

DAY BY DAY

Bible Texts and Topics, With Comments,
For Personal Study and Use at Family Worship.

4.07: SECOND COMING EVENTS

1. THE LIVING WICKED DESTROYED

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10.

“The wicked who are living at the time of Christ's coming will be stricken dead by the glory of His appearance, to remain unconscious in death throughout the millennium. Paul says, “Our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:29. Sin and sinners cannot live in His presence, for His unveiled glory consumes them in a twinkling.” The Hope of the World, 331.

“The derisive jests have ceased. Lying lips are hushed into silence. The clash of arms, the tumult of battle, “with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood,” is stilled. Naught now is heard but the voice of prayer and the sound of weeping and lamentation. The cry bursts forth from lips so lately scoffing, “The great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” The wicked pray to be buried beneath the rocks of the mountains, rather than meet the face of Him whom they have despised and rejected.” The Great Controversy, 642.

“The time is not far distant when God will arise to vindicate His insulted authority. “The Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.” “But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appears?” The people of Israel, because of their sinfulness, were forbidden to approach the mount when God was about to descend upon it to proclaim His law, lest they should be consumed by the burning glory of His presence. If such manifestations of His power marked the place chosen for the proclamation of God's law, how terrible must be His tribunal when He comes for the execution of these sacred statutes. How will those who have trampled upon His authority endure His glory in the great day of final retribution?

“The terrors of Sinai were to represent to the people the scenes of the judgment. The sound of a trumpet summoned Israel to meet with God. The voice of the Archangel and the trump of God shall summon, from the whole earth, both the living and the dead to the presence of their judge. The Father and the Son, attended by a multitude of angels, were present upon the mount. At the great judgment day, Christ will come “in the glory of His Father with His angels.” He shall then sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations....

“The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8.

“But amid the tempest of divine judgment, the children of God will have no cause for fear.... The day that brings terror and destruction to the transgressors of God's law, will bring to the obedient, “joy unspeakable, and full of glory.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 339-341.

2. THE FIRST RESURRECTION

“The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” I Thessalonians 4:16.

“The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.” Revelation 20:5.

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” John 11:25, 26.

“Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a joining of the family chain. When we look upon our dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when “the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” I Corinthians 15:42.

“A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer, and He will present us “Faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.” Jude 24. Wherefore, when He gave the signs of His coming He said, “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh.” The Desire of Ages, 632.

The dead in Christ shall first arise,
At the last trumpet's sounding,
Caught up to meet Him in the skies,
With joy their Lord surrounding;
No gloomy fears their souls dismay,
His presence sheds eternal day
On those prepared to meet Him. William B. Colver

3. THE RIGHTEOUS TRANSLATED

“This we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” I Thessalonians 4:15-17.

The King Comes: “Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer, and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man. His hair was white and curly, and lay on His shoulders; and upon His head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet. His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out, “Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless? Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke: “Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you.” At

this our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher, and sang again while the cloud drew still nearer the earth." Early Writings, 15, 16.

"Satan cannot hold the dead in his grasp when the Son of God bids them live. He cannot hold in spiritual death one soul who in faith receives Christ's word of power. God is saying to all who are dead in sin, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead." That word is eternal life. As the word of God which bade the first man live, still gives us life; as Christ's word, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise," gave life to the youth of Nain, so that word "Arise from the dead" (Ephesians 5:14), is life to the soul that receives it. God "Hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." Colossians 1:13. It is all offered us in His word. If we receive the word, we have the deliverance.

"And "if the Spirit of Him that raised tip Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you." "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God; and the (lead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Romans 8:11; I Thessalonians 4:16, 17. This is the word of comfort wherewith He bids us comfort one another." The Desire of Ages, 320.

4. ANGELS GATHER THE RIGHTEOUS

"Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:30, 31.

The Gathering of the Faithful: "The earth mightily shook as the voice of the Son of God called forth the sleeping saints. They responded to the call, and came forth clothed with glorious immortality, crying, "Victory, victory, over death and the grave! O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Then the living saints and the risen ones raised their voices in a long, transporting shout of victory. Those bodies that had gone down into the grave bearing the marks of disease and death came up in immortal health and vigor. The living saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and caught up with the risen ones, and together they meet their Lord in the air. O, what a glorious meeting!" Early Writings, 287.

"The living righteous are changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal, and with the risen saints are caught tip to meet their Lord in the air. Angels "gather together the elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the city of God...

"Before entering the city of God, the Savior bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory, and invests them with the insignia of their royal state. The glittering ranks are drawn up, in the form of a hollow square, about their King, whose form rises in majesty high above saint and angel, whose countenance beams upon them full of benignant love. Throughout the unnumbered host of the redeemed, every glance is fixed upon Him, every eye beholds His glory whose "Visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men."

"Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own "new name," and the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord." In every hand are placed the victor's palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every

hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awaking sweet music in rich, melodious strains. Rapture unutterable thrills every heart, and each voice is raised in grateful praise: "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever." The Great Controversy, 645, 646.

5. CHRIST REIGNS WITH HIS SAINTS

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Revelation 20:6.

"During the thousand years between the first and the second resurrection, the judgment of the wicked takes place. The apostle Paul points to this judgment as an event that follows the Second Advent. "Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts." I Corinthians 4:5. Daniel declares that when the Ancient of days came, 'Judgment was given to the saints of the Most High.'" Daniel 7:22. At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them." "They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Revelation 20:4, 6. It is at this time that, as foretold by Paul, "the saints shall judge the world." I Corinthians 6:2, 3. In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out, according to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death." The Great Controversy, 660, 661.

"After the judgment of the wicked dead had been finished, at the end of the one thousand years, Jesus left the city, and the saints and a train of the angelic host followed Him. Jesus descended upon a great mountain, which, as soon as His feet touched it, parted asunder, and became a mighty plain. Then we looked up and saw the great and beautiful city, with twelve foundations, and twelve gates, three on each side, and an angel at each gate. We cried out, "The city! The great city! It is coming down from God out of heaven!" And it came down in all its splendor and dazzling glory, and settled in the mighty plain which Jesus had prepared for it." Early Writings, 291.

Although God's hand you do not see
In trials great and small,
If you but place your trust in God,
He'll guide you through them all.
He watches o'er His tender flock,
He knows them all by name;
And when one errs and from Him strays,
He loves it just the same. Nathaniel Krum

6. THE JUDGMENT OF THE IMPENITENT

"I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them. And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Revelation 20:4.

"During the thousand years between the first and the second resurrection, the judgment of the wicked takes place. . . . Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and His people. Says Paul, "Know you not that we shall judge angels?" And Jude declares that "The angels which kept not their first estate, but left

their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." The Great Controversy, 660, 661.

The Book of Death: "I was shown that the seven last plagues will be poured out after Jesus leaves the sanctuary. Said the angel, "It is the wrath of God and the Lamb that causes the destruction or death of the wicked. At the voice of God the saints will be mighty and terrible as an army with banners, but they will not then execute the judgment written. The execution of the judgment will be at the close of the one thousand years."

"After the saints are changed to immortality and caught up together with Jesus, after they receive their harps, their robes, and their crowns, and enter the city, Jesus and the saints sit in judgment. The books are opened, the book of life and the book of death. The book of life contains the good deeds of the saints; and the book of death contains the evil deeds of the wicked. These books are compared with the statute book, the Bible, and according to that men are judged. The saints, in unison with Jesus, pass their judgments upon the wicked dead. "Behold ye," said the angel, "the saints, in unison with Jesus, sit in judgment, and mete out to the wicked according to the deeds done in the body, and that which they must receive at the execution of the judgment is set off against their names." This, I saw, was the work of the saints with Jesus through the one thousand years, in the Holy City before it descends to the earth." Early Writings, pages 52, 53.

Character is not measured by words and deeds alone. It would be comparatively easy to gain a strong and clean character if that were only a question of the control we could exercise over what we say and do. Every man ought to know that his attainments in character are measured by what he is when he is alone with his thoughts. To what does his mind turn when not bent upon daily work? Does he cherish thoughts that would ruin him if expressed? Does he have a subtle enjoyment, a secret pleasure, in seeing or hearing what he would not wish to disclose to his most respected friends? Character is as deep as the man himself, alone and unchallenged by the opinions of others.

7. SATAN BOUND AND THE EARTH IN CHAOS

"I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up. And set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled. And after that he must be loosed a little season." Revelation 20:1-3.

"The revelator foretells the banishment of Satan, and the condition of chaos and desolation to which the earth is to be reduced; and he declares that this condition will exist for a thousand years....

"That the expression "bottomless pit" represents the earth in a state of confusion and darkness, is evident from other scriptures. Concerning the condition of the earth "in the beginning," the Bible record says that it "was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Prophecy teaches that it will be brought back, partially at least, to this condition. Looking forward to the great day of God, the prophet Jeremiah declares: "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down."

"Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Limited to the earth, he will not have access to other worlds, to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. It is in this sense that he is bound: there are none remaining, upon whom he can exercise his power. He is wholly cut off from the work of deception and ruin which for so many centuries has been his sole delight. .

“For six thousand years, Satan's work of rebellion has “made the earth to tremble.” He has “made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof.” And “he opened not the house of his prisoners. For six thousand years his prison house has received God's people, and lie would have held them captive forever, but Christ has broken his bonds, and set the prisoners free. . . .

“For a thousand years, Satan will wander to and fro in the desolate earth, to behold the results of his rebellion against the law of God. During this time his sufferings are intense. Since his fall, his life of unceasing activity has banished reflection; but he is now deprived of his power, and left to contemplate the part which he has acted since first he rebelled against the government of heaven, and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future, when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done, and be punished for the sins that he has caused to be committed.” Great Controversy, 658-660.

THE SAILOR'S REST

We're nearing the end of the long, long years, Freight with pain and parting and tears;
We're leaving the paths our feet have pressed, Footsore and weary, and oft distressed;

Leaving the land of the tempted and tried, Leaving the place where tears are ne'er dried;
We're leaving the days by failure beset, And nights of tossing with vain regret.

But, O, we are nearing the healing shore, Where pain and partings will be no more;
The land breeze of heaven begins to play, Earth's dreary night is meeting God's day.

Our longing eyes are beginning to see, A light from over the tideless sea,
And the ship that carries the good and blest, Will dock soon, soon, at The Sailor's Rest.

Oh, our hearts rejoice as the ship moves on, For that shining pier is home, sweet home;
No hand in that beautiful land of peace, Will cling to a hand it must release;

And no lone watcher there ever will be, For ship that never comes over the sea:
Sweet climate so fair, where leaves never die, Where never is heard a moan or a sigh;

Where never again temptation or sin, Will mar that heavenly peace within.
There, O, there will our souls find release, And there the moan of the bar shall cease.

We'll lift up our voices in joyful song, With praise to God, for it won't be long
Ere our feet shall tread where angels have trod; Our life will measure with life of God.
Mary Valliant Nowling