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“When Christ ceases His Intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark (Revelation 14:9-10), will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world, just before the final deliverance of God’s people.” -Great Controversy, 627:2, 3-628:0 (TM 182).

4 - They are unmixed with mercy, but not worldwide. .

“These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off, yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.” Great Controversy, 628:2-629:0.

Note: It Is Interesting to compare the ten plagues on Egypt and the seven last plagues on the wicked.

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THE DEATH DECREE

1 - Sequence: (1) Jesus ends His mediation. (2) He stands up and puts on the garments of vengeance. (3) The seven last plagues begin to be poured out. (4) This enrages the wicked, and they think that If they could eliminate the righteous, the plagues would stop. (4) So they issue the death decree.

“I saw that. . Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out.

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints,”-Early Writings, 36:1-97:0.

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SOME OF THE WICKED PLEAD WITH THE RIGHTEOUS FOR HELP

1 - Multitudes will desire mercy.

“In that day, multitudes will desire the shelter of God’s mercy which “they have so long despised. “-Great Controversy, 629:1.

2 - Men will wish that mercy and salvation was still extended.

“The Lord in judgment will at the close of time walk through the earth, the fearful plagues will begin to fall. Then those who have despised God’s word, those who have lightly esteemed it, 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 Lord and shall not find it . . The ministers of God will have done their last work, offered their last prayers, shed their last bitter tear for a rebellious church and an ungodly people,” Maranatha, 264:3.

3 - Sequence: (1) Probation closes. (2) Fear and horror seize many of the wicked. (3) They seek mercy and salvation, but cannot find it.

“The plagues were falling upon the inhabitants of the earth. Some were denouncing God and cursing Him, Others rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgments. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given. The sweet voice of mercy was no more to invite them.

When the saints, and all heaven, were interested for their salvation, they had no interest for themselves. Life and death had been set before them. Many desired life, but made no effort to obtain it. They did not choose life, and now there was no atoning blood to cleanse the guilty, no compassionate Saviour to plead for them, and cry, ‘Spare, spare the sinner a little longer.’ All heaven had united with Jesus, as they heard the fearful words, ‘It is done. It is finished.’ The plan of salvation had been accomplished, but few had chosen to accept it. And as

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mercy's sweet voice died away, fear and horror seized the wicked. With terrible distinctness they heard the words, 'Too late! too late!'

"Those who had not prized God's Word were hurrying to and fro, wandering from sea to sea, and from the north to the east, to *seek the Word of the Lord. Said the angel, 'They shall not find it.* There is a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but for hearing the words of the Lord. What would they not give for one word of approval from God, but no, they must hunger and thirst on. Day after day have they slighted salvation, prizing earthly riches and earthly pleasure higher than any heavenly treasure or inducement. They have rejected Jesus and despised His saints. The filthy must remain filthy forever.' "*-Early Writings, 281:1-282:0.*

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JACOB'S TROUBLE REACHES ITS CLIMAX AND ANGELS PROTECT THEM

During Jacob's trouble, the angels provide a wall of protection around the faithful and even give them food.

1 -Angels shield and nourish them.

"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.* "*Great Controversy, 629:2.*

2 -The pleadings of the faithful continue to ascend to God, while the wicked exult that soon they can slay them.

"Yet to human sight it will appear that the people of God must soon seal their testimony with their blood as did the martyrs before them. They themselves begin to fear that the Lord has left them to fall by the hand of their enemies. It is a time of fearful agony. *Day and night they cry unto God for deliverance. The wicked exult.*" *Great Controversy, 630:1.*

3 - Companies of angels are about them.

"*Like Jacob, all are wrestling with God.* Their countenances express their internal struggle. Paleness sits upon every face. Yet they cease not their earnest intercession.

"Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold *companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ's patience.* With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. But they must wait yet a little longer. *The people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism.* The very delay, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions,"-*Great Controversy, 690:1-691:0.*

4 - They are pursued by the wicked.

"As the saints left the cities and villages, they *were pursued by the wicked, who sought to slay them.* But the swords that were raised to kill God's people broke and fell as powerless as a straw. Angels of God shielded the saints. As they cried day and night for deliverance, their cry came up before the *Lord.*"-*Early Writings, 284:2-285:0.*

5 - Angels defend them.

"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 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." - *Great Controversy, 691:1 (EW 289:1),*

6 - Satan wants them slain.

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“In some places, before the time for the decree to be executed, the wicked rushed upon the saints to slay them; but angels in the form of men of war fought for them. Satan *wished to have the privilege of destroying the saints of the Most High; but Jesus bade His angels watch over them.* God would be honored by making a covenant with those who had kept His law, in the sight of the heathen round about them; and Jesus would be honored by translating, without their seeing death, the faithful, waiting ones who had so long expected *Him.*” - *Early Writings, 283:0.*

7 - Three circles about each company of saints.

“Soon I saw the saints suffering great mental anguish. *They* seemed to be surrounded by the *wicked Inhabitants of the earth.* Every appearance was against them. Some began to fear that God had at last left them to perish by the hand of the wicked. But if their eyes could have been opened, they would have seen themselves surrounded by *angels* of God. Next came the *multitude of the angry wicked,* and next a mass of *evil angels,* hurrying on the wicked to slay the saints. But before they could approach God’s people, the wicked must first pass this company of mighty, holy angels. This was impossible. The angels of God were causing them to recede and also causing the evil angels who were pressing around them to fall *back.*” - *Early Writings, 289:1.*

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THERE ARE NO MARTYRS AFTER THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

1 - Martyrdom now would accomplish nothing of value.

“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. . Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for His coming and whose names are written in the book of life.” - *Great Controversy, 634:1.*

2 - It would only bring triumph to Satan.

“God *would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation,* and who would not bow to the decree of the beast or receive his mark. I saw that if the wicked were permitted to slay the saints, Satan and all his evil host, and all who hate God, would be gratified. And oh, *what a triumph it would be for his satanic majesty,* to have power, in the last closing struggle, over those who had so long waited to behold Him whom they loved! Those who have mocked at the idea of the saints’ going up, will witness the care of God for His people and behold their glorious deliverance.” - *Early Writings, 284:1.*

3 - They will not be left to perish.

“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.*” - *Great Controversy, 629:2.*

4 - Scattered in companies throughout the world, the faithful are protected by Christ and His angels.

“In the day of fierce trial He [Christ] will say, ‘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.’ What are the chambers in which they are to hide? *They are the protection of Christ and holy angels.* The people of God are not at this time all in one place. *They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth.*” - *Maranatha, 270:1.*

5 - There will be no safety for commandment-breakers.

“In the time of trouble, just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels; *but there will be no security for the transgressor of God’s law.* Angels cannot then protect those who are disregarding one of the divine precepts.” - *Patriarchs and Prophets, 256:1.*

6 - Satan cannot destroy them.

“In the closing period of earth’s history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. . In the midst of the time of trouble –trouble such as has not been since there was a nation –His chosen ones will stand unmoved. *Satan with all the hosts of evil can not destroy the weakest of God’s saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them,* and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a ‘God of gods,’

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able to save to the uttermost those have put their trust in Him.” -*Prophet and Kings*, 519:1.

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THE NIGHT APPOINTED TO SLAUGHTER

1 - Deliverance comes at midnight.

“*It is at midnight* that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people.” -*Great Controversy*, 696:2.

“*It was at midnight* that God chose to deliver His people.” -*Early Writings*, 285:1.

2 - The plan is to slay all the faithful in one night.

“When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. *As the time appointed in the decree draws near*, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. *It will be determined to strike* In one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and *reproof*.” -*Great Controversy*, 695:1.

3 - In that hour God interposes.

“The people of God –some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains –still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter *companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose* for the deliverance of His chosen. Saith the Lord: ‘Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth . . . to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel. And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.’ Isaiah 30:29-30.” *Great Controversy*, 695:2.

4 - Deliverance begins by means of sudden darkness and encircling rainbows.

“With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense *blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God’s covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.*” -*Great Controversy*, 635:93- 636:0.

LAST DAYS APPENDIX

The following material was gleaned from our book of unpublished manuscripts, entitled *The Last Days*, and is some of the best material from that volume on topics given in this section.

SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

God Will Punish the World for Its Iniquity When Sabbath-keeping Is Made a Crime. “The Lord declares, ‘When it is made a crime for My people to keep holy the Sabbath, then I will arise out of My place and punish the world for its iniquity. The earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.’” -*Manuscript 33, 1900. pp. 5, 6, 8-10, 18.* (“*Unfaithful Shepherds*,” June 25, 1900). {See also: CG 513.}

14. THE VOICE OF GOD TO THE SECOND ADVENT

The sounding of the Voice of God in the heavens is one of four major events before the millennium begins. Each of those four major events (the national Sunday law, the general close of probation, the Voice of God, and the second advent) marks a decided transition.

When the Voice sounds, a remarkable number of different events rapidly occurs, and then, soon after, Jesus returns the second time.

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We will begin this study with a presentation of the battle of Armageddon, and *then* we will view the final events from the Voice of God to the second advent.

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

In the late nineteenth century, Uriah Smith told a friend that, because of current political developments that indicated that the nation of Turkey might again become a prominent power in the Near East, there was a possibility that Turkey might be the “king of the north” mentioned in Daniel 11. He said that, in his book, he was going to identify the king of the north as the nation of Turkey; but that, if events changed, he would revert back to the regular Adventist view of the subject. In a few years those events did reverse, but, to the day of his death in 1903, Smith never removed his “new view” from his book, *Daniel and Revelation*. There is only one reference to Turkey in *Great Controversy* (GC 334-335), and it obviously has nothing to do with the battle of Armageddon. In addition, the Spirit of Prophecy places that battle in the future, not in the past.

It is more likely that the “battle of Armageddon” is the climax of the massive conflict, so soon to begin, with Satan and his followers on one side and Christ and His faithful commandment-keeping people on the other. This conflict bursts into the open when the national Sunday law is enacted and, in a sense, it will still be actively carried on a thousand years later as Satan prepares for the final attack against the Holy City. *The battle of Armageddon* is actually the last phase of the entire great controversy between Christ and Satan.

The following passages identify the Armageddon battle with the outpouring of the seventh plague, which we know especially applies to that time when the voice of God delivers His people from the physical power of the wicked, on down to the second advent of Christ. In the “*Twelve Rapid Events*” section, which follows, military and warfare terms are frequently mentioned in the quotations (“*battle, war, armies of heaven, powers of earth, munitions, weapons,*” etc.).

1 - Why men join in the rebellion.

“The enmity of Satan against good will be manifested more and more as he brings his forces into activity in his last work of rebellion, and every soul that is not fully surrendered to God and kept by divine power will form an alliance with Satan against heaven and Join in battle against the Ruler of the universe.” - *Testimonies to Ministers, 465:0*.

2 - Soon all will have taken sides.

“Soon all the Inhabitants of the earth will have taken sides, either for or against the government of heaven.” - *7 Testimonies, 141:2*.

3 - The armies of heaven are on one side of the battle.

“The *battle of Armageddon* is soon to be fought. He on whose vesture is written the name, King of kings, and Lord of lords, is soon to lead forth the *armies of heaven*.”

“It cannot now be said by the Lord’s servants, as it was by the prophet Daniel: ‘The time appointed was long.’ Daniel 10:1. It is now but a short time till the witnesses for God will have done their work in preparing the way of the Lord.” - *6 Testimonies, 406:3-4*.

4 - The nations of the world are on the other side.

“Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The *nations of the world are eager for conflict*; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite *under the leadership of satanic agencies*. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the *great battle of Armageddon*.” - *7 Bible Commentary, 967/2:1*.

5 - Armageddon is definitely occurring at the time of the seventh plague.

“We need to study *the pouring out of the seventh vial*. The powers of evil will not yield up the conflict without a struggle. But Providence has a part to act in *the battle of Armageddon*. When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation eighteen, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from slumber, and *the armies of the living God will take the field*.” - *7 Bible Commentary, 983/1:2*.

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6 - Two great opposing powers. On one side is God and the obedient; on the other, the devil and the rebellious. It is a battle of evil angels and wicked men vs. good angels and God's people. The plagues are poured out during this time.

"Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle. On one side stands the Creator of heaven and earth. All on His side bear His signet. They are obedient to His commands. On the other side stands the prince of darkness, with those who have "chosen apostasy and rebellion." -7 Bible Commentary, 982/2:5--983/1:0.

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

"The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us, and the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle. Solemn events before us are yet to transpire. Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded, vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth. Scenes of stupendous interest are right upon us."- 7 Bible Commentary, 982/2:3-4.

7 - It is earthly powers vs. God. The battle is fought on earth.

"A terrible conflict is before us. We are nearing the battle of the great day of God Almighty. That which has been held in control is to be let loose. The angel of mercy is folding her wings, preparing to step down from the throne and leave the world to the control of Satan. The principalities and powers of earth are in bitter revolt against the God of heaven. They are filled with hatred against those who serve Him, and soon, very soon, will be fought the last great battle between good and evil. The earth is to be the battlefield -the scene of the final contest and the final victory." -My Life Today, 308:3.

8 - It is the forces of nature vs. God's enemies. The battle begins when probation closes.

"At His own will God summons the forces of nature to overthrow the might of His enemies . . . We are told of a greater battle to take place In the closing scenes of earth's history, when 'Jehovah hath opened His armory, and hath brought forth the weapons of His indignation' . . . The revelator describes the destruction that is to take place when the 'great voice out of the temple of heaven' announces, 'It is done.' "Patriarchs and Prophets, 509:3-4.

9 - The battles are real.

"The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend. "-Prophet and Kings, 176:0.

10 - The last great battle.

"A terrible conflict is before us. We are nearing the battle of the great day of God Almighty. That which has been held in control is to be let loose. The angel of mercy is folding her wings, preparing to step down from the throne and leave the world to the control of Satan. The principalities and powers of earth are in bitter revolt against the God of heaven. They are filled with hatred against those who serve Him, and soon, very soon, will be fought the last great battle between good and evil. The earth is to be the battle field, the scene of the final contest and the final victory. Here, where for so long Satan has led men against God, rebellion is to be forever suppressed. "-Last Day Events, 250:1.

11 - The Captain directs the battle.

"All the world will be on one side or the other of the question. The battle of Armageddon will be fought. And that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps. The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us and the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle. " 3 Selected Messages, 425:5-426:1.

12 - The King of kings leads His armies. Thus, (as Revelation 19 indicates) the battle of Armageddon continues on down to the second advent.

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“He on whose vesture is written the name, *King of kings* and Lord of lords, *leads forth the armies* of heaven on white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and white.” -7 Bible Commentary, 982/2:2.

“ ‘Faithful and True,’ ‘in righteousness He doth judge *and make war.*’ And ‘*the armies which were in heaven*’ (Revelation 19:11,14) *follow Him.*” -Great Controversy, 641:0 [context: the second advent of Christ].

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TWELVE RAPID EVENTS

Two brief pen pictures of these events will be found in EW 34:1 and EW 285:1-286:0. Only when they provide additional information to that given below will they be quoted. Here are twelve major events and a number of lesser ones:

As an expression of reverence, the word, “Voice,” when applied to God, will be initial capitalized below.

1 - It is now that God interposes.

“The people of God –some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains –still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen.” -Great Controversy, 635:2.

2 - God always chooses extremities.

“*He [God] has always chosen* extremities, when there seemed no possible chance for deliverance from Satan’s workings, *for the manifestation of His power.*” -5 Testimonies, 714:0.

1 . SUDDEN DARKNESS, AND THEN RAINBOWS AROUND THEM

1 - Deliverance begins by means of sudden darkness.

“With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth.” -Great Controversy, 635:3-636:0.

2 - The symbol of God’s covenant encircles His people.

“Then a *rainbow*, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans *the heavens* and seems to encircle each *praying company*. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God’s covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.” -Great Controversy, 636:0.

3 - Light will be in every dwelling of the faithful.

“While all the world is *plunged in darkness*, there will be *light in every dwelling* of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing.” - Prophets and Kings, 720:2.

2 . BEYOND THE BOW OF PROMISE, A VISION OF CHRIST; AND THE SHOUT OF VICTORY

1 - They see the bow and Christ. Their shout is the shout of victory over the beast and his image.

“By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying, ‘Look up,’ and lifting their eyes to the heavens, they behold *the bow of promise*. The black, angry clouds that covered the firmament are parted, and like Stephen *they look up steadfastly into heaven* and see *the glory of God and the Son of man seated upon His throne*. In His divine form they discern the marks of His humiliation; and from His lips they hear the request presented before H is Father and the holy angels: ‘I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.’ John 17:24. *Again a voice*, musical and triumphant, is heard, saying: ‘*They come! they come!* holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels;’ and *the pale, quivering lips of those who have held fast their faith utter a shout of victory.*” -Great Controversy, 636:1.

3 . THE SAINTS ARE GLORIFIED

1 - A glorious light shines about them. “Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down on every side. I then heard a *triumphant shout*

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of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon the company, who, a short time before, were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them. How beautiful they then looked! All marks of care and weariness were gone, and health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen around them, fell like dead men; they could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones. This light and glory remained upon them, until Jesus was seen In the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company were changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory.” -Early Writings, 272:3-273:0. [At the voice of God, a light rests upon them; at the Second Advent they are translated.]

2 - At the Voice of God they are glorified.

“At the voice of God they were glorified; now [at the Second Advent] they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air.” -Great Controversy, 645:1.

3 - Their faces are lit with the glory of God.

“The 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God.” -Early Writings, 37:0.

4 . THE VOICE OF GOD SHAKES HEAVENS AND EARTH

1 - The Voice comes from one clear space of glory.

“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. “-Great Controversy, 636:2-3.

“There was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth, There was a mighty earthquake,” -Early Writings, 285:1.

2 - The Voice comes from the region of Orion.

“Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other, The atmosphere parted and rolled back; then we could look up through the open space In Orion, whence came the voice of God. The Holy City will come down through that open space,” -Early Writings, 41:2.

3 - The sounding of the Voice brings despair to the wicked.

“After the people have heard the voice of God they are in despair and trouble such as never was since there was a nation,” -Maranatha, 279:5,

4 - It is the signal for some of the worst of the “judgments upon Babylon” to fall.

“(Rev 18:5-1.0; 18:11,3, 15-17 quoted) Such are the judgments that fall upon Babylon in the day of the visitation of God’s wrath. She has filled up the measure of her iniquity; her time has come; she is ripe for destruction,” -Great Controversy, 653:1-3,

Note: The Revelation 18 “judgments upon Babylon,” mentioned in the above passage, could be placed earlier in the outpouring of the plagues. But an awakening of the wicked is implied in the context, which does not fully occur until the Voice of God sounds. Also the next sentence (below) locates it at the sounding of the Voice.

5 - The Voice produces a terrible awakening, as the idols are destroyed.

“When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life, While probation continued they were blinded by Satan’s deceptions, and they justified their course of sin. . Now they are stripped of all that made them great and are left destitute and defenseless. They look with terror upon the destruction of the idols, which they preferred before their Maker. . The gain of a lifetime is swept away in a moment. The rich bemoan the destruction of their grand houses, the scattering of their gold and sliver. But their lamentations are silenced by the fear that they themselves are to perish with their idols.

“The wicked are filled with regret not because of their sinful neglect of God and their fellow men but because God has conquered, they lament that the result is what it is; but they do not repent of their wickedness. They would leave no means untried to conquer if they could,” -Great Controversy, 654:1-2.

5. THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE; FORTY-FOUR SIGNS AND WONDERS OCCUR

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It is generally considered that this earthquake is part of the seventh plague (the Rev 16:18 earthquake), which continues on until it concludes at the second advent and the death of the wicked. (The seventh seal earthquake may also apply to this time; Rev 8:5).

1 - The Voice of God produces the mighty earthquake.

“There was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake.” -*Early Writings*, 285:1.

2 - Four signs rapidly occur.

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. [1] *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. [2] *Everything in nature seems turned out of its course*. [3] *The streams ease to flow*. [4] *Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other*.” -*Great Controversy*, 636:2.

3 . Nineteen more signs accompany them.

“*That voice* [5] *shakes* the heavens and the earth. [6] *There is a mighty earthquake*, ‘such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.’ Revelation 16: 17-18. [7] *The firmament appears to open and shut*. [8] *The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through*. [9] *The mountains shake like a reed in the wind*, and [10] *ragged rocks are scattered* on every side. [11] There is a *roar as of a coming tempest*. [12] *The sea is lashed into fury*. There is heard [13] *the shriek of a hurricane like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction*. [14] *The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea*. [15] *Its surface is breaking up*. [16] *Its very foundations seem to be giving way*. [17] *Mountain chains are sinking*. [18] *Inhabited Islands disappear*. [19] *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 wine of the fierceness of His wrath.’ [20] *Great hailstones*, everyone ‘about the weight of a talent,’ are doing their work of destruction. Revelation 16:19, 21. [21] *The proudest cities of the earth are laid low*. [22] *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. [23] *Prison walls are rent asunder*, and [24] *God’s people*, who have been held in bondage for their faith, *are set free*.” -*Great Controversy*, 636:3-637:0.

4 - Eight more signs take place.

“[25] *The sky opened and shut* and was in commotion. [26] *The mountains shook like a reed in the wind* and [27] *cast out ragged rocks* all around. *The sea boiled like a pot* and [28] *cast out stones upon the land*.” -*Early Writings*, 285:2.

“[29] *The powers of heaven will be shaken* at the voice of God. Then the sun, moon, and stars will be moved out of their places. They will not pass away, but be shaken by the voice of *God*.” -*Early Writings*, 41:1.

“Suddenly [in the middle of night] [30] *the sun appeared*, shining in his strength, and [31] *the moon stood still*. The wicked looked upon the scene with amazement, while the saints beheld with solemn joy the tokens of their *deliverance*.” -*Early Writings*, 285:1.

5 - Ten more signs occur.

“In the day of the Lord, just before the coming of Christ, [32] God will send *lightnings from Heaven* in His wrath, [33] *which will unite with fire in the earth*. [34] *The mountains will burn like a furnace*, and will pour forth terrible streams of lava, [35] *destroying gardens and fields, villages and cities*; and as they pour their melted ore, [36] *rocks and heated mud into the rivers, will cause them to boil like a pot*, and [37] *send forth massive rocks* and scatter their broken fragments upon the land with indescribable violence, [38] *Whole rivers will be dried up*. *The earth will be convulsed*, and there will be *dreadful eruptions* and [39] *earthquakes* everywhere. God will [40] *plague the wicked inhabitants of the earth until they are destroyed from off it*.” -3 *Spiritual Gifts*, 82:3-83:0.

Note: From the Voice of God to –and including –the Second Coming is considered the seventh plague. By the conclusion of the Second Advent, no wicked people will be alive.]

“*The earth’s crust will be rent* by the outbursts of the elements concealed in the bowels of the earth. These elements, once broken loose, [41] *will sweep away the treasures* of those who for years have been adding to

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their wealth by securing large possessions at starvation prices from those in their *employ*.”-*Maranatha*, 283:3.

“[42] *The great general conflagration* is but just ahead, when all this wasted labor of life will be swept away in a night and day,” -4 *Testimonies*,49:2.

“There will be [43] *great destruction of human life*. But as in the days of the great deluge Noah was preserved in the ark that God had prepared for him, so in these days of destruction and calamity, God *will be the refuge of His believing ones*. Through the psalmist He declares, ‘Because thou has made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, *neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling*. ‘ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion, “ Then shall we not make the Lord our surety and our *defense*?’”-*Maranatha*, 283:5.

“Earthquakes in various places have been felt, but these disturbances have been very limited. . *Terrible shocks will come upon the earth, and [44] the lordly palaces erected at great expense will certainly become heaps of ruins*. “-3 *Selected Messages*, 391:5.

6 - THE SPECIAL RESURRECTION

1 - Two classes arise in this special resurrection.

“*Graves are opened*, and many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth, , awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.’ Daniel 12:2. *All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message* come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with *those who have kept His law*. ‘*They also which pierced Him*’ (Revelation 1:7), *those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies*, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.” -*Great Controversy*, 697:1.

2 - The earthquake opens the graves.

“*There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died In faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath*, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law,” *Early Writings*, 285:1.

7 - THE DOOM OF THE WICKED PREDICTED; THEIR TERRIBLE FEAR

1 - Amid thunder and lightning, a voice declares the doom of the wicked.

“Thick clouds still cover the sky; yet the sun now and then breaks through, appearing like the avenging eye of Jehovah. Fierce lightnings leap from the heavens, enveloping the earth in a sheet of flame. *Above the terrific roar of thunder, voices, mysterious and awful, declare the doom of the wicked*. The words spoken are not comprehended by all; but *they are distinctly understood by the false teachers*. Those who a little before were so reckless, so boastful and defiant, so exultant in their cruelty to God’s commandment-keeping people, are now overwhelmed with consternation and shuddering in fear. Their wails are heard above the sound of the elements. *Demons acknowledge the deity of Christ and tremble before His power, while men are supplicating for mercy and groveling in abject terror*.”

“Said the prophets of old, as they beheld in holy vision the day of God: ‘Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.’ Isaiah 13:6. ‘Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon everyone that is proud and lofty, and upon everyone that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.’ ‘In that day a man shall cast the idols of his silver, and the idols of his gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth.’ “ -*Great Controversy*, 697:2-698:1.

8 - THE RIGHTEOUS KNOW THEY ARE DELIVERED AND THEY SING PRAISES TO GOD

1 - A bright star is seen, and the faces of the righteous are radiant as they sing praises; the clouds sweep back and the sky is filled with stars.

“*Through a rift in the clouds there beams a star whose brilliancy is increased fourfold in contrast with*

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the darkness. It speaks hope and joy to the faithful, but severity and wrath to the transgressors of God's law. *Those who have sacrificed all for Christ are now secure*, hidden as in the secret of the Lord's pavilion. *They have been tested*, and before the world and the despisers of truth they have evinced their fidelity to Him who died for them. A marvelous change has come over those who have held fast their integrity in the very face of death. They have been suddenly delivered from the dark and terrible tyranny of men transformed to demons. *Their faces*, so lately pale, anxious, and haggard, *are now aglow with wonder, faith, and love. Their voices rise in triumphant song:* 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.' Psalm 46:1-3.

"While these words of holy trust ascend to God, *the clouds sweep back, and the starry heavens are seen*, unspeakably glorious in contrast with the black and angry firmament on either side. The glory of the celestial city streams from the gates ajar."-*Great Controversy*, 698:2-699:1.

2 - "We are delivered. It is the Voice of God! "

"*Satan's host and wicked men will surround them and exult over them because there will seem to be no way of escape for them. But In the midst of their revelry and triumph there is heard peal upon peal of the loudest thunder. The heavens have gathered blackness, and are only illuminated by the blazing light and terrible glory from heaven, as God utters His voice from His holy habitation.* "

"The foundations of the earth shake, buildings totter and fall with a terrible crash. The sea boils like a pot and the whole earth is in terrible commotion. *The captivity of the righteous is turned, and with sweet and solemn whisperings they say to one another: 'We are delivered. It is the voice of God.'* "-1 *Testimonies*, 354:0-1.

9 - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE OPENED TO THE VIEW OF ALL

1 - Against the sky, a Hand is seen holding the Ten Commandments. The folded tablets are then opened to the view of all.

"*Then there appears against the sky a hand holding two tables of stone folded together. Says the prophet: 'The heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself.'* Psalm 50:6. *That holy law, God's righteousness, that amid thunder and flame was proclaimed from Sinai as the guide of life, is now revealed to men as the rule of judgment.* The hand opens the tables, and there are seen the precepts of the Decalogue, traced as with a pen of fire. The words are so plain that all can read them. Memory is aroused, the darkness of superstition and heresy is swept from every mind, and *God's ten words*, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, *are presented to the view of all the inhabitants of the earth.*"-*Great Controversy*, 639:1.

2 -It Is the original tables of stone which are shown to the world.

"In the temple (in heaven) will be seen the ark of the testament in which were placed the two tables of stone, on which are written God's law. These *tables of stone will be brought forth from their hiding place*, and on them will be seen the *Ten Commandments* engraved by the finger of God. These tables of stone now lying in the ark of the testament will be a *convincing testimony to the truth and binding claims of God's law.* "-7 *Bible Commentary*, 972/1:3/2:0.

"Sacrilegious minds and hearts have thought they were mighty enough to change the times and laws of Jehovah; but, safe *In the archives of heaven, In the ark of God, are the original commandments, written upon the two tables of stone.* No potentate of earth has power to draw forth those tables from their sacred hiding place beneath the mercy seat." -7 *Bible Commentary*, 972/2:1.

10 - THE HORROR OF THE WICKED IS INDESCRIBABLE

1 - The sounding of the Voice has brought despair to the wicked.

"After the people have heard the voice of God they are in despair and trouble such as never was since there was a *nation.*"-*Maranatha*, 279:5.

2 - Their horror is the discovery of the fact that the Ten Commandments were never abolished. They find they have been fighting against God.

"*It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God's holy*

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requirements. The Lord gave them His law; they might have compared their characters with it and learned their defects while there was yet opportunity for repentance and reform; but *In order to secure the favor of the world, they set aside its precepts and taught others to transgress*. They have endeavored to compel God's people to profane His Sabbath. *Now they are condemned by that law which they have despised*. With awful distinctness they see that they are without excuse. They chose whom they would serve and worship. 'Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.' Malachi 3:18.

"The enemies of God's law, from the ministers down to the least among them, have a new conception of truth and duty. Too late they see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. Too late they see the true nature of their spurious Sabbath and the sandy foundation upon which they have been building. *They find that they have been fighting against God*. Religious teachers have led souls to perdition while professing to guide them to the gates of Paradise. Not until the day of final accounts will it be known how great is the responsibility of men in holy office and how terrible are the results of their unfaithfulness. Only in eternity can we rightly estimate the loss of a single soul. Fearful will be the doom of him to whom God shall say: Depart, thou wicked servant." -*Great Controversy*, 639:2 - 640:1.

3 - Former Sabbath keepers are also filled with anguish.

"Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters, 'Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting.' I asked who this company were. The angel said, 'These are they who have once kept the Sabbath and have given it up.' I heard them cry with a loud voice, 'We have believed in Thy coming, and taught it with energy'. And while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments and see the writing, and then they would wail aloud. I saw that *they had drunk of the deep waters, and fouled the residue with their feet* -trodden the Sabbath underfoot -and that was why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting." *Early Writings*, 37:0.

4 - A lengthy description of the insights the wicked obtain at this time is given in GC 654:1-656:1. The most important are quoted immediately below:

5 - There is a terrible awakening.

"When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people, *there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life*. While probation continued they were blinded by Satan's deceptions, and they justified their course of *sin*." -*Great Controversy*, 654:1.

6 - The wicked regret having lost in their rebellion against God.

"The wicked are filled with regret, not because of their sinful neglect of God and their fellow men, but because *God has conquered*. They lament that the result is what it is; but they do not repent of their wickedness. They would leave no means untried to conquer if they could.

"The world see the very class whom they have mocked and derided, and desired to exterminate, pass unharmed through pestilence, tempest, and earthquake. He who is to the transgressors of His law a devouring fire, is to His people a safe pavilion." -*Great Controversy*, 654:2-3.

7 - The ministers awaken also.

"The minister who has sacrificed truth to gain the favor of men now discerns the character and influence of his teachings. It is apparent that the omniscient eye was following him as he stood in the desk, as he walked the streets, as he mingled with men in the various scenes of life. Every emotion of the soul, every line written, every word uttered, every act that led men to rest in a refuge of falsehood, has been scattering seed; and now, in the wretched, lost souls around him, he beholds the harvest." - *Great Controversy*, 654:4-655:0.

8 - All recognize that they have rebelled against the holy law of their Creator.

"Ministers and people see that they have not sustained the right relation to God. They see that *they have rebelled against the Author of all just and righteous law*. The setting aside of the divine precepts gave rise to thousands of springs of evil, discord, hatred, iniquity, until the earth became one vast field of strife, one sink of corruption." -*Great Controversy*, 655:3.

9 - The wicked fall at the feet of the righteous.

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“Men whom the world has worshiped for their talents and eloquence now see these things- in their true light. They realize what they have forfeited by transgression, and they fall at the feet of those whose fidelity they have despised and derided, and confess that God has loved them.”-Great Controversy, 655:3.

10 - The wicked are no longer able to overpower the faithful.

“At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another’s feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet.”- Early Writings, 15:1.

11 - The religious leaders suffer under the wrath of God and the revilings of lost souls.

“Many of the wicked were greatly enraged as they suffered the effects of the plagues. It was a scene of fearful agony. Parents were bitterly reproaching their children, and children their parents, brothers their sisters, and sister their brothers. Loud, wailing cries were heard in every direction, ‘It was you who kept me from receiving the truth which would have saved me from this awful hour.’ The people turned upon their ministers with bitter hate and reproached them, saying, ‘You have not warned us. You told us that all the world was to be converted, and cried, Peace, peace, to quiet every fear that was aroused. You have not told us of this hour; and those who warned us of it you declared to be fanatics and evil men, who would ruin us.’ But I saw that the ministers did not escape the wrath of God. Their suffering was tenfold greater than that of their people.”-Early Writings, 282:1.

12 - Lost church members are extremely angry with their pastors.

“Church members who have seen the light and been convicted, but who have trusted the salvation of their souls to the minister, will learn in the day of God that no other soul can pay the ransom for their transgression. A terrible cry will be raised. ‘I am lost, eternally lost.’ Men will feel as though they could rend in pieces the ministers who have preached falsehoods and condemned the truth. “-4 Bible Commentary, 1157/1:2.

13 - The wicked accuse one another, and especially their ministers. Some of the wicked are slain by one another.

“The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. ‘We are lost!’ they cry, ‘and you are the cause of our ruin;’ and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God’s people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed.” -Great Controversy, 655:4-656:0.

“God’s Word is made of none effect by false shepherds. . Their work will soon react upon themselves. Then will be witnessed the scenes described in Revelation 18 when the judgments of God shall fall upon mystical Babylon.”-Last Day Events, 248:2.

11 - THE DAY AND HOUR OF CHRIST’S COMING IS ANNOUNCED

1 - The Voice of God gives the day and hour of Christ’s second advent, and confirms the eternal covenant with His people.

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai.” -Great Controversy, 640:2.

2 - At the end of each sentence, the saints shout.

“As God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus’ coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of

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God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. And at *the end of every sentence the saints shouted, 'Glory! Alleluia!'* Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory, as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory."-*Early Writings*, 34:1; 285:2-286:0.

3 - The living saints at this time are 144,000 in number.

"Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. *The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice*, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai." -*Early Writings*, 15:0.

4 - Heard, but not remembered after the vision.

"*I have not the slightest knowledge as to the time spoken by the voice of God*. I heard the hour proclaimed, but had no remembrance of that hour after I came out of vision. Scenes of such thrilling, solemn interest passed before me as no language is adequate to describe. It was all a living reality to me, for close upon this scene appeared the great white cloud, upon which was seated the Son of man."- 1 *Selected Messages*, 76:0.

12 - THE FAITHFUL ARE GIVEN THE SABBATH BLESSING

1 - When the blessing is given, there is a shout of victory.

"And when *the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy*, there is a mighty shout of victory." -*Great Controversy*, 640:2.

"When the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, *there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his Image.*" *Early Writings*, 34:1; 286:0.

THE JOURNEY TO EARTH

Backtracking a little: At the close of the investigative judgment (when each person in the world had made his decision, received either the mark or the seal, and probation for mankind had concluded); Jesus threw down the censer, declared "It is done," and went to the entrance of that gigantic structure (the heavenly Sanctuary; and it is a most marvelous building-see GC 414:2). There He put off His priestly robes, and commanded His angels to begin pouring out the plagues on the wicked.

Then He began His journey to the earth.

1 - The trip to our world begins.

"And I saw a *flaming cloud* come where Jesus stood. Then Jesus . . . took His place on the cloud which carried Him to the East, where it first appeared to the saints on earth-a *small black cloud* which was the sign of the Son of man." *Maranatha*, 287:7 ("*To the Little Remnant Scattered Abroad*," April 6, 1846 broadside.).

2 - All the angels in heaven accompany Him. "*All heaven will be emptied of the angels*, while the waiting saints will be looking for Him and gazing into heaven, as were the men of Galilee when He ascended from the Mount of Olivet. Then only those who are holy, those who have followed fully the meek Pattern, will with rapturous joy exclaim as they behold Him, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.'" -*Early Writings*, 110:1.

3 - On the journey, Christ and His angels pass through the region of Orion.

"Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back; then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the Voice of God. The Holy City will come down through that open space."-*Early Writings*, 41:2.

Note: The present writer restricts this location to "the region of Orion," since we are nowhere told in the inspired writings that "the open space in Orion" is the Great Nebula in Orion, or a portion of it. Therefore we cannot with certainty equate the "open space" with the Orion Nebula.

According to EW 41, the Voice of God sounds from the area of this constellation, and at the third advent the City of God will come down through that part of the sky. But that is the third advent, not the second. It is

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likely that, at His second advent, Christ will also return through that area—but we are not specifically told that in this or any other passage. Nor are we told what part of the Orion constellation is here referred to (Orion is one of the largest constellations in the sky).

LAST DAYS APPENDIX

The following material was gleaned from our book of unpublished manuscripts, entitled *The Last Days*, and is some of the best material from that volume on topics given in this section.

ARMAGEDDON

Satan Is Now Marshaling His Armies For the Last Great Struggle.- “We have a short time in which to accomplish the work that is essential. Let us earnestly prepare *for* the conflict that is before us, *for* Satan’s armies are marshaling *for* the last great struggle.

Satan Is Seeking to Bring in Heresies; the Rejecters of Warnings Will be Ensnared.- “Satan is rallying his forces and seeking to bring in heresies to confuse the minds of those who have not been trained to understand the leading of the Holy Spirit. A delusive net is being prepared *for* them and those who have been warned again and again, but have not educated themselves to understand the warnings, will surely be taken in Satan’s *snare*s.”- *Letter 864, 1908, pp. 1-2. (To S. N. Haskell, December 17, 1908).*

Satan is Drilling His Army. - “The end is near, and every year Satan is drilling his army to develop strong parties to be ready against the battle of the last great *conflict*.”-*Manuscript 134, 1908, p. 3. (“Arbitrary Control, “ cir. 1908).*

THE VOICE OF GOD

The Scattered Ones in Dens and Caverns Are Made Glad at the Voice of God.-”Before the glory of Him who is to reign, the mountains will tremble and bow, the rocks will be moved out of their places, *for* once more will the Lord shake, not alone the earth, but the heavens also. The scattered ones, who have fled *for* their lives to the rocks, the dens, the caverns of the earth, because of the fury of the oppressor, will be made glad at the voice of God. .

As Christ Strengthened John, So Will He Strengthen His Terror-stricken Saints at His Second Coming.- “The child of God will be terror-stricken at the first sight of the majesty of Jesus Christ. He feels that he cannot live in His holy presence. But the word comes to him, as to John, ‘Fear not.’ Jesus laid His right hand upon John. He raised him up *from* his prostrate position. So will He do unto His loyal, trusting ones, *for* there are greater revelations of the glory of God to be given them. .

Effects of the Second Coming on the Lost. - “There is also to be revelation to the transgressors of the law of Jehovah—they who made void the law of God, who have taken their stand on the side of him who thought to change times and laws. From the terror-stricken myriads come the cry, ‘The great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand.’ (Revelation 6:17).”*Manuscript 56, 1886, pp. 5-7. (“Traveling in Switzerland, “ May 21, 1886).*

The Covenant Will be Brought Forth. “When every case is decided in the courts of heaven, this covenant, [the ten commandments] will be brought forth, plainly written with the finger of God. The world will be arraigned before the bar of Infinite Justice to receive sentence—a life measuring with the life of God *for* obedience, and death *for* transgression.”-*Manuscript 82, 1899, p. 10. (“In the Master’s Service, “ May 21, 1899).*

The Heaviest Judgments Will Fall on the False Shepherds. - “And upon those who have taken upon them the work of shepherds of the flock will be visited the heaviest judgments, because they have presented to the people fables instead of truth. Children will rise up and curse their parents. Church members, who have seen the light and [have] been convicted, but who have trusted the salvation of their souls to the minister, will learn in the day of God that no other soul can pay the ransom *for* their transgression. A terrible cry will be raised, ‘I am lost, eternally lost. .’

The Ire of the Lost Against Their False Shepherds.- “Men will feel as though they could rend in pieces the ministers who have preached falsehoods and condemned the truth. The pure truth *for* this time requires a reformation in the life, but they separated themselves *from* the love of the truth, and of them it can be said, ‘O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself’ (Hosea 13:9). The Lord sends a message to the people, ‘Set the trumpet to thy

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mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed My covenant, and trespassed against My law' (Hosea 8:1)."-Letter 30, 1900, pp. 5-6. (To "Brother and Sister Hickox," February 25, 1900). [See also: TBC 167.]

Revelation 18:1-3 Will be Fulfilled When God Arises to Shake Terribly the Earth. "What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth. Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 [the announcement that Babylon is fallen] 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 that 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 those massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place, the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine." -Letter 176, 1903, pp. 4-5. (To H. W. Kellogg, August 9, 1903). [See also: Ev 387-8; PM 280-1.]

God Will Protect His Believing Ones During the Convulsions of Nature Preceding the Advent.- "Before the Son of man appears in the clouds of heaven, everything in nature will be convulsed. Lightning from heaven, uniting with fire in the earth, will cause the mountains to burn like a furnace, and pour out their floods of lava over villages and cities. Moulten masses of rock [will] cause the water to boil, and they will send forth rocks and earth. There will be mighty earthquakes and great destruction of human life. But as in the days of the great deluge, Noah was preserved in the ark that God had prepared for Him, so in these last days of destruction a calamity, God will be the refuge of His believing ones."- Letter 248, 1907, pp. 2-4. (To J. E. White and wife, August 16, 1907). [See also: IMCP 22-3.]

Satan Wants to Revive Slavery.-"I am instructed to say to our people throughout the cities of the South, Let everything be done under the direction of the Lord. The work is nearing its close. We are nearer the end than when we first believed. Satan is doing his best to block. the progress of the message. He is putting forth efforts to bring about the enactment of a Sunday law that will result in slavery in the Southern field and will close the door to the observance of the true Sabbath; which God has given to men to keep holy. The law, which He came down from heaven to Mt. Sinai to proclaim, is to be observed by all who would identify themselves with the people of God."-Letter 6, 1909, p. 2. (To J. E. White, January 1, 1909).

TEN COMMANDMENTS OPENED

In the Day of Judgment the Tables of God's Law Will Condemn the Lost. "Ministers have taught the people that the law of God is not binding. But God certainly does not say so, and in the day of judgment that law, written with the finger of God on tables of stone, will condemn all impenitent transgressors." -Manuscript 33, 1900. pp. 5, 6, 8-10, 18. ("Unfaithful Shepherds," June 25, 1900). [See also: CG 513.]

These Tables Are in Heaven. - "There is a sanctuary, and in that sanctuary is the ark, and in the ark are the tables of stone, on which is written the law spoken from Sinai amidst scenes of awful grandeur. These tables of stone are in the heavens, and they will be brought forth in that day when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, and men shall be judged according to the things written in the books. They will be judged by the law written by the finger of God, and given to Moses to be deposited in the ark. A record is kept of the deeds of all men, and according to his works will every man receive sentence, whether they be good, or whether they be evil." -Manuscript 20, 1906, pp. 8-9. ("Preach the Word," February 7, 1906). [See also: Ev 616-17; PM 224-5.]

They Are to be Brought Forth When Sentence Is Pronounced.- "In my books the truth is stated, barricaded by a 'Thus said the Lord.' The Holy Spirit traced these truths upon my heart and mind as indelibly as the law was traced by the finger of God upon the tables of stone, which are now in the ark, to be brought forth in that great day when sentence is pronounced against every evil, seducing science produced by the father of lies." - Letter 90, 1906, p. 6. (To The Brethren Assembled in Council at Graysville, Tennessee, March 6, 1906).

15. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

In this study, we will view events at the time of the Second Advent, as they relate primarily to the redeemed-but also to the wicked. These are the pre-ascension events. They occur at the time of Christ's second

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coming, before Jesus and the redeemed begin their journey to heaven.

In the next study, we will view (1) the post-ascension events on earth, which is the death of the living wicked, and the binding of Satan to this planet for a thousand years; and (2) the post-ascension events of the redeemed; which includes their journey to heaven, their coronation and entrance into the Holy City, and the sentencing judgment.

- 1 - PRE-ASCENSION EVENTS

THE JUBILEE BEGINS

1 - The commencement of the jubilee.

"Then commenced the Jubilee, when the land should rest." -Early Writings, 85:1 (286:1).

In ancient Israel, every seventh year and fiftieth year were rest years for the land. Because the seventh-day Sabbath has been violated for 6,000 years, it is quite appropriate that the land will be able to rest for the seventh thousand years. As Jerusalem was destroyed because the people refused to keep the Sabbath (Jer 17:21-27), so the world will be destroyed because its inhabitants refused to keep the Sabbath. (This emphasis on Sabbath-keeping is due to the fact that the Sabbath cannot be properly observed without obeying God fully in every other way.) At last the land and people will have rest. –But at what a cost. The world is shattered and the wicked are dead.

Some try to date the Second Advent by the jubilee cycle, but this cannot be done. Why? Three good reasons: (1) No one knows the exact date the jubilee cycle should begin with. (2) God's Inspired Word has told us several times that no man will know the date of the second coming (2SM 113; GC 456-457; DA 632-633; FE 335; 1T 409; TM 55,61; 1SM 75-76; EW 22; 1 T 72-73) until it is declared in the skies at the sounding of the Voice of God. (3) There is even a question whether the Jubilee is a 49 or 50-year cycle.

- 2 -

THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN

1 - Christ returns in a cloud.

"Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant." Great Controversy, 640:3-641:0.

"Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man."-Early Writings, 15:2-16:0.

"At first we did not see Jesus on the cloud, but as it drew near the earth we could behold His lovely person. This cloud, when it first appeared, was the sign of the Son of man in heaven."-Early Writings, 35:1.

"The clouds of heaven will clash, and there will be darkness. Then that voice comes from heaven and the clouds begin to roll back like a scroll, and there is the bright, clear sign of the Son of man. The children of God know what that cloud means. "-Maranatha, 279:5.

The faithful see it and hear the sound of music as it nears.

"The clouds begin to roll back like a scroll and there is the bright, clear sign of the Son of man. The children of God know what that cloud means. The sound of music is heard, and as it nears, the graves are opened and the dead are raised."-9 Manuscript Releases, 251:3-252:1.

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THE TIMING OF THE SECOND ADVENT

It is impossible for us to know when Christ will return, until He Himself tells us at the sounding of the Voice of God, just prior to that event. No man has a true message of time-setting In regard to the second coming of Christ (2SM 113), and to try to do so pleases Satan (GC 457). We have been warned against doing this (DA 632-633; FE 335; GC 456-457; 1T 409; TM 55, 61), and we should beware of doing it (TM 55, 61; 1 SM 75-76). When men do it, they only weaken the faith of God's people (EW 22; 1T 72-73).

- 4 -

JESUS RETURNS FOR HIS PEOPLE

1 - Christ, veiled in humanity, departed from this world.

"Christ had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. *The disciples had beheld the cloud receive Him.* The same Jesus who had walked and talked and prayed With them; who had broken bread with them; who had been with them in their boats on the lake; and who had that very day toiled with them up the ascent of Olivet,—the same Jesus had now gone to share His Father's throne. And the angels had assured them that the very One whom they had seen go up into heaven, *would come again even as He had ascended.* "—*Desire of Ages*, 832:2.

2 - Christ, glorified in humanity, will return again.

"The glory of Christ's humanity did not appear when He was upon the earth. He was regarded as a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. We hid as it were our faces from Him. But He was pursuing the path [which] the plan of God had devised. *That same humanity now appears as He descends from heaven, robed in glory, triumphant, exalted.* "—*In Heavenly Places*, 358:3.

3 - The appearance of Christ as He returns.

"*Upon It sat the Son of man.* His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders; and upon His head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet."—*Early Writings*, 16:0.

4 - He will return amid great glory.

"*Christ will come In His own glory, in the glory of His Father, and in the glory of the holy angels.* Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels, the beautiful, triumphant sons of God, possessing surpassing loveliness and glory, will escort Him on His way. In the place of a crown of thorns, *He will wear a crown of glory—a crown within a crown.* In the place of that old purple robe, *He will be clothed In a garment of whitest white*, 'so as no fuller on earth can white' (Mark 9:3) it. And on His vesture and on His thigh a name will be written, 'King of kings, and Lord of lords.' "—*Our High Calling*, 367:2.

5 - Millions of angels accompany Him, and the glory fills the sky.

"*Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror.* Not now a 'Man of Sorrows,' to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. 'Faithful and True,' 'in righteousness He doth judge and make war.' And 'the armies which were in heaven' (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody *the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him* on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.' No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. '*His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light.*' "—*Great Controversy*, 641:0.

- 5 -

EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM AS THEY AWAKEN TO THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION

1 - Every person in the world sees Him return.

"As the living cloud comes still nearer, *every eye beholds the Prince* of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. 'And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, *King of kings, and Lord of lords.*' "—*Great Controversy*, 641:0.

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- 6 -

THE DISPLAY OF OVERMASTERING POWER BRINGS FEAR AND APPREHENSION

1 - The wicked are terrified, and the saints are apprehensive. But Jesus reassures His own.

“Before *His presence* ‘all faces are turned into paleness;’ upon the rejecters of God’s mercy falls the terror of eternal despair. ‘The heart melteth, and the knees smite together, . . . and the faces of them all gather blackness.’ Jeremiah 30:6; Nahum 2:10. *The righteous cry* with trembling: ‘Who shall be able to stand?’ *The angels’ song* is hushed, and there is a period of awful silence. *Then the voice of Jesus* is heard, saying: ‘My grace is sufficient for you.’ The faces of the righteous are lighted up, and joy fills every heart. And the angels strike a note higher and sing again as they draw still nearer to the earth.” -*Great Controversy*, 641 :1.

- 7 -

THE HEAVENS AND EARTH ARE SHAKEN

1 - His arrival in the skies shakes the earth to its foundations.

“*The King of kings* descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, *the earth trembles* before Him, and *every mountain and island* is moved out of its place. ‘Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous around about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people.’ “-*Great Controversy*, 641:2-642:0.

Note: There is a shaking of the earth at the Voice of God (before the second advent), and a second one at the second advent. (Compare *Great Controversy*, 637:0 and 642:0.)

- 8 -

CRYING FOR THE ROCKS TO FALL THE WICKED FLEE INTO CAVES

1 - The flight into the caves as they cry to the rocks to fall on them.

“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, *hid themselves In the dens and In the rocks* of the mountains; *and said to the mountains and rocks*, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, arid from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” -*Great Controversy*, 642:1.

2 - They call to their gods.

“When the earth is reeling to and fro like a drunkard, when the heavens are shaking and the great day of the Lord has come, who shall be able to stand? One *object they behold in trembling agony from which they will try In vain to escape*. ‘Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him’ (Revelation 1:7). *The unsaved utter wild imprecations to dumb nature—their god*: ‘Mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne’ (Revelation 6:16).”-*That I May Know Him*, 956:1.

3 - Some of the wicked flee into caves recently vacated by the faithful.

“The hidden ones have been scattered because of man’s enmity against the law of Jehovah. They have been oppressed by all the powers of the earth. They have been scattered in the dens and caves of the earth through the violence of their adversaries, because they are true and obedient to Jehovah’s laws. But deliverance comes to the people of God. To their enemies God will show Himself a God of just retribution.

“From the dens and the caves of the earth, that have been the secret hiding places of God’s people, they are called forth as His witnesses, true and faithful.

“*The people who have braved out their rebellion* will fulfill the description given In Revelation 6:15-17. *In these very caves and dens* they find the very statement of truth in the letters and in the publications as witness against them. The shepherds who lead the sheep in false paths will hear the charge made against them, ‘It was you who made light of truth. It was you who told us that God’s law was abrogated, that it was a yoke of bondage. *It*

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was you who voiced the false doctrines when I was convicted that these Seventh-day Adventists had the truth. The blood of our souls is upon your priestly garments. . . Now will you pay the ransom for my soul? . . . What shall we do who listened to your garbling of the Scriptures and your turning into a lie the truth which If obeyed would have saved us?

“When Christ comes to take vengeance on those who have educated and trained the people to trample on God’s Sabbath, to tear down His memorial, and tread down with their feet the feed of His pastures, lamentations will be in vain. Those who trusted in the false shepherds had the word of God to search for themselves, and they find that God will judge every man who has had the truth and turned from the light because it involved self-denial and the cross. *Rocks and mountains cannot screen them from the indignation of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.*” -*Maranatha, 290:14.*

- 9 -

THE INSOLENT OF THE WICKED IS ENDED AS THEY AWAKEN TO THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION

1 - The jests and lies are replaced by praying and weeping.

“The derisive jests have ceased. Lying lips are hushed into silence. The clash of arms, the tumult of battle, ‘with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood’ (Isaiah 9:5), is stilled. Nought now is heard but the voice of prayer and the sound of weeping and lamentation. The cry bursts forth from lips so lately scoffing: ‘The great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?’ The wicked pray to be buried beneath the rocks of the mountains rather than meet the face of Him whom they have despised and rejected.” -*Great Controversy, 642:2.*

2 - That Voice they know so well, for they have heard it for years.

“That voice which penetrates the ear of the dead, they know. How often have its plaintive, tender tones called them to repentance. How often has it been heard in the touching entreaties of a friend, a brother, a Redeemer. To the rejecters of His grace no other could be so full of condemnation, so burdened with denunciation, as that voice which has so long pleaded. . . That voice awakens memories which they would fain blot out—warnings despised, invitations refused, privileges slighted.” “-*Great Controversy, 642:3.*

- 10 -

THOSE ALSO WHO PIERCED HIM SHALL SEE HIM RETURN

1 - What a day that will be.

“What a day that will be, when those who rejected Christ will look upon Him whom their sins have pierced.” -*Maranatha, 292:9.*

2 - Those who mocked Him will see Him return.

“There are those who mocked Christ in His humiliation. With thrilling power come to their minds the Sufferer’s words, when, adjured by the high priest, He solemnly declared: ‘Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.’ Matthew 26:64. Now they behold Him In His glory, and they are yet to see Him sitting on the right hand of power [at His third advent].” -*Great Controversy, 643:1.*

3 - Those who robed, crowned, smote, spate, nailed, and pierced Him will also see His return in glory.

“Those who derided His claim to be the Son of God are speechless now. There is the haughty Herod who jeered at His royal title and bade the mocking soldiers crown Him king. There are the very men who with impious hands placed upon His form the purple robe, upon His sacred brow the thorny crown, and in His unresisting hand the mimic scepter, and bowed before Him in blasphemous mockery. The men who smote and spit upon the Prince of life now turn from His piercing gaze and seek to flee from the overpowering glory of His presence. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet, the soldier who pierced His side, behold these marks with terror and remorse. . . And now there rises a cry of mortal agony. Louder than the shout, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him,’ which rang through the streets of Jerusalem, swells the awful, despairing wail, ‘He is the Son of God! He is the true Messiah!’ “ -*Great Controversy, 643:2-644:0.*

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4 - They will look upon Him and wall.

“Those who have acted the most prominent part in the rejection and crucifixion of Christ come forth to see Him as He is, and those who have rejected Christ come up and see the saints glorified, and it is at that time that the saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. The very ones who placed upon Him the purple robe and put the crown of thorns upon His brow, and those who put the nails through His hands and feet, look upon Him and bewail.” -9 Manuscript Releases, 252:1 (1886).

5 - They will call for the rocks to fall on them.

“They remember how His love was slighted and His compassion abused. They think of how Barabbas, a murderer and a robber, was chosen in His stead, how Jesus was crowned with thorns and scourged and crucified, how in the hours of His agony on the cross the priests and rulers taunted Him, saying, ‘Let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He saved others, Himself He cannot save.’ All the insult and despite offered to Christ, all the suffering caused to His disciples, will be as fresh in their recollection as when the satanic deeds were done.

“The voice which they heard so often in entreaty and persuasion will again sound in their ears. Every tone of gracious solicitation will vibrate as distinctly in their ears as when the Saviour spoke in the synagogues and on the street. Then those who pierced Him will call on the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.” -Last Day Events, 275:2-3.

Note: The truth that a special resurrection (of some of the wicked of earlier ages) occurs prior to the Second Advent is shown by the fact that those who pierced Christ will see Him return in the clouds of heaven.

6 - The Jewish rulers will see His second advent.

“As they [the Jewish rulers] gaze upon His glory, [at His second coming], there flashes before their minds the memory of the Son of Man clad in the garb of humanity. They remember how they treated Him, how they refused Him, and pressed close to the side of the great apostate. The scenes of Christ’s life appear before them in all their clearness. All He did, all He said, the humiliation to which He descended to save them from the taint of sin, rises before them in condemnation.

“They behold Him riding into Jerusalem, and see Him break into an agony of tears over the impenitent city that would not receive His message. His voice, which was heard in invitation, in entreaty, in tones of tender solicitude, seems again to fall upon their ears. The scene in the garden of Gethsemane rises before them, and they hear Christ’s amazing prayer, ‘Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:

‘Again they hear the voice of Pilate, saying, ‘I find in him no fault at all.’ They see the shameful scene in the judgment hall, when Barabbas stood by the side of Christ, and they had the privilege of choosing the guiltless One. They hear again the words of Pilate, ‘Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?’ They hear the response, ‘Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas.’ To the question of Pilate, ‘What shall I do then with Jesus?’ the answer comes, ‘Let him be crucified.’

“Again they see their Sacrifice bearing the reproach of the cross. They hear the loud, triumphant tones tauntingly exclaim, ‘If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross: ‘He saved others; himself he cannot save.’

“Now they behold Him not in the garden of Gethsemane, not in the judgment hall, not on the cross of Calvary. The signs of His humiliation have passed away, and they look upon the face of God—the face they spit upon, the face which priests and rulers struck with the palms of their hands. Now the truth in all its vividness is revealed to them.” -Maranatha, 293:15.

7 - Christ promised Caiaphas that this day would come.

“[At His trial], Caiaphas, raising his right arm toward heaven, addressed Jesus in the form of a solemn oath: ‘I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

‘Every ear was bent to listen, and every eye was fixed on His face as He answered, ‘Thou hast said.’ A heavenly light seemed to illuminate His pale countenance as He added, ‘Nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming In the clouds of heaven.’

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“For a moment the divinity of Christ flashed through His guise of humanity. The high priest quailed before the penetrating eyes of the Saviour . . . For a moment he felt as if standing before the eternal Judge, whose eye, which sees all things, was reading his soul, bringing to light mysteries supposed to be hidden with the dead.

“The scene passed from the priest’s vision. . . Rending his robe, . . . he demanded that. . . the prisoner be condemned for blasphemy. ‘What further need have we of witnesses?’ he said; ‘behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye?’ And they all condemned Him,” -*Desire of Ages*, 706:3; 707:1-708:1.

8 - The Jewish leaders made their choice, and, at His coming, they will later remember it.

“*Thus the Jewish* leaders made *their choice*. Their decision was registered in the book which John saw in the hand of Him that sat upon the throne, the book which no man could open. In all its vindictiveness this decision will appear before them in the day when this book is unsealed by the Lion of the tribe of *Judah*,” -*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 294:1.

“When Christ comes the second time, not as a prisoner surrounded by a rabble will they see Him. They will see Him as heaven’s King. . . *Then the priests and rulers* will remember distinctly the scene in the judgment hall. Every circumstance will appear before them as if written in letters of fire.” -*Maranatha*, 282:7.

- 11 -

THE SAINTS CRY OUT “THIS IS OUR GOD; HE WILL SAVE US!”

1 - The faithful cry, “He will save us!”

“In the lives of all who reject truth there are moments when conscience awakens, when memory presents the torturing recollection of a life of hypocrisy and the soul is harassed with vain regrets. But what are these compared with the remorse of that day when ‘fear cometh as desolation,’ when ‘destruction cometh as a whirlwind’ Proverbs 1:27. Those who would have destroyed Christ and His faithful people now witness *the glory which rests upon them*. In the midst of their terror they hear the voices of the saints in joyful strains exclaiming: ‘*Lo, this Is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us*.’” -*Great Controversy*, 644:1.

- 12 -

THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD

1 - Sequence: (1) Those that died in Christ had partaken of the divine nature. (2) After death, they were guarded by angels. (3) The second advent of Christ occurs. (4) Jesus views their graves, and sounds His silver trumpet. (5) He cries, “Awake, awake. . . !” (6) There is a mighty earthquake, and the graves are opened. (7) The first resurrection occurs as all the remaining righteous dead come to life, by virtue of the character they had received from Christ’s righteousness. (8) As they rise from their prison-house, by the power of the Saviour In them while living, they are clothed with Immortal glory and cry, “O death, where is thy sting? . . .” (9) The living righteous unite with them in a long, glad shout of victory. (10) The wrinkles and other marks of earth are gone, but they recognize one another.

“Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightening and the roar of thunder, *the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints*. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven. He cries: ‘*Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!*’ Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of *the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people*. From the prison house of death they come, *clothed with immortal glory, crying: ‘O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?’* 1 Corinthians 15:55. And the living righteous and the risen saints *unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory*.” -*Great Controversy*, 644:2.

“Then Jesus’ *silver trumpet sounded*, as He descended on the cloud wrapped in flames of fire. *He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, ‘Awake! awake! awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise.’ Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality.*” -*Early Writings*, 16:1.

“The Life-giver will call up His purchased possession in *the first resurrection*, and until that triumphant hour, when the last trump shall sound and the vast army shall come forth to eternal victory, every sleeping saint will be kept in safety and will be guarded as a precious jewel, who is known to God by name. By the power of the

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Saviour that dwelt in them while living and because they were partakers of the divine nature, they are brought forth from the dead.” -*Sons and Daughters of God*, 359:1.

“ ‘The hour is coming,’ Christ said, ‘in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and *shall come forth.*’ That voice is to resound through all the habitations of the dead; and *every saint who sleeps In Jesus will awake and leave his prison-house.* Then the virtue of character we have received from Christ’s righteousness will ally us to true greatness of the highest order.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 359:2.

“*The victory of the sleeping saints* will be glorious on the morning of the resurrection. . The Life-giver will crown with immortality all who come forth from the *grave.*”-*Sons and Daughters of God*, 359:3.

“Those who sleep in Jesus will be *called from their prison house.* . to a *glorious Immortality.*.. He has risen, dear friends, and in your despondency you may know. . that Jesus is by your side to give you peace.

“I know what I am talking about. I have seen the time when I thought the waves were going over my head; in that time I felt my Saviour precious to me. When my eldest son was taken from me I felt my grief was very great, but Jesus came to my side and I felt His peace in my soul. . When our friends go into the grave they are beautiful to us. It may be our father or mother that we lay away: when they come forth *those wrinkles are all gone* but the figure is there, and *we know them.*

“We want to be prepared to meet these dear friends as they come forth in the resurrection morning. . Shall we lay hold upon the hope set before us in the gospel that we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is?” -*In Heavenly Places*, 353:1-2, 3-4.

2 - That Voice, calling forth His own, resounds through all the nations of the dead.

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth’ [John 5:28-29]: *This voice Is soon to resound through all the nations of the dead, and every saint who sleeps In Jesus shall awake and leave his prison house.*”-*Last Day Events*, 276:2.

“*The precious dead, from Adam down to the last saint* who dies, will hear the voice of the Son of God and will come forth from the grave to immortal life. “-*Desire of Ages*, 606:1.

3 - Hated on earth, the beloved of Heaven come forth from their graves.

“*The heirs of God* have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea. On earth they were ‘destitute, afflicted, tormented.’ Millions went down to the grave loaded with infamy because they steadfastly refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan. By human tribunals they were adjudged the vilest of criminals. But now God is ‘judge Himself.’ “-*Great Controversy*, 650:1.

4 - From mountains and mines.

“When Christ comes to gather to Himself those who have been faithful, the last trump will sound, and the whole earth, from *the summit of the loftiest mountains to the lowest recesses of the deepest mines*, will hear. The righteous dead will hear the sound of the last trump, and will come forth from their graves, to be clothed with immortality and to meet their Lord.” -*7 Bible Commentary*, 909/1:2.

5 - From caverns, dungeons, caves and oceans.

“I dwell with pleasure upon the resurrection of the just, who shall come forth from all parts of the earth, from *rock cavern, from dungeons, from caves of the earth, from the waters of the deep.* Not one is *overlooked.* Every one shall hear His voice. They will come forth with triumph and *victory.*”-*Last Day Events*, 278:1.

8 - From caverns, dungeons, and wells.

“What a scene will these mountains and hills (in Switzerland) present when Christ, the lifegiver, shall call forth the dead! They will come from caverns, from dungeons, from deep wells, where their bodies have been buried.” -*Last Day Events*, 278:2.

7 - From mountains, caves, dens, and dungeons.

“*In the vastness of the mountains, in the caves and dens of the earth*, the Saviour reveals His presence and His glory.

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“Yet a little while, and He that is to come will come and will not tarry. *His eyes as a flame of fire penetrate into the fast-closed dungeons* and hunt out the hidden ones, for their names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. The eyes of the Saviour are above us, around us, noting every difficulty, discerning every danger; and there is no place where His eyes cannot penetrate, no sorrows and sufferings of His people where the sympathy of Christ does not reach.

“*The child of God will be terror-stricken at the first sight of the majesty of Jesus Christ.* He feels that he cannot live in His holy presence. But the word comes to him as to John, ‘Fear not.’ Jesus laid His right hand upon John; He raised him up from his prostrate position. *So will He do unto His loyal, trusting ones.*” -*That I May Know Him, 360:3.*

8 - Christ’s resurrection Is a sample of what the resurrection of each of His faithful ones will be like.

“The resurrection of Jesus was a *sample of the final* resurrection of all who sleep in Him.” *Maranatha, 302:1.*

9 - It is only because of our earlier union with Christ here on earth, that we will come forth from the grave.

“Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. *It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave –not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours.* Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, *have everlasting life.* It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal.” -*Maranatha, 902:6.*

10 - Eternal life is only possible in and through Christ. “Man has no control over his life. But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him. ‘I lay it down of myself.’ He said. In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. *This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ.*” -*Maranatha, 902:9.*

- 13 -

THE APPEARANCE OF THE SAINTS

1 - They will come forth the same in size, but with youthful, eternal vigor.

“*All come forth from their graves the same in stature* as when they entered the tomb. Adam, who stands among the risen throng, is of lofty height and majestic form, in stature but little below the Son of God. He presents a marked contrast to the people of later generations; in this one respect is shown the great degeneracy of the race. *But all arise with the freshness and vigor of eternal youth. . All blemishes and deformities are left in the grave.* Restored to the tree of life in the long-lost Eden, *the redeemed will ‘grow up’* (Malachi 4:2) to the full stature of the race in its primeval *glory.*”-*Great Controversy, 644:3-645:0.*

2 - Their personal identity will be preserved.

“Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. “-6 Bible Commentary, 1093/1:2 [*The entire passage Is worth reading*].

3 - They will be given a higher nature.

“When Christ comes, He takes those who have purified their souls by obeying the truth. . This mortal shall put on immortality, and these corruptible bodies, subject to disease, will be changed *from mortal to immortal. We shall then be gifted with a higher nature.* The bodies of all who purify their souls by obeying the truth *shall be glorified.* They will have fully received and believed in Jesus Christ.” -3 *Selected Messages, 427:3.*

-14 -

LIVING SAINTS MADE IMMORTAL AND CAUGHT UP WITH THE RISEN SAINTS

1 - They are made immortal, and caught up to Jesus.

“The living righteous are changed ‘in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,’ At the voice of God they were glorified; *now they are made Immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord In the air.*” -*Great Controversy, 645:1.*

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2 - Changed in a moment, they meet their Lord in the air.

“The voice of the Son of God called forth the sleeping saints, clothed with glorious immortality. *The living saints were changed In a moment and were caught up with them into the cloudy chariot,*”-*Early Writings*, 35:1.

3 - They ascend amid shouts of glory and victory.

“And the graves were opened, and the saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying, ‘Victory over death and the grave’; and *together with the living saints they were caught up to meet their Lord In the air*, while rich, musical shouts of glory and victory were upon every immortal tongue.”-*Early Writings*, 273:0.

4 - The meeting in the sky.

“There stands the risen host. The last thought was of death and its pangs. The last thoughts they had were of the grave and the tomb, but now they proclaim, ‘O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?’ . . . Here they stand and the finishing touch of immortality is put upon them and they go up to meet their Lord in the air. . . *There are the columns of angels on either side; . . . then the angelic choir strike the note of victory and the angels in the two columns take up the song and the redeemed host join as though they had been singing the song on the earth, and they have been. Oh, what music! There is not an inharmonious note. Every voice proclaims, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.’ He sees the travail of His soul, and is satisfied,*”-*Sons and Daughters of God*, 359:4

5 - When we receive holy flesh.

“*When human beings receive holy flesh*, they will not remain on the earth, but will be taken to heaven. While sin is forgiven in this life, its results are not now wholly removed. *It is at His coming that Christ is to ‘change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body.’*”-*2 Selected Messages*, 33:3.

-16 -

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES ARE REUNITED

1 - Angels bring loved ones together. “Angels’ gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.’ Little *children* are borne *by holy angels to their mothers’ arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part.*”-*Great Controversy*, 645:1.

2 - Infants wing their way to their mothers. “As the *little Infants* come forth immortal from their dusty beds, they immediately *wing their way to their mother’s arms.*”-*2 Selected Messages*, 260:1. (*For more on children in heaven, read 2 Selected Messages*, 260, and *Early Writings*, 19.)

3 - Friends are recognized.

“The 144,000 shouted. ‘Alleluia!’ as *they recognized their friends* who had been torn from them by death, and *in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.*”-*Early Writings*, 16:1.

“*We shall know our friends*, even as the disciples knew Jesus. They may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured, in this mortal life, and they rise in perfect health and symmetry; yet in the glorified body *their identity will be perfectly preserved.* Then shall we know even as also we are known. 1 Corinthians 13:12. In the face radiant with the light shining from the face of Jesus, we shall recognize the lineaments of those we *love.*”-*Desire of Ages*, 804:1.

“He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. *There will be a re-linking of the family chain.*”-*Desire of Ages*, 692:9.

4 - They meet those who brought them to Christ.

“*The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour.* What blessed converse they have with these souls! ‘I was a sinner,’ it will be said, ‘without God and without hope in the world, and you came to me and drew my attention to the precious Saviour as my only hope. . . Others will say, ‘I was a heathen in heathen lands. You left your friends and comfortable home and came to teach me how to

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find Jesus and believe in Him as the only true God. I demolished my idols and worshiped God, and now I see Him face to face. I am saved, eternally saved, ever to behold Him whom I love. .'

"Others will express their gratitude to those who fed the hungry and clothed the naked. 'When despair bound my soul in unbelief, *the Lord sent you to me,*' they say, 'to speak words of hope and comfort. *You brought me food* for my physical necessities, and *you opened to me the Word of God,* awakening me to my spiritual needs. *You treated me as a brother. You sympathized with me* in my sorrows, and restored my bruised and wounded soul, so that I could grasp the hand of Christ that was reached out to save me, In my ignorance *you taught me patiently* that I had a Father in heaven who cared for me, *You read to me the precious promises of God's Word, You Inspired In me the faith* that He would save me. My heart was softened, subdued, broken, as I contemplated the sacrifice which Christ had made for me, . I am here, saved, eternally saved, ever to live in His presence and to praise Him who gave His life for me.'

"What rejoicing there will be as these redeemed ones meet and greet those who have had a burden in their behalf! And those who have lived, not to please themselves, but to be a blessing to the unfortunate who have so few blessings-how their hearts will thrill with satisfaction!"-*My Life Today*, 353:1-3.

5 - They will meet those who gave them papers which brought them to Jesus.

"I was shown men and women studying with intense interest papers and a few pages of tracts upon present truth. They would read the evidences so wonderful and new to them, and would open their Bibles with a deep and new interest, as subjects of truth that had been dark to them were made plain, especially the light in regard to the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment. As they searched the Scriptures to see if these things were so, a new light shone upon their understanding, for angels were hovering over them, and impressing their minds with the truths contained in the publications they had been reading.

"I saw them holding papers and tracts in one hand, and the Bible in the other, while their cheeks were wet with tears; and bowing before God in earnest, humble prayer, to be guided into all truth, -the very thing He was doing for them before they called upon Him, And when the truth was received in their hearts, and they saw the harmonious chain of truth, the Bible was to them a new book; they hugged it to their hearts with grateful joy, while their countenances were all aglow with happiness and holy joy," -*Life Sketches*, 214:3-215:1.

6 - Oh, we must be there!

"Only those who are holy, those who have followed fully the meek Pattern, will with rapturous joy exclaim as they behold Him, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.' And they will be changed 'in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump' -that trump which wakes the sleeping saints, and calls them forth from their dusty beds, clothed with glorious immortality, and shouting, 'Victory! Victory over death and the grave!' *The changed saints are then caught up together with the angels to meet the Lord In the air, never more to be separated from the object of their love.*

"With such a prospect as this before us, such a glorious hope, such a redemption that Christ has purchased for us by His own blood, shall we hold our peace? Shall we not praise God even with a loud voice, as did the disciples when Jesus rode into Jerusalem? Is not our prospect far more glorious than was theirs? Who dare then forbid us glorifying God, even with a loud voice, when we have such a hope, big with immortality, and full of glory? *We have tasted of the powers of the world to come, and long for more.* My whole being cries out after the living God, and I shall not be satisfied until I am filled with all His *fullness.*"-*Early Writings*, 110:1-2.

7 - A summary of the final triumph of the redeemed.

"*The Life-giver is coming to break the fetters of the tomb.* He is to bring forth the captives and proclaim, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' *There stands the risen host.* The last thought was of death and its pangs. The last thoughts they had were of the grave and the tomb, but now they proclaim, 'O, death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory' (1 Corinthians 15:55). The pangs of death were the last things they felt.

"When they awake the pain is all gone. 'O grave, where is thy victory?' *Here they stand and the finishing touch of Immortality is put upon them* and they go up to meet their Lord in the air. *The gates of the city of God swing back upon their hinges,* and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. .

"*There are the columns of angels on either side,* and the ransomed of God walk in through the cherubim and seraphim. *Christ bids them welcome* and puts upon them His benediction: 'Well done, thou good and faithful

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servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord' (Matthew 25:21). What is that joy? He sees of the travail of His soul, and is satisfied. That is what we labor for.

"Here is one, who in the night season we pleaded with God on his behalf. There is one that we talked with on his dying bed, and he hung his helpless soul upon Jesus. Here is one who was a poor drunkard. We tried to get his eyes fixed upon Him who is mighty to save and we told him that Christ could give him the victory. There are the Crowns of Immortal glory upon their heads, and then the redeemed cast their glittering crowns at the feet of Jesus; and then the angelic choir strikes the note of victory and the angels in the two columns take up the song and the redeemed host join as though they had been singing the song on the earth, and they have been.

"Oh, what music! There is not an inharmonious note. Every voice proclaims, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain' (Revelation 5:12). He sees of the travail of His soul and is satisfied. Do you think anyone there will take time to tell of his trials and terrible difficulties? 'The former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind' (Isaiah 65: 17). 'God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes' (Revelation 21:4)."-3 Selected Messages, 430:5-431:4.

9 - A third summary statement.

"But while anguish was upon the loyal and true who would not worship the beast or his image and accept and revere an idol Sabbath, One said, 'Look up' Look up" Every eye was lifted" and the heavens seemed to part as a scroll when it is rolled together, and as Stephen looked into heaven, [so] we looked. The mockers were taunting and reviling us, and boasting of what they intended to do to us if we continued obstinate in holding fast our faith. But now we were as those who heard them not; we were gazing upon a scene that shut out everything else.

"There stood revealed the throne of God. Around it were ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands upon thousands, and close about the throne were the martyrs. Among this number I saw the very ones who were so recently in such abject misery, whom the world knew not, whom the world hated and despised.

"A voice said, 'Jesus, who is seated upon the throne, has so loved man that He gave His Life a sacrifice to redeem him from the power of Satan, and to exalt him to His throne. He who is above all powers, He who has the greatest influence in heaven and in earth, He to whom every soul is indebted for every favor he has received, was meek and lowly in disposition, holy, harmless, and undefiled in life.

"He was obedient to all His Father's commandments. Wickedness has filled the earth; it is defiled under the inhabitants thereof. The high places of the powers of earth have been polluted with corruption and base idolatries, but the time has come when righteousness shall receive the palm of victory and triumph. Those who were accounted by the world as weak and unworthy, those who were defenseless against the cruelty of men, shall be crowned conquerors and more than conquerors.' [Revelation 7:9-17 quoted.]

"They are before the throne enjoying the sunless splendors of eternal day, not as a scattered, feeble company, to suffer by the satanic passions of a rebellious world, expressing the sentiments, the doctrines, and the counsels of demons.

"Strong and terrible have become the masters of iniquity in the world under the control of Satan, but strong is the Lord God who judgeth Babylon. The just have no longer anything to fear from force or fraud as long as they are loyal and true. A mightier than the strong man armed is set for their defense. All power and greatness and excellence of character will be given to those who have believed and stood in defense of the truth, standing up and firmly defending the laws of God.

"Another heavenly being exclaimed with firm and musical voice, 'They have come out of great tribulation. They have walked in the fiery furnace in the world, heated intensely by the passions and caprices of men who would enforce upon them the worship of the beast and his image, who would compel them to be disloyal to the God of heaven.

"They have come from the mountains, from the rocks from the dens and caves of the earth, from dungeons, from prisons, from secret councils, from the torture chamber, from hovels, from garrets. They have passed through sore affliction, deep self-denial, and deep disappointment. They are no longer to be the sport and ridicule of wicked men. They are to be no longer mean and sorrowful in the eyes of those who despise them.

"Remove the filthy garments from them, with which wicked men have delighted to clothe them. Give them a change of raiment, even the white robes of righteousness, and set a fair mitre upon their heads.'

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“They were clothed in richer robes than earthly beings had ever worn. They were crowned with diadems of glory such as human beings had never seen. The days of suffering, of reproach, of want, of hunger, are no more; weeping is past. Then they break forth in songs, loud, clear, and musical. They wave the palm branches of victory, and exclaim, ‘Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb’ (Revelation 7:10).

“Oh, may God endue us with His Spirit and make us strong In His strength! In that great day of supreme and final triumph it will be seen that the righteous were strong, and that wickedness in all its forms and with all its pride was a weak and miserable failure and defeat. We will cling close to Jesus, we will trust Him, we will seek His grace and His great salvation. We must hide in Jesus, for He is a covert from the storm, a present help in time of trouble.” -3 Selected Messages, 428:2-430:4.

16. THE ASCENSION AND MILLENNIUM

POST-ASCENSION EVENTS ON EARTH

In the previous study, we viewed events at the time of the Second Advent, as they relate primarily to the redeemed –but also to the wicked. Those are the pre-ascension events, which occur at the time of Christ’s second coming, before Jesus and the redeemed begin their journey to heaven.

In the present study, we will view (1) the post-ascension events on earth, which is the death of the living wicked, and the binding of Satan to this planet for a thousand years; and (2) the post-ascension events of the redeemed; which includes their journey to heaven, their coronation and entrance into the Holy City, and the sentencing judgment.

- 1 - ALL THE WICKED HAVE MADE THEIR DECISIONS IN THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

1 - Now the controversy is with man, as well as with angels.

“ ‘A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword.’ Jeremiah 25:31. *For six thousand years the great controversy has been In progress; the Son of God and His heavenly messengers have been in conflict with the power of the evil one, to warn, enlighten, and save the children of men. Now all have made their decisions; the wicked have fully united with Satan in his warfare against God. The time has come for God to vindicate the authority at His downtrodden law. Now the controversy is not alone with Satan, but with men. ‘The Lord hath a controversy with the nations’; He will give them that are wicked to the sword.’ “-Great Controversy, 656:1.*

-2 - THOSE WITH THE SLAUGHTERING WEAPONS GO FORTH

1 - The work of destruction begins with the spiritual guardians.

“The mark of deliverance has been set upon those ‘that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done.’ *Now the angel of death goes forth, represented in Ezekiel’s vision by the men with the slaughtering weapons, to whom the command is given: ‘Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary,’ Says the prophet: ‘They began at the ancient men which were before the house.’ Ezekiel 9:1-6, The work of destruction begins among those who have professed to be the spiritual guardians of the people. The false watchmen are the first to fall. There are none to pity or to spare, Men, women, maidens, and little children perish together,” -Great Controversy, 656:2.*

Note: Contrary to errors being taught, the fulfillment of the Ezekiel 9 slaughter occurs not at the sealing - but here at the second coming of Christ.

-3 - STRIFE BY MEN AND WRATH FROM GOD WILL SLAY THE WICKED

1 - All the wicked are slain.

“ ‘The Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants at the earth for their iniquity: the earth also

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shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.' Isaiah 26:21. 'And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have faught against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold everyone on the hand of his neighbor.' Zechariah 14:12-13. *In the mad strife of their own fierce passions, and by the awful outpouring of God's unmingled wrath, fall the wicked Inhabitants of the earth* –priests, rulers, and people, rich and poor, high and low. 'And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried.' Jeremiah 25:33.

"At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. "-Great Controversy, 657:1.

2 - Identified with sin, the wicked die with it.

"To sin, wherever found, 'our God is a consuming fire' (Hebrews 12:29), in all who submit to His power the Spirit of God will consume sin. But *if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them.*" -*Desire of Ages, 107:4.*

3 - Slain by His glory.

"The glory of His countenance, which to the righteous is life, will be to the wicked a consuming fire." -*Desire of Ages, 600:2.*

4 - Their death is an act of mercy.

"Could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and Join their songs of praise? Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no; years of probation were granted them, that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven. Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire. They would long to flee from that holy place. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God. "-Great Controversy, 542:2-543:0.

5 - They are responsible for their own deaths.

"God destroys no one. The sinner destroys himself by his own impenitence." -5 *Testimonies, 120:1. Also see The Great Controversy, 25-97.*

- 4 - AN INCREDIBLY IMMENSE DESTRUCTION OCCURS

Several years ago, the present writer compiled a large number of quotations dealing with the terrible storm of wrath predicted by the third angel's message (Revelation 14:9-11). As wickedness increased, this wrath would gradually increase. It would greatly intensify when human probation closed, fall on men again at the Second Advent, and, again, in the final judgment after the third advent. At the second advent, for example, fire will fall from heaven and erupt from the earth, destroying the wicked.

For more information on this, see our 10 part tract set, *The Terrible Storm*, now in section 2 of our *Offshoots Tractbook*. The objective of the lengthy study was to establish from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy that God will slay the incorrigibly wicked, and has at times done so in the past.

-5- THE EARTH IS LEFT UNINHABITED AND DESOLATE

1 - The earth is a desolate wilderness.

"Christ takes His people to the City of God, and *the earth is emptied of its inhabitants. . The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness. The ruins of cities and villages destroyed by the earthquake, uprooted trees, ragged rocks thrown out by the sea or torn out of the earth itself, are scattered over its surface, while vast caverns mark the spot where the mountains have been rent from their foundations.*" -*Great Controversy, 657:1-2.*

"The earth looked like a desolate wilderness. *Cities and villages, shaken down by the earthquake, lay in*

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heaps. Mountains had been moved out of their places, leaving large caverns. Ragged rocks, thrown out by the sea, or torn out of the earth itself, were scattered all over its surface. Large trees had been uprooted and were strewn over the land. Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years.” -Early Writings, 290:1.

- 6 - SINS ARE ROLLED BACK ON SATAN

1 - The scapegoat transaction occurs.

*“Now the event takes place foreshadowed in the last solemn service of the Day of Atonement. When the ministration in the holy of holies had been completed, and the sins of Israel had been removed from the sanctuary by virtue of the blood of the sin offering, then the scapegoat was presented alive before the Lord; and in the presence of the congregation the high priest confessed over him ‘all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat.’ Leviticus 16:21. In like manner when the work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary has been completed, then in the presence of God and heavenly angels and the host of the redeemed *the sins of God’s people will be placed upon Satan; he will be declared guilty of all the evil which he has caused them to commit.* And as the scapegoat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so *Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness.* “-Great Controversy, 658:1.*

2 - Satan bears the final penalty.

*“When Christ, by virtue of His own blood, removes the sins of His people from the heavenly sanctuary at the close of His ministration, He will place them upon Satan, who, in the execution of the judgment, *must bear the final penalty.*” Great Controversy, 422:2.*

3 - Bearing the guilt of the sin.

“Satan, bearing the guilt of all the sins which he has caused God’s people to commit, will be for a thousand years confined to the earth, which will then be desolate, without inhabitant, and he will at last suffer the full penalty of sin in the fires that shall destroy all the wicked.” -Great Controversy. 485:9-486:0.

-7 - SATAN IS RESTRICTED TO PLANET EARTH FOR 1,000 YEARS

1 - For the first time since sin began, Satan is limited to this planet.

“The revelator foretells the banishment of Satan and the condition of chaos and desolation to which the earth is to be reduced, and he declares that this condition will exist for a thousand years. After presenting the scenes of the Lord’s second coming and the destruction of the wicked, the prophecy continues: ‘I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.’ “-Great Controversy, 658:2.

2 . Angels and saints rejoice at his confinement.

“I heard shouts of triumph from the angels and from the redeemed saints, which sounded like ten thousand musical instruments, because they were to be no more annoyed and tempted by Satan and because the inhabitants of other worlds were delivered from his presence and his temptations,”-Early Writings, 290:2.

3 - Satan will not be able to travel to other worlds.

*“Here he (Satan) will be confined, to wander up and down over the broken surface of the earth and see the effects of his rebellion against God’s law. For a thousand years he can enjoy the fruit of the curse which he has caused. *Limited alone to the earth, he will not have the privilege of ranging to other planets, to tempt and annoy those who have not fallen.* “-Early Writings, 290:1.*

Note: Several passages clarify that, although Satan was cast out of the highest heaven at the time of that first war (GC 500:1; PP 42:2), and out of the last sympathies of the angels at the death of Christ (DA 758:1-761:3), he was able to visit other planets until the beginning of the millennium (above quotations). So, in a very special sense, he is finally “bound” to the earth.

- 8 - UNABLE TO TEMPT SATAN WILL ONLY HAVE TIME TO THINK

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1 - He is limited to the earth.

“Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. *Limited to the earth*, he will not have access to other worlds to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. *It Is In this sense that he Is bound*: there are none remaining, upon whom he can exercise his power. He is wholly cut off from the work of deception and ruin which for so many centuries has been his sole delight.”-*Great Controversy*, 659:1.

2 - Even the wicked are beyond his reach.

“*Even the wicked are now placed beyond the power of Satan*, and alone with his evil angels he remains to realize the effect of the curse which sin has brought.” -*Great Controversy*, 660:1.

3 - He fears the future.

“During this time, Satan suffers extremely. Since his fall his evil traits have been in constant exercise. But he is then to be deprived of his power, and left to reflect upon the part which he has acted since his fall, *and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future*, when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for all the sins that he has caused to be committed.” -*Early Writings*, 290:1.

4 . His sufferings are intense.

“For a thousand years, Satan will wander to and fro in the desolate earth to behold the results of his rebellion against the law of God, *during this time his sufferings are Intense*. Since his fall his life of unceasing activity has banished reflection; but he is now deprived of his power and left to contemplate the part which he has acted since first he rebelled against the government of heaven, and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for the sins that he has caused to be committed.”-*Great Controversy*, 660:2.

- 3 - POST-ASCENSION EVENTS IN HEAVEN

- 1 - THE JOURNEY TO THE CITY OF GOD

1 - The meeting in the sky.

“There stands the risen host. The last thought was of death and its pangs. The last thoughts they had were of the grave and the tomb, but now they proclaim, ‘O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?’ . . . Here they stand and the finishing touch of immortality is put upon them and they go up to meet their Lord in the air. , There are the columns of angels on either side; . . . then the angelic choir strike the note of victory and the angels in the two columns take up the song and the redeemed host join as though they had been singing the song on the earth, and they have been. Oh, what music! There is not an inharmonious note. Every voice proclaims, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.’ He sees the travail of His soul, and is satisfied.”-*Sons and Daughters of God*, 359:4.

2 - They ascend to the Holy City.

“*Friends long separated by death are united*, nevermore to part, *and with songs of gladness ascend together* to the City of God.

“On each side of the cloudy chariot are wings, and beneath it are living wheels; and as the chariot rolls upward, the wheels cry, ‘Holy: and the wings, as they move, cry, ‘Holy,’ and the retinue of angels cry, ‘Holy, holy, holy, lord God Almighty.’ And the redeemed shout, ‘Alleluia’ as the chariot moves onward toward the New Jerusalem.” -*Great Controversy*, 645:1-2.

3 - “Homeward Bound!”

“Oh, how glorious it will be to see Him and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! *Long have we waited*, but our hope is not to grow dim. *If we can but see the King In His beauty we shall be forever blessed*. I feel as if I must cry aloud, ‘*Homeward bound!*’ “-*8 Testimonies*, 253:1.

4 - The journey takes seven days.

“We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass.” *Early Writings*, 16:2.

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Brother G.B. Starr (1854-1944) worked for many years as an evangelist and church administrator. He worked for a time in Australia, and later reported statements which, he said, Ellen White made to him. But some of his statements do not ring right, when compared with her writings. For that reason, we cannot accept the most startling of them as factual. Perhaps the story about the stop-over planet is true (it would be nice if it were), but we cannot know this with certainty.

(However, it is of Interest that, later in this present section, we will quote a passage which says angels are now preparing crowns for the saints (5T 96). If they are now preparing crowns, they could also be preparing a stopover planet for the seven-day trip to heaven.)

The following quotation by the E.G. White Estate discusses this particular statement by G.B. Starr:

“The report, based on the memory of one individual {Starr}, that Ellen G. White stated in a dinner-table conversation that the inhabitants of other worlds are gathering fruit for the Sabbath-day entertainment of the translated saints en route to heaven, is without support, and fanciful. The assertion that the words were stenographically reported is without foundation. Ellen G. White makes only the simple statement in *Early Writings*, page 16, that ‘We were seven days ascending to the sea of glass,’ No mention is made by Ellen G. White of the Sabbath spent en route.”- *Apocryphal quotations of E.G. White, statement by E. G. White Estate, E.G. White Index, Vol. 3, p. 3189.*

-2 - THE SAINTS' CORONATION ON THE SEA OF GLASS OUTSIDE THE CITY

1 - Sequence: (1) Clothed in glorious white robes, all the saints are standing on the sea of glass outside the City. (2) They are standing in a hollow square, with Jesus in the center, (3) The angels bring crowns from the city, and Jesus personally places a crown on the head of each saint. (4) Each one is satisfied with his crown. (5) The angels bring harps from the city, and Jesus personally hands one to each of His redeemed ones. (6) Then the commanding angel strikes the first note, and other leading angels with him; and all sweep the strings and sing praises to Christ.

“*Before entering the City of God*, the Saviour bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory and invests them with the insignia of their royal state. The glittering ranks are drawn up *in the form of a hollow square* about their King, whose form rises in majesty high above saint and angel, whose countenance beams upon them full of benignant love, Throughout the unnumbered host of the redeemed every glance is fixed upon Him, every eye beholds His glory whose ‘visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men,’ Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand *places the crown of glory*. For each there is a crown, bearing his own ‘new name’ (Revelation 2: 17), and the inscription, ‘Holiness to the Lord.’ In every hand are placed *the victor’s palm and the shining harp*. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awaking *sweet music in rich, melodious strains*. Rapture unutterable thrills every heart, and *each voice is raised in grateful praise*: ‘Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.’ Revelation 1:5, 6,”-*Great Controversy. 645:3-646:0.*

“Jesus brought the *crowns*, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us *harps* of gold and *palms* of victory. Here *on the sea of glass* the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns, And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet.”-*Early Writings, 16:2-17:0.*

“Then I saw a very great number of angels bring from the city glorious *crowns* –a crown for every saint, with his name written thereon. As Jesus called for the crowns, angels presented them to Him, and with His own right hand, the lovely Jesus placed the crowns on the heads of the saints. In the same manner the angels brought the *harps*, and Jesus presented them also to the saints. The *commanding angel first struck the note*, and then *every voice was raised* in grateful, happy praise, and every hand skillfully swept over the strings of the harp, sending forth melodious music in rich and perfect *strains*,”-*Early Writings, 288:1.*

Note: According to the above statements, all the redeemed—including the 144,000 –are in the hollow square. This agrees with GC 665:2; in which several different groups surround Jesus. Thus the 144,000 can be said to be in the square, and also all the saints can be said to be in that square.

2 - The angels welcome them with singing, “In that day the redeemed will shine forth in the glory of the

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Father and the Son. *The angels, touching their golden harps, will welcome the King and His trophies of victory—those who have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, A song of triumph will peal forth, filling all heaven.* Christ has conquered. He enters the heavenly courts, accompanied by His redeemed ones, the witnesses that His mission of suffering and sacrifice has not been in vain.”- 9 *Testimonies*, 285:2-286:0.

3 - Angels are now making those crowns. “When the Lord makes up His jewels. the true, the frank, the honest, will be looked upon with pleasure, *Angels are employed In making crowns* for such ones, and upon these star-gemmed crowns will be reflected, with splendor, the light which radiates from the throne of God.”-5 *Testimonies*, 96:2,

4 - A crown of glory is waiting for us, individually, in heaven.

“*A crown of glory. . is laid up for us who wait, and love, and long for the appearing of the Saviour.*”

“It is the waiting ones who are to be crowned with glory, honor, and immortality. You need not talk to me of the honors of the world, or the praise of its great ones. They are all vanity. Let but the finger of God touch them, and they would soon go back to dust again. I want honor that is lasting, honor that is immortal, honor that will never perish; a *crown that is richer than any crown that that ever decked the brow of a monarch.* Maranatha 309:3-4.

5 - Soon we will receive those crowns.

“Talk of heavenly things, Talk of Jesus, His loveliness and glory, and of His undying love for you, and let your heart flow out in love and gratitude to Him, who died to save you. Oh, get ready to meet your Lord in peace. *Those who are ready will soon receive an unfading crown of life, and will dwell forever in the kingdom of God,* with Christ, with angels, and with those who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.” -*Sons and Daughters of God*, 362:2.

6 - Receiving their crowns, many will thank their mothers.

“The day of God will reveal how much the world owes to godly mothers. . When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened; when the ‘well done’ of the great Judge is pronounced, and the crown of immortal glory is placed upon the brow of the victor, *many will raise their crowns in sight of the assembled universe, and pointing to their mother say: ‘She made me all am through the grace of God. Her instruction, her prayers, have been blessed to my eternal salvation.* “-*Maranatha*, 308:2-3.

7 - Parents will see their children crowned.

“With joy unutterable, *parents see the crown, the robe, the harp, given to their children.* The days of hope and fear are ended. The seed sown with tears and prayers may have seemed to be sown in vain, but their harvest is reaped with joy at last. Their children have been redeemed.” *Maranatha*, 308:1.

8 - Christ will rejoice as He beholds the redeemed.

“*In the results of His work Christ will behold its recompense.* In that great multitude which no man could number, presented ‘faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.’ He whose blood has redeemed and whose life has taught us ‘*shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.*’ “-*Education*, 309:3.

-3 - JESUS OPENS THE GATES AND LEADS HIS FAITHFUL ONES INTO THE CITY

1. Sequence: (1) The entire company march across the sea of glass to the City. (2) Jesus opens the gates and tells them, “You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth; enter in.” (3) Jesus leads them into the City, and they feel they have a perfect right to be there. (4) Within the City, they behold Adam’s original home—the Garden of Eden. (5) Then Jesus says, “Your conflict is ended; come, ye blessed of My Father. . .”

“*Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city.* Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, ‘You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in.’ We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city.”- *Early Writings*, 17:0.

“*Jesus threw open the gates of the golden city and led us in. Here we were made welcome, for we had kept the ‘commandments of God,’ and had a ‘right to the tree of life.’* “-*Early Writings*, 35:1.

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“*Before the ransomed throng Is the Holy City. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There they behold the Paradise of God, the home of Adam in his innocence. Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying: ‘Your conflict is ended.’ ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’*” -*Great Controversy*, 646:1.

“*A voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, will be heard saying, ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’*” -*Counsels on Stewardship*, 950:2.

Note: As quoted above, In EW 35 it is called “a gate,” but “gates” In the other (later) passages. This was either an initial memory lapse (In recounting her first vision) or a typographical error. But it is also an evidence of how exactly her writings were later printed and reprinted.

-4 - A VIEW OF THE CITY

1 - Jesus enters the city triumphally with His followers. Everything within the city is beautiful and lovely, and, In thankfulness, the redeemed cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus and sing praises to Him.

“*Within the city there was everything to feast the eye. Rich glory they beheld everywhere. Then Jesus looked upon His redeemed saints; their countenances were radiant with glory; and as He fixed His loving eyes upon them, He said with His rich, musical voice, ‘I behold the travail of My soul, and am satisfied. This rich glory is yours to enjoy eternally. Your sorrows are ended. There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.’ I saw the redeemed host bow and cast their glittering crowns at the feet of Jesus, and then, as His lovely hand raised them up, they touched their golden harps and filled all heaven with their rich music and songs to the Lamb.*”-*Early Writings*, 288:1-289:0.

Here is another view of the city; this one 2,000 years earlier, when Christ previously entered it triumphally just after His ascension:

“Then the portals of the city of God are opened wide, and the angelic throng sweep through the gates amid a burst of rapturous music.

“There is the throne, and around it the rainbow of promise. There are cherubim and seraphim. The commanders of the angel hosts, the sons of God, the representatives of the unfallen worlds, are assembled. The heavenly council before which Lucifer had accused God and His Son.. the representatives of those sinless realms over which Satan had thought to establish his dominion, –all are there to welcome the Redeemer. They are eager to celebrate His triumph and to glorify their King.”-*Desire of Ages*, 833: 11-834:1.

-5 - THE TWO ADAMS MEET

1 - Adam falls at the feet of Christ.

“As the ransomed ones are welcomed to the City of God, *there rings out upon the air an exultant cry of adoration. The two Adams are about to meet.* The Son of God is standing with outstretched arms to receive the father of our race –the being whom He created, who sinned against his Maker, and for whose sin the marks of the crucifixion are borne upon the Saviour’s form. As Adam discerns the prints of the cruel nails, he does not fall upon the bosom of his Lord, but *in humiliation casts himself at His feet*, crying: ‘Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!’

Tenderly the Saviour lifts him up and bids him look once more upon the Eden home from which he has so long been *exiled.*”-*Great Controversy*, 647:2.

- 6 - ADAM VIEWS THE GARDEN OF EDEN

1 - In Eden, Adam and his family worship and praise Christ.

“Transported with joy, he [*Adam*] beholds the trees that were once *his delight* –the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored, more lovely now than when he was banished from it. *The Saviour leads him to the tree of life and plucks the glorious fruit and bids him eat. He looks about him and beholds a multitude of his family*

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redeemed, standing in the Paradise of God. *Then he casts his glittering crown at the feet of Jesus* and, falling upon His breast, embraces the Redeemer. *He touches the golden harp*, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song: “Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!” *The family of Adam take up the strain* and cast their crowns at the Saviour’s feet as they bow before Him in adoration.”-*Great Controversy*, 648:1.

-7- THE REDEEMED SEE THE TREE AND THE THRONE

1 - A view of the tree of life.

“*Here we saw the tree of life and the throne of God*. Out of the throne came a pure river of water, and on either side of the river was the tree of life. On one side of the river was a trunk of a tree, and a trunk on the other side of the river, both of pure, transparent gold. At first I thought I saw two trees. I looked again, and saw that they were united at the top in one tree. So it was the tree of life on either side of the river of life. Its branches bowed to the place where we stood, and the fruit was glorious; it looked like gold mixed with *silver*.”- *Early Writings*, 17:1.

2 - Partaking of the tree, and viewing the throne.

“*I then saw Jesus leading His people to the tree of life*, and again we heard His lovely voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying, . *The leaves of this tree are for the healing of the nations*. Eat ye all of it.’ Upon the tree of life was most beautiful *fruit, of which the saints could partake freely*. In the city was a most glorious throne, from which proceeded a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal. On each side of this river was the tree of life, and on the banks of the river were other beautiful trees bearing fruit which was good for food.

“Language is altogether too feeble to attempt a description of heaven. As the scene rises before me, I am lost in amazement. Carried away with the surpassing splendor and excellent glory, I lay down the pen, and exclaim, ‘Oh, what love! what wondrous love!’ The most exalted language fails to describe the glory of heaven or the matchless depths of a Saviour’s love.” - *Early Writings*, 289: 1-2,

- 8 - THE 144,000 SING A NEW SONG ON THE CRYSTAL SEA BEFORE THE THRONE

1 - The 144,000 are frequently mentioned in *Early Writings*, and less often in *Great Controversy*. But in one paragraph we are given several identifying features of this group: (1) They had gotten the victory over the beast, his image, and his name (2) They were translated from among the living at the second advent, and therefore are first fruits. (3) They came out of great tribulation, for they passed through the time of trouble. (4) They went through Jacob’s trouble. (5) They stood without an intercessor after the close of probation. (6) They were without fault before God.

“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire, –so resplendent is it with the glory of God, –are gathered *the company that have ‘gotten the victory over the beast, and over his Image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.’* With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, ‘having the harps of God,’ they stand, *the hundred and forty and four thousand* that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, ‘the voice of harpers harping with their harps.’ *And they sing ‘a new song’* before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb –*a song of deliverance*. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is *the song of their experience* an experience such as no other company have ever had. ‘These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.’ These, *having been translated from the earth, from among the living*, are counted as ‘the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.’ Revelation 15:2,3; 14:1-5. ‘These are they which came out of great tribulation;’ they have *passed through the time of trouble* such as never was since there was a nation; they have *endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble*; they have *stood without an Intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments*. But they have been delivered, for they have ‘washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’ ‘In their mouth was found no guile: for *they are without fault’* before God.” -*Great Controversy*, 648:3-649:0.

- 9 - THE REDEEMED MEET THEIR GUARDIAN ANGELS

1 - Each person’s guardian angel will meet him in the resurrection, and will later tell him about God’s guidance and care in his life.

“Not until the providences of God are seen in the light of eternity shall we understand what we owe to the care and interposition of His angels. Celestial beings have taken an active part in the affairs of men. They have appeared in garments that shone as the lightning; they have come as men, in the garb of wayfarers. They have

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accepted the hospitalities of human homes; they have acted as guides to benighted travelers. They have thwarted the spoiler's purpose, and turned aside the stroke of the destroyer. .

"Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. *The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning, —what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly cooperation in every work for humanity!*" -*Education 304:4-305:2.*

- 10 - THE DAYS OF PAIN AND WEeping ARE FOREVER ENDED

1 - Every cause of grief has been removed.

"Henceforth they are to be ever with the Lord. They stand before the throne *clad in richer robes* than the most honored of the earth have ever worn. They are *crowned with diadems* more glorious than were ever placed upon the brow of earthly monarchs. *The days of pain and weeping are forever ended.* The King of glory has wiped the tears from all faces; *every cause of grief has been removed.* Amid the waving of palm branches they pour forth a song of praise, clear, sweet, and harmonious; every voice takes up the strain, until the anthem swells through the vaults of heaven: 'Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.' And all the inhabitants of heaven respond in the ascription: 'Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever.' Revelation 7:10, 12."-*Great Controversy, 650:1-651:0.*

- 11 - THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION WILL ENLARGE FOREVER

1 - Throughout eternal ages the redeemed will ever be learning more about what it cost to save them.

"*In this life we can only begin to understand the wonderful theme of redemption.* With our finite comprehension we may consider most earnestly the shame and the glory, the life and the death, the justice and the mercy, that meet in the cross; yet with the utmost stretch of our mental powers we fail to grasp its full significance. The length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of redeeming love are but dimly comprehended. The plan of redemption will not be fully understood, even when the ransomed see as they are seen and know as they are known: but *through the eternal ages new truth will continually unfold* to the wondering and delighted mind. Though the griefs and pains and temptations of earth are ended and the cause removed, *the people of God will ever have a distinct, intelligent knowledge of what their salvation has cost.*

"*The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity.* In Christ glorified they will behold Christ crucified. Never will it be forgotten that He whose power created and upheld the unnumbered worlds through the vast realms of space, the Beloved of God, the Majesty of heaven, He whom cherub and shining seraph delighted to adore —humbled Himself to uplift fallen man; that He bore the guilt and shame of sin, and the hiding of His Father's face, till *the woes of a lost world broke His heart and crushed out His life on Calvary's cross.* That the Maker of all worlds, the Arbiter of all destinies, should lay aside His glory and humiliate Himself from love to man will ever excite the wonder and adoration of the universe. As the nations of the saved look upon their Redeemer and behold the eternal glory of the Father shining in His countenance; as they behold His throne, which is from everlasting to everlasting, and know that His kingdom is to have no end, they break forth in rapturous song: 'Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His own most precious blood!'

"*The mystery of the cross explains all other mysteries. In the light that streams from Calvary the attributes of God which had filled us with fear and awe appear beautiful and attractive.* Mercy, tenderness, and parental love are seen to blend with holiness, justice, and power. While we behold the majesty of His throne, high and lifted up, we see His character in its gracious manifestations, and comprehend, as never before, the significance of that endearing title, 'Our Father,'

"It will be seen that He who is infinite in wisdom could devise no plan for our salvation except the sacrifice of His Son. *The compensation for this sacrifice is the joy of peopling the earth with ransomed beings, holy, happy, and immortal.* The result of the Saviour's conflict with the powers of darkness is joy to the redeemed, redounding to the glory of God throughout eternity. *And such is the value of the soul that the Father is satisfied*