

CAMP 2024 BARBADOS PT.1

CLOSE OF HUMAN PROBATION FOR NATIONS OF THE WORLD PT.1

By

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Soon Probation shall close for the entire world. This is the single most decisive event in the climax of final events.

Probation for everyone closes when Jesus our Great High priest finishes the work of Judgment, closes the books of Judgment, and pronounces "IT IS DONE".

God reckons all endtime events as taking place either before the close of probation or after. This is because the focal point of the plan of salvation centers around the sanctuary and its services. This is the crux even of the Book of Revelation. Before an event takes place on earth, a vision is given of something taking place in the sanctuary above.

The cross is not diminished in this viewpoint as it is the means by which we are restored into the image of God. But what happens in the sanctuary determines and controls events here on earth.

The close of probation and not the Second Coming of Christ is the single most important of the two events in regard to the salvation of man. It is at that time that the last titanic struggle for the souls of men will end. (The Second Coming is called the Blessed Hope). But it is at the close of probation that the stakes are won or lost in the Great Controversy. It is here that the final irrevocable decision and sentence is passed on all mankind, Satan and his hosts.

At the close of probation, the net results of the great controversy from the beginning of time are tallied, the harvest is gathered, and the forces of each side are mustered for the last great battle.

There are at least four (4) times in the history of the world when the door of probation closed.

1. "There was a SHUT DOOR IN NOAH'S DAY. There was at that time a withdrawal of the Spirit of God from the sinful race that perished in the waters of the Flood. Gen.6:3." 1 SM,p.63.

2. "There was A SHUT DOOR IN THE DAYS OF ABRAHAM. Mercy ceased to plead with the inhabitants of Sodom...." 1 SM,p.63.

3."There was A SHUT DOOR IN CHRIST'S DAY. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation, 'Your house is left unto you desolate.' Matt.23:28." 1 SM. p.63.

4. "There was A SHUT DOOR IN 1844. All who saw the light of the first, and second angel's messages and rejected that light, were left in darkness. And those who accepted it and received the Holy Spirit which attended the proclamation of the message from Heaven, and who afterwards renounced their faith and pronounced their experience a delusion,

thereby rejected the Spirit of God, and it no longer pleaded with them." 1 SM.p.63.

Since the time the door of the ark at the time of the Flood was shut by an Angel from Heaven, the SHUT DOOR concept has been used as a symbol of the closes of probation for groups of people as well as for individuals.

As there is only one door into the ark, so only one door of probationary time is open to people today.

"Every day the probation of some is closing. Every hour some are passing beyond the reach of mercy." PP.p.140.

Many people close their probation in feasting and amusement." FE p.18.

"Every day we have been associating with men and women who are Judgment bound. Every day may have been the dividing line to some soul; someone may have made the decision which will determine his future destiny...." 5 T p.466.

"By growing daily in the divine life, he will not attain to the full stature of a perfect man until his probation ceases." 4 T p.376.

Close of Probation for Cities

1. Sodom and Gomorrah
2. Nineveh
3. Jerusalem

Close of Probation for Nations

1. The Amorites
2. Israel
3. United States

The Amorites

Genesis 13:14,15

Genesis 15:8-16

Numbers 21:22-26,33

"When the Amorite king refused this courteous solicitation, and defiantly gathered his hosts for their battle, their cup of iniquity was full, and God would now exercise His power for their overthrow." PP p.435.

"Their cup of iniquity was full".

This means that their probation as a nation had closed

Israel and The Jewish Nation

In Daniel chapter 9, God's people at that time (the Jewish Nation), were given a period of probation to manifest their loyalty (not rebellion) to Him.

DANIEL 9:24

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to

Finish the transgression, and

Make an end of sins,

Make reconciliation for iniquity

Bring in everlasting righteousness

Seal up the vision and the prophecy

Anoint the most Holy.

“Through His chosen agencies God will graciously make known His purposes. Then the grand work of redemption will go forward. Men will learn of the reconciliation for iniquity and of the everlasting righteousness which the Messiah has brought in through His sacrifice. The Cross of Calvary is the great center. This truth acted upon will make Christ's sacrifice effectual...By the humiliation of the Cross He was to bring everlasting deliverance to all who would walk after Him, giving positive evidence that they are separated from the world.” 4BC p.1172. 6.

Probation extended to Nations

“God gives nations a certain time of probation. He sends light and evidence that, if received, will saved them, but if refused as the Jews refused light, (then) indignation and punishment will fall upon them. If men refuse to be benefited, and choose darkness rather than light, they will reap the results of their choice.” 4 BC 1143,1144.

God extends probation to nations according to their diligence in adhering to certain moral principles. Freedom of religion is one of the primary reasons why God brought the United States of America into being.

Any abandonment of the principles of freedom and religious liberty, jeopardizes a nation's probation.

“When the (United States) shall use its power to enforce decrees and sustain the institutions of the church....there will be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin.” LDE p.134.

Interestingly, the apostasy will be over the issue of church-state separation and freedom of religion.

It will especially be over legislation enforcing Sunday as a day of rest and worship. Please observe how these events develop:

“To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law....By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our

nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness....As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem,

so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limits of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return.” 5T p.451.

Let us now look a little closer at the nature of the legislation that will close the probation of the United States of America.

“When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land, and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” LDE p.133, 134.

There are several factors in today's culture which are already pushing America towards the closing of its probation as a nation. Among them are

The growing hostility to church-state separation on the part of Religious Right Protestants;

The nation's drift toward secularism;

Its growing hostility to all things religious;

The intentional refusal to protect the lives of infants before they are born;

And the rush, even on the part of many Protestant churches, to abandon the biblical foundation of marriage.

THIS WORLD'S PROBATION'S CLOSURE IS DESCRIBED IN REVELATION 7:1-4:

Revelation gives us one specific reason why God will delay the endtime destructive forces:

The sealing of the 144000 requires more time.

While some of God's people will seal their eternal destiny at death, the final remnant will seal their eternal destiny while they are still alive during the judgment of the living.

- The close of probation coincides with the conclusion of the judgment, at which time “every case has been decided for life or death”. GC p.613

THE TIMING WHEN PROBATION WILL CLOSE AND WILL ANYONE KNOW?

Probation's hour is fast closing; we must take heed and watch.

“The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse

races, gambling hells.

The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.

“Solemnly there come to us down through the centuries the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives: ‘Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.’ ‘Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.’” — Desire of Ages, 636:2-3.

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,’ and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation.”

“So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.” — Christ's Object Lessons, 412:1.

No one can date the close of probation or determine the time span of any event leading to or away from it. God has not revealed definite time for the close of probation (7 BC 989-990, 1 SM 191); and we have been warned against time setting in regard to this event (7 BC 989-990, 2 SM 73).

Let no man try to predict when probation has closed or will close.

“I plainly stated at the Jackson camp meeting to these fanatical parties that they were doing the work of the adversary of souls; they were in darkness. They claimed to have great light that probation would close in October 1884.

“I there stated in public that the Lord had been pleased to show me that there would be no definite time in the message given of God since 1844.” — 2 Selected Messages, 73:2-3

Let us not seek to know that which God does not want us to know.

“God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close or when probation will have an end. Those things that are revealed we shall accept for ourselves and for our children; but let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty. It is our duty to watch and work and wait, to labor every moment for the souls of men that are ready to perish.

We are to keep walking continually in the footsteps of Jesus,

working in His lines, dispensing His gifts as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Satan will be ready to give to anyone who is not learning every day of Jesus, a special message of his own creating, in order to make of no effect the wonderful truth for this time.

“Letters have come to me asking me if I have any special light as to the time when probation will close; and I answer that I have only this message to bear, that it is now time to work while the day lasts, for the night cometh in which no man can work. Now, just now, it is time for us to be watching, working, and waiting.” — 1 Selected Messages, 191:1-2; 7 Bible Commentary, 989/2:4-5.

NO ONE CAN PREDICT WHEN PROBATION WILL FINALLY CLOSE

“When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven . . . Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world.

While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments, it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence, ‘Thou are weighed in the balance, and art found wanting.’” — Sons and Daughters of God, 355:4.

The final withdrawal of the offer of salvation will finally occur.

“Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men. ‘Watch ye therefore . . . lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping.’” — Sons and Daughters of God, 355:5.

Silently and unnoticed will come the final hour.

“The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state—men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the Sanctuary above. Before the flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in, and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed,

continued their careless, pleasure-loving life, and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. ‘So,’ says the Saviour, ‘shall also the coming of the Son of man be.’ Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men.” — Great Controversy, 491:1.

No one can predict when it will happen.

“When God's presence was finally withdrawn from the Jewish nation, priests and people knew it not . . . So when the irrevocable decision of the Sanctuary has been pronounced and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the

inhabitants of the earth will know it not.

“The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn; and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God.”—Great Controversy, 615:1.

Even Satan will not know when probation has closed.

“He [Satan] sees that holy angels are guarding them [the righteous], and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the Sanctuary above.”—Great Controversy, 618:2.

“Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the Sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up.

“The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.”—Early Writings, 279:2-280:1.

This is our only and last opportunity.

“We are to make the best of our present opportunities. There will be no other probation given to us in which to prepare for heaven. This is our only and last opportunity to form characters which will fit us for the future home which the Lord has prepared for all who are obedient to His commandments.”—Last Day Events, 236:3-237:0.

WHAT WILL PEOPLE BE DOING WHEN PROBATION CLOSES

Gain, indulgence, and adornments.

“While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments—it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting’ (Dan. 5:27).”—Great Controversy, 491:2.

Planting, building, eating, and drinking.

“The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state—men will be planting and building, eating, and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the Sanctuary above.”—Great Controversy, 491:1.

Continue Forms of religion and apparent zeal for God.

“When the irrevocable decision of the Sanctuary has been pronounced, and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not. The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn, and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them

for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God.”—Great Controversy, 615:1.

Luxury, marriage bells, and the hope of prosperity.

“When the professed people of God are uniting with the world, living as they live, and joining with them in forbidden pleasures; when the luxury of the world becomes the luxury of the church; when the marriage bells are chiming, and all are looking forward to many years of worldly prosperity—then, suddenly as the lightning flashes from the heavens, will come the end of their bright visions and delusive hopes.”—Great Controversy, 338,339.

Farmers, merchants, lawyers, and tradesmen.

“When Lot warned the members of his family of the destruction of Sodom, they would not heed his words, but looked upon him as a fanatical enthusiast. The destruction that came found them unprepared. Thus it will be when Christ comes. Farmers, merchants, lawyers, tradesmen will be wholly engrossed in business, and upon them the day of the Lord will come as a snare.”—Last Day Events, 232,233.

Ease, amusements, buying and selling.

“When men are at ease, full of amusement, absorbed in buying and selling, then the thief approaches with stealthy tread. So it will be at the coming of the Son of man.”—Last Day Events, 233:2.

Philosophy, religion, business, pleasure, planting, building, feasting, and merrymaking.

“When the reasoning of philosophy has banished the fear of God’s judgments; when religious teachers are pointing forward to long ages of peace and prosperity, and the world are absorbed in their rounds of business and pleasure, planting and building, feasting and merrymaking, rejecting God’s warnings and mocking His messengers—then it is that sudden destruction cometh upon them, and they shall not escape.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, 104.

Pleasure, business, traffic, merrymaking, religion, and apparent progress and enlightenment.

“Come when it may, the day of God will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in traffic, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world’s progress and enlightenment, and the people are lulled in a false security—then, as the midnight thief steals within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly, ‘and they shall not escape.’” —Great Controversy, 38:1.