

Survival 2 of 14

The Last War

#0426

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

I'm glad to see so many interested in these closing events that form the finale of human history as we have seen it for 6,000 years.

The whole Bible is a survival manual, telling us how to go through the various experiences of trouble, and finally to survive the wreck of a world.

Of all the books of the Bible, the last book, the book of Revelation is especially focused on our time—earth's last hour. This is indicated in the opening words of the book:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand”
Revelation 1:1–3.

Some things that John wrote about were at hand when he wrote them, but many of the things that this book deals with are in a special sense at hand right now. Therefore, you and I are privileged to enter into the experience and receive the blessing spoken of in this book.

This book Revelation is of special importance to the remnant church. Elder Richards of the Voice of Prophecy tells about a minister of another denomination who said it was too bad that that book of Revelation was in the Bible. If it weren't for that book, he said we wouldn't be troubled with these Seventh-day Adventists.

I think he had a point there. I am so glad for this book of Revelation. What do you say?

The great theme of the book of Revelation is the controversy between Christ and Satan. The 12th chapter shows how it began in Heaven—war in Heaven transferred to this earth.

But the focal point of the book is the last battle in that age-long conflict. It is that battle that we're preparing now to enter. The only reason that that battle has not come and gone long ago is simply that God has held back the winds of war and

persecution, as the seventh chapter of Revelation shows, until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.

In a battle, in war, there is a period of preparation during which each side, if it knows there's going to be a war, marshals its forces and trains them and equips them. Then the battle is joined.

The Devil would like to launch all the fury of his final attack on the remnant; he would like to do that now. But God is the one who calls the signals. For years the Son of God has been holding up His hands in the sanctuary pleading that there might be a little longer time granted to the remnant. The angels have actually held back the powers of earth and the powers of hell from launching the final attack upon the remnant church. Oh, how thankful we should be for the prayers of Jesus.

Now I ask you, what are we doing with the time that He has purchased at such a dear price? What are we using it for? Our time today is not to make money. It isn't to have fun. It isn't to make a living. It's to make a life; to make a character that God can put His seal on. When the servants of God are sealed, then the battle will be joined. Thank God, every one of us here can be winners instead of losers in earth's last war.

May I tell you friends, according to the book of Revelation (many of you are familiar with this, but we want to be reminded as Peter says, and be established in the present truth) this war into which we are soon to enter on a global scale is one in which all the soldiers on one side will be slain, and not one of the soldiers on the other side will be even wounded. Isn't that a wonderful thing?

Now let's notice a few texts in the book of Revelation that focus on this finale conflict.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse;
and He that sat upon Him was called Faithful and True,
and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.”
Revelation 19:11.

Who is this coming on the White horse? Jesus.

Notice the 14th verse:

“...the armies which were in heaven followed Him...”
Revelation 19:14.

Soon Jesus is coming with all the armies of Heaven, and he's coming to make war. The Prince of peace coming to fight? Oh, yes. And it's a righteous war, a holy war. The 11th verse says in righteousness He doth judge and make war.

Who is He coming to oppose? Who are lined up to oppose Him?

“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army” Revelation 19:19.

Think of it friend, all the powers of earth are confederated to fight against Jesus Christ. When He came 2,000 years ago, Satan got Jews and Gentiles, the religious and the irreligious, to confederate together to nail Him to the cross. They would do it again this time if they could.

But He's not coming this time as the sin-bearer. He's coming to take vengeance upon His foes and to rescue His people who stand for Him in this wicked, Godless, law-breaking world. He's coming to the rescue; He's coming to redeem His people out of this world of rebellion. As you see hear, He's going to find confederated against Him all the powers of earth.

Notice the 17th chapter. Speaking of the powers of earth:

“These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb...” Revelation 17:13–14.

Here's this war again, a war between the powers of earth headed by Satan and his representatives on one side, and Jesus and the armies of Heaven and His remnant church on the other.

I want to read to you an interesting statement:

“The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head—the papal power—the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, page 182.

Who's going to head this last battle on the enemy side? Communism? No my friends. The power that heads up the union of all the satanic forces in this last war is none other than the Church of Rome, the papal power. And that's what this verse says over here. Revelation 19:19: I saw the beast, that's the beast of Revelation 13—the Papal power. The beast, and kings of the earth, and their armies gather together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. Under one head (the Papal power), the people will unite to oppose God in the person of his witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate.

So we know who our foe is. The unseen foe—Satan, and the visible foe—the powers of earth under the leadership (that man who sits on the Tiber claiming to be the representative of God) under his leadership the whole world will form in a Satanic federation to oppose Christ in the person of His saints.

Tell me, friends, do we see any omens of that at the present time? We could fill this entire hour this evening with interesting incidents, facts, statistics showing

how Protestantism is rapidly rallying together, and in turn making overtures to the Bishop of Rome, the Pope of Rome.

Read the important articles by the editor of the *Review*, starting with the *Review* of this last week; you'll have some more on it. These are important things to keep in touch with. Prophecy is fulfilling before our very eyes. Things that a few years ago would have been unthinkable now are commonplace. Leaders of great Protestant churches making their pilgrimage to Rome, as the Mohammedans make their pilgrimage to Mecca. There is a good feeling. But the one who is planning these things behind the scenes, the great enemy, he is soon to focus all the power of all these confederacies upon the remnant church.

Revelation 12:17, you know this one, don't you? Will you say it with me?

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

I have read you four texts tonight, from Revelation 19, Revelation 17, Revelation 12—all of them having in them the expression "make war." Believe me friends; this will be war to the hilt. This will be war with no quarter asked or given. This will be war to the death. This is the Devil's last attack. This is his final effort to become the king of this world indeed and blot out all who keep the commandments of God.

Oh friends, thank God, victory is assured. Back to Revelation 17:17. I stopped with the first line, but now I want to go on. Speaking of the powers of earth under the leadership of the Papal beast:

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and they that are with him, are called and chosen and faithful" Revelation 17:14

Who's going to win? Not the dragon, but the Lamb. Not the beast, the woman and her children who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Now Revelation 15:2. Oh, here John sees them in holy vision, on the sea of glass; beyond the din of battle, above the smoke of war. The conflict is ended.

"...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 marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" Revelation 15:2–3.

These are the survivors. These are the victors in earth's last war. They get the victory through the blood of Jesus Christ and the word of their testimony. They get the victory over the beast, over the dragon, over the false prophet, over the whole triumvirate.

Now, let's see the results on the other side.

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great" Revelation 19:17-18.

When this last battle is over, there's going to be a great feast for all the vultures, all the buzzards, all the birds of prey. I don't want to be at that supper. Do you? There's another supper I want to look at in this same 19th chapter. You may think of Revelation 19 as the chapter of the two suppers. This ghastly, gory supper that we've just seen, where all the wicked dead are eaten by the buzzards. Now the 19th chapter and 6th verse:

"...I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb..." Revelation 19:6-7, 9.

You see friends, while the birds are picking the bones of all these who've confederated with Satan and his rebellion against the law of God, the righteous will be in the city of God seated at the marriage supper of the Lamb, with Christ Himself coming forth and serving them.

That's the supper I want to be at, what do you say? That's the supper of the survivors. Those that live through the seven last plagues, those that live through all that the Devil can do against them in Jacob's trouble and welcome Jesus, saying, "Low, this is our God, we have waited for him."

I'm sure all of us are planning to be in that supper above at the table there instead of on the table down here. But now watch, before the last battle can join, we must go through Jacob's trouble. Before we can be prepared to endure Jacob's trouble, we must be baptized with the Holy Spirit in the Latter Rain. I read you that last night from *Early Writings*. Perhaps I ought to read it again to refresh our minds. It's a very important statement:

“At that time the ‘latter rain,’ or the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out” *Early Writings*, page 86.

What must we have dear ones to prepare us for Jacob’s trouble and the pouring out of the plagues? We must have the Latter Rain. But what must we have to prepare for the Latter Rain? That’s what I want to spend a few minutes with you on just now. I’ll read a few words from *Volume 1*, listen carefully, don’t miss a word:

“God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next... Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the Latter Rain, and thus be fitted for translation” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, page 187.

Now, let’s look at that. How does God lead His people does this say? Step by step. Is that the way He’s led you? He’s led me that way for many years. The sorrow of my heart tonight is that I’ve been so slow in letting Him take me from one step to another.

Come now and think about it. Think of the steps you took in the few weeks and months before you were baptized, when you were looking toward membership in the remnant church. Think of how many changes came into your life. How many of you changed the day you observed as the Sabbath before you were baptized into this church, may I see your hands? How many of you made some changes in your diet, may I see your hand? Did any of you make changes in your dress? Did you take off some adornments? Did any of you make changes in your amusement? Did you make any changes in the way you spent your money? How many of you started to pay tithe shortly before you were baptized, may I see your hands? I could go on with a long list friend, but do you know that’s a lot of changes to make?

Now, may I ask you another question? How many other changes have you made since you were baptized? It would be too bad to discover that some of us had made some changes that we were closer to the world now than the day we were baptized. That would be serious, wouldn’t friends?

If we’ve picked up any idol that we once had broken, and have mended it, and put it back upon the shelf and started to worship it, that would be too bad.

It is Heaven’s plan in getting us ready for the Latter Rain which is to get us ready for Jacob’s trouble, which is to get us ready for the last battle and the coming of Jesus. It is Heaven’s plan that we shall keep taking steps. Those don’t stop when we’re baptized. They do not stop until we see Jesus coming in the clouds. Every day we’re to become more like Him, less like what we were, and more like what we shall be. It’s a challenge, isn’t it? May I read it again?

“God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, page 187.

Ah, it happens so many times. I remember when I was holding a series of meetings in the Masonic Temple in Oakland, California, a number of years ago. A dear woman and her daughter who came to those meetings week after week, and the changes began to come. They began to keep the Sabbath. They joined my baptismal class. The jewelry came off. Oh, so many changes. They were just drinking in the truth and thanking God.

One night I noticed they weren't there. Do you know what I found out? In the baptismal class before, the last one they attended, we had presented God's plan in the tithe. That touched the pocketbook which lies close to the heart in many people's anatomy.

And my dear friends, although they had accepted the Sabbath and made many changes other changes in their thinking and their life, and were drinking it all in; when the Word of God touched that thing, that was the point where they stopped. They said, "This is as far as we go." Of course, then they began to backtrack, and go down the steps instead of up.

It happens within the church as well as on the threshold of the church. Many a soul reading these books of the Spirit of Prophecy comes to some statement that if he accepted it at face value, it would mean a decided change in his life, perhaps in his home. And he looks at that thing, and he says, "My, does it say that?" He reads it again, does it say that? And unless his heart is heart to heart with Jesus in wanting to climb those steps and climb them fast, you know what he may do? He may go to this one and that one and even to some preacher (God pity him) to try to find an excuse for evading that statement.

And may I promise you something? If you'll look long enough and hard enough, you'll find someone who will agree with you that it doesn't mean what it says. That's what you'll find. It doesn't make any difference what subject it is. Whether it's on reading fiction, or the type of amusements you engage in, or worldly dress, or worldly music, or worldly education, or a hundred other points. When we come face to face with the counsel of the True Witness, oh how foolish it is to run to human counsel, to cancel out that counsel, my friends. This is the solemn testimony on which the destiny of the church hangs.

Those who come up to every point and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the true witness. They will receive the Latter Rain and thus be fitted for translation. Let me tell you friend, when God gets His army ready, it's going to be a wonderful army. We're in the training period now. While we have little skirmishes as it were with the Devil and his hosts; the real battle lies ahead. God's people are getting ready. God is getting His people ready. But God is going to have an army so fully committed to obedience to Him that anything

He tells them to do, they will do it at once. We need to foster that spirit of prompt obedience. What do you say?

Now there's another point in this matter of getting ready. I want to notice In *Early Writings*, pages 269–271, we are given a view of the shaking which is the experience of the church as it receives the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness. You're familiar with this chapter; you will remember that as the result of this shaking, many are shaken out, but others will come in from the world and join the remnant church. God's going to have a full army. It isn't going to be just a few scattered individuals here and there that engage the Devil. He's going to have an organized triumphant church—This church, the Seventh-day Adventist church. Now the picture here in *Early Writings* is a thrilling one. The prophet says it thrilled through my whole being, as she saw it:

“My attention was then turned to the company I had seen who were mightily shaken...The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers” *Early Writings*, page 271.

No wonder it thrilled the prophet. For years her heart was burdened and sorrowful over the failure of this one and that one to carry out the Lord's instruction. Her heart bled over the schisms and divisions and criticisms and fault-finding. When in holy vision, she saw the remnant church moving in exact order like a company of soldiers, it thrilled her whole being. Friends, if we'll get the vision, it'll thrill us too. What do you say we come into line?

Volume 8, oh, this is one of the most thrilling views of the closing conflict that I know of anywhere:

“In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe...” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8*, page 41.

Brother, sister, have you let down any of those standards? Has some banner that God committed to your hands been left to trail in the dust? Then God pity you and help you to awake and arise before it's too late.

Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe. and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God” *Ibid.*

In this battle in which we're going into, there's going to be people changing sides. There's going to be deserters both ways. Sad to say, members of the remnant church are going to desert God's standard and join the enemy as the pressure and persecution increases. But praise the name of the Lord, the faithful ones scattered all through Babylon are going to leave the fallen churches, and leave the godless world and take their stand with the remnant people of God. This is a triumphant movement.

"An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standard of Immanuel into many hands, while a mighty general cried out with a loud voice: Come into line. Let those who are loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ now take their position. Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters. Let all who will come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty" *Ibid.*

Read the whole page. It's wonderful friends; now to Joel the second chapter. This is the trumpet call for this hour. This is Heaven's invitation, nay, urgent command to prepare for the Latter Rain, and the power for the finishing of the work.

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand"
Joel 2:1.

"...also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning" Joel 2:12.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD..."
Joel 2:15–17.

The 18th verse, the Lord's going to hear, and he's going to do something. The 23rd verse, he's going to pour out the glorious latter rain in double power. The 28th verse: he's going to pour out his Spirit upon all flesh

Where are we now? Are we in that last attack of the enemy just before the coming of Jesus? No, we haven't gotten there yet. Are we in Jacob's trouble? Are the plagues being poured out around us? No, we haven't arrived at that yet. Are we in that short time of trouble just before probation closes when the Loud Cry is

sounding, and the miracles are being worked—mighty miracles, is that the time we're in? No, we haven't come to any of those times yet.

We are in this period of preparation step by step which will lead us at last into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are in the early half of Joel 2. We're in the time when God is summoning us to let ordinary things be left behind while we unite at the sanctuary to seek God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Shall we respond? Or shall we simply go on trying to keep up with the Joneses, making more and more money to spend more and more on fine cars, expensive furniture, expensive homes, and all the equipment, and gadgets and gimmicks that call for money, money, money; which in turn calls for work, work, work, work, work; just to keep up our status? I know we have to live. But I'll tell you it's a pity to pour most of our time into that which will last such a short time.

Who will be survivors? Who will be survivors? A friend of mine was telling me about an experience that happened a number of years ago. A vessel was coming back from Alaska. Many of the passengers were men who had gathered gold in the gold rush up there. They were coming back to San Francisco. They had their gold. On the way a storm came, and the ship was wrecked.

As they were abandoning ship, there was one of those men that had filled his belt with gold dust. He had that belt buckled around him. He was a rich man with what gold he had. But as he looked at those waves, he unbuckled the belt and threw it down. He picked up a couple of little oranges that were there, and secured them so that he wouldn't lose them, and plunged into the sea, and swam ashore.

Ah, my dear friends, what are you hanging onto? That which will sink your soul in this last, closing hour? Or are you learning to take hold of those things which will fit you physically, mentally, and spiritually for the greatest ordeal of the ages, and enable you to come off triumphant, singing the song of victory with the remnant church? God grant us good sense in this hour of decision.

[Appeal]

[Closing Prayer by Elder Vixy.]

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

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