



SAVED TO SERVE

Pastor Andrew Henriques

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GREAT CONTROVERSY PT. 1: TRUMP'S VOW "MAKE AMERICA GREAT"
PRECEDES DESTRUCTION AS WITH JERUSALEM & BABYLON

1. Let us consider the following quotations from the introductory chapter to the book *The Great Controversy*.

In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end as in all preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan's deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect. Mark 13:22, R.V. { *The Great Controversy*, 13}

To unfold the scenes of the great controversy between truth and error; to reveal the wiles of Satan, and the means by which he may be successfully resisted; to present a satisfactory solution of the great problem of evil, shedding such a light upon the origin and the final disposition of sin as to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with His creatures; and to show the holy, unchanging nature of His law, is the object of this book. That through its influence souls may be delivered from the power of darkness, and become "partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light," to the praise of Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us, is the earnest prayer of the writer. { *The Great Controversy*, 14}

As the Spirit of God has opened to my mind the great truths of His word, and the scenes of the past and the future, I have been bidden to make known to others that which has thus been revealed—to trace the history of the controversy in past ages, and especially so to present it as to shed a light on the fast-approaching struggle of the future. In pursuance of this purpose, I have endeavored to select and group together events in the history of the church in such a manner as to trace the unfolding of the great testing truths that at different periods have been given to the world, that have excited the wrath of Satan, and the enmity of a world-loving church, and that have been maintained by the witness of those who "loved not their lives unto the death." { *The Great Controversy*, 13}

It is not so much the object of this book to present new truths concerning the struggles of former times, as to bring out facts and principles which have a bearing on coming events. Yet viewed as a part of the controversy between the forces of light and darkness, all these records of the past are seen to have a new significance; and through them a light is cast upon the future, illumining the pathway of those who, like the reformers of past ages, will be called, even at the peril of all earthly good, to witness "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." { *The Great Controversy*, 14}

In these records we may see a foreshadowing of the conflict before us. Regarding them in the light of God's word, and by the illumination of His Spirit, we may see unveiled the devices of the wicked one, and the dangers which they must shun who would be found "without fault" before the Lord at His coming. { *The Great Controversy*, 13}

2. Note: The chapter of the book *The Great Controversy* is "The Destruction of Jerusalem."

3. Let us focus on one of the chapters where Jesus prophesied of the destruction of Jerusalem. This scene was the final week, the last seven days of Jesus' earthly ministry. See Luke 19:28-36.

4. During the Triumphal Entry, Jesus riding into Jerusalem, what were the people shouting? Luke 19:37,38 _____

5. Note: These people, including the disciples of Jesus, did not understand the prophecies concerning Jesus' ministry. They thought that Jesus would be crowned king. However, Jesus was going to be sacrificed. Read the following for an application.

Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready. {GC 594.1}

6. What did the Pharisees say to Jesus? Luke 19:39 _____

7. What did Jesus say in response to the Pharisees? Luke 19:40 _____

8. Note: The following is one application. We see that religious and civil leaders desire that the truth, the protest, be silenced.

"When Francis wanted to reach out to Evangelicals...he rang his old friend [Tony Palmer]. During a leisurely meeting at the Vatican, Palmer recorded a video of the Pontiff on his iPhone... Palmer took the film to a ministers' conference in Texas organized by prosperity gospel preacher Kenneth Copeland. Palmer introduced the film with what must count as one of the great Christian orations of the 21st century. 'Brothers and sisters, Luther's protest is over, is yours?...If there is no more protest how can there be a Protestant church?' he said. He told the audibly stunned audience that he was speaking to them 'in the spirit of Elijah,' who prepared the way for something much greater than himself...Francis then proclaimed that 'the miracle of unity has begun.'" <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/july-24th-2015/the-popes-great-evangelical-gamble/>

9. What did Jesus do? Luke 19:41 _____
10. Note: What a contrast is seen here. The people are rejoicing, while Jesus is weeping.
11. What does Jesus do and say next? Luke 19:42-44 _____
12. Note: The last seven days of Jesus' earthly ministry found the people ignorant of truth; they did not know who Jesus was and what His mission was.
13. Why was Jesus weeping? _____

He wept for the doomed thousands of Jerusalem--because of the blindness and impenitence of those whom He came to bless and to save. {GC 18.1}

Had Israel as a nation preserved her allegiance to Heaven, **Jerusalem would have stood forever, the elect of God.** {GC 18.2} When Christ should hang upon the cross of Calvary, **Israel's day as a nation favored and blessed of God would be ended. The loss of even one soul is a calamity infinitely outweighing the gains and treasures of a world; but as Christ looked upon Jerusalem, the doom of a whole city, a whole nation, was before Him**--that city, that nation, which had once been the chosen of God, His peculiar treasure. {GC 20}

Christ saw in Jerusalem a symbol of the world hardened in unbelief and rebellion, and hastening on to meet the retributive judgments of God. {GC 22.1}

14. Before destruction came to Jerusalem, what did Jesus do and how did His professed people respond and react? Matthew 23:30-38 _____

15. Read the following scripture and write down your thoughts. 2 Chronicles 36:14-19 _____

16. Why did the Jewish leaders seek to destroy Jesus? John 11:46-53 _____

They hated Christ because His purity and holiness revealed their iniquity; and they accused Him of being the cause of all the troubles which had come upon them in consequence of their sins. Though they knew Him to be sinless, they had declared that His death was necessary to their safety as a nation. "If we let Him thus alone," said the Jewish leaders, "all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation." John 11:48. **If Christ were sacrificed, they might once more become a strong, united people.** Thus they reasoned, and they concurred in the decision of their high priest, that it would be better for one man to die than for the whole nation to perish. {GC 27.1}

17. In the context of the above scripture and quotation, how would Micah 3:10-12 apply? _____

18. What was the Lord seeking to get from His people? Isaiah 5:1-7 _____

19. What is the condition to bear fruit? John 15:5,8-10 _____

20. What great sin did the Jews commit, what great sin will the Christian world commit? _____

The great sin of the Jews was their rejection of Christ; the great sin of the Christian world would be their rejection of the law of God, the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. The precepts of Jehovah would be despised and set at naught. **Millions in bondage to sin, slaves of Satan, doomed to suffer the second death**, would refuse to listen to the words of truth in their day of visitation. **Terrible blindness! strange infatuation!** {GC 22.2}

21. How many days before the Passover, did Jesus have a conversation with His disciples on the Mount of Olives in Matthew 24? _____

Two days before the Passover, when Christ had for the last time departed from the temple, after denouncing the hypocrisy of the Jewish rulers, He again went out with His disciples to the Mount of Olives and seated Himself with them upon the grassy slope overlooking the city. **Once more He gazed upon its walls...** {GC 23.1}

What was the conversation about, just two days before the death of Jesus? _____

In the reign of Herod, Jerusalem had not only been greatly beautified, but by the erection of towers, walls, and fortresses, adding to the natural strength of its situation, **it had been rendered apparently impregnable.** {GC 26.1}

The disciples had been filled with awe and wonder at Christ's prediction of the overthrow of the temple, and they desired to understand more fully the meaning of His words... **Herod the Great had lavished upon it both Roman wealth and Jewish treasure, and even the emperor of the world had enriched it with his gifts. Massive blocks of white marble**, of almost fabulous size, forwarded from Rome for this purpose, formed a part of its structure; **and to these the disciples had called the attention of their Master, saying: "See what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"** Mark 13:1. {GC 24.3}

22. Note: The following is one of many applications.

"Make America Great Again." <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

"How Donald Trump's Nationalism Won Over White Americans" <http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-nationalism-racism-make-america-great-again-521083>

"Trump brings campaign populism to Washington" <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/20/politics/2017-inauguration-trump/>

"Pope Francis: Don't Judge Trump Prematurely, but He May Be Like Hitler..." Roman Catholic Church leader **Pope Francis has said it is too early to pass judgment on U.S. President Donald Trump**, and urged people to wait before criticizing him. **At the same time, he also pointed out that populist leaders of the past, like Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler, were also supported by the people.** <http://www.christianpost.com/news/pope-francis-judge-trump-prematurely-like-hitler-173355/>

A powerful nationalism surges through our country. It points to the feelings of dispossession that have been abroad in our land. It hints of past betrayal. It calls forth sentiments of heartfelt patriotism rooted in the historic legacy of the American experiment in freedom and democracy. It signals a nostalgia for the past and searches for renewed greatness in our nation. **As a new administration and Congress begin, the merger of populism and nationalism** at work in the cultural and political currents of **the United States compels us to explore deeply the nature of both nationalism and patriotism** and to evaluate them in the light of our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ. <http://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2017/01/24/what-catholic-response-rise-nationalism>

23. What's the Secret to Donald Trump's Appeal? Nationalism" <http://www.breitbart.com/immigration/2015/08/07/whats-the-secret-to-donald-trumps-appeal-nationalism/>

That thought of Americanism, of nationalism, is something to reckon with. I am an American. I am not ashamed of it; but I am not proud of it; and that makes all the difference in the world in being able to help people outside of America; for you take any man who is proud of the fact that he is an American, and he has erected a barrier between himself and every soul who is not an American. Anybody who has been in a foreign field has known this fact: **Difficulties which perhaps it has taken years to clear away have been created by those who kept that national spirit forward. It is a part of the old paganism of Rome, that caused men to worship the genius of the empire, instead of God.** That thing is so drilled into men that it clings to the natural heart. It was sometimes taught us in our schools, in the little school histories of the United States. It was worked into us, and made our hearts thrill with the fighting spirit. That same spirit keeps on thrilling in minds and hearts, **even after men have taken up the work of God, and gone out into foreign fields.** {April 9, 1901 N/A, GCB 154.7}

The Lord wants to take that spirit out of our hearts. We are to take up this message of God in the spirit and power of Elijah. How did John the Baptist go forth when he bore the message of the coming Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah? We read in the first chapter of John: **"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." He was "sent from God." It makes all the difference in the world whether a man is sent from God, or whether he is sent from America or from some other land. You find this spirit of nationalism in all lands. Wherever you go, in every nation you will find that same national conceit, and every man feels like praising and glorifying his country. Why?--**Simply because it has produced such a great man as I am; that is all. It is simply the conceit of the individual in all the people, **that creates that national spirit of rivalry and self-exaltation that is at the bottom of nearly every war that stirs the surface of our earth.** {April 9, 1901 N/A, GCB 154.8}

There are other quotations of the same thing, **but the nationalist movement sums up all of them,** by proceeding upon the theory that **the people are incapable of doing anything at all for themselves, and therefore the Government, as the universal parent,** must do absolutely everything for them, even to choosing the very tunes that they shall hear. **Of course all who are engaged in these different movements, do not put their respective cases just in this way, that would be rather too raw,** but this is precisely what these things amount to from beginning to end. {April 30, 1891 ATJ, AMS 137.5}

The secret of the whole matter is in the two elements—**the incapability or rather the babyishness of the people, and the personality or rather the deity of the Government. Either of these things lies in the other, and both alike are antagonistic to the principles which are the basis of American institutions.** The first of all American principles, and the grandest of all governmental principles, **is the manliness and in that the entire capability of the people.** And the second is like unto it, namely; the absolute subordination, and in that the total impersonality of the Government. **Both of these things are plainly asserted by the Declaration of Independence.** That reads as follows:—{April 30, 1891 ATJ, AMS 137.6}

It is better to know how to live, than how to die. INTOLERANCE is always glad to shake hands with error. IF you do not have religious liberty to grant to others, you do not have it at all. **To submerge individualism in nationalism,** would be like trying to have dollars without cents. NOT "Remember the Maine," but "The faith of Jesus," is the watchword of Christian warfare. {May 19, 1898 ATJ, AMS 305.1}

24. What did Nebuchadnezzar do and say? What happened to him and his kingdom afterwards? Daniel 4:29-31 _____

25. What prominent sign is mentioned for the destruction of Jerusalem and for the world? Matthew 24:15,16; Luke 21:20,21

When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. **When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay.** {GC 25.4}

26. Note: One application of the above statement is the union of church and state.

27. What was another sign that destruction was near for Jerusalem and its people? _____

The long-suffering of God toward Jerusalem only confirmed the Jews in their stubborn impenitence. In their hatred and cruelty toward the disciples of Jesus they rejected the last offer of mercy. Then God withdrew His protection from them and removed His restraining power from Satan and his angels, and the nation was left to the control of the leader she had chosen. Her children had spurned the grace of Christ, which would have enabled them to subdue their evil impulses, and now these became the conquerors. Satan aroused the fiercest and most debased passions of the soul. Men did not reason; they were beyond reason--controlled by impulse and blind rage. They became satanic in their cruelty. In the family and in the nation, among the highest and the lowest classes alike, there was suspicion, envy, hatred, strife, rebellion, murder. There was no safety anywhere. Friends and kindred betrayed one another. Parents slew their children, and children their parents. The rulers of the people had no power to rule themselves. Uncontrolled passions made them tyrants. The Jews had accepted false testimony to condemn the innocent Son of God. Now false accusations made their own lives uncertain. By their actions they had long been saying: "Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." Isaiah 30:11. Now their desire was granted. The fear of God no longer disturbed them. Satan was at the head of the nation, and the highest civil and religious authorities were under his sway. {GC 28.1}

The leaders of the opposing factions at times united to plunder and torture their wretched victims, and again they fell upon each other's forces and slaughtered without mercy. Even the sanctity of the temple could not restrain their horrible ferocity. The worshipers were stricken down before the altar, and the sanctuary was polluted with the bodies of the slain. Yet in their blind and blasphemous presumption the instigators of this hellish work publicly declared that they had no fear that Jerusalem would be destroyed, for it was God's own city. To establish their power more firmly, they bribed false prophets to proclaim, even while Roman legions were besieging the temple, that the people were to wait for deliverance from God. To the last, multitudes held fast to the belief that the Most High would interpose for the defeat of their adversaries. But Israel had spurned the divine protection, and now she had no defense. **Unhappy Jerusalem! rent by internal dissensions**, the blood of her children slain by one another's hands crimsoning her streets, while alien armies beat down her fortifications and slew her men of war! {GC 29.1}

28. Just before the destruction of Jerusalem what strange event happened? _____

For seven years a man continued to go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, declaring the woes that were to come upon the city. By day and by night he chanted the wild dirge: "A voice from the east! a voice from the west! a voice from the four winds! **a voice against Jerusalem and against the temple! a voice against the bridegrooms and the brides! a voice against the whole people!**" This strange being was imprisoned and scourged, but no complaint escaped his lips. To insult and abuse he answered only: "Woe, woe to Jerusalem!" "woe, woe to the inhabitants thereof!" His warning cry ceased not until he was slain in the siege he had foretold. **Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem.** {GC 30.1}

29. Read the following and write down your thoughts. _____

After the Romans under Cestius had surrounded the city, they unexpectedly abandoned the siege when everything seemed favorable for an immediate attack. The besieged, despairing of successful resistance, were on the point of surrender, when the Roman general withdrew his forces without the least apparent reason. But God's merciful providence was directing events for the good of His own people. The promised sign had been given to the waiting Christians, and now an opportunity was offered for all who would, to obey the Saviour's warning. Events were so overruled that neither Jews nor Romans should hinder the flight of the Christians. Upon the retreat of Cestius, the Jews, sallying from Jerusalem, pursued after his retiring army; and while both forces were thus fully engaged, the Christians had an opportunity to leave the city. At this time the country also had been cleared of enemies who might have endeavored to intercept them. At the time of the siege, the Jews were assembled at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and thus the Christians throughout the land were able to make their escape unmolested. Without delay they fled to a place of safety--the city of Pella, in the land of Perea, beyond Jordan. {GC 30.2}

The Jewish forces, pursuing after Cestius and his army, fell upon their rear with such fierceness as to threaten them with total destruction. It was with great difficulty that the Romans succeeded in making their retreat. The Jews escaped almost without loss, and with their spoils returned in triumph to Jerusalem. Yet this apparent success brought them only evil. It inspired them with that spirit of stubborn resistance to the Romans which speedily brought unutterable woe upon the doomed city. Terrible were the calamities that fell upon Jerusalem when the siege was resumed by Titus. {GC 31.1}

30. Read the following and write down your thoughts. _____

Let men beware lest they neglect the lesson conveyed to them in the words of Christ. As He warned His disciples of Jerusalem's destruction, giving them a sign of the approaching ruin, that they might make their escape; so He has warned the world of the day of final destruction and has given them tokens of its approach, that all who will may flee from the wrath to come. Jesus declares: "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations." Luke 21:25; Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24-26; Revelation 6:12-17. Those who behold these harbingers of His coming are to "know that it is near, even at the doors." Matthew 24:33. "Watch ye therefore," are His words of admonition. Mark 13:35. They that heed the warning shall not be left in darkness, that that day should overtake them unawares. But to them that will not watch, "the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5. {GC 37.2}

The world is no more ready to credit the message for this time than were the Jews to receive the Saviour's warning concerning Jerusalem. Come when it may, the day of God will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in traffic, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world's progress and enlightenment, and the people are lulled in a false security--then, as the midnight thief steals within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly, "and they shall not escape." Verse 3. {GC 38.1}

31. What did Jesus do during the final week of His earthly ministry? Why do you think He did that? Luke 19:45-48
