

Great Controversy Series
Even At The Doors
Chapter 20 - A Great Religious Awakening
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

What prophecy teaches that there will be a great religious awakening at the end of time?

First Angel's Message

Revelation 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the **hour of his judgment is come**: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Angel (Greek) = aggelos – a messenger of God (Thayer Greek Definition)

Angel is used to depict the true people of God that gives the everlasting gospel to all the world. It reveals the pure righteous character and Holy Ghost power of God's messenger's who are giving the everlasting gospel straight without compromise. It also reveals the **urgency, swiftness and loudness of the message** that is heard all around the world!

Why is the first angel's message so urgent?

Rev 14:7 says "The hour of his judgment IS come."

Verse 7 reveals God's judgment!

Judgment = Greek word = Krisis

In other words the hour of God's Krisis is come! This is why the first angel's message is so urgent and loud! Also the "hour" or time that was scheduled has arrived.

Remember, where in Bible prophecy was the judgment (krisis) appointment set by God?

Daniel 7:10 "... the judgment was set, and the books were opened."

Remember in Daniel 7:10 the judgment time was scheduled! In Revelation(emphasize-last book of the Bible) 14:7 first angel's message of the everlasting gospel reveals that the judgment appointment HOUR is HERE NOW!

What are the two main phases of judgment?

- 1) Investigative
- 2) Executive

Which phase was set in Daniel 7:10 and Revelation 14:7? Investigative

Daniel 8:14 and 9:24 – 27 reveals to God's faithful and wise the "hour" time that the investigative judgment would begin, October 22, 1844. Remember, 2300 years from the rebuilding of the Jerusalem in autumn of 457

BC brings the judgment “hour” to October 22, 1844, which was the literal day of atonement according to Hebrew calendar in the Bible, 10th Day of the 7th Month (Tishrei)! (2300 – 457 = 1843 + 1 = 1844)

Which phase of judgment did William Miller, the American Reformer, and his associates thought that Daniel 8:14 was talking about?

Executive phase. Remember they thought that the cleansing of the sanctuary was God executing His punishment on the earth by “cleansing the earth” by fire at Jesus second coming. They assumed the popular teaching of the churches of that day that the earth was the sanctuary. This assumption led to a great disappointment when October 22, 1844. They got the right date but the wrong phase of God’s judgment.

When is the first Angel message to be given with great power?

“The message itself sheds light as to the time when this movement is to take place. It is declared to be a part of the ‘everlasting gospel;’ and it announces the opening of the judgment. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; **but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of judgment had come. The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the judgment.** This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal ‘to the time of the end.’ Not till we reach this time could a message concerning the judgment be proclaimed, based on the fulfillment of these prophecies. But at the time of the end, says the prophet, ‘many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’” Daniel 12:4. - GC 355 - 356

The first Angel message started around 1833 – 1844. It will intensify as we get closer to the end of time! We are living in the time of Revelation! The last day when the trump will sound is getting closer and closer!

Did the New Testament church preach the urgent coming of Jesus Christ in their day?

No. Based on the prophecies Daniel 2 and the prophetic timeline Daniel 8:14, they knew that Jesus was not coming in their time. They knew that the coming of Jesus was still at least 1900 years away!

According to Daniel 2 at the time of Paul, they were still under the Roman Empire, the fifth Empire represented as the legs of iron on the statue. The little horn of Daniel 7 and 8, the man of sin, Papal Roman Empire was not formed nor revealed yet. **Since the stoning of Stephen in 34 AD there was still 1810 years between 34 AD and 1844!**

“No such message [the urgency of the second coming of Jesus] has ever been given in past ages. Paul, as we have seen, did not preach it; he pointed his brethren into the then far-distant future for the coming of the Lord. The Reformers did not proclaim it. Martin Luther placed the judgment about three hundred years in the future from his day. **But since 1798 the book of Daniel has been unsealed, knowledge of the prophecies has increased, and many have proclaimed the solemn message of the judgment near.**” GC 356

Since 1844 the message is the judgment is here. In our day the judgment hour is soon to be over! The everlasting gospel message today is that Jesus coming is extremely imminent! **It is right upon us, but we must not only be ready for the coming of Jesus, but go through the mark of the beast crisis, persecution, and the time of trouble since their was a nation, the seven last plagues.** You must be spiritually equipped and ready before that time. If you are waiting and seeing before you act and work, you will be like the foolish virgins. You will not make it! Be wise, study and investigate the end time prophecies with urgency and great zeal.

Great Awakening 1833 - 1844

From 1833 – 1844 was known as the great awakening, because for the first time in Christian history the first angel's message of the "hour of his judgment is come" was preached with urgency around the world! Not only did God move upon the heart of William Miller, but he also moved on others around the same time in different parts of the world. Many in different places of the world solely studied the Bible prophecies and its fulfillment and arrived to the conclusion of the soon coming of Jesus Christian.

Joseph Wolff

-Born in 1795 Germany in a Jewish family

-Father was a Jewish rabbi who rejected Jesus as the Messiah

-Wolff wanted to know more about Jesus at a very young age, but father and others fellow Jews was unable to answer his quest to know more about Jesus.

"One day hearing Jesus of Nazareth mentioned, the boy inquired who He was. 'A Jew of the greatest talent,' was the answer; 'but as He pretended to be the Messiah, the Jewish tribunal sentenced Him to death.' 'Why,' rejoined the questioner, 'is Jerusalem destroyed, and why are we in captivity?' 'Alas, alas!' answered his father, 'because the Jews murdered the prophets.' The thought was at once suggested to the child: 'Perhaps Jesus was also a prophet, and the Jews killed Him when He was innocent.'" [Travels and Adventures of the Rev. Joseph Wolff, vol. 1, p. 6.] - GC 356

-Forbidden to go to a Christian church the young Wolff would linger outside to hear the messages about Jesus!

"When only seven years old he was boasting to an aged Christian neighbor of the future triumph of Israel at the advent of the Messiah, when the old man said kindly: 'Dear boy, I will tell you who the real Messiah was: He was Jesus of Nazareth, . . . whom your ancestors have crucified, as they did the prophets of old. Go home and read the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, and you will be convinced that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'" [Ibid., vol. 1, p. 7.] - GC 357

-Wolff read the Isaiah 53 and was convicted that Jesus was the Messiah as fulfilled in the New Testament. He accepted Jesus as the Messiah and his saviour

-Wolff left home at age 11 to pursue and education. For a time he live with kinfolk, but after while he was kick out because he believed in Jesus. He was homeless and penniless.

-After while Wolff taught Hebrew for a living and through the influence of a Catholic instructor joined the Catholic Church. Later attended the College of the Propaganda at Rome

-As he studied the Bible he saw the abuses and errors of the Catholic Church and called for reform. He was soon kicked out.

-Later accepted the Protestant Reformed faith in 1821 and join the Church of England

-Wolff's only mission in life was to be a missionary to the world.

-In 1821, three years after Miller had arrived at his exposition of the prophecies pointing to the time of the judgment, Wolff came to the same conclusion within a few years of Miller's.

-Wolff was truly a missionary to the world! He went to a large part of the habitable globe. From 1821 to 1845 he ministered in Africa, Egypt, Abyssinia, Asia, Palestine, Syria, Persia, Bokhara, India, and the United States. He also went to many nationalities and races such as the Jews, Turks, and Hindus giving the message of the soon return of Jesus!

-In 1837, God opened the door to give the everlasting gospel of the soon return of Christ to members of Congress in Washington, DC and the government of New Jersey and Pennsylvania

-Wolff was fearless and a true soldier for Jesus without complaining. He went to isolated and barbarous places and had some very trying times. He was tortured (beating of the soles of his feet), sold as a slave, starved, condemned death three times, and almost died from dehydration.

-One time he was robbed and striped of all his possessions in the winter snow and walk for one hundred miles with bare feet in the snowy mountains! Wolff was a true soldier for Jesus!

“When warned against going unarmed among savage and hostile tribes, he declared himself ‘provided with arms’-- ‘prayer, zeal for Christ, and confidence in His help.’ ‘I am also,’ he said, ‘provided with the love of God and my neighbor in my heart, and the Bible is in my hand.’ [W.H.D. Adams, In Perils Oft, page 192.] - GC 361

-He distributed the word of God many languages to many of the places he ministered.

-He also met others in various remote places of the world who came to the same conclusion of the soon return of Jesus. Many believed Jesus was coming between 1840 and 1844 such as the Arabs in Yeman and people northern and central Asia.

Great Britain

-In England from 1829 forward the exact time was not generally preached, but the urgency of the second coming of Jesus was

-But in Great Britain [includes England, Wales, & Scotland] overall about 700 ministers of the church of England preached the message of the coming of Jesus in 1844.

-Advent message literature from the United States was widely distributed.

Manuel Lacunza of South America

-Born [Santiago, Chile](#), 1731; died [Imola, Italy](#) around June 18, 1801

-Spaniard and Jesuit converted as a result of learning about the soon coming of Jesus from studying the Bible

-To escape censorship from Papal Rome, he wrote a book about the coming of Jesus under the name of “Rabbi Ben-Ezra” that found its way to London and translated and distributed which caused a deeper awakening in England.

Bengel of Germany

- In the 1700’s Bengel of Germany who was a Lutheran Church minister was deeply convicted of the second coming Christ after his study of Revelation 21.

- Before the time of Miller, Bengel came to the conclusion that Jesus was coming within a few years of 1844!

- Bengel wrote publications about the second coming of Christ that found its way to Russia and continued on after his death.

François Samuel Robert Louis Gausson

-Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Gausson gave second advent message to **France and Switzerland**

-Interest in the second coming of Christ after studying Daniel 2 as a youth. He saw the historical history and prophecy of Daniel 2 matched perfectly.

-Like Farel, Gausson first gave the second advent message to the children including the study of Daniel 2.

-After while young and old filled the meetings about the second advent of Christ in Geneva, Switzerland.

-Published prophecy studies on the second coming of Christ in French that was distributed throughout France.

Scandinavia

-The advent message was proclaimed, but ministers of the state sponsored church was opposed to it and influenced to put those teaching the second advent message into prison.

-Children some as young as six or eight years old preached the second advent message – it was illegal for them to go to prison!

“The child-preachers themselves were mostly poor cottagers. Some of them were not more than six or eight years of age; and while their lives testified that they loved the Saviour, and were trying to live in obedience to God's holy requirements, they ordinarily manifested only the intelligence and ability usually seen in children of that age. When standing before the people, however, it was evident that they were moved by an influence beyond their own natural gifts. Tone and manner changed, and with solemn power they gave the warning of the judgment, employing the very words of Scripture: ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’ They reprov'd the sins of the people, not only condemning immorality and vice, but rebuking worldliness and backsliding, and warning their hearers to make haste to flee from the wrath to come.”

- GC 366

America

-America was the center of the second advent movement before 1844

-Writings Williams Miller was distributed to various parts of the world: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come."

-There were few formally trained ministers that joined the second advent movement to preached the second coming of Christ. They were mainly laypeople.

“There were comparatively few ministers, however, who would accept this message; therefore it was largely committed to humble laymen. Farmers left their fields, mechanics their tools, traders their merchandise, professional men their positions; and yet the number of workers was small in comparison with the work to be accomplished. The condition of an ungodly church and a world lying in wickedness, burdened the souls of the true watchmen, and they willingly endured toil, privation, and suffering, that they might call men to repentance unto salvation. Though opposed by Satan, the work went steadily forward, and the advent truth was accepted by many thousands.” - GC 368

Great Opposition

-Many ministers and churches who wanted to continued their worldly way of living rejected the second advent messages

-Many members from various church who taught the second advent of Christ were kicked out

-Many who were opposed to a definite date taunted and mocked those preaching that Christ coming was in 1844.

-“Many were misled by husbands, wives, parents, or children, and were made to believe it a sin even to listen to such heresies as were taught by the Adventists.” - GC 373

-The reality was that many who opposed the movement really did not want Jesus to come! They were comfortable in their profession of Jesus Christ while partaking in the things of the world.

“ ‘No man knoweth the day nor the hour’ was the argument most often brought forward by rejecters of the advent faith. The scripture is: ‘Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.’ Matthew 24:36. A clear and harmonious explanation of this text was given by those who were looking for the Lord, and the wrong use made of it by their opponents was clearly shown.” GC 370

Joseph Wolff reply was “‘Did our Lord say that that day and hour should never be known? Did He not give us signs of the times, in order that we may know at least the approach of His coming, as one knows the approach of the summer by the fig tree putting forth its leaves? Matthew 24:32. Are we never to know that period, whilst He Himself exhorteth us not only to read Daniel the prophet, but to understand it? and in that very Daniel, where it is said that the words were shut up to the time of the end (which was the case in his time), and that 'many shall run to and fro' (a Hebrew expression for observing and thinking upon the time), 'and knowledge' (regarding that time) 'shall be increased.' Daniel 12:4. Besides this, our Lord does not intend to say by this, that the approach of the time shall not be known, but that the exact 'day and hour knoweth no man.' Enough, He does say, shall be known by the signs of the times, to induce us to prepare for His coming, as Noah prepared the ark.” [Wolff, Researches and Missionary Labors, pages 404, 405] - GC 359

Great Disappointment

“God designed to prove His people. His hand covered a mistake in the reckoning of the prophetic periods. Adventists did not discover the error, nor was it discovered by the most learned of their opponents.” GC 373

“The time of expectation passed, and Christ did not appear for the deliverance of His people. Those who with sincere faith and love had looked for their Saviour, experienced a bitter disappointment. Yet the purposes of God were being accomplished; He was testing the hearts of those who professed to be waiting for His appearing. There were among them many who had been actuated by no higher motive than fear. Their profession of faith had not affected their hearts or their lives. When the expected event failed to take place, these persons declared that they were not disappointed; they had never believed that Christ would come. They were among the first to ridicule the sorrow of the true believers. But Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with love and sympathy upon the tried and faithful yet disappointed ones.” - GC 374

Even though the Adventist movement assumed the October 22, 1844 was the second coming of Jesus instead of the beginning of the investigative judgment, it still got the desired result that God desired to wake up a world to the fact that Jesus is coming very soon.

What specific question did the disciples ask Jesus concerning end of time?

Matthew 24:3 “...what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

Did Jesus give a specific answer? Yes. Jesus gave exact signs to watch for and prophecies to study.

Why?

Matthew 24:33

33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, **know that it is near, even at the doors.**

“Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near. We are further taught that to disregard His warning, and refuse or neglect to know when His advent is near, will be as fatal for us as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the flood was coming. And the parable in the same chapter, contrasting the faithful and the unfaithful servant, and giving the doom of him who said in his heart, ‘My Lord delayeth His coming,’ shows in what light Christ will regard and reward those whom He finds watching, and teaching His coming, and those denying it. ‘Watch therefore,’ He says. ‘Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing.’ Verses 42, 46. ‘If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.’ Revelation 3:3.” - GC 370

Based on the fulfilled last day prophecies especially in the books of Daniel and Revelation we should know when the coming of the Jesus is “even at the doors.” “Even at the doors” is in the context of an estimate of time. For example, if you expect someone to open the door, you may hear the signs that he is coming based on hearing the foot steps get louder and louder. As the foot steps get louder and louder you know that his coming to open the doors is close. When you hear the loud foot steps stop at the doors you know at any moment the door will be opened. **This is what it means to be “even at the doors.” You cannot predict the exact time the door will be opened, but you should have very good estimate!**

Matthew 24:21-22

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days **shall be shortened.**

Romans 9:28 - For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

Keeping in mind that Jesus will cut things short in righteousness, we cannot preach or teach an exact and definite time of the Lord’s appearing, but based on prophetic fulfilled events that the estimate of that time can be known.

“Again and again have I been warned in regard to time-setting. There will never again be a message for the people of God that will be based on time. We are not to know the definite time either for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or for the coming of Christ.” {Ellen White, Review Herald, March 22, 1892 par. 7}

Even in this statement the key phrase is “definite time,” but we should be aware and be watching when the coming of the Lord is “at the doors.”

Think about it: It would not be wise to focus people on an exact time of the coming of the Lord because according to the prophetic sequences of last day events in Daniel and Revelation, what really matters MOST before the coming of Jesus is close of probation. In general the end of investigative judgment will be at the beginning of the seventh last plagues. This will be the close of probation for all people. But before this peoples cases are being decided in heaven and there is no way of knowing when probation closes for each individual. This is the most critical. No individual knows when their probation closes.

Who will understand the prophetic messages Daniel and Revelation, timelines, and sequence of events at the end of time before the second coming of Jesus?

Daniel 12:9-10

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.
 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Only the wise like the wise virgins in Jesus parable will understand at the end of time. We are living at the end of time! We are the people in which the prophecies of Daniel are opened in the book of Revelation!

Revelation 22:10

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1:3

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Daniel 12:3-4

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.
 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased just before the coming of Jesus is NOT talking about mass transportation and an increase of technology. It is referring to the wise. Many of wise at the end of time shall run to and fro and as a their knowledge will increase.

“Run to and fro” (Hebrew) = “push forth”

The wise in the last days are pushing forth to understand the last day prophecies and has the push and study for understand, knowledge about end time prophecies and events will increase more then the previous generations. **Why? Because we see the fulfillment of the prophecies of the past and the fulfilling end time prophecies based on current events. We are the last generation!**

What chapter of Daniel should the wise study very closely to know when Jesus coming is “even at the doors”?

“Let us read and study the **twelfth chapter of Daniel**. It is a warning that we shall all need to understand before the time of the end. There are ministers claiming to believe the truth who are not sanctified through the truth. Unless a change comes in their lives, they will say, ‘My Lord delayeth His coming.’” - Ellen White, Manuscript Releases Volume 15, p 228

“In the Scriptures are presented truths that relate especially to our own time. To the period just prior to the appearing of the Son of man, the prophecies of Scripture point, and here their warnings and threatenings pre-eminently apply. The prophetic periods of Daniel, **extending to the very eve of the great consummation, throw a flood of light upon events then to transpire.**” - Ellen White, Review and Herald, September 25, 1883 par. 6

In Daniel chapter 12, we are given three timelines at are based on end time events that will give the faithful understanding when the second coming of Jesus is “even at the doors.”

Verse 7 = 1260 days; Verse 11= 1290 days; and Verse 12=1335 days

These are literal days since the context of prophecy is not written in symbolic language starting in Daniel 11. These timelines are NOT apart of the 2300 day time line that ended in 1844. They simply don't fit there. These are last day timelines for the faithful that will bring us to the “**very eve of the great consummation**”. **They are like knowing each stage of the birth process just before the baby comes. You know the**

approximate length of contractions at each stage. When it get closer for the baby to come you know the intensity of the pain and it shorten length until the baby comes!

There will be no excuses for ignorance, we must study and examine closely the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

“Paul speaks of a class to whom the Lord's appearing will come unawares. ‘The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape.’ But he adds, to those who have given heed to the Saviour's warning: ‘Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5. - GC 371

Jesus says....

Luke 21:34-36

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Will there be a time in which we will know the exact day and hour of the coming of Jesus?

Events: Near the end of seven last plagues and two tables of stone of the commandments in the midst of heaven...

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man.” - GC 640

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We are getting closer and closer to the Mark of the Beast Crisis

Donald Trump was recently interviewed with the 700 Club with Pat Robertson on July 13, 2017 at the White House.

Donald Trump to Pat Robertson

Trump told Robertson of the status of the Johnson Amendment that he crippled with his executive order and uniting of church and state. He is now waiting for Congress to get rid of it permanently. Then he says...

“People like you, that I want to hear from—ministers and preachers and rabbis and whoever it may be—they can **speak**,” Trump said. “You know, you couldn’t **speak** politically before, now you can. And I want to hear from you and others that we like. Franklin Graham ... Robert Jeffress, who is such a great guy, Pastor Jeffress; he used to go on television, I didn’t know who he was and he was always speaking so well of me and, you know, you have so many people that I want to hear from. Now they’re going to be able to **speak** and that’s going to be a great thing for Christianity, believe me. A great, great thing. And it’s a great thing for religion.”

What does prophecy say!

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both **speak**, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

The image of the beast is almost complete! Now he can “speak” with influence over politics and the making of laws, but very soon he will “cause”, the enforcement of those laws!