

Does Probation Close First for SDA?

Question: I've always, since I started reading EGW, been of the understanding that the close of probation happens for ALL people at the same time. Lately I've started to believe that the close of probation happens for God's people before the rest. And this belief has come to me due to certain preachers. It actually takes away a portion of the hope that I have. I see that you are of the same understanding, that the close of probation comes to God's church first. Where do preachers have this understanding from? Where do you have it from? I cannot find it in the SOP. The Scriptures say that: "Let he who is holy continue to be holy. He who is righteous continue to be righteous etc. , indicating that the close of probation is for ALL at the same time. Can you explain yourself? Can you give me references to the SOP? To the Word of God? . . . this thing about probation closing for God's people first, is confusing.

TC Reply:

Does Probation close first of SDA? 3/16/08 in reply to question

It is easy to understand when you realize that probation's closing has to do with the judgment of the living-- the 'tool' God has chosen for this is the National Sunday Law-- when that hits those who know and understand the issues will be God's Sabbath keeping people-- rapidly they will take their stand either for God and His law or they will capitulate and receive the Mark of the Beast--then their probation is closed. Mercy lingers for those who have had no opportunity to understand the issues-- The Loud cry occurs as those who stand for the truth are sealed and receive the Latter Rain in it's fullness and go forth to the world with the message--the earth is lightened with this message and as people come to know the issues -- they in turn take their stand-- either to obey God or to obey the laws of men. As they do this-- they in turn receive either the seal of God or the Mark of the Beast-- according to the choice they make after understanding the issues involved. This whole procedure is a process-- but it happens quickly-- from USA the Sunday Law soon becomes world wide and the process is repeated in each nation-- within a short time all have made their choices and total probation closes.

By the way-- the SOP is clear on this point.

"Some had been shaken out and left by the way. **The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks.--EW 271 (1858). {LDE 182.1}**

The broken ranks will be filled up by those represented by Christ as coming in at the eleventh hour. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who [now] have no opportunity to learn what is truth. **Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched, His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter.** Large numbers will be admitted who in these last days hear the truth for the first time.--Letter 103, 1903. {LDE 182.2} (A closed door is a close of probation)

Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God.--8T 41 (1904). {LDE 182.3}

God makes the final announcement as seen in Rev. 22 after the Loud Cry has done it's work world-wide. THEN the plagues are poured out.

Also notice the bible:

Eze 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

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6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and **begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.**

This is referring to God's professed people. Not only are God's people hit with judgments first-- but the leadership is hit very first. ([Read 'End of Time'](#))

Question:

Yes, thank you Temcat. I received the e-book.

I'm aware of the text in Hez, and I know that other preachers referred to this one concerning the close of probation coming to the Lord's house first.

But what I mean is that there's still hope for God's people until the end. I'm thinking of some lines I read in Early Writings (don't know where for the moment), where sis. White was shown some people who before had stood upon the platform of truth. They had at this time left the platform, but when light became greater, or the end became nearer (something like that) they again stepped back up on the platform of truth. And they were not forced off the platform. They were welcome to stay.

What is the point in preaching to God's people that the close of probation will visit us first? The way I see it is that the great shaking (due to the straight forward witness) will clean up God's house, but I don't think it's the same as the close of probation for His professed people. People have made hasty decisions before, and they may change their mind. According to God's mercy it should be possible for them to re-enter the fold...

Just some thoughts. What do you say (why speak of the close of probation to God's house first)?

What is it that preachers wishes to achieve by this close of probation speech?

Reply:

I think all of this falls into place as one gets a clearer understanding of the Sunday Law Crisis-- which is the Judgment of the Living-- As it is a Crisis--no one can develop Character at the time when that hits-- All we will do is show the Characters we have already developed-- NOW is the time to make our calling and election sure--When the Crisis hits-- those who are prepared receive the Seal of God and are empowered with the Holy Spirit WITHOUT MEASURE-- and so the Loud Cry goes to the rest of the world. It is because God's professed people KNOW the issues or could have known them they are hit first-- At this crisis events move rapidly--there will be no time to change ones mind and because character is only demonstrated in a crisis-- not formed--no second chance then. We have lots of chances NOW and so I pray we all make the most of the mercy we have now.

The crisis hits God's house first-- then the world is rapidly brought to hear the issues and choose and then close of probation for all and the Seven Last Plagues-- The key point is that some have felt that people could receive the Mark of the Beast-- and then repent and receive the Seal of God--That will not be possible then. Before the crisis-- people can fall and backslide and repent and return-- when the crisis hits-- there will not be time to return.

Remember this reference:

Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters, "Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting." I asked who this company were. The angel said, "These are they who once kept the Sabbath, and have given it up." I heard them cry with a loud voice, "We have believed in Thy coming, and taught it with energy." And while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments and see the writing, and then they would wail aloud. I saw that they had drunk of the deep waters, and fouled the residue with their feet,--trodden the Sabbath underfoot,--and that was why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting. {CET 101.1}

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These folk represent this situation. The Sunday Law Crisis weighs all-- May none of us be found wanting is my prayer.
God Bless!!

Oh - I forgot your second question:

Preachers would present this warning to encourage all to get ready, be ready, and stay ready-- then there is no problem with our assurance. If we place ourself in the relationship with God daily --that we can say-- I am ready should I die today-- there is nothing between my soul and my Saviour-- then we have no worries about the Crisis.

But if we put off putting away our pet sins-- then we need to take action about this. There are those who feel-- "When I see the Sunday Law start--I will put away my sins and seek the Lord then." They will be in the group described in the quotation.

After all- how do we know that we will live to see the crisis hit? I could walk out today and get hit with a truck- drunk driver--and there I am all over the road--Probation for me ended when those wheels crushed me. We all need to be ready to die-- then we have assurance.

God Bless!

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