

The Prophecy of The Death Decree.

The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people. In Matthew 24, in answer to the question of His disciples concerning the sign of His coming and of the end of the world, Christ had *pointed out some* of the most important events in the history of the world and of the church from His first to His second advent; namely, the *destruction of Jerusalem*, the great tribulation of the church under the *pagan and papal persecutions*, the darkening of the sun and moon, and the falling of the stars. *After this* He spoke of His coming in His kingdom, and related the parable describing *the two classes of servants* who look for His appearing. Chapter 25 opens with the words: "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins." Here is brought to view the church living in the last days, the same that is pointed out in the close of chapter 24. In this parable their experience is illustrated by the incidents of an Eastern marriage. GC 393.2

Matt. 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. 45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 And shall begin to *smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;* 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Spiritual Gifts,” page 143: “I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders *that unless the saints should yield* their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath and observe the first day of the week, *the people were at liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death.* . . . 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.” Keeping the law “in the sight of the heathen”—

Questions on the Sealing. J.N. Loughborough reprint pg. 13.1.

When Does this Decree Go Forth.

Rev. 15:1 1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the ***seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.*** 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and ***pour out the vials of the wrath of God*** upon the earth. . . 4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and ***they became blood.*** 5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. 6 For ***they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,*** and thou hast ***given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.*** 7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; ***for God hath avenged you on her.*** . . 24 And ***in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.***

The Third Plague. — Such is the description of the ***terrible retribution for the*** “blood of saints” shed by ***violent hands,*** which will be given to those who have done, or ***wish to do, such deeds.*** And though the horrors of that hour when the fountains and rivers of water shall be like blood, cannot now be realized, the justice of God will stand vindicated, and his judgments approved. Even the angels are heard exclaiming, Thou art righteous, O Lord, because thou hast judged thus; for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets. Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. DAR 644.5

It may be asked how the last generation of the wicked can be said to have shed the blood of saints and prophets, since the last generation of saints are not to be slain. A reference to Matthew 23:34, 35; 1 John 3:15, will explain. These scriptures show ***that guilt attaches to motive no less than to action; and no generation ever formed a more determined purpose to devote the saints to indiscriminate slaughter than the present generation will, not far in the future.*** (See chapter 12:17; 13:15.) ***In motive and purpose, they do shed the blood of saints and prophets, and are every whit as guilty as though they were able to carry out their wicked intentions.*** DAR 645.1

Who Are PART of The People that were at Liberty?

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.* {GC 608.2} Jer. 8:5,6; 9:25; 11:3,8,10, all; 14:10,14;

Note: Men of talent and pleasing address, once crowned with laurels—These would be Ministers, Evangelists, and Elders that stood “*in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.*” {TM 409.3}

These watchmen did not “assimilate their character to the divine Pattern,” they “*guard their own personal dignity.*” They were unwilling “With jealous, sleepless, loving, devoted interest,” to “guard the sacred interest of the church from the evil which threatens to dim and cloud the glory that God intends shall shine forth through her. They” do not “see that Satan's devices have no place or countenance in her by encouraging faultfinding, gossiping, evilspeaking, and *accusing of the brethren*; for those things would weaken and overthrow her.” {TM 406.3}

Note: Methods employed for the persecution of the Saints. The test is loyalty to them not to God—otherwise they wouldn't allow themselves to be crowned with laurels—don't get out of the boat refers to their creed. By these they undermine the influence of those compelled to preach the truth. Luke 11:53 And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to *urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: 54 Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.*

I have been shown that many who *profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe.* They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, *there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason.* Until thus tested they knew not their **great ignorance.** And there are many in the church who *take it for granted* that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, *they do not know their own weakness.* When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be *surprised to see how confused* are

their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a *departure* from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom. 5T 707.2

God will arouse His people; if other means fail, *heresies* will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. ***It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us.*** This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most ***critical examination of the positions which we hold.*** God would have all the bearings and ***positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched,*** with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ***ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth.*** Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to ***give a reason for the hope that is in them,*** with meekness and fear. 5T 707.3

Under, During, at the time of The 7 Last Plagues.

When I was at Nashville, I had been speaking to the people, and in the night season, there was an immense ball of fire that came right from heaven and settled in Nashville. There were flames going out like arrows from that ball; houses were being consumed; *houses* were tottering and falling. Some of our people were standing there. ***“It is just as we expected,”*** they said, ***“we expected this.”*** Others were ***wringing their hands in agony and crying unto God for mercy.*** “You knew it,” said they, ***“you knew that this was coming, and never said a word to warn us!”*** They seemed as though they would almost tear them to pieces, to think they had never told them ***or given them any warning at all.*** 20LtMs, Ms 188, 1905, par. 13.

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. This is the view that now appears to those who rejected truth and chose to cherish error. No language can express the longing which the disobedient and disloyal feel for that which they have lost forever--eternal life. 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. GC 655.3

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. GC 655.4 See GC 283.2

Note: Crowned with Laurels means to be worshipped for making void the law of God. Rev. 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.22:9.

Note: If the Papacy has a second dominion then why do the congregations turn on the unfaithful Pastor? Why do they turn on their former brethren? Why Do SDA's join Evangelical opposition? They "*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;*" They "once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls." "they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy."

Luke 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! 51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? *I tell you, Nay; but rather division:* 52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. 53 The father shall be *divided* against the son, and the son *against* the father; the mother *against* the daughter, and the daughter *against* the mother; the mother in law *against* her daughter in law, and the daughter in law *against* her mother in law.

Note Here are the agencies to be employed in the work of persecuting the Saints.

The Church the Family, Police and Government.

Je. 11:18 And the LORD hath given me knowledge of it, and I know it: then thou shewedst me their doings. 19 But I was like a lamb or an ox that is *brought to the slaughter*; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and *let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.*

John 16:2 “ . . . the time cometh, that *whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*”

Isa. 66:5 Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; *Your brethren that hated you*, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but *he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.*

Those who teach the people to regard *lightly the commandments of God* sow disobedience to reap disobedience. Let the restraint imposed by the divine law be wholly cast aside, and *human laws would soon be disregarded.* Because God forbids dishonest practices, coveting, lying, and defrauding, men are ready to trample upon *His statutes as a hindrance to their worldly prosperity*; but the results of banishing these precepts would be such as they do not anticipate. *If the law were not binding, why should any fear to transgress? Property would no longer be safe. Men would obtain their neighbor's possessions by violence, and the strongest would become richest. Life itself would not be respected. The marriage vow would no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect the family. He who had the power, would, if he desired, take his neighbor's wife by violence.* The fifth commandment would be set aside *with the fourth.* *Children would not shrink from taking the life of their parents if by so doing they could obtain the desire of their corrupt hearts. The civilized world would become a horde of robbers and assassins; and peace, rest, and happiness would be banished from the earth.* GC 584.1-585.1.

Our Work for the Death Decree.

The most solemn warning and the most *awful threatening* ever addressed to mortals *is that contained in the third angel's message.* The sin that calls down the *wrath of God unmixed with mercy must be of the most heinous character.* Is the world left in darkness as to the nature of this sin?—Most assuredly not. God does

not deal thus with His creatures. *His wrath is never visited upon sins of ignorance.* Before His judgments are to be brought upon the earth, the light in regard to this sin must be presented to the world, that man may know why these judgments are to be inflicted, and may have an opportunity to escape them. {ST, November 1, 1899 par. 7}

Note: Verse 12 of the 3rd Angel says “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep **the commandments of God,** and the **faith of Jesus.**”

Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. *The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth,* who will then be able to stand? 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.* *At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.* The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader. 2T 31.2

Luke 6:22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. 23 *Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.*

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.