

These Perilous Times
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What if it Were Today?

“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.” Matthew 24:42-

44

We Seventh-day Adventist Christians have heard this portion of scripture read and re-read over and over many times before. But let’s put it into the proper Biblical perspective. What if our Lord did decide to come today, or perhaps as early as next week? Are we on alert? Have we put others on alert? Will we be ready?

My dad’s job before his retirement in the late 1970’s was with Civil Defense-Department of the U.S. Army, which required a top secret crypto clearance. His job description was “Readiness” Inspector, and later he became a “Readiness” Advisor.

His job required him to un expectantly show up, {with a team of “readiness” inspectors} at military instillations and armories within the 1st Army’s jurisdiction.

The inspection team then determined whether or not the military facility being inspected was “ready” to go to war on a moments notice, if need be. If the military base failed the inspection they were advised on how to be better prepared and be “ready” for a national emergency.

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

“Men cannot with impunity reject the warning which God in mercy sends them. A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah’s day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated the message.”

Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the flood.”

The Great Controversy, p. 431.

In Revelation chapter 12, especially in verse 17 we read that the dragon/Satan has declared war on God’s Remnant, {last-day} Church. We must therefore become a type of Spiritual “Readiness” Inspector and Adviser. We do not want the Good News of Jesus’ soon return to be kept top secret.

Our first priority is to make sure we are “Ready” to meet Jesus, and secondly we need to put our family, friends, and neighbors on alert, of an all-out spiritual war that is raging, and

Biblically advise them how to be “Ready.” Friends, Satan is taking no prisoners. He plays for keeps!

What is needed by God’s Spiritual Advisors?

“If there ever was a time when serious reflection becomes every one who fears God, it is now, when personal piety is essential. The inquiry should be made, ‘What am I, and what is my work and mission in this time? On which side am I working-Christ’s side or the enemy’s side?’ Let every soul now humble himself or herself before God, for now we are surely living in the great Day of Atonement.”

E.G. White. Ms. 87, 1886.

{Rev. 18:1-3, quoted.} “While this message is sounding, while the proclamation of truth is doing its separating work, we as faithful sentinels of God are to discern what our real position is. We are not to confederate with worldlings, lest we become imbued with their spirit, lest our spiritual discernment become confused and we view those who have the truth and bear the message of the Lord from the standpoint of the professed Christian churches. At the same time we are not to be like the Pharisees and hold ourselves aloof from them.”

E. G. White. Last Day Events, pp. 84,85.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:10-13

“...There is a work to be done for our neighbors and for those with whom we associate. We have no liberty to cease our patient, prayerful labors for souls as long as any are outside of the ark of safety. There is no release in this war. We are soldiers of Christ, and are under obligation to watch lest the enemy gain the advantage and secure to his service souls that we might win to Christ.”

Testimonies, Vol. 5 p. 279