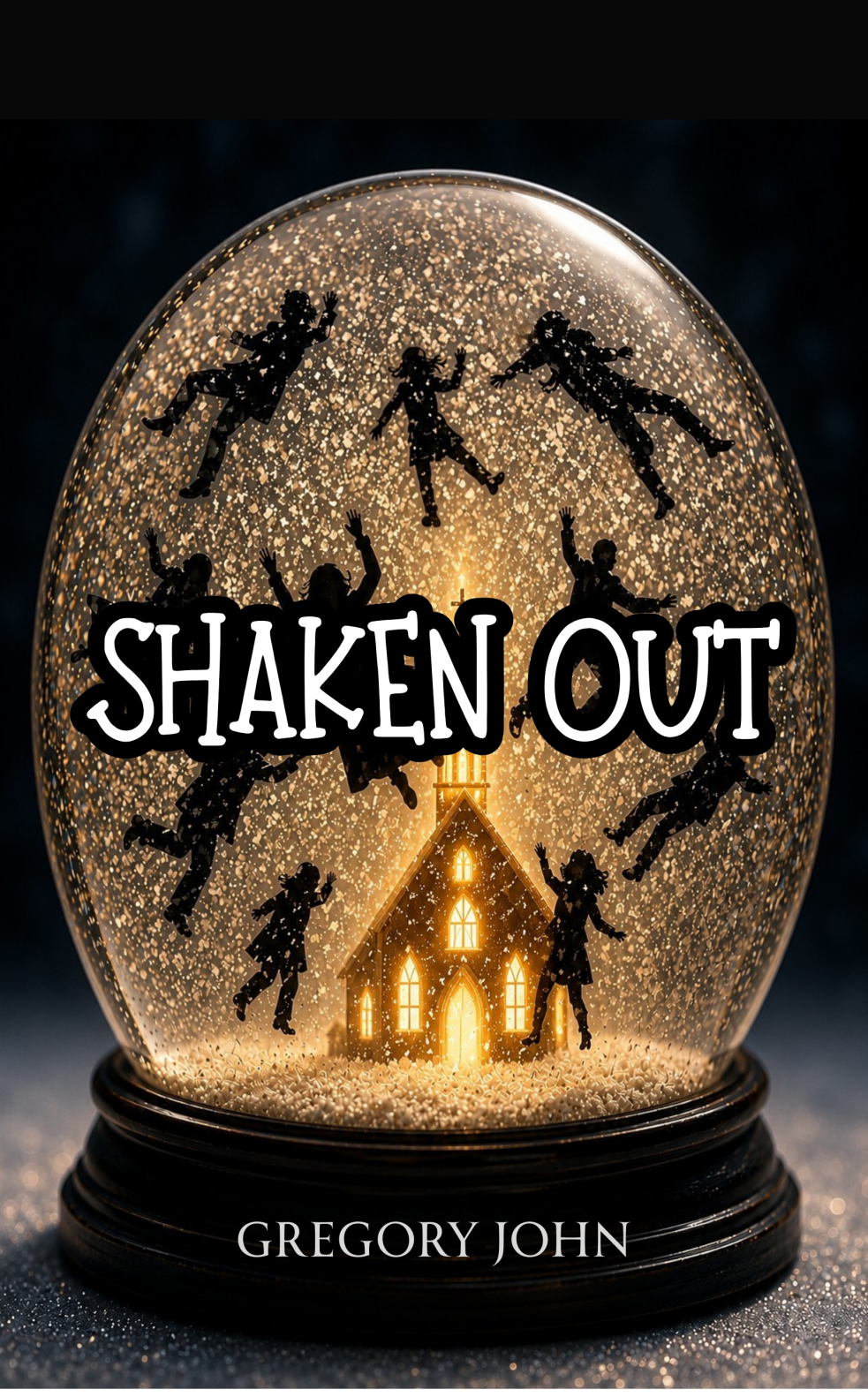


A snow globe with a black base and a clear glass body. Inside, a small, brightly lit church with a steeple sits at the bottom. Numerous black silhouettes of people in various falling or jumping poses are scattered throughout the globe, surrounded by a dense cloud of golden glitter. The title "SHAKEN OUT" is written across the center in a large, white, serif font with a thick black outline.

SHAKEN OUT

GREGORY JOHN

Shaken Out

Gregory John

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This book is dedicated to all those who put their faith in God's Word, hope in His promises, and love truth more than the pleasures and riches of this world.

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Introduction

If you have been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church long enough, then you've certainly heard the term, "The Shaking." What is the shaking? It is commonly believed among Adventists that there will come a time when many within the Church will depart from the Seventh-day Adventist faith. What causes this exodus from the Church has led some to speculate, while others declare that the shaking has already begun based upon various controversies that have arisen within the Church.

This book examines *the shaking* from spirit of prophecy writings of Ellen G. White and how it relates to the end-time events predicted in the Bible. Together, they provide us with a clearer picture of what God's remnant people must go through in order to be prepared and made ready for their Lord's coming.

Ellen White had this to say about the shaking, "I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and

was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people" (*Early Writings*, p. 270).

In order to survive this time of shaking, God's people, like the women in the parable of the ten virgins waiting for the Bridegroom to come, will need to be pure vessels for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, clothed in Christ's righteousness, all the while diligently watching and waiting for Jesus to come. Otherwise, they will find themselves like the slumbering and foolish virgins, unprepared and shut out from the wedding feast to come!

Chapter 1

The True Testimony

Years ago, I came in contact with two Mormon missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, my curiosity got the best of me, which led me down the road to studying with them and learning as much as I could about their peculiar faith. In attending their Church's Institute of Religion just off the college campus near my home, I witnessed their faith firsthand. One important thing to the members of the LDS Church is to have a personal testimony to share, and to reaffirm their testimony to their fellow members. A matter of fact, once a month The LDS Church has *Testimonial Sabbath* where anyone, including an investigator of their faith, can get up in front of the congregation and share a personal testimony. As for LDS Church members, their shared testimonies all ended with declarations such as: "I believe... Joseph Smith (the founding member of their faith) to be a true prophet; or "I believe... this to be the true church and the

book of Mormon to be another testament of Jesus Christ”; thus publicly reaffirming their faith in the LDS Church, its leaders, and the Church’s thirteen Articles of Faith.

As Christians, we all have a personal testimony to share with others—whether it is what Jesus has done for us, or how reading the Bible has transformed our way of thinking and given us a blessed hope for the future. Furthermore, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we have been given the “testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17), or what the Bible further defines as “the spirit of prophecy” (Rev. 19:10) to help guide us, as well as for us to share with the world!

Ellen White had this to say when it comes to her spirit of prophecy (SOP) writings and testimonies for the SDA Church in the last days, “Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last” (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 55). Although her writings are not to be used a substitute for the Bible, they do provide us with clearer insights as to the great controversy which first took place in heaven and is now playing out on this earth, which includes the Lord’s atoning work of judgment in the heavenly sanctuary today. They also warn us of Satan’s grand

deceptions and delusions that are designed to sweep up the world in the last days.

When it comes to the true testimony, it is the testimony of Jesus Christ (SOP) which bears witness to the infallible and sanctifying Word of God—the standard by which all Christians are called to live and to test what they believe. Furthermore, the spirit of prophecy is an invaluable gift of the Holy Spirit “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). Therefore, let us “Quench not the Spirit, Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things (Isaiah 8:20), and hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). In other words, let us not extinguish the light given by the Holy Spirit, but embrace the Spirit of prophecy (the testimony of Jesus Christ) within the body of Christ—the remnant Church!

“That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:5-7

Chapter 2

The Witness of the True Testimony

Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen” (John 3:11, NKJV). In other words, we bear witness to what we have seen, heard, or have personal knowledge of. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a witness as someone who “has personal knowledge of something” or the “attestation of a fact or event: **testimony**.”

The New Testament is full of eyewitness accounts of Jesus, including the witness and personal testimony of John the Baptist, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:15-17, NKJV). Furthermore, we have the witness of Jesus’ beloved disciple John, “And he (the Apostle John) who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he

is telling the truth, so that you may believe” (John 19:35, NKJV). In writing to the Seven Churches of Revelation, the Apostle John’s testimony (through the spirit of prophecy) also bears witness to the truth of Jesus Christ: who walks among His people (Rev. 2:1); who is the Alpha and Omega and alive forevermore (Rev. 2:8); who is the Word of God made flesh (Rev. 2:12); whose countenance is as the sun shining in its strength (Rev. 2:18); who watches over and holds all authority over His Church (Rev. 3:1); who is worthy to open the book of seven seals (Rev. 3:7); and who is the faithful and true witness from the beginning of creation (Rev. 3:14).

The witness of the true testimony of Jesus Christ is none other than the Holy Spirit Himself. As Christ’s representative here on earth, He bears witness to us through the spirit of prophecy that Jesus Christ is who He says He is—the Son of God, full of grace and truth!

“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” John 18:37 (NKJV)

Chapter 3

The Message to the Laodiceans

The Church of Laodicea saw itself as being spiritually fit: “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” (Revelation 3:17). Christ, who loves his Church, had this to say to the Laodiceans: “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot... and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:15, 17). Jesus’ rebuke to the Laodiceans was followed up by His words of rejection, “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue (vomit) thee out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:16).

In anti-typical fashion, the members of the SDA Church will also go through a similar time of shaking in which those whom Jesus finds unprepared and spiritually unfit for Heaven will be shaken out of His Church.

The good news for all of us in Laodicea today is that Jesus’ hand of mercy and grace extends to those who are spiritually proud in their own beliefs

(poor), confident in their own sight (blind), and self-righteous in their own good works (naked), “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Rev. 3:18-19).

Jesus’ message to the spiritually poor, blind, and naked within the Church of Laodicea of today is both a message of rebuke to one’s true spiritual condition as well as a call to action to come to Him in confession and with a humble and repentant heart to call out to the Lord, “Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name” (Psalm 86:11, NKJV).

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12

Chapter 4

The Latter Rain

Out of Jesus' love for His Church, the time of shaking will do its sanctifying work of cleansing His people of both spot and wrinkle (iniquities and errors) with the washing of water by the Word of God, "that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27). As part of this purification process, the time of refreshing (outpouring of the Holy Spirit) shall move upon God's remnant people with great power and glory. The prophet Joel speaks of this time of refreshing, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit" (Joel 2:28-29, emphasis supplied).

The apostle Peter and the early Christians saw Joel's

prophecy as being mostly fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass *in the last days*, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy” (Acts 2:16-17, emphasis supplied). While it is true that Peter identified the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (the gift of tongues) with Joel’s prophecy, we must remember that Joel’s prophecy points to those living in the last days just prior to Jesus’ return: “And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come” (Joel 2:30-31).

Joel’s prophecy, which is set within the context of ancient Israel’s yearly agricultural cycle, included three main harvests. The first was the spring or grain harvest of barley and wheat, whereas the other two were the wine (grape) and oil (olive) harvests of late summer and early autumn. In the Hebrew agricultural year, which began in the autumn, the former or early rainy season (autumn) helped prepare the soil for the time of sowing wheat and barley seed, whereas the latter rainy season (spring) helped ripen the grain for the time of harvest. “And he [the Lord your God] will cause to come down for

you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil” (Joel 2:23-24).

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (the Feast of Harvest), Peter believed that the latter rain had come, and along with it, the soon return of Jesus. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). Peter’s misunderstanding may have stemmed from his belief that the early or former rain was symbolic of Jesus’ 3½ years of sowing the gospel seed of his kingdom to come. Today, we know that the Day of Pentecost marked the early rain and not the final outpouring or latter rain of the Holy Spirit of God upon His remnant people.

As it was with the early outpouring of the Holy Spirit (speaking in tongues), which prepared the way for many to come into the early apostolic church, so it shall be with the latter outpouring of the Holy Spirit (prophesying, dreams, and visions) in preparing the way for many to come into God’s remnant Church before the great and final harvest depicted in the apocalyptic book of Revelation (Rev. 14:14-16).

In order for the time of refreshing (latter rain) to

come into our lives, we first need to take measure of our true spiritual condition and to personally pray for the essential *early* rain of the Holy Spirit to water and prepare our hearts for the final outpouring of *latter* rain (the anointing from on high) of the Holy Spirit. “As you empty the heart of self, you must accept the righteousness of Christ... If you open the door of the heart, Jesus will supply the vacuum by the gift of His Spirit” (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, Feb. 23, 1892).

“Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive.” John 7:37-39 (NKJV)

Chapter 5

The Shaking and Little Time of Trouble

During the time of refreshing (the outpouring of the Holy Spirit) within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there will be two classes of people: The *Bereans* and *Laodiceans*. The *Bereans* are those who study for themselves and come to know and accept the manifestations of the Spirit (prophesying, dreams and visions), and the special truths brought with them. Whereas the *Laodiceans* are those who reject both and are quickly shaken out from among God's people. Furthermore, it is the Laodiceans who in their own wisdom, call truth error and error truth (Isaiah 5:20-21), and who rise up against any new light on present truth (Adventist Beliefs), thus stirring up controversy within the Church. "Truth is straight, plain, clear, and stands boldly in its own defense; but it is not so with error. It is so winding and twisting that it needs a multitude of words to explain it in its crooked form" (*Early Writings*, p. 96).

During this little time of trouble, Jesus' refining fire

shall separate the dross from the gold. The nominal and self-sufficient Laodiceans who see their need of nothing more, shall find themselves on shaky ground and being purged from among God's faithful and true followers, the Bereans who have a firm foundation of understanding and a genuine love for the truth.

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people" (*Early Writings*, p. 270).

What is this straight testimony to those in the SDA Church today? It is the testimony of Jesus (the spirit of prophecy) which sheds further light upon present truth.

Why do the Laodicean Adventists reject the straight testimony of truth?

- Some having an attitude of self-confidence don't see their need of anything more, while others fear that accepting any additional light upon the present

truth (Adventist beliefs) will tarnish not only the Adventist reputation, but the Adventist message to the world.

- Some reject any new light on present truth that is counter to their traditionally held beliefs, while others who are nominal in their beliefs, openly accept the explanation given by others instead of diligently studying to know for themselves what the Scriptures have to say.
- Some zealously see any messenger of new light as a false teacher and, without careful examination of their message, publicly accuse them of being an agent of the Devil, while others reject the spirit of prophecy altogether within the Seventh-day Adventist Church (past or present).
- Some who are not spiritually fit or well-grounded in the Scriptures will grow cold and hostile towards those who accept and are willing to sacrifice for the present truth, while others who love not the truth, when tested, refuse to accept it because of their selfish and sinful ways which stand in the way of true repentance and reform.

We should all examine our hearts and take careful measure of our true spiritual condition and attitude towards any new light given. In testing what we

believe to be truth with the Word of Truth, may we come to know and settle into the truth that stands forever and cannot be shaken out of Christ's Church!

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

Chapter 6

The Loud Cry of the Third Angel

The time of refreshing also has its special work of bringing conviction upon the world as to the third angel's message: a message of dire warning not to worship the beast and his image or to receive his mark of authority (Revelation 14:9-12). This is heaven's final message of mercy and warning to be given to the world! At its close, God's fierce judgments (the seven last plagues) are to come upon those who choose to worship the beast and his image and receive his mark of authority.

"I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, 'Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that it is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner'" (*Early Writings*, p. 118). The final and trying test of men's souls will be the authority of the Law of God vs. papal authority and the laws of men. Central to this controversy will be the papal false doctrine of Sunday sacredness which circumvents

the fourth commandment of the Law of God. The Roman Papacy claims by its divine authority vested in Christ that Sunday as a memorial to Christ's resurrection is now the most holy day of the week and is to be honored by all as a sabbath of rest unto the Lord.

In light of this false and blasphemous papal doctrine, which has no basis in the Bible, the loud cry of the third angel's message directs men's attention heavenward to God's temple which is open and where the ark of His covenant (testament) containing the two tablets of testimony (the ten commandments) is now located (Revelation 11:19). Furthermore, it points to Jesus' high priestly ministry and atoning work before the mercy seat of God on behalf of the repentant sinner (Hebrews 4:14-16). When by faith we come unto Jesus—the only begotten and righteous One to fulfill the Law—and confess to Him our transgressions (sins) against the Law of God (1 John 1:9; 3:4), then we may be counted among those who are found justified by the Law through Christ's righteousness alone! Halleluiah and Amen!

**“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
Psalm 29:2**

Chapter 7

The Sealing and Time of Trouble

With the closing of third angel's message, those who have heeded the angel's warning in not worshipping the beast and his image or receiving the mark of his authority, shall be numbered and sealed among the saints who make up Christ's kingdom to come. "I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, 'It is done.' And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still'" (*Early Writings*, pp. 279-80).

With Jesus' atoning work of judgment and

intercession for the repentant sinner having ended, the whole world will be caught up in one big trouble. “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book [of life]” (Daniel 12:1). During this time of great trouble, God’s faithful and chosen people will have to persevere under the most severe trials, “as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Psalm 12:6). This time of trouble will also be reflective of Jacob’s time of trouble (Genesis 32:24-28): a wrestling of soul with God in prayer until the Sun of Righteousness (Jesus) rises upon the dawn. “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it” (Jeremiah 30:7).

“There is a high standard to which we are to attain if we would be children of God, noble, pure, holy, and undefiled; and a pruning process is necessary if we would reach this standard. How would this pruning be accomplished if there were no difficulties to meet, no obstacles to surmount, nothing to call out patience and endurance? These trials are not the smallest blessings in our experience. They are

designed to nerve us to determination to succeed. We are to use them as God's means to gain decided victories over self, instead of allowing them to hinder, oppress, and destroy us" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 344).

As for rest of the world—those who are not numbered and sealed in the Lamb's book of life—they too will have a most awful and anguishing time to face when God's fierce judgments, the seven last plagues, are poured out without mercy upon the earth (Revelation 14:9-10). This is the wine of God's wrath that the third angel loudly warns us to avoid!

Let us not be counted among those who slight the third angel's warning and who cry out, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20).

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

Chapter 8

The Deliverance of God's People

Those who love truth more than the wanton pleasures or riches of this world and are unwilling to compromise their faith for conscience's sake, shall by the blood of the Lamb and their testimony overcome Satan and his evil ones in this world (Rev. 12:11). They cling to the promises of Jesus' coming and put their faith in His deliverance of their souls. Nothing, including death, can separate them from the love of God! "I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years... Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power" (Rev. 20:4, 6).

In contrast, those who cling to this fallen and wicked world and are willing to compromise on the sabbath question in order to preserve their life (Rev. 13:14-17)

shall in the end be counted among the lost and forlorn souls who have given up the rich rewards of heaven and the most precious gift of all—life eternal! “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are... And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the [Lamb’s] book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:10, 14-15).

For the saints of God who now rest in the grave and for those who come through the time of Jacob’s trouble, they shall all see Jesus their deliverer coming in the clouds of glory. “And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Isaiah 25:9).

For the wicked who remain upon the earth at Jesus’ coming, it will be a day of great terror and amazement. When they see the Son of man in all his glory coming with the angelic hosts of heaven (Rev. 19:11-16), they shall cry out to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Rev. 6:16-17).

Earth's final and most troubling events are quickly approaching. The signs are all around us (Matt. 24:1-14). Therefore, may we cling to our Bibles and hold fast to our faith, knowing that He who is just, holy, and true is coming soon to gather up his faithful and chosen people—the precious jewels of His kingdom to come!

“Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” Revelation 22:12-13

In Closing...

The Inconvenient Truth

Years ago, I watched a documentary titled, “*Odysseus Returns*” where a man through his own research and discoveries found the probable location of where a legendary king once lived as opposed to a neighboring community that had built up a popular tourist industry around the believed site location of the legendary king.

The film examined the evidence found and how this individual’s discovery was met with strong opposition and even public disdain. The film documented the tourist community’s reaction to the discovery and how the popular cultural motif and believed location of where the legendary king once lived was in threat of upheaval!

The same may be said of those who feel threatened by *inconvenient* truths that may upheave their defined beliefs and personal identity. Those same individuals will often ignore and even reject overlooked truths for the sake of maintaining popular belief and

tradition. As a Church, are we in the same danger of rejecting truth for the sake of maintaining tradition?

When it comes to truth, Jesus' beloved disciple John had a lot to say—whether it is the sanctifying truth found in God's Word (John 17:17), the saving truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17), or the Spirit of truth which leads us into all truth (John 16:13), including worshipping God the Father in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). John's testimony bears witness to us of the saving truth found only in Jesus Christ (John 21:24-25)!

As for the spirit of error, John also had this to say, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits [the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error], whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). How are we to test the true and false spirits of prophecy? The Bible declares, "Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; [and] hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21). In proving all things, "If they speak not according to this word [the Word of God], it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). In other words, if those who claim to have the gift of prophecy do not speak in full accordance with the Holy Scriptures, then their testimony (oftentimes truth mixed with error) should be rejected as being false and having the spirit of error which is of the

Father of lies—the Devil.

Furthermore, when it comes to John's testimony found in the book of Revelation, it is the revelation of Jesus Christ which bears witness to us—the Church of Laodicea—today, “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich” (Revelation 3:18). In other words, the testimony of Jesus (SOP) which is true is to be treasured within the believer's heart as more precious than pure gold!

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1:19

For further reading on the all-important subject of the Holy Spirit's work in these latter days, the following book is highly recommended: ***The Coming of the Comforter*** by LeRoy E. Froom. Copyright 1956 by the Review and Herald Publishing Association [ISBN 0-8280-0519-2]

About the author

Gregory John holds himself to the standard that one's theological beliefs are best understood and tested by the Bible, as well as history that aligns itself with the Bible. Visit Gregory John's author website to explore Christian poetry, theological blogs, resources and books related to prophetic end-time events at: **gregoryjohnbooks.com**

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