

The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lift 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 the earth light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. — *Ibid.*, p. 624.

Do not stop with reading of these prophecies dealing with signs of the day of the Lord. Go on and read the prophecies that describe Christ's second coming, and the earth in its restored and beautiful condition, as recorded in *Great Controversy*, pp 635-678, and *Early Writings*, pp. 285-288. Check in your Index such key words as heaven, paradise, earth made new, etc., and follow these leads.

## 7. Concerning the Seventh-day Adventist Church

### 7.1 A great reformatory movement and its results

In vision of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the world of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. — *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 126.

### 7.2 An advance in health reform

Greater reforms should be seen among the people who claim to be looking for the soon appearing of Christ. Health reform is to do among our people a work which it has not yet done. — *Review and Herald*, May 27, 1902; *Counsels on Health*, p. 575.

### 7.3 Conversions as at Pentecost

The time is coming when there will be as many converted in a day as there were on the day of Pentecost, after the disciples had received the Holy Spirit. — *Review and Herald*, June 29, 1905; *Evangelism*, p. 692.

### 7.4 The last deception of Satan

The very last deception of Satan will be make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. — *Selected Messages*, Book II, p. 78.

### 7.5 A large class will forsake the movement

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. — *Great Controversy*, p. 608.

### 7.6 The church will not fall

Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out — the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. — *Selected Messages*, Book II, p. 380.

## 8. Prophecy of a Revival in the Church

In Mrs. White's last message to a General Conference Session — in 1913 — she wrote of a great revival among Adventists:

... I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night seasons. There seemed to be a great movement — a work of revival — going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call. — *General Conference Bulletin*, May 19, 1913, p. 34; *Christian Service*, p. 42.

Earlier Mrs. White held before the church bright prophecies of hope, indicating that the final witness of Seventh-day Adventists will yet answer the wise man's query in the Song of Solomon 6:10 — "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?"

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. — *Great Controversy*, p. 612.

Mrs. White was lead to declare that into the church would come a great influx of souls, literally multitudes; a rich harvest from the most unexpected quarters:

There is a mighty work to be done in our world. The Lord has declared that the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and not the Gentiles only, but the Jews. There are among the Jews many who will be converted, and through whom we shall see the salvation of God go forth as a lamp that burneth. There are Jews everywhere, and to them the light of present truth is to be brought. There are among them many who will ... proclaim the immutability of the law of God with wonderful power. The Lord God will work. He will do wonderful things in righteousness. — *Evangelism*, p. 578.

Mrs. White was given special light on how the angels of God cooperate in the closing work, by restraining the forces of evil, as promised in Revelation 7:1-3.

Angels are not restraining the words of strife, until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but the storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen could picture. — *Ibid.*, p. 704.

You will recall how near the nations have come to another world war — in the Korean conflict of 1950-52; in Indo-China; in the Suez crisis between France, England and Egypt; in one crisis after another since World War II. No other explanation can be given for thus averting disaster than that the angels held the winds of strife as long ago foretold in prophecy. For a vivid description of scenes

on earth when the troubles of the last days shall break upon the earth in unrestrained fury, read *Great Controversy*, pages 582-592 and 613-634.

As a fitting conclusion to our brief study of predictions from the Spirit of Prophecy through Ellen White, we quote: "... I am encouraged and blessed as I realize that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that HE will continue to be with them, even to the end." — *General Conference Bulletin*, May 27, 1913; *Selected Messages*, Book II, p. 406.

## 9. Effects of Prophetic Light on Individual Life

In His providence God has placed among us His special gift of the Spirit of Prophecy. We thus become "the children of light, and the children of the day." 1 Thessalonians 5:5. We have been furnished ample evidence of confidence. May your experience and ours be such that it can never be said of us as of some of our churches in an early crisis:

... God has spoken to us. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us. — *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 217.

Read 2 Peter 3:9-12; then let us determine in our hearts that we will systematically study the volumes of inspired instruction, and apply to our lives the principles of truth set forth in them. This means of grace has been given to us that, in body, soul and spirit, we may be made ready for the soon return of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

#### THE PROPHETIC SEARCHLIGHT OF FUTURE EVENTS

#### Test Questions — Lesson 23

- Answer these questions:
  - What is God's purpose in revealing future events? (See guiding text.)
  - By whose power are disasters and calamities multiplied in the earth?
- Fill in the words missing from this Spirit of Prophecy statement:
  - "They are struggling ..... to place ..... Operations on a more ..... basis."
  - Cross out the words in parentheses which do not truly complete this statement:
    - From the prophecies of the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White, we may conclude that as time advances condition in the social world will (improve) (remain the same) (get worse).
- Complete these statements:
  - "I have been deeply impressed by ..... that have recently ..... in the night seasons. There seemed to be a great movement — a work of ..... - going forward in many places. Our people were ..... responding to God's call."
  - "By ..... of ..... all over the earth, the ..... will be given."
  - "I am ..... and ..... as I realized that the God of Israel is still ..... His ..... and that He will ..... to ..... even to the ....."
- Indicate the years in which Mrs. White predicted that soon great trouble would break out among the nations:
  - Name the one E. G. White book in which the last warning message to the world is most distinctly given.
- Briefly mention three predictions made by Mrs. White of developments in the religious world which are yet to be fulfilled:
  - .....
  - .....
  - .....
- Mention briefly three predictions concerning Seventh-day Adventist which are yet to be fulfilled:
  - .....
  - .....
  - .....
- Answer these questions:
  - Have you begun a systematic study of the Ellen G. White writings?
  - If so, in brief, what effect have these inspired, messages already had on your spiritual life?

**THINK ON THESE THINGS (No written answer)**

*Which of the prophecies mentioned bring to you — the brightest hope? the deepest sorrow? the encouragement? the greatest apprehension?*

# The Prophetic Searchlight on future Events

# 23



## PROPHETIC GUIDANCE

*GUIDING TEXT: Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. - John 13:19.*

In the Spirit of Prophecy' writings we find a number of definite predictions of future events. Will these prophecies be fulfilled?

Five years prior to World War I, Mrs. White made this prediction:

We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of tear, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. - *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 11.

Since those war-torn years of 1914-1918, "events of the greatest magnitude" have indeed pressed upon our world. And as if that first world catastrophe were not enough, we have experienced the travail of still another and more destructive world war, of atomic explosions, and of unprecedented plagues and famine. The threats of the space age are now upon us, and dangerous days are immediately ahead. But the children of God need not be unaware of or unprepared for what is coming. They have been given to understand the prophecies. They are children of light and of the day. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9.

In this lesson we shall see that still in our own time the light of divine prophecy burns brightly, and that Ellen White was used of God to announce events of great importance to the world. However, her work did not consist mainly of predicting future events, and no single Spirit of Prophecy volume is devoted exclusively to prophecy and its fulfillment.

Ellen White's writings had to do chiefly with counsel and instruction and the impartation of light for the church. Yet interspersed throughout her writings are forecasts of future events; and the fulfillment of many of these prophecies - as noted in Lesson 8 and elsewhere in this course - gives assurance that all statements and warnings concerning events yet future have been recorded to prepare the church for the crisis ahead, and will be fulfilled in God's own time.

Let us now examine carefully a few of the now fulfilling and yet-unfulfilled prophecies, to learn what we may expect in the days ahead. These materials are presented here with the avowed intent to stimulate each student to continued and more earnest study.

### 1. Rapid Increase in Disasters in the Natural World

In words penned and first published in 1884, and included in the 1888 edition of *Great Controversy*, Mrs. White forecast a rapid increase in calamities in the natural world, and explained why this will be:

In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific

acc and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripenin hail-storms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every plg 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*, pp. 589, 590.

Another forecast was made in testimonies published in 1900:

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

### 2. Scenes of Commotion in the Economic World

There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. *They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis.* If men would give more heed to the teaching of God's word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them. - *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 13. Italics supplied.

The unstable economic, religious, and social conditions of the world today are appalling. Read Isaiah 59:3-15. The Bible rules for conducting business, and the laws and principles there given to regulate the economic affairs of society have been ignored by most businessmen. Read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 534 especially, but in the context of the entire chapter; also *Ministry of Healing*, p. 183. Partly because these principles have been ignored or repudiated, the world now faces staggering financial problems. Add to these the mounting debts brought on by the huge cost of war and war preparations, and the situation is desperate. According to this prophecy, businessmen and statesmen will struggle “in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis.” When businessmen ignore the sound basis of economic operation recommended in the Scriptures, they are building their “security” on shifting sand. For an enlargement of this remarkable prophetic picture, read *Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 11-18.

### 3. Extraordinary Developments in the Social World

A startling prediction made in 1894 of last-day events and trends appeared in *Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 50:

The Lord is removing His restrictions from the earth, and soon there will be death and destruction, increasing crime, and cruel, evil working against the rich who have exalted themselves against the poor. Those who are without God's protection will find no safety in any place or position.

Fifteen years later - 1909 - touching the same points, Mrs. White wrote of events then - and now - fulfilling, and yet to come:

The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

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The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have been infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.

The enemy has succeeded in perverting justice and in filling men's hearts with the desire for selfish gain. "Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter." Isaiah 59:14. In the great cities there are multitudes living in poverty and wretchedness, well-nigh destitute of food, shelter, and clothing; while in the same cities are those who have more than heart could wish, who live luxuriously. - *Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 11, 12.

Because the rich "have exalted themselves against the poor," trouble and conflict result. The laboring classes are joining together for strength and consolidating into "agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began." - *Selected Messages*, Book II, p. 142. The controversy between capital and labor during the past five or six decades, now stirring, now slumbering, but always rousing with exaggerated grievances and complaints, will not cease until the end of time.

### 4. Prophecies Concerning Political Strife

Soon great trouble will arise among the nations, - trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. - *Review and Herald*, Feb. 11, 1904.

Soon strife among the nations will break out with an intensity that we do not now anticipate. The present is a time of over whelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they realize that something great and decisive is about to take place, that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. - *Review and Herald*, vol. 17, 1910, p. 8).

When another volume of *Testimonies for the Church* appeared in 1904, this interesting statement was made: “Human agencies are being trained, and are using their inventive power to put in operation the most powerful machinery to wound and to kill.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 50.

The "conventional" weapons of World War I were completely outmoded by the dreadful monsters of destruction produced in the arsenals of World War II. But what are those elementary atomic bombs as compared with the thermonuclear and chemical-germ weapons planned and in preparation for the future? The prospect is most depressing, and only God can save the world from total race suicide.

Ellen White was greatly distressed as in vision she saw the judgments of God falling here and there, and she wrote in 1909:

In the visions of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire fall among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say: "We knew that the judgments of God were coming; upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon." Others, with agonized voices said, "You knew! Why then did you not tell us? We did not know." On every side I heard similar words of reproach spoken. - *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 28.

After the scene of the fireball, she wrote:

In great distress I awoke. I went to sleep again, and I seemed to be in a large gathering.

Now note the gripping scene that followed - really another prediction - and read carefully the message of appeal to Seventh-day Adventists:

... One of authority was addressing the company, before whom was spread out a map of the world. He said that the map pictured God's vineyard, which must be cultivated. As light from heaven shone upon any one, that one was to reflect the light to others. Lights were to be kindled in many places, and from these lights still other lights were to be kindled.

I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. - *Ibid.*, pp. 28, 29.

Read *Great Controversy*, chapter 36, pages 582-592, noting especially that these prophecies are counterparts of Bible predictions made centuries before. If this chapter stimulates your appetite for more, read on through the last page of this remarkable book. Of this White wrote: In the *Great Controversy* the last message of warning to the world is to be given *more distinctly than in any of my other books.* – *Ibid.*, p. 127

I was moved by the Spirit of the Lord to write that book, and while working upon it, I felt a great burden upon my soul. I knew that time was short, that the scenes which are soon to crowd upon us would at the last come very suddenly and swiftly, as represented in the words of Scripture: “The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” – *Ibid.*

## 6. Developments We May Expect in Religion

Here are a few of the more important Ellen White predictions relative to the mounting apostasy in popular religions movements of our time.

### 6.1. Great parade of heathen power

As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater external parade of heathen power; heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world. – *Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 117, 118

### 6.2. Hands across the gulf

... When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp the hands with Spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near. – *Testimonies*, vol. 5 (1885), p. 451.

### 6.3. Sunday laws

In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which has lost in the Old World. And that which gives greater significance to the movement is the fact that the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance, - a custom which originated with Rome, and which she claims as the sing of her authority. It is the spirit of the papacy, - the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration of human traditions above the commandments of God, - that is the same work of Sunday exaltation, which the papacy has done before them. – *Great Controversy*, p. 573.

### 6.4. Faithful will separate from apostate churches.

... Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time, to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavour to prevent it, by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be a great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world. – *Ibid.*, p. 464.

### 6.5. The worship of the beast

... When Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will there by honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome, and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to the sign of His authority, and honor in it stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome – “the mark of the beast.” And it is not until the issue is this plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive “the mark of the beast.” – *Ibid.*, p. 449.

### 6.6. Satan appears as Christ.

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 hope. 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. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eye 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 lift 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 send to the earth light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. – *Ibid.*, p. 624.

Do not stop with reading of these prophecies dealing with signs of the day of the Lord. Go on and read the prophecies that describe Christ's second coming, and the earth in its restored and beautiful condition, as recorded in *Great Controversy*, pp 635-678, and *Early Writings*, pp. 285-288. Check in your Index such key words as heaven, paradise, earth made new, etc., and follow these leads.