

*“Prepare to Meet Thy God!”*



*You Are My Hiding Place*

**Who Can Stand?  
Study Guide**



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## Introduction



*He <sup>that</sup> dwelleth <sup>in the</sup> secret <sup>place</sup>  
of the most High shall abide  
under <sup>of the</sup> shadow <sup>of the</sup> Almighty.*  
Psalm 91:1

**We have been chosen** to experience earth's finest yet most terrible moment. The course of this planet is about to change forever, never again to be subject to the blight of sin. It is indeed the world's most defining moment when the God of the universe, the Creator of the cosmos, leaves heaven above to embark on the greatest rescue of all time—His beloved bride. He is coming to take us home and we will be witnesses of this most glorious event. Ever since that fateful day in the garden of Eden, the Father and the Son have longed for the time when this horrible experiment with sin will be ended.

Imagine what must be the thoughts of the Father, the Son and all the holy angels accompanying them. All heaven has been diligently engaged in laboring for the salvation of mankind and now they are about to claim the fruit of their hard work. What rejoicing, what anticipation! The day will never be forgotten in the history of the universe.

*The eyes of the 144,000 gaze upon the little black cloud which is visible in the eastern sky. It is their token of deliverance. They know it is Jesus, and their hearts are anticipating meeting their Savior whom they have learned to love and adore.*

*Man has written about this moment, preachers have sought to preach about it, and Hollywood has made feeble attempts to portray it. Yet it all pales in the face of this magnificent reality to which the 144,000 are witnesses.*

*The unfathomable love of God has drawn us to Him, and now we will never be apart from Him. Throughout eternity, we will be part of the heavenly family. Oh, may that day find each of us looking up, saying, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us” (Isaiah 25:9).*

**1**

**What is God’s final call to His people?  
What are the chambers in which we are  
invited to hide during this time?**

“And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (Revelation 18:4).

“Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain” (Isaiah 26:20, 21).

“For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).

“When tempted to sin, let us remember that Jesus is pleading for us in the heavenly sanctuary. When we put away our sins and come to

Him in faith, He takes our names on His lips, and presents them to His Father, saying, 'I have graven them upon the palms of my hands; I know them by name.' And the command goes forth to the angels to protect them. Then in the day of fierce trial He will say, 'Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.' What are the chambers in which they are to hide?—*They are the protection of Christ and holy angels*" (4BC 1143, emphasis supplied).

"The storm of God's wrath is gathering, and those only will stand who are sanctified through the truth in the love of God. They shall be hid with Christ in God till the desolation shall be overpast" (TM 182).

"I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty" (EW 43).

2

## **Why does Michael, our divine Champion in the great controversy, stand up when the great time of trouble begins?**

"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

**Note:** The context of this verse indicates that when Christ stands up, He arises to deliver His people. We are told that the great time of trouble will be a time of indescribable spiritual darkness, when all the pent-up fury of the evil one will be unleashed upon the world and its inhabitants. No one can conceive such scenes of violence and crime as will take place when Satan is allowed to be in control of mankind as well as the elements of nature. This is his opportunity to fully reveal his diabolical kingdom which he proposed to the angels some 6,000 years ago.

**3**

### **What will be the condition of the wicked when Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary?**

“When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. *In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent.* God’s long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old” (GC 614, emphasis supplied).

**Note:** To awaken the world to the eminence of the close of probation, God’s angels are giving permission to let go of the four winds. God is allowing Satan to create havoc across this planet by increasing storms, tornadoes, torrential rainfalls, earthquakes, heat waves in unusual places, the increasing struggle among nations, school and church shootings and political mayhem. All point to the fact that God’s restraining power is being withdrawn and Satan has been given more control of the forces of nature and nations. Thus, we are witnessing the beginning of the process of the closing of probation which will culminate in the final close of probation for this world.

After the winds are released, there will be no time to preach the gospel to the world, no time for confession and repentance of sin, and no more time to prepare for Jesus’ coming. It will then be too late, for Jesus had already prepared His people during the time of the sealing. His work in the heavenly sanctuary is then finished. There is no more blood to cover for sin.

4

## During the time of the plagues, what is Jesus doing? How does He give each person the freedom of choice?

“Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete” (Revelation 15:1).

For 6,000 years, Jesus has allowed Satan limited access to the human race, providing protection for all of His creation. During the seven last plagues He will remove His protection according to the light that individuals have had and spurned. Their punishment will be in direct proportion to their rejection of His principles and laws of life. God will be vindicated that His judgments are just because He is honoring the choices individuals have made during the hours of probation. They have chosen to purposefully believe the devil’s lies and live by his principles; thus, the plagues are a direct result of their choices. “The Spirit of God is gradually withdrawing from the world” (LDE 249). “Just as fast as God’s Spirit is taken away, Satan’s cruel work will be done upon land and sea” (LDE 242).

**Note:** In the outpouring of the seven last plagues, we will see the results of Jesus no longer shielding earth’s inhabitants from the malicious power and cruelty of Satan. Jesus allows the natural consequences of removing His sustaining power from those who refuse to heed His warnings to come into the ark of safety, His sanctuary.

If we obey God’s laws of life, we reap life; if we disobey His laws of life, we reap destruction. His laws are simply an expression of His loving provisions to sustain and protect us from death and self-destruction. Not that anyone is consciously choosing death, but they are choosing the pathway that leads to self-destruction. Jesus is stepping back and allowing them to choose death, although it brings Him great suffering to do so. He does not relish their demise, but in accordance with His laws and His character, He must allow each one to have freedom of choice.

**5**

## **How do the judgments of God come upon the wicked during the great time of trouble?**

“I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way: They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproveth, and points out the only path of safety; then, if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan’s decided attacks upon them.

“It is Satan’s power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey.

“God will use His enemies as instruments to punish those who have followed their own pernicious ways whereby the truth of God has been misrepresented, misjudged, and dishonored.

“Already the Spirit of God, insulted, refused, abused, is being withdrawn from the earth. Just as fast as God’s Spirit is taken away, Satan’s cruel work will be done upon land and sea” (LDE 242).

“The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one” (GC 614).

“All judgments prior to the close of probation have been mingled with mercy. The blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is unmixed with mercy. Multitudes will desire the shelter of God’s mercy which they have despised” (HF 381).

**6**

## **Does the sinner bear full responsibility for the punishment that is meted out to him?**

“God destroys no one. The sinner destroys himself by his own impenitence. When a person once neglects to heed the invitations, reproofs, and warnings of the Spirit of God, his conscience becomes seared, and the next time he is admonished, it will be more difficult to yield obedience than before. And thus with every repetition.



Conscience is the voice of God, heard amid the conflict of human passions; when it is resisted, the Spirit of God is grieved.

“We want all to understand how the soul is destroyed. It is not that God sends out a decree that man shall not be saved. He does not throw a darkness before the eyes which cannot be penetrated. But man at first resists a motion of the Spirit of God, and, having once resisted, it is less difficult to do so the second time, less the third, and far less the fourth. Then comes the harvest to be reaped from the seed of unbelief and resistance. Oh what a harvest of sinful indulgences is preparing for the sickle!” (5T 120).

7

## Is the battle of Armageddon a spiritual or physical battle?

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:13, 14).

**Note:** The great controversy between Christ and Satan has been in progress for 6,000 years. Although it has been a spiritual battle between the forces of good and evil, yet one cannot deny that it has had physical components as evidenced by all the wars, strife and bloodshed that has plagued this planet since the inception of sin. The three sources referred to in the above text are religious in nature and are the motivating influences which compel all nations of the earth to prepare and assemble for the battle of Armageddon.

Up to this point in time, destruction has always been tempered by grace, for God’s protecting hand has limited the power and designs of the evil one. After the close of probation this will drastically change. Then grace and protection will be withdrawn and the fierce passions of man will have full sway.

**Note:** The destruction of Jerusalem of old was but a dim reflection of what this world will witness in the final battle just before Jesus returns. Ellen G. White, in relating these scenes, states, “But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelations of the future. The records of the past,—the long procession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions, the ‘battle of the warrior ... with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood’ (Isaiah 9:5),—what are these, in contrast with the terrors of that day when the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath! The world will then behold, as never before, the results of Satan’s rule” (GC 36, 37).

“We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars and rumors of wars. ... But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle” (6T 14).

“Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict, but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels with their living cargo will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of Satanic agencies, but they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon” (LDE 238, 239).

8

**What are some of the wonderful promises of protection we may claim during this time?**

“You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance” (Psalm 32:7).

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the

fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Isaiah 43:2, 3).

“The Lord will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain” (Isaiah 4:5, 6).

**Note:** We may safely abide in the presence of God and be hidden in the heavenly sanctuary. “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust’” (Psalm 91:1, 2).

“You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. ... Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:5–11).

9

## **How will God test our faith in His power to deliver us from our enemies?**

“The prophet Jeremiah, in holy vision looking down to this time, said, ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. ... And all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it’” (Jeremiah 30:5–7).

“When Christ shall cease His work as mediator in man’s behalf, then this time of trouble will begin. Then the case of every soul will have been decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin. ... Then the restraining Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth. ... As Jacob was threatened with death by his angry brother, so the people of God will be in peril from the wicked who

are seeking to destroy them. And as the patriarch wrestled all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau, so the righteous will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the enemies that surround them” (PP 201).

“Such will be the experience of God’s people in their final struggle with the powers of evil. *God will test their faith, their perseverance, their confidence in His power to deliver them.* Satan will endeavor to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless; that their sins have been too great to receive pardon. They will have a deep sense of their shortcomings, and as they review their lives their hopes will sink. *But remembering the greatness of God’s mercy, and their own sincere repentance, they will plead His promises made through Christ to helpless, repenting sinners. Their faith will not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. They will lay hold of the strength of God, as Jacob laid hold of the Angel, and the language of their souls will be, ‘I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me’*” (PP 202, emphasis supplied).

“Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming,—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—God’s chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them” (9T 17).

10

### **During the time of Jacob’s trouble, how will God’s people be victorious over the accusations of the evil one?**

“And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily” (Luke 18:7, 8).

“Jacob prevailed because *he was persevering and determined.* His experience testifies to the power of importunate prayer. It is now that we are to learn this lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. *The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power.*

“Those who are unwilling to forsake every sin and to seek earnestly for God’s blessing, will not obtain it. But all who will lay hold of God’s promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded” (PP 203, emphasis supplied).

## **11 Through what means may we gain the victory during this time?**

“It was by *self-surrender and confiding faith* that Jacob gained what he had failed to gain by conflict in his own strength. God thus taught His servant that divine power and grace alone could give him the blessing he craved. Thus it will be with those who live in the last days. As dangers surround them, and despair seizes upon the soul, they must depend solely upon the merits of the atonement. We can do nothing of ourselves. In all our helpless unworthiness we must trust in the merits of the crucified and risen Saviour. *None will ever perish while they do this.* The long, black catalogue of our delinquencies is before the eye of the Infinite. The register is complete; none of our offenses are forgotten. But He who listened to the cries of His servants of old, will hear the prayer of faith and pardon our transgressions. He has promised, and He will fulfill His word” (PP 203, emphasis supplied).

## **12 How can we best describe the experience of the people of God in the time of trouble?**

“It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth” (9T 16).

“But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming,—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—God’s chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them” (9T 17).

### **13** What is the response of the wicked when they behold the King of Kings descending to earth on a cloud?

“And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” (Revelation 6:15-17).

“At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory” (GC 657).

### **14** Who will be those who “catch the first light of His second appearing”? What has prepared them for this event?

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee” (Isaiah 60:1).

“To those who go out to meet the Bridegroom is this message given. Christ is coming with power and great glory. He is coming with His own glory and with the glory of the Father. He is coming with all the holy angels with Him. While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing” (COL 420).

“To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven; for they have heaven in their hearts” (COL 421).

## Your Commitment to Jesus

Believing in the imminent return of Jesus, I choose to come into God's hiding place and be an eye witness to the most glorious event of all time, the second coming of Christ.

Your Response \_\_\_\_\_

## Key to Abbreviations of E. G. White Book Titles

COL ..... *Christ's Object Lessons*

EW ..... *Early Writings*

GC..... *The Great Controversy*

HF ..... *From Here to Forever (The Great Controversy condensation)*

LDE ..... *Last Day Events*

PP ..... *Patriarchs and Prophets*

TM..... *Testimonies to Ministers*

4BC ..... *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 4*

5T ..... *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*

6T ..... *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*

9T ..... *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9*

*“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!”*

**This Study Guide is number eleven in a series of twelve.**

Study Guide 1—“Watchman, What of the Night?”

Study Guide 2—“For Such a Time as This”

Study Guide 3—“My Sheep Hear My Voice”

Study Guide 4—“Then Shall the Sanctuary be Cleansed”

Study Guide 5—“The Hour of His Judgment has Come”

Study Guide 6—“Holy, Harmless [and] Undefiled”

Study Guide 7—“That Your Sins May Be Blotted Out”

Study Guide 8—“And the Earth was Illuminated with His Glory”

Study Guide 9—“These Follow the Lamb Wherever He Goes”

Study Guide 10—“He Who is Holy, Let Him be Holy Still”

**Study Guide 11—“You Are My Hiding Place”**

Study Guide 12—“The Cleansing of Our Soul Temple”

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