

Just Ahead: The Greatest Crisis

PART ONE OF THREE

“From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan’s purpose to overthrow the law of God. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator, and though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. **To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God’s law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued.** Whether this be accomplished by casting aside the law altogether, or by rejecting one of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same. He that offends ‘in one point,’ manifests contempt for the whole law; his influence and example are on the side of transgression; he becomes ‘guilty of all.’ James 2:10.”—*Great Controversy*, 582.

“Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. **The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond’** (Revelation 13:16), **shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath.** All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. **On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator’s rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.**

“With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God’s law to obey a human enactment receives the **mark** of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which

he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from heaven is: ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.’ Revelation 14:9, 10.”—*Great Controversy*, 604-605.

“**The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted.** When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. **While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.**”—*Great Controversy*, 605.

“**When Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath,** then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome, and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshiping the beast and his image. **As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome,—‘the mark of the beast.’** And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive ‘the mark of the beast.’”—*Great Controversy*, 449.

PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL CRISIS

Do you think the subject is thoroughly covered in this tract set? Far from it.

Here are four Spirit of Prophecy sections which you should also urgently read and take to heart. If they were printed here, this tract set would be over twice as long!

5 Testimonies, 449-455

6 Testimonies, 404-410

2 Selected Messages, 367-383

Patriarchs and Prophets, 201-203

“The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God’s appointment.

“No one has yet received the mark of the beast. The testing time has not yet come. There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But **when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn** between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.

“With rapid steps we are approaching this period. **When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state.** There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin.”—*Evangelism, 234-235.*

“If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls ‘My holy day,’ you receive the mark of the beast. **When does this take place? When you obey the decree** that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, and refuse the seal of God.”—*Evangelism, 235.*

“God has given men the Sabbath as a sign between Him and them, as a test of their loyalty. Those who, after the light regarding God’s law comes to them, continue to disobey and exalt human laws above the law of God in the great crisis before us will receive the mark of the beast.”—*Evangelism, 235.*

“From time to time the Lord has made known His manner of working . . . And when a crisis has come, He has revealed Himself, and has interposed the working of Satan’s plans. **He has often permitted matters with nations, with families, and with individuals to come to a crisis, that His**

interference might become marked. Then He has let the fact be known that there is a God in Israel who would sustain and vindicate His people.

“When the defiance of the law of Jehovah shall be almost universal, when His people shall be pressed in affliction by their fellow men, God will interpose. The fervent prayers of His people will be answered, for He loves to have His people seek Him with all their heart, and depend upon Him as their Deliverer. He will be sought unto to do these things for His people . . . The promise is, ‘The Lord will avenge His own elect, which cry unto Him day and night.’ ”—*Sons and Daughters of God, 353.*

“A great crisis awaits the people of God. A crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is just before us. Events which for more than forty years we have, upon the authority of the prophetic Word, declared to be impending are now taking place before our eyes.”—*5 Testimonies, 711.*

“We are coming to the crisis. Let us stand the test manfully, grasping the hand of Infinite Power. **God will work for us. We have only to live one day at a time,** and if we get acquainted with God, **He will give us strength for what is coming tomorrow, grace sufficient for each day.** And every day will find its own victories, just as it finds its trials. We shall have the power of the Highest with us, for we shall be clad with the armor of Christ’s righteousness. We have the same God that has worked for His people in ages past. Jesus stands by our side, and shall we falter?—No, as the trials come, the power of God will come with them. **God will help us to stand in faith on His Word,** and when we are united, He will work with special power in our behalf.”—*My Life Today, 94.*

“We are coming to a crisis which, more than any previous time since the world began, will demand the entire consecration of every one who has named the name of Christ.

“May God make His servants wise through the divine illumination, that the impress of man may not be seen on any of the great and important enterprises before us.”—*Gospel Workers, 323.*

“I was shown that **a terrible condition of things exists in our world. The angel of mercy is folding her wings, ready to depart. Already the Lord’s restraining power is being withdrawn** from the earth, and Satan is seeking to stir up the various elements in the religious world, leading

men to place themselves under the training of the great deceiver, who works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in the children of disobedience. Already the inhabitants of the earth are marshaling under the leading of the prince of darkness, and this is but the beginning of the end.

“The law of God is made void. We see and hear of confusion and perplexity, want and famine, earthquakes and floods; terrible outrages will be committed by men; passion, not reason, bears sway. **The wrath of God is upon the inhabitants of the world, who are fast becoming as corrupt as were the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.** Already fire and flood are destroying thousands of lives and the property that has been selfishly accumulated by the oppression of the poor. **The Lord is soon to cut short His work and put an end to sin.** Oh, that the scenes which have come before me of the iniquities practiced in these last days, might make a deep impression on the minds of God’s professing people. As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be when the Son of man shall be revealed. **The Lord is removing His restrictions from the earth, and soon there will be death and destruction,** increasing crime, and cruel, evil working against the rich who have exalted themselves against the poor. Those who are without God’s protection will find no safety in any place or position. Human agents are being trained and are using their inventive power to put in operation the most powerful machinery to wound and to kill.”—*8 Testimonies, 49-50.*

“**The ruin of Jerusalem was a symbol of the final ruin that shall overwhelm the world.** The prophecies that received a partial fulfillment in the overthrow of Jerusalem have a more direct application to the last days. We are now standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. **A crisis is before us, such as the world has never witnessed.** And sweetly to us, as to the first disciples, comes the assurance that God’s kingdom ruleth over all. **The program of coming events is in the hands of our Maker.** The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of His church, in His own charge. The divine Instructor is saying to every agent in the accomplishment of His plans, as He said to Cyrus, ‘I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me.’ Isaiah 45:5 . . .

“He who slumbers not, who is continually at work for the accomplishment of His designs, will carry forward His own work. He will thwart the purposes of wicked men, and will bring to confusion the counsels of those who plot mischief

against His people. He who is the King, the Lord of hosts, sitteth between the cherubim, and **amid the strife and tumult of nations He guards His children still.** He who ruleth in the heavens is our Saviour. He measures every trial, He watches the furnace fire that must test every soul. **When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, His people will be safe in His hands.**”—*Mount of Blessing, 120-121.*

“Shake off your spiritual lethargy. Work with all your might to save your own souls and the souls of others. **It is no time now to cry, ‘Peace and safety.’** It is not silver-tongued orators that are needed to give this message. The truth in all its pointed severity must be spoken. **Men of action are needed—men who will labor with earnest, ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church and the warning of the world.**

“A great work is to be accomplished; broader plans must be laid; a voice must go forth to arouse the nations. Men whose faith is weak and wavering are not the ones to carry forward the work at this important crisis. **We need the courage of heroes and the faith of martyrs.**”—*5 Testimonies, 187.*

“God’s servants are not to be easily discouraged by difficulties or opposition. **Those who proclaim the third angel’s message must stand bravely at their post, in the face of detraction and falsehood, fighting the good fight of faith,** and resisting the enemy with the weapon that Christ used, ‘It is written.’ In the great crisis through which they are soon to pass, the servants of God will encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred, encountered by Christ and the apostles.

“All who in that evil day would faithfully serve God according to the dictates of conscience, will need courage, firmness, and a knowledge of God and His Word; for those who are true to God will be persecuted, their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted, and their names cast out as evil.

“Satan will work with his deceptive power to influence the heart and becloud the understanding, to make evil appear good, and good evil. **The stronger and purer the faith of God’s people, and the firmer their determination to obey Him, the more fiercely will Satan strive to stir up against them the rage of those who, while claiming to be righteous, trample upon the law of**

God. It will require the firmest trust, the most heroic purpose, to hold fast the faith once delivered to the saints.”—*Gospel Workers*, 264.

“The Protestant world have set up an idol sabbath in the place where God’s Sabbath should be, and they are treading in the footsteps of the Papacy. For this reason I see the necessity of the people of God moving out of the cities into retired country (places), where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce. Thus they may bring their children up with simple, healthful habits. **I see the necessity of making haste to get all things ready for the crisis.**”—2 *Selected Messages*, 359.

“Christ’s coming is nearer than when we believed. **Every passing day leaves us one less to proclaim the message of warning to the world.** Would that there were today more earnest intercession with God, greater humility, greater purity, and greater faith.

“All are in constant danger. I warn the church to **beware of those who preach to others the Word of life but do not themselves cherish the spirit of humility and self-denial which it inculcates. Such men cannot be depended on in a crisis.** They disregard the voice of God as readily as did Saul, and like him many stand ready to justify their course.”—5 *Testimonies*, 88.

“Satan is striving to gain every advantage. He desires to secure, not only students, but teachers. He has his plans laid. Disguised as an angel of light, he will walk the earth as a wonder-worker. In beautiful language he will present lofty sentiments. Good words will be spoken by him, and good deeds performed. Christ will be personified, but **on one point there will be a marked distinction. Satan will turn the people from the law of God.** Notwithstanding this, so well will he counterfeit righteousness, that if it were possible, he would deceive the very elect. Crowned heads, presidents, rulers in high places, will bow to his false theories . . . **Time is passing, and God calls for every watchman to be in his place.** He has been pleased to lead us to a crisis greater than any since our Saviour’s first advent.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 471-472.

“If all that appears to be divine life were such

in reality; if all who profess to present the truth to the world were preaching for the truth and not against it, and if they were men of God guided by His Spirit,—then might we see something cheering amid the prevailing moral darkness. But the spirit of antichrist is prevailing to such an extent as never before. **Well may we exclaim: ‘Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail** from among the children of men.’ I know that many think far too favorably of the present time. **These ease-loving souls will be engulfed in the general ruin.** Yet we do not despair. **We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case.** God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself. God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. **In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel.** The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.

“The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. **Every wind of doctrine will be blowing.** Those who have rendered supreme homage to ‘science falsely so called’ will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. **In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them.** The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. **There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you.** But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the daytime we look toward heaven but

Just Ahead: The Greatest Crisis

PART TWO OF THREE

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

W do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the
M firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them.
1 In the night we behold their genuine luster.

2
9
9
“**The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul.** The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. **Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be,** rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. **The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men.** In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. **Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness.** Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ’s righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.

“When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, **when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then the hidden ones will be revealed to view,** and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David—willing to do and dare. **The deeper the night for God’s people, the more brilliant the stars.** Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear ‘fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’”—*5 Testimonies*, 79-82.

“**This hatred the people of God living in this age have yet to meet.** Among many of the professing followers of Christ there is the same pride, formalism, and selfishness, the same spirit of oppression, that held so large a place in the Jewish heart. **In the future, men claiming to be Christ’s representatives will take a course similar to that**

followed by the priests and rulers in their treatment of Christ and the apostles. In the great crisis through which they are soon to pass, the faithful servants of God will encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred.

“All who in that evil day would fearlessly serve God according to the dictates of conscience, will need courage, firmness, and a knowledge of God and His Word; for those who are true to God will be persecuted, their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted, and their names cast out as evil. **Satan will work with all his deceptive power to influence the heart and becloud the understanding, to make evil appear good, and good evil.** The stronger and purer the faith of God’s people, and the firmer their determination to obey Him, the more fiercely will Satan strive to stir up against them the rage of those who, while claiming to be righteous, trample upon the law of God. **It will require the firmest trust, the most heroic purpose, to hold fast the faith once delivered to the saints.**

“God desires His people to prepare for the soon-coming crisis. **Prepared or unprepared, they must all meet it; and those only who have brought their lives into conformity to the divine standard will stand firm at that time** of test and trial. When secular rulers unite with ministers of religion to dictate in matters of conscience, then it will be seen who really fear and serve God. When the darkness is deepest, the light of a god-like character will shine the brightest. **When every other trust fails, then it will be seen who have an abiding trust in Jehovah.** And while the enemies of truth are on every side, watching the Lord’s servants for evil, God will watch over them for good. He will be to them as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.”—*Acts of the Apostles*, 431-432.

“**The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger**—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importu-

nate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. **Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it.** Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.

“Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.

“We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. **We must take time to pray.** If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands.”—*Great Controversy*, 621-622.

“The crisis is just before us when each will need much strength from God in order to stand against the wiles of Satan, for his deceptions will come in every conceivable form. **Those who have allowed themselves to be the sport of Satan's temptations will be unprepared then to take the right side.** Their ideas will be confused so that they cannot discern between the divine and the satanic.

“There will come a crisis in every one of our institutions. Influences will be at work against them from both believers and unbelievers. There must be no betraying of confidence or holy trust now to benefit or exalt self. We should constantly watch our life with jealous care lest we leave wrong impressions upon the world.”—*5 Testimonies*, 479.

“It will be well for us to consider what is soon to come upon the earth. This is no time for

trifling or self-seeking. **If the times in which we are living fail to impress our minds seriously, what can reach us?** Do not the Scriptures call for a more pure and holy work than we have yet seen?

“Men of clear understanding are needed now. **God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation.** I see a crisis before us, and the Lord calls for His laborers to come into line. Every soul should now stand in a position of deeper, truer consecration to God than during the years that have passed.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 514.

“While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. **Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time.** Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.

“God calls upon us to awake, for the end is near. Every passing hour is one of activity in the heavenly courts to make ready a people upon the earth to act a part in the great scenes that are soon to open upon us. **These passing moments, that seem of so little value to us, are weighty with eternal interests.** They are molding the destiny of souls for everlasting life or eternal death. The words we utter today in the ears of the people, the works we are doing, the spirit of the message we are bearing, will be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

“My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you?”—*5 Testimonies*, 716-717.

“The authorities will make laws to restrict religious liberty. They will assume the right that is God's alone. They will think they can force the conscience, which God alone should control. Even now they are making a beginning; this work they will continue to carry forward till they reach a boundary over which they cannot step. God will interpose in behalf of His loyal, commandment-keeping people.

“On every occasion when persecution takes

1 **place, those who witness it make decisions ei-**
 2 **ther for Christ or against Him.** Those who mani-
 9 **fest sympathy for the ones wrongly condemned**
 9 **show their attachment for Christ. Others are of-**
fended because the principles of truth cut directly
across their practice. Many stumble and fall,
apostatizing from the faith they once advocated.
 Those who apostatize in time of trial will, to se-
 cure their own safety, bear false witness, and be-
 tray their brethren. Christ has warned us of this,
 that we may not be surprised at the unnatural,
 cruel course of those who reject the light.”—*De-*
sire of Ages, 630.

“**The Lord abhors indifference and disloy-**
alty in a time of crisis in His work. The whole
universe is watching with inexpressible inter-
est the closing scenes of the great controversy
between good and evil. The people of God are
 nearing the borders of the eternal world; what can
 be of more importance to them than that they be
 loyal to the God of heaven? **All through the ages,**
God has had moral heroes, and He has them
now—those who, like Joseph and Elijah and
 Daniel, are not ashamed to acknowledge them-
 selves His peculiar people. **His special blessing**
accompanies the labors of men of action, men
who will not be swerved from the straight line
of duty, but who with divine energy will inquire,
 ‘Who is on the Lord’s side?’ (Exodus 32:26), men
 who will not stop merely with the inquiry, but who
 will demand that those who choose to identify
 themselves with the people of God shall step for-
 ward and reveal unmistakably their allegiance to
 the King of kings and Lord of lords. **Such men**
make their wills and plans subordinate to the
law of God. For love of Him they count not their
lives dear unto themselves. Their work is to catch
 the light from the Word and let it shine forth to the
 world in clear, steady rays. Fidelity to God is their
 motto.”—*Prophets and Kings, 148.*

“**The work which the church has failed to do**
in a time of peace and prosperity she will have
to do in a terrible crisis under most discourag-
ing, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that
 worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must
 be given under the fiercest opposition from en-
 emies of the faith. And at that time the superficial,
 conservative class, whose influence has steadily
 retarded the progress of the work, will renounce
 the faith and take their stand with its avowed en-
 emies, toward whom their sympathies have long

been tending. **These apostates will then mani-**
fest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their
power to oppress and malign their former breth-
ren and to excite indignation against them. This
day is just before us. The members of the church
 will individually be tested and proved. They will
 be placed in circumstances where they will be
 forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be
 called to speak before councils and in courts of
 justice, perhaps separately and alone. **The expe-**
rience which would have helped them in this
emergency they have neglected to obtain, and
 their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted
 opportunities and neglected privileges.”—*5 Testi-*
monies, 463.

“Great is the work of the Lord. Men are choos-
 ing sides. Even those supposed to be heathen will
 choose the side of Christ, while those who become
 offended, as did the disciples, will go away and
 walk no more with Him . . .

“**What effect will the attempt of men to make**
void the law of God have upon the righteous?
 Will they be intimidated because of the universal
 scorn that is put upon the holy law of God? **Will**
the true believers in the, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’
become wavering and ashamed because the
whole world seems to despise His righteous law?
 Will they be carried away by the prevalence of
 evil?—No; to those who have consecrated them-
 selves to God to serve Him, the law of God be-
 comes more precious when the contrast is shown
 between the obedient and the transgressor. In pro-
 portion as the attributes of Satan are developed
 in the despisers and transgressors of the law of
 God, to the faithful adherent the holy precept will
 become more dear and valuable. **He will declare,**
‘They have made void Thy law. Therefore I love
Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine
 gold.’ It is the ones who have been faithful stew-
 ards of the grace of God whose love of God’s com-
 mandments grows with the contempt which all
 around them would put upon them.

“**Wicked men and the church harmonize in**
this hatred of the law of God, and then the cri-
sis comes . . . But while they are murmuring and
 complaining, and falsely accusing, and doing
 Satan’s work most zealously, another class is
 brought to our notice: ‘Then they that feared the
 Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord
 hearkened, and heard it, and **a book of remem-**
brance was written before Him for them that
feared the Lord, and that thought upon His

name.’”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 217.

“When the storm of God’s wrath breaks upon the world, it will be a terrible revelation for souls to find that their house is being swept away because it is built upon the sand. **Let the warning be given them before it is too late.** We should now feel the responsibility of laboring with intense earnestness to impart to others the truths that God has given for this time. **We cannot be too much in earnest . . .**

“Now is the time for the last warning to be given. There is a special power in the presentation of the truth at the present time; but how long will it continue? Only a little while. If there was ever a crisis, it is now.

“All are now deciding their eternal destiny. Men need to be aroused to realize the solemnity of the time, the nearness of the day when human probation shall be ended. Decided efforts should be made to bring the message for this time prominently before the people. The third angel is to go forth with great power. **Let none ignore this work or treat it as of little importance.**”—*6 Testimonies*, 16.

“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.

“Behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.’ Isaiah 26:21. **The storm of God’s wrath is gathering; and those only will stand who respond to the invitations of mercy,** as did the inhabitants of Nineveh under the preaching of Jonah, and become sanctified through obedience to the laws of the divine Ruler.

The righteous alone shall be hid with Christ in God till the desolation be overpast.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 278.

“God calls for men who can look ahead and discern the work that needs to be done . . . men who will stand firm as a rock to principle in every peril and crisis that may arise.”—*6 Testimonies*, 80.

“Satan is marshaling his hosts; and **are we individually prepared for the fearful conflict that is just before us? Are we preparing our children** for the great crisis? Are we preparing ourselves and our households to understand the position of our adversaries and their modes of warfare? **Are our children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty?** I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so prepare ourselves and our children that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense.”—*Adventist Home*, 186.

“The final overthrow of all earthly dominions is plainly foretold in the Word of truth. In the prophecy uttered when sentence from God was pronounced upon the last king of Israel is given the message:

“ ‘Thus saith the Lord God: Remove the diadem, and take off the crown . . . exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it; and it shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’ Ezekiel 21:26, 27.

“The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. God says, ‘It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’

“That time is at hand. Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. **Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming:** ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.’ Matthew 24:6, 7.

Just Ahead: The Greatest Crisis

PART THREE OF THREE

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

W
M
1
3
0
0

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. **They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place**—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

“Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but **a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth;** and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.”—*Education*, 179-180.

“From age to age the Lord has made known the manner of His working. When a crisis has come, He has revealed Himself and has interposed to hinder the working out of Satan’s plans. With nations, with families, and with individuals **He has often permitted matters to come to a crisis**, that His interference might become marked. Then He has made it manifest that there is a God in Israel who will maintain His law and vindicate His people.

“In the antediluvian world human agencies brought in all manner of devisings and ingenious practices to make of no effect the law of Jehovah. **They cast aside His authority because it interfered with their schemes.** As in the days before the Flood, so now the time is right upon us when the Lord must reveal His omnipotent power. **In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand.** When defiance against God’s law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose.

“Satan is not asleep; he is wide awake to make of no effect the sure word of prophecy. **With skill and deceptive power he is working to counterwork the expressed will of God, made plain in**

His Word. For years Satan has been gaining control of human minds through subtle sophistries that he has devised to take the place of the truth. **In this time of peril, rightdoers, in the fear of God, will glorify His name by repeating the words** of David: ‘It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law.’ Psalm 119:126.”—*9 Testimonies*, 92.

“It is difficult to hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end; and **the difficulty increases when there are hidden influences constantly at work to bring in another spirit, a counterworking element**, on Satan’s side of the question. **In the absence of persecution, there have drifted into our ranks some who appear sound**, and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us. In the crisis, they would see force in specious reasoning that has had an influence on their minds. Satan has prepared various snares to meet varied minds. **When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.** Instead of being strengthened when brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the True Vine; they bore no fruit, and the husbandman taketh them away.

“But when the world makes void the law of God, what will be the effect upon the truly obedient and righteous? Will they be carried away by the strong current of evil? Because so many rank themselves under the banner of the prince of darkness, will God’s commandment-keeping people swerve from their allegiance? Never! **Not one who is abiding in Christ will fail or fall. His followers will bow in obedience to a higher authority than that of any earthly potentate.** While the contempt placed upon God’s commandments leads many to suppress the truth and show less reverence for it, **the faithful ones will with greater earnestness hold aloft its distinguishing truths.** We are not left to our own direction. In all our ways we should acknowledge God, and He will direct our paths. We should consult His Word with humble hearts, ask His counsel, give up our will to His. We can do nothing without God.”—2 Se-

lected Messages, 368-369.

“Prophecy represents Protestantism as having lamblike horns, but speaking like a dragon. **Already we are beginning to hear the voice of the dragon. There is a satanic force propelling the Sunday movement, but it is concealed.** Even the men who are engaged in the work, are themselves blinded to the results which will follow their movement.

“Let not the commandment-keeping people of God be silent at this time, as though we gracefully accepted the situation. **There is the prospect before us of waging a continuous war, at the risk of imprisonment, of losing property and even life itself, to defend the law of God,** which is being made void by the laws of men.”—*7 Bible Commentary, 975.*

“**There are many, even of those engaged in this movement for Sunday enforcement, who are blinded to the results which will follow this action.** They do not see that they are striking directly against religious liberty. There are many who have never understood the claims of the Bible Sabbath and the false foundation upon which the Sunday institution rests. **Any movement in favor of religious legislation is really an act of concession to the papacy,** which for so many ages has steadily warred against liberty of conscience. Sunday observance owes its existence as a so-called Christian institution to ‘the mystery of iniquity;’ and its enforcement will be a virtual recognition of the principles which are the very cornerstone of Romanism. **When our nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny** which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism.”—*5 Testimonies, 711-712.*

“God was the strength of Judah in this crisis, and **He is the strength of His people today. We are not to trust in princes, or to set men in the place of God.** We are to remember that human beings are fallible and erring, and that He who has all power is our strong tower of defense. **In every emergency we are to feel that the battle is His.** His resources are limitless, and apparent impossibilities will make the victory all the greater.”—*Prophets and Kings, 202.*

“**There are only two parties in our world, those who are loyal to God, and those who stand**

under the banner of the prince of darkness. Satan and his angels will come down with power and signs and lying wonders to deceive those who dwell on the earth, and if possible the very elect. The crisis is right upon us. Is this to paralyze the energies of those who have a knowledge of the truth? **Is the influence of the powers of deception so far reaching that the influence of the truth will be overpowered?**

“**The battle of Armageddon is soon to be fought.** He on whose vesture is written the name, King of kings and Lord of lords, leads forth the armies of heaven on white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and white.

“**Every form of evil is to spring into intense activity. Evil angels unite their powers with evil men,** and as they have been in constant conflict and attained an experience in the best modes of deception and battle, and have been strengthening for centuries, they will not yield the last great final contest without a desperate struggle. **All the world will be on one side or the other of the question.** The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. **Wide awake we must be,** as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps . . . Scenes of stupendous interest are right upon us.”—*7 Bible Commentary, 982.*

“**When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction.** As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. **It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.**

“The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. **It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen.** Saith the Lord; ‘Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth . . . to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel. And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a

devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.' Isaiah 30:29, 30."—*Great Controversy*, 635.

"To us who are standing on the very verge of their fulfillment, of what deep moment, what living interest, are these delineations of the things to come—events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God's children have watched and waited, longed and prayed!

"At this time, before the great final crisis, as before the world's first destruction, men are absorbed in the pleasures and the pursuits of sense. Engrossed with the seen and transitory, they have lost sight of the unseen and eternal. For the things that perish with the using, they are sacrificing imperishable riches. Their minds need to be uplifted, their views of life to be broadened. **They need to be aroused from the lethargy of worldly dreaming.**

"From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the pages of Holy Writ, **they need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory.** Babylon, with all its power and its magnificence, the like of which our world has never since beheld,—power and magnificence which to the people of that day seemed so stable and enduring,—how completely has it passed away! As 'the flower of the grass' it has perished. **So perishes all that has not God for its foundation. Only that which is bound up with His purpose and expresses His character can endure.** His principles are the only steadfast things our world knows."—*Education*, 183.

"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. **The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us.** The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. **At that time the gold will be separated from the dross.** True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness.

"Among earth's inhabitants, scattered in ev-

ery land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, **God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law.** Even now they are appearing in every nation, among every tongue and people; and in the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan's supreme effort is made to cause 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,' to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to a false rest day, these faithful ones, 'blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke,' will 'shine as lights in the world.' Revelation 13:16; Philippians 2:15. **The darker the night, the more brilliantly will they shine.**"—*Prophets and Kings*, 188-189.

"While the Lord has not promised His people exemption from trials, He has promised that which is far better. He has said, 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be' . . . **If you are called to go through the fiery furnace for His sake, Jesus will be by your side,** even as He was with the faithful three in Babylon. Those who love their Redeemer will rejoice at every opportunity of sharing with Him humiliation and reproach. The love they bear their Lord, makes suffering for His sake sweet.

"In all ages Satan has persecuted the people of God. He has tortured them and put them to death; but in dying they became conquerors. They revealed in their steadfast faith a mightier One than Satan. Satan could torture and kill the body, but he could not touch the life that was hid with Christ in God. He could incarcerate in prison walls, but he could not bind the spirit. **They could look beyond the gloom to the glory, saying: 'I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us' . . .**

"The church of God, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. **They walk in narrow paths on earth;** they are purified in the furnace of affliction. **They follow Christ through sore conflicts;** they endure self-denial, and experience bitter dis-

appointments; but their painful experience teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. **Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory.** In holy vision the prophet saw the triumph of the people of God. He says: 'I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and them that had gotten the victory . . . stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.'—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 74.

"The thought to be kept before students is that time is short and that they must make speedy preparation for doing the work that is essential for this time . . . I am bidden to say to you that **you know not how soon the crisis will come. It is stealing gradually upon us, as a thief.** The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God; men are pursuing their usual course of eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage; merchants are still engaged in buying and selling; publications are still issuing one upon another; men are jostling one against another, seeking to get the highest place; pleasure lovers are still attending theaters, horse races, gambling hells, and the highest excitement prevails; **but probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided.** There are few who believe with heart and soul that we have a heaven to win and a hell to shun; but these show their faith by their works."—*Counsels to Parents & Teachers*, 413-414.

"Christ will never abandon the soul for whom He has died. The soul may leave Him, and be overwhelmed with temptation; but Christ can never turn from one for whom He has paid the ransom of His own life. **Could our spiritual vision be quickened,** we should see souls bowed under oppression and burdened with grief, pressed as a cart beneath sheaves, and ready to die in discouragement. **We should see angels flying swiftly to aid these tempted ones,** who are standing as on the brink of a precipice. The angels from heaven force back the hosts of evil that encompass these souls, and guide them to plant their feet on the sure foundation. **The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the**

armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend.

"To us, as to Peter, the word is spoken, 'Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.' Thank God, we are not left alone.

"We are coming to the crisis. Let us stand the test manfully, grasping the hand of Infinite Power. God will work for us. We have only to live one day at a time, and if we get acquainted with God, He will give us strength for what is coming tomorrow. **Grace sufficient for each day, and every day will find its own victories,** just as it finds its trials. We shall have the power of the Highest with us, for we shall be clad with the armor of Christ's righteousness. **We have the same God that has worked for His people in ages past. Jesus stands by our side, and shall we falter?—No,** as the trials come, the power of God will come with them. God will help us to stand in faith on His Word, and when we are united, He will work with special power in our behalf."—*My Life Today*, 94.

"As Jesus rested by faith in the Father's care, so we are to rest in the care of our Saviour. If the disciples had trusted in Him, they would have been kept in peace. Their fear in the time of danger revealed their unbelief. In their efforts to save themselves, they forgot Jesus; and it was only when, in despair of self-dependence, they turned to Him that He could give them help.

"How often the disciples' experience is ours! When the tempests of temptation gather, and the fierce lightnings flash, and the waves sweep over us, **we battle with the storm alone, forgetting that there is One who can help us.** We trust to our own strength till our hope is lost, and we are ready to perish. Then we remember Jesus, and if we call upon Him to save us, we shall not cry in vain. **Though He sorrowfully reproves our unbelief and self-confidence, He never fails to give us the help we need.** Whether on the land or on the sea, **if we have the Saviour in our hearts, there is no need of fear.** Living faith in the Redeemer will smooth the sea of life, and will deliver us from danger in the way that He knows to be best."—*Desire of Ages*, 336.