

A Terrible Destruction is Coming

STATEMENT BY ELDER ANDREW PETERS

On November 27, 1982, Elder Andrew Peters, a retired pastor, delivered a sermon in the Vallejo Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Glendale, California. The following was transcribed from a tape recording of that sermon. We understand that Elder Peters has since then passed to his rest.

After speaking at length on the end-time messages found in the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, Elder Peters urged our people to carefully study her last books, including Volume Nine of the "Testimonies."

We will begin our tape transcription of his sermon at this point:

Volume Nine of the "Testimonies" is one volume that should take more of our time than the other eight, although they are all important. But the ninth volume puts an emphasis on the end-time events and the work of God concerning the Sabbath truth and the sealing. All that is involved in the closing days of the world's history is presented here with great power.

I want to refer to page 92,—to an item or two here in Volume Nine. It is interesting to know that Glendale, California, is mentioned in this particular volume,—the only place that it is found in the Spirit of Prophecy, as far as place and location is concerned [9 Testimonies, page 93:4] Beginning with page 92, we read these words:

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

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

"The angel that stood at 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 refused 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.

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

"On April 18, two days after the scene of falling buildings had passed before me, I went to fill an appointment in the Carr Street Church, Los Angeles. As we neared the church we heard the newsboys crying: "San Francisco destroyed by an earthquake!" With a heavy heart I read the first hastily printed news of the terrible disaster.

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

And all this Ellen White saw just before coming to Glendale [California]. So now this brings us right home here . . .

I remember when I started my pastoral work in the Southern California Conference. I began my work at Santa Monica with evangelistic meetings with one of my close friends in college, Brother Wilbur Alexander (who is still with the Loma Linda University, instructing over there).

We had heard that Ellen White had a certain vision [a different vision than the one mentioned in 9T 92-94] at Loma Linda, after which she called all of the [Loma Linda Sanitarium or College of Medical Evangelists] board members together at five o'clock in the morning.

We found out which members of this Board were present. One was Dan Parsons (and also Brother Rogers, and several others who could give us information about this occasion.) For it so happened that Dan Parsons was very closely associated with Ellen G. White when she worked in Southern California. In fact, he worked with Ellen White fifteen years,—very closely with her. Another member on this board was a certain Dr. Julia White . . . She too was present at this meeting that took place at 5 a.m. in the morning. Brother Dan Parsons gave us this information.

Therefore Brother Wilbur [Alexander] and I decided to go down to Vista in the Oceanside area, where he was serving as a judge in his retirement years. We asked him about those early years while he was working with Ellen G. White in Southern California. He told us quite a few things at that time.

He said, "I will never forget,—I will never forget that meeting! It was in the winter time."

He said, "Willie White [W.C. White, her son] went from one room to another where the board members were sleeping and woke them all up saying, 'Hurry up, hurry and get dressed—and come to the chapel at once! She had a vision during the night and she is very deeply troubled about it. She was told by

the angel to tell it immediately to the board members, and asked that you come to the chapel."

Dan Parsons then said, "I remember walking into that cold chapel that morning. Sister White was sitting down in the front pew with a shawl wrapped around her, because it was so cold in there. Finally when the entire group had assembled, she got up, and she actually shook for five minutes. She opened her mouth but she couldn't speak. Words could not come out.

Finally after five minutes she began to talk, and said:

"Brethren during the night vision, I saw the most terrible scenes before me. It was destruction,—total destruction on all sides. I heard the cries of the dying, from the seacoast—from Los Angeles to Pasadena,—the entire Los Angeles area."

"which also included Loma Linda, Redlands, San Bernardino and Riverside,—all destroyed by some massive force, whatever it was. Then she continued to speak:

"This is coming; I was shown this. And the angel said to me: **EVANGELIZE, EVANGELIZE, EVANGELIZE, while you have time left!**"

"That was the message. Ellen White did not describe what devastation would take place, or what type [of thing] would cause it. But that was the message."

Well, we were quite concerned about this, for we were working in Los Angeles at the time. Anxious to know more about this vision, we learned of only one other survivor of this group who was present at that board meeting in Loma Linda. And that was Dr. Julia White.

So we went and looked her up. We went to her home. She had already retired for the evening, but she was very gracious and invited us into her home. So we asked her about this particular vision at Loma Linda.

She said, "YES, YES, YES,—how well I recall it! What you are telling me is true."

She was not very well, so I did not talk very much.

Later when I went to the Potomac University, when Andrews University was first getting started as a university; in 1950 they had it in Takoma Park [Maryland, known then as our Theological Seminary]. I then talked to Elder Arthur White, the grandson of Ellen White, and asked him if he was acquainted with this vision.

He then replied, "Very well, Sir; very well."

But he said, "Do you know that in no place do we have a record of it in writing."

And he said, "But it is true. We have it documented by some who were present when the vision was presented, way back then."

Then he added, "I cannot give you more details because that is all that we know about it. But we do know that Ellen White had this vision."

Well, now that brings us right to the time in which we live. You will notice that in the context of the Volume Nine vision [9 Testimonies, pages 92 and onward], of what took place in San Francisco afterward [pages 94-95], and then in another vision [the unwritten one],—she was shown what would happen to the entire Los Angeles area [and very likely to many other large urban centers also].

STATEMENT BY ELDER G.A. STEVENS

The following statement was written by Elder G.A. Stevens, 512 Elmshaven Road, St. Helena, California 94574. We understand that it was originally given in a sermon he preached in Northern California:

Here is a letter that was handed me at dinner time. This is a most astounding letter. I know it is true because I know the minister [referred to in the letter] who was there at the United Nations Assembly [in New York City]. In fact, he is a friend of my son (who is the personnel manager of the ___ Sanitarium. The letter reads as follows:

"Elder ___ attended the United Nations meeting last

year, and gave a picture of what men in the world are talking about. One U.N. official said:

"There is one spot on the map to watch day and night. Supernatural agencies are at work around Palestine and the East. Furthermore, powers outside of man are working miracles there."

"Plans are now being made for the United Nations organization to die (be dissolved), and for it to be replaced by a World Court which will take over everyone's checking account, all savings deposits, all property, real and otherwise; and every man, woman and child will be issued a number and given a certain amount of money which is already printed for this purpose and awaiting a time for its use. This money, already printed, is in the banks today."

"What a solemn time we have come to! The trap is set. Each individual will have his or her part to play in the government, or commerce, or industry, or farming.

"[Here is] another statement from this U.N. representative: 'The outlay calls for a complete union of church and state, as well as for universal form of worship and a fixed day of worship for every nation on earth; and Sunday must be that day of worship.'

"When an individual receives his number—and everyone is going to receive a number,—he will be given certain rights of buying and selling."

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark."—Revelation 13:16-17.

"As the Sabbath has become a special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the state, ought not to be tolerated; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion and lawlessness. The same argument eighteen hundred years ago was brought against Christ by the "rulers of the people." "It is expedient for us," said the wily Caiaphas, "that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." [Great Controversy, page 615]

"Ellen White said:

"This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death." Great Controversy, 615.

"Isn't that something for a United Nations representative to say? Our church elder, representing us at the U.N. meeting referred to above, arose to ask a question. When given the floor he asked:

"What will happen to any minority group who might resist or refuse to go along with the plan?"

The speaker turned to our minister and said,

"There would be a cloud over every member who refuses to cooperate. They would blank out his number, that is, his right to buy and sell would be cancelled—and he would face annihilation."

"You didn't know it was that close, did you? You didn't know the whole stage was set up for the 'Mark of the Beast,' the number of his name, for Sunday laws, for the fall of the United Nations, and the setting up of the great papal institution,—the World Court? It is right here."

[The conclusion of the quoted letter also terminates Elder G.A. Stevens' statement.]

We shall soon release another tract, entitled "STORM AHEAD!" which will contain additional material along this line. —vf