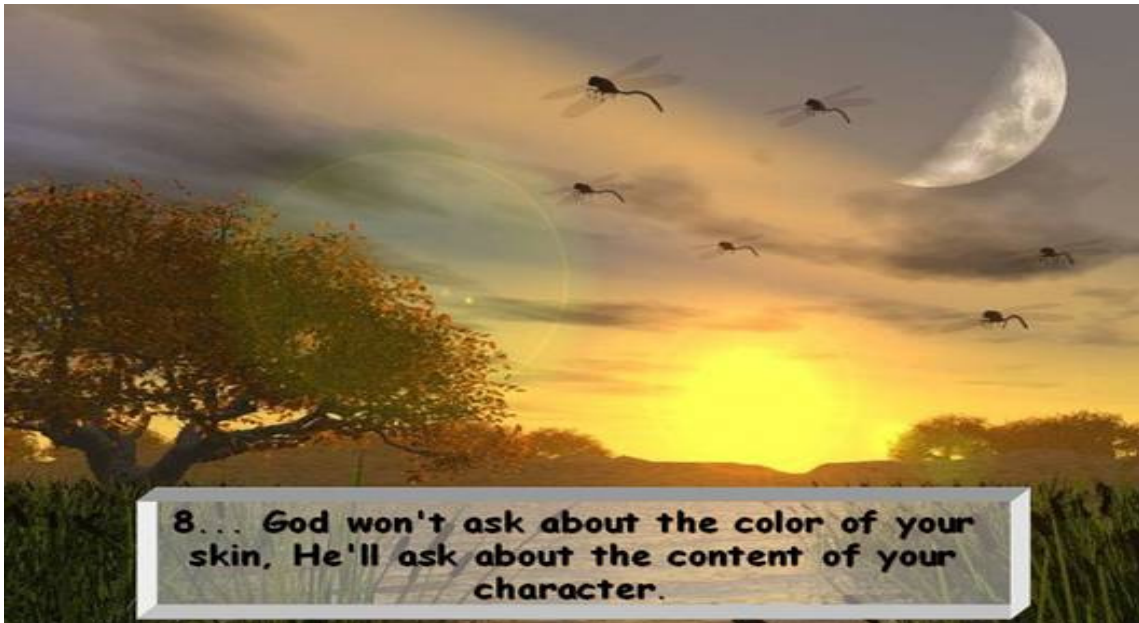


# Spiritual Alertness

1

2  
34 **Graham F. Watts, Sr.**

5

6 **VISION:** To hear the midnight cry, "The bridegroom comes, go out to meet  
7 Him" (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1  
8 John 3:2).

9

10 **MISSION:** Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad,  
11 to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the  
12 Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

13

14 **VALUES:** Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without  
15 fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in  
16 heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb's fine, clean and  
17 white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk  
18 humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

19

20 **OVERALL AIM:** Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to  
21 inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: "Are our feet on  
22 the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the  
23 Father" (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with  
24 Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

25

26 **PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY**

27  
28 This study teaches about spiritual preparedness, on being alert.

29  
30

31 **OBJECTIVES/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH/THESIS**

32  
33 At the end of this study, the reader has a clear understanding about  
34 the necessity of watchfulness in this waiting, probationary time.

35  
36

37 **SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT**

38  
39 In the industrial age, owners set a watch in anticipation of a thief.  
40 In the technological age, they set an electronic alarm. Either by  
41 human or electronic systems, preparedness averts the undesirable  
42 consequences of invasion. Jesus compared His return to an  
43 unannounced thief's visit to encourage readiness. He said, "...The day  
44 of the Lord will come as a thief in the night..." (2 Peter 3:10 & 1  
45 Thessalonians 5:2). "Watch! You [don't] know the day or the hour  
46 [when] the Son of God [returns]" (Matthew 25:13 & 24:42). "If that  
47 evil servant says..., 'My lord delays his coming' (Matthew 24:48) ...And..  
48 begins to... eat, drink and be drunken, the lord.. will come.. when  
49 [that] servant [looks] not for him..." (Luke 12:45-46; Matthew 24:50-  
50 51). "Blessed is that servant, whom, his lord when he comes... finds"  
51 [him/her] "...A faithful and wise servant" (Matthew 24:46 & 45).

52

53 **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

54  
55 Spiritual daydreaming describes slothfulness, apathy and lukewarmness  
56 about eternal interests. Believers have a name that represent life,  
57 but they are dead (Revelation 3:1). That which brings the highest  
58 joy, which encourages mindfulness results in spiritual alertness. In  
59 contrast, that which brings boredom encourages frequent distractions  
60 and inattentiveness and results in spiritual daydreaming. This  
61 background provided the impetus for the study question that follows.

62 **STUDY QUESTION**

63  
 64 What might Christian believers do to remain on alert unto the day of  
 65 Christ's appearing?  
 66

67 **ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE**

68  
 69 1. Thoughtfulness and prayerfulness are necessary for remaining on  
 70 alert unto the day of Christ's appearing. "The end of all things  
 71 is at hand! Be... sober and watch unto prayer" (1 Peter 4:7). "Take  
 72 heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be  
 73 overburdened and depressed with the giddiness, headache and nausea  
 74 of self-indulgence, drunkenness and worldly worries and cares  
 75 pertaining to... business... and... [the day of Jesus' return] come upon  
 76 you suddenly like a trap or a noose; for it will come upon all who  
 77 live upon the face of the earth. Keep awake...! Watch at all times;  
 78 Be discreet, attentive and ready. Pray that you may have the full  
 79 strength and ability [to] be [counted] worthy to escape all these  
 80 things... that will take place and to stand in the presence of the  
 81 Son of Man" (Luke 21:34-36, Amplified Bible). "Let us not sleep as  
 82 do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:6).  
 83 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast  
 84 off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light"  
 85 (Romans 13:12) before it is too late when lips of unsaved hearts  
 86 will painfully declare: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended  
 87 and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20). We must devote time to  
 88 observing the signs of the times, thinking about the day of  
 89 Christ's return and praying for strength and wisdom. Nothing short  
 90 of complete surrender of our will to the Lord, Jesus Christ and to  
 91 living a life wholly committed to and active in His service will  
 92 keep us on alert unto the day of Christ's appearing.  
 93

94 2. Knowledge of the signs pointing to the end is necessary for  
 95 remaining on alert unto the day of Christ's appearing. Thus, God  
 96 has planted landmarks pointing to the heavenly Canaan. "There  
 97 shall be signs in the sun, ...moon and stars; and upon the earth  
 98 distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves  
 99 roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after  
 100 those things which are coming on the earth for the powers of heaven  
 101 shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in  
 102 a cloud with power and great glory. When these things... [occur, you  
 103 must] look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draws  
 104 nigh" (Luke 21:11, 25-28). Events of Matthew 24:29 unfolded this  
 105 way: the Dark Day in New England states fell on May 19, 1780  
 106 ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_England%27s\\_Dark\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_England%27s_Dark_Day)). "Lisbon,  
 107 Portugal was struck by a great earthquake on November 1, 1755"  
 108 (<http://geology.about.com/library/bl/bllisbon1755eq.htm>). "A star  
 109 shower fell on November 13, 1833 that newspapers could be read [at  
 110 night]" (<http://www.finalevents.com/Event1/Sign06.asp?p=0>). From  
 111 the Revolutionary War (1775) to Iraqi Freedom (2003), America has  
 112 had 12 major conflicts (<http://www.historycentral.com/wars.html>).  
 113 View other conflicts at <http://www.cassiopaea.org/cass/uswars.htm>.  
 114 Famines, drought, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslide, solar  
 115 flares and tsunamis too numerous to mention can be researched at  
 116 <http://home.att.net/~thehessians/disasterwatch.html>. "When you see  
 117 these [signs] come to pass, know that the kingdom of God is at  
 118 hand" (Luke 21:31). So be ready to "...Present your bodies a living  
 119 sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God..." (Romans 12:1) for "When the  
 120 time for action comes, the time for preparation has passed"  
 121 (<http://home.att.net/~thehessians/disasterwatch.html>). "...Many  
 122 shall come from the east and west, [from the north and south], and  
 123 sit... with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but  
 124 the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness;  
 125 there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (read Matthew 8:11-  
 126 12; 13:41-43 & 49-50; 22:12-14; 25:29-30 & Luke 13:27-29).

127  
 128 3. "Awareness of the increasing sophistication of this age is  
 129 essential for remaining on alert unto the day of Christ's  
 130 appearing. "...In the latter times, **some shall depart from the faith, giving**  
 131 **heed to seducing spirit and doctrines of devils"** (1 Timothy 4:1), which are  
 132 "...Unclean spirits... [coming from] the mouth of the dragon, the beast  
 133 and ...the false prophets" (Revelation 16:13). The tradition of  
 134 seeking wisdom apart from God is not new. King Saul consulted with  
 135 a woman at Endor that had a familiar spirit (1 Samuel 28:6-8).  
 136 Modern Psychics and Mediums have catalogued their "...Chronological  
 137 History of Spiritualism" dating back to 1744, extending to 2000  
 138 ([http://www.psychics.co.uk/spiritualism/history\\_of\\_spiritualism.htm](http://www.psychics.co.uk/spiritualism/history_of_spiritualism.htm)).  
 139 "...In the time of the end, **many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be**  
 140 **increased"** (Daniel 12:4). "The [forerunner] of the modern automobile  
 141 is probably the Fardier, a three-wheeled, steam-powered, 1.3 mile  
 142 per hour (MPH) vehicle built in 1771. Automobile mass production...  
 143 [waited for] Henry Ford of Detroit, Michigan, who built his first  
 144 gasoline-powered car in 1896 [and] his Model T in 1908"  
 145 (<http://www.ideafinder.com/history/inventions/automobile.htm>).  
 146 Invention of the first engined airplane is credited to Orville and  
 147 Wilbur Wright who flew their first successful flight in December  
 148 1903 (<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blairplane.htm>).  
 149 In terms of rapid intra-territorial and transcontinental travel,  
 150 which the Bible described as-run to and fro; these occurred in the  
 151 20th century and has transform the world into a global village.  
 152 On the increase of knowledge relative to computers and computer  
 153 science, 1936 ushered in the Z1: the first freely programmable  
 154 machine; and after that, the flood gates opened sending a watershed  
 155 of innovation (<http://inventors.about.com/library/blcoindex.htm>).  
 156 Therefore, it is appropriate to say that "The emerging global  
 157 economy, built on a revolution in science, technology,  
 158 communications and the unprecedented movement of people, ideas and

159 goods across national boundaries has profoundly changed  
 160 international relations and the ability of governments to control  
 161 developments even within national borders" (Congressional Research  
 162 Service Report for [the 107th] Congress, 2001, p. 5). With this  
 163 plethora of auspicious success and enlightenment, does it surprise  
 164 you that scoffers, in the last days, question the veracity of Jesus'  
 165 return (2 Peter 3:3-4)? God grant that we are **NOT** so enthralled by  
 166 technology and other sophistications that spiritual blindness  
 167 occurs and we lose sight of Jesus' promise to receive us and take  
 168 us to the place He has prepared for our dwelling (read John 14:3 &  
 169 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)?

170  
 171  
 172 4. Contextualizing the epidemic of violence in this age is essential  
 173 for remaining on alert unto the day of Christ's appearing. Our  
 174 Lord warned "...That in the last days perilous times shall come.  
 175 ...Men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters,  
 176 proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,  
 177 without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers,  
 178 incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors,  
 179 heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;  
 180 having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..." (2  
 181 Timothy 3:1-5). Expressed more succinctly, "Iniquity abounds"  
 182 (Matthew 24:12). Televised programs such as American's Most  
 183 Wanted, Forensic Files, Cops, Snapped, 20/20 on We and others  
 184 evidence that "Evil [people] and seducers shall wax worse and  
 185 worse" (2 Timothy 3:13). "As Jesus [sat] on the Mount of Olives,  
 186 [His] disciples came to Him [and inquired about] the sign of [His]  
 187 coming and of the end of the age" (Matthew 24:3). Jesus clearly  
 188 assured them that only the Father knows the day and hour of His  
 189 return (Matthew 24:36) but He gave a major clue as to the nearness  
 190 of His return by referencing Noah. "And as it was in the days of  
 191 Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Matthew

192 24:37 or Luke 17:26). In the days of Noah the earth was filled  
193 with violence and every imaginations of the thoughts of men were  
194 only evil continually (read Genesis 6:5, 11 & 13). While it will  
195 be an arbitrary inference to say that all men of this age think  
196 evil continually, the proliferation of vocalized and acted violence  
197 in music and motion picture and the increasing incidence of actual  
198 violence to women, children, the elderly and animals is  
199 overwhelmingly mind boggling.

200

201 **ANSWER SOURCE: SACRED WRITINGS:**

202

203 We are pursuing answers to the question: What might Christian  
204 believers do to remain on alert unto the day of Christ's appearing?  
205 More answers follow!

206

207 1. "Mission focused is essential for remaining on alert unto the day  
208 of Christ's appearing. "[We must] keep [our] hearts with all  
209 diligence..." (Proverbs 4:23), which is a daily, on-going process  
210 that includes correctly identifying and avoiding mission  
211 distracters. "Had the purpose of God been carried out by His  
212 people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would...  
213 have [returned] to the earth and the saints would have received  
214 their welcome into the city of God" (Evangelism, {Ev} 694.3). "...If  
215 the people of God had preserved a living connection with Him; if  
216 they had obeyed His Word they would today be in the heavenly  
217 Canaan" (Ev 694.4). "If every [soldier] on the walls of Zion had  
218 given the trumpet a certain sound, the world... would have heard the  
219 message of warning" (Ev 694.5). "It was not the will of God that  
220 the coming of Christ should be thus delayed. God did not design  
221 that His people, Israel, should wander [40] years in the  
222 wilderness. He promised to lead them directly to the land of  
223 Canaan [in a matter of days] and establish them there a holy,  
224 healthy, happy people (read Exodus 3:16-19). But those to whom it

225 was first preached, went not in because of unbelief (Hebrews 3:16-  
 226 19). Their hearts were filled with murmuring, rebellion and  
 227 hatred; [therefore, God] could not fulfill His covenant with them"  
 228 [(read Exodus 32:9; 33:3 & 5; 34:9; Deuteronomy 9:6 & 13; Acts 7:51  
 229 & Hebrews 3:19 in Ev 696.1). One author summarized the problem  
 230 this way: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your  
 231 God and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear"  
 232 (Isaiah 59:2). Another author summarized the solution this way:  
 233 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble  
 234 themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways;  
 235 then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their  
 236 land" (2 Chronicles 7:14)]. "The same sins have delayed the  
 237 entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither  
 238 case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the  
 239 worldliness, unconsecration and strife among the Lord's professed  
 240 people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many  
 241 years" (Mark 16:14; James 4:1; Hebrews 3:12-13 & 4:10-11 in Ev  
 242 696.2).

243  
 244  
 245 2. **Abandoning a disgruntled lifestyle is essential for remaining on**  
 246 **alert unto the day of Christ's appearing.** Unbelief manifested by  
 247 disregarding the Lord's commands and/or distrusting His promises  
 248 and complaining against His providential leading are infectious and  
 249 poisonous. Ancient Israel traveled from Egypt to the earthly  
 250 Canaan under God's direction and protection (Exodus 33:2). They  
 251 saw what God did to the Egyptians and received His invitation to be  
 252 established as a holy people (Deuteronomy 28:9) and a kingdom of  
 253 priests unto the Lord (Exodus 19:5-6). "...[But] the people  
 254 habitually complained (Exodus 15:24; 16:2; 17:3; Numbers 14:2 & 29;  
 255 16:41; Deuteronomy 1:27 & Psalms 106:25) [and] it displeased the  
 256 Lord... On one occasion His anger was kindled [against the  
 257 complainers] and the fire of the Lord [burned] among them and

258 consumed them..." (Exodus 15:22-25; 17:3-7; Numbers 11:1). Today  
 259 Jesus Christ is moving another people, spiritual Israel (Galatians  
 260 3:29) toward the heavenly Canaan: the New Jerusalem (Revelation  
 261 3:12 & 21:2). "Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday, today and  
 262 forever" (Hebrews 13:8). As it was in the days of old when ancient  
 263 Israel would inherit curses (Deuteronomy 28:16-46) for disobedience  
 264 and NOT serving the Lord with joy and gladness (Deuteronomy 28:15 &  
 265 47) though He commanded: "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before  
 266 His presence with singing" (Psalms 100:2); the same conditions  
 267 apply today. If we are lukewarm, God spits us out of His mouth  
 268 (Revelation 3:16) "[And we are] cast forth as a branch and...  
 269 withers..." (John 15:6). "...[But] the redeemed of the Lord shall  
 270 return and come with singing unto Zion; everlasting joy shall be  
 271 upon their head; they shall obtain gladness and joy and sorrow and  
 272 mourning shall flee away" (Isaiah 51:11). Dear reader, the elapse  
 273 of time has **NOT** changed God's requirements. "[It remains for us  
 274 to] be blameless and harmless, the sons [and daughters] of God,  
 275 without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among  
 276 whom [we are to] shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15).  
 277 We can achieve the goals of blamelessness, harmlessness and light  
 278 bearers as Jesus "...Keeps [us] from falling and presents [us]  
 279 faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy"  
 280 (Jude 1:24).

281  
 282  
 283 3. **Sharing the love of Jesus with others is essential for remaining on**  
 284 **alert unto the day of Christ's appearing.** This emphasis, which is  
 285 **NOT** seeking blessings for self, **NOT** striving for the highest  
 286 office, but on removal of the idolatry that is mixed in with our  
 287 worship and on a sacred recognition of our responsibility to seek  
 288 others for Christ; these can only occur when we wholeheartedly  
 289 consecrate ourselves to the service of Christ and God pours out the  
 290 Holy Spirit upon us in immeasurable quantities. "...But this will

291 not [occur] while the largest portion of the church are not  
 292 laborers together with God" (Ev 698.2 to 699.2). But the forecast  
 293 is not all gloomy! **"Many will be seen hurrying hither and thither, constrained by**  
 294 **the Spirit of God to bring the light to others.** The truth, the Word of God, is as  
 295 a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to  
 296 enlighten those who sit in darkness. Many, even among the  
 297 uneducated, now proclaim the words of the Lord. Children are  
 298 impelled by the Spirit to go forth and declare the message from  
 299 heaven. **The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings,** and  
 300 casting off all man's machinery, his binding rules and cautious  
 301 methods (read 1 Samuel 17:39-49), they will declare the truth with  
 302 the might of the Spirit's power [read Ephesians 6:10]. Multitudes  
 303 will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord" (Ev 700.1).  
 304 "No weapon that is formed against [them] shall prosper and every  
 305 tongue that rise against [them] in judgment thou shall condemn.  
 306 This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their  
 307 righteousness is of [the Lord]..." (Isaiah 54:17).

308  
 309 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: In this study we examined spiritual alertness.  
 310 The question that focused the study asked: What might Christian  
 311 believers do to remain alert unto the day of Christ's appearing? In  
 312 our study, we uncovered seven principles: 1) Thoughtfulness and  
 313 prayerfulness; 2) Knowledge of the signs pointing to the end of the  
 314 age; 3) Awareness of the increasing sophistication of this age, 4)  
 315 Contextualizing the epidemic of violence in this age, 5) Mission  
 316 focused; 6) Abandoning a disgruntled lifestyle and 7) Sharing the  
 317 love of Jesus with other. What other principles do you follow to  
 318 keep your mind focused on the day of Christ's return? Because it is  
 319 of little redeeming value to engage in Bible study merely for  
 320 information, subsequent paragraphs follow that make a practical  
 321 application of the truths set forth here.

324 **DISCUSSION: WHAT DO THESE THINGS MEAN?**

325

326 Mere, faithful church attendance is **NOT** heaven's appointed means for  
 327 remaining on alert onto the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. "The  
 328 end is near, stealing upon us stealthily, imperceptibly, like the  
 329 noiseless approach of a thief in the night. God grant that we shall  
 330 no longer sleep as do others, but that we shall watch and be sober.  
 331 The truth is soon to triumph gloriously and **all who now choose to be laborers**  
 332 **together with God will triumph with it.** The time is short; the night soon comes  
 333 when no [person] can work" (Evangelism, {Ev} 692.1). Like Mary  
 334 Magdalene and the other Mary (Matthew 28:1), who received the message  
 335 of a risen Savior (Matthew 28:6), with godly reverence and great joy,  
 336 let us run quickly (Matthew 28:8) and spread the tidings of Jesus  
 337 Christ, who returns as "...The blessed and only Potentate, the King of  
 338 kings and Lord of lords" (1 Timothy 6:15 & Revelation 19:16), who  
 339 comes quickly bringing a reward to give to everyone according to  
 340 works performed (Revelation 22:12).

341

342

343 Watchfulness, the opposite of idleness, lukewarmness and  
 344 indifference, is required to remain on alert onto the coming of our  
 345 Lord, Jesus Christ. "At the present time, when the end of all things  
 346 earthly is rapidly approaching [read 1 Corinthians 7:29], Satan is  
 347 putting forth desperate efforts to ensnare the world [read Revelation  
 348 12:12]. He is devising many plans to occupy minds and to divert  
 349 attention from the truths essential to salvation" ([read 1 Peter 5:8  
 350 in] Ev 705.3). "Today the signs of the times declare that we are  
 351 standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in  
 352 our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the  
 353 Savior's prophecy of the events to precede His coming: "Ye shall hear  
 354 of wars and rumors of wars. Nation shall rise against nation, and  
 355 kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, pestilences and

356 earthquakes in [different] places" (Ev 703.3). "The present is a  
357 time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen,  
358 men... [in] authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have  
359 their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. ...They  
360 observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly  
361 element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is  
362 about to take place, that the world is on the verge of a stupendous  
363 crisis" (Ev 703.4). Sleep not, dear saints of the Most High God!

364

365 "Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, until the world  
366 shall be warned of its coming doom [Revelation 7:2-3 & 2 Peter 3:10 &  
367 12]. A storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth and when  
368 God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene  
369 of strife as no pen can picture" [Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5; Amos  
370 5:18-20 in Ev 704.1]. "A moment of respite has been graciously given  
371 us of God. Every power lent us of heaven is to be used in doing the  
372 work assigned us by the Lord for those who are perishing in  
373 ignorance" (Ev 704.2). **"God's people should make mighty intercession to Him for  
374 help now.** And they must put their whole energies into the effort to  
375 proclaim the truth during the respite that has been granted" (Ev  
376 704.3). "Every day we have been associating with men and women who  
377 are judgment bound. Each day may have been the dividing line for  
378 some soul [read Luke 12:20]. Each day someone may have made the  
379 decision which will determine his/her future destiny" (Ev 704.4).  
380 "We do not understand as we should the great conflict going on  
381 between invisible agencies, the controversy between loyal and  
382 disloyal angels [read Daniel 10:13]. **Over every man, good and evil angels  
383 strive.** ...We have to meet most powerful adversaries and it rests with us  
384 to determine which shall win. We are to find our strength where the  
385 early disciples found theirs" (read Luke 24:49; Ephesians 4:31;  
386 Philippians 2:2 & Acts 2:1-2 in Ev 704.5).

387 **CONCLUSIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

388

389 **"The Son of man shall come in His glory and all the holy angels with**  
 390 **Him..."** (Matthew 25:31). "The work is soon to close [as soon as the  
 391 sealing is completed (Revelation 7:2-3)]. The members of the church  
 392 militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant"  
 393 (Ev 707.1). "[...Be faithful unto death and {Jesus} will give {you} a  
 394 crown of life" (Revelation 2:10); {after} His angels, ...sound... a  
 395 trumpet {and} ...gather together His elect from the four winds, from  
 396 one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31 or Mark 13:27 & 1  
 397 Thessalonians 4:16)]. "...His angels... {will also} gather out of His  
 398 kingdom all things that offend and them {that} do iniquity" (read  
 399 Matthew 13:41 & 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)]. "By giving the gospel to the  
 400 world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return" (Ev 696.4).  
 401 [More importantly, however], it is the privilege of every Christian,  
 402 not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus  
 403 Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory  
 404 (read John 15:8, Galatians 5:22-23 & John 13:35), how quickly the  
 405 whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the  
 406 last harvest would be ripened and Christ would come to gather the  
 407 precious grain" (Ev 696.5).

408

409 **"The third angel's message [of Revelation 14:9-10] is swelling into a**  
 410 **loud cry.** You must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty  
 411 and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the  
 412 recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a  
 413 wonderful revival will take place. **Today you are to have your vessel**  
 414 **purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers**  
 415 **of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of**  
 416 **God will fill every soul that is purified from defilement** (read 2 Chronicles  
 417 7:14; Zephaniah 3:13; Malachi 2:6; Romans 6:19; 1 Corinthians 13:6;

418 James 1:27; 1 Peter 1:22; Revelation 12:11; 3:15-18, 21 & John 9:39-  
 419 41). It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may  
 420 be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord--  
 421 fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit" (Ev 701.4) because "When  
 422 the time for action comes, the time for preparation has passed"  
 423 (<http://home.att.net/~thehessians/disasterwatch.html>. "Instead of  
 424 living in expectation of some special season of excitement, we are  
 425 wisely to improve present opportunities, doing that which must be  
 426 done in order that souls may be saved. Instead of exhausting the  
 427 powers of our mind in speculations in regard to the times and seasons  
 428 which the Lord has placed in His own power, and withheld from men, we  
 429 are to yield ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit, to do  
 430 present duties, to give the bread of life, unadulterated with human  
 431 opinions, to souls who are perishing for the truth" (Ev 702.1). "It  
 432 will not be long before everyone will have heard the warning and made  
 433 [a] decision. Then shall the end come. God is the great Master  
 434 Worker and by His providence He prepares the way for His work to be  
 435 accomplished. He provides opportunities, opens up lines of influence  
 436 and channels of working. If His people are watching the indications  
 437 of His providence, and stand ready to co-operate with Him, they will  
 438 see a great work accomplished' (Ev 703.1).

439

#### 440 CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO?

441

442 "...Bring [your] heart into unity with Christ and [your life] into  
 443 harmony with His work and the Spirit that fell on the disciples on  
 444 the day of Pentecost will fall on [you]" (Ev 697.4). By union with  
 445 Jesus Christ and alignment with His preaching, teaching and healing  
 446 {PTH} ministries (read Matthew 9:35) we will remain on alert onto the  
 447 day of Christ's appearing. "[Let] zeal for the glory of God.. fire  
 448 our hearts with a longing to tell the story of [the] redeeming love  
 449 of Christ and Him crucified.. [and] ..the power of God [would] be..

**Watch and Sleep Not!**

450 mightily revealed today, [much more than it did] ...in the time of the  
451 apostles" (Ev 698.1). These tasks are imperative because no man  
452 knows the day or the hour when the Son of man returns (Matthew  
453 25:13); thus His coming is as a thief; therefore, watch and keep your  
454 garments [of character spotless and pure], lest [you] walk naked and  
455 [others] see [your] shame" (Revelation 16:15).