The Shaking II— How to Survive the Shaking

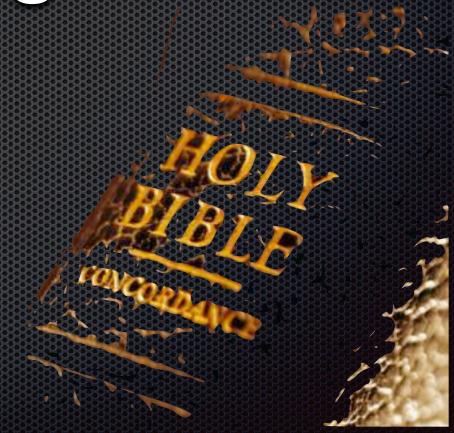
P. Gerard Damsteegt, Dr. Theol., (Ret.) Associate Professor,

SDA Theological Seminary, Andrews University, February 2019

damsteeg@andrews.edu



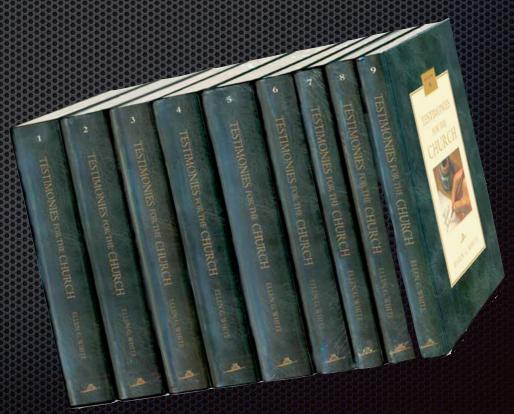
Biblical Insights



Conditions for the Shaking in Scripture

- Experience among God's people
 - The Remnant
 - Joel 2:15-17
 - James 4:7-10
 - Zeph 2:1-3.
 - Experience during the last church period
 - Rev 3:15-17
 - Solution: A testimony that revives God's people

Spirit of Prophecy Insights



Effect of Straight Testimony

- It reveals the condition among God's people
 - It reveals two classes of people
 - Those who accept the testimony
 - They oppose the the testimony

Why the Straight Testimony?

Its purpose (2SG 283)

"By some there is shunning of the living testimony. Cutting truths must not be shunned. It needs something besides theory to reach hearts now. It needs the stirring testimony to alarm and arouse; that will stir the enemy's subjects, and then honest souls will be led to decide for the truth."

Observation

- It is God's mercy to reach honest persons
- The shaking will lead to decisions for the truth

Why the Straight Testimony?

Its purpose (2SG 283, 284)

"Sins exist in the church that God hates, but they are scarcely touched for fear of making enemies. Opposition has risen in the church to the plain testimony. . . . When the church depart from God they despise the plain testimony, and complain of severity and harshness.

"It is a sad evidence of the lukewarm state of the church."

Observation

God's way of eliminating sin

Who Gives a Straight Testimony?

God's caring intervention (2SG 284)

"Just as long as God has a church, he will have those who will cry aloud and spare not, who will be his instruments to reprove selfishness and sins, and will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or forbear."

Observation

God has not left His church alone. He has His faithful who dare to give His whole counsel

How to Bring the Testimony?

The preachers' calling (2SG 284, 285)

"Preachers should have no scruples to preach the truth as it is found in God's word. Let the truth cut. I have been shown that why ministers have not more success is, they are afraid of hurting feelings, fearful of not being courteous, and they lower the standard of truth.... I saw that God could not make such successful. . . . the servants of God must cry aloud, and spare not, and leave the result with God."

Observation

Proclaim the truth of God's word and leave the results with Him



How to Bring the Testimony

Urgent call to leaders to weep (Joel 2:17)

"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. . . .



How to Bring the Testimony

- Urgent call to leaders to weep (Joel 2:17)
 - "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. . . .
 - "Could the curtain be rolled back, could you discern the purposes of God and the judgments that are about to fall upon a doomed world...you would fear and tremble for your own souls and for the souls of your fellow men. Earnest prayers of heart-rending anguish would go up to heaven. You would weep between the porch and the altar, confessing your spiritual blindness and backsliding." (6T 408)
 - Observation: The time of the shaking is in the future

How to Bring the Testimony

Call to weep for souls (RH, April 23, 1908)

"The work of the faithful minister is no child's play: earnest, untiring effort is required to wrench the prey from the hands of the enemy. . . . Whatever the trials and difficulties that the ambassador of Christ may have to meet, it is his privilege to carry them all to God in prayer. He can weep between the porch and the altar, pleading, 'Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach.' And by the study of the Scriptures, and earnest, wrestling prayer, he may become 'a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.""

Characteristics of those shaken out (5T 80)

"The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion... Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to 'science falsely so called' will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. . . . They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them."

Observation

Those who trust in intellect or talent are useless

- Those who are not covered by Christ (5T 81)
 - "In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness.... All

who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but





- Those who are not covered by Christ (5T 81)
 - "In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. . . . All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness."

Observation

Those who are not clothed with Christ's righteousness will be shaken out



that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out

have admired for its brilliancy will then go out

that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out

have admired for its brilliancy will then go out

Many a star that we have admired for its

out

its

Those who disobey the truth (FLB 336)

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. . . . They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren."

Observation

Failure to be sanctified through obeying the truth

Attitude to human talents Ms 15, 1886 (MR 11)

"Our faith cannot be vested in any man. We need Christ's righteousness. We need Jesus ever by our side. He is our Rock. It is by his might that we conquer, and by his righteousness that we are saved. When I see men exalted and praised, extolled as almost infallible, I know that there must come a terrible shaking."

Observation

Those who trust in human talents over Christ's righteousness as our Rock

Attitude toward the truth (RH March 19, 1895. [LDE 173])

"The Lord is soon to come. There must be a refining, winnowing process in every church, for there are among us wicked men who do not love

the truth or honor God."

Observation

Those who do not love the truth or honor God



Attitude toward God's cause (EW 50, 51)

- "The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause. . . .
- "I cried to God to spare His people, some of whom were fainting and dying. . . . Said he [angel], 'All the thunders and lightnings of Mount Sinai would not move those who will not be moved by the plain truths of the Word of God, neither would an angel's message awake them."

Observation

Those failing to stand boldly for truth and sacrifice

Attitude towards divine light

"You may point to some of our leading brethren who have not accepted and rejoiced in the light given [in 1888], but have intercepted themselves between the light and the people, that it should not reach them; but they must answer to God for their position.... I am sorry that you are in such great blindness that you are unable to distinguish the voice of God from that of the enemy." (1888 Materials, 331 [1889])

Observation

Those who do not accept light from heaven

- Attitude to the work of the Lord (6T 331, 331 [1901])
 - "If we only knew what is before us we would not be so dilatory in the work of the Lord. We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands.

- Attitude to the work of the Lord (6T 331, 331 [1901])
 - "If we only knew what is before us we would not be so dilatory dilatory: Intentionally delaying shaking tir (someone or something), intended to be shaken will cause delay, gain time, or defer those who decision deed obey his commands.

- Attitude to the work of the Lord (6T 331, 331 [1901])
 - "If we only knew what is before us we would not be so dilatory in the work of the Lord. We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands.
 - "If we make no effort to win souls to Christ we shall be held responsible for the work we might have done, but did not do because of our spiritual indolence."
- Observation
 - Those who do not in word and deed obey Christ

How do we stand the test?

"At times I am worried in spirit, but when I commit all to God His peace comes to me. I hear His voice saying 'Be still, and know that I am God.' I see that the time has come when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. We are in the shaking time. Be assured that only those who live the prayer of Christ, working it out in the practical life, will stand the test." (21 MR 346)

Observation

Those live out the truth in practical life

Attitude toward the spiritual darkness (EW 270)



- Attitude toward the spiritual darkness (EW 270)
 - "I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. . . . Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones."

Observation

Those who are resisting the darkness with strong faith, agonizing cries, and pleading with God

Focus daily on the highest priority in life

- Matthew 4:4
- "The food we eat at one meal does not satisfy us forever. We must daily partake of food. So we must daily eat the Word of God that the life of the soul may be renewed. In those who feed constantly upon the Word, Christ is formed, the hope of glory. A neglect to read and study the Bible brings spiritual starvation. . . . " (OHC 209)

Observation

Daily Bible study renews the life of the soul

Focus daily on the highest priority in life (1T 134, 135)

"I saw that young and old neglect the Bible.... Especially are the young guilty of this neglect. Most of them are ready, and find plenty of time, to read almost any other book. But the word that points to life, eternal life, is not perused and daily studied. That precious, important book that is to judge them in the last day is scarcely studied at all.

Observation

Do not neglect the daily study of the Bible

- Read the early Adventist experiences
 - "The record of the experience through which the people of God passed in the early history of our work must be republished." (Letter 105, 1903)
 - "The experience of William Miller and his associates, of Captain Joseph Bates, and of other pioneers in the advent message, should be kept before our people." (Letter 105, 1903)



- Read the early Adventist experiences
 - "The record of the experience through which the people of God passed in the early history of our work must be republished." (Letter 105, 1903)
 - "The experience of William Miller and his associates, of Captain Joseph Bates, and of other pioneers in the advent message, should be kept before our people." (Letter 105, 1903)
 - "Repeat the words of the pioneers in our work, who knew what it cost to search for the truth as for hidden treasure, and who labored to lay the foundation of our work." (RH, May 25, 1905)

Understanding the truth for our days protects against last days' deceptions

- "The standard-bearers who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings to bear their testimony as to what constitutes truth for this time." (CWE 32)
- "The history of the early experiences in the message will be a power to withstand the masterly ingenuity of Satan's deceptions."

 (Letter 99, 1905)

Accept the messages of the Spirit of Prophecy as the Testimony of Jesus (3SM,

83, 84).



- Accept the messages of the Spirit of Prophecy as the Testimony of Jesus (3SM, 83, 84).
 - "Men may get up scheme after scheme and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White and has given her a message will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days."

Observation

Those who accept these messages are protected against the last day delusions

Ellen G. White complete published writings



©2011 Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.





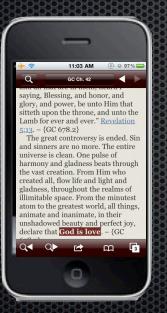
©2011 Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.

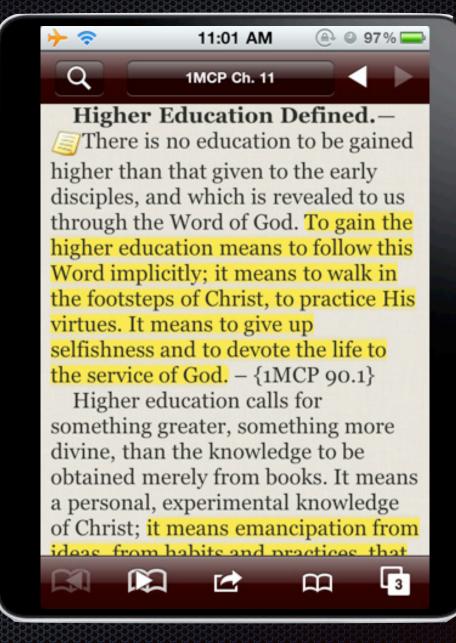






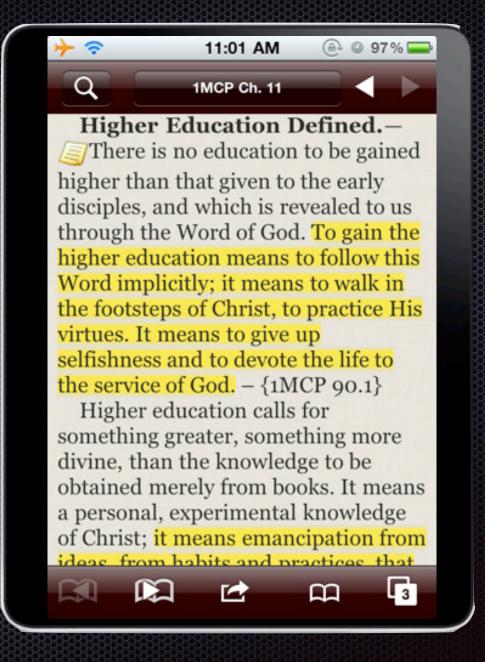






Free Download from the App Store





Focus on the priority of preparing for the Second Advent of Christ

- Daily reading and study of the Scriptures
- Read and study the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy

Read and study the writings of the early Adventist

pioneers