

THE STUDY OF LAST DAY EVENTS

THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

How much time do I have? Time is a very important factor in the Christian's life, as well as everybody else, but there are many people today that don't know that time is running out. The apostle Paul says in Romans 13:11 "That, knowing the time, that now is high time to awake out of sleep; for now, is our salvation (the second coming of Jesus Christ) nearer than when we believed." There are many hoping that they can put their lives together before probation closes. The worst thought that any Christian could have been to find out that time has run out and that they are not saved. When will God's mercy run out? How will I know that probation is close? What event brings on the close of probation? Does it close for everyone at the same time? We will try to answer these questions tonight.

A. What divine decree will close the time of probation for the entire human family?

1. Revelation 22:11, 12 _____

2. "God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close, or when probation will have an ended. Those things that are revealed we shall accept for ourselves and for our children; but let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty." 1SM 191; 7BC 989
3. "So, when the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced, and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not." GC 615

B. What two occasions, at least, in the past has there been a general close of probation for many people?

What's the first one?

1. Matt, 24:37, 38 _____

2. "There was a shut door in Noah's day. There was at that time a withdrawal of the Spirit of God from the sinful race that perished in the waters of the Flood... (Gen. 6:3). 1SM 63
3. "Before the flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in, and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life, and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "shall also the coming of the Son of man be." [2

MATT. 24:39.] Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men." GC 491

What's the second one?

1. Gen 19:28, 29 _____

2. "There was a shut door in the days of Abraham. Mercy ceased to plead with the inhabitants of Sodom..." 1SM 63
3. "Love for perishing souls inspired Abraham's prayer. While he loathed the sins of that corrupt city, he desired that the sinners might be saved. His deep interest for Sodom shows the anxiety that we feel for the impenitent. We should cherish hatred of sin, but pity and love for sinner. All around us are souls going down to ruin as hopeless, as terrible, as that which befell Sodom. Every day the probation of some is closing." PP 140

C. Are there individual in the Bible who made decisions that closed their own probation, so that Holy Spirit can no longer reach them?

1. Mark 10:17 - 22 _____

2. John 13:27 _____

3. "Every day the probation of some is closing. Every hour some are passing beyond the reach of mercy." PP 140
4. "Every day we have been association with men and women who are judgment bound. Each day may have been the dividing line to some soul: someone may have made the decision, which will determine his destiny. What has been our influence over these fellow travelers? What efforts have we put forth to bring them to Christ?" 5T 466

D. Do we know when our own period of probation may close?

1. Lev. 10:1 – 3 _____

2. 1 Sam. 6:6, 7 _____

3. Acts 5:1 – 11 _____

4. “We know not how soon our probation may close. At the longest, we have but a brief lifetime here, and we know not how soon the arrow of death may strike our hearts. We know not how soon we may be called to give up the world and all its interests.” MH 45

E. What act of the angel in Revelation 8 will indicate that Christ's intercession ministry on behalf of sinners is forever finished?

1. Revelation 8:5 _____

2. What is the significance of the censor being thrown down? _____

3. Revelation 15:8 _____

F. What does the parable Luke 12:16-21 teach us?

1. _____

2. 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." GC 38

3. “The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided . . . This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. 7BC 976

G. What great trial will I have to endure before the close of probation?

1. Rev. 13:15 – 17 _____

2. “The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided . . . This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. 7BC 976
3. “The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the souls need to be supplied.” COL 412

H. What is the promise of those who stand?

1. Daniel 12:1 _____

2. Rev. 7:1 – 3 _____

3. “I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues.” EW 36

Let us remember that time is short and that we must make use of every moment that is given to for the cause of Christ.