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Duty of the Congregation on the Day of Atonement

Shalom my brethren. I take this chance to remind us of the time we are living in and our duties for such time as this. We are living in a solemn time when all of us has a soul to win, a heaven to aim and a hell to shun. Each of us must appear individually before the throne of God for judgment [2Cor 5:10] and if that's the case, if our names may be called tonight, how shall we appear before the Lord. In Jewish economy of types, there was a day called "The Day of At-Onement". We are living in antitype of the same since 1844. One may ask, why is it that in type it was one day but in antitype it has taken more than 172 years? That's a question for another day. What I know is that because of his mercies, days have been prolonged that it should be [2Peter 3:9]. What does the Bible say about this day?

Leviticus 23:26-32:

26: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 27: Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an **holy convocation unto you**; and ye shall **afflict your souls**, and **offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD**. 28: And ye shall **do no work in that same day**: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. 29: For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. 30: And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. 31: Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 32: It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

Joel 2:15-17

15: Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: 16: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. 17: Let the **priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar**, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

There were some duties the children were expected to do in the daily ministration of sanctuary services; but when the Day of Atonement came, there were special requirements enjoined upon them during that day, which, if they failed to observe, they were cut off from the people of Israel. God was not a God of Jew alone but all flesh [Psalms 24:1]. The very requirements expected from the Jews during the types is expected of during the antotypical service of the sanctuary for the sanctuary is a plan of redemption not for Jews but for all the people

1Corinthians 10:11: Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Romans 2:28: For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

The duties required then and now:

1. *Holy Convocation*
2. *Afflict Soul*

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3. Offer an offering made by fire
4. Do no work
5. ***[The priests, the ministers of the LORD to weep between the porch and the altar]**

No one was represented on that day by proxy Leviticus 23:29, 30. In antitypical, the same applies [Revelation 22:12]. It behooves us then to search our hearts closely lest we are found wanting in the balances of the sanctuary. In the ancient service, if an individual failed to keep the day of atonement as God directed, his sins were not confessed over the scapegoat by the high priest; but he was cut off from among the people of God Leviticus 23:28-30. The individual who, during the antitypical day of atonement, or the investigative judgment, thinks that Christ will plead his case while he himself ignores the work God has enjoined upon the antitypical congregation, will find at last that his name is blotted out from the book of life.

Holy Convocation

The children of Israel were to assemble for religious worship. Paul cautions individuals who, in the days when the High Priest should soon come forth from the heavenly sanctuary, would forsake the religious assembly:

Hebrews 10:21-25

21: And having an high priest over the house of God; 22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23: Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

It's a strange thing that some presently call themselves Christians yet they would not gather to worship with others but sit alone in the house, watch sermons and yet claim to be meeting this requirement of holy convocation of the Day of Atonement. There is a special blessing in worshiping with others. God promises that where even two or three are gathered in His name, He will meet with them Matthew 18:20. Iron sharpens an iron and how it would that work when one sets themselves as independent atom!

Afflict Soul

What is this issue of afflicting Soul?

Hosea 5:15: I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

Ezra 8:21: Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

We are required as they were to search our hearts individually and put away every sin, spend much time in prayer. Enjoined to this was special diet and clothing by the high priest:

Leviticus 6:30: And no sin offering, whereof any of the blood is brought into the tabernacle of the congregation to reconcile withal in the holy place, shall be eaten: it shall be burnt in the fire.

Exodus 28:2: And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

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Now you would wonder why I mentioned the requirement of the High Priest while am talking about the "The Duty of the congregation", notice friends

1Peter 2:9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

I hear and read a lot of stuff and debates on what the people waiting for Christ should be eating and wearing. This shows that we are waiting for Christ in ignorance to the sanctuary requirements on us on such a day. Friends, the fact that the High Priest was not allowed to eat flesh on this day and we are a royal priesthood should convince us not to eat flesh on this day not even for health reasons. The priest was dressed from up to bottom, this had a spiritual and a literal representation attached to it. Glory which is character; and beauty which is appearance. Would the attire you are putting on be desired by the High Priest to put on? Friend what is mine and your case when our names may appear before the heavenly tribunal? Shall we be like the foolish virgins to realize we ought to what we had to do when the door of probation is already closed? In the typical service the congregation in the court listened for the tinkling of the golden bells on the robes of the high priest, and in that way followed him in his work. Our High Priest has given signs in the heavens, in the earth, and among the nations to mark the progress of His work; and he said that when we see these signs fulfilled we are to know that He is near, even at the door Luke 21:25-33; Matthew 24:29-35. Drunkenness and self worship as it were in the days of Lot Ezekiel 16:49 has become prevalent in this procrastinating generation that the love of God and his requirements has been ignored by professed Christians. There should be a complete control of the appetite and deportment as it were in the typical Day of Atonement.

1Corinthians 10:31: Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

God calls upon His people to be masters of their appetites instead of slaves to it, that they may have clearer minds to comprehend divine truth and follow the work of their High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary. What shall b the end of this intemperance?

Isaiah 22:12-14

22: And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth: 13: And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die. 14: And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

The Saviour gave special warning against the evil of giving loose rein to the appetite during the time when the records of human lives are being examined and individuals are being accounted worthy or unworthy of eternal life: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. Watch ye therefore, and pray that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" Luke 21:34-36. The warning is against "surfeiting"-overeating, and "drunkenness "-eating injurious food. In other words, the Saviour designs that His people, during the antitypical Day of Atonement, shall take heed to both the quantity and the quality of their food. One can becloud the mind and ruin the health by overeating of the best of food. The glutton and the drunkard are classed together: "Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh; for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty" Proverbs 23:20, 21.cOur first parents failed on the test of appetite; Genesis 3:1-6 but

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where they failed, Christ triumphed Matthew 4:3, 4. And it is possible for a Christian, with the indwelling Christ in the heart, to be complete master of his appetite,-to abstain from all food that is injurious, however much the natural appetite may crave it, and not to overeat of good food. As He entered upon His earthly ministry, the Saviour was not only tested upon the point of appetite, but from childhood He was taught to control His desires. In speaking of His childhood, Isaiah says, "Butter and honey shall He eat, that He may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good" Isaiah 7:14,15. His manner of eating developed in Him spiritual power to discern between good and evil. Many who have gone into drunkards' graves have eaten "butter and honey," but Jesus ate it in a way to develop spiritual strength. He ate it according to the Bible rule. Of what shall be said of this generation?

Proverb 30:12-14

12: There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. 13: There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. 14: There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

May we repent of our ignorance and be converted.

Offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord

The offerings made by fire were consumed upon the altar. In the antitype we do not offer burnt-offerings of bullocks and rams; but God expects us to fulfil the antitype of the offering consumed upon the altar. He desires that the "whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;" 1 Thessalonians 5:23 that the entire life of the Christian be laid upon the altar, ready to be used as the Lord directs. None can do this who do not daily accept Christ as their sin-offering, and know what it is to be "accepted in the Beloved." Paul under inspiration writes:

Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2: And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Have we offered ourselves fully to God or there is still apart of us that still lives?

Ga:2:19: For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Ga:2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Ga:2:21: I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Philippians 3:7-21

7: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11: If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12: Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13:

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Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15: Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16: Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. 17: Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18: (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20: For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

The only way to live is to die. Allow Christ consume everything in us that is carnal and let the gospel become a personality in our life. This is how righteousness is obtained, surrender of self and distrust of our will and accept the working of the Holy Spirit. When we die we dies on the altar as Jesus did and resurrect with him Romans 6:1-11

Do no Work

The Day of Atonement was a "Sabbath" Leviticus 23:31. All work was laid aside, and the entire thought was given to seeking God and serving Him. God's work was given the first thought during the entire day. Such was the type; but it does not follow that on the antitypical day of atonement no one should attend to personal business, for God never intended His people to be "slothful in business" Romans 12:11. He promises to bless them in temporal things if they fulfil the antitype by looking after His work and service first, and their temporal interests second Matthew 6:31-33. This was beautifully taught by the Saviour's words: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with...cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" Luke 21:34. In such time as this should christinas and heathens be competing to be possesers of this passing world?

2Corinthians 4:4: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Some have taken the position on even contending with Jesus to tell their unconverted brother to share inheritance with them Luke 12:13. Satan is liable to entrap more well-meaning people in this snare than in any other of his many deceptions. He often persuades good people that the daily cares of the household are so important that they have no time to study God's word and pray, until, for lack of spiritual food and communion with God, they become so weak spiritually that they accept the doubts and unbelief the enemy is constantly presenting. When the time comes that they think they do have time to study their Bibles, they find they have lost all relish for God's word. There is a lack of Matthew 6:33 amongst us that all we have is inverted priorities. God is testing the great antitypical congregation. Who will fulfil the antitype, and not forsake the assembly of God's people? Who will keep a clear mind by controlling the appetite, and a pure heart by prayer and deep heart-searching? Who will lay all their interests upon God's altar, to be used for His glory, and never let the "cares of this life" crowd out God's work or a study of His word?

Beloved, I cannot **OVEREMPHASIZE** the "Duty of the Congregation" on the Day of Atonement. If anyone is interested in this issue, let them read Isaiah 58, "Our Present Duties". This is how the Sabbath will be proclaimed more fully. This will usher in the Loud Cry. The duty of the

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congregation on the Day of Atonement was not to investigate the steps of the enemy but to search their hearts and pray that the sacrifice would be accepted. There are some things which are important but does not produce righteousness. An I wonder if on the Day of Atonement there was debates and name-calling and seeking of dis-unity.

Follows the Close of Probation

Isaiah 55:6: Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Amos 8:11-14

11: Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: 12: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. 13: In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst. 14: They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beer-sheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again.

Isaiah 3:13: The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.

Isaiah 59:15-18

15: Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment. 16: And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. 17: For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke. 18: According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence.

Exodus 40:31-35

31: And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat: 32: When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses. 33: And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. 34: Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35: And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

1Kings 8:10: And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11: So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Isaiah 59:15-18

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5: And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7: And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8: And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

1. The first beast's wound is healed (church-state unite in Europe) (Rev. 13:3, 12)
2. America then brings down the fire to deceive people (Rev. 13:13)
3. The Image of the first beast (church-state union) is made in America (Rev. 13:14)
4. The Mark of the Beast (the Sunday law) is enforced (Rev. 13:16)
5. The Pope becomes king of the north, the visible leader of spiritual Babylon (Dan. 11:40)
6. The war against the allied atheist powers begins (Dan. 11:40)
7. The Church is persecuted and shaken, and many people leave it (Dan. 11:41)
8. The atheist nations are completely overthrown, spiritual Babylon triumphs (Dan. 11:42)
9. The no buy and no sell law is enforced worldwide (Dan. 11:43; Rev. 13:17)
10. The latter rain, loud cry, and sealing of the remnant take place (Dan. 11:44a; Rev. 18)
11. Satan instigates a death decree against Sabbath keepers (Dan. 11:44b; Rev. 13:15)
12. Satan then appears as Christ in a last attempt to deceive the remnant (Dan. 11:45)
13. Jesus finishes His work, stands for His people, and the time of trouble begins (COP) (Dan. 12:1)
14. The plagues fall to destroy Babylon and the remnant are delivered (Dan. 11:45b; 12:1, Rev. 16)
15. The first and special resurrections take place (Dan. 12:2)
16. Jesus then returns and His people will shine forever (Dan. 12:3)
17. Satan's final destruction happens after the millennium (Dan. 11:45b; Rev. 20)

Rev 16:3 and the second angel (second plague) poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

Just as the supernatural plague will incur death, so the heathen will only think the way to avert it is by death. During paganism and heathenism, when there was a plague and there was so much death, what they did was to offer their children for the plague to cease, Eccl 1:9 says there is nothing new under the sun, so as it was in the beginning so shall it be in the end.

Notice:

2Kings 3:26, 27: And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not. Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

But we ask, why should they do such a thing?

John 16:2: They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

I will like you to notice a few things also concerning the death decree being at the second plague. In the following quote you will notice that at the issuing of the Sunday Law before probation closes, small minority refuses to surrender to the papacy which enforces her to issue a death decree. But notice, the world will be plunged in Jacob's Time of Trouble when the death decree is

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passed and we believe according to Daniel 12:1 immediately the probation closes and no one is allowed to seal the testimony with their blood because it will not lead to any salvation of anyone: As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the 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 many centuries 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." John 11:50. 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. Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts. {GC 615.2} The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble. "Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jeremiah 30:5-7. {GC 616.1}

Sounds like a drastic change

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.—The Great Controversy, 614 (1911).

Restraining Spirit of God Being Withdrawn

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.—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 408. {ChS 52.1}

In the day of the Lord, just before the coming of Christ, God will send lightnings from heaven in his wrath, which will unite with fire in the earth. The mountains will burn like a furnace, and will pour forth terrible streams of lava, destroying gardens and fields, villages and cities; and as they pour their melted ore, rocks and heated mud, into the rivers, will cause them to boil like a pot, and send forth massive rocks, and scatter their broken fragments upon the land with indescribable violence. Whole rivers will be dried up. The earth will be convulsed, and there will be dreadful eruptions and earthquakes everywhere. God will plague the wicked inhabitants of the earth until they are destroyed from off it. The saints are preserved in the earth in the midst of these dreadful commotions, as Noah was preserved in the ark at the time of the flood. {1SP 84.4}

When the death decree is enforced no one will die at this point, notice:

The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases

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anticipate the decree, and before the time specified, will endeavor to take their lives. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some are assailed in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall powerless as a straw. Others are defended by angels in the form of men of war. {GC 631.1}

The eye of God, looking down the ages, was fixed upon the crisis which His people are to meet, when earthly powers shall be arrayed against them. Like the captive exile, they will be in fear of death by starvation or by violence. But the Holy One who divided the Red Sea before Israel, will manifest His mighty power and turn their captivity. "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Malachi 3:17. If the blood of Christ's faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness. Says the psalmist: "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. Christ has spoken: "Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." Isaiah 26:20, 21. Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for His coming and whose names are written in the book of life. {GC 634.1}

LITTLE TIME OF TROUBLE

Isa:13:9: Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. :10: For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. :11: And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.:12: I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.:13: Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.:14: And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.:15: Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword.:16: Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.

MORPHING IN GREAT TIME OF TROUBLE

Isaiah 33:13: Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might.:14: The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?:15: He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;:16: He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.:17: Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

WHEN THE PLAGUES START FALLING THEN THIS IS FULFILLED

Psalms 91:1: He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.:2: I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.:3: Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the

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noisome pestilence.:4: He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.:5: Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that fieth by day;:6: Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.:7: A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.:8: Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.:9: Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;:10: There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.:11: For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.:12: They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.:13: Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.:14: 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.:15: He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.:16: With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

WHEN SHOULD WE FLEE?***The Signal for Fleeing***

It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation, in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath, will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize.-- Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 464, 465. (1885) {CL 32.1}

AT A LITTLE TIME OF TROUBLE HOW SHALL WE FIND FOOD?

My warning is: Keep out of the cities. Build no sanitariums in the cities. Educate our people to get out of the cities into the country, where they can obtain a small piece of land, and make a home for themselves and their children.{CL 10.4}

We cannot fail to see that the end of the world is soon to come. Satan is working upon the minds of men and women, and many seem filled with a desire for amusement and excitement. As it was in the days of Noah, every kind of evil is on the increase. Divorce and marriage is the order of the time. At such a time as this, the people who are seeking to keep the commandments of God should look for retired places away from the cities. . . . {CL 14.3}

Fathers and mothers who possess a piece of land and a comfortable home are kings and queens. {CL 18.2}

HOW IS IT THAT AFTER PROBATION HAS CLOSED SOME SAINT WILL STILL BE IN THE CITIES?

More and more, as time advances, our people will have to leave the cities. For years we have been instructed that our brethren and sisters, and especially families with children, should plan to leave the cities as the way opens before them to do so. Many will have to labor earnestly to help open the way. But until it is possible for them to leave, so long as they remain, they should be most active in doing missionary work, however limited their sphere of influence may be.-- Review and Herald, Sept. 27, 1906. {CL 24.4}

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When iniquity abounds in a nation, there is always to be heard some voice giving warning and instruction, as the voice of Lot was heard in Sodom. Yet Lot could have preserved his family from many evils, had he not made his home in this wicked, polluted city. All that Lot and his family did in Sodom could have been done by them, even if they had lived in a place some distance away from the city {CL 30.5}

Keep out of the cities. Build no sanitariums in the cities. Educate our people to get out of the cities into the country, where they can obtain a small piece of land, and make a home for themselves and their children. . {CL 10.4}

HOW SHALL WE FEED IN GREAT TIME OF TROUBLE?

Isaiah 33:16: He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.:17: Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

Isa:43:1: But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.:2: When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

1Kings 17:1: And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. :2: And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,:3: Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. :4: And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. :5: So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.:6: And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation and suffer for want of food they will not be left to perish. That God who cared for Elijah will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He who numbers the hairs of their head will care for them, and in time of famine they shall be satisfied. While the wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, angels will shield the righteous and supply their wants. To him that "walketh righteously" is the promise: "Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them." *Isaiah 33:15, 16; 41:17. {DD 44.1}*

THE DEATH DECREE EXECUTION AT THE SIXTH PLAGUE, HOW WILL WE FAIR?

1Kings 19:1: And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.:2: Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.:3: And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.:4: But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.:5: And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.:6: And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink,

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and laid him down again.:7: And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. :8: And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

WHAT IS OUR PRESENT DUTIES AND SHOULD WE BE MAKING PROVISIONS?

It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize. Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory in giving the warning to the world. God has a work for His collaborators to do in the cities. Our missions must be sustained; new missions must be opened. To carry forward this work successfully will require no small outlay. Houses of worship are needed, where the people may be invited to hear the truths for this time. For this very purpose, God has entrusted a capital to His stewards. Let not your property be tied up in worldly enterprises, so that this work shall be hindered. Get your means where you can handle it for the benefit of the cause of God. Send your treasures before you into heaven. {5T 464.3} The members of the church should individually hold themselves and all their possessions upon the altar of God. Now, as never before, the Saviour's admonition is applicable: "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Those who are fastening their means in large houses, in lands, in worldly enterprises, are saying by their actions: "God cannot have it; I want it for myself." They have bound up their one talent in a napkin and hid it in the earth. There is cause for such to be alarmed. Brethren, God has not entrusted means to you to lie idle nor to be covetously retained or hid away, but to be used to advance His cause, to save the souls of the perishing. It is not the time now to bind up the Lord's money in your expensive buildings and your large enterprises, while His cause is crippled and left to beg its way, the treasury half-supplied. The Lord is not in this way of working. Remember, the day is fast approaching when it will be said: "Give an account of thy stewardship." Can you not discern the signs of the times? {5T 465.1}

When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay. Throughout the land of Judea, as well as in Jerusalem itself, the signal for flight must be immediately obeyed. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down into his house, even to save his most valued treasures. Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction. {GC 25.4}

The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the

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wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites. {CCh 281.4}

MANY LAID TO REST BEFORE TIME OF TROUBLE

It is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. . . . He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world.--CH 375 (1897). {LDE 255.2} The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts.--2SM 259 (1899). {LDE 255.3}

The Lord "doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." Lamentations 3:33. "Like as a father pitith his children, so the Lord pitith them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust." Psalm 103:13, 14. He knows our heart, for He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world. This is another reason why we should say after our earnest petition; "Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done." Luke 22:42. Such a petition will never be registered in heaven as a faithless prayer. {CH 375.2}

God Will Provide

The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands, and strangers would reap their fields. {LDE 264.3} Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger, for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.--EW 56 (1851). {LDE 264.4} I saw that a time of trouble was before us, when stern necessity will compel the people of God to live on bread and water. . . . In the time of trouble none will labor with their hands. Their sufferings will be mental, and God will provide food for them.--Ms 2, 1858. {LDE 265.1} The time of trouble is just before us, and then stern necessity will require the people of God to deny self and to eat merely enough to sustain life, but God will prepare us for that time. In that fearful hour our necessity will be God's opportunity to impart His strengthening power and to sustain His people.--1T 206 (1859). {LDE 265.2} Bread and water is all that is promised to the remnant in the time of trouble.--SR 129 (1870). {LDE 265.3} In the time of trouble, just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels.--PP 256 (1890). {LDE 265.4}

The Lord has shown me in vision, repeatedly, that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints have food laid up by them, or in the fields, in the time of trouble when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it will be taken from them by violent hands, and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water would be sure at that time, and we should not lack, or suffer hunger. The Lord has shown me that some of His children would fear when they see the price of food rising, and they would buy food and lay it by for the time of trouble. Then in a time of need, I saw them go to their food and look at it, and it had bred worms, and was full of living creatures, and not fit for use. {Mar 181.2}

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FINAL EVENTS RAPID ONES

The events that followed in rapid succession,--the appearance of Esther before the king, the marked favor shown her, the banquets of the king and queen with Haman as the only guest, the troubled sleep of the king, the public honor shown Mordecai, and the humiliation and fall of Haman upon the discovery of his wicked plot,--all these are parts of a familiar story. God wrought marvelously for His penitent people; and a counter decree issued by the king, allowing them to fight for their lives, was rapidly communicated to every part of the realm by mounted couriers, who were "hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment." "And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them." Esther 8:14, 17. {PK 602.1} The trying experiences that came to God's people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. The revelator, looking down the ages to the close of time, has declared, "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. Some who today are living on the earth will see these words fulfilled. The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God. Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict. {PK 605.1} The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath. {PK 605.2}

Psalms 121:1: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. :2: My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.:3: He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. :4: Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. :5: The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.:6: The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.:7: The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.:8: The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

The "time of trouble, such as never was," is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. "Though Noah, Daniel, and Job" were in the land, "as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Ezekiel 14:20. {GC 622.4}

"Thou in Thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way wherein they should go. Thou gavest also Thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheldst not Thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst. Yea, forty years didst Thou sustain them in the wilderness; . . . their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not." Nehemiah 9:19-21. {PP 406.3}

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CLOSE OF PROBATION

Question, if the death decree is issued at the 2nd plague, do you not know probation has closed at least at that time?

Corey

Angels went before these animals and they followed, two and two, male and female, and clean beasts by sevens. These beasts, from the most ferocious, down to the most gentle and harmless, peacefully and solemnly marched into the ark. The sky seemed clouded with birds of every description. They came flying to the ark, two and two, male and female, and the clean birds by sevens. The world looked on with wonder-some with fear, but they had become so hardened by rebellion that this most signal manifestation of God's power had but a momentary influence upon them. >>>For seven days these animals were coming into the ark, and Noah was arranging them in the places prepared for them.<<< "And as the doomed race beheld the sun shining in its glory, and the earth clad in almost its Eden beauty, they drove away their rising fears by boisterous merriment; and by their deeds of violence seemed to be encouraging upon themselves the visitation of the already awakened wrath of God. "Everything was now ready for the closing of the ark, which could not have been done by Noah from within. An angel is seen by the scoffing multitude descending from Heaven, clothed with brightness like the lightning. He closes that massive outer door, and then takes his course upward to Heaven again. >>>Seven days were the family of Noah in the ark before the rain began to descend upon the earth. In this time they were arranging for their long stay while the waters should be upon the earth.<<< And these were days of blasphemous merriment by the unbelieving multitude. They thought because the prophecy of Noah was not fulfilled immediately after he entered the ark, that he was deceived, and that it was impossible that the world could be destroyed by a flood" (3SG 67, 68).



Corey

It was a tremendous test brought to bear upon Noah and his family; [they were] shut in that ark for seven days, and yet no rain came. The jeers and scoffs and triumphs of their enemies seemed complete. But as soon as the seven days were ended, there began to come in the dark and heavy clouds such as they had never seen before. The clouds increased in blackness, and the rain began to fall from them. {CTr 57.5}



Corey

Before the flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in, and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life, and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "shall also the coming of the Son of man be." [Matthew 24:39.] Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men. {GC88 491.2}

Sami Wilberforce

Noah was shut in the ark seven days even without the door being closed and he didn't know probation had closed. What do I mean, when he went in and the animal started entering in he could come out so he was shut in. Noah being a representative of the seventh day, his/their probation was closed while the door was open to these scoffing gentiles to enter alongside the

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animals. So the animals were entering and the door still open yet his probation closed but still open to the gentiles. The door then shuts for the gentiles when the angel comes from heaven and closes it but for Noah it had shut him in and while the animals were entering and him arranging them he could not go out, (>>>For seven days these animals were coming into the ark, and Noah was arranging them in the places prepared for them.<<<.....Everything was now ready for the closing of the ark, which could not have been done by Noah from within...>>>Seven days were the family of Noah in the ark before the rain began to descend upon the earth. In this time they were arranging for their long stay while the waters should be upon the earth.<<< 3SG 67, 68}. This is well demonstrated by 9T 97.2. So far what have i said? Noah did not know when probation closed for him same as adventists will not know. In the midst of those who are sealed working for gentiles which are like the animals, probation for us closes, when the number is made up of the gentiles the general close of probation of the whole world happens. This general closing of probation is the one that is even harder to discern. Why? People will not know when the 7 last plagues happens because the plagues will just be a transition a morphing of the calamities already in the earth to 7 last plagues. In Noah's day it was easy to know the general door of probation had closed because literally a visible angel came and closed the door in the sight of Noah and the scoffers, but for us what literal or spiritual event can be likened to this?! I cant think of any. Maybe the death decree at the second plague?! You cant tell because there will be death decrees going on. Maybe lets says there will be a universal death decree from the papacy himself and his team thats when we realize probation had closed. Maybe for a few individuals who will be gathered together and they try to cut them but the weapon turn into straw will know probation has closed but because there will not be internet to relate this events to each other, the whole world of Christians and scoffers wont know apart from witnessing of such events in small companies. Thats why i say that its at the morphing from the 6th to the 7th plague when the voice of God is heard by everyone saying "its done" when everyone understands probation had closed. You notice this is said at the beginning of the 7th plague which means the wicked, righteous living, resurrected wicked and resurrected righteous have to face the accumulation of the 6 plagues now bundled into one plague which is the 7th. The words its done has a deeper meaning to all the companies alive, the righteous now fears nothing even the 7th plague is so intense because they have heard the assurance from the Father while the wicked now are totally helpless because they know their doom had been pronounced. You look at the 4th and 5th plague there's still scoffing, blaspheming and cursing because they don't know their doom is fixed and maybe there will be a change of events that will make things better if those the think are violating the worship of God according to their dictates are killed. God brings to their attention at the 7th plague that nothing can be reversed.

Blessings