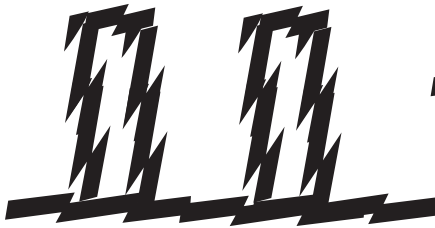


Destruction of the Cities Predicted

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PART ONE OF TWO

Several months ago, I was impressed to gather together our earlier tracts on the need to get out of the cities, and reprint them (A Terrible Storm is Coming [WM-1029-1030], Out of the Cities [WM-1031].)

Now that the great destruction of September 11 has occurred, it would be well for our people to have before them in concise format the many Spirit of Prophecy predictions about the destruction of the cities, including New York City. You will find here a number of remarkable statements, some of which include catastrophes on the "lines of travel."

The destruction of large buildings, and even entire cities, has been predicted.

"More and more, as the days go by, it is becoming apparent that God's judgments are in the world. In fire and flood and earthquake He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His near approach. **The time is nearing when the great crisis in the history of the world will have come**, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. **In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another—fire and flood and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.**

"Oh, that the people might know the time of their visitation! There are many who have not yet heard the testing truth for this time. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. **The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth.** Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter.

"The mercy of God is shown in His long forbearance. **He is holding back His judgments, waiting for the message of warning to be sounded to all.** Oh, if our people would feel as they should the responsibility resting upon them to give the last message of mercy to the world, what a wonderful work would be done!"—*9 Testimonies*, 97.

"He [Satan] looked with pleased exultation upon the result of his temptations and the increase of sin in the continued transgression of God's law for more than four thousand years. He had worked the ruin of our first parents, and brought sin and death into the world, and had led to ruin multitudes of all ages, countries, and classes. **He had, by his power, controlled cities and nations until their sin provoked the wrath of God to destroy them by fire, water, earthquakes, sword, famine, and pestilence.** By his subtlety and untiring efforts he had controlled the appetite and excited and strengthened the passions to so fearful a degree, that he had defaced, and almost obliterated the image of God in man."—*1 Selected Messages*, 269-270.

"The judgments of God are in our land. The Lord is soon to come. **In fire and flood and earthquake, He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His soon approach.** O that the people may know the time of their visitation! We have no time to lose. We must make more determined efforts to lead the people of the world to see that **the day of judgment is at hand.**"—*Life Sketches*, 412 (June 20, 1903).

"God's encouraging message of mercy should be proclaimed in the cities of America. Men and women living in these cities are rapidly becoming more and still more entangled in their business relations. **They are acting wildly in the erection of buildings whose towers reach high into the heavens.** Their minds are filled with schemes and ambitious devisings."—*8 Testimonies*, 31; *Evan-*

gelism, 27 (*Manuscript 154, 1902*).

“O that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry.”—Review and Herald, Sept. 10, 1903; Evangelism, 29.

“You are dazzled and blinded by the god of this world. Oh, what a terrible insanity is upon you! **You may gather together earthly treasure, but it will be destroyed in the great conflagration.** If you now return unto the Lord, use your talents of means and influence for His glory, and send your treasure before you to heaven, you will not meet with a total loss.

“The great conflagrations and the disasters by sea and land that have visited our country were the special providences of God, a warning of what is about to come upon the world. God would show man that He can kindle upon his idols a fire that water cannot quench. The great general conflagration is but just ahead, when all this wasted labor of life will be swept away in a night and day. The treasure laid up in heaven will be safe. No thief can approach nor moth corrupt it.”—4 Testimonies, 49.

“I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story: **‘What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth!** Then the words of Rev. 18:1-3 will be fulfilled.’ The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. **But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down** by the turning and overturning of God’s power. From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. **One word from the Lord, one touch of His mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine.**”—*Life Sketches, 411-412.*

“I am bidden to declare the message that **cities full of transgression, and sinful in the extreme, will be destroyed by earthquakes, by fire, by flood. All the world will be warned that there is a God who will display His authority** as God. His unseen agencies will cause destruction, devastation, and death. All the accumulated riches will be as nothingness . . .

“Calamities will come—calamities most awful, most unexpected; and these destructions will follow one after another. If there will be a heeding of the warnings that God has given, and if churches will repent, returning to their allegiance, then other

cities may be spared for a time. But if men who have been deceived continue in the same way in which they have been walking, disregarding the law of God and presenting falsehoods before the people, God allows them to suffer calamity, that their senses may be awakened . . .

“The Lord will not suddenly cast off all transgressors or destroy entire nations; but **He will punish cities and places where men have given themselves up to the possession of satanic agencies. Strictly will the cities of the nations be dealt with,** and yet they will not be visited in the extreme of God’s indignation, because some souls will yet break away from the delusions of the enemy, and will repent and be converted, while the mass will be treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath.”—*Manuscript 35; Evangelism, 27 (1906).*

“Well equipped tent meetings should be held in **the large cities, such as San Francisco; for not long hence these cities will suffer under the judgments of God. San Francisco and Oakland are becoming as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Lord will visit them in wrath.**”—*Life Sketches, 412 (September 1, 1902).*

“The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides.** Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. **Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames.**

“Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; **confusion, collision, and death without a moment’s warning will occur on the great lines of travel.** The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near! The prophet says: ‘Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger.’ ”—*Messages to Young People, 89-90 (Signs, April 21, 1890).*

“Last Friday morning, just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep but was not in my home. **From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was im-**

possible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable. After a time I awoke and found myself at home.”—*Evangelism*, 29 (Letter 278, 1906).

“The time is nearing when the great crisis in the history of the world will have come, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. **In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another,—fire and flood and earthquakes, with war and bloodshed. Something great and decisive will soon of necessity take place.**”—*Life Sketches*, 412 (November 12, 1902).

“**‘Out of the cities’ is my message.** Our physicians ought to have been wide awake on this point long ago [and not erected any medical institutions in them]. I hope and pray and believe that they will now arouse to the importance of getting out into the country.

“The time is near when the large cities will be visited by the judgments of God. In a little while these cities will be terribly shaken. No matter how large or how strong their buildings, no matter how many safeguards against fire may have been provided, let God touch these buildings, and in a few minutes or a few hours they are in ruins.

“The ungodly cities of our world are to be swept away by the besom of destruction. In the calamities that are now befalling immense buildings and large portions of cities God is showing us what will come upon the whole earth.”—7 Testimonies, 83.

“When I was last in New York, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify the owners. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used . . .

“As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in glorifying self . . . Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding the faces of the poor. In the books of heaven, an account of every business transaction is kept. There every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah . . .

“I am instructed that when the Lord’s time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that has been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. **No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God’s appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their insolence and their disregard of His law.**”—*Life Sketches*, 413-414 (February 15, 1904; *Review*, April 26, 1906).

“As I consider the conditions in the cities that are so manifestly under the power of Satan, I ask myself the question, What will be the end of these things? The wickedness in many cities is increasing. Crime and iniquity are at work on every hand. New species of idolatry are continually being introduced into society. In every nation the minds of men are turning to the invention of some new thing. Rashness of deed and confusion of mind are everywhere increasing. **Surely the cities of the earth are becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah.**

“As a people we need to hasten the work in the cities, which has been hindered for lack of workers and means and a spirit of consecration. At this time, the people of God need to turn their hearts fully to Him; for the end of all things is at hand. They need to humble their minds, and to be attentive to the will of the Lord, working with earnest desire to do that which God has shown must be done to **warn the cities of their impending doom.**”—*Review and Herald*, January 25, 1912; *Evangelism*, 29-30.

“Men will continue to erect expensive buildings, costing millions of money; special attention will be called to their architectural beauty, and the firmness and solidity with which they are constructed; but the Lord has instructed me that despite the unusual firmness and expensive display, these buildings will share the fate of the temple in Jerusalem. That magnificent structure fell. Angels of God were sent to do the work of destruction, so that **one stone was not left one upon another that was not thrown down.**”—*5 Bible Commentary*, 1098-1099 (Manuscript 35, 1906).

“Before the Son of man appears in the clouds of heaven, everything in nature will be convulsed. **Lightning from heaven uniting with the fire in the earth, will cause the mountains to burn like a furnace, and pour out their floods of lava over villages and cities.** Molten masses of rock, thrown into the water by the upheaval of things hidden in the earth, will cause the water to boil and send forth rocks and earth. **There will be mighty earthquakes**

and great destruction of human life. But as in the days of the great Deluge Noah was preserved in the ark that God had prepared for him, so in these days of destruction and calamity, God will be the refuge of His believing ones.”—7 Bible Commentary, 946 (Letter 258, 1907).

“The hand of Omnipotence is at no loss for ways and means to accomplish His purposes. He could reach into the bowels of the earth and call forth His weapons, waters there concealed, to aid in the destruction of the corrupt inhabitants of the old world.”—7 Bible Commentary, 946.

“Everywhere there are men who should be out in active ministry, giving the last message of warning to a fallen world. The work that should long ago have been in active operation to win souls to Christ has not been done. **The inhabitants of the ungodly cities so soon to be visited by calamities have been cruelly neglected. The time is near when large cities will be swept away,** and all should be warned of these coming judgments. But who is giving to the accomplishment of this work the wholehearted service that God requires? . . .

“At the present time there is not a thousandth part being done in working the cities, that should be done, and that would be done if men and women would do their whole duty.”—*Evangelism*, 29 (Manuscript 53, 1910).

“While at Loma Linda, California, April 16, 1906, there passed before me a most wonderful representation. **During a vision of the night, I stood on an eminence, from which I could see houses shaken like a reed in the wind. Buildings, great and small, were falling to the ground. Pleasure resorts, theaters, hotels, and the homes of the wealthy were shaken and shattered. Many lives were blotted out of existence,** and the air was filled with the shrieks of the injured and the terrified.

“The destroying angels of God were at work. **One touch, and buildings so thoroughly constructed that men regarded them as secure against every danger, quickly became heaps of rubbish. There was no assurance of safety in any place.** I did not feel in any special peril, but the awfulness of the scenes that passed before me I cannot find words to describe. It seemed that the forbearance of God was exhausted, and that the judgment day had come.

“The angel that stood by my side then instructed me that but **few have any conception of the wickedness existing in our world today, and especially**

the wickedness in the large cities. He declared that the Lord has appointed a time when He will visit transgressors in wrath for persistent disregard of His law.

“Terrible as was the representation that passed before me, that which impressed itself most vividly upon my mind was the instruction given in connection with it. The angel that stood by my side declared that God’s supreme rulership, and the sacredness of His law, must be revealed to those who persistently refuse to render obedience to the King of kings. Those who choose to remain disloyal must be visited in mercy with judgments, in order that, if possible, they may be aroused to a realization of the sinfulness of their course.”—9 Testimonies, 92-93 (1909).

“Throughout the following day I pondered the scenes that had passed before me and the instruction that had been given. [See preceding quotation.] During the afternoon we journeyed to Glendale, near Los Angeles; and **the following night I was again instructed regarding the holiness and binding claims of the Ten Commandments and the supremacy of God above all earthly rulers.**

“I seemed to be in an assembly, setting before the people the requirements of God’s law. I read the Scriptures regarding the institution of the Sabbath in Eden at the close of the creation week, and regarding the giving of the law at Sinai; and then declared that the Sabbath is to be observed ‘for a perpetual covenant’ as a sign between God and His people forever, that they may know that they are sanctified by the Lord, their Creator.

“Then I further dwelt upon the supreme rulership of God above all earthly rulers. His law is to be the standard of action. Men are forbidden to pervert their senses by intemperance or by yielding their minds to satanic influences, for this makes impossible the keeping of God’s law. While the divine Ruler bears long with perversity, He is not deceived and will not always keep silence. **His supremacy, His authority as Ruler of the universe, must finally be acknowledged and the just claims of His law vindicated.**

“Much more instruction regarding the long-sufferance of God and the necessity of arousing transgressors to a realization of their perilous position in His sight was repeated to the people, as received from my instructor.

“On April 18, two days after the scene of fall-

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**PART TWO
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Continued from the preceding tract in this series

ing buildings had passed before me, I went to fill an appointment in the Carr Street Church, Los Angeles. As we neared the church we heard the newsboys crying: '*San Francisco destroyed by an earthquake!*' With a heavy heart I read the first hastily printed news of the terrible disaster.

"Two weeks later, on our homeward journey, we passed through San Francisco and, hiring a carriage, spent an hour and a half in viewing the destruction wrought in that great city. Buildings that were thought to be proof against disaster were lying in ruins. In some instances buildings were partially sunken in the ground. The city presented a most dreadful picture of the inefficiency of human ingenuity to frame fireproof and earthquake-proof structures.

"Through His prophet Zephaniah the Lord specifies the judgments that He will bring upon evildoers: [Zephaniah 1:2, 3, 8-18, quoted] . .

"God cannot forbear much longer. Already His judgments are beginning to fall on some places, and soon His signal displeasure will be felt in other places.

"There will be a series of events revealing that God is master of the situation. The truth will be proclaimed in clear, unmistakable language. As a people we must prepare the way of the Lord under the overruling guidance of the Holy Spirit. The gospel is to be given in its purity. The stream of living water is to deepen and widen in its course. In all fields, nigh and afar off, men will be called from the plow and from the more common commercial business vocations that largely occupy the mind, and will be educated in connection with men of experience. As they learn to labor effectively they will proclaim the truth with power. Through most wonderful workings of divine providence, mountains of difficulty will be removed and cast into the sea. **The message that means so much to the dwellers upon the earth will be heard and understood. Men will know what is truth. Onward and still onward the work will advance until the whole earth shall have been warned, and then shall the end come.**"—9 *Testimonies*, 93-96.

"Men may erect the most carefully constructed, fireproof buildings, but one touch of God's hand, one spark from heaven, will sweep away every refuge."—8 *Testimonies*, 99.

"'The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.' The bright rays of the morning seemed to speak only prosperity and peace to the cities of the plain. **The stir of active life began in the streets; men were going their various ways,** intent on the business or the pleasures of the day. The sons-in-law of Lot were making merry at the fears and warnings of the weak-minded old man. **Suddenly and unexpectedly as would be a thunder peal from an unclouded sky, the tempest broke. The Lord rained brimstone and fire out of heaven upon the cities and the fruitful plain; its palaces and temples, costly dwellings, gardens and vineyards, and the gay, pleasure-seeking throngs that only the night before had insulted the messengers of heaven—all were consumed.** The smoke of the conflagration went up like the smoke of a great furnace. And the fair vale of Siddim became a desolation, a place never to be built up or inhabited—a witness to all generations of the certainty of God's judgments upon transgression.

"The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God's mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins.

"The Redeemer of the world declares that **there are greater sins than that for which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.** Those who hear the gospel invitation calling sinners to repentance, and heed it not, are more guilty before God than were the dwellers in the vale of Siddim. **And still greater sin is theirs who profess to know God and to keep His commandments, yet who deny Christ in their character and their daily life.** In the light of the Saviour's warning, the fate of Sodom is a solemn admonition, not merely to those who are guilty of outbreking sin, but to all who are trifling with

Heaven-sent light and privileges.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 162-165.

“In the bowels of the earth God has in reserve the weapons that He will use to destroy the sinful race. **Since the Flood, God has used, to destroy wicked cities, both the water and the fire that are concealed in the earth. In the final conflagration God will in His wrath send lightning from heaven that will unite with the fire in the earth.** The mountains will burn like a furnace, and pour forth streams of lava [Nahum 1:5, 6; Ps. 144:5, 6, quoted].”—*7 Bible Commentary*, 946-947 (*Manuscript 21*, 1902).

“**The depths of the earth are the Lord’s arsenal, whence were drawn weapons to be employed in the destruction of the old world. Waters gushing from the earth united with the waters from heaven to accomplish the work of desolation. Since the Flood, fire as well as water has been God’s agent to destroy very wicked cities.** These judgments are sent that those who lightly regard God’s law and trample upon His authority may be led to tremble before His power and to confess His just sovereignty. As **men have beheld burning mountains pouring forth fire and flames and torrents of melted ore, drying up rivers, overwhelming populous cities, and everywhere spreading ruin and desolation,** the stoutest heart has been filled with terror and infidels and blasphemers have been constrained to acknowledge the infinite power of God.

“Said the prophets of old, referring to scenes like these: [Isaiah 64:1-3; Nahum 1:3-4, quoted] . . .

“**More terrible manifestations than the world has ever yet beheld, will be witnessed at the second advent of Christ.** ‘The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at His presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before His indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of His anger?’ Nahum 1:5, 6. ‘Bow Thy heavens, O Lord, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out Thine arrows, and destroy them.’ Psalm 144:5, 6.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 109.

“**We are living in the time of the end. The fast-filling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important.** The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. **The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They fore-**

cast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

“**The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.**

“The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.

“The enemy has succeeded in perverting justice and in filling men’s hearts with the desire for selfish gain.

“‘Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.’ Isaiah 59:14. **In the great cities there are multitudes living in poverty and wretchedness, well-nigh destitute of food, shelter, and clothing; while in the same cities are those who have more than heart could wish, who live luxuriously,** spending their money on richly furnished houses, on personal adornment, or worse still, upon the gratification of sensual appetites, upon liquor, tobacco, and other things that destroy the powers of the brain, unbalance the mind, and debase the soul. **The cries of starving humanity are coming up before God, while by every species of oppression and extortion men are piling up colossal fortunes.**

“**On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify the owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used.** Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: ‘How can we best glorify God?’ The Lord was not in their thoughts.

“I thought: ‘Oh, that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! **They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising.** They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man.’

“**As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the**

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envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah.

“The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: ‘They are perfectly safe.’ But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.

“I am instructed that when the Lord’s time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. **No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God’s appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law** and for their selfish ambition.

“There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. **They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God’s Word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them.**

“The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ’s second coming. Of the men who by robbery and extortion are amassing great riches, it is written: [James 5:3-6, quoted] . . .

“But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians ‘knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away.’ Matthew 24:39. **They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And today the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin.**

“The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of

trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place [Isaiah 24:1-8; Joel 1:15-18, 12; Jeremiah 4:19-20, quoted] . . .

“‘I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, **and all the cities thereof were broken down.**’ Jeremiah 4:23-26.

“‘Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it. It is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.’ Jeremiah 30:7.

“Not all in this world have taken sides with the enemy against God. Not all have become disloyal. There are a faithful few who are true to God; for John writes: ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ Revelation 14:12. Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain.

“Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth. **It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect.** God’s people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God’s tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living Word: ‘It is written.’ This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely. Those who have broken their covenant with God will in that day be without God and without hope.

“The worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment, since this is the sign of God’s creative power and the witness to His claim upon man’s reverence and homage. The wicked will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator’s memorial and to exalt the institution of Rome. In the issue of the conflict all Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those

who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel all, 'both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,' to receive the mark of the beast, yet the people of God will not receive it. Revelation 13:16. The prophet of Patmos beholds 'them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God,' and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2.

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. **But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming,—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—God's chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them.**"—9 Testimonies, 11-17.

"**There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down, and fell on every side.** I then heard a triumphant shout of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon this company, who, a short time before, were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them. How beautiful they then looked! All weariness and marks of care were gone; health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen around them, fell like dead men. They could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones. This light and glory remained upon them until Jesus was seen in the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company were changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory. The graves were opened and the saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying: 'Victory over death and the grave!' and together with the living saints they were caught up to meet their Lord in the air, while rich, musical shouts of glory and victory proceeded from every immortal tongue."—1 Testimonies, 184.

"**At the present time, when the end of all things earthly is rapidly approaching, Satan is putting forth desperate efforts to ensnare the world.** He is devising many plans to occupy minds, and to divert attention from the truths essential to salvation. **In every city his agencies are busily organizing into parties those who are opposed**

to the law of God. The archdeceiver is at work to introduce elements of confusion and rebellion, and men are being fired with a zeal that is not according to knowledge."—*Acts of the Apostles*, 219.

"**We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events.** Prophecies are fulfilling. **Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars, and rumors of wars. The nations are angry,** and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle."—6 Testimonies, 14.

"**The crisis is stealing gradually upon us.** The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. **Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced** until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy forever shut."—*Christian Service*, 51 (*Southern Watchman*, Oct. 3, 1905).

"**Transgression has almost reached its limit.** Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. **The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.**"—8 Testimonies, 28.

"**In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand. When the defiance of God's law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose.**"—*Christ's Object Lessons*, 178.