

Dear friends in Christ,

Jesus solemnly warned: “And there shall be signs . . . ; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. . . . And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:25, 26, 28. And the apostle Paul added: “Knowing the time, . . . now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Romans 13:11.

In light of the events of this past week, we are going to need to fortify our minds with such precious Scripture promises. It would be hard to come up with more timely, if not chilling, prophecies than those which follow. I’ve gleaned them from the most recent compilations of Ellen White’s comments on last-day events and from the White Estate CD-ROM of her complete published writings. So you can set the context, I’ve taken the liberty of filling in several of the ellipses with the full original statements. These insertions I’ve placed in brackets.

I will make no attempt to interpret Mrs. White’s statements; please prayerfully evaluate them for yourselves. And please, use this material only with sanctified caution; otherwise you may do more harm with it than good—to yourselves or to others. If this reading only drives you to your knees in earnest entreaty to your Heavenly Father to make certain your standing with Him, it will have served a truly useful purpose. May God bless you mightily in these increasingly challenging last days.

Jerry Stevens (September 16, 2001)

*Last Day Events: Facing Earth’s Final Crisis;
Compiled from the Writings of Ellen G. White (1992)*

Chap. 8, “The Cities”

Judgments Coming on the Cities

Terrible shocks will come upon the earth, and the lordly palaces erected at great expense will certainly become heaps of ruins. 3MR 312 (1891). (LDE 110.5)

When God’s restraining hand is removed, the destroyer begins his work. Then in our cities the greatest calamities will come. 3MR 314 (1897). (LDE 111.1)

The Lord gives warnings to the inhabitants of the earth, as in the Chicago fire and the fires in Melbourne, London, and the city of New York. Ms 127, 1897. (LDE 111.2)

The end is near and every city is to be turned upside down every way. There will be confusion in every city. Everything that can be shaken is to be shaken and we do not know what will come next. The judgments will be according to the wickedness of the people and the light of truth that they have had. 1MR 248 (1902). (LDE 111.3)

O that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry. Ev 29 (1903). (LDE 111.4)

The time is near when large cities will be swept away, and all should be warned of these coming judgments. Ev 29 (1910). (LDE 111.5)

Catastrophe-proof Buildings Will Become Ashes

I have seen the most costly structures in buildings erected and supposed to be fireproof, and just as Sodom perished in the flames of God's vengeance so will these proud structures become ashes. [Insert: I have seen vessels which cost immense sums of money wrestling with the mighty waters, seeking to breast the angry billows. But with all their treasures of gold and silver, and with their human freight they sink into a watery grave. Man's pride will be buried with the treasures he has accumulated by fraud. God will avenge the widows and orphans who in hunger and nakedness have cried to Him for help from oppression and abuse.

The time is right upon us when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal.] The flattering monuments of men's greatness will be crumbled in the dust even before the last great destruction comes upon the world.—3SM 418 (1901). (LDE 111.6)

God is withdrawing His Spirit from the wicked cities, which have become as the cities of the antediluvian world and as Sodom and Gomorrah. [Insert: The inhabitants of these cities have been tested and tried. We have reached a time when God is about to punish the presumptuous wrongdoers, who refuse to keep His commandments and disregard His messages of warning. He who bears long with evildoers gives everyone an opportunity to seek Him and humble their hearts before Him.

Everyone has opportunity to come to Christ and be converted, that He may heal them. But there will come a time when mercy will be no longer offered.] Costly mansions, marvels of architectural skill, will be destroyed without a moment's notice when the Lord sees that the owners have passed the boundaries of forgiveness. The destruction by fire of the stately buildings, supposed to be fireproof, is an illustration of how in a short time Earth's architecture will lie in ruins.—TDG 152 (1902). (LDE 112.1)

Men will continue to erect expensive buildings, costing millions of money. Special attention will be called to their architectural beauty and the firmness and solidity with which they are constructed, but the Lord has instructed me that despite the unusual firmness and expensive display, these buildings will share the fate of the temple in Jerusalem.—5BC 1098 (1906). (LDE 112.2)

New York City

God has not executed His wrath without mercy. His hand is stretched out still. His message must be given in Greater New York. The people must be shown how it is possible for God, by a touch of His hand, to destroy the property they have gathered together against the last great day.—3MR 310, 311 (1902). (LDE 112.3)

[Insert: I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story, "What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Rev. 18:13 will be fulfilled." The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. But] I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only that I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God's power. [Insert: From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. One word from the Lord, one touch of His mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine.

But I have sent cautions to the brethren working in New York, saying that these flaming, terrifying notices should not be published. When my brethren go to extremes, it reacts on me, and I have to bear the reproach of being called a false prophet. . . .

The destroying angels are today executing their commission.] Death will come in all places. *This is why I am so anxious for our cities to be warned.*—RH July 5, 1906. (LDE 112.4)

On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. [Insert: Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: “How can we best glorify God?” The Lord was not in their thoughts.

I thought: “Oh, that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising. They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man.”

As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah.]

The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fireproof buildings and said: “They are perfectly safe.” But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.—9T 12, 13 (1909). (LDE 113.2)

Ellen White Comments on the Crisis Ahead (2000)

Robert W. Olson, Compiler

Chap. 1, “The Crisis Ahead”

What indications are there in the Scripture that a terrible time of trouble lies just 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 463.2 [Ev 31.4])

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 178.3)

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 11.1, 2)

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 711.3)

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 278.1)

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 everyone who has named the name of Christ. (GW 323.3)

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 537.1)

A storm. A storm is arising that will wrench and test the spiritual foundation of every one to the utmost. (5T 129.2)

A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? (8T 315.2)

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 361.4)

A tempest. God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. (5T 452.1)

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!—*The Signs of the Times*, April 21, 1890. (MYP 89.2–90.0)

The most terrible conflict ever witnessed. The conflict that is right upon us will be the most terrible ever witnessed. (6T 407.3)

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 186.2)

A 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 251.1)

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 28.1)

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 526.1)

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 28.1)

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. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and a reformation. (PK 626.1)

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 622.4)

We are on the very verge of the time of trouble, and perplexities that are scarcely dreamed of are before us. (9T 43.2)

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

Mark 8:31, 32; 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 594.1)

Peter did not desire to see the cross in the work of Christ. (DA 415.4)

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 594.1)

He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything. (*ibid.* 598.1)

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 441.2–442.0 [8T 307.2])

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 17.1)

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, December 24, 1889 par. 11)

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 133.2)

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 129.0)

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 118.1)

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 526.5–527.0)

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.* 335.2)

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 716.2)

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. (ISM 180.2)

There are stormy times before us, but let us not utter one word of unbelief or discouragement.—*Special Testimonies*, series B, no. 8, p. 24. (ChS 136.1)

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 717.0)

Who only will stand through the last great conflict?

None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable Word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? (GC 593.2–594.0)

Study your Bible as you have never studied it before. Unless you arise to a higher, holier state in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord. (5T 717.1)

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 625.3)

Epilog (Oct. 13, 2008)

During the reign of Josiah the word of the Lord came to Zephaniah, specifying plainly the results of continued apostasy, and calling the attention of the true church to the glorious prospect beyond. His prophecies of impending judgment upon Judah apply with equal force to the judgments that are to fall upon an impenitent world at the time of the Second Advent of Christ:— (RH, July 15, 1915 par. 5)

“The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.” Zeph. 1:14–16. (RH, July 15, 1915 par. 6)

Zephaniah's descriptors, “clouds and thick darkness” and “alarm . . . against the high towers” seem to embrace an eerie reference to New York City's Twin Towers that fell in 2001.