

**TO SEE HIS FACE Ministries Intl**



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## **MONTHLY REVIVAL NEWSLETTER**

***July 2024***

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**"Study your bible as you have never studied it before. Unless you arise to a higher, holier state in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord. N 5T 717.**

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**The Lord give no rest, day nor night, to those who are now careless and indolent in the cause and work of God. The end is near. This is that which Jesus would have us keep ever before us—the shortness of time.— Letter 97, 1886.**

**— Ellen G. White, Last Days Events 42.6**

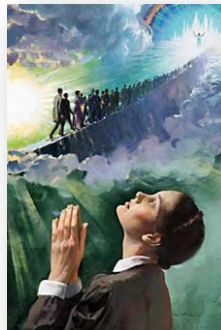
## Nearer Home Than Ever Before

*Living in the time of the birth pain of the return of Christ.*

And now I have told you before it comes,  
that when it does come to pass, you may  
believe.-**John 14:29**

“Watch therefore, and pray always that you  
may be counted worthy to escape all these  
things that will come to pass, and to stand  
before the Son of Man.”-**Luke 21:36**

Beloved brothers and sisters, warm greetings to you in the name of our soon coming King Jesus-Christ. Last week, as I sat to meditate on the current events of Bible prophecy, namely this plague that is sweeping all over the world, I began to reflect on how heaven look like nowadays when almost all the marketplaces are empty, when the streets of big countries and small towns have been almost emptied of their traffics. How does heaven look like these days, when God and the angels are looking at our empty streets? Please think about it. Your personal answer is worth meditating about.



Assurance in the things of this world is being shaken; freedom of expression is being tested in many areas of life. Life in this world has become suddenly uncomfortable in a short period of time because of the short condition of the plague. The world is experiencing the birth pain of the return of Christ as God is giving His last calls for repentance.

In Matthew 24, to the questions of the disciples regarding the coming of His Kingdom, Jesus-Christ listed the following events:

- False Christs,
- Wars,
- Rumors of wars,
- Calamities in the world (natural disasters: earthquakes famines and pestilence in various places);
- Persecution of the saints;
- False prophets;
- And the preaching of the Gospel to all the world.
- The end.

The natural disasters Jesus spoke about are today in our generation linked to global warming by world leaders and environmentalists:

- "Climate change is already threatening the Earth's ability to produce food. These effects are expected to worsen as climate change worsens (PSR).
- "Throughout the 21st century, climate change impacts are projected to slow down economic growth, make poverty more difficult, further erode food security, and prolong existing and create new poverty traps, the latter particularly in urban areas and emerging hot spots of hunger," the report states. (Connor, 2014).



- Ramiro Pianamosa

-“Global warming may not only cause more destructive hurricanes, it could also be shaking the ground beneath our feet (McGuire, 2016).



[Mika Baumeister](#)

So in the address of Jesus to His disciples, the natural calamities that are to precede His coming, which the world connect today to climate change, are the beginning of sorrow. But let us look at the next statement He made after those words about the calamities in the very next verse:

- Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will

be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another  
**(Matthew 24:9-10).**

Let have a look at the analysis learned people are making about this plague called the Covid-19:

- Restrictions in the free movement of people is disrupting economic activity across the world as measures to control the coronavirus roll out... There is a strong link between economic activity and global carbon dioxide emissions, due to the dominance of fossil fuel sources of energy. This coupling suggests we might be in for an unexpected surprise due to the coronavirus pandemic: a slowdown of carbon dioxide emissions due to reduced energy consumption (PETERS, 2020).

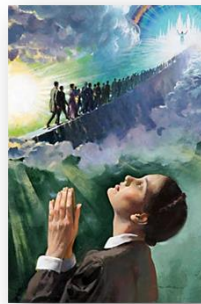


Anasthasia Chepinska

- Levels of air pollutants and warming gases over some cities and regions are showing significant drops as coronavirus impacts work and travel (McGrath, Science & Environment - Coronavirus: Air pollution and CO2 fall rapidly as virus spreads, 2020).
- Levels of air pollutants and warming gases over some cities and regions are showing significant drops as coronavirus impacts work and travel (McGrath, 2020).
- We have many reasons to take climate action to improve our health and reducing risks for infectious disease emergence is one of them (Staff, 2020).

Because of all these climate change theories and analysis, there is a strong call from some world organizations to return to Sun-day worship and rest:

- From the European Sunday Alliance - Sunday and, more general, decent working hours, are the focus of our campaigns (Alliance).
- Ecological conversion also means dealing with time differently, both as an individual and as a society. We need to rediscover the rhythm of time, the alternation between work and rest with Sunday as the commonly shared weekly day of rest (Comece, 2015).



In 1884, Ellen White, talking about the action of world authorities to counteract these endtime calamities, wrote:

- They will point to calamities on land and sea—to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire—as judgments indicating God's displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed (White E. , 1884) .

Here are some few facts that the above statement is true, or is coming to pass:

- “Pope Francis: “#237. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world...It [Sunday] protects human action from becoming empty activism; it [Sunday] also prevents that unfettered greed and sense of isolation which make us seek personal gain to the detriment of all else. The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day...[See Ex 23:12]. Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist,

sheds it light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor (Francis, 2015)."

- The National Council of Churches USA Eco-Justice Program develops Earth Day Sunday materials each year to help congregations celebrate and care for God's Creation (Earth Day Service – Sunday Morning Sustainability, 2020).

The alliance for Sunday is opposed with all its strength to these attempts of liberalization. It is made up of churches, trade unions, women's organizations, political parties and the Swiss Society of Occupational Medicine. We are a member of the European Sunday Alliance (Breaking News, 2012).

Commenting on this plague recently in the news, a world leader mentioned three times that we are at war, adding against an invisible enemy. Brothers and sisters, the people of God have been warned for century about upcoming Sunday Law which will be the center of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan.

If as Christians, we do not understand:

- How free public transportation in some European countries, namely Luxembourg is meant to reduce gas emission to combat climate change,

- Why Free human movement restriction have considerably reduced gas emission?

- Why social movements in European countries in desperation for a better future are calling for a day of rest?

We will be taken by surprise, unprepared by an international Sunday Law, as we already have been surprised with this pandemic; and the only spiritual preparation we have had in the past, will be the only one that will take us through the trials ahead of us. Have you had enough oil in the lamp in the past to sustain you in the trial journey? With the surprise of this Covid-19,

do you see yourself spiritually prepared to the realities of tomorrow as foretold in the Bible?

Brothers and sisters, you can check in your family, in your friends' circles, in the whole world, there is nobody that loves us so much like Jesus does. He has told us everything beforehand, so that we may not be surprised, unless we have all along taken His advices and our spiritual preparation for granted for shame to lie on our own door. This pandemic is one of the greatest spiritual test and wake up call for God's children. Because when the Law hits the land, a mighty army of righteousness preachers is to stand boldly to declare the righteousness of God to the world and preach the seventh day Sabbath message in the beauty of holiness. If we have never been ready, if we have never been preparing seriously as we should have been, we will meet great trials with some of the weakest spiritual fighting tools leading to compromising our faith and losing our salvation.

Our Attitude in the time of the beginning of sorrows" preceding the return of our Lord, in the clouds of heaven.

In Matthew 24:6, Jesus-Christ said during the time of these calamities, we are not to be troubled because this is just the beginning of sorrows.

We are to remember that we are not yet in the time of trouble, or seventh last plagues which will follow the international Sunday Law; what is happening now is just a trumpet leading to that event. God still needs a very strong faithful, courageous army to stand for Him and vindicate His name in that time. In times of trumpets, God call the attention of His people for repentance before His judgment. So what we have ahead are stronger than this, and faith challenging.

In times like these may God give use wisdom in our prayer lives, to know what to pray for, and how to pray; there is still a time of trouble such as never before that the world has never experienced. As the prophetic clock is on the way it is, we are marching straight to the realities of the faith we



claim to possess; we are in the journey on the road that are taking us home, a road which is to pass through the trials of our faith. For fat, many things in the world are no longer going to be the same again (economy, relationship, families, social life, you can add to the list).

What is interesting about this plague is that it is directly linked to climate change and is calling for a day of rest that I assume the reader now knows. The other interesting part of the story is that these calamities and the Sunday Law which will precede will call for persecution. In the admonition of Jesus in Matthew 24, that was what followed in the list. Now in His last speech of encouragement before leaving His disciples, a reminder to you and me, Jesus:

- And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe (John 14:29).

And regarding the trials ahead:

- I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33)."
- Matthew 24:9: Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.
- One remarkable thing about this Covid-19 is that people's heart have been already filled with so much fear, and so much wrong information that their immune system is already half-weakened before anything else may possibly happen to them, or before they could possibly avoid anything. Added to this is that loneliness which is one of the reasons of depression and death is already affecting some.

But we can be positive and use this time we now have to fellowship with God. This is the time to look up to the Lord and be strong for His glory.

This is the time to take courage and build up our spiritual capacities for the glory of God, while we are following the health principles connected to this pandemic, for a strong immune system. This is time to fast and pray and reconnect with Jesus as never before, before it get too late. In an honest note, while we talk about hope, we are also to talk about the reality which lies ahead of us and prepare spiritually to meet them. There was a picture which was recently circulating on the social media, which caused the viewers to have different types of reactions regarding what the world is going through right now.



In practice today, it is true that to avoid the virus, everyone has to be by himself. This looks like a funny picture. The spiritual morality about this picture is that when the children of God will soon be brought before councils of men to defend their faith, they will have to stand alone.



Divided, they will have to stand for God. As the circumstances have taken us away from the world, it is time to seek the Lord; it is time to check our robe; it is time to cry over our sins; it is time to reconcile with God:

- 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 limit of God's forbearance is reached.—Testimonies for the Church 5:451 (1885). LDE 133.1
- We must take a firm stand that we will not reverence the first day of the week as the Sabbath, for it is not the day that was blessed and sanctified by Jehovah, and in reverencing Sunday we should place ourselves on the side of the great deceiver LDE 133.2.

Brothers and sisters God is given enough evidence of what has already been foretold. The pain of what is happening is unbearable for the sufferers; the Roman armies are back for battle. May God find us ready.

The beauty of the story of salvation, is that God never asked His children to do what He has not tried, or done Himself. Jesus-Christ already went through the cross experience after Gethsemane to leave to us an example of time of trouble.

Jesus kept warning the disciples about His sacrifice anytime He could; they knew the truth, they knew the events ahead; all that needed to be known about the trials of Jesus, but they did not prepare for them. Until the time Jesus ate the Passover with them, they realized something was about to happen when they began asking the question: "is it I?" They even journeyed with Him to the garden of Gethsemane for His final prayer; they were close to His side; but because they never prepared themselves as they should, they were in the heaviest place of battle with no spiritual weight to face the hours of darkness; they fell asleep.

Has Jesus been warning of an upcoming trouble? Did we know all the truth about it? Probably.

Why did He keep on telling the disciples to pray :

- Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (KJV) Matthew 26:41

Have they not already been praying? I believe they disciples were praying every morning when they woke up, for their food, for the travels.

But what type of prayer was Jesus was talking about?

The prayer that stands this type of trial is the prayer that transforms the life into the image of God:

- It is the prayer that knows delay;
- It is the prayer that knows God negative answers to requests;
- It is the prayer that makes you stand alone for God as long as His will has to be done;
- It is the prayer that knows God's quick answers too;
- It is the prayer of sacrifice and submission that obeys God at the impulse of His voice;
- It is the prayer that has transformed the being and has accustomed Him to know the voice of God;
- It is the prayer that teaches to trust even if you do not understand;
- It is the prayer that teaches you to sit down in the name of Jesus, until He commands you to stand;
- It is the prayer that teaches to trust and obey as the only way to be happy in Jesus.
- It is the prayer that makes the man spiritually strong after being beaten by the rains and winds of life;
- It is the prayer that makes the believer a strong tree with the fruits of the Spirit developed in adversity, with the roots of faith that no storm of life can shake;
- It is the prayer that makes the believer mature in Christ for the vindication of God's name

This time of prayer life is not developed overnight, but through the life experience of someone who prays always or constantly seeks the face of God. That is why Jesus-Christ said to us also in like manner:

- Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."- Luke 21:36

When we reach this spiritual level, it will become so clear to discern the voice of God in difficult time when the carnal mind is left to his unfortunate own understanding that will lead to err in the time of earth's greatest crisis, when human wisdom will not avail much.

The price of this type of surrender and prayer predisposition in the life of Jesus-Christ is that He came out victorious, and triumphant.

Mystery of all mysteries, praise the Lord, is that in the book of Revelation, Jesus-Christ saw an army of redeemed who have also overcome like Him by His precious blood (Revelation 14:1).

Jesus went ahead in time and saw the army of the saved win the final battle of the Great Controversy, standing on the sea of glass.

Dear brothers and sister, in this battle, our part is just to surrender to God in a praying life, and go through the battle to vindicate God's name, and possess the victory He had already obtain for us, which He saw ahead in time. Brother and sisters, God has already won for us; and we have already won through the blood of Jesus. If we believe it, let us just go in the battle to glorify His name.

There is a Christian proverb that says: "when the devil reminds you of your past remind Him of his future." While the streets will probably be empty once again, reminding men of sin and its consequences, let us remember that Jesus Christ will soon return, bring His own home to a joy that will never end, when Satan will be left alone to walk in the empty streets of this world. Friends in Jesus Christ, instead of meditating on the consequences of sin, let us work toward our sanctification and joyfully prepare ourselves for the return of Jesus.

*And may He bless you. and make  
His face to shine upon you.*

**YOURS IN THE BLESSED HOPE**

*Pr. Edem Ameyou*



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