

EXTRACTS

FROM

The

GREAT CONTROVERSY

Between Christ and Satan

*The Conflict of the Ages in
the Christian Dispensation*

by ELLEN G. WHITE

Comments
upon

MATTHEW 24, MARK 13, LUKE 21

The prophecy chapters, describing
Climate Change, Earthquakes, Wars and Other
Signs of the End of the World, & Jesus Christ's Second
Coming - the Blessed Hope.

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which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men.

Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. 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.

As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.

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 wonderful 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 a grand movement

Apparitions
of many
of the
power

for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.

Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. 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.

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. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE:

- 1. NATURAL DISASTERS.
- 1. EARTHQUAKES, etc.

(OVER)

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. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5.

And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublemakers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." 1 Kings 18:17, 18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah.

The miracle-working power manifested through spiritual-

SATAN - STOPLED
LAYS OUT
MATTERS

CLIMATE CHANGE - Continued.

Global warming

G.C. 27
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614-5
579-520
PK 276-278
D 9C 591

ism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony.

Satan's policy in this final conflict with God's people is the same that he employed in the opening of the great controversy in heaven. He professed to be seeking to promote the stability of the divine government, while secretly bending every effort to secure its overthrow. And the very work which he was thus endeavoring to accomplish he charged upon the loyal angels. The same policy of deception has marked the history of the Roman Church. It has professed to act as the vicegerent of Heaven, while seeking to exalt itself above God and to change His law. Under the rule of Rome, those who suffered death for their fidelity to the gospel were denounced as evildoers; they were declared to be in league with Satan; and every possible means was employed to cover them with reproach, to cause them to appear in the eyes of the people and even to themselves as the vilest of criminals. So it will be now. While Satan seeks to destroy those who honor God's law, he will cause them to be accused as lawbreakers, as men who are dishonoring God and bringing judgments upon the world.

God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God.

9C 589-92
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Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.

As the Protestant churches reject the clear Scriptural arguments in defense of God's law, they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible. Though they blind their own eyes to the fact, they are now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution of those who conscientiously refuse to do what the rest of the Christian world are doing, and acknowledge the claims of the papal sabbath. The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet's words: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

Dear Friend,
I now encourage you to read, and study,
Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, the prophecy

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The Scriptures a Safeguard

TO THE law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God's work the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.

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chapters - you will be blessed.
Have faith, dear friend, in God.

mandments." We are told so often that it is impossible to keep God's holy law, even by those who stand forth as representatives of Christ. But it can be kept. Jesus kept it. And the same faith that was in Jesus when he trod the rugged pathway on earth, if in us now, will enable us to keep it, also.

The Word of God hidden in the heart works these wonderful changes in the life. It is through the power of the word that life is given. Paul recognized this in the charge he gave the elders of Ephesus: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

God's people have power through the simplicity of the Word. Through that, the Spirit will operate with power. "The flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

It was the word of Jesus that bore Peter up as he left the boat to walk upon the water. It was through the faith Peter and John had in Christ's word that the impotent man arose, and with joy accompanied them into the temple. It was through *believing the word* that thousands were joined unto the Lord in a day at Pentecost and afterward. It was by faith in that Word made flesh that all the mighty miracles were performed which followed the believers everywhere.

God's word is the same to-day. Life and healing are in it for the believing child of God, as when Peter and John, Paul and Silas, labored for their fellow men.

The power of God's word is now found in the three angels' messages. Men may fail, and even fall out by the way, and turn and oppose the truth with all their power, but the message never will change nor fail. *It is infallible.* "Man is fallible; but the message is infallible. With it all should be in harmony; it is the center of interest, in which all hearts should be united." We may get up points that are of no consequence, and seek to maintain them; but we shall gain no strength by so doing. The message is to prepare a people to stand in the last great day, and to be united in heaven above. None should feel that it is of no special importance whether they are in union with their brethren or not; for those who do not learn to live in harmony here will never be united in heaven."—Mrs. E. G. White, in "Historical Sketches," page 124.

This message develops a *commandment-keeping* people. Some will be truly united upon this holy platform of truth, and filled with the love and unity of heaven, thus becoming prepared to enter that holy place as citizens of the better country. God is no respecter of persons. By complying with the conditions given us in the Word, and through its sanctifying, subduing influence by the operation of the Holy Spirit upon our hearts and lives, we may be a part of that *commandment-keeping company* that shall one day erelong stand upon

Mount Zion and "sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb."

An Earthquake Escape

K. C. RUSSELL

THE frequency of earthquakes and other calamities is filling the hearts of many people with fear and consternation, and they are asking the pertinent questions, What is the cause of earthquakes? What is their meaning? Is there any escape from them?

In answer to the first question, we will look in vain for a satisfactory reply from scientists. This was forcibly illustrated by an incident connected with the San Francisco earthquake. Professor Burckhalter, one of the great astronomers of the West, wrote on a bulletin-board outside of the observatory a brief statement of the cause of earthquakes according to the best scientific theories; but when the people blocked the streets, and wanted to know when the next one would come, he erased the preceding bulletin, and wrote: "The man in the street knows just as much as I do of the cause of earthquakes, and when the next one will come."

An editorial in the *Washington Post* of April 25, 1906, makes the following significant and interesting reference to the scientific aspect of this earthquake: "Scientists in all parts of the world are rising up with proclamations, specious, alluring, and more or less satisfactory to the educated mind. The trouble is that they do not harmonize; and, therefore, the individual has no refuge more substantial than a guessing match." Thus it will be seen that science can not be relied upon for a solution of the earthquake problem. We must look elsewhere for an answer to this question.

The following from the pen of Mrs. E. G. White is the clearest and most comprehensive statement concerning

The Cause of Earthquakes

that has ever been written, and it is in harmony with the Bible, which has withstood both lower and higher criticism throughout the ages:—

"Before the flood there were immense forests. The trees were many times larger than any trees which we now see. They were of great durability. They would know nothing of decay for hundreds of years. At the time of the flood, these forests were torn up or broken down and buried in the earth. In some places large quantities of these immense trees were thrown together and covered with stones and earth by the commotions of the flood. They have since petrified, and become coal, which accounts for the large coal-beds which are now found. This coal has produced oil. God causes large quantities of coal and oil to ignite and burn. Rocks are intensely heated, limestone is burned, and iron ore melted. Water and fire under the surface of the earth meet. The action of water upon the limestone adds fury to the intense heat, and causes earthquakes, volcanoes, and fiery issues. The action of fire and water upon the ledges of rocks and ore

causes loud explosions which sound like muffled thunder. These wonderful exhibitions will be more numerous and terrible just before the second coming of Christ and the end of the world, as signs of its speedy destruction.

"Coal and oil are generally to be found where there are no burning mountains or fiery issues. When fire and water under the surface of the earth meet, the fiery issues can not give sufficient vent to the heated elements beneath. The earth is convulsed, the ground heaves, and rises into swells or waves, and there are heavy sounds like thunder under ground. . . .

"God controls all these elements: they are his instruments to do his will; he calls them into action to serve his purpose. These fiery issues have been, and will be, his agents to blot out from the earth very wicked cities. Like Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, they go down alive into the pit. These are evidences of God's power. Those who have beheld these burning mountains pouring forth fire, and flame, and a vast amount of melted ore, drying up rivers and causing them to disappear, have been struck with terror at the grandeur of the scene. They have been filled with awe as if they were beholding the infinite power of God."

The Purpose of These Manifestations

"These manifestations bear the special marks of God's power, and are designed to cause the people of the earth to tremble before him, and to silence those who, like Pharaoh, would proudly say, 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?'" Isaiah refers to these exhibitions of God's power where he exclaims, 'O that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, as when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence! When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence.' Isa. 64:1-3.

"The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, . . . and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.' Nahum 1:3-6.

"Bow thy heavens, O Lord, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them.' Ps. 144:5, 6.

"Greater wonders than have yet been seen will be witnessed by those upon the earth a short period previous to the coming of Christ. 'And I will show

"Because thou hast made the Lord, yet pre-highest excitement prevails. Yet pro-
 the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and
 vapor of smoke; And there were
 voices, and thunders, and lightnings;
 and there was a great earthquake, such as
 was not since men were upon the earth,
 so mightily an earthquake, and so great,
 'And every island fled away, and the
 mountains were not found. And there
 fell upon men a great hail out of heaven,
 every stone about the weight of a talent;
 and men blasphemed God because of the
 plague of the hail; for the plague thereof
 was exceeding great."

"The bowels of the earth were the
 Lord's arsenal, from which he drew
 forth the weapons he employed in the
 destruction of the old world. Waters in
 the bowels of the earth gushed forth, and
 united with the waters from heaven, to
 accomplish the work of destruction.
 Since the flood, God has used both water
 and fire in the earth as his agents to
 destroy wicked cities.

"In the day of the Lord, just before
 the coming of Christ, God will send
 lightning from heaven in his wrath,
 which will unite with fire in the earth.
 The mountains will burn like a furnace,
 and will pour forth terrible streams of
 lava, destroying gardens and fields, vil-
 lages and cities; and as they pour their
 melted ore, rocks and heated mud, into
 the rivers, it will cause them to boil like
 a pot, and send forth massive rocks, and
 scatter their broken fragments upon the
 land with indescribable violence. Whole
 rivers will be dried up. The earth will
 be convulsed, and there will be dreadful
 eruptions and earthquakes everywhere.
 God will plague the wicked inhabitants
 of the earth until they are destroyed
 from off it. The saints are preserved in
 the earth in the midst of these dreadful
 commotions, as Noah was preserved in
 the ark at the time of the flood."

The Meaning of These Things
 "The Saviour plainly teaches that
 'earthquakes in divers places' are among
 the heralds of his return, when he will
 receive his faithful children unto him-
 self. These things also herald the eter-
 nal night to those who have rejected
 his proffered grace.

"The signs of that coming day are
 thickening all around us. Cyclones and
 hurricanes, earthquakes and tidal waves,
 and strikingly fearful volcanic action
 are no longer among the unusual things,
 neither are they confined to a few local-
 ities. But storm-swept lands, bursting
 mountains, and lashing oceans tell in
 unmistakable language that the days of
 earth's tranquillity are at an end."
 "Christ's coming is stealing gradually
 upon the world as a thief. The sun
 shines in the heavens, passing over its
 usual round, and the heavens still declare
 the glory of God. Men are still pursuing
 their usual course of eating and drinking,
 planting and building, marrying and giv-
 ing in marriage. Merchants are still
 engaged in buying and selling. Publica-
 tions are issuing one upon another.
 Many are jostling one against another,
 seeking to get the highest place. Pleas-
 ure lovers are still attending theaters,
 horse races, and gambling halls, and the

highest excitement prevails. Yet pro-
 bation's hour is fast closing, and every
 case is about to be eternally decided."
 The question of paramount interest to
 the reader should be, How may I escape
 these things, and be ready to welcome
 the Saviour's return? Many people fled
 from San Francisco, and many have
 fled from Kingston, with the hope of
 escaping a repetition of the experience.
 It is certainly a natural and wise thing
 for one in danger to escape, if possible,
 to a place of safety. All should under-
 stand that the time is soon coming when
 there will be no place in this world to
 which one may flee from the terrors
 of an earthquake; for the Lord says, by
 the mouth of Jeremiah the prophet:—
 "I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they
 trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.
 . . . I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place
 [the country where the products of the
 earth are the most plentiful] was a
 wilderness, and all the cities thereof
 were broken down at the presence of the
 Lord, and by his fierce anger." Jer.
 4: 24, 26.

It will be easy for the remaining in-
 habitants of these stricken cities to
 appreciate these thrilling words of the
 Lord, and to understand how quickly
 the Lord can destroy "all the cities" of
 the earth. Again the prophet, in speak-
 ing of this time, says: "And every
 mountain and island were moved out of
 their places." Rev. 6: 14.

In view of these facts, it is not strange
 that Abraham "looked for a city which
 hath foundations, whose builder and
 maker is God." Heb. 11: 10. The apos-
 tle Paul, under the inspiration of the
 Holy Spirit, also said: "The things
 which are seen are temporal; but the
 things which are not seen are eternal."
 2 Cor. 4: 18.

From these infallible statements of
 Inspiration, we can plainly see that we
 can not look to this world or anything it
 contains as a place of refuge or escape
 upon the world:—
 "God is our refuge and strength, a
 very present help in trouble. Therefore
 will not we fear, though the earth be
 removed, and though the mountains be
 carried into the midst of the sea." Ps.
 46: 1, 2.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and
 he shall sustain thee: he shall never
 suffer the righteous to be moved." Ps.
 55: 22.

"When thou liest down, thou shalt
 not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down,
 and thy sleep shall be sweet. Be not
 afraid of sudden fear, neither of the
 desolation of the wicked, when it com-
 dence, and shall keep thy foot from be-
 ing taken." Prov. 3: 24-26.

Man's Only Refuge
 "Every one who so regards the Bible
 certainly ought to study it thoroughly
 and prayerfully, and to know what is in
 it. It seems strange that many of those
 who call themselves Christians, and
 even those who profess to be teachers
 of the way of life, have never read this
 book through to know what is in it.
 That man who is ignorant in regard
 to the teachings of his Bible is sinning
 against his own soul. With the peril
 of the last days thickening, and with the
 coming of the Lord and immortality for
 the righteous less than a generation
 away, it would seem that all that reve-
 lation tells us of these thrilling events
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 absorbing interest.

People generally claim to believe the
 Bible inspired, and yet they do not know
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 oughly studied. This is all proper and
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 that any could accept a book as a rule
 of action, and yet never read it through.

Do You Study Your Bible?

L. D. SANTEE

We have become Seventh-day Ad-
 ventists by the study of the Bible, and
 by recognizing its authority. It has
 taken us from other churches and from
 the world, and has united us on the plat-
 form, "the commandments of God, and
 the faith of Jesus." It teaches of the
 life that now is, and that which is to
 come. It should be inexpressibly dear
 to us, as all our knowledge of the future
 is gotten from its revelations. All our
 hopes of the life to come rest upon its
 promises. It thoroughly furnishes us
 unto all good works. It is our chart
 and compass in life's voyage, and if
 studied and obeyed, will take us safely
 into the harbor of heaven.

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