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Prophecies in Process of Fulfillment

Purpose of this Presentation

- Not to predict when Jesus will come
- But to **strengthen faith** that despite delay, the prophecies of Scripture as upheld by Ellen G. White have not failed. They are moving steadily toward fulfillment.

Primary Reason for the Lengthening of Time: the Infinite Compassion of a Loving God

2 Peter 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Seven Major Prophecies in Process of Fulfillment

I. American Domination of the World

A. Revelation 13:11

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon."

I. American Domination of the World

A. Revelation 13:11

1. "Then I saw" = as Sea Beast was wounded
2. "Another beast" = Land Beast
3. Horns = form of government
4. Lamb-like = Christ-like
5. Two Horns =
 - a. Civil liberty (democracy)
 - b. Religious liberty (separation of church and state)

I. American Domination of the World

1851: J. N. Andrews was the first to identify the Land Beast as the USA (*RH*, May 19, 1851).

1888: Ellen White expressed the established consensus of Seventh-day Adventists: "One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America." *Great Controversy* (1888), 440.

1979: Some Adventists were ready to declare that the prophecy had failed. After all, there were two "superpowers"—America and Soviet Russia. In view of this, some said we must simply admit "prophetic disconfirmation" ("The World of E. G. White and the End of the World," *Spectrum* 10/2 (1979): 10).

But the prophecy wasn't over yet (and still isn't).

1989: Fall of Communism as a global power structure

1991—After the first Gulf war, *TIME* called America "the world's sole remaining superpower."

Yassir Arafat called Washington, DC "the new Rome."



- The *Washington Post* said the significance of the Gulf War victory in 1991 was that "America would now determine all major global events."

German newsweekly, *Der Spiegel* (2003)

"Throughout the history of mankind, certainly no country has existed that has so thoroughly dominated the world with its politics, its tanks and its products as the United States does today."

(*Der Spiegel*, quoted by Richard Bernstein in "Europe Seems to Hear Echoes of Empires Past," *NY Times*, April 14, 2003)

Roots of America's Greatness

- Freedom of Conscience and Religion
- Political Freedom, democracy and the rule of law
- Economic Freedom, free enterprise
- Judicial Freedom, presumed innocent until proven guilty

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- Freedom of Conscience and Religion
- Political Freedom, democracy and the rule of law
- Economic Freedom, free enterprise
- Judicial Freedom, presumed innocent until proven guilty
- ALL THESE ARE RESULTS OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION.

Roots of America's Greatness:

Reformation origins of basic American values

- Freedom of Conscience ← Scripture alone as supreme authority
- Rule of law ← Scripture alone as supreme authority
- Rule of law ← priesthood of every believer, neither priest nor king is above the law
- Freedom of Religion, Separation of church and state ← all religions equal before the law

Roots of America's Greatness:

The Reformation origins of basic American values:

- Democracy ← priesthood of every believer, every person responsible to interpret Scripture for oneself, think for oneself, and choose for oneself.
- Free Enterprise ← priesthood of every believer, every honest occupation is a calling from God. Each one's work is his ministry, an act of worship to God and service to fellow humans, hence sacred and valuable in itself, regardless of pay or profit. Free enterprise is a result of the Protestant work ethic.

Roots of America's Greatness:

Reformation origins of basic American values

- Judicial Freedom, presumed innocent until proven guilty, comes from Scripture.
 - to Cities of refuge were provided because a manslayer was presumed innocent until proven guilty in a fair trial (Deut. 19:1-13). In any trial, no one was to be convicted on the testimony of a single witness, because the accused was presumed innocent until proven otherwise on the testimony of two or three witnesses (Deut 19:15).

D. America to "speak like a dragon."

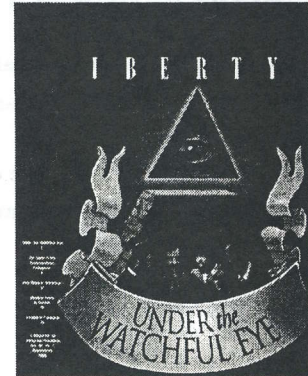
1. Military dimension

- a. The U.S. military budget for 2003-2004 exceeds the combined military budgets of the rest of the nations of the world (*Newsweek*, March 24, 2003, p. 23).
- b. Gulf War, Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq . . .

c. The "War on Terror" shows both the capability and the will to pursue a single individual (like Osama bin Laden or Saddam Hussein) or small groups (like al-Qaeda cells), anywhere on the planet.

2. Political dimensions of "speak as a dragon"

- a. Curtailment of civil liberties in order to control or prevent acts of terrorism.
- b. Plan to link all government computer databases.
- c. Student Entry Verification Information System (SEVIS) will track 1 million international students in 70,000 schools, by fall 2003.



3. Judicial dimensions of "speak as a dragon"

- a. Disregard for individual civil rights.

Police push for more spying authority

By MICHAEL POLLACK
The Department of Justice is pushing for more spying authority, and the Supreme Court is likely to grant it. The Justice Department is asking the Supreme Court to allow it to tap into the phone records of suspected terrorists. The Justice Department is asking the Supreme Court to allow it to tap into the phone records of suspected terrorists. The Justice Department is asking the Supreme Court to allow it to tap into the phone records of suspected terrorists.

3. Judicial dimensions of "speak as a dragon"

- b. Increasingly "hardball," zero-tolerance attitude toward suspected offenders

Miranda warning's future in question

Supreme Court case could make inroads on defendant's right to remain silent. The Supreme Court is considering a case that could make inroads on the defendant's right to remain silent. The Supreme Court is considering a case that could make inroads on the defendant's right to remain silent.

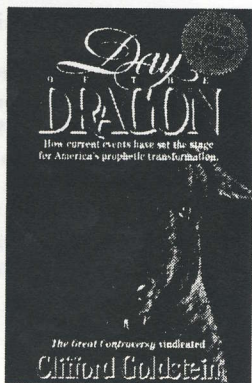
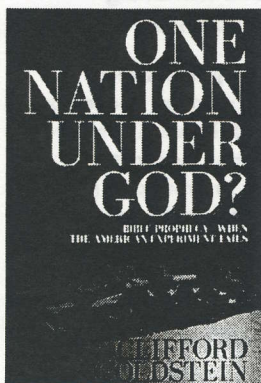
4. Religious dimensions of "speak as a dragon."

- a. Revelation 13:11-17
- b. "Under the influence" of a "threefold union of Protestantism, Catholicism, and Spiritualism, "our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government" (*Testimonies*, 5:451 [1885]).

4. Religious dimensions of "speak as a dragon."

- c. Erosion of the First Amendment
 - (1) "Establishment" clause – Separation of Church and State has been widely rejected
 - (2) "Free exercise" clause has been gutted as a constitutional guarantee. We are presently "coasting" on our political tradition, but in time of emergency, this tradition will not provide legal protection.

Further reading: Clifford Goldstein



II. The “deadly wound” of Revelation 13 fully healed

■ A. Revelation 13:1-3

“Then I stood on the sand of the sea.
And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea,
having seven heads and ten horns . . .”

“And the dragon gave him his power, his
throne, and great authority. . . .

“I saw one of his heads as if it had been
mortally wounded, and his deadly wound
was healed. And all the world marveled and
followed . . .”

II. The “deadly wound” of Revelation 13

B. In 1798, after the French Revolution, General Berthier captured Pope Pius VI and carried him to exile in France where he died a year later.

Political pundits speculated that the papacy was finished as a political power.

But Protestant biblical expositors recognized this as the deadly wound predicted in Rev. 13:3.

II. The “deadly wound” of Revelation 13

C. The same verse that predicted the apparently “mortal” wound, also predicted its miraculous healing:

“I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed” (Rev. 13:3).

II. The “deadly wound” of Revelation 13 to be fully healed

C. “Healing” has come in stages.

- 1929, Concordat with Mussolini restored the political independence of the Vatican City.
- 1963-65, Second Vatican Council
- 1980s, “Holy alliance” between Pope John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan led to collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.
- 1999, during a visit of Pope John Paul II to St. Louis, USA, the crowds sang to the pontiff, “He’s got the whole world in his hands.”

III. Ecumenism: The Maturing of Spiritual Babylon

Revelation 16:13-14

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

“For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

III. Ecumenism: The Maturing of Spiritual Babylon

B. "Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience" (*Great Controversy*, 588).

III. Ecumenism: The Maturing of Spiritual Babylon

C. Chuck Colson: "In truth the gulf between evangelicals and Roman Catholics, opened by the Reformation, is being bridged. Today, we stand shoulder to shoulder as the most significant religious block in America." (*New York Times*, March 2, 2000, quoted by Lincoln Steed in *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, April-June 2002, Teacher's Edition, 117).

III. Ecumenism: The Maturing of Spiritual Babylon

D. Documentary evidence that the Reformation is over.

1. *Evangelicals and Catholics Together* (ECT 1), 1994.
2. *Gift of Salvation* (ECT II), 1998.
3. *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (Lutheran-Catholic Accord), 1999

III. Ecumenism: The Maturing of Spiritual Babylon

E. Revelation 18:1, 2

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

"And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!'"

III. Ecumenism: The Maturing of Spiritual Babylon

E. Revelation 18:4

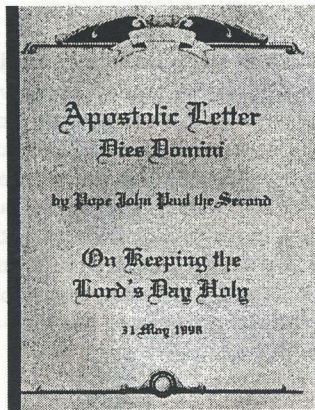
"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'"

IV. Exaltation of Sunday, Preparing for the Mark of the Beast

A. Rev. 13:14-17

B. The mark of the beast will involve civil enforcement of Sunday observance.

1. No one has yet received the mark of the beast.
2. But the preliminary stage, exaltation of Sunday, is in progress (Ms 51, 1898, in *Evangelism*, 234-235).



National Apostasy → National Ruin

- “When the Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution; when the state shall use its power to enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church--then will Protestant America have formed an image to the papacy, and there will be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin” (*Signs of the Times*, March 22, 1910, in 7BC 976).

National Apostasy → National Ruin

- “The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God's people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin” (*Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888, in 7BC 977).

G. Renewed Interest in the Seventh-day Sabbath

1. Many books and articles by Sunday keepers link the broken Sabbath Commandment to contemporary stress.
2. Seventh-day Sabbath keepers in positions of prominence (e.g., Senator and presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman)
3. Focus on the Sabbath Commandment leads many to the realization that the commandment cannot be fully kept on the wrong day.
4. Many individuals and even whole churches are accepting the true Sabbath.

V. Spiritualism Infiltrating Christianity

Revelation 16:13-14

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

“For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

Great Controversy, 588

- “Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome.”

Great Controversy, 588

- "The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism."

Great Controversy, 588

Roman Catholics, "who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. [Catholics], Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium."

V. Spiritualism Infiltrating Christianity

C. Emergence of Modern Spiritualism:

"Mysterious rapping" began March 31, 1848, near Rochester, New York

V. Spiritualism Infiltrating Christianity

D. Bible Truth about spiritualism

Genesis 2:7

Genesis 3:4-5

Ecclesiastes 9:5

1 Samuel 28:19

2 Corinthians 11:14

V. Spiritualism Infiltrating Christianity

E. Current Developments

1. Near-death experiences
2. Apparitions of Mary
3. Halloween the #2 commercial holiday
- 4.

Spiritualism Infiltrating Christianity

E. 4. The *Harry Potter* books



In Ohio, third graders listen raptly to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
© "We are in the business of education, not indoctrination."

E. Current Developments

5. Spiritualism imitating nominal Christianity

The Washington Times, May 22, 2002, page A-1

"The Washington Times threw a party last night celebrating its **20th anniversary** at a gala to a packed house at the Washington Hilton.

"More than 3,000 congressmen, state legislators, and business and religious leaders from across the country attended the dinner and the reception to congratulate The Times on 'Two Decades of Dedication and Distinction.'"

The Washington Times

"Glasses raised high for Times' 20th"

May 22, 2002

"President Bush, preparing to depart for Moscow, sent a message via a White House aide, calling The Washington Times a "distinguished source of information and opinion," a "forum for the debate of timely issues," and "a credit to journalism."

The Washington Times

20th Anniversary

Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, gave the keynote address, titled, "God's Warning to the Present Age, the Period of the Last Days"

He announced that the founders of the major world religions, "centering on Jesus," had each "chosen 120 of their historically famous disciples" to be trained to "return to earth" to bring about the establishment of God's kingdom.

The Washington Times

20th Anniversary Keynote Address, continued

"All attendees were given a bound transcript of what purported to be a report on a seminar in the spirit world for 120 [deceased] Communists." The emcee of the spirit-seminar was said to have been the Prophet Muhammad, and prayer was offered by Jesus.

"This was indeed a communication from the spirit world—spiritism."

(Lincoln Steed, *Adventist Review*, January 23, 2003, p. 10)

Spiritualism imitating Christianity

"As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself . . . will appear . . . [as] an angel of light. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power" (GC 588).

VI. The Gospel to All the World

Matthew 24:14

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world, as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

VI. The Gospel to All the World

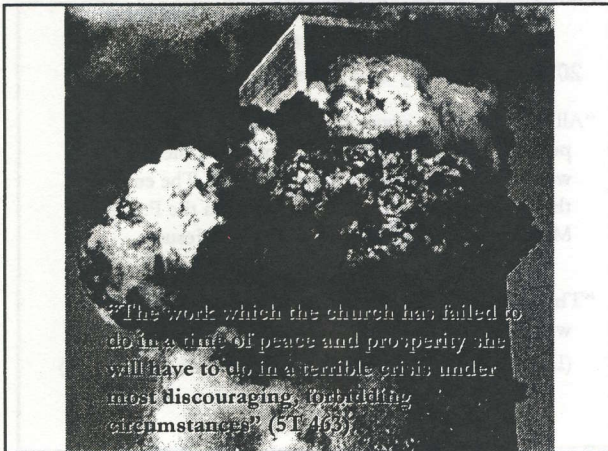
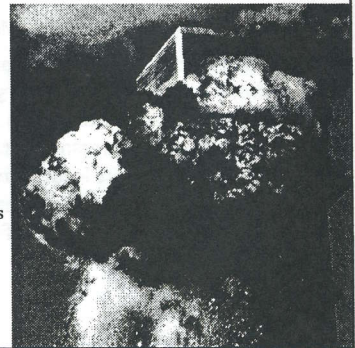
“Christ's coming . . . will not tarry past the time that the message is borne to all nations, tongues, and peoples.”

(Review and Herald, June 18, 1901, par. 6; quoted in Evangelism, 697).

Megachurch Pastor, speaking at an Evangelical Church Growth Seminar

Since Sept. 11, 2001, people want to know about prophecy.

“This may surprise you, but I believe that the Seventh-day Adventists have the truth concerning prophecy. They don't know how to put it across; but we do, and the churches that grow in the future will be preaching the prophetic themes of the Bible” (*AR*, Nov. 2002, p. 38).

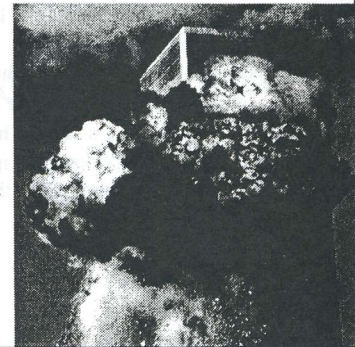


“The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances” (5T 463).

James Gilley, NAD vice-president:

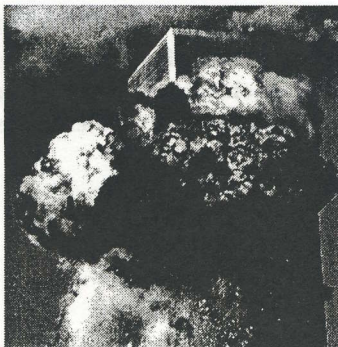
“We mustn't stop preaching prophecy when the world needs it most.”

(AR, Nov. 2002, 38).



But what about the comment—

“Seventh-day Adventists have the truth concerning prophecy [but] they don't know how to put it across”? (*AR*, Nov. 2002, p. 38).



The Real Problem—

is not that we don't know “how to put it across” (because no human being does)—but the Holy Spirit is ready and willing to teach us and work through us.

The real problem is a deeper one—that we don't know Jesus as it is our privilege to know Him. Because we are spiritually asleep, we are timid when we should be bold.

Natural Boldness vs. Spiritual Boldness

- **Natural boldness** is a function of our personality and temperament.
- **Spiritual boldness** is a product of God's love in the heart, a knowledge of truth, and partnership with the Holy Spirit that enables even a timid person to break through their natural limitations, in order to save someone they love.

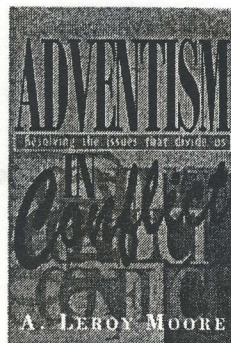
VI. The Shaking of the Church

Hebrews 12:26-27

God says, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

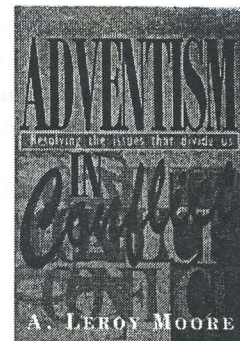
"Now this, 'yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, . . . that the things which cannot be shaken may remain."

A former member, returning after ten years away, asked, "What's wrong in the church? All Adventists used to believe alike. Now it seems like there is and endless variety of beliefs."



"We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken"

--- *The Faith I Live By*, 336.



VI. The Shaking of the Church

"The Last Deception of Satan" (within the church)

"Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious--to lead away from the truth. **The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.** "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony" (Letter 12, 1890, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 48).

VI. The Shaking of the Church

"A Hatred . . . which is Satanic"

(in both **origin** and **intensity**--Roger Coon)

"**There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic.** The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded" (Letter 40, 1890, in *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 48).

VI. The Shaking of the Church

"Bitter Enemies of their Former Brethren"

"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. . . .

VI. The Shaking of the Church

"Bitter Enemies of their Former Brethren"

"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**. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, **these apostates are the most efficient agents** of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them" (*Great Controversy*, 608).

VI. The Shaking of the Church

2 Thess 2:9-10

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

VI. The Shaking of the Church

The root issue is not merely,
Do you know the truth, but
Do you love the truth?

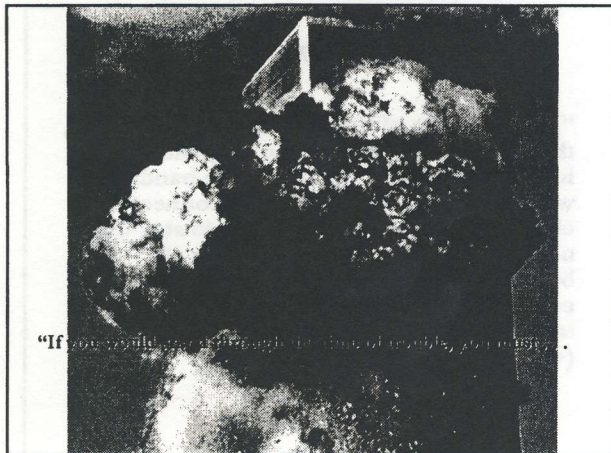
VI. The Shaking of the Church

"Every soul in every Conference, in every part of the Lord's vineyard, has the privilege of knowing the truth. But truth is not truth to those who do not practice it. Truth is only truth to you when you live it in the daily life, showing the world what those people must be who are at last saved."
(GCB, April 3, 1901 par. 10)

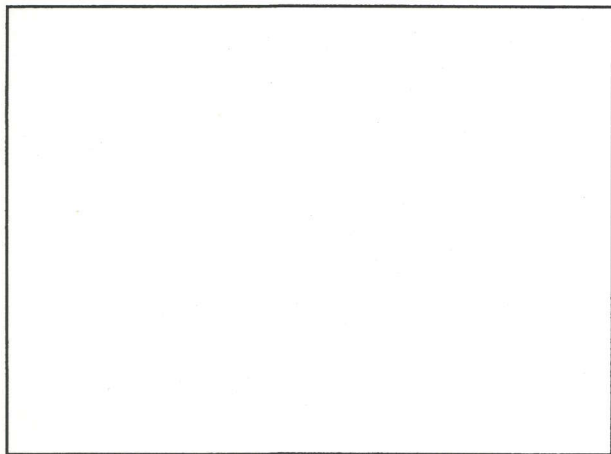
VI. The Shaking of the Church

How Are You Preparing?

"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.**"
Great Controversy, 608



**"If you would stand through the time of trouble,
you must know Christ,
and appropriate [actively accept]
the gift of his righteousness,
which he imputes to the repentant sinner"
(RH, Nov. 22, 1892).**



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Great Controversy, 611-612

- The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the [612] former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus." Acts 3:19, 20.

Great Controversy, 612

- Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand" (*Great Controversy*, 612).

Great Controversy, 612

"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience" (*Great Controversy*, 612).

Great Controversy, 612

"Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side" (*Great Controversy*, 612).