

# Big Picture Bible Study

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## *Lesson 11: The Ending of the Time of the End*

### THE THIRD VEIL

The Sanctuary is full of symbolism. We return to it now to find an incredible pattern that you may have noticed: the veils. First, let's review a few important concepts from the beginning of our study.

#### **Sin results in separation from God.**

Before sin, in the perfection of that first Sabbath spent with God, there was no separation between God and Adam and Eve. All "was very good," as Genesis makes clear, after the sixth day:

- **Genesis 1:27, 31** "27So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them... 31Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

What a miraculous love expression! Imagine that experience of CREATION!

There existed a PERFECT relationship of love between a PERFECT God and a PERFECT people in a PERFECT environment. Everything functioned according the governing law of God's universe: LOVE.

But remember the nature of our Father. He is the only God of all existence. His very being is LOVE; it is a hot, burning, passionate, fiery love of perfect selflessness. His law reflects His character by definition: AGAPE LOVE.

- **Deuteronomy 4:24** "24For the Lord your God is a **CONSUMING FIRE**, a jealous God."
- **Exodus 33:20** "20But He said, 'You cannot see My face; for **no man shall see Me, and live.**'"

Adam and Eve could communicate with God face-to-face, as we speak with a friend: there was no separation. But with self-centered choices, sin was brought into the equation, shattering the harmony of God's universe of LOVE. The sinner must be separated from the consuming fire of God's presence. Such perfect love would destroy in an instant the sinner with his sin.

- **Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)** "2But your **iniquities** have separated you from your God; and your **sins** have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."
- **Isaiah 59:2 (Basic Bible in English)** "But your sins have come between you and your God, and by your evil doings his face **has been veiled** from you, so that he will give you no answer."

When Adam and Eve sinned, a veil went up between them and God. To some extent, this had to be physical (*we do not understand the physics of spiritual or Heavenly things, but we can trust that God has given us earthly examples by which to have faith based on evidence*) because they could no longer be in the unveiled presence of all consuming LOVE (*remember in **Genesis 3:8** they hid from the presence, or "face" of God*).

### ***Sin brings up a veil of separation between God and us.***

Moses is a prefigure for those who walk with God without sin through the Close of Probation. He came down from the mountain having spoken with God; with no sins on his heart, he had come as close to that Fire as fallen humanity ever has, and he had to cover His face with a veil. We will have our faces shine when the character of Christ is repeated in us through the Holy Spirit.

## God loves us and wants to be with us, but He will not force us.

The plan of salvation is the most incredible concept imaginable. God found a way to provide forgiveness of sins through the death of His Son. Until we are translated at the Second Coming, however, He developed a way to veil the earth while the fruit of sin develops and while we choose whether or not to live according to the image in which we were originally created: LOVE.

*God put a veil of mercy between the earth and His consuming presence. We all have the opportunity to live a life of **SELF-CENTEREDNESS** or **SELFLESSNESS**. It is our choice.*

## God gave us the Sanctuary to dwell with us in the meantime.

Our eyes are shut to the spiritual world, but clearly there are degrees of connection with God. We have all experienced those moments when we feel so close to Him—as if He's right there; and we have also all had experiences of loneliness as we struggle to maintain our faith.

- **Exodus 25:8** “<sup>8</sup>And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”

The Sanctuary was designed to help with that concept on an intellectual level, to bring the minds of the people into a closer connection, spiritually speaking, with God. By spending time in studying the Sanctuary, we too may see His character more fully. By studying the character of the Author of LOVE, we follow step-by-step and allow God to mold our characters to be modeled after His.

## The basic purpose of the Sanctuary is to prepare us to once more see God openly and unveiled—truly face-to-face.

### There is a pattern in the symbol of the three veils.

Hidden within the study of the Sanctuary veils, there is buried amazing symbols that help us understand the spiritual journey we must take to move past the veils and begin to walk with God.

#### The Inner Veil: before the Most Holy Place

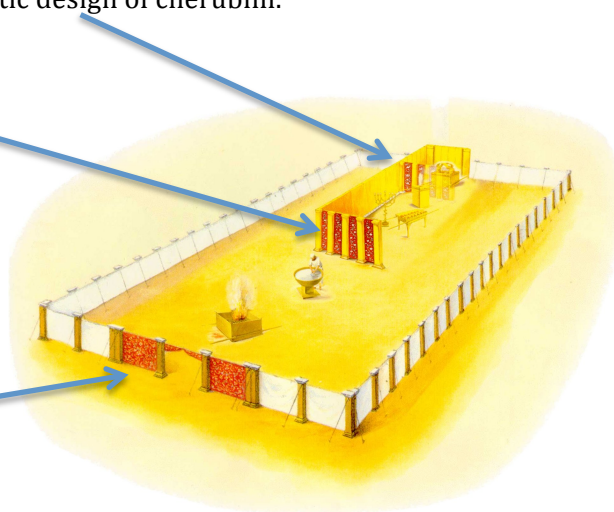
- **Exodus 26:31** “<sup>31</sup>You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.”

#### The Middle Veil: before the Holy Place

- **Exodus 26:36-37** “<sup>36</sup>You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver.”

#### The Outer Veil: before the Outer Court

- **Exodus 27:16** “<sup>16</sup>For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets.”



Take the time to read **Exodus 40:17-33**. Imagine the details of the Sanctuary and the images that the Israelites would have seen every day. These concepts are the bedrock to the gospel that we preach. The all point directly to Jesus as the Substitute for mankind, the Propitiation for our sins.

*The sanctuary is a symbolic model of God's plan to bring us back into His presence; each of **THE THREE VEILS** represents ways that we can be separated from God.*

## The three veils represent separation from aspects of God's character: LOVE.

The application in our lives is that we can conquer each veil as we fight the good fight and grow ever closer to God. The symbolism of each veil becomes clear when you study it from the perspective of a real person standing before that awesome structure. Each veil separates the sinner from specific articles of furniture; each veil hides various dimensions of God's character. As the sinner makes his way through the structure, each aspect is revealed more fully, and we are changed.

### The Three Veils

Sin in the garden mandated immediate separation. That same day, a substitutionary animal was sacrificed to cover the guilty sinners. Man stood naked, outside the presence of God. But we may choose to spiritually enter the Outer Court through THE GATE. We notice the Altar of Sacrifice and we see the death of Jesus and the incomprehensible love that He has for us. What an image of the character of LOVE! Our eyes turn to the Laver and we see that God has provided us with help; we may request the washing of the Holy Spirit to teach us how to have that character be ours.

- **Romans 6:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

**THE OUTER VEIL SEPARATES US FROM SEEING THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS AND THE WASHING BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLAN FOR SALVATION IS HIDDEN TO THOSE WHO DO NOT ENTER.**

SYMBOLS OF THE FIRST VEIL: THE ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING AND THE LAVER.

For centuries, the Israelites did not see the meaning in the articles of furniture. Christ came to explode a deep understanding of God's character upon us. He became a man, forever linking Himself to the fallen race, and in His life we witness a remarkable example of how to enter the Holy Place through THE DOOR. We see the bread, the incense, and the light. We feast upon the word, we kneel in the cloud of prayer, and we take the light to the world... just as did Jesus!

- **John 8:12** “<sup>12</sup>Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “*I am the light of the world*. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ”
- **John 6:35** “<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “*I am the bread of life*; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”
- **John 14:6** “<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life*. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**THE MIDDLE VEIL SEPARATES US FROM GRASPING THE WORD OF GOD, FINDING PRAYER CONNECTION, AND SEEING THE LIGHT OF HIS FACE. THOSE WHO DO NOT ENTER CANNOT DEVELOP A HOLY PLACE LIFESTYLE.**

SYMBOLS OF SECOND VEIL: TABLE OF SHEWBREAD, ALTAR OF INCENSE, SEVEN-BRANCH CANDLESTICK.

All that separates us from the Father now is THE VEIL. Only through Jesus may we enter into the Most Holy Place to stand before the throne. As humble sinners we see the Ark of the Covenant and experience the awesome mercy of God as Jesus pays the penalty of justice before the law.

- **Hebrews 4:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore come *boldly to the throne of grace*, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

**THE INNER VEIL SEPARATES US FROM UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LAW AND CHARACTER. IF YOU DO NOT ENTER YOU CANNOT HAVE JESUS STAND IN YOUR PLACE. WE WILL ONE DAY HAVE HIS CHARACTER BE FULLY OURS.**

SYMBOLS OF THE THIRD VEIL: THE ARK OF THE COVENANT.

## The Sanctuary prepares us for the removal of these three veils.

The symbolism of these three veils opens a window for us to catch just a glimpse of how the plan of salvation functions in the spiritual world. We cannot see the literal “veil” that stands between our bodies, our planet and God in Heaven; but we have faith that it is there, that there are things beyond our comprehension. God has given us symbols and parallels with simple things on earth to help us understand the grand themes of Heaven.

For example, when Jesus died and the veil was torn, it symbolized that the earthly structure was no longer necessary because THE Lamb had been slain.

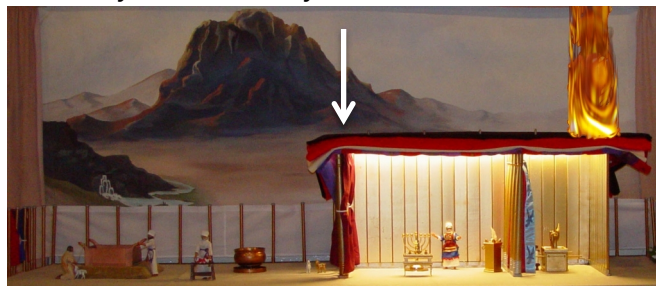
- **Matthew 27:50-51** “<sup>50</sup>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup>Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,”

But there is a deeper dimension to the symbolism: it also marked a clear transition in the sequential steps of the plan of salvation. Through the example, teachings and gospel of Jesus, the sinful world was less separated from God, having spiritually access to the Bread, the Way, and the Light.

- **Hebrews 9:12** “<sup>12</sup>Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”
- **Revelation 1:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.”

Therefore, we can follow **THE FURNITURE PATTERN OF THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY** by searching out the details that the Bible gives about **JESUS’ HIGH PRIESTLY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY**. His location indicates that He followed the pattern of Sanctuary, entering into the Holy Place with the blood of the Substitute—His own blood. So we may all, spiritually speaking, follow Jesus into the Sanctuary and have access to those articles of furniture by which we may learn His character.

***When Christ died and entered into the Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary, the Middle Veil was symbolically removed.***



### The First Veil Removed

Because of Jesus’ death, the world could truly now understand the concepts represented by the symbols within the Holy Place. Jesus became one with mankind and He is our Representative. As He makes His way through the Sanctuary pattern, we may boldly approach the throne of God in our hearts, seeking to learn how to have the character of LOVE replace the selfishness of our carnal hearts.

- **Hebrews 10:19-22** “<sup>19</sup>Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; <sup>21</sup>And having an high priest over the house of God; <sup>22</sup>Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

***The six furniture symbols show how the plan of salvation was slowly unveiled to mankind, separating us less and less from the character of Jesus.***

## The gospel light is the example of Jesus' character: *7-branch Candlestick*

- **II Corinthians 4:6** “<sup>6</sup>For it is the God who ... has shone in our hearts ***to give the light*** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

## Our prayers are modeled after how Jesus intercedes for us: *Altar of Incense*

- **Hebrews 7:25** “<sup>25</sup>Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives ***to make intercession*** for them.”

## We build faith by consuming the word of God like Jesus: *Table of Shewbread*

- **Romans 10:17** “<sup>17</sup>So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing ***by the word of God.***”

## The Removal Of The Second Veil

In the dimension of the larger timeline, the Inner Veil remained after Jesus ascended to Heaven. During the centuries of the early church and the Middle Ages, Christ's ministry in Heaven correlated to that of the Holy Place in the earthly model. Prophecy shows us the next transition.

- **Daniel 8:14** “<sup>14</sup>And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” ”

The earthly pattern of the Day of Atonement is another window into the themes of the plan of salvation as it functions in the Heavenly Sanctuary. Christ began the judgment to cleanse the Sanctuary by going through the veil and standing before the throne, just as the earthly high priest would go before the Ark of the Covenant only one time per year. Prophecy confirms the timeline.

- **Daniel 7:9a, 10b** “<sup>9</sup>I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated... <sup>10</sup> ...The court was seated, and the books were opened.”
- **Daniel 7:13** “<sup>13</sup>I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.”

Daniel's vision shows the moment of this transition, when in 1844 Christ's ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary changed from only intercession to add judgment, symbolized by the earthly high priest's move from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place (Day of Atonement), before the throne of God.

## ***In 1844 the Inner Veil was removed revealing the Most Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary and the Law and character of God, symbolized on earth by the Ark of the Covenant.***

- **Revelation 11:18** “ “<sup>18</sup>The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and ***the time of the dead, that they should be judged***, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” <sup>19</sup>***Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.*** And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”

Daniel confirms that the judgment of the dead began in 1844; Revelation shows what is the standard for that judgment: the 10 Commandment Law of Self-Sacrificing Love. Only those with the character of Christ (Him standing in our place) will be judged worthy to enter Heaven.

## We prepare for judgment by seeking the mercy of God: *Ark of the Covenant*



- At Christ's death at the end of the 70 week prophecy, **the first veil was removed**. Mankind could rejoice because we could, by faith, follow Christ into the Holy Place where He was; we could benefit from the represented truths found in those articles of furniture: the light of the gospel, open communion with God, and the ability to eat the Word and have life in us.
- At the end of the 2300 day prophecy, **the second veil was removed** and Christ moved into the Most Holy Place in 1844. We look by faith into the Temple of Heaven and see the Ark of the Covenant; the symbols show us 1) the beginning of the judgment, 2) the standard of the judgment: the Ten Commandments, and 3) an understanding of the character God: LOVE.

## The Final Veil

In the pattern, there is left only the Outer Veil separating us from God. It symbolizes the literal separation between the Father's consuming glory and our tiny planet of sin. Once that final veil is removed, it symbolizes that we will be able to see God literally face-to-face.

- **Isaiah 25:7-9** <sup>7</sup>"And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and **the veil that is spread over all nations**. <sup>8</sup>He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. <sup>9</sup>And it will be said in that day: *"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."*
- **Revelation 20:11-12** <sup>11</sup>"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

The veil lifting will be happy for the redeemed; but for the wicked it will be terrible. The only way to survive this event, when God's unveiled face shines upon the earth, burning up the elements and all the remnants of sin by the purity of His burning, passionate LOVE, is to be changing **now** into the image of the character of Christ.

- **II Corinthians 3:18** <sup>18</sup>"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

By searching the glory of Jesus' example in the Bible, we are changed by the Spirit in our hearts into sons and daughters of God who have the character of LOVE. We are to walk step-by-step from the Outer Court all the way to the Most Holy Place. As we do, we will be changed into the same image and be prepared so that when Christ returns we will be spiritually ready see Him face-to-face.

- **I Corinthians 15:50-52** <sup>50</sup>"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup>Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Here is another window into the steps of the plan of salvation. Because of Christ's sacrifice being accepted, He is allowed to transform the physical bodies of all who have been transforming their spiritual bodies. We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and at the Second Coming we will see the fulfillment of all the promises and the end of our journey of sanctification.

***Those who have spent time in the changing room spiritually will be the ones who are changed physically when Jesus comes in the clouds.***

Since that first sin of Adam and Eve, mankind was removed from the presence of God. We degraded into sin, but Jesus became a man so that He could represent us before the Father and redeem us back from death. We are still separated, but soon, we will be able to come right up to Him.

***Revelation 22:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: <sup>4</sup>And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.”*

By accepting Christ's sacrifice on the cross and by receiving the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we will find that true and sincere Bible study, honest prayer and communion with God, and a diligent focus on His light through study and witnessing, will undoubtedly lead us into the Most Holy Place, into the very presence of Yahweh where we may find the expression of His character of LOVE in moral law by which we will be judged as innocent and blameless through the grace of our Lord Jesus.

- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. <sup>14</sup>For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

***Christ's death did not abolish the law; His death was to cover our shortcomings BECAUSE the law still stands. Grace empowers us to stand blameless before the unchanging standard of God's character.***

## THE TIME OF TROUBLE: DEFINITION AND CONTENTS

As we now turn to go deeper into the chronologies, definitions and specifics of the Time of Trouble, we have to remember that this is all future. Only God knows the future; He has given us signs and evidence, but we have to have faith in God's promises and not in timelines or charts.

- **Matthew 24:42-44** “<sup>42</sup>Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

### Is God the reason for the trouble and suffering?

The knee-jerk reaction is to say, “*God is in control and knows the future—so why would He allow the pain and suffering that will come with the Time of Trouble?*” While it is true that God has ultimate control, He has also given freedom of choice to all beings. Satan chose to rebel and bring sin into the universe; many humans have also chosen to rebel and help spread the seeds of sin.

- **Luke 13:16** (ESV) “<sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham *whom Satan has bound* for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?”
- **Matthew 13:27-28a** (ESV) “<sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘*Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?*’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘*An enemy has done this.*’ ...”

Also, remember who the players are and what is the agenda of each party involved. The great controversy is between JESUS and SATAN. Jesus' agenda is to spread the unveiled gospel of salvation to all humans through His sacrifice on the cross. Satan's agenda is the destruction of all humans by deceiving them to WORSHIP him instead of God.

- **Matthew 4:8-11** “<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” ”
- **II Thessalonians 2:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”
- **Revelation 13:4** “<sup>4</sup>So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?””

***Satan wants to be worshipped, but he knows that if he came to us as he is, we would never do it. So he created **A RELIGIOUS FRONTMAN** to stand in his place (**RCS**) and through him receive redirected worship.***

Satan will wreak havoc on those over whom he has control during the Time of Trouble and will use pretended Christian authority to deceive the world and receive worship. Nowhere is the effect of this process better described than in **the parable of the Wheat and the Tares**:

- **Matthew 13:24-30** “<sup>24</sup>Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. <sup>26</sup>But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. <sup>27</sup>So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’ ’ ”

***There are only two classes of people developed. They appear the same but will become more distinct as we get closer to the end.***

When they are young, wheat and tares are almost indistinguishable. Only as they grow does it become clear which is which. That is the point: it is not until the fruits are developed that the harvest can take place. That is why we must **now** be preparing and learning the truth.

- **Great Controversy, p. 588** “The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible, yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God’s law, his servants cannot unite with them. ***Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men.***”



WHEAT: before it is fully ripe.

TARES: Lolium Temulentum

The divisions between the two classes of servants fall along the same lines of Lucifer’s classic arguments: **95% good** and **5% evil**. It is within the parameters of holiness that the division will find the sharpest disagreements. We must know the Bible before we get to that decision.



## Keeping The Law of God: Two Great Deceptions

This is not a new struggle that we are studying; the Time of Trouble is just the climax of the battle that began long ago. The controversy began over the law of LOVE; it is still the focal point.

- **Great Controversy, p. 582** “In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus become incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures. The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering – a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.”

*The law of God will be the focal point of last great conflict between truth and error; the counterfeit will closely resemble the original.*

### Deception #1: The Fourth Commandment – The Sabbath

Let's read a description that Ellen White gives of a very plausible scenario that helps us see just how this could all really happen as the Bible describes.

- **Early Writings, p. 33** “And I saw that if God had changed the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day, He would have changed the writing of the Sabbath commandment, written on the tables of stone, which are now in the ark in the most holy place of the temple in heaven; and it would read thus: The first day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. But I saw that it read the same as when written on the tables of stone by the finger of God, and delivered to Moses on Sinai. “But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God's dear, waiting saints.”
- **Great Controversy p. 587** “Yet [these religious leaders] put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called “Christian sabbath,” and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. Here the temperance work, one of the most prominent and important of moral reforms, is often combined with the Sunday movement, and the advocates of the latter represent themselves as laboring to promote the highest interest of society; and those who refuse to unite with them are denounced as the enemies of temperance and reform. But the fact that a movement to establish error is connected with a work which is in itself good, is not an argument in favor of the error. We may disguise poison by mingling it with wholesome food, but we do not change its nature. On the contrary, it is rendered more dangerous, as it is more likely to be taken unawares. It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility.”

*The faithful servants who proclaim the unabridged truth will be labeled as the enemies of temperance and social reform.*

Our reputations will be tainted with the worst lies and our intentions will be painted as coming from the foulest of motives. The world will be presented with the movement of unity to the morals of the world or the movement of adherence to the original law of LOVE that has always been. The Sabbath will be a clear point of distinction built into the false system of worship with Sunday.

*The distortion of the Sabbath will be the first great deception.*

### *Deception #2: The Second Commandment – Spiritualism And The Immortality Of The Soul*

In just the same way, let's see another description of this Time of Trouble by Ellen White. Her works are a masterful exposition on what is going to take place and really helps us get ready for it.

- **Great Controversy, p. 588** "Through the two great errors, *the immortality of the soul* and *Sunday sacredness*, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of *SPIRITUALISM*, the latter creates a bond of *SYMPATHY WITH ROME*. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience."
- **Great Controversy, p. 591** "Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony."

No one would accept the false Sunday when they hear the Bible truth presented to them under the power of the Latter Rain preached by us during the Loud Cry at the outset of the Time of Trouble. But it is not only our voices that the world hears. It is the voices of evil angels impersonating dead loved ones or known people. If we are not 100% clear that the Bible teaches that the dead DO NOT go to Heaven, then these sightings will deceive us to put aside the truth Sabbath and believe a lie.

Commandment of God	Deception of Satan	Society Deception
<b>2: No carved images</b>	Immortality of the dead	<i>Messages from "Heaven"</i>
<b>4: Keep the Sabbath holy</b>	Sunday is holy instead	<i>Temperance Reform</i>

### *How the Time Of Trouble will begin*

- **Early Writings, p. 33-34** "I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time *God's chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us*. I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed."
- **Testimonies for the Church, Vol. V, p. 136** "The very atmosphere is polluted with sin. Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers."

*The TOT will be characterized by a global movement for reform, temperance, peace, unity, and love! But it also includes going against the character of God (His moral law: 10Cs) which we cannot do. This period of earth's history is divided up into the LTOT and the GTOT.*

## THE LITTLE TIME OF TROUBLE (LTOT)

- **Maranatha, p. 209** “I saw our people in great distress, weeping, and praying, pleading the sure promises of God, while the wicked were all around us, mocking us, and threatening to destroy us. They ridiculed our feebleness, they mocked at the smallness of our numbers, and taunted us with words calculated to cut deep. They charged us with taking an independent position from all the rest of the world. They had cut off our resources so that we could not buy nor sell, and referred to our abject poverty and stricken condition. They could not see how we could live without the world; we were dependent upon the world, and we must concede to the customs, practices, and laws of the world, or go out of it. If we were the only people in the world whom the Lord favored the appearances were awfully against us. They declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them, and walked with them, that great power, and signs and wonders were performed among them, and this was **the Temporal Millennium**, which they had been expecting so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law, and this little feeble people stood out in defiance of the laws of the land, and the laws of God, and claimed to be the only ones right on the earth.”

***The LTOT is when the two classes of servants are making their final decisions. Probation is about to close on the whole earth.***

- **Great Controversy, p. 608** “As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.”
- **Maranatha, p. 199** “Every individual in our world will be arrayed under one of two banners. The two armies **will stand distinct and separate**, and this distinction will be so marked that many who shall be convinced of truth will come on the side of God’s commandment-keeping people. When this grand work is to take place in the battle, prior to the last closing conflict, many will be **imprisoned**, many will **flee for their lives** from cities and towns, and many will be **martyrs** for Christ’s sake in **standing** in defense of the truth.”

***In the LTOT (after the Loud Cry, Latter Rain, and the Sunday Law, but before the Close of Probation), many will be imprisoned and martyred.***

- **Matthew 10:21-22** “<sup>21</sup>Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>22</sup>And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

***Revelation 12:17*** “<sup>17</sup>*And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*”

### The Enemy's Strategy

- **Great Controversy, p. 589, 590** "Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows... Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hail-storms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous."
- **Great Controversy, p. 590** "And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday-sabbath, that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced, and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity"

### *The righteous will be blamed for the calamity, just as was Elijah. We will receive blame for the sin committed by the ones blaming us.*

- **I Kings 18:17-18** "<sup>17</sup>Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" <sup>18</sup>And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals."

### *Satan uses the forces of nature to attack the world, casts blame on the righteous of God, and therefore creates a situation where "a savior" is needed.*

- **Matthew 5:10-12** "<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

### The Enemy's Crowning Act

As the preaching climaxes and everyone is making their decisions, as the loyal are put into prison or are killed for the gospel, the enemy has been largely successful in building a new world order that is unified under his spurious influences. But there is still chaos, and this is Satan's grand moment.

- **II Corinthians 11:13-15** "<sup>13</sup>For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."
- **Great Controversy, p. 588** "As Spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of Spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power. The line of distinction between professed Christians and the

ungodly is now hardly distinguishable.... Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world, and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.”

- **Great Controversy p. 624** “As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour’s advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the **Revelation 1:13-15**. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: “*Christ has come! Christ has come!*” The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. **THIS IS THE STRONG, ALMOST OVERMASTERING DELUSION.**”

## THE GREAT TIME OF TROUBLE (GTOT)

The transition between the Little and Great times of trouble is the Close of Probation. But we will now know when this transition takes place. However, the characteristics are plainly prophesied:

- **II Timothy 4:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”
- **Great Controversy, p. 595** “The truth and the glory of God are inseparable; it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light.”

***Great Controversy, p. 597-598 “Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to know the will of God.”***

We all have ample opportunity to know the truth. Don’t worry about if others will be forgiven; worry about yourself only. We need to know the scriptures and have faith in the power of God.

- **Mark 12:24** “<sup>24</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?”

## The Close of Probation

- **Daniel 12:1** “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.”



- **Great Controversy, p. 613-614** “When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received “the latter rain,” “the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,” and *they are prepared for the trying hour before them*. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received “the seal of the living God.” Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, “It is done;” and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: “*He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*” **Revelation 22:11**. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins... When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time *the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor.*”

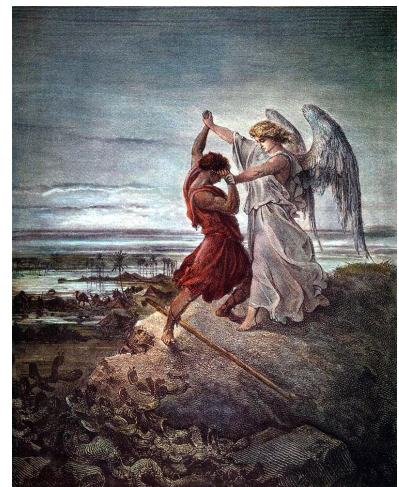
***We will not be aware of this transition, when probation has closed.  
During this dark time, there is no longer any forgiveness of sins  
committed, and we must live without an intercessor.  
But don't worry, this is good news: we will still have the Holy Spirit!***

- **Great Controversy, p. 613-614 (cont.)** “The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God’s long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. *Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble.* As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.”

### **The Time Of Jacob’s Trouble**

The Latter Rain has been given. The last words of warning have been preached. All have made their decision; probation is closed. The impending fate of the remaining righteous appears as bleak as ever. The moment has come that was reflected by Jesus’ night of agony in the garden, by Jacob’s time with the angel.

- **Jeremiah 30:5-7** “<sup>7</sup>Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”
- **Great Controversy, p. 616** “The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob’s trouble.”
- **Genesis 32:24-30** “<sup>24</sup>Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. <sup>25</sup>Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You



bless me!” <sup>27</sup>So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” <sup>28</sup>And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.” <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.””

- **Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 197** “With earnest cries and tears he made his prayer before God. Suddenly a strong hand was laid upon him. He thought that an enemy was seeking his life, and he endeavored to wrest himself from the grasp of his assailant. In the darkness the two struggled for the mastery. Not a word was spoken, but Jacob put forth all his strength, and did not relax his efforts for a moment. While he was thus battling for his life, the sense of his guilt pressed upon his soul; his sins rose up before him, to shut him out from God. But in his terrible extremity he remembered God’s promises, and his whole heart went out in entreaty for His mercy. The struggle continued until near the break of day, when the stranger placed his finger upon Jacob’s thigh, and he was crippled instantly. The patriarch now discerned the character of his antagonist. He knew that he had been in conflict with a heavenly messenger, and this was why his almost superhuman effort had not gained the victory. It was Christ, “the Angel of the covenant,” who had revealed Himself to Jacob. The patriarch was now disabled and suffering the keenest pain, but he would not loosen his hold. All penitent and broken, he clung to the Angel; *‘he wept, and made supplication’ (Hosea 12:4)*, pleading for a blessing. He must have the assurance that his sin was pardoned. Physical pain was not sufficient to divert his mind from this object. His determination grew stronger, his faith more earnest and persevering, until the very last. The Angel tried to release Himself; He urged, *‘Let Me go, for the day breaketh;’* but Jacob answered, *‘I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.’* Had this been a boastful, presumptuous confidence, Jacob would have been instantly destroyed; but his was the assurance of one who confesses his own unworthiness, yet trusts the faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God.”
- **Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 201** “Jacob’s experience during that night of wrestling and anguish *represents the trial through which the people of God must pass just before Christ’s second coming*... When Christ shall cease His work as mediator in man’s behalf, then this time of trouble will begin. Then the case of every soul will have been decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin. When Jesus leaves His position as man’s intercessor before God, the solemn announcement is made, *‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still’ (Revelation 22:11)*. Then the restraining Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth. As Jacob was threatened with death by his angry brother, so the people of God will be in peril from the wicked who are seeking to destroy them. And as the patriarch wrestled all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau, so the righteous will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the enemies that surround them.”

***After the close of probation, we will be tested; we must cling to God’s promises in the face of the vehement attacks by evil angels.***

***Our Pleading before God, Wrestling with the Angel***

- **Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 202** “Such will be the experience of God’s people in their final struggle with the powers of evil. God will test their faith, their perseverance, their confidence in His power to deliver them. Satan will endeavor to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless; that their sins have been too great to receive pardon.

They will have a deep sense of their shortcomings, and as they review their lives their hopes will sink. But remembering the greatness of God's mercy, and their own sincere repentance, they will plead His promises made through Christ to helpless, repenting sinners. Their faith will not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. They will lay hold of the strength of God, as Jacob laid hold of the Angel, and the language of their souls will be, *'I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.'*

- **Great Controversy, p. 620** "Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance."
- **Great Controversy, p. 621** "Jacob's history is also an assurance that God will not cast off those who have been deceived and tempted and betrayed into sin, but who have returned unto Him with true repentance. While Satan seeks to destroy this class, God will send His angels to comfort and protect them in the time of peril. The assaults of Satan are fierce and determined, his delusions are terrible; but the Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected."

## Death Decree

- **Great Controversy, p. 614** "The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God commands, will be exercised by evil angels when He permits. There are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere. Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing judgments upon the world, and they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the strife and bloodshed among men that are filling the earth with woe. The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked; their anger is kindled against all who have received the message, and Satan will excite to still greater intensity the spirit of hatred and persecution."
- **John 11:50** <sup>50</sup>"nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."

## *The same argument used to condemn Jesus will be used to condemn His followers in the end of time.*

- **Great Controversy, p. 615-616** "As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the state ought not to be tolerated; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion and lawlessness... This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment and giving the people liberty,

after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts.”

- **Great Controversy, p. 635** “When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof. The people of God – some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains – still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen.”

*God waits until the very last moment. He has allowed sin to fully develop throughout the ages for the entire Universe to see, and only when the last of His loyal people are about to be killed will He step in to say, “Enough is enough.”*

### Our Duty to Stand

- **Isaiah 8:20** “<sup>20</sup>To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”
- **Testimonies for the Church, Vol. V, p. 136** “Now is the time for God’s people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few – this will be our test.”
- **Great Controversy, p. 593-594** “The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested. Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.”

*If we are not prepared before this crisis comes, we will not have the fortitude to withstand the deception: the counterfeit is identifiable only through a diligent study of the Bible now in time of peace.*

## The Theme Of The Big Picture Bible Study

- **Great Controversy, p. 625-626** “Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief.”

**Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)** “<sup>19</sup>Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

***My friends, prepare yourselves for war. Let us cling to God, pray for the Spirit, fight the fight that is before us, find victory over sin NOW before the crisis hits, and we will be protected. NO FEAR IN DEATH! To God be the glory and honor and power forever, Amen!***