

Great Controversy Series
Are You Blowing The TRUMPET?
Chapter 17 - Heralds of the Morning
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr, pastor

What main event did the faithful patriarchs and prophets look forward to?

Jude 1:14-15

14 And **Enoch** also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the **Lord cometh** with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Job 19:25-27

25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh **shall I see God:**

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Psalms 50:2-3

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

3 Our **God shall come**, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

Psalms 96:11-13

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice

13 Before the **LORD**: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Isaiah 25:8-9

8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Throughout the Bible the coming of the Lord has been the hope for many of God's faithful. It was their comforting hope even in the midst of persecution and very troubling times.

What are the comforting words of hope that Jesus personally gives us today that HE will fulfill the promise that so many other faithful were looking forward to?

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Matthew 25:31-32

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Is the second coming of Jesus Christ literal or symbolic? How will He come?**Acts 1:9-11**

9 And when he [Jesus] had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner [same mode of transportation] as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Mode of transportation when Jesus returns again – clouds.

Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, **he cometh with clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

16 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.

This “trump of God” is not a trumpet of warning, but the final deliverance and victory for God’s people!

Matthew 24:27

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Jesus is personally and literally coming a second time as He promised. Jesus has NOT failed on ONE promise!

Hebrews 10:37

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness... [The second coming is a promise from Jesus Himself. He is coming again. This is a special message that Jesus wants the entire world to know!]

The Blessed Hope!

The second coming of Jesus is our blessed hope. He promised that He will restore all things and that He will set up His everlasting kingdom!

Remember Daniel chapter 2 reminds us of the blessed hope and the set up of the everlasting kingdom. God in Daniel 2 reveals the rise and fall of kingdoms that directly affected the people of God starting from the kingdom of Babylon. They all rose and fell as the Bible predicted. 1-Babylon, 2-Medo-Persia, 3-Greece 4- Rome 5-Papal

Rome 6-Atheistic USSR (Atheism grow out of France) 7-Papal Rome (wounded head healed) Everlasting Kingdom – Stone cut without hands. We are living in the toes of TIME. All the earthly kingdoms revealed in Daniel 2 directly and officially rebelled or rejected God through its government. The everlasting kingdom will be the only kingdom that will never rebel against the law of God. The only way to be a part of the everlasting kingdom we must be spiritually on and abiding in the ROCK. If we are consuming the things of the world and drinking the “wine of Babylon” you will be a part of the last earthly kingdom that will be destroyed by the ROCK.

The Bless Hope for the persecuted and martyrs

The hope of the second coming was the promise that many Waldensians held on to during the time Papal Rome was killing them by the thousands because of their faithfulness to God.

Even though Papal Rome tried to keep millions in darkness about the Blessed Hope, many protestant reformers caught beams of truth about the judgment and the second coming of Jesus Christ!

Martin Luther declared: "I persuade myself verily, that the day of judgment will not be absent full three hundred years. God will not, cannot, suffer this wicked world much longer." "The great day is drawing near in which the kingdom of abominations shall be overthrown." GC – 303

This is a very powerful and profound statement. Luther never claimed to be a prophet, but it appears from this statement that God was opening up the light of truth about the investigative judgment of God that was to begin around 300 years after the ministry of Luther in 1844. Luther nailed the 95 theses on the castle door in Wittenburg, Germany in 1517. He died in 1546! Based on Daniel 7:10 – the investigative judgment appointed was set. Daniel 8:14 – Predicted when the investigative Judgment will began, 2300 years- “cleansing of the sanctuary”) and Daniel 9:25 – Gives when to start counting the 2300 from 457 B.C. Investigative judgment began in 1844! (We will look at this in more detail in a later study)! Martin Luther statement was not far off!

There were other protestant reformers who caught the glimpse of light about the second coming of Jesus Christ

John Calvin, the French reformer: “Calvin bids Christians "not to hesitate, ardently desiring the day of Christ's coming as of all events most auspicious;" and declares that "the whole family of the faithful will keep in view that day." "We must hunger after Christ, we must seek, contemplate," he says, "till the dawning of that great day, when our Lord will fully manifest the glory of His kingdom."” - GC 303

This is still the BLESSED HOPE for ALL TRUE protestants today! Jesus is coming again. This is our hope that continues to fuel and ignite our faith! Do you believe it? Are you on the ROCK that will destroy the kingdoms of this world and fill the whole earth? Are you on the ROCK or “Rockin” with the world?

United States a Beacon of Light

Before Jesus comes back He promised that message of His second advent would go around the world before His coming. It appeared that the message was not going to be fulfilled in its entirety because of the oppression of Papal Rome. But God in His wise providence set up a land based on religious freedom, United States of America, thousands of miles away from Papal Rome get be a beacon of light to share to the world about the soon coming of Jesus Christ.

Signs of the Coming of Jesus Fulfilled

Prophecy not only reveals how Jesus will come but it gives us signs to look for the nearness of His coming.

What are some cataclysmic and climatic events that will happen during the coming of Jesus?

Mark 13:24-26

24 But in those days, after that tribulation (seven last plagues), **the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,**

25 And the **stars of heaven shall fall,** and the **powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.**

26 And **then shall they see the Son of man coming** in the clouds with great power and glory.

How does John describe these events in Revelation?**Revelation 6:12-14**

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Events that will happen during the coming of Jesus:

- 1) Great world wide earth quake
- 2) Sun Darkened and Moon become as blood
- 3) Stars (meteors falling from heaven)

All these events will happen during the coming of Jesus. But before these cataclysmic and climatic events, God will also use these events before His second as SIGNS to wake up the world to the reality of His soon coming.

Jesus reveals this fact in Luke 21:25.

Luke 21:25

25 And there shall be **signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars;** and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the **waves roaring (tsunamis as a result of a great earthquake);**

Was there anytime in history in which these signs in a great earthquake, darkening of the sun, moon as blood, and a great meteor shower happen as Jesus prophesied? YES YES YES. This is to show you that we are at the extreme end of TIME! Wake up!

All these signs happened in the exact order of Revelation 6:12 -14

- 1) Great earthquake
- 2) Sun Darkened and Moon become as blood
- 3) Stars (meteors falling from heaven)

1) Great Earthquake – Fulfilled!**Great Earthquake 1755**

November 1, 1755

Known as the Lisbon Earthquake (Epicenter) – totally destroyed, about 100,000 killed in Lisbon, Portugal (show map)

Magitude 8.5 to 9.0 on the Richter scale

This earthquake was felt in many places around the world! It covered no less than four hundred million square miles! Europe, Africa, America, Greenland, West Indies, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, Ireland and other felt the quake.

Many places suffered great damage and lost of life.

Great tsunamis triggered the quake and its aftershocks were as high as sixth feet! Many coastal cities and villages were wiped off the map!

Many Catholics gathered in Lisbon to celebrate "All saints day" November 1, 1755 – the earthquake destroyed every church and convent. Many thought it was the end of the world.

““The terror of the people was beyond description. Nobody wept; it was beyond tears. They ran hither and thither, delirious with horror and astonishment, beating their faces and breasts, crying, 'Misericordia! the world's at an end!' Mothers forgot their children, and ran about loaded with crucifixes. Unfortunately, many ran to the churches for protection; but in vain was the sacrament exposed; in vain did the poor creatures embrace the altars; images, priests, and people were buried in one common ruin.”” GC - 305

Great Earthquake 2004

Also in more recent times, on December 26, 2004 an earthquake of a magnitude of 9.3 in the Indian Ocean which was felt in many parts of the earth produced a large tsunami or tide wave that killed over 150,000 in South Asia. [It is said that this earthquake force was as strong as five million atomic bombs that shook the earth for ten minutes.](#)

God has used these great earthquakes in the past and in our modern time as signs to literally SHAKE US UP TO WAKE US UP! Jesus is coming soon! Are you ready?

2) Darkening of Sun and Moon as blood – Fulfilled!

May 19, 1780, the sun turned into darkness and the moon appeared to be red as blood.

History reports explained that the sun did not become dark that day by an eclipse, but was unexplained. Also it was reported that the next evening when the moon became visible it had the appearance of blood.

"In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Mark 13:24. The 1260 years of the Papal Roman Empire was prophesied to end in 1798. Tribulation in the context of Mark 13:24 also applies to those who were victims of Papal Rome's persecution. History reveals that it was around 1780 that many were free from the persecution of Papal Rome. As a sign after the tribulation (persecution) of many protestants the sun goes dark and the moon at night look like blood!

"May 19, 1780, stands in history as "The Dark Day." Since the time of Moses no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration, has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by eyewitnesses, is but an echo of the words of the Lord, recorded by the prophet Joel, twenty-five hundred years previous to their fulfillment: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." Joel 2:31." GC - 308

Let's look at a few historical accounts of eyewitnesses of that day. [R.M. Devens of New England in Our First Century, p. 89 says that "Almost, if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and as yet unexplained](#)

phenomenon of its kind, . . . stands the dark day of May 19, 1780,--a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England.” (EG White, Great Controversy, p. 306)

Another eye witness of that day, Milo Bostick in *Stone’s History of Massachusetts* says, “The moon which was at its full, had the appearance of blood.”(Amazing Facts Lesson 8, p. 6)

These were signs to wake up the world who were sleeping spiritually.

Luke 21:28-31

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

The Darkening of Sun and Moon as blood – Spiritual Condition

At the time of the great darkening of the sun and the moon as blood revealed the spiritual condition of the church. It appeared that many of protestant churches were asleep spiritually. Many people became more concerned about making money and acquiring land than the word of God and the coming of Jesus!

This was another wake up call to the church to arouse them to blast the trumpet sound to the world that Jesus is coming, repent and be saved!

Joel 2:11 (Question) “for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Will those still holding on to sin and the things of the world be able to stand at the coming of Jesus?

Isaiah 13:9-11

9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

What are God’s people especially the ministers and church leaders suppose to do as we see the signs of Jesus coming fulfilled?

Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

Joel 2:15-17

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

Are you blowing the trumpet?

As ministers in the last days we are to blow the trumpet of truth to warn the world of the soon coming of Jesus Christ. At the same time arouse the people to understand that we live in very solemn times. We are living in the time of judgment. Also we are to plead with God in prayer for the souls on people in bondage “between the porch and the altar.” The porch was a stairs leading up to the temple (holy and most holy place) a few yards before the altar. The porch is where the priest prayed for the congregation and the souls of the people.

“To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished. God saw that many of His professed people were not building for eternity, and in His mercy He was about to send a message of warning to arouse them from their stupor and lead them to make ready for the coming of the Lord.” {GC 311.2}

Three Angels Message and the Harvest

Revelation 14 reveals the warning of the judgment of Christ and His coming in the everlasting gospel of the three angel message and the final harvest.

“The work of preaching the gospel has not been committed to angels, but has been entrusted to men. Holy angels have been employed in directing this work, they have in charge the great movements for the salvation of men; but the actual proclamation of the gospel is performed by the servants of Christ upon the earth.” {GC 312.1}

“It was not the scholarly theologians who had an understanding of this truth, and engaged in its proclamation. Had these been faithful watchmen, diligently and prayerfully searching the Scriptures, they would have known the time of night; the prophecies would have opened to them the events about to take place. But they did not occupy this position, and the message was given by humbler men. Said Jesus: "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you." John 12:35. Those who turn away from the light which God has given, or who neglect to seek it when it is within their reach, are left in darkness. But the Saviour declares: "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Whoever is with singleness of purpose seeking to do God's will, earnestly heeding the light already given, will receive greater light; to that soul some star of heavenly radiance will be sent to guide him into all truth.” GC – 312

Powerful lesson

What were the church leadership doing while the signs were being fulfilled of Jesus’ first advent?

Sleep! They were totally in the darkness. They kept their eyes closed to the fulfillment of prophecy and was more concerned about making money and building great buildings. They built monuments to the ancient prophets, but rejected the message of the prophets.

They ignored the prophecies of the place of Jesus birth in Micah 5:2 and the time of Jesus first advent in Daniel 9:25!

At the time of the birth of Christ the angels of God did not find ONE church leader in the church of Israel who was actively looking and training the people about the fulfillment of prophecy. NOT ONE! It was sad.

Can you imagine at the time of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem an angel going to the church of Israel with great news to tell the church leaders and priests that the Messiah was born? They were absorbed with the treasury and how to make more money. They were absorbed with the Roman plays, theater, and worldly entertainment. They were debating about which Roman gladiator was the greatest of their day. Their scribes were adding and taking away Biblical scriptures to keep people under their authority.

It appeared that the angel would find no one to give the good news to. Jesus is born! But as the angel flew talk and chatter of a group of shepherds were heard. They in an open field with their flock looked up at the stars and talked about the first advent of Jesus Christ. In excitement the angel informs the angelic host, tells the shepherds about the birth of Christ and then the sky lit up with the angels singing and praising the advent of Jesus.

Luke 2:8-14

- 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus?

Luke 2:17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Luke 2:18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Luke 2:20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

These shepherds were the first pastors to preach about the birth of Jesus. The word “pastor” means “shepherd.” The first pastors were true and not from the official schools of the church of Israel. They were not deemed “scholars” from the literary institutions of the Rabbi.

Who do these shepherds represent in the last days?

These shepherds are a type that represent the “true” pastors living in the last days just before the coming of Jesus Christ! The name pastor is NOT a title, but a spiritual work of ministry to feed the flock with Bible truth and watch over the flock to keep out the wolves spreading error and lies that draw people away from the truth.

Today, the name “pastor” as become a title of lordship and kingship as if God has given pastors kingly authority over people. Every time their name is called they have to be called “pastor.”

Does God give pastors kingly authority over His flock?

1 Peter 5:1-4

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

- 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Only the Chief Shepherd who is Jesus has AUTHORITY over the flock. God's pastor are little shepherd leading all people to the chief Shepherd.

The kingly "authority" of a pastor is directly from the papacy. They created this false hierarchical system in which many churches adopted including the SDA corp church to keep people in submission and in darkness so they can get richer and richer.

The true pastors in these last days like the shepherd in the field keeping the flock at the birth of Jesus will not be from the corporate church schools with the degrees. They are responsible men of God in the field of evangelism giving the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. They are qualified by the power of the Holy Spirit and fruits of the spirit rather than the degrees of schools!

What school qualified John the Baptist and the disciples of Jesus? The school of Jesus Christ it was not the corrupt schools of Israel in apostasy at the time of Christ.

The condition of the church at Jesus birth and the professed people today are in the exact same condition, sleep and drunk with the wine of Babylon!

"Unless the church will follow on in His opening providence, accepting every ray of light, performing every duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into the observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear. This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church. God requires of His people works of faith and obedience corresponding to the blessings and privileges bestowed. Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross; and this is why so many of the professed followers of Christ refused to receive the light from heaven, and, like the Jews of old, knew not the time of their visitation. Luke 19:44. Because of their pride and unbelief the Lord passed them by and revealed His truth to those who, like the shepherds of Bethlehem and the Eastern Magi, had given heed to all the light they had received." GC 316

Next sermon will look at an American reformer and the third major fulfillment of prophecy the "falling of the stars."

Appeal

"Not by its name, but by its fruit, is the value of a tree determined. If the fruit is worthless, the name cannot save the tree from destruction. John declared to the Jews that their standing before God was to be decided by their character and life. Profession was worthless. If their life and character were not in harmony with God's law, they were not His people." {Desire of Ages 107.1, EG White}