

Loosening of the four winds before the death decree EW 36-7.

Loosening of the four winds before the power's of earth marshal their forces. 7BC 967-8; 6T 14.

Loosening of the four winds before the seven last plagues. EW 36; LS 117.

Four Angels.--Angels are ever-present agents in the affairs of the earth; and why may not these be four of those heavenly beings into whose hands God has committed the work here described; namely, holding the winds while it is God's purpose that they should not blow, and hurting the earth with them when the time comes that they should be loosed? For it will be noticed (verse 3) that the "hurting" is a work committed to their hands equally with the "holding;" so that they do not merely let the winds go when they are to blow, but they cause them to blow; they impel forward the work of destruction with their own supernatural energy. But the hurting process here brought to view does not include the seven last plagues. That work is given into the hands of seven special angels; this, into the hands of four. Or, it may be that when the time comes for the pouring out of the plagues, the seven angels who have specific charge of these judgments, unite with the four whose mission it is to cause the winds to blow, and all together bring on that pre-eminent exhibition of divine vengeance against a generation which is pre-eminent in guilt. {D&R U.S. 1897. 436.1}

Four Corners of the Earth.--An expression denoting the four quarters, or the four points of the compass, and signifying that these angels, in their particular sphere, had charge of the whole earth. {D&R U.S. 1897. 436.2}

The Four Winds.--Winds, in the Bible, symbolize political commotion, strife, and war. Dan.7:2; Jer.25:32. The four winds, held by four angels standing in the four quarters of the earth, must denote all the elements of strife and commotion that exist in the world; and when they are all loosed, and all blow together, it will constitute the great whirlwind just referred to in the prophecy of Jeremiah. {D&R U.S. 1897. 436.3}

With one more question we leave these verses, upon which we have so lengthily dwelt. Have we seen among the nations any movements which would indicate that the cry of the ascending angel, "Hurt not," etc., by the blowing of the winds, "till we have sealed the servants of our God," has in any manner been answered? ***The time during which the winds are held could not, from the nature of the case, be a time of profound peace. This would not answer to the prophecy. For in order to make it manifest that the winds are being held, there must be disturbance, agitation, anger, and jealousy among the nations, with an occasional outburst of strife, like a fitful gust breaking away from the imprisoned and struggling tempest; and these outbursts must be suddenly and unexpectedly checked. Then, but not otherwise, would it be evident to him who looked at events in the light of prophecy, that for some good purpose the restraining hand of Omnipotence was laid upon the surging elements of strife and war.*** And such has been the aspect of our times for nearly half a century. Commencing with the great revolution of 1848, when so many European thrones toppled into the dust, what a state of anger and political unrest has existed among all the nations of the earth! New and unlooked-for

complications have suddenly sprung up, throwing matters into apparently inextricable confusion, and threatening immediate and direful war. And now and then the conflict has burst forth in fury, and a thousand voices have been raised to predict that the great crisis had come, that universal war must result, and the termination no man could foretell, when suddenly and unaccountably it has been extinguished, and all subsided into quiet again. In our own land the terrible civil war of 1861 to 1865 is a notable instance. By the spring of the latter year, so great had become the pressure upon the nation for men and means to continue the war that it began seriously to impede the progress of the work symbolized by the ascending angel, even threatening to arrest it entirely. Those interested in these truths, believing that the time had come for the application of the prophecy, and that the words of the angel, "Hurt not," etc., indicated a movement on the part of the church, accordingly raised their petitions to the Ruler of nations to restrain the cruel work of tumult and war. Days of fasting and prayer were set apart for this purpose. The time at which this occurred was a dark and gloomy period of the war; and not a few high in political life predicted its indefinite continuance, and an appalling intensity of all its evils. But suddenly a change came; and not three months had elapsed from the time of which we speak, ere the last army of the Southern Confederacy had surrendered, and all its soldiers had laid down their arms. So sudden and entire was the collapse, and so grateful were all hearts for relief from the pressure of the terrible strife, that the nation broke forth into a song of jubilee, and these words were conspicuously displayed at the national capital: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." There are those who believe there was a definite cause for this sudden cessation of the strife, of which, of course, the world is but little aware. The sudden conclusion of the Franco-German war of 1870, of the war between Turkey and Russia in 1877-78, the Spanish-American war in 1896, and the recent war between Russia and Japan, may be cited as still later examples. {D&R U.S. 1897. 444.2}

EARLY WRITINGS.

The Sealing

pg 36 para 1

At the commencement of the holy Sabbath, January 5, 1849, we engaged in prayer with Brother Belden's family at Rocky Hill, Connecticut, and the Holy Ghost fell upon us. I was taken off in vision to the most holy place, where I saw Jesus still interceding for Israel. On the bottom of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate. Then I saw that Jesus would not leave the most holy place ***until every case was decided*** either for salvation or destruction, and that the wrath of God could not come until Jesus had finished His work in the most holy place, laid off His priestly attire, and clothed Himself with the garments of vengeance. Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and man, and God will keep silence no longer, but pour out His wrath on those who have rejected His truth. ***I saw that the anger of the nations***, the wrath of God, and the time to judge the dead were separate and distinct, one following the other, also that ***Michael*** had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. ***The nations are now getting angry***, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary,

He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out.

Rev.11:18 And *the nations were angry*, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Note: The above lists of events is not in chronological order.

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. 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. {GC 614.1}

A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. 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. {GC 614.2}

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. {GC 614.3}

When God's presence was finally withdrawn from the Jewish nation, priests and people knew it not. Though under the control of Satan, and swayed by the most horrible and malignant passions, they still regarded themselves as the chosen of God. The ministration in the temple continued; sacrifices were offered upon its polluted altars, and daily the divine blessing was invoked upon a people guilty of the blood of God's dear Son and seeking to slay His ministers and apostles. So when the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not. The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn; and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God. {GC 615.1}

Dan.12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the

children of thy people: and there shall be *a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time*: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

The world is stirred with the spirit of *war*. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of *Daniel has nearly reached its fulfillment*. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will soon take place. 9 T 14

From the *rise and fall of nations* as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory. PK 548

The prophecies present a *succession of events* leading down to the opening of the judgment. This is especially true of the book of Daniel. GC 356.0

Note: In this quote the prophecies are not successive in content; the events of those prophecies are successive.

Dan.7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, *the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.*

7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Rev. 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the *four winds of the earth*, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, *till we have sealed* the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds of the earth. Terrible destruction is forbidden to come in full. The accidents by land and by sea; the loss of life, steadily increasing, by storm, by tempest, by railroad disaster, by conflagration; the terrible floods, the earthquakes, *and the winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat*, while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are **sealed** in their foreheads. Get ready, get ready, I beseech you, get ready before it shall be forever too late! The ministers of vengeance will pour all the terrible judgments upon a God-forsaken people. The way of obedience is the only path of life. May the Lord help you to see it in time to open your ears, that you may hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. {RH, June 7, 1887 par. 13}

At this point another symbol is introduced. Says the prophet: "I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb." Verse II. Both the appearance of this beast and the manner of its rise indicate that the nation which it represents is unlike those presented under the preceding symbols. The great kingdoms that have ruled the world were presented to

the prophet Daniel as beasts of prey, rising when "the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." **Daniel 7:2.** In Revelation 17 an angel explained that waters represent "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Revelation 17:15. *Winds are a symbol of strife. The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power.* {GC 439.3-440.0}

Chap. 167 - Troublous Times Right Upon Us

After these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. Rev. 7:1.

Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds *of the earth*. Terrible destruction is forbidden to come in full. The ... *winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat*, while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are **sealed** in their foreheads. {Mar 175.1}

What nation of the New World was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? The application of the symbol admits of no question. One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America. Again and again the thought, almost the exact words, of the sacred writer has been unconsciously employed by the orator and the historian in describing the rise and growth of this nation. The beast was seen "coming up out of the earth;" and, according to the translators, the word here rendered "coming up" literally signifies "to grow or spring up as a plant." And, as we have seen, *the nation must arise in territory previously unoccupied.* A prominent writer, describing the rise of the United States, speaks of "the mystery of her coming forth from vacancy," and says: "Like a silent seed we grew into empire."--G. A. Townsend, *The New World Compared With the Old*, page 462. A European journal in 1850 spoke of the United States as a wonderful empire, which was "emerging," and "amid the silence of the earth daily adding to its power and pride." --*The Dublin Nation*. Edward Everett, in an oration on the Pilgrim founders of this nation, said: "Did they look for a retired spot, inoffensive for its obscurity, and safe in its remoteness, where the little church of Leyden might enjoy the freedom of conscience? Behold the mighty regions over which, in peaceful conquest, . . . they have borne the banners of the cross!"--Speech delivered at Plymouth, Massachusetts, Dec. 22, 1824, page 11. {GC 440.2-441.0}

Not out of the Sea!

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. 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.

A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. ***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. {GC 614.}

Note:

(1). First the seal then the war!

(2). First world kills each other then the righteous, or The anger of nations is then turned on those who receive the seal. Bigotry beginning with gay, Muslim, then turns on the faithful.

If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God's people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees the elements of nature--earthquake, tempest, and **political strife**-- represented as being held by ***four*** angels. These ***winds*** are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God's church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding **back the winds of the earth**, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be ***sealed*** in their foreheads. The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrising). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the ***seal*** of the living God, or of immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose. {TM 444.3}

7BC 968

Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are ***sealed*** in their foreheads. ***The nations of the world are eager for conflict***; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. ***Deadly instruments of warfare*** will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of Satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the ***great battle*** of Armageddon. {1MR 145.3} {7BC 967.0.}

Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claim to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the ***sealing*** of God's people shall be accomplished. Letter 79, 1900, pp. 12, 13. (To William Kerr, May 10, 1900.) {1MR 145.4} {7BC 967.1.}

Said the angel: “Hear, O heavens, the cry of the oppressed, and reward the oppressors double according to their deeds.” ***This nation will yet be humbled into the dust.*** England is studying whether it is best to take advantage of the present weak condition of our nation, and venture to make war upon her. She is weighing the matter, and trying to sound other nations. She fears, if she should commence war abroad, that she would be weak at home, and that other nations would take advantage of her weakness. ***Other nations are making quiet yet active preparations for war,*** and are hoping that England will make war with our nation, ***for then they would improve the opportunity to be revenged on her for the advantage she has taken of them in the past and the injustice done them.*** A portion of the queen's subjects are waiting a favorable opportunity to break their yoke; but if England thinks it will pay, she will not hesitate a moment to improve her opportunities to exercise her power and ***humble our nation.*** When England does declare war, ***all nations will have an interest of their own to serve,*** and there will be general war, general confusion. England is acquainted with the diversity of feeling among those who are seeking to ***quell the rebellion.*** She well knows the perplexed condition of our Government; she has looked with astonishment at the prosecution of this war—the slow, inefficient moves, the inactivity of our armies, and the ruinous expenses of our nation. The weakness of our Government is fully open before other nations, and they now conclude that it is because it was not a monarchical government, and they admire their own government, and look down, some with pity, others with contempt, upon our nation, which they have regarded as the most powerful upon the globe. Had our nation remained united it would have had strength, ***but divided it must fall.*** 1T 259.1

Some Claim Armageddon is a Spiritual Battle between Good and Evil.

Note It will be seen in the following verses 1). The death decree is issued under the 3rd plague. 2). The time between the 3rd and the 6th plague is approximately 5 months, her plagues come in one day; a day for ***a year.*** Rev. 18:8. 3). The 6th plague plunges the nations into Armageddon—the Eastern Question, but says nothing of the saints. *see Dan. 12:2.* Therefore Armageddon is not a spiritual battle between good and evil. 4). Are the saint gathered to the place called Armageddon—near Jerusalem? No! If one group is there then so is the other, or How can a spiritual battle be fought in a literal place where the saints are not. “These plagues are not universal where many of the saints are not, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off.” {GC 628.2} 5). Are the 4 winds about persecution of the saints, else under the 6th plague we’d have record of them being loosed. 6). The 3 unclean spirits deceive who to gather them where? Not where the saints are! For the saints are not near Jerusalem.

Rev. 16:4 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. . . . 12 And **the sixth** angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the **kings of the east** might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth **unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world**, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 **Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.** 16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Note: Let no one say these plagues/world events (seems of war) are not important to the saints. Why? verse 15 is a direct statement by Christ. The description of GC chapter 40 takes place during the 6th plague. It deals only with events connected directly to the saints. No symbol or element of the 6th plague appears in this chapter.

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. {1897 UrS, DAR 688.4}

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 Matt.23:34, 35; 1John 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 if they were able to carry out their wicked intentions. {1897 UrS, DAR 689.1} See 1John 3:15.

It would seem that none of the human family could long survive a continuance of a plague to terrible as this. It must therefore be **limited in its duration**, as was the similar one on Egypt. Ex.7:17-21,25. {1897 UrS, DAR 689.2}

Again: It may be asked how the way of the kings of the East will be prepared by the drying up, or consumption, of the Ottoman power? The answer is obvious. For what is the way of these kings to be prepared? Answer: To come up to the battle of the great day of God Almighty. Where is the battle to be fought? ***Near Jerusalem.*** (Joel and Zephaniah.) But Jerusalem is in the hands of the Turks; they hold possession of the land of Palestine and the sacred sepulchers. This is the bone of contention; on these the nations have fixed their covetous and jealous eyes. But though Turkey now possesses them, and others want them, it is nevertheless thought necessary to the tranquillity of Europe that Turkey should be maintained in her position, in order to preserve what is called the "balance of power." For this the Christian nations of Europe have cooperated to sustain the integrity of the sultan's throne, because they cannot agree as to the division of the spoils, when turkey falls. By their sufferance alone that government now exists, and when they shall withdraw their support, and leave it to itself, as they will do under ***the sixth plague***, that symbolic river will be wholly dried up; Turkey will be no more, and the way will be all open for the nations to make their last grand rally to the Holy Land. The kings of the East, the nationalities, powers, and kingdoms lying east of Palestine, will act a conspicuous part in the matter; for Joel says in reference to this scene, "Let the heathen be wakened, and ***come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat.***" The millions of Mohammedans of Persia, Afghanistan, Toorkistan, and India will rush to the field of conquest in behalf of their religion. (See more about Turkey in Dan.11:40-45.) {1897 UrS, DAR 692.6}

National Geographic, Vol. 195, No. 1 Jan. 1999. Lawrence's Wars. pg. 49.—

*"Yet even as Britain was endorsing Arab nationalists dreams, it was making secret alliances with France and Russia to divide Ottoman lands among themselves. Moreover, Britain in 1917 committed itself to creating a homeland for the Jews in Palestine. **These actions produced a powder keg of competing territorial claims.**"*

Note: The U.S. Embassy was recently moved to Jerusalem.

Lord Salisbury, at the Mansion House, November 9, 1895:—

"Turkey is in that remarkable condition that it has now stood for half a century, mainly because the great powers of the world have ***resolved that for the peace of Christendom*** it is necessary that the Ottoman Empire should stand. They came to that conclusion nearly half a century ago. I do not think they have altered it now. The danger, if the Ottoman Empire fall, would not merely be the danger that would threaten the territories of which that empire consists; ***it would be the danger that the fire there lit should spread to other nations, and should involve all that is most powerful and civilized in Europe in a dangerous and calamitous contest.*** That was a danger that was present to the minds of our fathers when they resolved to make the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire a matter of European treaty, and that is a danger which has

not passed away.”

Bible Readings for the Home Circle. 1888. Eastern Question pg. 398:—

23. To what place does the prophecy point for its future location?

“Between the seas, in the glorious holy mountain,” an expression which Bishop Newton says “must denote some part of the holy land;” and if so, it can be none other than Jerusalem. We must therefore look for the Turks to remove their seat of government from Constantinople to Jerusalem. They will never do this till they are obliged to leave Europe; and this will be their last move. They then come to their end, and none help them. Thus the prophecy points to a movement on the part of Turkey which lies at the very center of the Eastern Question, — “driving the Turk into Asia, and scrambling for his territory,” as Carleton, the Boston *Herald* correspondent, expressed it.

24. What is the prospect that such a move is inevitable in the near future?

To answer this, it is only necessary to consider briefly the relation of Turkey to other European powers, particularly to Russia. It has been the dream of Russia ever since the days of Peter the Great, who died in 1725, to secure Constantinople, and control the important outlet from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. Peter left a last will and testament enjoining upon his successors On the Russian throne, a policy to be pursued in the extension of the empire. Among its provisions one was to “take every possible means to secure Constantinople;” another, to “stir up strife between Turkey and Persia,” and to “hasten the decay of Persia,” so as to open a way through the East to India, the great storehouse of the world. The unremitting effort to carry out this policy has made Russia for the past hundred and fifty years what it is today, a standing menace to the people of Europe and the East. Napoleon Bonaparte understood this policy, and when a prisoner on St. Helena, told his keeper, Gov. Hudson, that Alexander once proposed to him that they divide the map of Europe between them, he (Alexander) to have Constantinople, and Napoleon to take his choice of any remaining territory. “I would not do it,” said Napoleon; “for I foresaw that if Russian once gained control of the Mediterranean, she would become a great maritime power, and thus the equilibrium of Europe would be destroyed.”

It was in the line of this Russian policy that the Crimean War occurred, which closed in a manner to check for awhile Russian advancement. Russia watched her opportunity to break away from that treaty of 1856, and found it in 1870. Great Britain and France were parties to that treaty, but in 1870 France was paralyzed by the Franco, Prussian war; and England was powerless to enforce the treaty without the aid of France. Then Russia boldly announced that that treaty was at an end, and she should regard it no longer. All her warlike preparations were resumed in the Black Sea, and the Turko-Russian war of 1877 followed. Other nations again helped the Turks, and the treaty of Berlin again restrained for a time the Russians. But Russia is now trampling upon that treaty. That treaty made Batum, on the Black Sea, a free port. Russia, in defiance of that stipulation, has closed it. All Russia’s trouble about “rectifying the boundary” in Afghanistan, arises from her policy to open a path in that direction to India. Her recent interference in the case of Prince Alexander and the Bulgarians, comes from her fixed determination to secure Constantinople. The nations have heretofore combined together to keep the Turks in their place, because no one of them has been willing that any other one should gain Constantinople, as that would destroy the

“equilibrium,” or the “balance of power.” But in every conflict the Turks have grown weaker; and it only remains for the nations to come to some agreement as to the disposal of the remains of the “sick man,” which may be reached almost any day, and Turkey in Europe will cease to exist. Then they must move the seat of government into Asia, and every probability would point to Jerusalem as its location.

Her end speedily follows. Other nations have helped her,—in her war with France in 1798; with Egypt in 1838-40; with Russia, 1853-56; and with Russia again in 1877. But the prophecy says the time will come when none will help her. Dan, 11: 45.

“At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the *allied powers* of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of *Christian nations*. *The event exactly fulfilled the prediction.* . .” GC 335.1 Rev. 9:1-21

1-3 (ch. 16:13-16; see EGW on ch. 5:11; Eph. 4:30). Probationary Time Running Out.-- **Already kingdom is rising against kingdom. There is not now a determined engagement.** As yet the *four winds* are held until the *servants of God shall be sealed* in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation (RH Nov. 27, 1900) {7BC 968.10.}

Just before we entered it [the time of trouble], we all received the **seal** of the living God. Then I saw the four angels **cease** to hold the *four winds*. And I saw famine, pestilence and **sword**, *nation rose against nation*, and the whole world was in confusion (Day-Star, March 14, 1846). {7BC 968.11}

Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. **The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.** The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the *four winds* until the servants of God are **sealed** in their foreheads (RH Jan. 28, 1909). {7BC 968.12}

Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. *It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.* {GC 589.1}

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. {GC 589.2}

While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. *Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, 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. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. {GC 589.3}

9T 26.3

My heart is often burdened because so many who might work are doing nothing. They are the sport of Satan's temptations. Every church member who has a knowledge of the truth is expected to work while the day lasts; for the night cometh, wherein no man can work. Erelong we shall understand what that night means. The Spirit of God is being grieved away from the earth. **The nations are angry *with one another*. Widespread preparations are being made for war.** The night is at hand. Let the church arouse and go forth to do her appointed work. Every believer, educated or uneducated, can bear the message. {9T 26.3}

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of *Daniel* has nearly reached its fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will soon take place. 9 T 14

6T 14.1. 408.1

We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars and rumors of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God, which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. ***But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle.***

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.***

1T 360-1

Our kingdom is not of this world. We are waiting for our Lord from heaven to come to earth ***to put down all authority and power***, and set up His everlasting kingdom.

Earthly powers are shaken. **We need not, and cannot, expect union among the nations of the earth.** Our position in the image of Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the toes, **in a divided state, and of a crumbling material, that will not hold together.** Prophecy shows us that the great day of God is right upon us. It hasteth greatly. {1T 360.3}

Matt. 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a

sword.

10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Rev. 11:18 And the nations were angry,

Those who preach unpopular truth in our day meet with determined resistance, as did the apostles. They need expect no more favorable reception from *a large majority* of professed Christians than did Paul from his Jewish brethren. *There will be a union of opposing elements against them; for however diverse from each other different organizations may be in their sentiments and religious faith, their forces are united in trampling under foot the fourth commandment in the law of God.* {LP 86.2}

Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. Events are changing to bring about the day of God, which hasteth greatly. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. ***Under one head, the papal power, it has*** united to oppose God in the person of His faithful witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate. All jealousy, evil surmising, and evil speaking are of him, and tend to produce discord and disunion. Then shall God's people be at variance with one another? Shall they not be cemented together by the Holy Spirit, each worker filled with love and sympathy for his fellow-worker, each filling his appointment with faithful effort, seeking earnestly to prepare the way of the Lord? In the general discord there should be one place where harmony and unity should exist because the Bible is the guide. When the principles of God's Word are followed, it becomes a bright light shining in a dark place. All who build on this Rock can be sure that their house will stand amid the tempest. {ST, February 7, 1900 par. 3} {7T 182.2} {Maranatha 187.3-6}

Note: This phrase “under one head” refers to time in history not command in-charge. The 7 heads covers the entire history of the Roman and Papal period. Since the Papacy completed its prophetic period it will existence “with a diminution of its power” until after Jesus 2nd advent to show this war is at the closing moments of earth history. As scene in the 3 unclean spirits Dragon-Spiritualism, Beast-Catholicism, False Prophet-Protestantism. “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.” GC 588.1 “When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, *then Protestant America will have formed an image* of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result. GC 445.1

Those who preach unpopular truth in our day meet with determined resistance, as did the apostles. They need expect no more favorable reception from *a large majority* of professed Christians than did Paul from his Jewish brethren. *There will be a union of opposing elements against them; for however diverse from each other different organizations may be in their sentiments and religious faith, their forces are united in trampling under foot the fourth commandment in the law of God.* {LP 86.2}

Those who will not themselves accept the truth are *most zealous that others shall not receive it*; and those are not wanting who perseveringly manufacture falsehoods, and stir up the base passions of the people to make the truth of God of none effect. But the messengers of Christ must *arm themselves with watchfulness and prayer, and move forward with faith, firmness, and courage, and, in the name of Jesus, keep at their work*, as did the apostles. They must sound the note of warning to the world, teaching the transgressors of the law what sin is, and pointing them to Jesus Christ as its great and only remedy. {LP 86.3}

"The *spirit of the papacy,—the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions* above the commands of God,—is permeating the *Protestant churches*, and *leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation* which the papacy has done before them. **Would the reader understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest? He has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past.** Would he know how papists and Protestants united will deal with those who reject their dogmas? Let him see the spirit which Rome manifested toward the Sabbath and its defenders." {4SP 390.3}

Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. In the seventeenth century thousands of non-conformist ministers suffered under the rule of the Church of England. *Persecution always follows religious favoritism on the part of secular governments.* {4SP 277.2} *Rev. 18:3,9-24.*

The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. *Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them*, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping *all* into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, *will be readily deceived* by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, *will also be deluded*. Papists, Protestants, and *worldlings* will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and *they will see in this union (of the churches) a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.* {GC 588.3}

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 (DA 635.1); 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} {GC88 608.1} {4SP 426.1} {Mar 196.2} {FLB 336.7} {LDE 180.6}*

Para. and contents mine.

"The conviction is gaining ground in the world that Seventh-day Adventists are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound, that they are following worldlings." {TM 86.2} {GCB, April 1, 1897 par. 2} {1888 1332.1}

Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. Events are changing to bring about the day of God, which hasteth greatly. The *world* is filled with storm and war and variance. **Under one head (of the 7 heads Rev. 17:9,12), the papal power, it has** united to oppose God in the person of His faithful witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate (*Satan*). All jealousy, evil surmising, and evil speaking are of *him*, and **tend to produce discord and disunion**. Then shall God's people be at variance with one another? Shall they not be cemented together by the Holy Spirit, each worker filled with love and sympathy for his fellow-worker, each filling his appointment with faithful effort, seeking earnestly to prepare the way of the Lord? In the general discord there should be one place where harmony and unity should exist because **the Bible is the guide**. When the principles of God's Word are followed, it becomes a bright light shining in a dark place. All who build on this Rock can be sure that their house will stand amid the tempest. {ST, February 7, 1900 par. 3} {7T 182.2} {Maranatha 187.3-6} Same as {GC 267.2; 576.1; 61.2} {AA 265.2} {LP 117.1*} {4SP 66.2*} Parenthesis and contents mine.

"Power was given unto him to **continue** forty and two months." And, says the prophet, "I saw one of his **heads** as it were wounded to death." And again: "He that leadeth into captivity shall **go into captivity**: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword." The forty and two months are the same as the "time and times and the dividing of time," three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7—**the time during which the papal power was to oppress God's people**. This period, as stated in preceding chapters, began with the supremacy of the papacy, A.D. 538, and terminated in 1798. At that time the pope was made captive by the French army, the papal power received its deadly wound, and the prediction was fulfilled, "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity." {GC 439.2}

WM 136

Impending Disasters.--Not long ago a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire falling 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 said, "You knew? Why then did you not tell us? We did not know." On every side I heard such words spoken. . . . {WM 136.3}

Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations --trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to *press together*, serving Him who has prepared His throne in the heavens and whose kingdom ruleth over all. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him. {WM 136.4}

The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.--Ibid., Nov. 24, 1904. {WM 136.5}

Rev. 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, *hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*

6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, *Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*

6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Call Attention to Prophecies.--The followers of Christ are to combine in a strong effort **to call the attention of the world to the fast-fulfilling prophecies** of the Word of God.--*Manuscript 38*, 1905. {Ev 193.3}

The *history* of nations speaks to us today. To every nation and to every individual God has assigned a place in His great plan. Today men and nations are being tested by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their *own choice* deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes. {PK 536.2}

The *prophecies* which the great I AM has given in His word, uniting link after link *in the chain of events*, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us *where we are today in the procession of the ages* and what may be expected in the time to come. *All that prophecy has foretold* as coming to pass, until the present time, *has been* traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that *all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order*. {PK 536.3}

Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. *Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour's prophecy* of the events to *precede* His coming: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . **Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:**

and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:6, 7. {PK 536.4}

The present is a time of overwhelming 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 relations that exist among the nations.** They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place--that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. {PK 537.1}

The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great *final* scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear. {PK 537.2} {Ev 1941-3}

Dec. 10, 1871, I was shown that God would accomplish a great work through the truth, if devoted, self-sacrificing men would give themselves unreservedly to the work of presenting it to those in darkness. Those who have a knowledge of the precious truth, and who are consecrated to God, should avail themselves of every opportunity where there is an opening to press in the truth. **Angels of God are moving on the hearts and consciences of the people of other nations, and honest souls are troubled as they witness the signs of the times in the unsettled state of the nations.** The inquiry arises in their hearts, What will be the end of all these things? While God and angels are at work to impress hearts, the servants of Christ seem to be asleep. But few are working in unison with the heavenly messengers. {LS 203.1} {3T 202.1}

The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order. Ed 178.3}

The final overthrow of all earthly dominions is plainly foretold in the word of truth. In the prophecy uttered when sentence from God was pronounced upon the last king of Israel is given the message: {Ed 179.1}

"Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: . . . exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him." Ezekiel 21:26, 27. {Ed 179.2}

The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.** God says, "It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him." {Ed 179.3}

That time is at hand. Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in **agitation.** Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour's prophecy of the events to precede His coming: **"Ye shall**

hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:6, 7. {Ed 179.4}

The present is a time of overwhelming 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 recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place--that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. {Ed 179.5}

Angels are now restraining the ***winds of strife***, that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a 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 can picture.*** {Ed 179.6}

The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear. {Ed 180.1}

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While the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out. {Mar 259.1}

I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. ***War***, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. As these things surrounded God's people, they began to press together, and to cast aside their little difficulties. Self-dignity no longer controlled them; deep humility took its place.

Suffering, perplexity, and privation caused reason to resume its throne, and the passionate and unreasonable man became sane, and acted with discretion and wisdom. {Mar 259.2}

My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. *Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence.* And then men's hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." {Mar 259.3} { RH August 27, 1861, Art. A, par. 14 }

Angels are now restraining the *winds of strife*, until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a 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 can picture.* . . . {Mar 259.4}

A *moment* of respite has been graciously given us of God. Every power lent us of heaven is to be used in doing the work assigned us by the Lord for those who are perishing in ignorance. {Mar 259.5}

Note: Who is in fear? Who's hearts are failing them?

Said the angel, "*Jesus has nearly finished His work in the sanctuary.* It is no time to be *stupid* now; a quick work will the Lord do upon the earth; the four angels will soon let go the four winds." Said the angel, "Beware how thou treadest enchanted ground all around the east and west, north and south. If Satan can get thee to slumber now he is sure of his prey." {8MR 219.4}