

THE PRESENT TRUTH

Bishop Stephen D. Lewis

“That Which Can Be Relied On”

“Satan leads many to believe that God will overlook their unfaithfulness in the minor affairs of life; but the Lord shows in his dealings with Jacob that he will in nowise sanction or tolerate evil. All who endeavor to excuse or conceal their sins, and permit them to remain upon the books of Heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. The more exalted their profession, and the more honorable the position which they hold, the more grievous is their course in the sight of God, and the more sure the triumph of their great adversary. Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless. Those professed Christians who come up to that last fearful conflict unprepared, will, in their despair, confess their sins in words of burning, anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress. These confessions are of the same character as was that of Esau or of Judas.” {The Great Controversy Pg.620}

“The world is a theater. The actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. God is lost sight of. With the great masses of mankind there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes. God is looking on. His purposes in regard to his rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama,—Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy. The cause will be followed by the effect.

Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.

Are we as a people asleep? O if the young men and young women in our institutions who are now unready for the Lord's appearing, unfitted to become members of the Lord's family, could only discern the signs of the times, what a change would be seen in them! The Lord Jesus is calling for self-denying, self-sacrificing workers to follow in his footsteps, to walk and work for him, to lift the cross, and follow where he leads the way. {Review and Herald, September 10, 1903}

The "time of trouble such as never was," is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess, and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. {The Great Controversy Pg. 623}

Gluttony and intemperance lie at the foundation of the great moral depravity in our world. Satan is aware of this and he is constantly tempting men and women to indulge the taste at the expense of health and even life itself. Eating, drinking, and dressing are made the aim of life with the world. Just such a state of things existed before the Flood. And this state of dissipation is one of the marked evidences of the soon close of this earth's history.--Letter 34, 1875.

The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. {Patriarchs and Prophets Pg. 102} (1890).

We know that the Lord is coming very soon. The world is fast becoming as it was in the days of Noah. It is given over to selfish indulgence. Eating and drinking are carried to excess. Men are drinking the poisonous liquor that makes them mad. {Letter 308, 1907}

In the days of Noah the overwhelming majority was opposed to the truth, and enamored with a tissue of falsehoods. The land was filled with violence. War, crime, murder, was the order of the day. Just so will it be before Christ's second coming. {Seventh -day Adventist Bible Commentary Volume 1, Pg 1090} (1891).

The terrible reports we hear of murders and robberies, of railway accidents and deeds of violence, tell the story that the end of all things is at hand. Now, just now, we need to be preparing for the Lord's second coming. {Letter 308, 1907.}

The youth should seek God more earnestly. The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides.

Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near! The prophet says: "Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." {The Signs of the Times, April 21, 1890.}

1. It all began when the General Conference authorized Bert Beech to present a gold medal to the pope in 1977.
2. When Celebration was suggested by the Vatican Council II the General Conference immediately began to promote Celebration in its meetings and encourage the members to participate.
3. The World Council of Churches requested all churches to unite in an ecumenical brotherhood. Immediately our leaders began to promote this movement, knowing full well that eventually it would lead to worldwide Sunday worship.
4. The General Conference has promoted the NIV - The New International Version - translation of the Bible knowing that it is based on the corrupted manuscripts promoted by papal Rome.
5. Former President, Neil Wilson, revealed how our church leadership has rejected the teachings of the Great Controversy when he filed a brief with the courts regarding the Pacific Press when it was located in Mountain View, California. This brief stated that what we used to preach regarding the beast and the papacy was now confined to the trash heap.
6. The display of the Vatican flag during the past two General Conference Sessions when it is an undisputed fact that we will never have a Seventh-day Adventist church or a member within the Vatican.
7. The introduction of a high-ranking officer of the United Nations to the GC Toronto 2000 assembly with remarks intended to praise the United Nations for what it stands for.
8. The church leadership has refused to take a concerted stand to uphold the Spirit of Prophecy which reveals that apostasy will become so bad that Sunday worship will be preached by some of our ministers. Review and Herald, March 18, 1884 tells us, "The Lord has a controversy with His professed people in these last days. In this controversy men in responsible positions will take a course directly opposite to what was pursued by Nehemiah. They will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but they will try to keep it from others by burying it beneath the rubbish of custom and tradition. In churches and in large gatherings in the open air, ministers will urge upon the people the necessity of keeping the first day of the week."
9. And I'm sad to say that this is coming upon us quicker than we think. I just received the Confessions of a Nomad , a devotional guide put out by the Ministerial Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It was published in 1998 by the Pacific Press Publishing Association. Let read just a paragraph or two regarding the title "Holy Day or Holiday - Commandment 4". "Society has gotten caught up in a seven-day, twenty-four-hour-a-day week. Some of you work in a business where you have no control over what you do on Sunday. Some of you are managers of businesses with policies set by someone else in a distant city and you are caught. You can't get out of it and you don't know what to do but you know it is wrong and it violates everything you are. Thoreau said if you want to destroy the Christian faith, first take away Sunday. He was right. It is a holy day for those who know Jesus Christ as Savior; it cannot be a holiday. For those of you who have gathered around the cross and have been saved and washed clean by His blood it is a sacrilege to do anything else on that day except to celebrate what God has done. If we abuse Sunday, we are going to destroy something beautiful which God has given. No Sunday means no church. No church means no worship. No worship means no religion. No religion means no morality. No morality means no society. No society means no government. No government means anarchy. That's the choice before us." What a statement printed by the Ministerial Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and printed by the Pacific Press!
10. By idly standing by permitting new theology to be preached, disregarding the sanctuary message - a pillar of our pioneer faith.
11. In Toronto 2000 session we were told that we should no longer give any doctrinal book or any other books to people in an effort to interest them in our belief. Can you imagine? In other words, stop preaching the Three Angels' Messages. Sounds unbelievable but its an undisputed fact. The list goes on! Now is the time to make spiritual preparation. Remember, "Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble or at any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless." {Great Controversy Pg. 620}