

A. Time of anguish and liberation.

- ❖ “Great changes are about to take place in the world, and the final movements will be rapid” (EGW, T19, 11) .
What will these events be?
 - **Rev. 22:11** . The trial ends and every case is decided. The door of grace closes.
 - **Is. 8:21-22; Jer. 30:7**. Time of anguish. The wicked act without moral restraint, and the righteous do not know if they have been forgiven.
 - **Rev. 15:7-8; Psa. 27:5** . The last 7 plagues fall on the unrepentant. God's people are guarded and protected.
 - **Rev. 16:14; 1Jn. 3:2-3** . Each group prepares to meet Jesus. Some to fight against Him; the others to receive him with joy.
- ❖ When Jesus concludes his work of mediation and the Holy Spirit withdraws from the unrepentant, each person's fate will be sealed. The faithful will continue to have divine help and protection, while the wicked will be at the mercy of Satan. Each one will show with his character who he has decided to serve.

B. Time of terror and joy.

- ❖ The wicked (Revelation 6:16):
 - They have rejected the Law of God; They have rejected the living water and have dug for themselves “broken cisterns” (Jer. 2:13). Now they come face to face with the Judge. They can only expect wrath and condemnation. Who will free them? (Isa . 2:19; Rev. 6:16).
- ❖ The redeemed (Isaiah 25:9):
 - They have been faithful to the Law of God; They have drunk of the water of life (Rev. 21:6). Now they look face to face with their Judge. They can only hope for salvation. How can they not burst into praise? (Isa . 25:9; Rev. 15:3-4).

C. Time of desolation and judgment.

- ❖ Time of desolation:
 - When Jesus comes, the saints of all ages will be resurrected; and the living faithful, transformed, will ascend with them to go to Heaven with Jesus (1Thes. 4:16-17).
 - The wicked will die in the presence of Jesus. Their corpses will remain unburied and, finally, no trace of life will remain on Earth (Jer. 25:33; Rev. 19:17-21; Jer. 4:23-26; Is. 24:3).
 - At that time, Satan and his angels will be locked in the abyss for a thousand years, unable to deceive anyone (Rev. 20:1-3).
 - The abyss (*abyssos* , place of darkness), perfectly describes the situation on Earth at that time. Without human life in it, no demon will tempt. It will be a time of reflection for the rebellious angels, bound by the chain of circumstances, without the possibility of leaving the desolate Earth.
- ❖ Judgment time:
 - If the Judgment was celebrated before the Second Coming, and Jesus already executed the sentence, giving eternal life to those who believed in Him... what sense does a new judgment have (Rev. 20:4)?
 - For centuries, God has shown his love and offered salvation to anyone who would receive it. It has also allowed evil to fully develop.
 - During the Judgment, all the worlds and faithful angels have been able to witness the justice and mercy of God in his dealings with sin and rebellion. Now, they have before them the real result of satanic rule: an empty and desolate land.
 - But those of us who have lived in the enemy's territory during the conflict, now redeemed, will also need to witness the justice and mercy of God. In the millennial judgment we will be so fully convinced of God's love that evil will never rise again (Nah . 1:9).

D. Time of life and death.

- ❖ At the end of the millennium, the wicked are resurrected. They accept Satan's direction again, and fight again against God and the saints. Nothing has changed, and all are destroyed by fire (Rev. 20:5-9).
- ❖ But before they are destroyed, a final trial is held. The books are opened, and everyone recognizes in them their actions and their rejection of the loving callings of the Holy Spirit. All accept God's justice, and bow their knees before Him (Rev. 20:11-13; Is . 45:23; Phil . 2:10).
- ❖ Far from living eternally (to be eternally punished), they suffer a “second death,” from which there is no resurrection (Rev. 20:14-15; Ps. 37:20; Mal. 4:1; Is . 26: 14).
- ❖ Death and sin are over. It is time to wipe away every tear and enjoy eternal and happy life (Rev. 21:4).

E. Time to love and be loved.

- ❖ And what will we do on the New Earth for all eternity?
 - The cross of Christ will be the science and song of the redeemed throughout eternity.
 - On [...] peaceful plains, on the edge of [...] living streams, God's people [...] will find a home
 - There immortal intellects will contemplate with eternal delight the wonders of creative power
 - Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased
 - The acquisition of knowledge will not tire the intelligence or exhaust the energies
 - The greatest undertakings will be able to be carried out, the most sublime aspirations will be satisfied, the loftiest ambitions will be realized.
 - New heights will arise to overcome, new wonders to admire, new truths to understand, new objectives that sharpen the faculties of the spirit, soul and body.
 - They share [with unfallen beings] the treasures of knowledge and understanding acquired over centuries and centuries in the contemplation of the works of God
 - With clear vision, they consider the glory of Creation: suns and stars and systems that, in the order assigned to them, circle the Throne of Deity

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