

**These Perilous Times**  
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**“Make A Move”**

Many people, at one time in their life spent time with family and friends playing “board games,” {today somewhat replaced by electronic games}. Chess players in particular can, and have spent several hours on one game; the longest in chess tournament history was in 1989 which lasted for 269 moves and took twenty hours and fifteen minutes to complete.

My dad wasn’t the originator of the phrase, “make a move.” But he certainly used it enough, and not just during board games. He would always embellish the phrase by saying, “right, wrong, or indifferent, make a move;” which probably wasn’t the wisest advise for a dad to share with his children.

The prophet Joel speaks of a similar situation that would be present in the last days- people in the land of decision, making a move, {choice} that has life or death consequences.

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.” Joel 3:14

I will be the first to confess that I’ve made many impetuous decisions that were not wise.

Every day we are faced with decisions that will determine our eternal destiny.

Joel in the previous test is speaking of God's judgment and vengeance, {for those who do not repent} against the heathens of Joel's day, and the close of their probation.<sup>1</sup>

Probation is also soon to close for God's remnant people. We know that the judgment began at the house of the Lord, {His professed people} and has been in session for the last 167 years.<sup>2 3</sup>

Do we honestly know in which direction we are moving? Are our steps ordered by the Lord? Have we made a "full" surrender to Christ?

Can you remember the good advice our mom's once gave us as children concerning street crossings. "Look both ways before you cross the street! Look: "Left-Right-Left." As I look back to that time; that was very wise and safe advice.

In other words, before making a move or decision at an intersection/crossroads-think first! Make sure the street is safe to cross before making a move.

Jesus tells us that if we are not with Him, we are against Him. No Neutral ground!<sup>4 5 6</sup> We must make a decision! We must make a move!

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<sup>1</sup> SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 4, pp.949, 950.

<sup>2</sup> I Peter 4:17

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 14:6&7

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 12:30

## What does that mean for us?

### Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

#### Making the right move-words from our Lord

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”  
Matthew 7:13&14

**Enter Ye in** - Jesus invites His audience, {while giving the Sermon on the Mount} to accept His principles as the working policy of their lives, and points out to them the way to begin and where to begin. He is the “door” {John 10:7, 9} and the “way,” {John 14:6}, <sup>7</sup> Also the **TRUTH**.

The “strait” {Gr. *stenos* “narrow”} gate must not be confused with “straight.” The gate stands at the beginning of the way, not at the end. It is narrow, and though it may pass only that which is essential to the journey along the way. Anciently the gates of cities were closed at sunset, and since the cities were often situated atop hills or precipitous rocks, the path that led

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<sup>5</sup> Luke 16:13

<sup>6</sup> Romans 6:16

<sup>7</sup> SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, p. 357

upward to the gates was often narrow. He who would enter before the closing of the gate must “strive” by persevering effort up the pathway that leads home, to be in time “to enter in” {See Luke 13:24}.<sup>8</sup>

The Bible doesn’t tell us that following the road that Jesus walked, which leads to Salvation was going to be easy. The Bible doesn’t tell us that we won’t face, tribulations, temptations and persecutions.

But the scriptures do reveal how we can stay on the right path!

### Deciding the next move

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” Isaiah 30:21

**Hear a word** – God will grant them the guidance of His Spirit to direct them aright and correct them when they were about to go astray. All who will may hear this “still small voice” {I Kings 19:12} if they will but listen.<sup>9</sup>

**‘My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.’** John 10:27

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p. 357.

<sup>9</sup> SDA Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p.220.

## How does Jesus speak to us, to keep us making moves in the right direction?

“Thy **WORD** have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.” Psalms 119:11

“Thy **WORD** is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalms 119:105

“While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, Look again, and look a little higher.”

At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry.

This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so they might not stumble. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe...

Others rashly denied the light behind them and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out,

leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below.”<sup>10</sup>

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy **WORD** is truth.  
“John 17:17

Study to shew thyself approved unto **GOD**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the **WORD of Truth.**” II timothy 2:15

### Make the Biblical Move



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<sup>10</sup> E. G. White. Early Writings, pp. 14 & 15.