

The Four Winds

Presentation Notes (February 3, 2018)

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Super Typhoon Tip

- **Oct 12, 1979** – Super Typhoon Tip formed over the Pacific Ocean
- It became the largest storm ever recorded in modern history
- Tip's diameter of circulation spanned approx. **1,380 miles (2,220 km)**, setting a record for the largest storm on Earth
- Peak winds gust up to **190 mph (306 kph)**
- It slowly weakened before making landfall in southern Japan on Oct. 19, 1979.
- The extreme winds knocked over a gasoline storage tank, causing an explosion and fire that spread rapidly through a U.S. Marine Corps camp at Mt. Fuji.
- Extensive flooding destroyed more than 20,000 homes in Japan, while hundreds of mudslides occurred.
- High-rise buildings in Tokyo swayed from the high winds.
- Tip claimed the lives of 86 people and injured hundreds of others.

The Coming Storm

- **Education, 179,180 (1903)** - Angels are now restraining the winds of strife that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom, but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.

What do the “Winds” Represent? (2 slides)

- **The Great Controversy, 614 (1911)** - As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.
- **Early Writings, 280.2** - While Jesus had been standing between God and guilty man, a restraint was upon the people; but when He stepped out from between man and the Father, the restraint was removed and Satan had entire control of the finally impenitent.
- **Imagine if almost everyone in your neighbourhood was fully demon-possessed! Will it be worse than Sodom?**

Prophetic Reactions (4 slides)

- **Dan 12:1** - there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time...
 - **There have been some terrible times - the Dark Ages, WWI & II.**

- **The Great Controversy 622.4** - It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal.
- **Hab 3:16** - When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble...
- **The Bible doesn't sugar-coat what this time will be like.**
- **Does it provide any clues as to what we might expect to experience?**
- **What is your reaction?** Back in the 90's, an anonymous survey of students done at Southern Adventist University found that:
 - 56% were scared of last day events
 - 41% would rather die than go through last day events (*Even EGW's eldest son was glad he would not have to pass through them – mentioned on his death bed*)

A Taste of Things to Come? (3 slides)

- **Have we already seen a preview of the time of trouble?**
- **Rev 7:2,3** - And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.
- **Ellen White's Vision (Early Writings, 38)**
 - Jesus, as our High Priest, looked at the remnant and saw they were not ready
 - He cried "*My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!*"
 - The four angels were about to let the four winds blow
 - While their hands were loosening, God sent another angel to bid them hold until the saints were sealed
- **Has this happened already? It is likely. If so, then when?**
 - Some time after 1844
 - Some time before the present? (very likely)
 - **The World Wars perhaps?**
 - Between 1940-1942, the entire world experienced "an extreme climatic anomaly" that spawned some of the highest and lowest temperatures of the 20th century (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1256/wea.248.04/pdf>)
 - Cold weather played a key role in causing the retreat of the German advance into Russia in 1941 – this was a key turning pointing in the war on the Eastern Front

Time of Trouble Timeline

- Taken from chart by **Elder James L. Hayward** (wrote excellent book, **The Time of the End**)
 - Little Time of Trouble

- Sunday Law – sign to leave the large cities
- Latter rain/Sealing time
- Satan counterfeits 2nd advent, mark of the beast
- Probation closes
- Great Time of Trouble
 - 7 last plagues commence
 - Death decree – saints flee to the mountains (Time of Jacob’s Trouble)
 - Ends with a special resurrection of those who have heard the 3rd angel’s message, and finally with Christ’s second coming

Q1: What will the Weather be like? (4 slides)

- **Matt 24:20,21** - But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- **Job 38:22,23** - Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?
 - **The seasons will continue until the end of time (God promises this in Gen 8:22)**
- **Rev 16:9** - And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.
 - **The plagues will not be universal, otherwise the inhabitants of earth would be wholly cut off (GC 628.2)**

Q2: What will Food be Impacted? (3 slides)

- **Hab 3:17,18** - Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.
- **Manuscript 2, 1858** - I saw that a time of trouble was before us, when stern necessity will compel the people of God to live on bread and water.... and God will provide food for them.
- **Ellen White was shown repeatedly that it was not God’s will for us to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. Anything we lay aside will be taken from us. (Counsels for the Church, 281.4)**
- **She even says “In the time of trouble none will labor with their hands.” We must rely 100% on God for all our needs. (Manuscript 2, 1858)**

Q3: Will there be another World War? (3 slides)

- **Last Day Events 238.3** - Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict, but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is

removed there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels with their living cargo will be entombed in the great deep.

- **The facts:**
 - A world-wide nuclear war is not described in the Bible – however, Ellen White did have visions of “fireballs” from the sky descending onto cities and destroying them (whether this refers to a nuclear attack cannot be verified)
 - With the plagues and increased demand for resources, severe local armed conflicts are a very likely scenario
 - The 20th century was an incredibly bloody one – imagine what will happen when the four angels are no longer restraining human passion. The result is unthinkable.

Isaiah’s Incredible Vision (Isaiah 24)

- Read **Isaiah 24:4-12**
- **Vs 4-5** – the earth wears out like a garment and is defiled, because men have rejected God’s law
- **Vs 6** – the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left
- **Vs 7-9** – “life as usual” is no more, the wicked have no merriment, entertainment, or escape
- **Vs 10-12** – seems to indicate that many cities will be left in desolation and become uninhabitable

Q4: What will the Saints Experience? (7 slides)

- **The Great Controversy, 629 (1911)** - The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation, and suffer for want of food, they will not be left to perish.
- **A PROMISE: Psalm 27:5** - In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me.
- **JACOB’S TIME OF TROUBLE: Manuscript 2, 1858** – Their (*the saints’*) sufferings will be mental...
- **Clearing up Some Misunderstandings**
 - The Spirit is withdrawn from the world, but NOT from the saved!
 - Living without a mediator in Heaven, does NOT mean Christ abandons us!
- **Last Day Events, 266-267** - It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communications between heaven and earth. . . In the midst of the time of trouble that is coming—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God’s chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them.

- **What should we do to prepare?**
 - Study God's Word & Pray as much as possible!
 - Surrender your heart completely to Christ.

Further Reading

- Ezekiel 7
- Habakkuk 3
- Zephaniah 1