s trouble” has reference to the fear that possessed Jacob, that his brother Esau would kill him and all his family. “He

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did all in his power to atone for the wrong to his brother, and to avert the threatened danger, and then in humiliation and repentance, he pleaded for divine protection” (Patriarchs and Prophets, Page 195). “Jacob’s experience during that night of wrestling and anguish represents the trial through which the people of God must pass before Christ’s Second Coming. When Christ shall cease His work as Mediator in man’s behalf, then this time of trouble will begin. As Jacob was threatened with death by his angry brother, so the people of God will be in peril from the wicked who are seeking to destroy them. And, as the patriarch wrestled all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau, so the righteous will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the enemies that surround them” (Patriarchs and Prophets, Page 201). That the time of Jacob’s trouble commences with the close of probation is also identified in 5 Testimonies, Page 451.

That the death decree must be made before probation closes is obvious from Testimonies to Minister, Page 473, where Satan is represented as speaking to his angels, saying: “When death shall be made the penalty of violating our Sabbath, then many who are now ranked with Sabbath keepers will come over to our side.” Here is evidence that the decree will be made in the time when people are making decisions. It is well known that no one will exchange sides after probation closes.

Satan’s expectations as to the result of the death decree will be realized, for, according to 5 Testimonies, Page 463 and 136, the greater part of our people will apostatize when the image to the beast is made. In this connection, material for heart searching meditations is provided in Christ Object Lessons, Page 412; Early Writings, Page 37, 71.

## 10. THE UNIVERSAL DEATH DECREE

Notice the following statements from the pen of the servant of the Lord-

“Especially will the wrath of man be aroused against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment; and at last a universal decree will denounce these as deserving of death” (Prophets and Kings, Page 512).

“Satan is working to the utmost to make himself as God, and to destroy all who oppose his power” (6 Testimonies, Page 14).

“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan, those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death” (I. of A. 122).

“This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death.” (5 Testimonies, Page 213).

“The powers of earth, uniting to make war against the commandments of God, will decree that all, ‘both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false Sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death.” (Great Controversy, Page 604).

“This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death” (Great Controversy, Page 615).

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment-keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages, associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places” (Great Controversy, Page 625, 626).

“By condemning the people of God to death, they have as truly incurred the guilt of their blood, as if it had been shed by their hands” (Great Controversy, Page 628).

“Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment-keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and, before the time specified, will endeavor to take their lives” (Great Controversy, Page 631).

“When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in

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one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen" (Great Controversy, Page 635).

"The decree will go forth that they must disregard the Sabbath of the fourth commandment and honor the first day of the week, or lose their lives" (IT. 353, 4).

"Zechariah's vision of Joshua and the Angel applies with peculiar force to the experience of God's people in the closing up of the day of atonement. The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. Urged on by Satan, the rulers of this world are seeking to destroy them. While Satan was urging his accusations, and seeking to destroy this company, holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro, placing upon them the seal of the living God" (5 Testimonies, Page 472-476).

"The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed" (Early Writings, Page 34).

"A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God" (Early Writings, Page 37).

"I heard them crying unto God earnestly. 'Deliver us from the heathen around about us. They have appointed me unto death; but Your arm can bring us salvation'" (Early Writings, Page 272).

"I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages, and associating together in companies, and living in the most solitary places. Then I saw the leading men of the earth consulting together, and Satan and his angels busy around them. I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were at liberty after a certain period of time, to put them to death. In some places, before the time for the decree to be executed, the wicked rushed upon the saints to stay them. But angels in the form of men of war fought for them. Soon I saw the saints suffering great mental anguish. They seemed surrounded by the wicked inhabitants of the earth. God would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation, and who would not bow to the decree of the beast or receive his mark" (Early Writings, Page 282-284).

"The decree which is to go forth against the people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther. Satan instigated the scheme, in order to rid the earth of those who preserved the knowledge of God. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey His law" (5 Testimonies, Page 450). See also Prophets and Kings, Page 605,

Commenting upon the crisis which came upon God's ancient people, the Lord's servant says: "Misled by the false statements of Haman, Xerxes was induced to issue a decree providing for the massacre of all the Jews. A certain day was appointed on which the Jews were to be destroyed and their property confiscated. On the day appointed for their destruction." (Prophets and Kings, Page 600-602).

By observing the Biblical record concerning the decree "to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus" (Esther 3:5-15), we learn that it was promulgated "on the 12th day of the 1st month to be executed "upon the 13th day of the 12th month" (compare verses 12 and 13).

That is, there was a period of 11 months between the passing of the decree and the day of its execution. Thus a death sentence hung over them for eleven months. The Spirit of Prophecy declares that "the decree which is to go forth against the people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews." While this does not give definite word that the coming decree of death against God's people will be issued eleven months before the date of its execution, it suggests that there is the possibility that there will be this or a similar length of time between the making of the decree by law and the time of its expiration. That such a period, between the passing of the decree and the time appointed in the decree for its execution, will operate is definitely declared in the Spirit of Prophecy: "This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth

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commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death” (Great Controversy, Page 615).

“Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment-keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and, before the time specified, will endeavor, to take their lives” (Great Controversy, Page 631).

“As the time appointed in the decree draws near (Great Controversy, Page 635) the people were at liberty, after a certain period of time, to put them to death. In some places, before the time for the decree to be executed, the wicked rushed upon the saints to slay them” (Early Writings, Page 282-284).

### 11. THE TIME FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE DEATH DECREE

The death decree on all who refuse to bow to the image to the beast will go forth just before probation closes. In this decree will be a time limit, and at its expiration, death is to be executed upon all who persist in keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and who refuse to heed the image to the beast and receive the mark of the beast. In 1 Testimonies, Page 353, 354, reference is made to the going forth of the decree, and also the time when “the captivity of the righteous is turned.” In Jeremiah 30 the Lord gave Jeremiah a vision concerning the ending of “the [Babylonian] captivity of My people Israel” (v. 3). After they had been through a period of trouble they would have deliverance. Describing the severity of the struggle through which they would be obliged to pass, the prophet says: “All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it” (vs. 6, 7). In this chapter is declared the fierce anger of the Lord that would be visited upon the oppressors of Israel after the Lord has delivered His people from their would-be murderers: “Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goes forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind. It shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart: in the latter days you shall consider it.” (Verses 23, 24).

“As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God’s people in the time of trouble” (Great Controversy, Page 618). “The time of Jacob’s trouble” commencing about the time probation closes, continues on until the opening of the seventh plague, when the voice of God brings deliverance and joy to His people. “This was the time of Jacob’s trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God” (Early Writings, Page 37). “It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared. The saints beheld with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance whence came the voice of God. Shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law. God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus’ coming, and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people. And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image. Soon appeared the great white cloud, upon which sat the Son of Man. The earth mightily shook as the voice of the Son of God called forth the sleeping saints” (Early Writings, Page 285-287).

We have given this extract as fully as our space permits to show (1) that the time of Jacob’s trouble for, the righteous terminates when the voice of God brings them deliverance. (2) That the voice of God which brings deliverance to the righteous at the opening of the seventh plague, is separate and distinct from the voice of the Son of God which, later, resurrects the dead. We are writing with particular reference to events preceding the close of probation, but it is necessary to deal with the termination of the time of Jacob’s trouble (which commences shortly after the passing of the death decree, just before probation closes), because of its inseparable connection with the expiration of the time limit in the death decree. The greatness of the event and the clarification of certain features in connection with the 6th and 7th plagues, cause us to deal further with what is revealed concerning the voice of God to be heard at the opening of the 7th plague. The prophet Joel declared: “The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel” (Joel 3: 16). The context shows that the Lord challenges the world to

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destroy His remnant church. He tells them to prepare for the slaughter of His people (Joel 3:9, 10): “Assemble yourselves, and come, all you heathen, and gather yourselves together round about (Verse 11) My people, with intent to destroy them, for I shall reveal My power for their deliverance”-- this is the teaching of Joel 3. A chapter which is so often misinterpreted in relation to a supposed military war in Palestine. At the sound of the mighty voice of God, “the heavens and the earth shall shake,” and with the shaking of the earth occur many terrifying terrestrial phenomena. But the terrors of that day bring joy to the righteous for “the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”

The prophet Isaiah, also pointing to the time when the Lord would intervene on behalf of His people and bring terror to their persecutors, says: “And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger” (Isaiah 30:27-33). Our pioneers emphasized the distinction between the voice of God that delivers His living people from the hand of their enemies seeking to destroy them, and the voice of the Son of God which, later, calls forth the sleeping saints from the tomb. See the article, “The Voice of God,” in “A Word to the Little Flock,” pages 4-8.

By a careful comparison of Revelation 3:2, 3; Mark 13:32; 1 Corinthians 2:2, associated with Joel 3:16; Isaiah 30:30; Hebrews 12:25, 26; etc., we know the Scriptures support the statement of the Lord’s servant that God, at the opening of the 7th plague, is to speak “the day and hour of Jesus’ coming” (Early Writings, Page 285, 15, 34 etc.). This the Lord does as part of His “everlasting covenant to His people,” “the covenant of peace,” the assurance that they would never again be troubled by the wicked. The Revelator says: “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.” What is done? Not the completion of judgments upon the wicked, for other events follow between the utterance of the “great voice” and the coming of Christ some days later. “It is done”- that is, God will no more hold back His hand of wrath, which is to bring complete destruction to Babylon. He will permit the persecutors of His people to reach the place where they become so filled with Satanic fury against the Lord and His people, that they will be more than ever united and determined to execute the death decree. “The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of Heaven” (Great Controversy, Page 623). It is in this way that “the kings of the earth and the whole world” gather “to the battle of that great day of God Almighty,” they “oppose God in the person of His witnesses” (7 Testimonies, Page 182). This is how they “make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them” (Revelation 17:14). See Matthew 25:40; Acts 9:1-5; 1 Corinthians 8:12.

The uniting of the world to execute the death decree upon God’s people is described as the gathering of the forces of Babylon to their slaughter (Revelation 16:12-16). Referring to the time of the execution of the death decree, the Lord’s servant says: “When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. At the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.

“The people of God still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now in the hour of utmost extremity, that the Lord will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen.

“With shouts, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance whence comes the voice of God saying, ‘It is done’” (Great Controversy, Page 635, 636).

In I Testimonies, Page 354 we find a suggestion as to what is intended by the Lord’s statement, made at the opening of the 7th plague: “It is done.” The Lord’s servant says that the righteous say: “We are delivered. It is the voice of God.” Continuing she also says: “Those who were so eager to destroy the saints cannot endure the glory resting upon the delivered ones. Satan and evil angels flee from the presence of the saints glorified. Their power to annoy them is gone forever.”

From these facts, we know that, up until this time, the saints will have been subjected to the threat of death at the hands of the forces of Babylon, that then the whole world will be united upon the decision to destroy the saints, and that “the time appointed in the decree” for the slaughter of God’s people will be just

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before the 7th plague, or, in other words, at the climax of the 6th plague. That is, as we have briefly shown in this booklet, and considerably enlarged upon in other publications, the gathering of “the kings of the earth and of the whole world,” refers to this uniting to fight against God by determining to destroy His people. Whatever may be the attitude of nations toward each other at the time of the 6th plague, the description given in Revelation 16: 12-16 is not intended to convey anything regarding the conflict of one nation against another, but of their united world-wide action in deciding to put into execution the death decree promulgated just before probation close. The plagues, which have been poured out upon them because of their persecution of His people, have not caused them to repent of their intended slaughter of the people of God; to the contrary, by then they will be more than ever united on their decision to slay the people of God in one mighty, world wide effort, “There will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow” (Great Controversy, Page 635). The careful reader of the Spirit of Prophecy will observe that the description (in Great Controversy) concerning the time when the saints are faced with death at the hands of the Babylonian “multitudes” and their deliverance at the opening of the 7th plague, is presented when God’s servant is commenting upon the seven last plagues. It will be observed that commencing with page 627 (Great Controversy), comments are given upon the plagues. Pages 636 to 642 deal with the 7th plague. As the Lord’s servant is careful to declare that she teaches nothing but what is already in the Scriptures (see 5 Testimonies, Page 665), we know by this and by other Scriptural evidence, that her description of the unity of purpose of “the kings of the earth and of the whole world” to destroy God’s people and their deliverance at the opening of the 7th plague, is what is taught in the Revelator’s description of the events under the 6th plague.

As we have shown elsewhere, the waters of the Euphrates refers to the people of Babylon (Jeremiah 51:13, compare Revelation 17:1, 15), who do the bidding of their religious leaders, and who are thus led to endeavor to destroy the saints. In the descriptive symbolism employed in several prophecies, the waters of the Euphrates are about to drown the people of God, when the Lord, by His intervention on behalf of His people, turns aside the waters of persecution prior to the complete destruction of Babylon, just as Cyrus first turned the waters of the Euphrates from their usual channel prior to the complete overthrow of ancient Babylon.

Describing the time when the death decree is about to be executed, the servant of the Lord says: “In every quarter companies of armed men are preparing for the work of death [i.e., the waters of the Euphrates are about to drown His people]. The angry multitudes [i.e., the waters of the Euphrates (Revelation 17:15)], are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people the voice of God saying, ‘It is done’” (Great Controversy, Page 635, 636). It is possible that the death decree is to become operative from midnight - the usual termination for the world’s reckoning of the ending, and the beginning of the next day. As the Lord’s servant says: “It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow.” In Isaiah 30: 29, 30, quoted by God’s servant, reference is made to the deliverance of God’s persecuted people by the voice of God. Isaiah says: “You shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept.” Then God’s servant says: “With shouts of triumph throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth.” “At midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:29, 30). “The people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away” (Job. 34: 20). It appears that on the very night, and at the very hour, midnight, as the appointed time expires for the death decree to be executed this is the very night and the very hour that the Lord has chosen to manifest “His power for the deliverance of His people.”

The 6th plague describes the time when the wicked, “urged on by hosts of evil angels” (Revelation 16:13, 14), are uniting their forces and “Preparing for the work of death.” Thus they are being gathered (Revelation 16:14, 16) to their slaughter – “Armageddon” means “the mountain of slaughter.” Revelation 16:12 brings us to the time when the Lord turns aside “the angry multitudes” (the waters of the Euphrates, see Revelation 17: 1, 15) from their murderous attempt to slay God’s people. They then no longer serve Babylon, as anciently the waters of the Euphrates served as a bulwark and a glory to ancient Babylon. As Cyrus employed the Euphrates as a means to bring about the destruction of Babylon, so the Lord uses the multitudes whom Babylon has been using to try to destroy God’s people, to turn upon their false shepherds to destroy them (Great Controversy, Page 653-657).

As the writer has shown in another book dealing with the chronology of the events of the plagues,

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there are but a few days from the 6th plague until the coming of Christ. The 6th immediately precedes, and is a part of the opening of the seventh plague. The climax of the 6th plague is the midnight hour when the death decree is to be executed, which is frustrated by the intervention of God in the 6th plague being poured out upon the waters of the Euphrates. Not until after the time for the execution of the death decree would “the Kings from the East”—the armies of heaven—return to this earth. The Lord, in His infinite wisdom, has decided that He will not bring about the final destruction of Babylon until that midnight hour when the death decree is to be executed. The universe must see how Satan designs the whole world to unite for the extermination of the people of God, who have done all they can to save the world from ruin. Just as He hurried the Jews on to destroy the Son of God, so he will commission his evil angels to urge the world on to slay the people of God. In this demonstration, the loyal on looking universe will see what Satan would have done with them had he obtained the power for which he strove. Not until their utter frustration by God’s intervention by terrifying terrestrial phenomena, would the false shepherds acknowledge openly their part in the terrible work of deception. “Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception” (Great Controversy, Page 655). This acknowledgment God has determined shall be brought about (Isaiah 45: 23, etc.), and that, too, in the very hour when they think they will achieve their designs. It is when this crisis-hour has been reached that “the way” will be “prepared” for the final destruction of Babylon by “the Kings from the East” (Revelation 16:12)—the armies of heaven. It is after the waters of the Euphrates are dried up and no longer serve Babylon, that the prophecy emphasizes that the time has come for the utter destruction of Babylon (Revelation 16: 19).

There is no time between the 6th and 7th plagues for a literal gathering of all the nations of the world to Palestine, and such a teaching is totally foreign to the purpose for which these Scriptures were written: they were given to outline the judgments of God upon the enemies of His people and the deliverance of His persecuted remnant. The plagues are termed “Her [Babylon’s] plagues” (Revelation 18:4, 8). While the first five plagues have afflicted the forces of Babylon, yet Babylon has continued to sway the multitudes to do her bidding. As Babylon meets her doom under the 7th plague, it is obvious that the crisis hour for the church and her enemies comes at the climax of the 6th plague. After the voice of God brings deliverance to His people at the opening of the 7th plague, saying: “It is done” Babylon’s forces shall no more afflict My people and endeavor to slay them, then the Lord pours out His fierce anger upon Babylon: “And great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath” (Revelation 16:19).

## 12. POLITICAL CONDITIONS BY THE DEATH DECREE

The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy were not written merely to give any information upon political subjects: whatever we learn concerning national events comes as we consider the prophetic outline of the experiences of God’s people. But after taking into account all that may be reasonably derived from corollaries and connotations, there still remain some details of the political conditions to prevail when certain prophecies relating to the church are to meet their fulfillment. However, certain outstanding facts relating to the political scene seem fairly obvious. Such are the deductions drawn from the light we have upon the coming, “universal” death decree.

This decree could not be issued unless “all the world wondered after the beast.” As that decree is issued just before the close of probation, we know that the forces which oppose the supremacy of the Papacy will then have been, at least temporarily, subdued. When this decree is issued we know that half, or a large portion of, the world, will not be under the control of “godless” Communists: the world, then, will not be divided between nations politically designated “east” and “west.” At that time we know that the “godless” Soviet Communists will not have overthrown “Christendom,” but, instead, “Christendom,” headed by the Papacy and Protestant America, will have such power that they can influence the world to pass this “universal decree” of death against Sabbath keepers.

“The powers of earth” will “unite to make war against the commandments of God” (Great Controversy, Page 604). “Those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off” (Desire of Ages, page 122). Then Soviet Russia will not, as at present, be a barrier between the Papacy and its goal of supremacy, though signs will not-be wanting of the coming, final, revolutionary storm.

From the light given regarding the time for the execution of the death decree, it is obvious that the

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power of the Papacy and the Protestant nations supporting her, continues until the opening of the seventh plague, when the people of God, who are about to be put to death, are delivered by the voice of God (1 Testimonies, Page 354; Early Writings, Page 290, 34, 285, 6; Great Controversy, Page 635, 636). As the 6th plague is poured out upon the waters of the Euphrates, which, as we have shown, refers to the “multitudes” who endeavor to slay the saints at the behest of the beast, and the false prophet, and the time when they are deflected from their murderous purpose by the intervention of God is when the death decree is about to be executed, it shows that the 7th plague follows immediately upon the outpouring of the 6th plague, and that the power of the Papacy continues until the opening of the 7th plague. From a period just before probation closes until then, there is no Scriptural indication of the world being divided politically into “east” and “west,” with so-called “eastern” nations following their own way without deference to Rome and the United States. To the contrary, the evidence points to the fact that the power of the Papacy and the Protestant nations will extend over the world; that, though there will be much unrest and bloodshed throughout the world during this period, this power will continue until the opening of the 7th plague. The evidence points further to the fact that the supposed gathering to Palestine of “eastern” nations to fight against the “western” nations during the 6th and 7th plague is incompatible with the political picture presented by “the universal death decree” extending over all the world during a period of some months until the 7th plague, and, further, the 6th plague, followed immediately by the 7th plague, does not permit time for such a gathering of nations between the 6th and 7th plagues.

“After the saints had been delivered by the voice of God, the wicked multitude turned their rage upon one another. The earth seemed to be deluged with blood, and dead bodies were from one end of it to the other” (Early Writings, Page 290). The same picture is presented in Great Controversy, Page 653-657: “When the voice of God [at the opening of the 7th plague] turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life. The people see that they have been deluded. The multitude are filled with fury. The swords which were to slay God’s people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed. The work of destruction begins with those who have professed to be spiritual guardians of the people. The false watchmen are the first to fall ‘a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor’ (Zechariah 14: 12, 13). In the mad strife of their own fierce passions, and by the awful outpouring of God’s unmingled wrath, fall the wicked inhabitants of the earth, priests, rulers, and people, rich and poor, high and low. ‘And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth’ (Jeremiah 25: 33).”

Thus it will be noted that the world-wide slaughter of the wicked by their own hands, commences after the opening of the 7th plague, when God’s voice delivers His people from the execution of “the universal” death decree. It is then that the false watchmen acknowledge their work of deception; it is then multitudes awaken to the fact that they have been deceived by their Babylonian leaders; it is then that they slay the leaders of Babylon. Now, according to the prophecy of Revelation 17: 12-17, we are informed that the powers of earth place the Papacy in a position of supremacy by agreeing to her designs. The prophecy is also explicit that that agreement with the Papacy will continue until the opening of the 7th plague, for it is not until then that they turn upon their spiritual leaders, and it is not until then, as we have seen, that the Lord intervenes to completely frustrate and prevent the execution of “the universal” death decree upon His people. Until the climax of the 6th plague and the opening of the 7th, the Papacy still holds power over the world, for then “there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their [God’s people] destruction. It is now, in the hour of their utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen” (Great Controversy, Page 635). As we have seen, at the opening of the 7th plague, God says: “It is done”—no longer will Satan or Babylon have power to persecute His people for it is then, when “the saints are glorified,” that “their power to annoy them is gone forever” (1 Testimonies, Page 354). Until that great hour of deliverance the forces of Babylon are about to kill the people of God, but then God speaks the words, “It is done.” Thus, by noticing carefully the words of Revelation 17:12-17, we see that the Papal forces hold supreme power “until the words of God, shall be fulfilled,” at the opening of the 7th plague. The prophet says: “For God hath put into their [the nations supporting the Papacy] hearts to fulfil His will, and to agree [to issue “a universal” death decree upon His people], and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.” Then, “the ten horns which you saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire” (Revelation 17: 16).

It will be observed that this is the verse which follows the angel’s statement that the waters of the

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Euphrates, upon which the whore, Babylon, sits, represents the “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” (Revelation 17:1, 15; Jeremiah 51:13). That is, as shown by the juxtaposition of the verses, the ceasing of the multitudes to execute Babylon’s decree, and the turning of the peoples, and multitudes, upon their spiritual leaders, is what is meant by the drying up of the Euphrates, and the subsequent overthrow of Babylon. In Revelation 16:12-16 the same truth is taught: the 6th plague brings us to the climax of Babylon’s power, as the waters of the Euphrates, representing the peoples and multitudes doing the bidding of Babylon in being about to execute “the universal” death decree, are prevented from drowning the people of God. The multitudes are arrested just as they are about to execute the death decree. This is quickly followed by the voice of God, which brings deliverance to His people. The deceived multitudes then turn upon their religious leaders, and Babylon goes down: the king of the north comes “to his end, and none shall help him.” Thus, by a comparison of Revelation 16 and 17, we see that one is the complement of the other both teach that the Papacy’s power continues until a few days before the actual appearance of our Lord in the clouds of heaven.

Sometimes Jeremiah 25: 30-33 is employed to teach a military battle to be fought in Palestine, but it should be noted (as shown by the way it is quoted in Great Controversy, Page 657), that it does not apply until after the voice of God opens the 7th plague, when, as we have shown, the multitudes cease from endeavoring to slay the saints, and they then turn upon their religious leaders (see Jeremiah 25:34-37), after which they turn upon themselves the swords with which they had intended slaying the people of God. This world-wide slaughter is in progress when Jesus returns for His people -see Revelation 19:21; Great Controversy, Page 642, 657. There is not sufficient time after the voice of God delivers His people for all the nations to gather for conflict in Palestine, and, indeed, such is not the teaching of the Scriptures.

### 13. BEHOLD, I COME AS A THIEF

It is the close of probation that comes “as a thief.” The servant of the Lord, in Christ Object Lessons, Page 319, couples together Matthew 24:44 and Revelation 16:15. As we shall shortly show, God’s servant applies expressions such as found in Matthew 24: 44 to the close of probation. The Lord’s servant applies Revelation 16: 15 in connection with “the parable of the wedding garment,” which she says opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding there is a preparation to be made by all who attend. When the king came in to view the guests, the real character of all was revealed. For every guest at the feast there had been provided a wedding garment. This garment was a gift from the king. By wearing it the guests showed their respect for the giver of the feast. But one man was clothed in his common citizen-dress. He had refused to make the preparation required by the king. By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. This decision must be made prior to the Second Coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven. Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to their deeds. It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of the investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God.

“By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ’s true followers will possess. Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided, can make us meet to appear in God’s presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put on every repenting, believing soul. ‘I counsel thee,’ He says, ‘to buy of Me white raiment, that thou may be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear’ (Revelation 3:18). In the concluding application of this parable, of our becoming adorned with the wedding garment – “the righteousness of Christ” - before the investigative judgment is completed in the heavenly courts and before the door of mercy closes, the Lord’s servant says: “It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness. This is our only opportunity to form characters for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments. The days of our probation are fast closing. Beware lest it find you unready. Take heed lest you be found at the King’s feast without a wedding garment. ‘In such an hour as you think not the Son of Man comes.’ ‘Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame,’ Revelation 16:15” (Christ Object Lessons, Page 319).

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Thus, it can be readily seen that the Spirit of Prophecy applies Revelation 16:15 in connection with the days of preparation of character while the investigative judgment is still in session and before probation closes. Because of the importance of the theme under consideration, we will give another instance where the servant of the Lord quotes Revelation 16:15, when commenting upon events connected with the close of probation: "The day of God will come as a snare. It comes to them as a prowling thief. The crisis is stealing gradually upon us probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut" (Desire of Ages, Pages 635, 636). Texts coupled together by the servant of the Lord are those stating that Christ will come as a thief (Revelation 16:15; 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:3; Matthew 24:48-51), and the application is made to the close of probation when "the day of God will come as a snare. It comes as a prowling thief."

Again, in TM. 233, the same application is made: "The day of God [which commences with the close of probation] shall come as a snare upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. It comes to them as a prowling thief. 'If the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.' Habitual watching is our only safety. We must be ever ready, that that day may not overtake us as a thief." As God will make known the day and hour of the Lord's coming at the opening of the 7th plague, the second coming in itself will not come as a thief to the saints. The Lord's servant also informs us that the wicked will know they are lost before the Savior is seen coming in glory - see Great Controversy, Page 655, 656.

When the Savior said: "Watch and pray; for you know not when the time." (Mark 13:33), He had reference to the close of probation. After quoting this verse and Revelation 3:3, God's servant says: "When the work of the investigative Judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny', the withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty man. "Watch you, therefore; lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping"" (Great Controversy, Page 491).

One more statement from the pen of the servant of the Lord: "Jesus has left us word, 'Watch you therefore; for you know not when the Master of the house comes, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch.' What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep. No; but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire, and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, and when the mandate goes forth, 'He that is unjust.

"When Jesus ceases to plead for man, the cases of all are forever decided. Probation closes; Christ's intercessions cease in Heaven. This time comes suddenly upon all, and those who have neglected to purify their souls by obeying the truth, are found sleeping."

"If such had only known that the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary would close so soon, how differently would they have conducted themselves! How earnestly would they have watched! The Master, anticipating all this, gives them timely warning in the command to watch. He distinctly states the suddenness of His coming 'watch you, therefore; for you know not!'" (2 Testimonies, Page 190, 191).

From these extracts we are instructed to interpret statements concerning Christ's coming as a thief, or His coming suddenly to find people asleep, to mean His coming out of the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary and ceasing His priestly, intercessory work. By the parable of the ten virgins the Lord illustrates the experiences of the prepared (the five wise virgins) and the unprepared (the five foolish virgins) among the professing people of God, at the time when the door of mercy is shut. In the chapter devoted to the exposition of this parable, the Lord's servant says: "Both parties were taken unawares [neither knows just when probation closes]; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found with out preparation. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied" (Christ Object Lessons, Page 412). Concluding His parable, in which He illustrated how probation will close at a time when even those who are prepared know not, Jesus admonished His people:

"Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man comes" (Matthew 25: 13). It is to the close of probation He refers in Matthew 24: 42-51: "Watch you, therefore; for you know not what hour your Lord does come. Therefore be you also ready: for such an hour as you think not the Son of Man comes. The Lord of that [evil] servant shall come in a day when he looks not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of." "When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to

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the door, and you begin to stand without, and to knock on the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us” (Luke 13:25).

“Take you heed, watch and pray: for you know not when the time is. Watch you, therefore: for you know not when the Master of the house come lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping” (Mark 13:33-37).

Thus, we see that the Savior’s warning given in Revelation 16: 15, for us to watch and be ready, clad in His righteous robes, refers to the close of probation. Why, then, is this warning and exhortation mentioned in connection with the 6th plague? When probation closes, the characters of God’s people are sealed for eternity. “He that is righteous, let him be righteous still” (Revelation 22: 11). The watching and the keeping of garments the garments of Christ’s righteousness which He will not give after probation closes - applies now: to the time before the close of probation. To the time when the evil spirits are abroad deceiving the people regarding obedience to the law of God. To the time Satan is uniting the world in rebellion against the claims of God’s law. It is now that God’s people must hold fast to the righteousness of Christ-the garments with which they are clothed.

It is obvious that our Lord Jesus, Who indited the words of Revelation (Revelation 22: 16), desired to arrest our attention with the connection between the events associated with the 6th plague and His coming. Firstly, the Lord’s servant couples up “Armageddon” with the Second Advent - see 6 Testimonies, Page 406. It is generally recognized by Bible commentators that the description given in Revelation 19:11-21 of the battle fought by our Lord at the time of His second advent, is the same conflict referred to in Revelation 17:14 (“and the Lamb shall overcome them,” i.e., the enemies of His church), and called “Armageddon” in Revelation 16:14-16. Several statements made by God’s servant on the subject of “Armageddon,” including 6 Testimonies, Page 406, employ the words describing the conflict mentioned in Revelation 19:11-21.

The second point connecting up the 6th plague with the second advent is shown by the fact that, at the climax of the 6th plague, the 7th plague opens with the voice of God saying: “It is done” (Revelation 16:17) ; God thus assures His people that they will never again be afflicted by their enemies, and at that time He declares “the day and hour of Jesus’ coming” (Early Writings, Page 15, 34, 285).

Another reason why the Lord, right in the midst of His description of the events occurring under the 6th plague, says: “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame,” is because the attempted execution of the death decree is what is depicted under the 6th plague. The drying up of the waters of the Euphrates, referring to the intervention of the Lord on behalf of His people, arresting the multitudes as they are about to slay the people of God. “In every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the Lord will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested (Great Controversy, Page 635, 636). In that fearful time, when the whole world (Revelation 16:14) will be determined upon the destruction of God’s people, they make war upon “God in the person of His witnesses” (7 Testimonies, Page 182).

Again we inquire: “Why should our Lord, when describing the execution of the death decree upon His people, bring before us this solemn message of warning? Because He thus seeks to urge upon us the important connection between the events described under the 6th plague and decisions which must be made before probation closes. The actions of the wicked at the time of the 6th plague in making war upon God and His people; the attitude of the saints in trusting God for their deliverance, are but the result of decisions made before probation closes. When the death decree is passed before probation closes, both the wicked and the righteous make their final decisions for eternal loss or gain.

The plagues do not fall upon people who have just commenced a course of action contrary to God’s will, but upon those whose characters have been determined by their actions prior to the close of probation. The plagues fall upon those who have decided to go the easy, popular, worldly way, rather than the path of self-denial required to obey the Law of God. The first plague falls upon those “which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image” (Revelation 16:2). The waters are turned into blood because worshippers of the beast and his image, having issued more and more stringent Sunday laws, persecute the saints; and, finally, before probation closes, pass a death decree upon God’s people (vs. 4-6). The Scriptures are most emphatic that the plagues are poured out because of actions done and decisions made preceding the close of probation - see Revelation 18: 4-8. This is true in a general sense, but it is particularly true concerning the events to transpire under the 6th plague. The wicked will be grievously afflicted with the first five plagues, but they will not be completely destroyed by them: a

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comparison of Revelation 16: 2, with vs. 10, 11, shows that at least numbers of those afflicted with the first plague are alive to suffer the 5th plague. However, when it comes to the time of the 6th plague, when the wicked have determined to completely destroy the people of God, the Lord no longer will permit them to live: He says: "It is done." He delivers His people, and smites their enemies with confusion so that they turn to slay each other with the swords they have raised to slay the people of God. Having spoken words of comfort to the righteous, telling them the day and the hour of Jesus' coming, He then proceeds to utterly destroy the wicked, for then "great Babylon" will come "in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath."

The important reason why Jesus, when describing the events of the 6th plague, gives the warning and exhortation: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame," thus coupling up the 6th plague with the close of probation, is because just before probation closes, the death decree will be passed, and all the inhabitants of the earth will have to make their final decision whether or not to serve and obey God, and receive His seal, or serve and obey the Papacy, and receive its mark. The time limit in the death decree will expire with the 6th plague, but the decisions made when the death decree is passed before probation closes, will determine whether or not each person has the seal of God, or has the mark of the beast. The former are thus assured protection when the Babylonian multitudes seek to slay the saints, but the latter will be among the persecutors and would-be slayers of God's people, and so will be destroyed.

There are some who have said that the subject of Armageddon is not important, but, as we have seen, the Lord Jesus, by His solemn warning and exhortation given in association with the events which lead to the Armageddon slaughter, has thus stressed the utter importance of knowing that those to be destroyed at that time are those who have failed to be ready when probation's hour closes. That it is of the utmost importance that we study this subject in the light of the momentous decision that all must make before probation closes; that what we are doing now will determine whether or not we shall be protected at that time, or be destroyed.

## 14. PREPARE NOW FOR THE COMING CONFLICT

A special preparation is needed to meet the coming unprecedented crisis. The door of mercy is about to be closed, never to be opened again. The Savior is soon to complete His intercession before His Father's throne on behalf of mankind. Such a solemn fact is of the greatest importance. Satan's empire is soon to be vanquished forever. The world is to come to an end. The universe has watched with breathless interest the development of the work of salvation; with increasing intensity they follow the concluding phases of the great conflict between good and evil. Millions now sleeping are soon to be awakened to eternal life. The greatest events of all eternity are about to transpire. The Lord has told us all these things in order to awaken us to a sense of the greatness of impending events. Among the many things the Lord has revealed to the sons of men living in earth's last generation, probably nothing is of greater importance than the solemn truth that soon Christ's heavenly ministry will cease. This arresting teaching is repeated frequently in the prophecies depicting the winding up of earthly things. Before probation closes, the Lord, with great urgency and loving entreaties, proclaims to His people the necessity of a thorough preparation for the tremendous times through which they must pass.

The voice of love is heard speaking through the prophet's impassioned words: "Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek you the Lord, all you meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be you shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger" (Zephaniah 2:1-3). The prophet had already declared that "the great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hastens greatly" (Zephaniah 1:14). Then, after a further description of the events to transpire during the day of the Lord, his clarion voice appeals to God's professing people, living just before the close of probation, to make a special preparation of seeking for righteousness and meekness in order to "be hid in the day of the Lord's anger."

The Revelator, also, bears a definite message for the people who will carry the last message of mercy to the dying world. He describes them as having purity of faith and life, and says: "And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Revelation 14: 4, 5). But,

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alas, the Lord has warned His professing people that many will not be prepared for the closing of the door of mercy. When the Lord ceases His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, it will then be too late to change character. This fact should be realized by all who profess to love and serve the Lord, for the Lord has pictured for us the sad experience of numbers of God's professing people who, when probation closes, will not be able to claim the protection of God. They will realize that it is then too late to form a character meeting with God's high standard, and that they are eternally lost. This will be a tragedy of the greatest magnitude. See the agony in the picture presented by the servant of the Lord. After referring to the triumph of the saints, she says: "Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters, 'Thou are weighed in the balance, and found, wanting' (Early Writings, Page 37).

Again God's servant speaks: "I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a High Priest in the sanctuary, through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God, and are protected in the time of trouble, must reflect the image of Jesus fully.

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful, and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the 'latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord, and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter. Those who fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it, and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. I saw that none could share the refreshing, unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord, and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy, and none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence" (Early Writings, Page 71).

One of the saddest stories in the Bible is the parable of the foolish virgins. They represent the professing people of God who will be living at the time the door of probation closes. It illustrates "the experience of the church that shall live just before His Second Coming" (Christ Object Lessons, Page 406).

"The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They received the Word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding [they] have been content with a superficial work" (Christ Object Lessons, Page 411). Thus they are not ready for the great trial ahead.

"It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, 'Behold, the bridegroom comes; go you out to meet him,' and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied." (Christ Object Lessons, page 412).

"In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His Word. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict" (Great Controversy, Page 593).

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's Message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren" (Great Controversy, Page 608).

How solemn and thought-provoking are the following words from the pen of inspiration: "Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse they will cowardly take the side of the opponents. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few, this will be our test"

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(5 Testimonies, Page 136).

“The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands, and conformed to worldly customs, will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time, the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy, will then go out in darkness” (5 Testimonies, Page 81).

“These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren, and to excite indignation against them. This day is just before us. The members of the church will individually, be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which could have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges” (5 Testimonies, Page 463).

“When Jesus leaves the sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous, will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God” (Early Writings, Page 48). The giving of the seal to God’s people seems to be the last act before He leaves the sanctuary. And rightly so, for it is a pledge of security” (6 Testimonies, Page 404).

“While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast; the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.” (Great Controversy, Page 605).

Large numbers of our people will apostatize when the image to the beast is made. See 5 Testimonies, Page 136, 463, 80, 81, etc.

In that great hour of decision before the close of probation, the anticipation of Satan will be fully realized. The servant of the Lord represents Satan as speaking to his angels, saying: “When death shall be made the penalty of violating our Sabbath, then many who are now ranked with Sabbath-keepers will come over to our side” (Testimonies to Ministers, Page 473). As we know that no one will exchange sides after probation closes, this shows that the death decree is passed before probation closes.

How solemn the warning that “when death shall be made the penalty of violating” the false Sabbath, “many who are now ranked with Sabbath-keepers will” go over to the side of Satan. “As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition” (Great Controversy, Page 608). How terribly sad that the Savior’s earnest warning and loving entreaty, mentioned in connection with the 6th plague (Revelation 16:15), should be given in vain for so many: “The great proportion of those who now appear genuine and true will prove to be base metal. The majority forsake us” (5 Testimonies, Page 136). “Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy, will then go out in darkness” (5 Testimonies, Page 81).

How terribly sad the thought that large numbers of apparently good fellow-Adventists will fail in the great hour of test. Why will they remain church members right up to this time? Obviously they expect to go through until the end, but they fail because their preparation is inadequate. The test will be greater than that which they anticipate. It will not be because the Lord has failed to make the issues clear in His prophetic Word. No, not that, but they have entertained erroneous interpretations of the prophecies in which the Lord has depicted the final conflict. By the Futuristic conception of the prophetic descriptions of the final conflict, as a Palestinian military battle, they have failed to grasp the enormity of the struggle in which they themselves will be involved.

Satan delights to hear some misguided Adventist preachers, refer to the prophecies relating to “Armageddon” as “unimportant,” “one of the trivialities of the Bible,” etc. By such means Satan blinds even some Adventists to the greatness of the coming world-wide struggle. The prophecies which they superficially apply in connection with a supposed conflict of nations in Palestine, are really those which describe the titanic struggle of the armies of “the beast” against “the Lamb” and His remnant people over the Law of God.

The true understanding of these prophecies reveals the solemn fact that vast multitudes of people will be eternally lost. As depicted in Ezekiel’s graphic portrayal of the final struggle against the Israel of God, emphasis is given to the destruction of “the multitudes of Gog.” See Ezekiel, 39:11, 16, margins, and study also Ezekiel 38:4-7; 39:4, 17-20. The New Testament application of these passages again emphasizes

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the vast army of the lost in the forces of Babylon. "Kings, captains and mighty men, all men, both free and bond, both small and great"; "the number of whom is as the sands of the sea" (Revelation 19:18; 20:8).

In Joel's description of the same conflict that ends in the destruction of the enemies of Israel - the armies of Babylon the same solemn and arresting truth is again forcefully presented. Joel depicts the nations of the whole world coming to attack and to destroy God's people (Joel 3:2, 11, 12). He says: "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision (margin, "concision, or threshing"). For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision" (Joel 3:14). Whenever the Scriptures depict the final conflict, emphasis is placed upon the fact that "the kings of the earth and of the whole world" (Revelation 16:14) are involved in this titanic, world-wide struggle against the people of God.

Those who grasp the clear picture presented in the prophecies depicting the coming struggle, knowing that "God is no respecter of persons. But in every nation he that fears Him, and works righteousness, is accepted with Him" (Acts 10: 34, 35), understand the reason why so many are destroyed and why, in comparison, so few are saved. They know that the fundamental principle involved in the great struggle is the holiness of God as expressed in His holy Law. They have no illusions regarding the needful preparation: a keen sense of the holiness of God born in hours spent with God in prayer and in the study of the Word of God; the completeness of the surrender of self to the will of God. The moment by moment contact with God and the continuous looking by faith to the heavenly ministry of Jesus, and the cultivated knowledge of the ever-present Holy Spirit within.

Had the disciples heeded the words of Jesus they would have been better prepared for the unexpected events which occurred at the time of the Savior's betrayal and crucifixion. Current, erroneous interpretations of prophecies regarding "Israel," "Jerusalem," "the land of Israel," and the deliverance of "Israel" when attacked by her combined enemies, had so blinded the eyes of the disciples that they could not obtain a clear picture of what was to happen regarding the mighty, decisive events which came about so quickly in the last days of the Savior's earthly work. See *Desire of Ages*, Pages 506; *Acts of the Apostles*, Page 30; etc.

"Before His crucifixion, the Savior explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death, and to rise again from the tomb; and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He, in Whom all their hopes centered, should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready" (*Great Controversy*, Page 594).

In this booklet we have endeavored to show that the solemn, world-shaking events of the greatest magnitude which are occurring in the world to-day, are preparing the way for "the final movements" which "will be rapid ones!" "Great changes" have taken place, but far greater are soon to transpire, and some day, suddenly, God's people will be faced with a great crisis. The way is opening up for the Papacy to make a bold bid for world supremacy. The present, precious opportunity for the study of God's Word should now be grasped, so that we may thoroughly understand the unfolding of the great issues at stake, and the greater ones impending.

Surely those "knowing the time" will say with the inspired words of the apostle Paul, "Now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." (Romans 13: 11, 12). Before the Lord comes, probation will close; before probation closes, a decree of death will be issued against the people of God. Before that decree is passed, there will be a period during which Sunday laws will be passed; becoming more and more stringent until, "finally," the death decree will be passed. Before there is considerable and serious agitation for the enforcement of Sunday laws, the Papacy will rise in political power, and Papal principles of the church, influencing and controlling the State, will operate in Protestant countries. Before these conditions exist there are to be "great changes" in the political structure of the nations - a balance of power in which the Lord has used one evil force to oppose and keep under another evil force, is to be broken up, which will leave the way open for the Papacy to regain its lost supremacy. Just how that balance of power among the nations will be brought about, the Bible does not say. But, from the facts of history and the trend of present-day affairs, revealing the

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machinations of the Papacy among the nations - its desire to subdue Russia, the spiritual home of her greatest international rival for power - one would not be surprised if the conditions and circumstances outlined in the prophecies to attend the restoration of Papal power, were brought about by war. Something among the nations will occur that will develop circumstances favorable to the exaltation of the Papacy among the nations, something that will hasten the days of peril for God's people. Surely, now is the time to prepare for the final conflict.

"Now is the time for the Law of God to be in our minds, foreheads, and written in our hearts. What leisure time we have should be spent in searching the Bible" (Early Writings, Page 58). Now is the time for God's people to learn the meaning of prevailing prayer. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). "No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer" (Great Controversy, Page 530). "Let every breath be a prayer" (Ministry of Healing, Page 511). "The mind must be constantly going out after God. Then pray always and rely upon God hour by hour and moment by moment." (5 Testimonies, Page 410). "Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless. Those professed Christians who come up to that last fearful conflict unprepared, will, in their despair, confess their sins in words of burning anguish, while the wicked will exult over their distress."

"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger, a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time."

"Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of Satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test, they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected, they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement. We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. The 'time of trouble such as never was,' is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess, and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God." (Great Controversy, Page 620-622).

The writer urges upon all his readers to earnestly read the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, for therein is revealed the true teachings of the Word of God. We have been dealing with the great events happening before our eyes today, and have endeavored to outline the course of the greater events which must occur before probation closes. We have also stressed the necessity of a thorough preparation for the coming crisis hour. Now, in closing, we quote the following from the pen of the servant of the Lord:

"What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of Preparation? Those who are uniting with the world, are receiving the worldly mould, and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth, these are receiving the heavenly mould, and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth, and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

"Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the foreheads of the ambitious, world loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God - candidates for heaven. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour" (5 Testimonies, Page 216).