

## Study #2 Outline

### What's Ahead? —Putting Together the End-time Time-Line

#### 1. John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

–What is the promise here? —That the Holy Spirit will teach us all things.

–Do we want to be taught by the Holy Spirit?

a. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887; (quotation #2-1)

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.

–If we want to be taught by the Holy Spirit we must “clear the way by removing every hindrance” —get rid of anything that might be standing between us and God

#### 2. Proverbs 22:3

Wise people foresee trouble coming and avoid it, but foolish people keep going and suffer.

–But only God can foresee the future. In fact, He throws out the following challenge!

a. Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things of old,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like Me,  
Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,  
Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,  
And I will do all My pleasure.’

–How can we know what is going to happen so we can avoid trouble that's coming?

b. Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

–God has promised to tell us what will happen in the Bible’s prophecies!

- So if we would be wise, we will study the prophecies to foresee coming trouble

–So let’s study a prophecy Jesus Himself gave us to see what we can find out.

Part 1 **The Matthew 24 Outline**

3. Matthew 24:1-2

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

–Jesus says the temple will be destroyed. In response, His disciple ask Him two questions:

Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Luke 21:7

So they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?”

(1) When will these things be? —referring to the destruction of the temple

(2) What will be the ‘*sign*’ Your coming is *about* to take place?

- a. Because of similarities between the destruction of Jerusalem, and the final end-times, Jesus gives a parallel prophecy dealing with both events. *Great Controversy*, page 25; (quotation #2-2)

[In Matthew 24] Christ presented before them an outline of the prominent events to take place before the close of time. His words were not then fully understood; but their meaning was to be unfolded as His people should need the instruction therein given. The prophecy which He uttered was twofold in its meaning; while foreshadowing the destruction of Jerusalem, it prefigured also the terrors of the last great day.



b. In order for something to be a 'sign,' it must be:

- Visible
- Understandable
- And, frequently signs are to get us to take some Action

–Would you like to have a 'sign' that would let you know that the final end-times just before Jesus comes are about to happen? Fortunately that is what the disciples asked for. So as we read through the prophetic part of this chapter we will look for this 'sign.'

#### 4. Matthew 24:4-5

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

–Earlier in His ministry, Jesus had told His disciples, "Ask and you will receive." (Matthew 7:7.) And Jesus is going to give them the sign they've asked for. However, Jesus' main concern is that we are not deceived. This continues to be a theme throughout the 'Olivet Discourse' which this prophecy is a part of, (Matthew 24 and 25.) Let's look at a few examples:

(1) These verses, (Matthew 24:4-5), are the first of three warnings about false christs, false prophets, and deception that we will find as we read through the prophetic part of this chapter, (verses 4-31). Together, these three warnings make up about a third of the prophecy!

(2) Matthew 24:37 says,

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

–Were the people in Noah's day deceived? —Yes! What was their deception? Actually, with the global population, there were many possible deceptions. However, all their deceptions had one thing in common. And that was, when the time came to get on the ark, they didn't think that it wasn't important to do so. Whereas in reality, it meant everything! Because they refuse the offer of salvation that God had provided for them, none of the people who died in the flood will be in heaven. So by not getting into the ark, they not only died in the flood, but they lost out on eternal life as well.

–Note also that Jesus said that the end-times would be the same as what happened in Noah's day. So is it possible that there will be something that will be very important for us to do, which most people nowadays will be deceived into thinking isn't important at all?

(3) This discourse ends with four parables: the parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servant, the Ten Virgins, the parable of the Talents, and the Sheep and the Goats. (Matthew 24:45-25:46.) These parables have a lot in common! In each of these parables there is a 'master' or 'bridegroom,' who represents Jesus, who goes away, and then returns. There are also two groups of people who consider themselves to be 'servants' of the 'master' or 'bridegroom' —so these parables are about God's people! Both groups of 'servants' *expect* to 'enter the kingdom' when 'master'/'bridegroom' returns. However, only one group is praised, rewarded, and 'enters the kingdom.' The other group is rejected and cast out! The people represented in this last group *were deceived!* They *thought* they were going to get in, but instead they are kicked out! So in these parables Jesus is exposing deceptions that will be common *in the church* in the end-times. Please study them with this in mind so that *you* are not deceived!

—Jesus is really concerned about His people being deceived! We should be too!

## 5. Matthew 24:6-8

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

—Are the wars, famine, pestilences —which means plague type diseases, and earthquakes, here the sign? —No, the last part of verse 6 says, "all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." and verse 8 says they are just the "*beginning* of sorrows."

a. The Greek word translated "sorrows" here is "ōdin." It is translated as "travail" in 1Thessalonians 5:3 (KJV), which for several reasons is a very interesting verse in connection with this study.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

—The word, "ōdin," is obviously a reference to 'birth pains,' and many of the more modern translations translate it just that way.

—While we are looking at 1 Thessalonians 5:3, let's note a couple more things: "When they say, Peace and safety." In other words, people may *think* everything is going to be fine. They may *think* that they aren't going to be affected by the wars, famines, diseases, and earthquakes. But, just like a pregnant woman doesn't get out of going into labor, these "birth pains" *are going to happen!* "And they shall not escape!"

–Which brings us back to the key verse for this series. “Wise people foresee trouble coming and avoid it, but foolish people keep going and suffer.” (Proverbs 22:3.) In His prophecy here, Jesus has warned us that these “birth pains” *are* going to happen. Will we be wise and *expect* them, and plan for them? Or are we going to foolishly ‘be in denial’ and just keep on going and end up suffering unnecessarily?

–Since ‘wars, famines, plague type diseases, and earthquakes’ are the “*beginning* of birth pains,” This tells us three significant things:

- (1) There will be other disasters. Notice the things Ellen White links with “wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes” in the following examples:

*Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890; (quotation #2-3)

While discord and strife, crime and blood-shed are in the land, let God's people love one another. Plagues and pestilence, fire and flood, disaster by land and by sea, horrible murders, and every conceivable crime exist in the world, and does it not now become us who claim to have large light to be true to God, to love him supremely and our neighbor as ourselves?

*Prophets and Kings*, page 278; (quotation #2-4)

God's message for the inhabitants of earth today is, "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44. The conditions prevailing in society, and especially in the great cities of the nations, proclaim in thunder tones that the hour of God's judgment is come and that the end of all things earthly is at hand. We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another —fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent.

–Wars, famines, diseases, and earthquakes are just the beginning! There are going to be other disasters in addition to them such as: civil unrest, increase in crime, awful wrecks, and particularly fires and floods.

- > Notice that we are not to be surprised by these things, instead we should *expect* them and *be prepared* for them! (See also Matthew 24:42-44)

- (2) How do labor pains happen? —They become more frequent and more intense until the baby is born. Therefore we should expect that the ‘wars, famines, diseases, earthquakes, civil unrest, increase in crime, bad wrecks, fires, and floods will only become more frequent and more intense!

–In other words, things are only going to get worse until Jesus comes! So there isn't going to be a better time to get ready than right now!

(3) Are these disasters *already* becoming more frequent and intense? Then, that lets us know that the end-time ‘labor pains’ have *already begun!* Note that as of this writing, (November, 2019), we are not in that final stage of labor yet. That will happen when we see the ‘sign’ we have been looking for.

> So, what do you do when you realize a pregnant woman has gone into labor? Do you just keep on doing what you have been doing? No! It is no longer time for ‘business as usual,’ it’s time to take definite action!

–Now, don’t misunderstand me here. I’m not saying that we should start running around being all crazy.

–To continue with the ‘birth pains’ imagery: the motion picture industry has had a lot of fun showing the foolish things people do when they are not prepared for a pregnant woman to go into labor. But that is exactly the point –people do foolish things when they are *not* prepared. Jesus has warned us about these things so that we can expect them and *be* prepared for them —like the pregnant woman who is ready for when she is going to go into labor. Her bag is all packed, and sitting near the front door. When she realizes she is in labor, she simply grabs her bag as they head out the door to the maternity unit. No foolishness, no crazy running around.

b. So what *am* I suggesting we should do? Noah gives us a good example as he prepared for the end of the world in his day. His experience is outlined for us in Hebrew 11:7.

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household . . .

#### Noah’s 3-Point End-Time Preparation Plan

(1) Be deliberate & intentional about our relationship with God.

–Genesis 6:9 tells us that “Noah walked with God.” In New Testament language, he was “abiding in Jesus.” (See John 15:4-5.) We must deliberately and intentionally choose to continue to grow in our relationship with God, or other things will crowd Him out. (See Matthew 13.)

(2) Let the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us to benefit and bless others

–Jesus said that if we stay connected to Him like a branch to the vine, we will “bear much fruit.” (See John 15:1-8.) “Fruit” here, represents things the plant does, not for itself, but for *others*. So if we stay connected to Jesus, and cooperate with what His Spirit trying to do in us and through us, we will do “much” to benefit and bless others.

–Along this same line, notice that Noah didn’t build the ark to save himself, he “prepared an ark for the saving of his household” —which, by the way, includes all of

us! Because if ‘great, great, great, . . . grandpa Noah’ hadn’t done what he did, none of us would be here!

(3) Be serious about preparing physically for what we have been warned about

–In response to the divine warning, Noah “moved with godly fear,” and “prepared an ark.” He took the warning God gave him seriously! So should we! Note especially that Noah didn’t just prepare spiritually, (that is covered in the first point here), he was also serious about preparing *physically*. And we also need to be serious about preparing physically for what we will be going through in the end-times.

–And, just as Noah’s physical preparations were a witness to the people in his day, so our physical preparations will be a witness to the people in our day—a witness that we really believe what we have been “divinely warned” about. (See also *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 95.)

#### 6. Matthew 24:9-10

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

–Are persecutions the ‘sign?’ Probably not. There have always been persecutions. And from the way it is worded, it sounds like just a statement that there will also be persecutions in the end-times, as opposed to persecutions being a signal event.

#### 7. Matthew 24:11

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

–Here is the 2<sup>nd</sup> warning about false christs, false prophets and deceptions.

#### 8. Matthew 24:12-13

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

a. We need to put this verse together with 1 John 4:7-8, which says,

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

–Since, “love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God,” those who “love,” refers to those who have a relationship with God.

–In order for something to, “grow cold,” at some point it must have been warmer.

–Therefore, this is a warning to *us* not to let our relationship with God grow cold.

–Many people lose their relationship with God simply by being too ‘busy.’ So is it possible that just being ‘busy’ is one of the main ‘evils’ in the end-times? If it causes you to be lost would it really be any different than any of the other more easily identified ‘bad’ things that will happen? This is why we need to be very deliberate and intentional about continually choosing to grow in our relationship with God!

b. “He who endures to the end shall be saved.”

–It isn’t those who just start out on the ‘Christian journey’ who are saved, it is those who make it all the way to the end. (See also, ‘An Impressive Dream,’ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, pages 594-597.) Remember too, in the parable of the Sower the seed that fell among the rocks and the seed that fell among the weeds both sprung up and grew for a while. But they let things crowd out their growth, and ended up never bearing any fruit. (See Matthew 13.)

#### 9. 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.

–Is this the ‘sign?’ Because this verse says, “and then the end will come,” many have thought that the gospel going to all the world is the ‘sign.’

a. However, how would we know when the gospel has gone to everyone in the whole world? God can read hearts, so He will know. But we have no way of knowing—it would not be either *visible* or *understandable* to us. So the gospel to the world cannot be the ‘sign.’

–Don’t misunderstand me here. Matthew 24:14 is a very important verse! It lets us know what has to happen before Jesus can come, and it lets know what our job in the end-times is. But it can not be the ‘sign’ because it would not be either visible or understandable to us. So we need to read on.

#### 10. Matthew 24:15-16

Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

–What do we have here? Because ‘Abomination of Desolation’ sounds like cryptic language we might be tempted to skip over it. But we dare not, because Jesus said to be sure and understand what this is about! So let’s look at it again.



—“Therefore, when you see the ‘Abomination of Desolation.’” So this is something that will be *visible*. “Whoever reads, let him *understand*.” So it’s something that *is* understandable. “Then let those who are in Judea *flee to the mountains*.” There is also an action to take when we see it! So is the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ the ‘sign?’ —Quite possibly. If it *is* the ‘sign,’ the rest of the passage should bear it out, so for now let’s study on.

—We *will* come back to understanding what the ‘Abomination of Desolate’ is in a bit.

#### 11. Matthew 24:17-20

Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

—Here we have some instructions for when we flee to the mountains —which points us back to the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ as the *signal* to flee.

#### 12. Matthew 24:21

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

—“For *then* . . .” When is the “*then*” that this is referring to? It must be when we see the ‘Abomination of Desolation.’ And what does it say will happen when we see the ‘Abomination of Desolation?’ —“then here will be Great Tribulation!”

a. So the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ *marks the beginning* of the “Great Tribulation” or “Time of Trouble!” —to use the wording of Daniel 12:1 that Jesus pointed us to. The ‘Abomination of Desolation,’ therefore, is the ‘sign’ that let’s us know that the final end-time sequence, known as the Time of Trouble, is about to happen!

#### 13. Matthew 24:22

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

—“Unless those days” —the “days” of the Great Tribulation— were “shortened,” no one would survive. This lets us know how “great” the Time of Trouble will be!

#### 14. Matthew 24:23-28

Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not

go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

—Here is the 3<sup>rd</sup> warning about false christs, false prophets, and deceptions. Please study this more on your own as we simply don't have the time to do it here.

15. Matthew 24:29

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

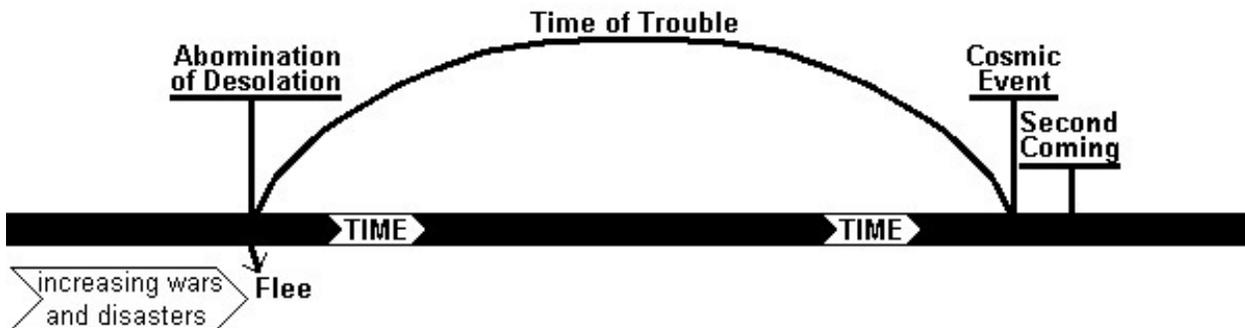
—*Immediately after* the Tribulation is a 'Cosmic Event.' We will talk about this Cosmic Event some more in a bit. For now just start making a mental list of happens at this event —the sun and moon will be darkened, the stars fall, and the heavens are shaken.

16. Matthew 24:30-31

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

—Then Jesus comes! This ends the prophetic part of this discourse.

—Let's put what we have studied so far on a time-line.



17. So, where are we on this time-line? —just before the Time of Trouble, or in between the Time of Trouble and the Second Coming?

a. The reason some of us have this question is because, in the early 1800's, the Millerites also studied this prophecy, and came to many of the same conclusions

we have. They saw a fulfillment of this prophecy in the 1260 days / 42 months 3½ years of Daniel 7:25, 12:7, and Revelation 13:5, which ended with the pope being taken captive in 1798. What's more, in the late 1700s and early 1800s toward the end of this time period, there were some phenomenal cosmic happenings. The Millerites saw these happenings as a fulfillment of the Cosmic Event. Since the very next thing in this prophecy after the Cosmic Event is Jesus Coming, this supported their belief that Jesus was going to come in 1844 at the end of the 2300 day/years of Daniel 8:14.

–As we know now, their interpretation of the prophetic time periods was correct, (even their enemies had to admit that their 'math' was right). And therefore those who believe that the Cosmic Event has already happened are correct—which would place us between the Cosmic Event and the Second Coming on the time-line.

–However, the 'cleansing' of the 'sanctuary' in Daniel 8:14, wasn't Jesus second coming, it was Him entering into a new phase of His ministry which must precede His coming.

–And shortly after 1844, the Lord started giving visions to Ellen White. One of the first things that He showed her was that,

... The time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. (*Early Writings*, page 36.); (quotation #2-5)

–Together with the progression of the end-time "birth-pains," this puts us just before the Abomination of Desolation and the Time of Trouble on the time-line.

b. All of this lets us know that when we include the prophecies of Daniel, which Jesus referred us to, there are actually 3 parallels to this prophecy:

(1) The events connected with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in the first century A.D.

(2) The 1260 day/years of Papal supremacy from 538 to 1798 known as the 'Dark Ages'

(3) The End-Times

–This is fortunate for us, because we can look back at these two historical fulfillments and get a much better idea of what is going to happen with us.

–It also let's us know that the things described in connection with the Cosmic Event did happened back in the late 1700s and early 1800s, and they are going to happen again!

Part 2 **Filling in the Time-Line**

18. Let's study a little more about this Cosmic Event. Although this has us 'working backward,' (in time), for the next few points, things will make a more sense when we start going 'forward' again. Just before we look at the next verse, let's review the list of things that are going to happen at the Cosmic Event: "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." (Matthew 24:29.) Notice that these same things are mentioned in the following verses, and a few more things are added to the list.

Isaiah 13:9-13

Behold, the day of the Lord comes,  
Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,  
To lay the land desolate;  
And He will destroy its sinners from it.  
For the stars of heaven and their constellations  
Will not give their light;  
The sun will be darkened in its going forth,  
And the moon will not cause its light to shine.  
I will punish the world for its evil,  
And the wicked for their iniquity;  
I will halt the arrogance of the proud,  
And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.  
I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold,  
A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir.  
Therefore I will shake the heavens,  
And the earth will move out of her place,  
In the wrath of the Lord of hosts  
And in the day of His fierce anger.

—Here, the Cosmic Event is called the "Day of the Lord." It is called this in many of the Scriptures that talk about it.

—Notice also that not only are the heavens going to be shaken, but the earth will also "move out of her place!" So think about what would happen if the earth was moved out of it's orbit! —there would be huge earthquakes!

Joel 3:15-16

The sun and moon will grow dark,  
And the stars will diminish their brightness.  
The Lord also will roar from Zion,  
And utter His voice from Jerusalem;  
The heavens and earth will shake;  
But the Lord will be a shelter for His people,  
And the strength of the children of Israel.

a. Because God speaks, this Event is also known as the ‘Voice of God.’

–We also have the promise in this verse that in spite of all these upheavals, “the Lord will be a shelter for His people.”

–There are many other verses that also talk about the things that happen at the Day of the Lord / Voice of God that make for an interesting study! We don’t have time or space to include all that here, but we do need to look at two more passages dealing with it.

b. Revelation 6:12-17

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

–Notice that this Event is the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal.

Revelation 16:17-21

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

–This last set of verses doesn’t mention the sun and moon being darkened, or the stars falling. However, it does talk about a great earthquake, which would go together with the earth being moved out of its orbit, and about the islands and mountains being moved like the preceding verse. It also refers to the “loud voice” coming from the throne in the “temple of heaven,” which is obviously the Voice of God.

–So, this Day of the Lord / Voice of God / Cosmic Event is also the 7<sup>th</sup> of the 7 Last Plagues!

19. Since the Voice of God is the 7<sup>th</sup> Plague, the *other plagues* must therefore happen *before* it.

–And something very significant happens just before the plagues.

20. Revelation 15:8

The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

–*Just before* the Plagues, no one is able to enter the temple

a. In Old Testament times, people went to temple to offer sacrifices, so that they could receive forgiveness and cleansing from their sins. (See also 1 John 1:9)

- Keep in mind that the purpose of forgiveness and cleansing is to be able to re-connect with God —sometimes referred to as the ‘Atonement.’

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2.)

b. So, if no one can enter the temple, there is no more forgiveness and cleansing from sin, and no more re-connecting with God.

- Therefore, just before the Plagues are poured out, ‘Probation Closes’ and the ‘time of grace’ has come to an end. This is when the declaration in Revelation 22:11 is made.

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.

–The issues connected with the Time of Trouble have forced everyone to make their final decision either for, or against, God and His way. Every case has been decided, and the Judgement comes to an end. So when Jesus Comes, it is clear who will be taken to heaven with Him and who will not.

21. Now, let’s go back and talk about the Abomination of Desolation. Many of the more modern translations refer to it as the ‘Abomination that *causes* Desolation,’ which reflects the wording of the term in Daniel which Jesus pointed us to. In other words, it is the ‘Abomination’ that causes, or brings about, the ‘Desolation.’

–What does the word ‘Abomination’ mean? —something ‘gross’ and ‘disgusting,’ something very ‘bad.’ What does the word ‘Desolation’ mean? —to be totally destroyed. Therefore the term, ‘Abomination that causes Desolation,’ means: things are so ‘bad’ they have to be ‘destroyed.’

–For example: What do you do if a cockroach runs across the kitchen floor? —You kill it! Its ‘abominable’ disgustingness causes its ‘desolation.’

- a. Have things ever become so bad that they had to be destroyed? Yes, the flood, in Noah’s day, and the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah, are classic historic Biblical examples. And in Luke 17:26-30, Jesus refers to both of these as examples of what will happen in the end-times.

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

- b. The ‘Abomination’ that causes ‘Desolation’ —things are so bad that they have to be destroyed— is ‘Close of Probation’ language!

–Evidently, the early Adventists also made this connection, and probably felt that the Seven Last Plagues would be poured out following the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ at the beginning of the Time of Trouble. Therefore, an explanation was given on,

- c. *Early Writings*, pages 85-86; (quotation #2-6)

On page 33 is given the following: ..."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 view was given in 1847 ..."The commencement of that 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 check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.

–So, there is a “short period” *between* the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ at the beginning of the Time of Trouble, and when the Plagues are poured out.

- During this time, “Christ is in the sanctuary” still, so Probation hasn’t yet Closed. But, notice that it also says that during this “short period” the “work of salvation is *closing*.”

–To illustrate what this is saying, let’s consider: What was the Close of Probation in Noah’s day? —It was when the door was closed on the ark. And, how was the Close of Probation symbolized in the parable of the 10 Virgins? —By the door to the wedding being shut. So we’ll use a door as an example here. If the door is standing wide open, is it “closing?” —No. Suppose the door is shut, is it “closing?” —No. To be “closing” means it is no longer standing wide open, but it isn’t shut either. “Closing” means it is in the *process* of being closed, In other words, it has already *started* to close, but it isn’t completely shut yet. Kind of like in a movie when a huge gate is being shut and people are diving through the opening one way or the other before it completely closes.

–Therefore, at the ‘Abomination of Desolation,’ it can be said that ‘things are so bad that they have to be destroyed.’ So Probation *starts* to Close. But it isn’t fully closed until just before the plagues are poured out. It is still possible for someone to ‘dive through the opening’ if they choose, as Christ is still in the sanctuary.

## 22. Revelation 15:1

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

### Revelation 16:1

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.”

–Note in these verses that the ‘wine of God’s wrath’ is a direct reference to the 7 last Plagues.

### a. Revelation 14:9-10,

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

–The root word for ‘worship’ is ‘worth.’ So to ‘worship’ the Beast means to value what the Beast stands for.

–Since the “dragon” gave the beast “his power, his throne, and great authority,” and since the “dragon” is “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan,” (Revelation 13:2, 12:9), we can expect the Beast to have the same values as Satan.

–As was noted in the first study of this series, Satan chose to give up heaven and his closeness to God in order to go his own way. He valued pursuing his own agenda more than following God plan. Therefore we can expect that the Beast, and those who worship/value him, will have similar values.

–By receiving the Mark of the Beast, they show that they are willing to *identify* with the Beast and his values. (For example: the person who wears a ‘T’-shirt with a particular sports team’s logo on it does so because he chooses to identify with that particular team.)

–So, the Plagues are poured out on those who worship / value what the Beast stands for, and by receiving the Mark, are willing to identify with him —as opposed to valuing and identifying with God and His plan.

–Note also that the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Angel’s Message goes on to state the eternal consequences of worshiping the Beast and receiving its Mark.

b. Therefore, worshiping/valuing the Beast, and being willing to receive its ‘Mark,’ is the ‘Abomination’ *that causes* ‘Desolation’ —not only the ‘desolation’ of the Plagues, but the eternal ‘desolation’ as well!

–Luke’s equivalent to Matthew 24:15:16, about the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ and fleeing to the mountains, is:

### 23. Luke 21:20-21

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

–Overall, Luke 21 tends to focus more on the destruction of Jerusalem parallel, whereas Matthew 24 tends to focus more on the end-time parallel.

–We need to put this verse in Luke together with Daniel 9:26, which says,

And the people of the prince who is to come  
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

–“The prince who is to come” should make us think of the flow of ‘superpowers’ through the ages presented in Daniels prophecies —Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. At the point in history when this verse was spoken, Babylon, Persia, and Greece had all already passed off the scene, so it *had* to be the *Roman* armies who

would surround Jerusalem and “destroy the city and the sanctuary” —not some invading force. This has some very interesting implications! —which we don’t have either the time or space for right now.

–The term ‘promised sign’ comes from *Great Controversy*, pages 30-31, (emphasis supplied) ; (quotation #2-7).

Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given His disciples warning, and all who believed His words watched for *the promised sign*. "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies," said Jesus, "then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out." Luke 21:20, 21. After the Romans under Cestius had surrounded the city, they unexpectedly abandoned the siege when everything seemed favorable for an immediate attack. The besieged, despairing of successful resistance, were on the point of surrender, when the Roman general withdrew his forces without the least apparent reason. But God's merciful providence was directing events for the good of His own people. *The promised sign* had been given to the waiting Christians, and now an opportunity was offered for all who would, to obey the Saviour's warning.

–So, the ‘promised sign’ in the 1<sup>st</sup> century was Jerusalem being surrounded by the Roman armies. Notice what the following quotation says about *our* ‘promised sign’ in the end-times.

a. *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 464-465; (quotation #2-8)

The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.

–Revelation 13, particularly verses 11-17, points directly to the United States of America as being the end-time superpower in connection with the Papacy Beast, *and* as being the one who will enforces the Mark of the Beast. Please study this out on your own to be clear about this in your own thinking, because we simply don’t have the time of space to study it all out here.

–So, *our* ‘promised sign,’ the ‘sign’ that the time of trouble is *about* to begin, will be what has commonly been called a ‘National Sunday Law’ in the USA. Notice that it has to be a *national* law, not just a state or local law.

–As of this writings, (November of 2019), we do not yet have a *national* Sunday law in the USA —but, they *are* already talking about making one!

–Now, Satan has his counterfeit for everything. And his counterfeit for God’s Sabbath Commandment is this Sunday law. So to explore what this law may ‘look’ like in its initial form, let’s think about the Fourth Commandment.

–According to the wording of the commandment, how are we to keep the Sabbath holy?

b. Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

–To keep the Sabbath holy, we are commanded simply to ‘rest’ and ‘not work.’ Notice that there is nothing in this commandment about getting together for worship, (these instructions are elsewhere). In other words, if we happen to find ourselves completely alone, we can still keep the Sabbath holy.

–Now, we know that the enforcement of Sunday observance is going to progress, (we will talk more about this progression in a minute), and in this progression there may very well be a law about going to church on Sunday.

–However, since ‘going to church’ is *not* a part of the Sabbath Commandment, in its initial form, the National Sunday Law *could* just be a ‘No Work Sunday.’ The reason this point is being emphasized is because many people are *expecting* the National Sunday Law to be a law that we will ‘have to go to church on Sunday.’ And if the first National Sunday Law is only a ‘no work Sunday,’ we may miss it, and/or be tempted not to take seriously —many of us don’t work on Sunday anyway.

–In whatever form it may take, this law will be *the signal event!* It just has to be a *national* law, in the USA, “enforcing the papal sabbath.”

c. Matthew 24:21, (emphasis supplied)

For *then* there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, pages 451; (quotation #2-9)*

By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. 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 shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.

As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and 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.

–Notice here that at by enacting the national Sunday law, “our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness.” Because by doing so, “the limit of God's forbearance is reached,” and “the measure of our nation's iniquity is full.”

–In *whatever* form the first National Sunday Law may take, it marks the beginning of both the Time of Trouble *and* the Close of Probation, and is our signal to flee from the cities!

#### 24. Revelation 13:15-17

He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

–Note that there are 2 phases to the enforcement of the Mark of the Beast.

(1) Not being able to buy or sell

(2) Being killed —which is typically called the ‘Death Decree’

–Not being able to buy or sell obviously must come before being killed, (what is the point in telling a dead person that he can't buy or sell?). So these verses here aren't necessarily intended to show the sequence of these events. The book of Revelation has ‘flash-backs’ and ‘flash-forwards,’ and here we have an example of that. Or, as the NIV words verse 16, “It *also* forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark . . .” (Emphasis supplied.) So these verses are

simply stating things that this second beast is going to do, the sequencing being obvious.

- In the following verses and quotations, notice that this Death Decree happens *in response* to the plagues, and occurs in connection with the 3<sup>rd</sup> plague. Therefore, the Death Decree happens *after* the Close of Probation.

Revelation 16:4-6

Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying:

“You are righteous, O Lord,  
The One who is and who was and who is to be,  
Because You have judged these things.  
For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,  
And You have given them blood to drink.  
For it is their just due.”

*Early Writings*, pages 36-37; (quotation #2-10)

I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance.

*Great Controversy*, pages 627-628; (quotation #2-11)

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

been shed since the days of Abel; for they possessed the same spirit and were seeking to do the same work with these murderers of the prophets.

- a. We may be tempted to think that the Death Decree would be the 'ultimate test.' However, as we have just seen, it happens *after* Probation has Closed when every case will have already been decided. Therefore, not being able to buy or sell must be serious and intense enough to be the 'ultimate test,' and happen *before the Close of Probation* during the "short period" that we talked about earlier.

25. In response to these 2 enforcements, there are 2 phases to "flee to the mountains."

- (1) At the first National Sunday Law, (in whatever form it may take), we are to flee from the cities to the country. (Review Luke 21:20-21, *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 464-465 which were quoted earlier in points 23 and 23,a.) The following quotation expands on this idea.

- *Country Living*, pages 9-10, (Letter 5, 1904; also on 2SM 141); (quotation #2-12)

Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.

–We should *already* be living in country in preparation for not being able to buy or sell, getting set up to be able to 'raise our own provisions.'

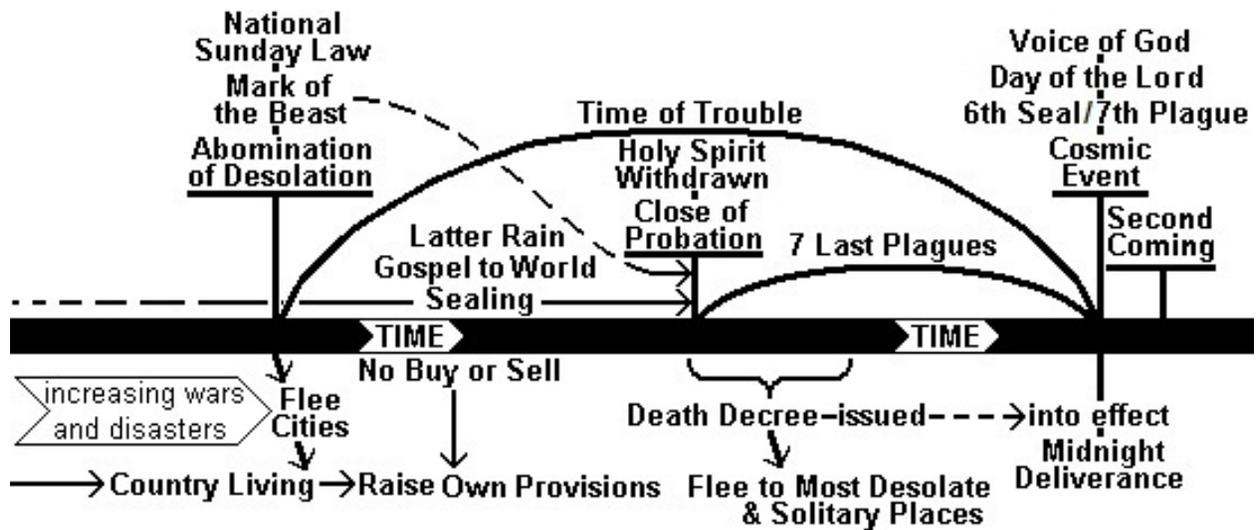
- We should not wait for the *first* National Sunday Law to move to the country, as it is more like the '*last call*' to leave the cities!

- (2) *Great Controversy*, page 626; (quotation #2-13)

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 and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains.

–The second phase of "flee to the mountains" comes at the Death Decree, when we will leave our country homes behind, and flee to the "most desolate and solitary places" in the wilderness. Here we will live until Jesus comes.

-Let's put all this on the Time-Line:



26. In closing: I don't want anyone to have bad dreams tonight. So let's consider something, and look at a couple promises.

James 1:2-3

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

-Notice here that all of our trials are simply a test of our faith. Are we going to let go of God, or are we going to keep hanging on to Him like Jacob and Peter in the following verses?

Genesis 32:26

And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."  
But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

John 6:68

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"  
But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

-So, as intense as our trials are going to be during the Time of Trouble, they will all just be a test of our faith. Satan will be allowed to do everything he can to try to get us to let go of God. But let's remember the following promise.

a. 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

–Here we have the promise that even during the Time of Trouble, God will not allow things to be more than what we are able bear in His strength!

b. Jude 24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
And to present you faultless  
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

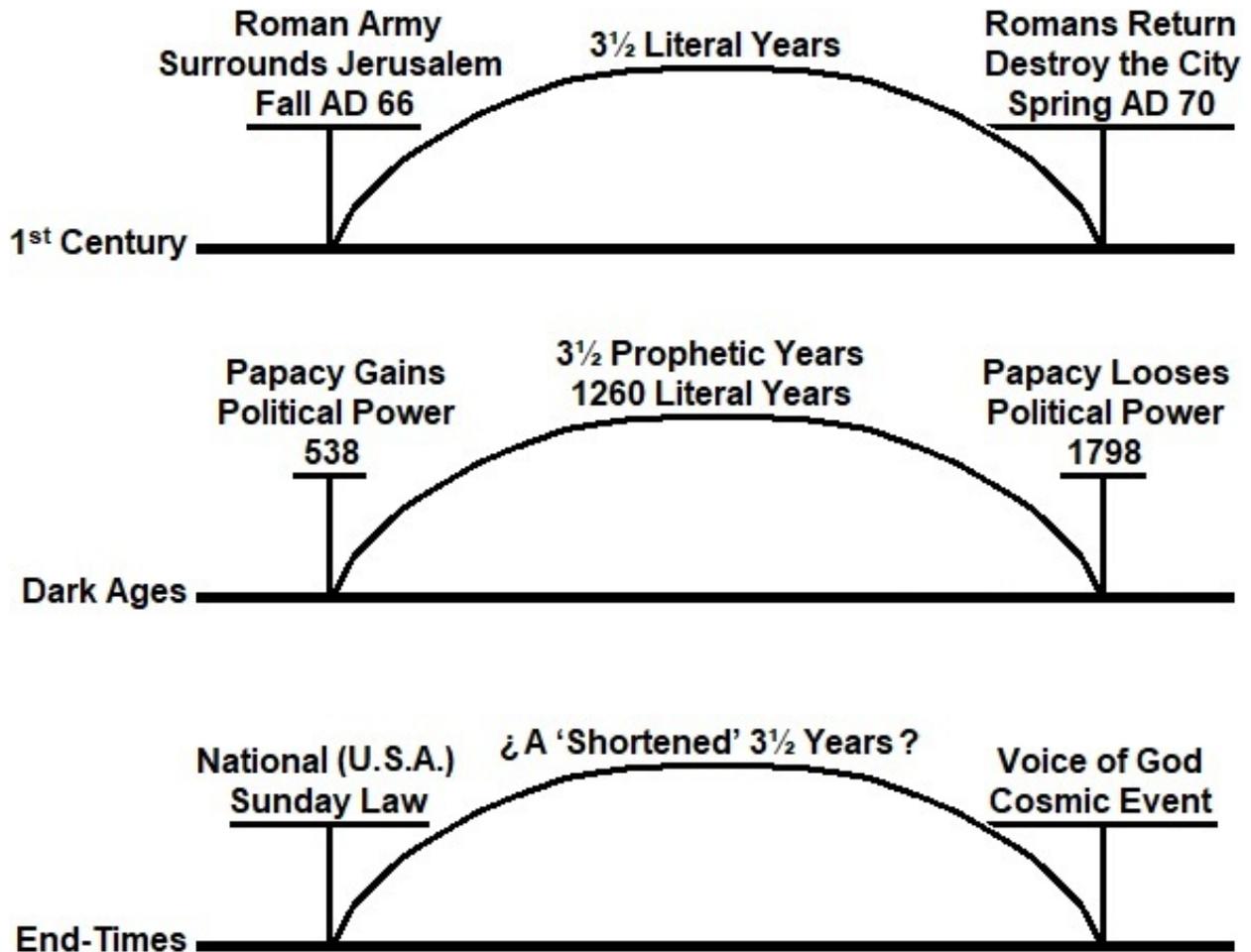
–And here we have the promise that as long as we don't let go of Him, God Himself will keep us from falling so can be "faultless" in the "presence of His glory" when Jesus comes!

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~ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord ~

## The Three Parallels



### Stay True to the Parallels —the 2 Sieges of Jerusalem in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cen.

1. GC 30-31; (#2-7) –The 1<sup>st</sup> Siege was by Cestius in the fall of A.D. 66 at Tabernacles.
  - a. The Roman armies surrounded Jerusalem, then unexpectedly withdrew, opening the way for those who believed Jesus' warning to escape.
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was by Titus in the spring of A.D. 70 at the time of Passover.
  - a. At this siege, Jerusalem was destroyed.
3. How long is it from the fall of 66 to the spring of 70? —3½ years.
4. 5T 464-465; (#2-8) –Which Siege does the National Sunday Law parallel? —The 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. So can there be some other event which parallels the 1<sup>st</sup> siege, with the National Sunday Law being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Siege? —No
5. What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Siege parallel? —The destruction at the Voice of God / 7<sup>th</sup> Plague.

## How Long Might the Time of Trouble Last?

*Great Controversy*, page 371

Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near.

–So there *are* things we need to know about how soon Jesus is going to come. And we would be wise to “watch” current events, (see Matthew 24:42), and study the prophecies so we know what to “watch” for.

–In the same way, although we don’t know exactly how long the Time of Trouble might last, and “the people will not have another message upon definite time.” (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, page 971), we do have some clues. Please note, these are only ‘clues.’ They only give a general idea, so that we can have a better understanding about what to prepare for.

–For example if we believe the Time of Trouble is only going to last a couple of months, we would prepare differently than if we believe it will last a couple of years.

### Clue #1

*If* there is any parallel between how long the first two parallels lasted, and how long the third might last, then the Time of Trouble may last about 3½ years. But,

- Matthew 24:22

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

–Jesus said the “days,” (which sounds like there *was* an allotted amount of time), would be “shortened.”

- Therefore we are probably looking at a ‘shortened 3½ years.’

–Note, we don’t know how much it will be shortened, so we are not able to project any kind of definite time, but at least we have a general idea of what to expect.

–There have been those who have taken a tough-it-out-until-it-is-over approach to the Time of Trouble. But if it is going to last even a ‘shortened 3½ years’ this approach simply isn’t going to work. And we’d better start making plans to follow the counsel we’ve been given about how to prepare!

### Clue #2

*Country Living*, pages 9-10

Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one.

–During the first part of the Time of Trouble we will be ‘raising our own provisions.’

- To ‘raise our own provisions’ will take at least a ‘growing season’ —in other words, the better part of a year!
- We could easily stock up enough food to last one growing season, but we’ve been told not to stock up, (see *Early Writings*, page 56). So the time that we will need to ‘raise our own provisions’ will probably last more than just one ‘growing season.’
- Therefore, including the time before we are not able to buy or sell, the first part of the Time of Trouble will probably last at least a couple of years.

### Clue #3

*Great Controversy*, page 626

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 and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places.

–Note: We will flee to the wilderness in response to the *issuing* of the Death Decree.

- This decree *goes into effect* at the ‘Voice of God.’

*Great Controversy*, page 635-636

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. . . . With shouts of triumph, 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. . . . In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: "It is done." Revelation 16:17

- *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, page 450

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.” (See also PK 605)

- Esther 3:7, 12-14

In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

Then the king’s scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king’s satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king’s signet ring. And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king’s provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

–That decree was *issued* in the 1<sup>st</sup> month, and *went into effect* in the 12<sup>th</sup> month. So there were 11 months in between when the decree was issued and when it went into effect.

–If the timing here also parallels the timing in connection with the Death Decree we could be in the wilderness almost a year. But again,

- Matthew 24:22

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

–The days will be “shortened.” Again, we don’t know how long it will be “shortened.” But we are probably still looking at being in the wilderness for several months. So again, the tough-it-out-until-you-get-out approach won’t work! We’d better prepare!

Note: The a ‘couple of years’ of Clue #2, plus the ‘several months’ of Clue #3, approximately equals the ‘shortened 3½ years’ of Clue #1

## Study Guide #2

### What's Ahead? —Putting Together the End-time Time-Line

1. Jn 14:26 –Do we want to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit?  
a. RH 3/22/1887 –If so, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the way by \_\_\_\_\_ every hindrance
2. Prov 22:3 –Wise people \_\_\_\_\_ trouble coming and avoid it  
a. Isa 46:9-10 –But only \_\_\_\_\_ can foresee the future  
b. Amos 3:7 –He has promised to tell us what will happen in the \_\_\_\_\_
- Part 1 3. Matt 24:3, Luke 21:7 –Jesus says the temple will be destroyed. His disciple ask Him:  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ will these things be?  
(2) What will be the \_\_\_\_\_ Your coming is \_\_\_\_\_ to take place?  
a. Because of similarities between the destruction of Jerusalem, and the final end-times, Jesus gives a \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy. (GC 25)  
b. In order for something to be a 'sign,' it must be:  
• \_\_\_\_\_  
• \_\_\_\_\_  
• and frequently signs are to get us to take some \_\_\_\_\_
4. Matt 24:4-5 –Jesus' main concern is that we are not \_\_\_\_\_ (a discourse theme)
5. Matt 24:6-8 –Are wars, famine, diseases, and earthquakes the sign? \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa 19:2)  
a. They are the “ \_\_\_\_\_ of birth pains” (1 Thess 5:3) —Therefore:  
(1) RH 5/27/1890, PK 278 –There will be \_\_\_\_\_ disasters, crime, fires, floods  
> We should not be surprised by these thing! —expect them and be prepared  
(2) Things are only going to get \_\_\_\_\_ until Jesus comes  
(3) Are these becoming more frequent and intense? Then, \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_  
> So, it is no longer time for \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Noah's 3-Point End-Time \_\_\_\_\_ Plan –Heb 11:7  
(1) Be deliberate & intentional about our \_\_\_\_\_ with God. –Gen 6:9, Jn 15:4-5  
(2) Let the Holy Spirit to work through us to benefit and bless \_\_\_\_\_ –Jn 15:1-8  
(3) Be serious about preparing \_\_\_\_\_ for what we have been warned about
6. Matt 24:9-10 –There will be \_\_\_\_\_
7. Matt 24:11 –The \_\_\_\_\_ warning about false christs/prophets and deceptions
8. Matt 24:12-13 –“The \_\_\_\_\_ of many will grow cold”  
a. 1 Jn 4:7-8 –This is a warning to \_\_\_ not to let our relationship with God grow cold  
b. “He who \_\_\_\_\_ to the end shall be saved.”

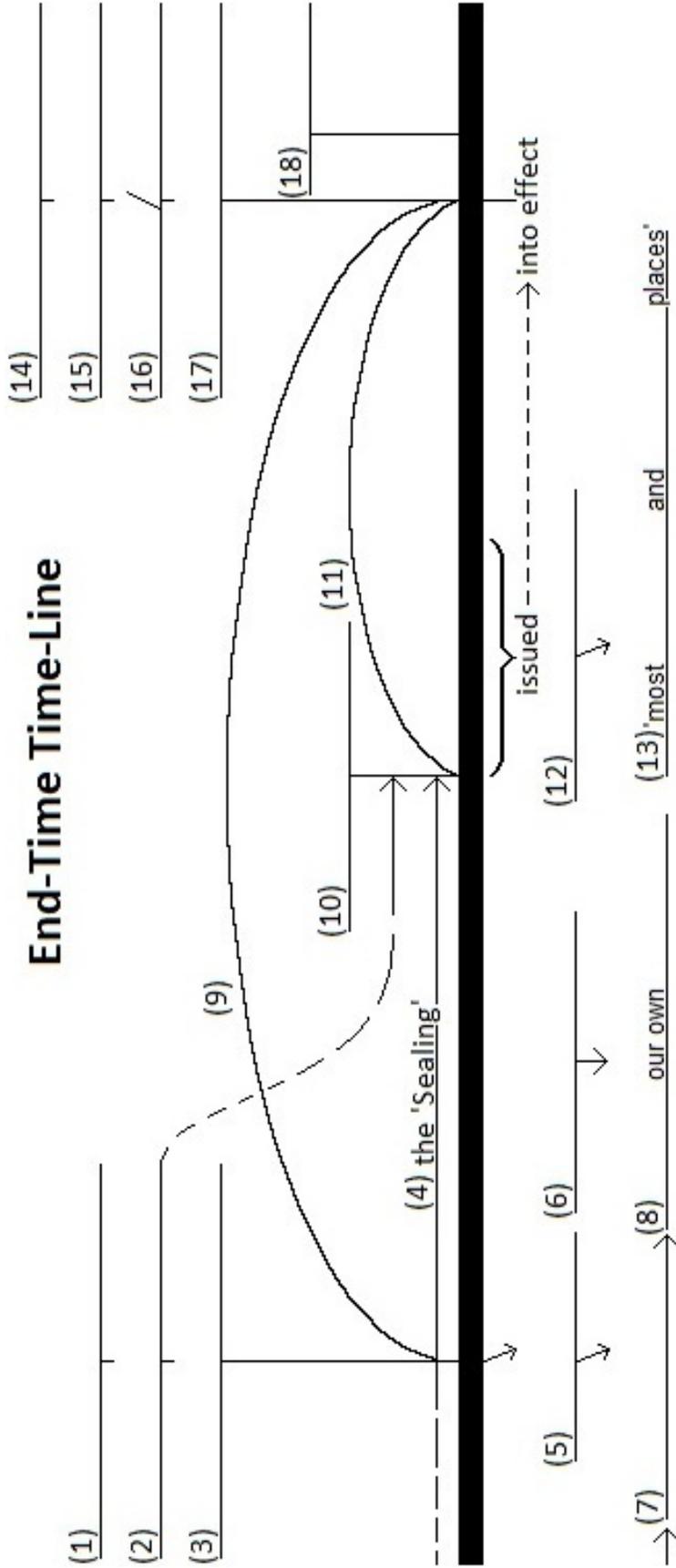
9. Matt 24:14 –Is the gospel to the world the ‘sign?’ \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. It would not be either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to us.
10. Matt 24:15-16 –“Therefore, when you \_\_\_ the ‘abomination of desolation’... whoever reads, let him \_\_\_\_\_, then let those who are in Judea \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ ”
11. Matt 24:17-20 – \_\_\_\_\_ for when we flee.
12. Matt 24:21 –“For \_\_\_\_\_ there will be great tribulation”  
 a. So the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ marks the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Time of Trouble
13. Matt 24:22 –“Unless those days were \_\_\_\_\_ ” no one would survive
14. Matt 24:23-28 –The \_\_\_\_\_ warning about false christs/prophets, and deceptions
15. Matt 24:29 –Immediately \_\_\_\_\_ the Tribulation is a ‘Cosmic Event’
16. Matt 24:30-31 –Then \_\_\_\_\_ comes!
17. Where are we on the time-line? —before, or after the Time of Trouble? (EW 36)  
 a. Dan 7:25, 12:7 –The Millerites saw a fulfillment of this prophecy in the \_\_\_ days  
 b. So there are actually \_\_\_ parallels to this prophecy: 70 AD, Dark Ages, End-Times
- Part 2 18. Isa 13:9-13, Joel 3:15-16 –Cosmic Event is also known as the “ \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord”  
 a. Because God’s speaks, it is also known as the ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ of God’  
 b. Rev 6:12-17, 16:17-21 –It is the \_\_\_\_\_ Seal And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the 7 Last Plagues
19. The other plagues therefore, happen \_\_\_\_\_ the Voice of God
20. Rev 15:8 –Just before the Plagues, no one is able to \_\_\_\_\_ the temple  
 a. In Old Testament, people went to the temple for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Jn 1:9)  
 • So that they could \_\_\_\_\_ with God (Isa 59:2) —the ‘Atonement’  
 b. So if no one can enter the temple, there is \_\_\_\_\_ more re-connecting with God  
 • Therefore ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’ closes just before the Plagues (Rev 22:11)
21. The ‘Abom. that causes Des.’ means things are so ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’ they have to be \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. The \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ are historical examples (Lk 17:26-30)  
 b. The ‘Abomination’ that causes ‘Desolation’ is ‘Close of \_\_\_\_\_ ’ language  
 c. EW 85-6 –But there is a “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” just before the Plagues  
 • Christ is still in the \_\_\_\_\_, but the “work of salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ ” (5T 451)
22. Rev 15:1, 16:1 –The “wine of God’s wrath” = the \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Rev 14:9-10 –The Plagues fall on those who receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Receiving the ‘Mark’ therefore, is the \_\_\_\_\_ that causes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the plagues
23. Lk 21:20-21, (Dan 9:26) –‘Promised sign’ in 1<sup>st</sup> cent. = Jerusalem being \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. 5T 464-465, (Rev 13:11-17) –Our ‘promised sign’ = a \_\_\_\_\_ (USA)



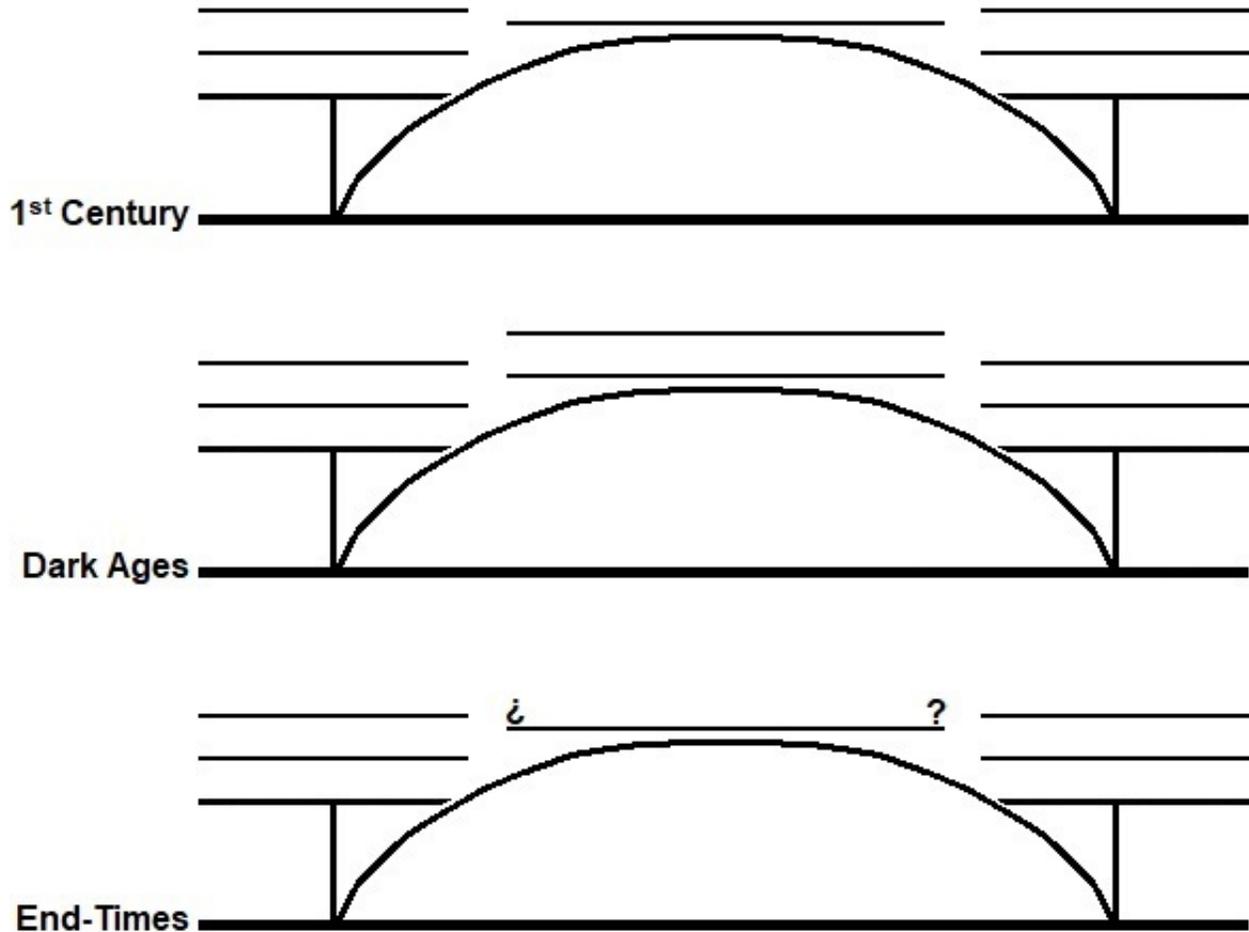
- b. Ex 20:8-11 –At first, this law could just be a ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday’
- c. Matt 24:21, (5T 451) –But this law marks the \_\_\_\_\_ of both ToFT and CP
24. Rev 13:15-17 –There are \_\_\_\_\_ phases to the enforcement of the Mark of the Beast
- (1) Not being able to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) A ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’
- Rev 13:15, 16:4-6, EW 36-37, GC 627-628 –This will happen about the \_\_\_\_\_ plague
- a. So not being able to buy or sell must happen \_\_\_\_\_ the Close of Probation
25. In response, there are \_\_\_\_\_ phases to “flee to the mountains”
- (1) At the first national Sunday law, we flee the cities to live in the \_\_\_\_\_ (5T 464-5)
- CL 9-10 –We should already be in country —> ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ our own \_\_\_\_\_ ’
  - So the first national Sunday law is the ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’ to leave the cities
- (2) GC 626 –At the DD we flee to the “most \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ places”
26. Ja 1:2-3 –All our trials are a \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith (Gen 32:26, Jn 6:68)
- a. 1 Cor 10:13 –Promise that things won’t be more than we can \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Jude 24 –He is able to \_\_\_\_\_ us from falling

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 ~ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord ~

## End-Time Time-Line



## The Three Parallels



### Stay True to the Parallels —the 2 Sieges of Jerusalem in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cen.

1. GC 30-31 –The \_\_\_ Siege was by Cestius in the fall of A.D. \_\_\_ at the Feast of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Roman armies surrounded Jerusalem, then unexpectedly \_\_\_\_\_ opening the way for those who believed Jesus’ warning to escape
2. The \_\_\_ Siege was by Titus in the spring of A.D. \_\_\_ at the time of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. At this siege, Jerusalem was \_\_\_\_\_
3. From the fall of 66 to the spring of 70 is \_\_\_ years
4. 5T 464-465 –The National Sunday Law parallels which siege? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. So can there be some other event that parallels the 1<sup>st</sup> Siege, with the National Sunday Law paralleling the 2<sup>nd</sup> Siege? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Siege parallels the destruction at the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Plague

## How Long Might the Time of Trouble Last?

*Great Controversy*, page 371

“Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near.”

### Clue #1

If the time lengths of the first two parallels corresponds to the length of the third, then the Time of Trouble may last about \_\_\_\_\_

- Matt 24:22 –But Jesus said the days would be \_\_\_\_\_
- Therefore we are probably looking at a ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’

### Clue #2

CL 9-10 –During the first part of the Time of Trouble we will be ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ our own \_\_\_\_\_ ’

- To ‘raise our own provisions’ will take ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’
- We could easily stock up enough food to last one growing season, but we’ve been told not to stock up, (see EW 56), so the time we will need to be ‘raising our own provisions’ will probably last \_\_\_\_\_ than just one growing season
- Therefore, including the time before we are not able to buy or sell, the first part of the Time of Trouble will probably last a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

### Clue #3

GC 626 –We flee to the wilderness in response to *issuing* of the \_\_\_\_\_

- This decree *goes into effect* at the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (see GC 635-636)
- 5T 450, “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.”
- Est 3:7, 12-14 –That decree was *issued* in the \_\_\_\_\_ month, and *went into effect* in the \_\_\_\_\_ month —so there were \_\_\_\_\_ months in between
- Matt 24:22 –The days will be “shortened,” but we are probably still looking at being in the wilderness for \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ of Clue #2, plus the \_\_\_\_\_ of Clue #3, can approximately equal the shortened \_\_\_\_\_ of Clue #1

#2-1. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.

#2-2. *Great Controversy*, page 25

[In Matthew 24] Christ presented before them [His disciples] an outline of the prominent events to take place before the close of time. His words were not then fully understood; but their meaning was to be unfolded as His people should need the instruction therein given. The prophecy which He uttered was twofold in its meaning; while foreshadowing the destruction of Jerusalem, it prefigured also the terrors of the last great day.

#2-3. *Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890

While discord and strife, crime and blood-shed are in the land, let God's people love one another. Plagues and pestilence, fire and flood, disaster by land and by sea, horrible murders, and every conceivable crime exist in the world, and does it not now become us who claim to have large light to be true to God, to love him supremely and our neighbor as ourselves?

#2-4. *Prophets and Kings*, page 278

God's message for the inhabitants of earth today is, "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44. The conditions prevailing in society, and especially in the great cities of the nations, proclaim in thunder tones that the hour of God's judgment is come and that the end of all things earthly is at hand. We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another —fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent.

#2-5. *Early Writings*, page 36

... The time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced.

#2-6. *Early Writings*, pages 85-86

On page 33 is given the following: ..."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 view was given in 1847 ..."The commencement of that 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 check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.

#2-7. *Great Controversy*, pages 30-31

Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given His disciples warning, and all who believed His words watched for the promised sign. "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies," said Jesus, "then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out." Luke 21:20, 21. After the Romans under Cestius had surrounded the city, they unexpectedly abandoned the siege when everything seemed favorable for an immediate attack. The besieged, despairing of successful resistance, were on the point of surrender, when the Roman general withdrew his forces without the least apparent reason. But God's merciful providence was directing events for the good of His own people. The promised sign had been given to the waiting Christians, and now an opportunity was offered for all who would, to obey the Saviour's warning. Events were so overruled that neither Jews nor Romans should hinder the flight of the Christians. Upon the retreat of Cestius, the Jews, sallying from Jerusalem, pursued after his retiring army; and while both forces were thus fully engaged, the Christians had an opportunity to leave the city. At this time the country also had been cleared of enemies who might have endeavored to intercept them. At the time of the siege, the Jews were assembled at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and thus the Christians throughout the land were able to make their escape unmolested. Without delay they fled to a place of safety—the city of Pella, in the land of Perea, beyond Jordan.

...

Terrible were the calamities that fell upon Jerusalem when the siege was resumed by Titus.

#2-8. *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 464-465

The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.

#2-9. *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 451

By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. 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 shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.

As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and 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.

#2-10. *Early Writings*, pages 36-37

I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance.

#2-11. *Great Controversy*, pages 627-628

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

#2-12. *Country Living*, pages 9-10, (Letter 5, 1904; also on 2SM 141)

Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.

#2-13. *Great Controversy*, page 626

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 and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains.