

Increasing Disasters

AND WHY ALL THIS IS HAPPENING

PART ONE
OF TWO

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An intensity of evil is gripping the world; and it is accompanied by increasing disasters. We are so close to the end. Oh, my people, move to the country as quickly as you are able to do so. The Final Crisis will soon be upon us.

Here is a brief overview of these predicted disasters, many of which have already begun.

DISASTERS NOW AND LATER

“The world is a theater; the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. **With the great masses of mankind there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes.** God is looking on. His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. The world has not been given into the hands of men, though **God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama**—Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. **Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy.** The cause will be followed by the effect.”—*8 Testimonies*, 27-28.

“Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today. **More and more the world is setting at nought the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity.** This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. **When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself.** He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”—*7 Testimonies*, 141.

“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.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 278.

“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*, October 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.

“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 king-

dom, 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 restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. **Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession.** Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; **but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there shall be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.**”—6 *Testimonies*, 408.

“**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 forecast 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.”—9 *Testimonies*, 11.

“**The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal.** The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! **Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature,** wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purpose may be read. **They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.**”—*Prophets and Kings*, 277.

“**Men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress and enlightenment; but the heavenly watchers see the earth filled with corruption and violence.** Because of sin the atmosphere of our world has become as the atmosphere of a pesthouse.”—6 *Testimonies*, 10.

“**We are living in the midst of an ‘epidemic of crime’ at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast.** The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of

human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. **Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity** to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?”—*Ministry of Healing*, 142-143.

“**The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations,** and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world **are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation.** The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. Even now, in the present century, and in professedly Christian lands, there are crimes daily perpetrated, as black and terrible as those for which the old-world sinners were destroyed. Before the flood, God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction. **As the time of Christ’s second appearing draws near, the Lord sends His servants with a warning to the world to prepare for that great event.** Multitudes have been living in transgression of God’s law, and now He in mercy calls them to obey its sacred precepts. All who will put away their sins, by repentance toward God and faith in Christ, are offered pardon.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 102.

“**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.”—9 *Testimonies*, 11.

“**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.

“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.**”—9 *Testimonies*, 16.

“**Satan is now seeking to hold God’s people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth,** that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting.”—1 *Testimonies*, 260.

“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.**”—9 Testimonies, 14.

“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land . . . My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. **Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion.** Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men’s hearts failed them for fear, ‘and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.’”—1 Testimonies, 268.

“This is a time of spiritual darkness in the churches of the world. Ignorance of divine things has hidden God and the truth from view. **The forces of evil are gathering in strength. Satan flatters his coworkers that he will do a work that will captivate the world.** While partial inactivity has come upon the church, **Satan and his hosts are intensely active.** The professed Christian churches are not converting the world; for they are themselves corrupted with selfishness and pride, and need to feel the converting power of God in their midst before they can lead others to a purer or higher standard.”—9 Testimonies, 65.

“Wickedness is reaching a height never before attained, and yet many ministers of the gospel are crying, ‘Peace and safety.’ But God’s faithful messengers are to go steadily forward with their work. **Clothed with the panoply of heaven, they are to advance fearlessly** and victoriously, never ceasing their warfare until every soul within their reach shall have received the message of truth for this time.”—Acts of the Apostles, 220.

“There is a cause for alarm in the condition of the religious world today. God’s mercy has been trifled with. The multitude make void the law of Jehovah, ‘teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.’ Infidelity prevails in many of the churches in our land; not infidelity in its broadest sense—an open denial of the Bible—but an infidelity that is robed in the garb of Christianity, while it is undermining faith in the Bible as a revelation from God. Fervent devotion and vital piety have given place to hollow formalism. As the result, apostasy and sensualism prevail. Christ declared, ‘As it was in the days of Lot . . . even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.’ **The daily record of passing events testifies to the fulfillment of His words. The world is fast becoming ripe for destruction. Soon the judgments of God are to be poured out,** and sin and sinners are to be con-

sumed.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, 166.

“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.**”—9 Testimonies, 97.

“Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve and those who serve Him not. **Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain.**”—9 Testimonies, 15-16.

“In the time of distress and perplexity of nations there will be many who have not given themselves wholly to the corrupting influences of the world and the service of Satan, who will humble themselves before God, and turn to Him with their whole heart and find acceptance and pardon.”—1 Testimonies, 269.

“There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. **All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light,** for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.”—Acts of the Apostles, 109.

“From Elijah’s experience during those days of discouragement and apparent defeat, there are many lessons to be drawn, lessons invaluable to the servants of God in this age, marked as it is by general departure from right. **The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet’s day overspread Israel.** In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and **in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal.** Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. **It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the Word.** The law of God, the divine standard of righteousness, is declared to be of no effect. **The enemy of all truth is working with deceptive power to cause men and women to place human institutions where God should be,** and to forget that which was ordained for the happiness and salvation of mankind. Yet this apostasy, widespread as it has come to be, is not universal. Not all in the world are lawless and sinful; not all have taken sides with the enemy. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal, many who long to understand more fully in regard to Christ and the law, many who are hoping against hope that Jesus will come soon to end the reign of sin and death. And **there are many who have been worshipping Baal ignorantly, but with**

whom the Spirit of God is still striving.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 170-171.

SOON A SUDDEN CHANGE

“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.”—*Evangelism*, 29-30.

“**There will soon be a sudden change in God’s dealings. The world in its perversity is being visited by casualties,—by floods, storms, fires, earthquakes, famines, wars, and bloodshed.** The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power; yet He will not at all acquit the wicked. ‘The Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.’ **O that men might understand the patience and longsuffering of God! He is putting under restraint His own attributes.** His omnipotent power is under the control of Omnipotence. O that men would understand that God refuses to be wearied out with the world’s perversity, and still holds out the hope of forgiveness even to the most undeserving! **But His forbearance will not always continue.** Who is prepared for the sudden change that will take place in God’s dealing with sinful men? Who will be prepared to escape the punishment that will certainly fall upon transgressors?”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 356-357.

“**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).

“**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*, 413 (November 12, 1903).

“**The world is filled with transgression. A spirit of lawlessness pervades every land, and is especially manifest in the great cities of the earth.** The sin and crime to be seen in our cities is appalling. 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.”—*Life Sketches*, 415.

“**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.”—*Evangelism*, 27 (*Manuscript 35*, 1906).

WE MUST AROUSE TO ACTION

“**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**

Increasing Disasters

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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.”—*Life Sketches*, 415.

“It is on the law of God that the last great struggle of the controversy between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels will come, and it will be decisive for all the world . . . Men in responsible positions will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but from the sacred desk will urge upon the people the observance of the first day of the week, pleading tradition and custom in behalf of this man-made institution. **They will point to calamities on land and sea—to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire—as judgments indicating God’s displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed. These calamities will increase more and more,** one disaster will follow close upon the heels of another; and those who make void the law of God will point to the few who are keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment as the ones who are bringing wrath upon the world. **This falsehood is Satan’s device that he may ensnare the unwary.**”—*Christian Service*, 155 (*Southern Watchman*, June 28, 1904).

“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).

“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? . . .

“O that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry.”—*Evangelism*, 29 (*Review*, September 10, 1903).

“We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the

way of the Lord’s messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. **We must look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible** in aggressive warfare.”—*Evangelism*, 30-31.

VISIONS OF GREAT DESTRUCTIONS

“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.

“The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at lofty and supposedly fireproof 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 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*, 414 (*April 26, 1906*).

“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

LESSONS FROM THE FLOOD

“At this time [during the Flood] immense forests were buried. These have since been changed to coal, forming the extensive coal beds that now exist, and also yielding large quantities of oil. The **coal and oil frequently ignite and burn beneath the surface of the earth.** Thus rocks are heated, limestone is burned, and iron ore melted. The action of the water upon the lime adds fury to the intense heat, and **causes earthquakes, volcanoes, and fiery issues.** As the fire and water come in contact with ledges of rock and ore, there are heavy explosions underground, which sound like muffled thunder. The air is hot and suffocating. Volcanic eruptions follow; and these often failing to give sufficient vent to the heated elements, the earth itself is convulsed, **the ground heaves and swells like the waves of the sea, great fissures appear, and sometimes cities, villages, and burning mountains are swallowed up. These wonderful manifestations will be more and more frequent** and terrible just before the second coming of Christ and the end of the world, as signs of its speedy destruction.

“**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:** ‘Oh that Thou wouldest rend the heavens, that Thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at Thy presence, as when the melting fire burneth, **the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries,** that the nations may tremble at Thy presence! When Thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, Thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at Thy presence.’ Isaiah 64:1-3. **‘The Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers.’** Nahum 1:3, 4.

“**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 pres-

ence, 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.

“**‘I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.’** Acts 2:19. ‘And **there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake,** such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.’ **‘And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail** out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent.’ Revelation 16:18, 20, 21.

“**‘As lightnings from heaven unite with the fire in the earth, the mountains will burn like a furnace, and will pour forth terrific streams of lava,** overwhelming gardens and fields, villages and cities. **Seething molten masses thrown into the rivers will cause the waters to boil, sending forth massive rocks with indescribable violence** and scattering their broken fragments upon the land. **Rivers will be dried up. The earth will be convulsed; everywhere there will be dreadful earthquakes and eruptions.**

“**‘Thus God will destroy the wicked from off the earth. But the righteous will be preserved** in the midst of these commotions, as Noah was preserved in the ark. **God will be their refuge, and under His wings shall they trust.** Says the psalmist: ‘Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee.’ Psalm 91:9, 10. **‘In the time of trouble He shall hide me** in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me.’ Psalm 27:5. God’s promise is, **‘Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him:** I will set him on high, because he hath known My name.’ Psalm 91:14.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets, 108-110.*

“Those majestic trees which God had caused to grow upon the earth, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the old world, and which they had used to form into idols, and to corrupt themselves with, God has reserved in the earth, in the shape of coal and oil to use as agencies in their final destruction. As He called forth the waters in the earth at the time of the Flood, as weapons from His arsenal to accomplish the destruction of the antediluvian race, so at the end of the one thousand years He will call forth the fires in the earth as His weapons which He has reserved for the final destruction, not only of successive generations since the Flood, but the antediluvian race who perished by the Flood.”—*1 Bible Commentary, 1090-1091.*

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.*

“Last Friday morning, just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep but was not in my home. **From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction.** It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable. After a time I awoke and found myself at home.”—*Evangelism, 29 (Letter 278, 1906).*

“In the night I was, I thought, in a room but not in my own house. **I was in a city, where I knew not, and I heard explosion after explosion. I rose up quickly in bed, and saw from my window large balls of fire. Jetting out were sparks, in the form of arrows, and buildings were being consumed,** and in a very few minutes the entire block of buildings was falling and the screeching and mournful groans came distinctly to my ears. I cried out, in my raised position, to learn what was happening: Where am I? And where are our family circle? Then I awoke.” —*11 Manuscript Releases, 361 (Diary, August 1906).*

“**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.”—*Evangelism, 27 (Manuscript 154, 1902).*

“I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story [in New York City]: **‘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 fearfulfulness of which we cannot imagine.”—*Life Sketches, 411-412.*

“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).*

CATASTROPHES IN THE COMING CRISIS

“**Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race,** healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; **but at the same time he works as a destroyer.** His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. **Satan delights in war,** for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.

“**Satan works through the elements also** to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. **Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard.** He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

“**While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation.** Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by

land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. **These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.** Destruction will be upon both man and beast. 'The earth mourneth and fadeth away,' 'the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.' Isaiah 24:4-5.

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. **It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath;** that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity."—*Great Controversy*, 589-590.

MORE AFTER PROBATION CLOSES

"When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. **The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn.** Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. **Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble.** As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.

"A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. **The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God commands, will be exercised by evil angels when He permits.** There

are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere.

"Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing judgments upon the world, and **they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the strife and bloodshed among men** that are filling the earth with woe. The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked; their anger is kindled against all who have received the message, and **Satan will excite to still greater intensity the spirit of hatred and persecution.**"—*Great Controversy*, 614-615.

WHEN THE VOICE OF GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE

"It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. **The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene,** while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. **Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up** and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: 'It is done.' Revelation 16:17.

"That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, 'such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.' Verses 17, 18. The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. **The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered** on every side. **There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of a hurricane** like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. **The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear.** The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters. Babylon the great has come in remembrance before God, 'to give unto her the cup of the fierceness of His wrath.' Great hailstones, every one 'about the weight of a talent,' are doing their work of destruction. Verses 19, 21. **The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. The lordly palaces, upon which the world's great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling** to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and God's people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free."—*Great Controversy*, 636-637.