

HOW NEAR IS THE END?

The heart cry of multitudes of men and women in our world today is, "How long, O Lord, wilt Thou remain away?" Great signs are appearing that indicate that the coming of the Lord is near. In a book recently published by a monk in the Anglo-Catholic section of the Church of England, there are these striking statements: "History has taken over the proclamation of the New Testament hope of the Lord's return. . . . The second advent of our Lord is being trumpeted by the great argument of events." "Review & Herald," Nov. 19, 1953.

The disciples of Christ were interested in the signs of the times—in the signs of the second coming of Christ to this fear-ridden, war-torn world. One day as Jesus sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him and said: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24:3. Ever since the first advent of Christ, God's saints have wondered about and hoped for the soon coming of the Lord. However, our generation has been the one privileged to see the fulfillment of the signs that Jesus mentioned would indicate His imminent return.

Among other things that would indicate to us the time of His coming Jesus mentioned: "And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. Matt. 24:7. It seems almost unbelievable that our generation should be noted for famines and pestilences. But the fact remains that two world wars have brought great famine to many countries in Europe. Literally hundreds of thousands of people starved to death in Russia following World War I, many more hundreds of thousands starved to death in Europe and the Balkan States during and following World War II, and there are still large numbers of people in Europe suffering from malnutrition.

Of China's 1936 famine in the Szechwan Province, the result of feeding armies and robbing harvests, "The Literary Digest" of May 9, 1936, p. 16, reports: "15,000,000 peasants have crawled into their mud-huts to perish of hunger." Others, driven by despair, are selling their wives for thirty cents' worth of rice, and their young daughters for a dollar. In this land of plenty, such hunger is hard to imagine.

The food problems of the world have not yet been solved. In "Time" magazine of May 31, 1948, are these ominous words: "It is not the atomic bomb, but the food crisis that may destroy us." . . . In the race between population and food supply . . . population is winning." These are statements by Sir John Boyd Orr, at that time Director General of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

Following World War I the flu epidemic took a greater toll of lives than the war itself. In spite of the great advancement in medical science in our day, there has been a tremendous increase in cancer, leukemia and heart diseases. As we watch

these diseases spread so insidiously, we cannot but cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly."

As if we did not have enough suffering from the spreading diseases of our day, we now understand that the nations are developing the means for bacteriological warfare. Dr. Brook Chisholm says: "Atomic energy is obsolete today in terms of the potency of biological warfare." "Daily Express," Sept. 9, 1949. He also informs us that biological research has produced a poison, seven ounces of which could blot out the entire population of the earth.

Jack Schuyler says: "Biological warfare . . . might conceivably include attacking enemy troops or people with virus diseases, as for example, influenza, infantile paralysis, smallpox and sleeping sickness; with such bacteria as cholera, anthrax, dysentery, leprosy and typhoid; with rickettsia-like typhus, Rocky Mountain spotted fever; or with body-infiltrating fungi and tissue-eating yeasts." "America," Feb. 21, 1948. Perhaps we are about to see in the next war an even greater fulfillment of Christ's prediction of pestilences.

Another great sign of the end is given in Jas. 5:1, 2: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten." This age of man's greatest achievements is marked by an unprecedented race for money—vast accumulations of wealth contrasted with widespread poverty, misery and hunger.

James continues in the 3rd verse: "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." One of the great miseries that have come to the selfish, grasping plutocrats today is the devaluation of the dollar, or inflation. High taxes are also distressing the wealthy.

An even more literal fulfillment of this prophecy may be found in the fact that our government has stored under the ground at Fort Knox, Kentucky, well over twenty billion dollars in gold that they must continually endeavor to preserve from the disease of cankering. And although we have huge quantities of gold, still there are many people who are in need.

Is it not strange that there should be so much suffering and starvation in the midst of plenty? Not only do we have huge quantities of gold cankering in underground vaults, but there are great mountains of potatoes, tons of wheat, butter, eggs and other foods rotting in storage bins. It is true that men have heaped treasure together for these last days. Living in luxury and heedless of their responsibility to God, or their fellow-beings, the rich are disregarding the rights, the welfare and even the lives of those less fortunate.

In addition to inflation, there is the ever-present struggle between the capitalists and the laborers. In this same prophecy regarding the last days in verse 4, James says: "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields,

which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth." Never has a generation seen such strife between employers and employees as has this one.

It is not for Christians to take sides, but we recognize that this condition is one of the great signs of the end. Laborers "crying out" is a description of the strikes in our present day. These have been sit-down strikes, stand-up strikes, walk-out strikes, and boycotts with picketings. This struggle between capital and labor is inevitable so long as selfishness and sin are in the world.

J. W. Studebaker, U.S. Commissioner of Education, has said: "Most of us are convinced that our depression-ridden, war-threatened world needs some drastic reorganization. . . . For, if we fail to solve the war problem and the economic problem, our civilization will go down in a whirlpool of chaos and violence." **Safeguarding Democracy**, p 1. Many recognize the fact that these conditions exist, but so few search the Scriptures to find that these are but signs that the end is near.

As the apostle James says, in verses 3 and 5: "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. . . . Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter." The American Standard Version reads: "Ye have nourished your hearts in the day of slaughter." Many have become millionaires from the big business that has come to them as a result of modern wars. In the business world we have trust companies, combines, monopolies, holding companies and corporations—all with the one aim of amassing millions.

Another outstanding characteristic of our times is seen in the dishonesty and deceit that is so prevalent. Even trusted leaders in government have been known to sacrifice their integrity for bribes. The mink coat and deep freeze scandals have shaken the faith of the people in their leaders. Heartless greed, selfish, merciless schemes and intrigues mark this our age—the time of the end.

There have been some people who were mercenary enough to desire war for the sake of the prosperity that it brings. One woman was heard to say: "If this war (World War II) would only last two more years, my husband's business would flourish, and we would be fixed for life." It is a terrible thing to think of our young men dying on the battlefield while people at home wish that the war might continue so that they may enjoy greater prosperity. It is all too true that the love of money is the root of all evil.

There seems to be a great unrest in all classes of our society today. There is racial discrimination and unrest among the laboring classes. Thousands of strikes are occurring every year. There were more than 3500 strikes in 1954, and every year the number will increase, according to the predictions of labor leaders. There is great concern over the financial instability of our day. Our nation has mortgaged itself for many years to come. Perhaps we may never see the debt cleared. The national debt continues to rise, and no one seems able to solve this financial headache.

The Bible tells us that when we see this finan-

cial instability, and also the trouble between capitalists and laborers, we should "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. . . . Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before Looking at the increasing bitterness and unrest throughout the world, we can only pray: "O Lord, how long wilt Thou remain away?"

The prophet further says in James 5:9: "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." Truly, as we see these signs fulfilled, we must believe that the coming of the Lord is much nearer than many suppose; for the Judge is even at the door. Not only the ministers but also the great statesmen today are agreed that the end of the world is drawing near.

Another great sign of the end of the world is found in Dan. 12:4: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end . . ." God sent His angel to reveal to Daniel just what we can expect to find in our generation, the time of the end. And by a sincere study of this Book of Daniel, we can find out how very near is the second coming of Christ and the end of the world.

The angel continues, in the same verse: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Never in all history has there been such a tremendous increase of knowledge, and in speed of travel, than has occurred in our day. This generation is racing on toward the world's end at a giddy pace.

As Malcolm Cowley says in "Harper's Magazine," April, 1953: "Men have out-run themselves; their technical knowledge has increased so much more rapidly than their moral judgment and self-control—if these have increased at all—that the knowledge might destroy them as a species."

Today's accelerated pace in automobiles, trains, ships and planes is a far cry from the oxcart or the horse and buggy days of grandfather's day. This is an age of supersonic speed. Scientists predict that pilots with jet-propelled planes will soon reach the highest speed possible in earth's atmosphere.

The divinely inspired Word of God declares that in the time of the end many shall run to and fro. And in addition to this it says that knowledge shall be increased. Such marvels as radio, electricity, television, movies and telephones are a few of the wonders of our day. Increased speed + Increased knowledge = Time of the end, according to divine writ.

It makes us smile when we think of the attitude that men have had in regard to speed back in the year 1825. Mr. Nicholas Wood, a railroad man, made the statement: "Nothing could do more harm toward the adoption of railways than the promulgation of such nonsense as that we shall see locomotives traveling at the rate of 12, 15, 18 and 20 miles an hour."

We are told that back in 1829 the House of Commons in England voted they would not permit trains to travel faster than 15 miles per hour because if they did, it would take the people's breath away. We wonder what Daniel would think

the wide open sale of liquor. We are told of the profit in taxes to help finance government. But when we stop to consider the harvest from this practice, we wonder if it pays after all? The lives that are ruined; the expense of enlarging jails and insane asylums to house the wrecks of society; the orphans, the car wrecks, the millions of illegitimate babies—all make us wonder why such a destroyer is allowed to go free?

Our nation has given itself over to pleasure-seeking and our boys and girls are apt students of the crime and sex mystery stories so vividly portrayed over radio, television and in the printed page. J. Edgar Hoover states: "There are almost a million illegal abortions performed every year." The hellish work of the abortionist is claiming an ever-mounting toll each year. Not only are the innocent unborn babies deprived of a chance to live, but quite often the mothers die as the result of the unsanitary and untheical methods used to destroy the child.

The number of criminals increases every year. J. Edgar Hoover says: "Our nation harbors three times as many criminals as college students." The criminals used to be hardened men of maturity, but now they are mere youths. Many of these youngsters receive their criminal training in the movies, TV, and from the crime books and magazines. Even the comic books that are made especially for children are full of lurid pictures depicting in detail the most hideous of crimes.

This is truly a time of unprecedented wickedness. All the deceptions of the arch-enemy, all the accumulated wickedness of the past are concentrated upon the people living in the last days. "A major crime is committed every twenty-two seconds, an aggravated assault or rape every hour, a murder every forty minutes. There are sixty suicides in our nation daily."—J. Edgar Hoover. The lack of regard for life results in murder and suicide. In the days of Noah there was great violence among men. God had to destroy by a flood the inhabitants of the world because of the immorality and crime. A similar condition prevails today.

Quoting from J. Edgar Hoover: "Two out of three adults . . . smoke." Tobacco with its poison is leaving its mark of depravity upon this generation. Even unborn babies are affected by their tobacco-using mothers. Heart disease is still the greatest killer of men, and tobacco does its share of weakening the heart. Now there looms another killer from tobacco. It is LUNG CANCER. God says that our bodies are the temples of God, and that if we defile them, He will destroy us.

An intensity seems to be gripping the world, stirring the hearts of men and pushing them they know not whither. To help them relax, many turn to drink. J. Edgar Hoover says that "Three out of ten who start as light drinkers end up as drunkards." America is becoming a nation of drunkards. Almost everyone drinks today. Even in the armed forces there is heavy drinking. Government leaders drink. Many ministers and priests drink. Young high school boys and girls drink. The first drink starts many on the downward road to perdition.

The devil knows that his time is short, so he diverts man's attention from the important things

of life to the non-essential, trivial matters. "As a nation we spend about \$750.00 on pleasures, sins, cosmetics and amusements, to every one dollar given to missions."—J. Edgar Hoover. If we spent as much for the spreading of the gospel as we do for selfish pleasures, it would be no time until the world would receive the message of mercy and Christ would return.

"Read, pray and weep as you consider America's dreadful spiritual plight," says J. Edgar Hoover. What a sad picture of Christian America! Because of iniquities of the last days, Jesus declared that the love of many shall wax cold. Love for the good things has grown cold. Religion has become a form of godliness. Men will do everything for religion today but LIVE it. There is truly a need for a revitalization of true spirituality. Religion has become cheap. Many churches are nothing more or less than social centers. We need more fire in the pulpits and less in the supper rooms.

Edward M. Carlson says: "It seems agreed that God's judgment is upon us. It is proclaimed in many a pulpit and asserted in much of the religious press. . . . Empires are shaking, civilizations are crumbling, cultures are disintegrating." "The Watchman," March, 1941. God's judgments are already in evidence in the world. I believe the Lord is coming soon. How sad that so many do not realize the seriousness of the times. The world rushes on at a giddy pace.

The broad way that leads to destruction is jammed with pleasure-seekers. A British scholar, C. E. M. Joad, says: "While our civilization hangs on the verge of destruction . . . young men and women wander aimlessly along the road of life without knowing whither they are travelling, or why indeed they travel at all. In a word, they are WITHOUT CREED OR CODE, STANDARDS OR VALUES." *Philosophy of our Times*, p. 12. O that men might realize that the only way to find true peace is in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus predicted in Luke 21:11 that in the time of the end ". . . fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Blazing meteors and other mysterious sights are appearing in the heavens with greater frequency. Blue, orange and yellow lights are seen streaking across the skies. Some are cigar-shaped, others are disc-shaped. There are not only signs in the earth but signs in the heavens to prove that the coming of the Lord is near at hand.

There are other signs mentioned also in the Bible. Luke 21:11: "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences." There are to be many catastrophies in nature in these last days. Tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and fires are increasing in their destructiveness and frequency. Some of the world's most devastating earthquakes have struck in this generation. As an old man shakes more and more as he nears the end of his days, so this old world is tottering and shaking more and more as it nears the end of its history.

Terrible fires have been breaking out, destroying many lives. The Barnum and Bailey Circus tent fire in a New England city a few seasons ago

if he should rise from his grave and see the modern streamlined trains traveling along the tracks at 100 miles per hour, or the high speed automobiles flashing along the highways at 60, 70, 80 and 100 miles per hour.

What would Daniel think of the modern steamships plowing across the ocean at high speeds, or the jet-propelled planes roaring through the sky? He would probably cry out, "This must be the time of the end, for God said that man would run to and fro with great speed in the last days."

What does the Bible prophesy in regard to the moral conditions at the time of the end? In 2 Tim. 3:1-5 we read: "This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." What a terrible list of moral sins this is! Perilous times have come, and crime sweeps the land.

Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick says: "Today we and our hopes and all our efforts after goodness are up against a powerful antagonist, something demonic, tragic, terrific, in human nature, that turns our loveliest qualities to evil and our finest endeavors into failure. Our fathers called that sin." **Living Under Tension**, p. 113. Yes, dear friends, Satan is working as never before to get people under his power, and all of us at times feel this demoniacal power urging us to evil.

Jesus prophesied of these perilous times as follows in Matt. 24:12: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Iniquitous conditions are in evidence everywhere. Intemperance, immorality and crime are rampant. Powerful gangsters await their prey in the dark. Cruel totalitarian despots enslave millions, murdering, gassing, tormenting—destroying those they hate.

C. E. M. Joad says: "There has grown to maturity a generation which is to all intents and purposes without religious belief, . . . without standards in morals, without convictions in politics, without values in art. I doubt if there has ever been an age which was so completely without standards or values." **Philosophy for Our Times**, pp 12, 24. Exciting and riotous living have plunged the world into a mad carnival of death. Huge quantities of intoxicants are consumed to try to drown fears and frustrations. Pleasures, excitement and thrills are sought by many in an effort to forget their troubles.

But a nervous, jittery generation cannot find peace in dissipation. An Episcopal bishop says: "The outlook for Christianity and for the world has rarely been more serious. . . . We have become anxious and worried, the victims of our fears—our fear of war, of military service, of insecurity and of communism. . . . The ultimate solution of the troubles and tragedies of this confused world is found in the Christian faith." "Signs of the Times," Apr. 13, 1954. Yes, dear friends, wild living results in greater tensions, debilitation, ner-

vous breakdown, divorces, broken homes and broken lives. Our only hope for peace of mind and heart is in Jesus.

Here are some very shocking facts given by J. Edgar Hoover in his book, **Crimes in America**: "People spend eight times more hours at movies than at Sunday School. Only one out of twelve persons in our country attends church. Seven out of eight children quit church and Sunday school attendance before they reach fifteen years of age." Jesus said: "The love of many shall wax cold." It is not so much opposition that we find to Bible truths today, but **INDIFFERENCE**.

The Son of God bears witness that abounding, multiplied wickedness will be one of the signs of the last days. Iniquity will overflow the world and almost all will be swept along with it. J. Edgar Hoover says: "Fifteen million sex magazines are printed monthly and read by one-third of the American people." Evil men will do anything to make money. They will degrade the youth with pornographic literature and wild blood and thunder stories. God says that those who defile and maketh lies will not enter heaven.

J. Edgar Hoover makes this startling statement: "There are more bar-maids in this country than college girls." What a tragedy that even the professed followers of Jesus are being swept along by the current of evil that is sweeping the world. The day of the old saloon with hardened men as bartenders was swept away in a wave of reform. However, in the place of the corner saloon and bartender we have the tavern and bar-maids. Some people seem to think that this is better than the saloon days; but is it?

Young people are inclined to think and act just as everyone else does. They seek illicit pleasures, bet on races, gamble and drink. Again we quote J. Edgar Hoover: "One million American Girls have venereal diseases." Perhaps the increase in drinking among women has much to do with the increase in immorality. Also such books as **Sex Life in America** by Kinsey have had their influence. It is now considered to be normal and legitimate to indulge in extra-marital affairs. The devil has won a great victory in demoralizing the women of modern times.

In these last days of this earth's history, wickedness is multiplied and so abounds that the wisest of our statesmen, scientists and religious leaders are concerned about the very existence of our civilization. J. Edgar Hoover has made the statement that "one hundred thousand girls disappear every year into white slavery." America needs to be awakened to the shocking facts of the white slavery practice that is thriving today. It is a hush-hush matter that many respectable people know nothing about; but its damnable practice is leading thousands of young girls down the road to eternal damnation.

This is truly a generation without standards or religious convictions. J. Edgar Hoover says: "One million illegitimate babies are born annually." As one writer puts it, this is the result of "**SEX HYSTERIA**," but I am convinced that much of this hysteria is due to the increased use of liquor. We are constantly told of the advantage of allowing

resulted in a horrible death for scores of people. No one knows how it started, and no one was able to put it out. In a Karlslust dance hall in Berlin 150 merrymakers were burned or trampled to death in a deadly holocaust that engulfed it in just a few moments.

The world was shocked by the sensational Coconut Grove night club fire in Boston which claimed 498 lives. Another fire in a night club at Natchez, Mississippi, resulted in death for 207 persons. The fact that the elements of nature are breaking loose in greater and greater fury, is evidence that the Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth.

We are to see even more amazing sights in the days ahead. Jesus says in Luke 21:25: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and UPON THE EARTH DISTRESS OF NATIONS, WITH PERPLEXITY; the sea and the waves roaring." Distress and perplexity are characteristic of our time. Men's hearts are "failing them for fear and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth."

Jesus also said that another sign of His coming would be an increase of wars and rumors of war. Matt. 24:7, 8: "For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Many are distressed by present world conditions. We tremble as we contemplate what will happen if we become involved in another war—an atomic war.

Louis Bruchiss, associate editor of *Aerosphere*, says: "Whatever benefits atom splitting may bring in the distant future, the present generation was faced with the inescapable necessity of becoming moles to ensure survival, or at least to put up some fight for survival if war should come. From the Australia *"Sydney Herald,"* Sept. 17, 1945. The book, *"How to Survive an Atomic Bomb,"* is a best seller on nearly every news stand. This book on survival pretends to allay your fears. Death, it assures you, isn't certain, only probable. If you are not blown to smithereens, and if you are not too near the bomb, and if you hide behind something in three seconds, and if you scrub hard enough, YOU MIGHT BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE.

Philip Wylie says: "With every passing day the chances that you will see your grandchildren grow up become smaller and smaller. . . . Any human being who can read and think knows either that war must be stopped or that he will probably be killed within the next twenty-five years—along with most of his fellow citizens." *"Know Your Bible Series,"* No. 4, p. 4. This is not a religious fanatic proclaiming a coming day of doom, but a prominent well-educated, well-read citizen who is alarmed by the increase of knowledge of the present generation.

Professor Alexander Fendlay writes: "At present, fallen man is using the powers of nature for his own destruction; perhaps we are living in the last phase, and the coming of the Lord, the sure sign that the victory is won, may be nearer than we think." *"Watchman,"* March, 1941. A few

decades ago the idea of the literal return of Jesus and the end of the world was scoffed at by educators and ministers alike, but today people cannot fail to see the signs of our Lord's return being fulfilled all about us.

Dr. Cyril Forster Garbett, Archbishop of York, says: "Not long ago . . . the old cries for vigilance and the warnings of impending catastrophe so often heard both in the Old and New Testaments seemed to be strangely out of date. Now with terrific suddenness they have again become real." *In an Age of Revolution*, p. 311. The world has sown to the wind, and now it is reaping the whirlwind. Everywhere is the sound of catastrophe. Two world wars have been fought, atom bombs and hydrogen bombs are multiplying and there is unrest in Europe, Asia, South America and in our own fair land. Even the most conservative minds like Dr. Garbett tell us that the end is near. The earth has filled up its cup of iniquity and now God is ready to end its sordid history.

When the *"Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists"* was first published in 1945, a clock appeared on its cover with the minute hand set at eight minutes to midnight. In 1948, when it was learned that Russia possessed the atomic bomb, the clock was set at three minutes to midnight. The September, 1953, issue shows the hands at two minutes to midnight, with this back page comment: "The hands of the clock on the Bulletin's cover now stand at two minutes to midnight. Not to terrify, certainly, but to warn and to awaken, the clock is intended to be symbolic. Wishing will not stop the clock. The Bulletin may be wrong. It may actually be one minute — perhaps seconds — to midnight."

Thank God that the Christian's fears are allayed by the assurance of God in Ps. 91:11: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." It behooves us all to prepare to meet God. If we are asleep, we must awake before it is too late. If we are to be protected by the Lord in the fury of the storm that is about to strike, we must make our calling and election sure right now. There is no time to waste! Only those who love God and are obeying His commandments can expect protection from God's angels during the time of trouble just ahead.

The last great sign given by Jesus that indicates that His coming is near is found in Matt. 24:14: "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." I am happy to tell you tonight that the gospel of the coming kingdom if Jesus is now being proclaimed to all nations in over 700 languages and dialects. Jesus says that when this message of His second coming has been preached in all the world, then the end will come. He does not say that all the world will accept, but He does say that when "this gospel shall be preached" as a WITNESS, then the end will come.

Will men alive today live to see Jesus come? Jesus says in Mark 13:30: "Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done." What does He mean? He means that the generation that shall behold the fulfill-

ment of all these signs that we have just considered will live to witness the triumphal return of Christ. We are seeing these signs fulfilled every day—yes, every hour—in the newspapers and magazines, radio and television, and in the daily occurrences all about us.

We have now seen the fulfillment of all these signs. We who live today are living in the day of the coming of the Lord. I fear that we do not realize the nearness of His coming. Christ could come at any time now. In Zeph. 1:14 it says: "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly." Our troubles will soon be over. God's tomorrow will be a day of gladness. Sorrow, sickness, pain and death will be no more. O, what a wonderful day that is going to be!

A young lad whose mother had died when he was a babe was suddenly stricken with the dread polio. He was taken to the hospital where he was placed in an iron lung for days. Later he was transferred to a bed where he remained for many weeks. His daddy visited him every evening after work. The boy begged constantly to be taken home to his toys and friends.

One evening a violent electrical storm struck that town and plunged everything in darkness. The father battled the elements to reach his son. Many streets were blocked by fallen trees or flash flood. Finally he reached the hospital and hurried through the darkened halls to the room of his boy. The room was inky dark and the lad was cringing in terror because of the crashing thunder and flashing lightning.

As soon as the father entered the door the boy recognized his father's footsteps and cried: "O, Daddy, I knew you would come." His father reached down and gathered him into his strong arms and said: "Yes, my son, I have come, and I can take you home tonight. The storm is all over."

The storm will soon be over, my friends. What a joy it will be when the Savior returns to gather His redeemed from all parts of this storm-tossed earth to take them to a better land. O that when He comes He may come for you, to take you home with Him to that beautiful home beyond the skies! He is holding out His nail-pierced hands inviting you to surrender your all to Him now. Will you not say to Him tonight, "Lord, I come, I come?"