

THE STUDY OF LAST DAY EVENTS

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES (PART 1)

The outpouring of the seven last plagues causes even the humblest Christian to stand up and take notice. These plagues are not just judgments poured out as days of old, but they are judgments poured out without mercy. This is the final judgment God will meter out upon the children of wickness for the deeds that they sowed. During that the time the righteous are protected from all physical harm that the plagues inflict upon the wicked. Tonight, we need to see when this event will take place and who will it effect and why?

A. Who today is keeping the forces of destruction from sweeping over our earth?

1. Revelation 7:1-3 _____

2. “Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims 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.” 7BC 967
3. “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.” TM 444

B. What is the last act in the drama, after which probation will be closed and Satan will be allowed to work his will on the earth?

1. Revelation 13:15, 16 _____

2. “This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.” 7T 141
3. “The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided . . . This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. 7BC 976

C. When probation closes, how complete will Satan's control of the wicked be?

1. 2Thessalonians 2:9 _____

2. "Soon God will show that He is indeed the living God. He will say to the angels, "No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy. Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work." Advent Review and Sabbath Herald 09-17-01
3. "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." GC 614

D. When the fires of passion and lawlessness escape control, what will the world be like?

1. Matt. 24:12 _____

2. "The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which Inspiration has given of the ante-diluvian world represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening." PP 10

E. Is large-scale international warfare a real possibility?

1. 1Ths. 5:3 _____

2. "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

3. "Both the city and the temple were razed to their foundations, and the upon which the holy house had stood was "plowed like a field." Jeremiah 26:18. In the siege and the slaughter that followed, more than a million of the people perished...Ó GC 35

F. Is it possible for us to form a clear picture in our minds of the utter ruin and strife which will occur after probation closes?

1. Luke 21:26 _____

2. "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." 6T 408

3. "This time is right upon us. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth. When the angel of mercy folds her wings and departs, Satan will do the evil deeds he has long wished to do. Storm and tempest, war and bloodshed, --in these things he delights, and thus he gathers in his harvest. And so completely will men be deceived by him that they will declare that these calamities are the result of the desecration of the first day of the week. From the pulpits of the popular churches will be heard the statement that the world is being punished because Sunday is not honored as it should be. And it will require no great stretch of imagination for men to believe this. They are guided by the enemy, and therefore they reach conclusions which are entirely false." Advent Review and Sabbath Herald 9-17-1901

G. In addition to the havoc, which God allows Satan to cause, what heaven-sent scourges will be poured out on the unrighteous?

1. Rev. 15:1 _____

2. Rev. 16:1 _____

3. These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. ... but in the final Judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy. GC 628, 62

H. Who will be blamed for all of Satan's desolating activities?

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The signs are before us, what are we preparing for? Once God withdraws His Spirit and Satan is in total control what will the people of God do with the issues that stand before them?