

# Coming Events 1 of 12

## *Introduction*

#1406

Study by W.D. Frazee – 1957

Our text tonight is found in Daniel, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter, the words of the angel Gabriel to Daniel the prophet. The words that I want to use to begin our study are found in the latter part of verse 17:

"Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision" Daniel 8:17.

Moffatt renders it like this:

"Understand the vision, O son of man: for it relates to the crisis at the close."

This is emphasized in Moffatt's rendering of the 19<sup>th</sup> verse:

"The vision relates to the crisis at the close."

What is this vision, and what is the crisis at the close with which it deals? Before we answer those questions, I would like to call attention to several Bible texts which will give us a bit of background.

In 1 Chronicles 12:32, we find that the men of Issachar were men that had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do. Does knowing what to do have any connection with knowing the time? Oh, yes. Suppose I wake up in the night. I don't know what time it is. Do I know what to do? It may be time to get up. It may be time to turn over and go back to sleep. What do I do? I look at my watch. Otherwise I might find myself coming down for breakfast at 1:00 in the morning. Or I might find myself missing an appointment by turning over and going to sleep when it's time to get up. We are told by inspiration that it is the essence of all right faith to do the right thing at the right time. The emphasis tonight is on the timing – to know the time. Turn to Romans the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 11<sup>th</sup> verse.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" Romans 13:11.

Why does Paul say that it's time to wake up? We know the time. Again and again that thought is emphasized.

Now, on the other hand, we are warned in Acts 1:7 that it is not for us to know the times and the seasons which the Father has put in His own power. There are some times we would like to know that God hasn't revealed.

"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever" Deuteronomy 29:29.

So the things we should study are the things which are revealed. The things which we shall study tonight and through this class, it is important always that we have clearly in mind what God has revealed, and focus our attention on those things, avoiding filling our minds with conjectures, speculations, ideas of men concerning the things that God has not revealed. I don't know of anything that furnishes a more fertile field for human speculations than the future. But thank God, through the searchlight of prophecy the way that we need to travel is opened up clear and plain. And we need not be as those that walk in darkness.

When Jesus came 1900 years ago, He at once began to preach concerning His mission on the basis of the fulfillment of time prophecy. We are told that Jesus came into Galilee shortly after His baptism preaching the gospel of the kingdom and saying:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand"  
Mark 1:15.

What time was Jesus talking about? What prophecy was He referring to? He was referring to that wonderful prophecy that we were reading from in our opening text – the wonderful prophecy of Daniel 8. That was the very prophecy that Jesus was speaking concerning. And it was that prophecy which clearly proves that our Lord Jesus is the true Messiah, the anointed One of the Old Testament prophecies, for He came on time.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, ..." Galatians 4:4.

Jesus' baptism by John in the River Jordan occurred in the fall of the year A.D.27. That was exactly the time that Daniel had foretold, being the end of the 483 years, the 69 weeks reaching from the decree to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince (Daniel 9:24-25). In B.C.457, that decree to restore and to build Jerusalem went forth. Exactly 483 years later, 69 prophetic weeks, in A.D.27, Jesus was baptized. My point is: having received that anointing of the Spirit, He went forth proclaiming Himself and His mission to be the fulfillment of that prophecy which had been given through Daniel over 500 years before. He knew the time. Those who listened to His message knew the time. And knowing the time, they knew what to do. They were prepared to welcome the Messiah.

It is true that they didn't fully understand all the events to take place in connection with the coming of the Messiah. They expected a kingdom of glory to be set up at that time. Consequently, when three and a half years later the cross was set up on Golgotha, and our Lord Jesus died in the midst of that last week, that very thing was such a bitter disappointment to His followers that, for the time being, practically all of them lost faith. But Jesus appeared to them after His resurrection and comforted them, and instructed them in the Scriptures, and built their faith on the firm foundation of the prophetic word. He went back to heaven, and those same

disciples who were so bitterly disappointed were entrusted with the message to carry to the ends of the earth, which they did. And the gospel was preached to every creature under heaven in one generation. Such was the wonderful fulfillment of that prophecy which God had given in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> chapters of Daniel.

Our opening text says that the vision of Daniel 8 relates primarily to the crisis at the *close*. When Daniel heard a certain one speaking, he heard a question asked:

"How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"  
Daniel 8:13.

How long, in other words, would the powers of this earth, dominated and inspired by the devil, trample down God's sanctuary and God's people, His truth and His saints? How long would that be? The answer came:

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed"  
Daniel 8:14.

There was to be something about the cleansing of that sanctuary which would have to do with victory for God's people and the vindication of God's government, and the final overthrow of all the enemies of God and His truth.

You and I know that those twenty-three hundred days were symbolic, and represent years. As Ezekiel says:

"I have appointed thee each day for a year" Ezekiel 4:6.

Consequently, from that B.C.457 date, we reach down the prophetic finger and focus on the year 1844 when those long 2,300 years came to an end. Now I'm not attempting to prove these points. I'm presuming that you are acquainted with these facts. If there is anyone here who is not acquainted with the material I am going over, I would appreciate it if you would give us an opportunity to go over this with you and make it clear as the noonday sun, for the texts that we have read tonight says that the way to know what we ought to do is to know the time. The great foundation of this movement is found in the time prophecy of Daniel 8 and 9. It is those who know the time who know what to do. And the vision, as the angel says, relates to the crisis at the close.

What was there about the date 1844 that was so significant? What is the crisis that is to come on this date? What is there about the cleansing of the sanctuary that has anything to do with that crisis? All those are very important questions. They will not be fully answered tonight, but they will in the studies we will have in this class.

Notice that in 1844 the sanctuary was to be cleansed. The sanctuary, of course, is in heaven. Paul makes that clear in Hebrews 8 and 9. The cleansing of the sanctuary is the blotting out of the sins of God's children from the record books at

the close of the investigative judgment. You understand that. But keep this in mind: while the sanctuary is in heaven, God also has a sanctuary on earth. His people are called His temple, His sanctuary. And the blotting out of sins in the sanctuary in heaven is the bookkeeping record of the actual blotting out of the sins of God's people from their hearts and lives down here below. And God will never blot out the sins there unless they are blotted out down here. God will never have an angel make an inaccurate or false entry in the books of heaven. And when the sanctuary is cleansed there, you may be sure that it is because the sanctuary is cleansed down here.

Jesus is going to purify His church today as He purified the temple at Jerusalem at the beginning and the close of His ministry. And it is that cleansing of the sanctuary, along with the great cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven, that we want to fix our attention upon.

Turning over to the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, we find the message for this judgment hour. When the time comes for that sanctuary in heaven to be cleansed, and for a cleansed people to be developed here in this world, three mighty angels fly in mid heaven with a message *from* heaven to those who dwell on the earth. First comes the angel which we speak of as the *first* angel. Notice his message:

"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"  
Revelation 14:7.

Notice that here is a message which indeed relates to the crisis at the close. Here is a message which is present truth in the judgment hour. So at the time that Jesus was about to enter that most holy place in heaven to cleanse the sanctuary, and to enter into the work of investigative judgment preparatory to the blotting out of sins, this message must go to all the world – "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." That message could be given only in this last generation.

Paul, in reasoning before Felix, spoke of righteousness and temperance and judgment to come. Jesus pointed His hearers forward to the time when every idle word must be given account for in the day of judgment. But in Revelation 14, we have a message going to all the world saying not the judgment *will* come but the judgment *is* come. This is the message which is the counterpart of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14. Daniel 8:14 gives us the time. Revelation 14:6-7 gives us the message *for* that time. The time is 1844 – the time for the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven and on earth. The message is Revelation 14:7, "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." Worship the Creator.

As the result of such a message, a group of people are brought together. They are pictured. What kind of people are they?

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12.

These people are ready for Jesus to come. How do I know? The 14<sup>th</sup> verse presents Jesus coming on the cloud with the sharp sickle in His hand. And the angel says to the Saviour:

"Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe" Revelation 14:15.

What is the harvest? Jesus says the harvest is the end of the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom. Then at harvest time with the crop fully matured, with God's children like Him in every way, Jesus comes. And here is the message which draws those people out from every nation and kindred and tongue and people, and develops them and perfects them and presents them at the coming of Jesus without fault before the throne of God. Oh, I want to be in that company. And knowing the time, we know that we have come to that hour. It is the prophetic time given us in Daniel 8 and 9 that shows us that we are in that hour. How far into it? Over a hundred years. It can't be much longer. Jesus is finishing His work in heaven. He is finishing it on earth. And knowing the time, it is high time to awake out of sleep and share in these closing movements. What do you say?

I want to call attention to something. In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation we have, brought to view, a great struggle, a great issue. The first angel speaks positively of the true worship, but the second and third angels speak very definitely of the false worship. The second angel says:

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" Revelation 14:8.

Babylon represents today the great worldwide combination of error and falsehood – false religion claiming to speak for God but speaking for Satan. Against that we are warned by this message. The third angel follows with a loud voice saying:

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God" verses 9-10.

These judgments are coming upon those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark. Here indeed is a crisis at the close. The beast and his image seek to enforce their mark upon the minds and consciences of men. And against that, God warns us.

That crisis is more fully pictured in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation where the leopard beast that came from the sea is clearly presented. And you and I know that it represents the papacy, that great power that rules from the Vatican. We also know

that, following in the footsteps of the papacy, the image beast is brought to view which represents that power of apostate Protestantism which is now developing, and which will soon unite with old papal Rome in a persecution against the people of God to the point that nobody will be able to buy or sell save he that had the mark of the beast or the number of his name (Revelation 13:16-17).

Will that be a crisis? The crisis at the close. Not only that, but it says that this beast has power to cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast would be killed (Revelation 13:15). There will be finally a death decree.

Do you see that all hell is moved against the development of the people who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? This is indeed a crisis. It is a crisis in the government of God, and a crisis in the government of hell. This vision relates to the crisis at the close. In other words, just before Jesus comes down here at the end of time, there is a great crisis. And every soul in this world will either be one of that little company who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, or else they will be numbered among those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in their right hand or in their foreheads.

Friends, I wonder if we have, in our thinking, come to grips with that crisis? We've been told that it's often that trouble is greater in anticipation than it is in reality. But this is not true concerning the time of trouble ahead. The most vivid presentation cannot equal the magnitude of the ordeal through which we must pass. All hell will be turned loose to prevent the development of that group of people who have the seal of God in their foreheads, who keep the commandments of God, whose sins are blotted out. The devil does not want a clean sanctuary. He does not want a clean heart in any soul. He does not want a clean church. He does not want sin to be eliminated, eradicated, put away forever. No, the devil doesn't want that. He is going to do everything he can to prevent it.

The vision relates to the crisis at the close. Do we know anything about the sequence and order of events in this last battle? The answer is, Yes, we do. There are some things that we *don't* know. I wonder, if you were in God's place, which ones would you reveal to God's people? The things they *need* to know or just the things they'd *like* to know? Every now and then, I have somebody ask me a question concerning coming events. The answer that I have to give is, "I don't know." But that doesn't mean that we don't know *anything* about it. We *can* know all we *need* to know, and we *need* to know all we *can* know.

When Jesus came fulfilling prophecy and calling attention to the fulfillment of prophecy, hundreds of His followers were bitterly disappointed. When Jesus hung upon the cross, although what happened to Him at that time was the exact fulfillment of prophecy right to the very day, His followers lost hope when they saw Him hanging there. Why? They had not fully studied the prophecies. Their minds were filled with the traditions of the religious leaders of that time. They thought they knew the Bible. In fact, they were ordained ministers of Jesus Christ, but they were bitterly disappointed and lost hope when the Lamb of God was slain on Calvary.

You and I look back to it now and say, "Why couldn't they see it? Hadn't Jesus told them?" Sure. I want to read something interesting concerning them and us:

"Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, ... The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed" *Great Controversy*, page 594.

So multitudes today are going to be surprised by what happens when they *could* know all they *need* to know, all that has any bearing upon their preparation. This speaks about the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble. Does the close of probation come *at* the coming of Jesus, *before* the coming of Jesus, or *after* the coming of Jesus? Did you know that all three of those things are being taught in the world today? They can't all be correct. Do you know which one is true? Would it make any difference? Knowing the time, we know what to do. This time of trouble that's spoken of here, does that come *before* the coming of Jesus or *after* the coming of Jesus? Does it come *before* the close of probation or *after* the close of probation? All those different positions are being taught by various ones in the world today, and all claim to teach it out of the Bible. They can't all be right. Do you know which one of those is true? Do you know how to *prove* it?

Let's see what Jesus said about this prophecy of Daniel that the angel said relates to the crisis at the close:

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains"  
Matthew 24:15-16.

In Luke 21, we get a little clearer idea of what Jesus meant:

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and

let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto" Luke 21:20-21.

When those Roman armies came against Jerusalem nearly 40 years after Jesus spoke these words, the Christians who had remembered and cherished the words of Christ saw in that approach of the Roman armies the sign that they should flee to the mountains. Jesus said, When you see that sign, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Nearly 40 years later the Roman army under Cestius came and encamped around the city and laid siege to it. But just at the moment when it seemed that the Jews must surrender, Cestius, for no reason in the world, started a retreat to the sea, and the Jews sallying forth after him left the gates open, and the Christians, remembering the sign that Jesus had given, fled.

Someone might have said, "What is the use of fleeing now? The Romans are gone." But Jesus had told them that when they saw those armies around them, then know that the desolation is nigh. They knew it. They knew the time. They knew the signal. They acted. They fled to the mountains. It wasn't too long before the Roman army under Titus came back. This time it came quickly by forced marches. A great army was thrown around the city. And before that siege was over, one million Jews perished by crucifixion, by starvation, by inner conflicts within the city, and in many other ways. And remember that, in the fate of that city, we may behold the doom of the world.

But not one Christian perished in the siege of that city. And not one of God's children upon whom is the seal of God is going to perish in the doom of this world. Not one. Why? Because they know the time, and they watch the prophetic signals, and they move under the leadership of Jesus. I say we need to know the time. We need to know the signals. We need to know what is coming to pass right down here today.

As far as *dates* are concerned, we left the last date over a hundred years ago in 1844. Then the angel took his place, one foot on the land and one on the sea, and with his right hand to heaven swore that there should be prophetic time no longer. There is no date after 1844. Why? Because God's prophetic clock had struck the hour of the last things, the final movements. And from 1844 on, it is not a matter of days or weeks or months or years. Rather, it is a development of that people. And when that people are developed, when those characters are perfected, then the crisis at the close breaks with all the force of a great hurricane or tornado. The final movements come just as soon as those people are developed.

Some of you know that, down here today, God has given you and me a sign which is to be to us as the approach of the Roman armies was to the Judean Christians. There is something which is about to take place which inspiration has said is to be to us a sign just as definite and clear and plain as the Roman armies coming around Jerusalem was. And there are some things that we're to *know* when we see that happen. These are the things that we need to be studying.

People are spending so much time trying to keep up with current events. They have their newspapers, they have their radio, they have the television, and other ways of keeping up. But every one of those can tell you something only *after* it



has happened. Everything is merely human guesswork and speculation, and is liable to error of all kinds. Even the reporting of the news is sometimes colored, accidentally or on purpose. But here are the events revealed *before* they come to pass. Isn't it a pity that multitudes are paying no more attention to these prophecies than if they had never been written? These are the time tables, the schedules of events, which you and I want to be familiarizing our minds with. We want to have them so fixed in our minds that if perchance in some lonely cell we are left without our Bibles in print, we shall have so much stored away that we shall suffer no loss because of the lack of the printed volume. Oh, let's fill our minds with Daniel and Revelation. Let's know the events that are coming to pass.

Someone says, "Oh, I think I know what is coming."

I wonder if you could pass an examination on what's coming. I suggest that no matter how much you have studied these things, I believe that as we go into this class on coming events and you attend faithfully and study faithfully, every one of you will find some light and truth and facts that you do not have tonight. And it may be just as important to you to find out some things that you *thought* were so that *aren't* as to learn of some things that you didn't know. I would rather know five things about coming events and *know* them than to know ten things and be hazy and uncertain and incorrect.

Part of our work in this class is to learn the things that are so; and part of it is to learn some things that *aren't* so, that we may avoid them.

How many messages are there in Revelation 14? Three? Do you know why there are three? It takes three to get those people ready, and that's the work of this message. Are they getting you ready? In the Spirit of Prophecy, these three messages are presented to us as three steps. In the first vision that was given the servant of the Lord in December, 1844, she saw a narrow path cast up high above the world. The three steps are at the beginning of that path. We need to know exactly what those three messages are, when they arose, what they did for the people a hundred years ago, and what they are designed to do for us today. And if the first and second and third angels speak to our hearts and we listen, respond, and do something about it, then we shall be those who are golden grain ready to be garnered for the kingdom of God – a people who are without fault, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

I would like to call attention to this important truth: the only thing which can cleanse the sanctuary in heaven or earth is the blood of Jesus Christ. Without shedding of blood is no remission (Hebrews 9:22). The reason that these people who are developed by this three-fold message are ready to meet the Saviour is this: they have yielded their hearts and lives fully to the cleansing power of that blood. They have allowed it to do a completed work. Therefore, a great program of education goes with this message to point out sin, exalting the law of God, that we may know what is wrong and put it away. But never think that, by our human efforts alone, we shall arrive either at an understanding of His will completely or a complete cleansing from the sins that that light brings to view.

The angel who flies in mid heaven has the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth – the gospel that in Adam and Enoch and Noah's day brought comfort to those hearts that were bowed down under the weight of sin. The gospel that the Holy Spirit preached before unto Abraham and to Moses, and the everlasting gospel that Jesus preached, is being heralded today, pointing men and women to the cross of Christ as the place where sin may be repented of, put away, and washed away forever.

Knowing the time, it's high time for us to wake out of sleep and hasten to get that work done. Knowing the time, we know that we have *little* time left in which to prepare. Knowing the time, we shall want to be quick in our movements, for the angel says, Step fast.

So I trust that the Spirit of God may speak to our hearts right now if sin is discovered by the searchlight of the Spirit in the heart, let us put it away and claim the covering blood of Jesus, that we may be under the shadow of the Almighty, protected by the covering righteousness of Jesus.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts tonight that we have not been left in this dark world without a guide. We thank Thee that to us the future has been opened as clearly as it was to the disciples by the words of Christ. We thank Thee that in the books of Daniel and Revelation, and the rest of the Bible, with the glorious light that Thou hast given to Thy people in these latter days, Thou hast made the future clear and plain. Oh, we pray that in every heart tonight there shall be aroused the determination to search Thy Word and the testimonies of Thy Spirit that we may know what is coming in the immediate future. Then we pray that Thou wilt help us do the thing that will get us ready. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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