

What About All Those Emails?

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by Jim Buller — jabuller@juno.com

Several people have written and talked with me recently with questions about all the emails that have been circulating. Although these emails have come from various sources, it has been observed that they carry “a common thread,” and much of the information they contain lines up with the prophecies. The following summary was in an email I received last night. I have edited it somewhat.

- a US financial collapse predicted from September onward
- the US is printing \$2 billion/day to pay for wars and security, and is no longer publishing the M3 figures
- Multiple banks are failing
- Any monetary assets in the banks will be lost
- Military leaders already have their orders for the next crisis
- Troops are being brought back from Iraq to potentially help with crowd control and chaos here in America
- Military families have been given directions to have their cars packed and leave the cities in less than 2 hours following any major event—and go to the mountains
- A major event could include a financial collapse and/or a terrorist attack
- When that happens the cities will be sealed off, and terrible scenes will follow

Given the time of year, all this potentially carries added significance. Tomorrow, September 30, is Rosh Hashanah, the Feast of Trumpets, the beginning of the fall feasts. Even though I am not currently convinced that we should be observing these feasts as such, I know they *do* have post-cross significance as signal events. For example: the armies surrounded Jerusalem, (the Christian’s sign to flee, given in Luke 21:20-21,) during the Feast of Tabernacles in AD 66, and the Romans returned to destroy the city at the time of the Passover in the spring of AD 70. (See *Great Controversy* 30-31.) October 22, 1844 was also the date of the Day of Atonement in that year.

Pages 399-400 in *The Great Controversy*, also point out that in the same way the spring feasts are connected with Christ’s first advent, the fall feasts are connected with His second advent. These pages also contain the statement, “In like manner the types which relate to the second advent must be fulfilled *at the time pointed out in the symbolic service.*” (Emphasis my own.)

This may be more significant than we have previously realized. In *Manuscript Releases Volume Thirteen*, page 394, is the following statement. “We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated. In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that “shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.” [Verses 31-36, quoted.]

Here, Ellen White points to Dan 11:30-36 indicating a future, end-time application. A closer investigation of these verses shows us that in verse 31 the “king

of the North” sets up the “abomination of desolation.” This should immediately cause us to think of Matthew 24:15-16, where Jesus says, “when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet ... flee to the mountains.”

The subject of the “abomination of desolation” is a whole study in itself! (If you would like a copy of my study on this, send an email asking for it to: jabuller@juno.com) For the time being, we will just compare this verse in Matthew 24, with its equivalent in Luke 21:20-21, which says, “when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies ... flee to the mountains.” The signal to flee, for the Christians at that time, was Jerusalem being surrounded by armies. Let’s also compare what both Matthew and Luke tell us with *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 464-465, which says, “As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.” *Our* promised sign is a “decree,” “on the part of our nation,” “enforcing the papal sabbath” —a national Sunday law.

As a side note, let me point out that based just on the wording of the fourth commandment —the Sabbath commandment— we are to keep the Sabbath holy by simply resting and not working. Therefore this “decree enforcing the *papal* sabbath” could simply be a law enforcing Sunday as a national day of rest. There doesn’t *necessarily* have to be anything in the law connected with having to go to church etc. on Sunday. To be our signal event, it just has to be a national law —in the U. S. A.— enforcing rest and not working on Sunday.

This national Sunday law marks the beginning of the Time of Trouble. See Matthew 24:15-16 and 21.

Going back to the fall feasts and Daniel 11 ... The particular sequence of events that result in the “abomination of desolation,” (or national Sunday law), starts in Daniel 11:29. This verse begins with the phrase, “At the appointed time ...” This wording is interesting, because the phrase, “the appointed time,” is the translation for the Hebrew word “*moed*,” which is the same word used to denote the Jewish feasts dates. So apparently something happens at the time of one of the feasts that begins a sequence of events that results in the national Sunday law. And since the *fall* feasts deal with the second coming, it is on one of the fall feasts that we can expect this to happen.

This deserves a *lot more study*, but the sequence of events, beginning with the “appointed time,” and resulting in the “abomination of desolation,” runs something like this:

1. the king of the North invades the king of the South
2. he withdraws the attack due to the “ships of Kittim”
3. because of having to withdraw the attack, he is enraged and turns against the holy covenant
4. and sets up the Abomination of Desolation

Please note that, although the “king of the North” is the one who sets up the “abomination of desolation;” and although *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, quoted

above says the U. S. A. is the one who makes the Sunday law signal event; let me be quick to point out that I do not believe the U. S. A. is the “king of the North.”

All of Daniels prophecies follow the same basic pattern —the flow of superpowers throughout history: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, the divisions of Rome, the Papacy, and end with Jesus’ eternal kingdom. The vision in Daniel chapters 10-12 follow this same basic pattern. The characteristics of the “king of the North” in this last vision also match the characteristics of the “little horn” (another symbol of the Papacy) in Daniel’s other visions. Therefore I believe the “king of the North” to be the Papacy.

Remember also, in Revelation 13 we find close cooperation between the U. S. A. and the Papacy in the end-times. Note also that during the dark ages when the Papacy wanted to do something that required military strength, it got one of its political allies to do it. Therefore, in the end-times we can expect any military action on the part of the “king of the North”/Papacy to come from its chief political ally in the end-times —the U. S. A.

Even though the national Sunday law is enforced by the U. S. A., keep in mind that it is the “papal sabbath,” and the “mark of the beast.” Since the Papacy is still the one behind it all, it can still be said that the Papacy/“king of the North” is the one who sets up the abomination of desolation.

The first sentence of this next quote is the main reason I’m sharing it. But the rest fits what we see happening in the world too well, so I’ve included it also.

Country Living page 10

*“The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with **blinding force**. In the world gigantic monopolies will be formed. Men will bind themselves together in unions that will wrap them in the folds of the enemy. A few men will combine to grasp all the means to be obtained in certain lines of business. Trades unions will be formed, and those who refuse to join these unions will be marked men.” —Letter 26, 1903.*

Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9, page 11 also states that, “the final movements will be rapid ones.” Although the process of the Sunday law becoming a law could take considerable time as it is debated in the courts, it *could* also happen fairly quickly. This becomes more understandable when considering the following quotation from *Testimonies for the Church Volume Five, page 451.*

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, **our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government**, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.”

Put this together with the “executive orders” that have been in place essentially since the Nixon administration. In a national emergency, the President can confiscate any property, relocate the population, and put them to work. When this happens, the American people will become essentially slaves. The Constitution, and the current law making process will only last until a national emergency—and unfortunately, that can be arraigned!

But remember, the angels are still holding back the winds until God’s people are sealed. Hopefully they will hold things back a little longer, as too many of God’s people simply aren’t ready yet. So hopefully it won’t happen *this* year.

But if it doesn’t, will we go back to business as usual? or will we use the extra time to prepare, both spiritually and physically? We had better not go back to business as usual! The term “abomination that causes desolation,” (as it is translated in some versions), literally means things are so bad that they have to be destroyed. This brings to mind the flood in Noah’s time, and Sodom and Gomorrah. This term *is* close of probation language! Which should also remind us of the parable of the 10 Virgins. Even though “probation” in that story doesn’t “close” until the “door was shut” toward the end of the story, it was decisions the girls made *even before the story began* that decided whether they were inside or outside the shut door. The attitudes we have *now*, and the decisions we make *now* are sealing our destiny—*now!!!*

The wise made sure they had extra oil, which represents a desire for an extra amount of the Holy Spirit. The foolish thought they had enough. If God were to give us more time, what would we use that time for? Would we surrender ourselves an *extra* amount to Him? Would we let go of those things that crowd Him out of our lives? Would we get *extra* close to Him? Or will we say, “Whew, that was close,” and settle back to business as usual, stating by our attitude that we think we have enough of God in our lives? Let’s use *whatever* time we have left to heed to words of the angel that said, “Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died.” *Early Writings*, page 64.

Last school year I read a book called, *A Thousand Shall Fall*, to my students. (I believe this book is available at the ABC.) It is about an German Adventist church worker who was drafted into Hitler’s army in World War II. You need to read this book. The three main things I gleaned from it are: ① God *is* able to take care of us no matter what! ② The people who lived in the country were much better off than those in the city. And ③ the phrase, “in endeavoring to save their possessions, they lost their lives.” The person who this story is about, (unfortunately I forget his name), was in the advance unit of engineers, preparing the way for the main army. As they advanced across Eastern Europe, he noticed that the SS was about a day or so behind them, and when the SS would come to a town they would round up the Jews and exterminate them. So, since he was usually a day or so ahead of the SS, he began to warn the Jews as best he could to get out of town and hide. Some did. Others, “in endeavoring to save their possessions, lost their lives.”

This brings me to my next point. When the armies surrounded Jerusalem, Jesus' followers left town! Whether they were ready, or not. Whether they had a "place" to go to, or not. They still left!!! We may have to do the same.

The emails speak of the cities being sealed off, and I know in my area they have had plans to do this for many years already. This sounds a lot like what we have been told in *Country Living*, page 11 (also on 2SM 142) "But ere long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities, that **those who wish to leave them will not be able**. We must be preparing for these issues. This is the light that is given me." (Emphasis my own.)

Even if we have a place in the country, we should have an evacuation plan. We should have:

- personal "grab and go" packs ready with basic survival equipment
- food stuff and utensils, and "camping gear" etc. all boxed or packed up to throw in the car
- an extra gas can with gas, just in case the tank isn't full
- some type of portable housing —that can use wood fuel for heating and cooking.

Plan escape routes, including rendezvous points, alternate routes, with short and longer term destinations. Also have a "contingency plan" for escaping on foot. [Kaywaykla's Story, in "Preparing to Stand" Extra #4 contains much good instruction for escape planning.]

"Remember Lot's wife." Luke 17:32. We also need to prepare ourselves mentally and emotionally to leave it all behind —whether our family and friends come with us or not.

Remember also, there are two parts to the Time of Trouble. The national Sunday law marks the beginning of the first part. Probation doesn't close till the *end* of the first part. The second part of the Time of Trouble is after the close of probation when the 7 last plagues are poured out. During the second part is when we go to the "most desolate and solitary places." (GC 626.)

So, during the first part of the Time of Trouble we will still need to be able to do "missionary work." We won't be just out hiding in the hills trying to survive. We need to keep this in mind when we leave the cities. We also need to be preparing for this last great evangelistic thrust. "In these final hours of probation for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon to be decided forever, the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before." *Prophets and Kings* page 716. We will probably have to rely on different evangelistic methods than we are presently able to use. There will not be much "public evangelism." Instead there may be lots of "Divine appointments." Pray for God to lead you to those He wants you to share with. Learn how this works now. It would also be a good idea to learn what we can from those who have worked in other countries where there has been persecution.

There are many stories in the Bible that follow the pattern of: ① the “birth of a vision” ② the “death of the vision” and ③ the “realization of the vision.” The experience of Moses is a classic example of this pattern. God gave him the vision of delivering his people from Egypt. But his attempt to realize the vision using his own methods resulted in the death of the vision. God had to send him out to herd sheep for forty years to unlearn, and then relearn many things. During the death of the vision phase, God was giving him essential training, so that when the vision was realized he would lead God’s way. The experiences of Joseph, David, and other Bible characters also exhibit this same pattern.

Many of us have the God-given vision of getting out of the cities and into the country. From what I’m seeing and hearing, most of us are in the “death of the vision” phase, as we can’t see how we will be able to move out. But let’s remember, during this phase we should not lose sight of the vision, but focus on cooperating with the training God is trying to give us. So that when the vision is realized, we will do things His way.

Not too long ago I was talking with some friends and we concluded that even though God may not have opened up the way for us to get out of the cities yet, we should still, “go forward,” and do “all that [is] in [our] power to do.” See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 290. Practical ways we can “go forward” in this context would be to: learn country living skills, collect seeds, tools, and other necessary and useful items, and to start gardening, however limited it may be—even if it is just growing food plants in containers indoors, (something we can even do in the winter).

This way we will be more ready when we *are* able to move out. And if God puts us together with someone who already has property, we will be more of an asset, as we will at least bring some skills with us.

Another idea of how we can prepare for the realization of this vision came up just yesterday as we were talking with an Adventist friend who was commenting on how the people in another religious denomination worked together, helped each other out, and generally stuck together; and how in contrast, Adventists are pretty much all off on their own. I’d like to put this together with a collection of quotations a friend sent me a while back. They are centered around the phrase, “press together, press together.” (Again, if you would like a copy, send me an email asking for it.) Below is just a sample (all emphasis my own):

Christian Leadership, page. 11

*“Love of self, pride and self-sufficiency lie at the foundation of the greatest trials and discords that have ever existed in the religious world. Again and again the angel has said to me, “**Press together, press together**, be of one mind, of one judgment.” Christ is the Leader, and you are brethren; follow Him. Walk in the light as He is in the light. Those who walk in the footsteps of Christ shall not walk in darkness, but those who draw apart in unsanctified independence cannot have God’s presence and blessing in the work. ...”*

Selected Messages Book 2, page 374

"Suppose we try daily to have our hearts united in the bonds of Christian love. "I have somewhat against thee," says the True Witness, "because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4). And He says, "Except thou repent," "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place" (Revelation 2:5). Why? —*Because in our separation from one another we are separated from Christ. We want to press together. Oh, how many times, when I have seemed to be in the presence of God and holy angels, I have heard the angel voice saying, 'Press together, press together, press together. Do not let Satan cast his hellish shadow between brethren. Press together; in unity there is strength.'*"

It has been God's plan all along for His people to work together. Throughout the New Testament the subject of spiritual gifts pictures a body working together, with Christ as the Head. But if the different parts of the body are all going in different directions how can it accomplish anything? We need to let God lead us —together.

It has been noticed that at the time of the final flight to the wilderness, God's people will be in groups. (See GC 626, Mar 270, EW 282.) Maybe, in order to do what we need to do now, God is forcing us to press together, and work together. Getting set up on a country property is a lot of work and will take a lot of time. But our focus needs to be on getting the final message out to the last few that will receive it, not just our own survival. After having thought and studied about this for many years, the *only* way I see it happening is voluntarily living a very simple lifestyle, like Jesus did for the sake of accomplishing His mission, (see Matthew 8:20), and working together as a group.

One other thing we need training for is expressed in this quotation from *The Great Controversy*, pages 621-3. "The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried." It will take time and more importantly, *experiences*, to develop *that kind of faith!* I believe, in what many of us are going through now, God is giving us these kinds of experiences to train us to have this kind of faith, and to learn to live by His promises. See *Desire of Ages*, pages 121-122. We will have to do this more and more as we get closer to the end anyway, the sooner we start the better.

Earlier this summer I was reading about Elijah in *Prophets and Kings*. On page 133 I found the following. Notice the last sentence.

"Through the long years of drought and famine, Elijah prayed earnestly that the hearts of Israel might be turned from idolatry to allegiance to God. Patiently the prophet waited, while the hand of the Lord rested heavily on the stricken land. As he saw evidences of suffering and want multiplying on every side, his heart was wrung with sorrow, and he longed for power to bring about a reformation quickly. But God Himself was working out His plan, and *all that His servant could do was to pray on in faith and await the time for decided action.*"

Many of us deeply sense the urgency of getting out of the cities. God has told us to get out, and we long to follow His instruction. Our hearts are "wrung" with the fact that we are still stuck in town, especially as we see the perils piling up all around us.

We must trust that, “God Himself [is] working out His plan,” and as we “await the time for decided action” let us continue to “pray on in faith” and “go forward” doing “all that [is] in [our] power to do.”

Even though we feel the urgency of physical preparation, spiritual preparation *must* be our priority. “We are living too near the close of probation to be content with a superficial work.” *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, page 307. Now is the time to get deep with God. To abide in Jesus. To give oneself to Him to be Spirit filled, and Spirit led.

The ideas and attitude of the following prayer, from *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 159, is what has made Christianity work for me. I share it here in hopes that it will be helpful to you as well. “Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.”

Note also the following verses, in them *God Himself* promises to make us ready for the end-times and His coming. If we cooperate with what He is trying to do in us and through us *He* will see us through. And for what it is worth, I keep coming to the conclusion that it's all about trusting God and surrendering completely to Him moment by moment.

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

Jude 24

“Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

Country Living, page 24 (also on 2SM 360)

“God will help His people to find such homes outside the cities.”

Testimonies to the Church Vol. 5, page 452

“He will restrain the forces of darkness until the warning is given to the world and all who will heed it are prepared for the conflict.”

Country Living, page 6 (also on 2SM 354)

“Those who obey this warning will find a refuge.”