

# THE TRUTH

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## Lesson 5 - The Truth About Last Day Signs Pt. 2

- SIGN# 7: Signs in the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ [Vs. 29]

The most significant event yet to occur in human history is the return of Christ to earth. This will be preceded by signs. In our day, many people take astrology and signs of the zodiac seriously. In North America on August, 21, 2017, there was a total solar eclipse and much of the continent experienced some degree of dusk in the middle of the afternoon, and many got frightened as they witnessed this celestial event.

### SIGNS OF GOD'S ACTIVITY

Signs, in the Scriptures, are not limited to natural occurrences. They are also used to describe divine activity. The Bible speaks of the signs of God's activity in the world by which He gives a message to mankind. Essentially, a sign is a message conveyed by an *action* or a *deed*. The Bible predicts that, there will be signs in the heavens, which will be visible to the human eye. These will not be merely natural occurrences, but occurrences of the kind in which God Himself will do things in the heavens.

**1. When the Lord Jesus was crucified, what certain signs appeared in the heavens and earth?** [Luke 23:45; Matthew 27:50-52] **Ans.** The \_\_\_\_\_ stopped \_\_\_\_\_ and a massive \_\_\_\_\_ occurred.

**NOTE:** At noonday, when Jesus died, we are told that the sun did not shine. For several hours, there was darkness over the whole land and simultaneously a massive earthquake occurred, which opened many graves. By these events, God indicated to those who crucified His Son, His displeasure at their actions. He was warning them by signs that they could see and experience that they had done something very bad, not against man, but against God.

### HISTORY REPEATED

**NOTE:** So the prophecies predict, just as signs accompanied Christ as he was closing out His earthly ministry as a \_\_\_\_\_, there will be certain signs in the sun, moon, and stars and on the earth prior to him closing out His \_\_\_\_\_ ministry. Eight Bible writers mention them:

- JOEL: \_\_\_\_\_
- ISAIAH: \_\_\_\_\_
- MATTHEW: \_\_\_\_\_
- LUKE: \_\_\_\_\_
- AMOS: \_\_\_\_\_
- EZEKIEL: \_\_\_\_\_
- MARK: \_\_\_\_\_
- REVELATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Under which seal and event should we look for the signs in the sun, moon and stars?**

[Revelation 6:12-13; Matthew 24:29] Ans. Under the \_\_\_\_\_ seal

3. What would happen to that specific tribulation, "persecution" and for whose sake? [Matthew 24:21-22] Ans. It would be \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ sake.

The persecution of the church did not continue throughout the entire period of the 1260 years. God, in mercy to His people, cut short the time of their fiery trial. In foretelling the "great tribulation" to befall the church, the Saviour said, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." [Matthew 24:22] Through the influence of the Reformation the (1750) persecution was brought to an end prior to 1798. [Great Controversy, 266.4]

**NOTE:** That is immediately after the tribulation of those means within the period of the [1260] or before 1798 and after 1750.

### OPENING THE SEAL

4. What was the first "sign" to appear as Jesus opened the sixth seal? [Rev 6:12-13] Ans. A great

### HISTORY

November 1, 1755, All Saints Day and a Saturday, dawned bright and clear. But at 9:30 a.m. the ground roared and trembled. The terror of the people was beyond description. Nobody wept; it was beyond tears. They ran hither and thither, delirious with horror and astonishment, beating their faces and breasts, crying, "the worlds at an end!" Mothers forgot their children, and ran about loaded with crucified images. Unfortunately, many ran to the churches for protection; but in vain was the sacrament exposed; in vain did the poor creatures embrace the altars; images, priests, and people were buried in one common ruin. It has been estimated that ninety thousand persons lost their lives on that fatal day. [Encyclopedia Americana, 1831]

In the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded occurred. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles. In Africa the shock was almost as severe as in Europe. A great part of Algiers was destroyed; and a short distance from Morocco, a village containing eight or ten thousand inhabitants was swallowed up. A vast wave swept over the coast of Spain and Africa engulfing cities and causing great destruction.

It was in Spain and Portugal that the shock manifested its extreme violence. At Cadiz the inflowing wave was said to be sixty feet high. At Lisbon "a sound of thunder was heard underground, and immediately afterwards a violent shock threw down the greater part of that city. In the course of about six minutes sixty thousand persons perished. "The shock "of the earthquake" was instantly followed by the fall of every church and convent, almost all the large public buildings, and more than one fourth of the houses. In about two hours after the shock, fires broke out in different quarters, and raged with such violence for the space of nearly three days, that the city was completely desolated. The earthquake happened on a holyday,

when the churches and convents were full of people, very few of whom escaped.” [Geologist Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875) Principles of Geology, 49]

## 5. Why Lisbon?

Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, was a commercial port on the Targus River. Rich and religious in the 1750s, it boasted wealthy merchants and more than forty larges churches. The \_\_\_\_\_ had a headquarters there.

The **Inquisition** (Inquisitio haereticae pravitatis) or the “holy office” is the name of the spiritual court of the Roman Catholic Church for the detection and punishment of those whose opinions differ from the doctrines of the Church. [Neufeld, Don F., Seventh-day Adventist Bible Student’s Source Book] [Washington, D.C. Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1962]

## 6. What were the second and third signs as Jesus opened the sixth seal? [Revelation 6:12-13] Ans.

a. The \_\_\_\_\_ b. The \_\_\_\_\_ turned to \_\_\_\_\_

- [Amos 8:9] declared that the darkening of the sun and moon turning to blood, which the sixth seal referenced, would be within the same twenty-four hour period. One day would be dark and the following night, the moon would be turned to blood.
- [Isaiah 13:6; 9-10] Gives one point to which no other writer refers. “The sun shall be darkened in his going forth” - that is in the morning.

**NOTE:** Twenty-five years later appeared the next sign mentioned in the prophecy; the darkening of the sun and moon. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled.

“Almost, if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and as yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind, stands the dark day of May 19, 1780, a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England.” [M. Devens, Our First Century, 89]

## THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

“Twas on a May-day of the far old year Seventeen hundred eighty, that there fell over the bloom and sweet life of the Spring; over the fresh earth and the heaven of noon, a horror of great darkness. Men prayed, and women wept; all ears grew sharp to hear the doom-blast of the trumpet shatter the black sky that the dreadful face of Christ might look from the rent clouds, not as he looked as a loving guest at Bethany, but with stern Justice.

Meanwhile in the old State House, dim as ghosts, sat the lawgivers of Connecticut, trembling beneath their legislative robes. “It is the Lord’s Great Day! Let us adjourn,” some said; and then, as if with one accord, all eyes were turned to Abraham Davenport. He rose, slow, cleaving with his steady voice the intolerable hush. “This well may be the Day of Judgment which the world awaits; But be it so or not, I only know my present duty, and my Lord’s command To occupy till He come. So at the post where He hath set me in His providence, I choose, for one, to meet Him face to face,--- No faithless servant frightened from

my task, But ready when the Lord of the harvest calls; And therefore, with all reverence, I would say, Let God do His work, we will see to ours. Bring in the candles.” The Connecticut legislature adjourned at eleven o’ clock because the members couldn’t see one another’s face. [John Greenleaf Whittier, “Abraham Davenport,” *Complete Poetical Works*, 260]

## MOON TURNING TO BLOOD

“After midnight the darkness disappeared, and the moon, when first visible, had the appearance of blood”. [The Essex Antiquarian, April 1899, Vol. 3]

“The moon which was at its full had the appearance of blood, the alarm that it caused, and the frequent talk about it, impressed it deeply on my mind” [Samuel Tinny, in *Collections of Massachusetts Historical Society for the Year 1792, Vol. I, pp. 97, 98.*]

**7. What was the fourth and final sign that took place as Jesus opened the sixth seal? [Revelation 6:12-14] Ans.** The falling of the \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** The final sign mentioned in the prophecy, the falling of the stars occurred 55 years later on November 13, 1833.

At the cry, look out of the window, I sprang from a deep sleep, and with wonder saw the East lighted up with the dawn, and meteors. I called to my wife to behold; and while rubbing, she exclaimed: See how the stars fall. I replied, “That is a wonder;” and we felt in our hearts, that it was a sign of the last days. For, truly, the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken by a mighty wind.” [Rev. 6.13] This language of the prophet has always been received as metaphorical [It] was literally fulfilled in the phenomenon of yesterday, so as no man before yesterday had conceived to be possible that it should be fulfilled. And how did they fall....I could not find one so apt to illustrate the appearance of the heavens as that which St. John uses in the prophecy, before quoted. [Henry Dana Ward, in *The New York Journal of Commerce, Nov. 14, 1833, p. 2*]

**PETER MCMILLAN:** The Telescope “estimated that from 100,000 to 200,000 stars fell per hour.”

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN:** “Surely I saw it, but when I looked up into the heavens, I saw what the prophet John said would take place, then I look even beyond that and saw the great constellation still in their place, and I knew that God was still on his throne and all was right the world.”

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS:** “I witnessed this gorgeous spectacle, and was awestruck. The air seemed filled with bright descending messengers from the sky. It was about daybreak when I saw this sublime scene. I was not without the suggestion, at the moment, that it might be the harbinger of the coming of the Son of Man; and in my then state of mind I was prepared to hail Him as my friend and deliver. I had read that the stars shall fall from heaven, and they were now falling. I was suffering very much in my mind I was looking away to heaven for the rest denied me on earth.” [Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, New York: Pathway Press, 1941, 117. Edition 1855]

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