

Crisis at the Close 6 of 6

The Triumph

#0366

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1961

“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you” Matthew 28:1–7.

What a wonderful message, my friends, and what a wonderful *climax* to the crisis at the close of the life of Jesus! *Dark* was the hour on that preparation day as they nailed Him to the tree. Darker it was at midnight as the sun was blotted out, and darker still in the hearts of His friends as the evening shadows fell, and He was laid in Joseph's tomb. But before the dawning of that first day of the week, there came light more glorious than the glow of the morning sun, for the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, rolled the stone away, and called forth the Son of God.

Satan had thought that he might keep Jesus a prisoner. Men had thought that they might keep Him there in the tomb. The Jewish leaders had asked for a guard, and Pilate had consented. A Roman seal had been placed on that tomb. That band of soldiers was set to watch it day and night lest something should happen. But I want you to get the picture of how that looked to Heaven:

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision” Psalm 2:1–4.

My dear friends, there is a time for laughter. And when puny men think that with some seals and soldiers they can keep the Son of God when Heaven's hour comes for His liberation, it is simply laughable. It's impossible for it to happen, but the idea that men think that they could stop a thing of that kind. And we need to be imbued with that point of view, my friends. We need to be so filled with the thought of the *power* of Heaven, the *might* of Heaven, the *omnipotence* of Heaven that we too can laugh at the puny efforts of man to stand in God's way.

“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision” Psalm 2:4

So it came to pass on the resurrection morning that Satan and all his hosts were discomfited. Those soldiers fell as dead men. And what had been thought by the prince of evil, the time of his triumph became the hour of his greatest defeat from which he has never recovered, and he *never will* recover, my friends. The victory was won and made eternally certain for the universe, and Satan and his hosts knew that their doom was sure.

You remember the wonderful events that happened in rapid sequence. Jesus appearing to Mary, comforting her and giving her the message to the other disciples and saying, “Do not detain Me, for I am not yet ascended to My Father.” You remember that trip up to the Father's throne that morning of the resurrection, to receive the assurance from the Father that His sacrifice and atonement was complete and accepted, and that His church would be accepted with Him. The heart of Christ was ever with His struggling ones here below.

You remember how that evening He appeared to His disciples, and how on several other occasions during the following 40 days He spoke to them, teaching them the Scriptures. Then came that wonderful day when from the Mount of Olives He ascended, leaving them the parting promise, “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

The angels, who lingered near, 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 as ye have seen Him go into
heaven” Acts 1:11.

Thus the closing events of Christ's life on earth are closely linked with the events that our eyes are set upon that culminate in the return of our Lord surrounded with the same angels that received Him when He left Olivet 1,900 years ago.

As He ascended and drew near the gates of the city of God, He was welcomed by the angelic host. Many were with Him, and many were within the city. The scene is described in beautiful detail in the closing chapter of *The Desire of Ages*. The scripture

is taken from the 24th Psalm that David was inspired to write concerning this triumphal entry:

“As they drew near the city of God, the challenge is given by the escorting angels:

‘Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
And be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;
And the King of glory shall come in.’

“Joyfully the waiting sentinels respond:

‘Who is this King of glory?’

“This they say, not because they know not who He is, but because they would hear the answer of exalted praise:

‘The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
Even lift them up, ye everlasting doors;
And the King of glory shall come in.’

“Again is heard the challenge, ‘Who is this King of glory?’ for the angels never weary of hearing His name exalted. The escorting angels make reply:

‘The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory’” Psalm 24:7–10.

“Then the portals of the city of God are opened wide, and the angelic throng sweep through the gates amid a burst of rapturous music” *The Desire of Ages*, page 833.

There again, Jesus made His wonderful plea for His church. His people were accepted with Him, and all the angels bowed in worship, acknowledging Him as the Prince of life.

Those glorious events which happened 1,930 years ago this spring, are to be paralleled by a wonderful triumph that awaits the remnant church down here in its crisis at the close. We’ve been following the parallels between the remnant and the Savior. We began our study with that wonderful text:

“These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth...” Revelation 14:4.

If He comes to Bethlehem, they come with Him. If He goes to Nazareth, they go with Him. They know what it means to learn the lessons of faithful toil and humble obedience and loving service. If He goes to Jordan, they go with Him. They enter into the experience of baptism. If He goes to be tempted, they go with Him. They too, know what it means to be tempted of the Devil. If He goes to Capernaum, they go with Him and enter into His medical missionary ministry. His desire to preach the Gospel to the poor and reveal the Father's love, *all* this is reflected in those who share with Him in this closing hour the revelation of the love of God to man.

If He goes to Jerusalem, knowing that He must suffer, they go with Him. They do not shrink and hold back. If He goes to Gethsemane they go with Him. They share with Him the burden of prayer. Like Him, they intercede till the angel brings the glory from Heaven. For *us*, it is the angel of Revelation 18—the angel of the Latter Rain and the Loud Cry who comes to *refresh* the saints and prepare them for the ordeal ahead.

And as Jesus met the mob in Gethsemane, we too, soon, are to meet the mob. The people of this world will soon be stirred up by the powers from beneath to persecute God's chosen remnant. And those who, like Jesus, have interceded till glory from Heaven fills their hearts, will like Him be able to meet the persecuting mob with love and firmness, with calm courage, gentleness and meekness. And as through all those different trials and tortures, Jesus exhibited the Father's love, so the remnant church will reveal the saving and keeping power of Christ as they witness before the courts, in the dungeon, and in every place of torture and persecution. That will be the supreme exhibition of God's love in this last generation. Oh, that God may prepare us for it.

As Jesus was finally given over to death, as church and state united, so today, the remnant people of God will finally be placed under a death decree as church and state unite. As Jesus at Calvary went through those *dark* hours in which He wrestled against the power of Satan, so the remnant church in the darkness of Jacob's trouble will wrestle against the powers of darkness. As Jesus was without an intercessor, so the remnant will be without an intercessor through that time of trouble. As Jesus stayed His heart upon God by repeating the promises, and by reviewing the experiences He had heretofore had, so the remnant will by faith alone press their way through the darkness of Jacob's trouble.

In Jacob's trouble, the remnant will not actually die as Jesus died upon the cross. He laid down His life and went into the tomb. He did that as the atonement for sin. And there are many things in the experience of Jesus in Gethsemane and Calvary that we are not called upon to parallel. He took our place. He bore the burden of our guilt. Thank God, we do not have to bear the burden of guilt, either our own or anybody else's. The sinless One has taken our place. Nevertheless, as He went through the darkness by faith alone, so we must go through the darkness by faith alone. We must have a faith that will not shrink though pressed by many a foe.

And as Jesus was delivered by that glorious angel that brought the summons from His Father there in that dark hour of the morning of the first day of the week, so the remnant church will be delivered at the midnight hour as the voice of God speaks from Heaven and glory takes the place of darkness.

Let us read the wonderful description in the book *Great Controversy*, the chapter “God’s People Delivered”:

“With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company.

“...By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying, ‘Look up,’ and lifting their eyes to the heavens, they behold the bow of promise” *Great Controversy*, pages 635–636.

Like Stephen, they look up through the heavens and see Jesus there at the throne, and they *hear* His request:

“I will that they also, whom Thou has given Me, be with Me where I am...” John 17:24.

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance... In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: ‘It is done.’” *Great Controversy*, page 636.

What will be the results of that?

“And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great” Revelation 16:18.

That’s the voice of God shaking the heavens and the earth. Now you’ll remember back there at Calvary, there was an earthquake when Jesus laid down His life on the cross, and there was an earthquake when He rose from the dead. And so there

is to be an earthquake at this crisis hour. There is to be an earthquake that marks the deliverance of God's people. And it will not only be the deliverance of the righteous living at this time. Daniel speaking of this very hour says:

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” Daniel 12:2.

This is what we have long called in this movement the *special* resurrection. You find it described in *Great Controversy*:

“All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law” *Great Controversy*, page 637.

What an hour that will be. Yes. Well Elder Tindall, that's when we'll see Dr. Henry. Won't it be wonderful? And my dear mother is coming forth then. And so many others that have known this message and loved it and have kept God's holy Sabbath, are coming forth from the grave at the time of that great earthquake that marks the deliverance of the saints. What a great time!

Jesus came forth from the tomb glorified. Those who have been sleeping in their graves and are called forth at this time come forth from the tomb glorified to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law.

Shortly after Jesus' resurrection, He ascended with the multitude of captives going with Him. And shortly after the deliverance of the saints, their glorification shortly after this special resurrection, we too are going to ascend. And as a great company came from Heaven to welcome the Savior as the time for His ascension came, so all Heaven is going to be emptied this time, to come down here and welcome you and me, and escort us home to that glorious city.

Oh, what a cloud of angels is coming. *John* saw it. He said:

“Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him...” Revelation 1:7.

He saw it again:

“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle” Revelation 14:14.

What's He coming for, friends? He's coming for you and me. That's what He went away for. That's what He's coming for. He said:

"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. 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" John 14:2-3.

That's what this is all about, my friends. The parallel experience of the remnant with Jesus represents the fact that Jesus wants His people with Him. The heart of Jesus is in a very *special* way set upon the remnant of this last generation. These are they which follow the Lamb in a very close fellowship whithersoever He goeth. You and I are called upon to enter into an experience with Jesus closer than all the angels that have never fallen, and closer than the groups of the generations that have lived and died upon this world.

Why? Because this generation is in a very special way to answer the charge of Satan that the law of God cannot be kept. That's the point. And as *Jesus* gave the lie to Satan's charges, as He demonstrated in His life here on earth that the law of God *could* be kept in human flesh by laying hold of the power that God had provided, so God is going to have a group of people down here today. The book of Revelation pictures them as the 144,000. Oh my friends, *they* have the Father's name written in their foreheads. They have the seal of the living God right there in their forehead. They have God's will *fully* transcribed in their minds and fully lived out in their lives. And *thus* they are given the exalted privilege, the high honor, of going through these *special* trials, these *special* tests to make the special demonstration down here today.

For 6,000 years, Jesus has been the intercessor, standing between the human family and a broken law. But sometime before Jesus comes, He will have so developed His people that He can *step out* between them and that law. And the people of God will stand there so fully clothed with the righteousness of Jesus, within and without, that the law can find no fault with them, and Satan stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to all his sophistries and delusions. To him they are an incomprehensible mystery.

Do you not see that Satan will do everything he can to break them down? Can you not see that he will use *every* effort to keep them from making that demonstration? Oh friend, I'm so thankful that it is written:

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

Patience means more than meekness. It includes that, but it means endurance. It means the ability to carry through. They have the same faith Jesus had, and they

make the demonstration down here in this world. So John sees them there on the sea of glass. As Jesus was welcomed by the angels when He ascended, so God's people will be welcomed by the angels and by the representatives of *all* the other worlds. And as all Heaven was filled with songs of rejoicing as our risen Lord ascended in triumph, so the universe will ring from one end to the other with the triumphant strains as God's people are brought home to share with Him forever the glories of eternity.

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints” Revelation 15:2–3.

Oh, I wonder, friends, why they sing the song of the Lamb.

Don't you see? They've had some of the experiences that the Lamb experienced down here in this world. They know more than any other group the meaning of Gethsemane. They know more than any other group the meaning of Calvary. They know more than any other group the meaning of the demonstration down here in this world that the law of God can be kept in human flesh. Oh friends, is it not a glorious hour to be living in? Thank God.

There's a very practical lesson that ought to come to our hearts as we view the empty tomb, as we think of the glorious triumph of our Lord over all the powers of darkness.

Shortly after Ellen White's visit to the Waldenses valleys where she had gazed upon those great mountains and had looked upon the places where thousands of martyrs had laid down their lives for Jesus; it recalled to her mind the things the Lord had shown her about the persecutions, and also the approaching crisis of the church. She wrote about God's care for His work. It's a beautiful chapter; you might enjoy reading it, especially remembering where it was written. Notice this closing paragraph:

“Brethren, it is no time now for mourning and despair, no time to yield to doubt and unbelief. Christ is not now a Saviour in Joseph's new tomb, closed with a great stone and sealed with a Roman seal; we have a risen Saviour. He is the King, the Lord of hosts; He sitteth between the cherubim; and amid the strife and tumult of nations He guards His people still” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 754.

And oh, if we will gaze upon these scenes, we will have a great deal of courage. We'll be able to face all sorts of emergencies and disappointments without becoming depressed and losing our faith. Don't forget what I read to you in the second Psalm.

As Heaven looked upon those Jewish leaders and those Roman commanders gathering together and laying plans to be sure that Jesus didn't get out of that grave:

"He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision" Psalm 2:4.

Oh, that that sort of faith may grip our hearts. God wants us to bruise Satan under our feet. He wants us to tread upon the lion and adder.

You know brethren, I'd like to hear that quartet sing again "Up From the Grave He Arose." Wouldn't you folks like to hear it? Let the joy and triumph of it fill our hearts as we face these closing scenes. Everybody here tonight ought to want to bare your witness of triumph through faith in Jesus. I know He's been doing some things for *us* this week, and tonight is the night to join our words of thanksgiving with the angels. It will bring joy to Jesus' heart.

[A male quartet sings.]

I'm so thankful that Elder Tindall is here with us to pray for us as we close this little series. I'm so glad, you know, all the praise and glory for anything that human beings do belongs to God, dear friends. We're told, concerning the future life, that it will not detract from the glory of God to express gratitude to the human agencies that God has used. Isn't that a wonderful thought? Yes. And I'm so thankful for this dear man that took me in as a green youth, just a boy, and trained me in this gospel-medical evangelism. And I'm so thankful that God has preserved his life and that we have his visits and the blessing of his presence with his dear little wife from time-to-time. And I want him to pray for us all as we stand here in God's presence. We're soon going to take that wonderful trip together.

[Elder Tindall comments and then sings a short song, "Step on The Ship"]

[Elder Tindall] We'll sail right along, for we don't want to leave you behind. We're going up and up and further through Orion, and I mean this, friends. This is a wonderful thing! We're going to *sail* through the sky. All together:

[Audience sings the song "Step on the Ship." Elder Tindall concludes service with prayer.]

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W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org