

THE STUDY OF LAST DAY EVENTS

THE SHAKING AND SIFTING

Up until now, we have studied events that are happening now and will soon come to past and be fulfilled. In studying those we now see that we must give serious attention to preparing ourselves to be ready when the event comes to past. Tonight we will be studying the Shaking and Sifting. When people hear this subject they always think it will happen to someone else. But tonight we want to take a close look at the Shaking. What is it? How does it affect us? How can I withstand it? When will it come? Why must it come? We will attempt to answer those questions tonight.

A. What does the Bible say about the Shaking and Sifting?

1. Heb. 12:26, 27 _____

2. Amos 9:9 _____

3. Luke 22:31 _____

B. Is apostatizing (the “shaking of members out of God’s church) limited to bygone centuries only?

1. “I saw that we are now in the shaking time. Satan is working with all his power to wrest souls from the hand of Christ and cause them to trample underfoot the Son of God.” 1T 429

2. “If we only knew what is before us we would not be so dilatory in the work of the Lord. We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands. If we make no effort to win souls to Christ we shall be held responsible for the work we might have done, but did not do because of our spiritual indolence.” 6T 331

3. Even in our day there have been and will continue to be entire families who have once rejoiced in the truth, but who will lose faith because of calumnies and falsehoods brought to them in regard to those whom they have loved and with whom they have had sweet counsel. They opened their hearts to the sowing of tares; the tares sprang up among the wheat; they strengthened; the crop of wheat became less and less; and the precious truth lost its power to them." TM 411

C. What experience of the near future will greatly increase the number of apostasies for the church?

1. Mark 4:14 – 19 _____

2. "The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church." 5T 81

3. "The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending." 5T 463

D. Beside persecution, what other causes are there for the "shaking" of God's people?

1. 2Tim. 4:10 _____

2. "I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people." EW 270

3. “God's Spirit has illuminated every page of Holy Writ, but there are those upon whom it makes little impression, because it is imperfectly understood. When the shaking comes, by the introduction of false theories, these surface readers, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand. They slide into any position to suit the tenor of their feelings of bitterness . . .” TM 112

E. Has our entire church membership ever been composed of true Christians?

1. Matthew 13:24 -30 _____

2. “...There are not more than half of the young who profess religion and the truth who have been truly converted.” 1T 158

3. “I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved.” 1T 608

F. When the "mighty sifting" takes place, what will become of the unconsecrated members of our church? What about the faithful members what will become of them?

1. “When the day comes when the law of God is made void, and the church is sifted by the fiery trials that are to try all that live upon the earth, a great proportion of those who are supposed to be genuine will give heed to seducing spirits, and will turn traitors and betray sacred trusts. They will prove our very worst persecutors.” 6BC 1065

2. “The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves.” 4T 89

3. “Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.” GC 602

G. What causes the Shaking?

1. Rev. 3:16 _____

2. 2Tim. 3:12 _____

3. 2Thess. 2:9-12 _____

4. “No efforts to win souls.” 6T 323

H. Why must the shaking come?

1. Eph. 5:27 _____

2. “God is sifting His people. He will have clean and holy church. We cannot read the heart of man. But the Lord has provided means to keep the church pure.” 1T 99

3. “...The church may appears it’s about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, which the sinners in Zion will sifted out. The chaff separated from the precious wheat.” 2SM 380

The question is what will shake you from the church? Are you prepare to hang in until it’s over and done and we are safe on the peaceful shores?