

**THE
CRISIS
AHEAD**

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Ellen White
Comments on

**THE
CRISIS
AHEAD**

Robert W. Olson, compiler



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CONTENTS

Introduction

Chapter 1	The Crisis Ahead	9
Chapter 2	The Union of the Churches	17
Chapter 3	The National Sunday Law	21
Chapter 4	The Universal Sunday Law	34
Chapter 5	The Little Time of Trouble	39
Chapter 6	The Mighty Sifting	49
Chapter 7	Before Rulers and Kings	57
Chapter 8	Satan's Miracles	61
Chapter 9	Satan's Personation of Christ	71
Chapter 10	The Holy Spirit	79
Chapter 11	The Latter Rain	84
Chapter 12	The Loud Cry	97
Chapter 13	The Times and the Seasons	112
Chapter 14	The Seal of God	118
Chapter 15	The Mark of the Beast	126
Chapter 16	The Close of Probation	129
Chapter 17	Perfection in Christ	137
Chapter 18	The Death Decree	155
Chapter 19	The Time of Jacob's Trouble	166
Chapter 20	The Great Time of Trouble	179
Chapter 21	Home at Last	190

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INTRODUCTION

This compilation was originally prepared for use in the Gift of Prophecy class at Pacific Union College. It is not an attempt to finalize dogmatically on the sequence of future events, but rather a gathering together, for study purposes, of the most important E. G. White statements relating to those prophecies that remain to be fulfilled prior to the return of Christ. These quotations have been outlined in what appears to me to be a logical order, but this has been done without prejudice toward alternate or opposite views held by others.

It is impossible to arrange the chapters in perfect sequence since so many of them include overlapping material. For example, the “Latter Rain” and the “Loud Cry” are parallel experiences, one the cause and the other the effect. “Satan’s Personation of Christ” might have been located near “The Close of Probation,” but it seems best to study this topic in connection with “Satan’s Miracles.”

The Lord instructed Sister White to “charge the teachers in our schools to prepare the students for what is coming upon the world” (FE 526, 527). And the Lord gave that same prophet the information that is reproduced in this syllabus. May its study be rewarding to each student.

—Robert W. Olson

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AA	<i>The Acts of the Apostles</i>
AH	<i>The Adventist Home</i>
1BC	<i>The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, etc.</i>
CD	<i>Counsels on Diet and Foods</i>
CH	<i>Counsels on Health</i>
ChS	<i>Christian Service</i>
CM	<i>Colporteur Ministry</i>
COL	<i>Christ's Object Lessons</i>
CSW	<i>Counsels on Sabbath School Work</i>
CT	<i>Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students</i>
CW	<i>Counsels to Writers and Editors</i>
DA	<i>The Desire of Ages</i>
Ed	<i>Education</i>
Ev	<i>Evangelism</i>
EW	<i>Early Writings</i>
FE	<i>Fundamentals of Christian Education</i>
FL	<i>The Faith I Live By</i>
GC	<i>The Great Controversy</i>
GCB	<i>General Conference Bulletin</i>
GW	<i>Gospel Workers</i>
KH	<i>That I May Know Him</i>
LS	<i>Life Sketches</i>
MB	<i>Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing</i>
MH	<i>The Ministry of Healing</i>
ML	<i>My Life Today</i>
MM	<i>Medical Ministry</i>
1MR	<i>Ellen G. White Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, etc.</i>
MS	<i>Ellen G. White manuscript</i>
MYP	<i>Messages to Young People</i>
OHC	<i>Our High Calling</i>
PK	<i>Prophets and Kings</i>
PP	<i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i>
RH	<i>Review and Herald</i>
SC	<i>Steps to Christ</i>
SD	<i>Sons and Daughters of God</i>
1SG	<i>Spiritual Gifts, vol. 1, etc.</i>
SL	<i>The Sanctified Life</i>
SLP	<i>Sketches From the Life of Paul</i>
1SM	<i>Selected Messages, book 1, etc.</i>
1SP	<i>The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, etc.</i>
SR	<i>The Story of Redemption</i>
ST	<i>Signs of the Times</i>
1T	<i>Testimonies, vol. 1, etc.</i>
TM	<i>Testimonies to Ministers</i>

THE CRISIS AHEAD

What indications are there in the Scripture that a terrible time of trouble lies ahead of us? Dan. 12:1.

For the wicked: Rev. 14:9, 10; Rev. 16.

For the righteous: Rev. 13:15-17.

How does Mrs. White describe the period of distress that is coming on our world?

A terrible crisis. “The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances” (5T 463 [Ev 31]).

The last great crisis. “In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand. When the defiance of God’s law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose” (COL 178).

“The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

“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” (9T 11).

The most momentous struggle of the ages. “A great crisis awaits the people of God. A crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is just before us” (5T 711).

THE CRISIS AHEAD

The crisis of the ages. “We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another—fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent” (PK 278).

The greatest crisis since time began. “We are coming to a crisis which, more than any previous time since the world began, will demand the entire consecration of every one who has named the name of Christ” (GW 323).

A stupendous crisis. “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 [Ev 703, 704; Ed 179]).

A storm. “A storm is arising that will wrench and test the spiritual foundation of every one to the utmost” (5T 129).

“A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it?” (8T 315).

“The storm is coming, the storm that will try every man’s faith, of what sort it is. Believers must now be firmly rooted in Christ, or else they will be led astray by some phase of error. Let your faith be substantiated by the Word of God. Grasp firmly the living testimony of truth. Have faith in Christ as a personal Saviour. He has been and ever will be our Rock of Ages” (Ev 361, 362).

A tempest. “God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand

THE CRISIS AHEAD

against the tempest of opposition and wrath” (5T 452).

“The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment’s warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near!” (MYP 89, 90).

The most terrible conflict ever witnessed. “The conflict that is right upon us will be the most terrible ever witnessed” (6T 407).

A fearful conflict. “Satan is marshaling his hosts; and are we individually prepared for the fearful conflict that is just before us? Are we preparing our children for the great crisis?” (AH 186).

The grand test. “If the believers in the truth are not sustained by their faith in these comparatively peaceful days, what will uphold them when the grand test comes and the decree goes forth against all those who will not worship the image of the beast and receive his mark in their foreheads or in their hands? This solemn period is not far off. Instead of becoming weak and irresolute, the people of God should be gathering strength and courage for the time of trouble” (4T 251).

A great terror. “Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near” (8T 28).

Are the inhabitants of heaven aware of our coming conflict?

“The whole universe is looking with inexpressible interest to see the closing work of the great controversy between Christ and Satan” (5T 526).

Are most of the inhabitants of the earth equally aware of impending events?

“We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise” (8T 28).

“Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the Word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. . . . God calls for a revival and a reformation” (PK 626).

Do we as Seventh-day Adventists have a true appreciation of the crisis ahead?

“The ‘time of trouble, such as never was,’ is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal” (GC 622).

“We are on the very verge of the time of trouble, and perplexities that are scarcely dreamed of are before us” (9T 43).

Is it possible for Christians to be unprepared for coming trouble, in spite of previous warnings?

Mark 8:31, 32; 9:31; 10:32-34; Matt. 26:56; Luke 24:6-8.

Why were the disciples so totally unprepared?

“They could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them” (GC 594).

“Peter did not desire to see the cross in the work of Christ” (DA 415).

Has the Lord given us a clear outline of events connected with the close of probation?

“The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed” (GC 594).

“He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything” (*ibid.* 598).

“We are to see in history the fulfillment of prophecy, to study the workings of Providence in the great reformatory movements, and to understand the progress of events in the marshaling of the nations for the final conflict of the great controversy” (MH 441, 442 [8T 307]).

Does this mean that we can understand every single detail of anticipated events before they come to pass?

“The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll” (6T 17; 8T 159).

“Much upon these things has been shown to me, but I

can only present a few ideas to you. Go to God for yourselves, pray for divine enlightenment, that you may know that you do know what is truth, that when the wonderful miracle-working power of Satan shall be displayed, and the enemy shall come as an angel of light, you may distinguish between the genuine work of God and the imitative work of the powers of darkness” (RH Dec. 24, 1889).

How important is it for us to study the prophecies that relate to the last days?

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study” (COL 133).

“They should know the things that will come to pass before the closing up of the world’s history. These things concern our eternal welfare, and teachers and students should give more attention to them” (6T 129).

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention’” (EW 118).

“In the night season these words were spoken to me: ‘Charge the teachers in our schools to prepare the students for what is coming upon the world’” (FE 526, 527).

“But there is a day that God hath appointed for the close of this world’s history: ‘This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the end come.’ Prophecy is fast fulfilling. More, much more, should be said about these tremendously important subjects” (*ibid.* 335).

“Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history” (5T 716).

“Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. Let no one’s interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand” (FE 336).

What are we specifically warned not to do?

“There is a time of trouble coming to the people of God, but we are not to keep that constantly before the people, and rein them up to have a time of trouble beforehand. There is to be a shaking among God’s people, but this is not the present truth to carry to the churches” (1SM 180 [2SM 13]).

“There are stormy times before us, but let us not utter one word of unbelief or discouragement” (ChS 136).

In view of the approaching crisis, what should we now be doing?

“If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us of preparing for the approaching crisis” (5T 717).

Who only will stand through the last great conflict?

“Not but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict” (GC 593).

“Study your Bible as you have never studied it before.

THE CRISIS AHEAD

Unless you arise to a higher, holier state in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord” (5T 717).

“Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive” (GC 625).