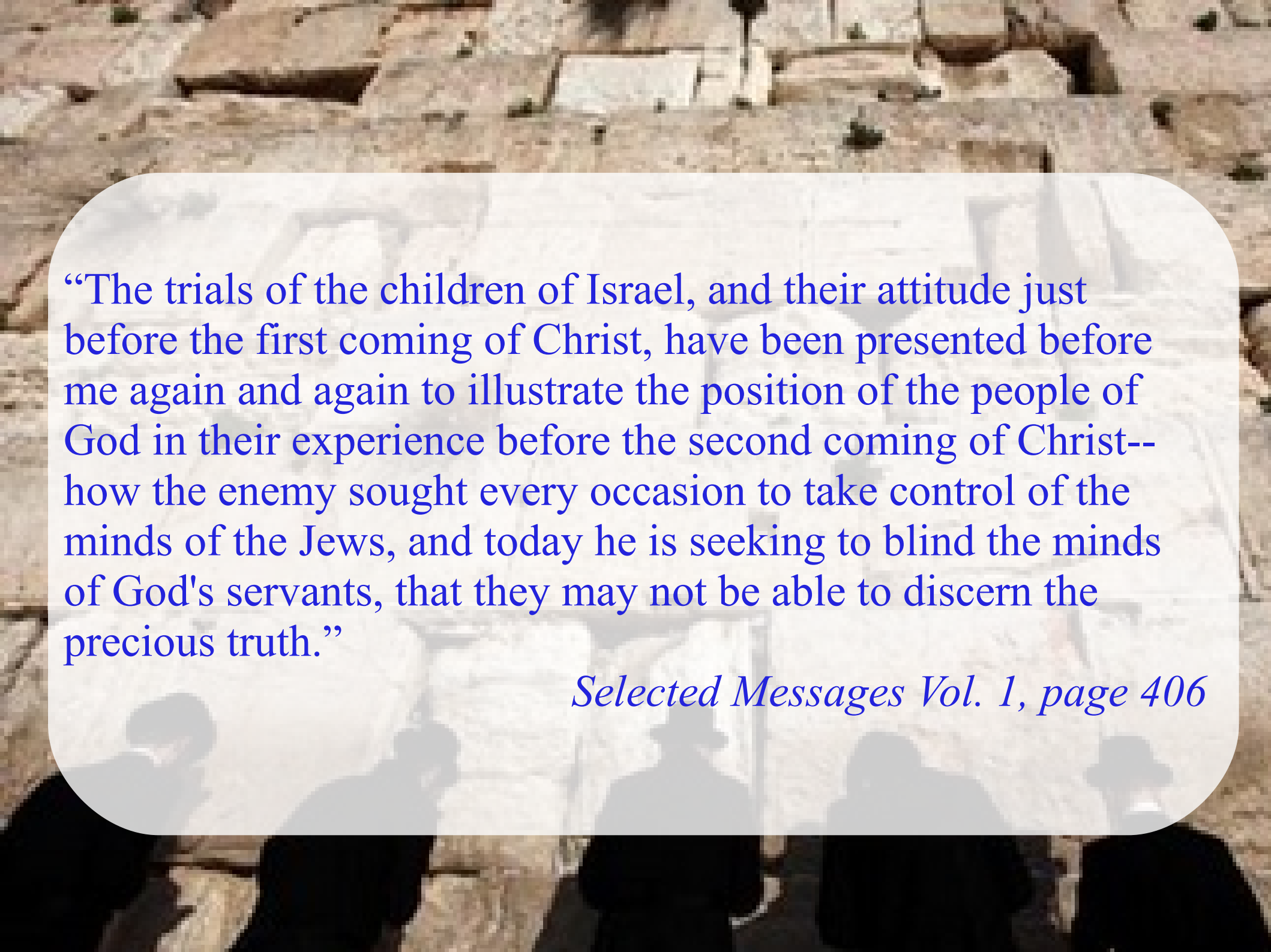


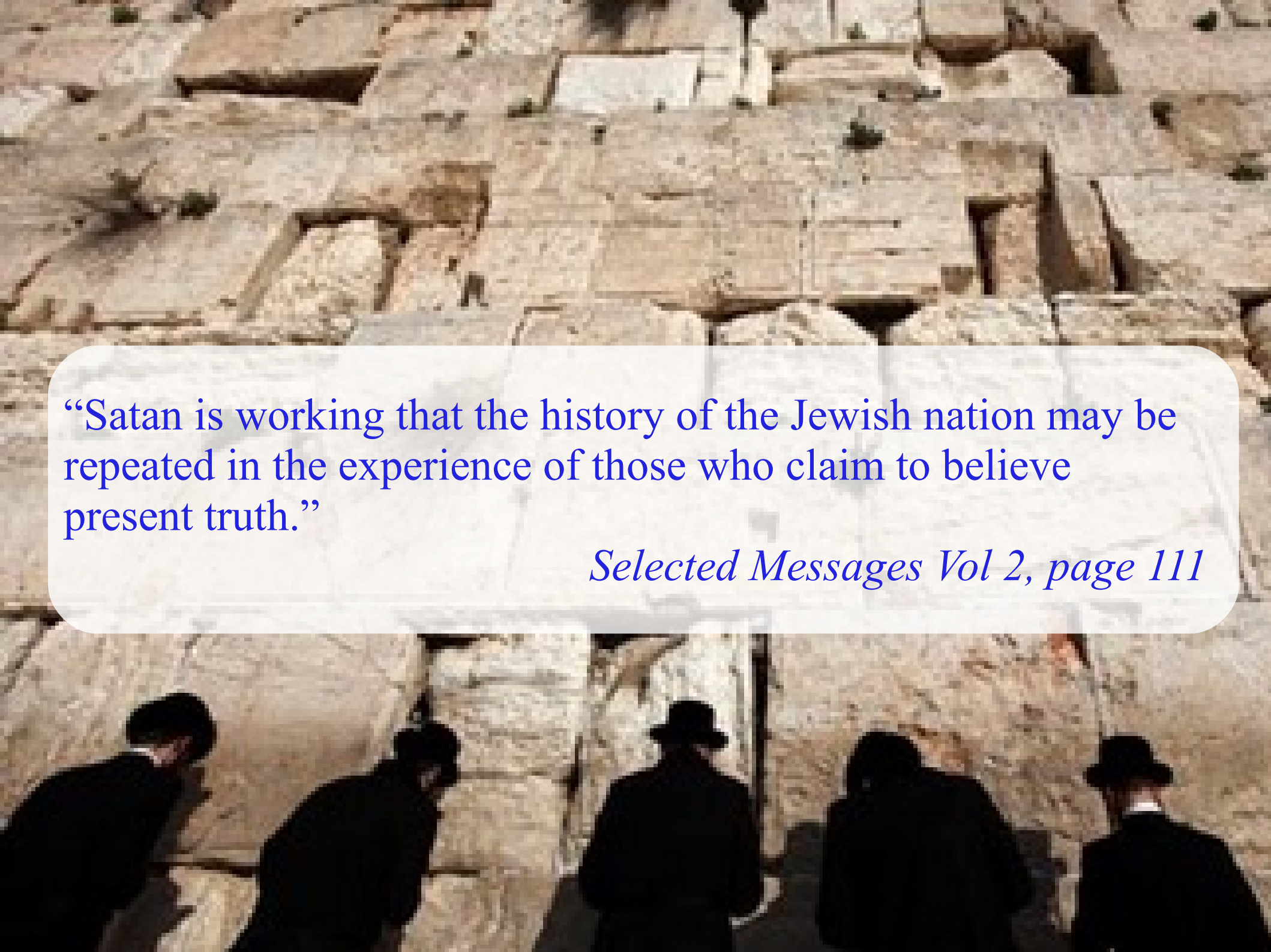
Caught Unprepared
Part 9
The Time of Trouble





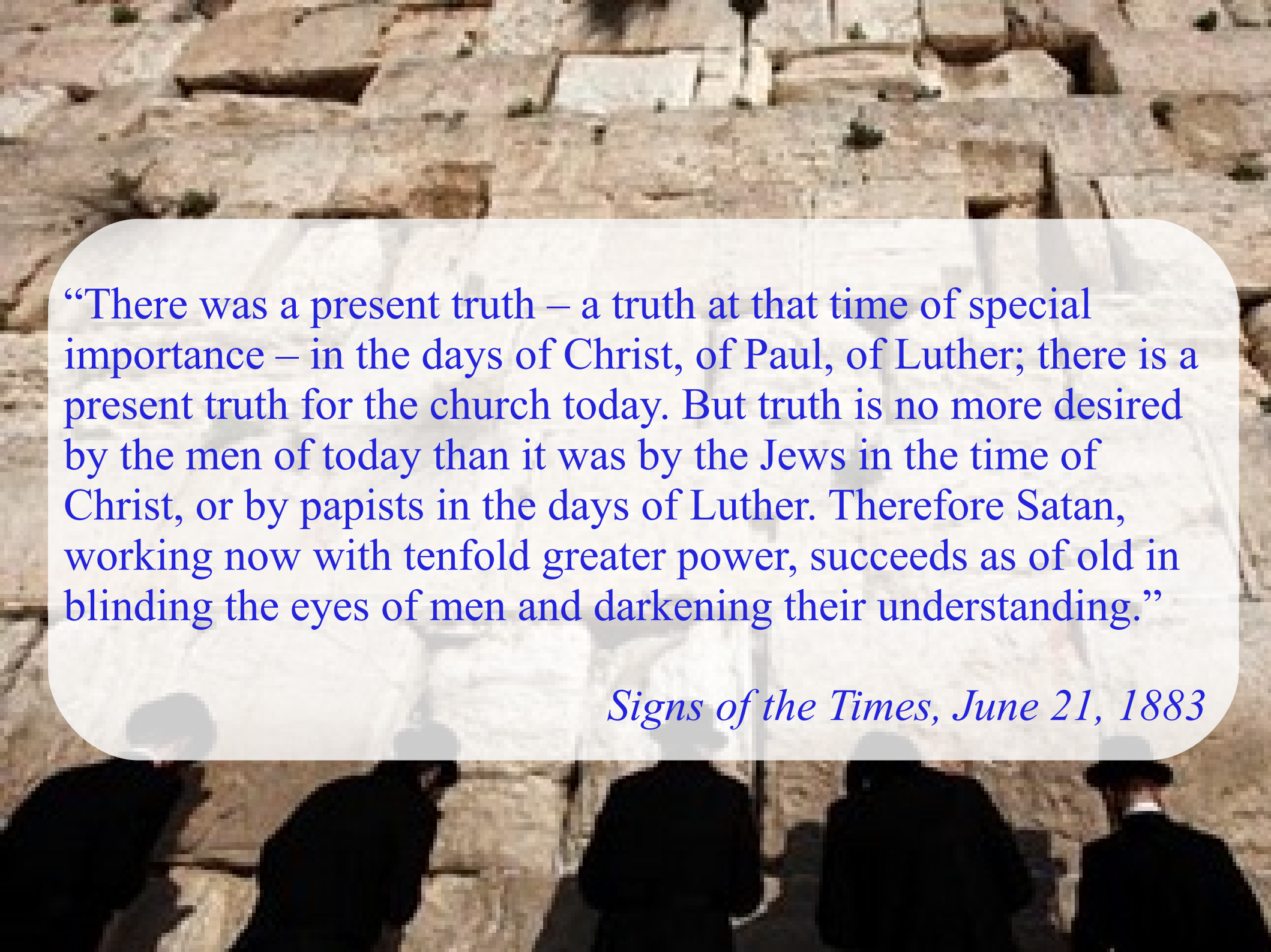
“The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ--how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth.”

Selected Messages Vol. 1, page 406



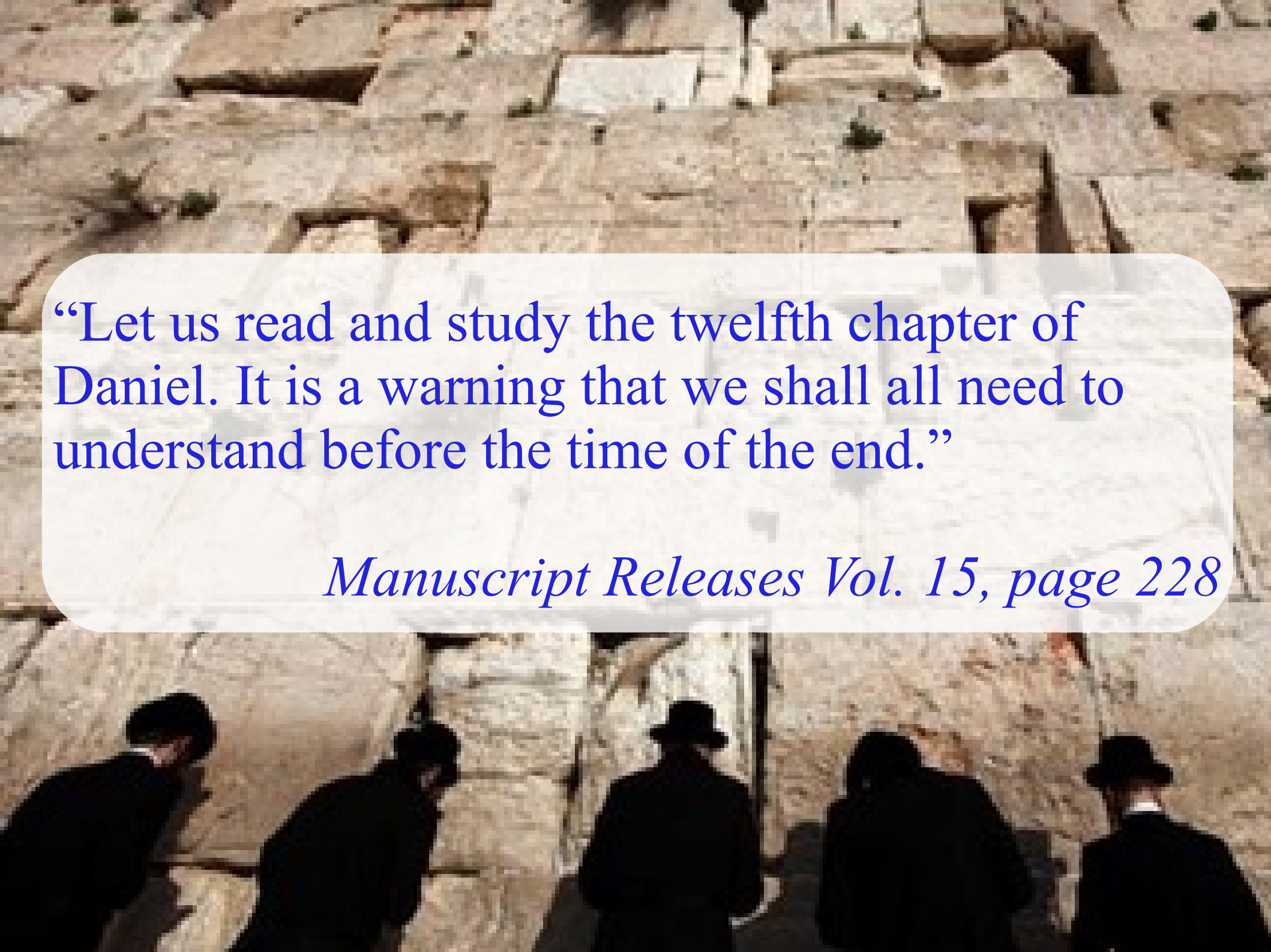
“Satan is working that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present truth.”

Selected Messages Vol 2, page 111



“There was a present truth – a truth at that time of special importance – in the days of Christ, of Paul, of Luther; there is a present truth for the church today. But truth is no more desired by the men of today than it was by the Jews in the time of Christ, or by papists in the days of Luther. Therefore Satan, working now with tenfold greater power, succeeds as of old in blinding the eyes of men and darkening their understanding.”

Signs of the Times, June 21, 1883

The background of the image is a photograph of a weathered, light-colored stone wall. A semi-transparent white rectangular box with rounded corners is centered over the wall, containing blue text. At the bottom of the image, below the text box, the silhouettes of five people wearing dark clothing and hats are visible, standing and looking towards the wall.

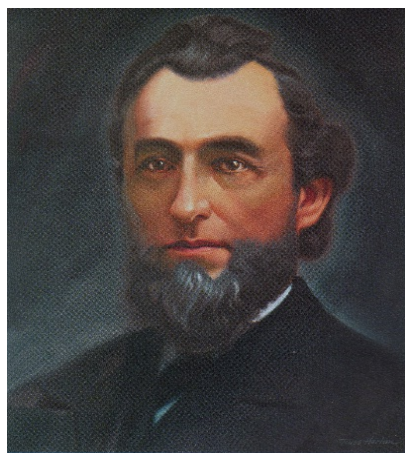
“Let us read and study the twelfth chapter of Daniel. It is a warning that we shall all need to understand before the time of the end.”

Manuscript Releases Vol. 15, page 228

In our previous studies we showed how the Adventist pioneers did not teach that the king of the north was the Papacy. We have also shown that the presentation of Daniel 11 and the king of the north as the Ottoman Empire was the keynote of all Adventist prophecy seminars. Ellen White never made an objection to this mode of preaching but said it aroused much interest. We have also proved that the Ottoman Empire has fulfilled every single word regarding the king of the north in Daniel 11:40-45. In our last study we showed how the time of trouble is to start before the close of probation and how Ellen White even claims it was starting in her day. We also showed how the Sunday law does not come until just before the close of probation, right before the plagues and that there will be no time then to get ready. Today we are going to look more closely at the time of trouble itself along with the history of the 20th century to see if there is enough evidence to support the idea that we have been living in the time of trouble since sometime around 1922.



Ellen G. White - 1827-1915

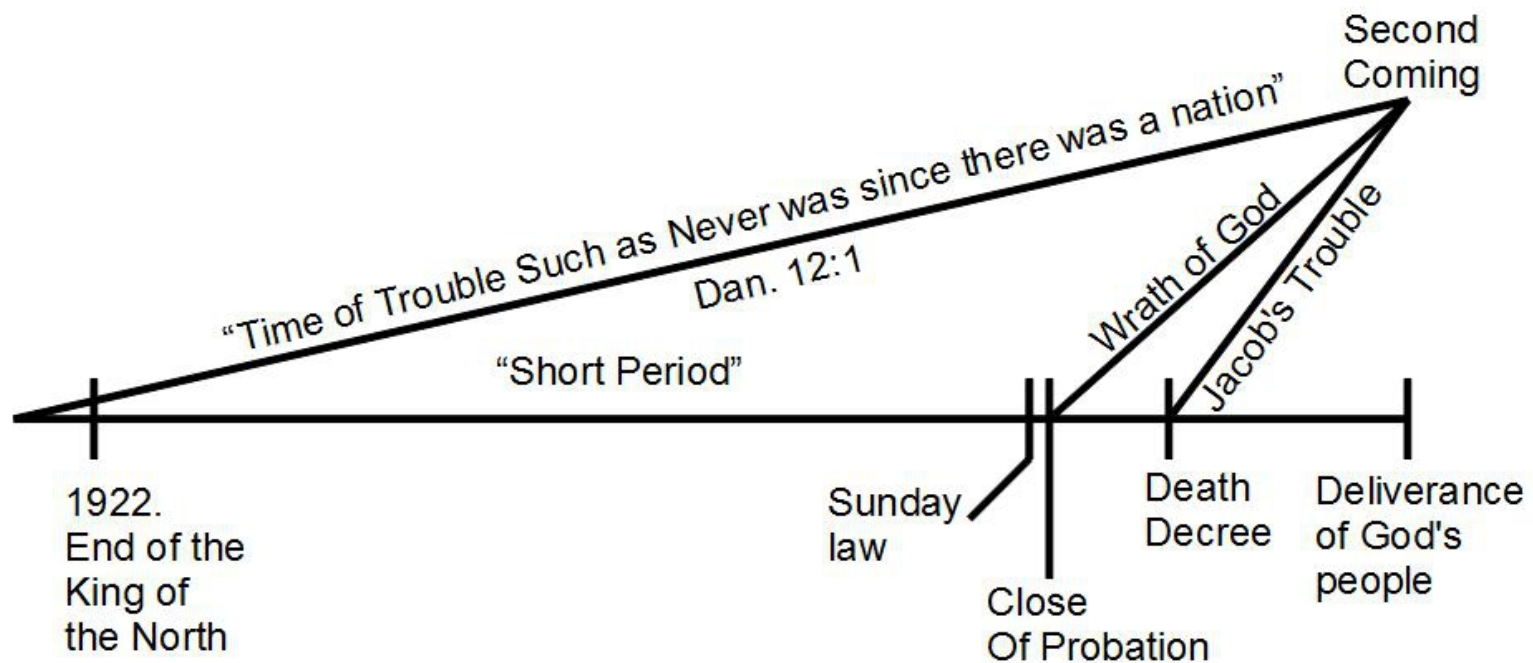


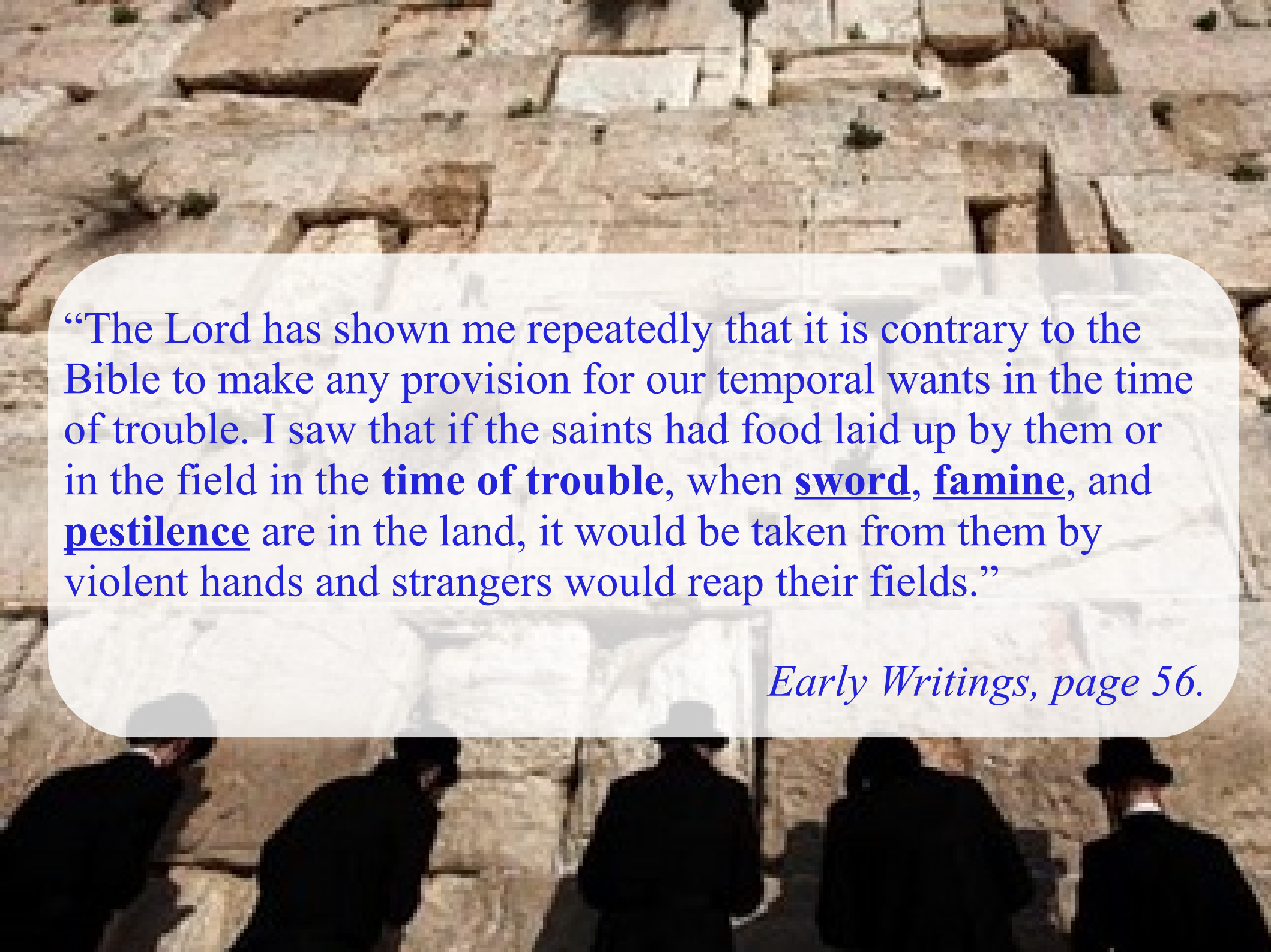
Uriah Smith - 1832-1903



1923, Peace Treaty that Ended World War I

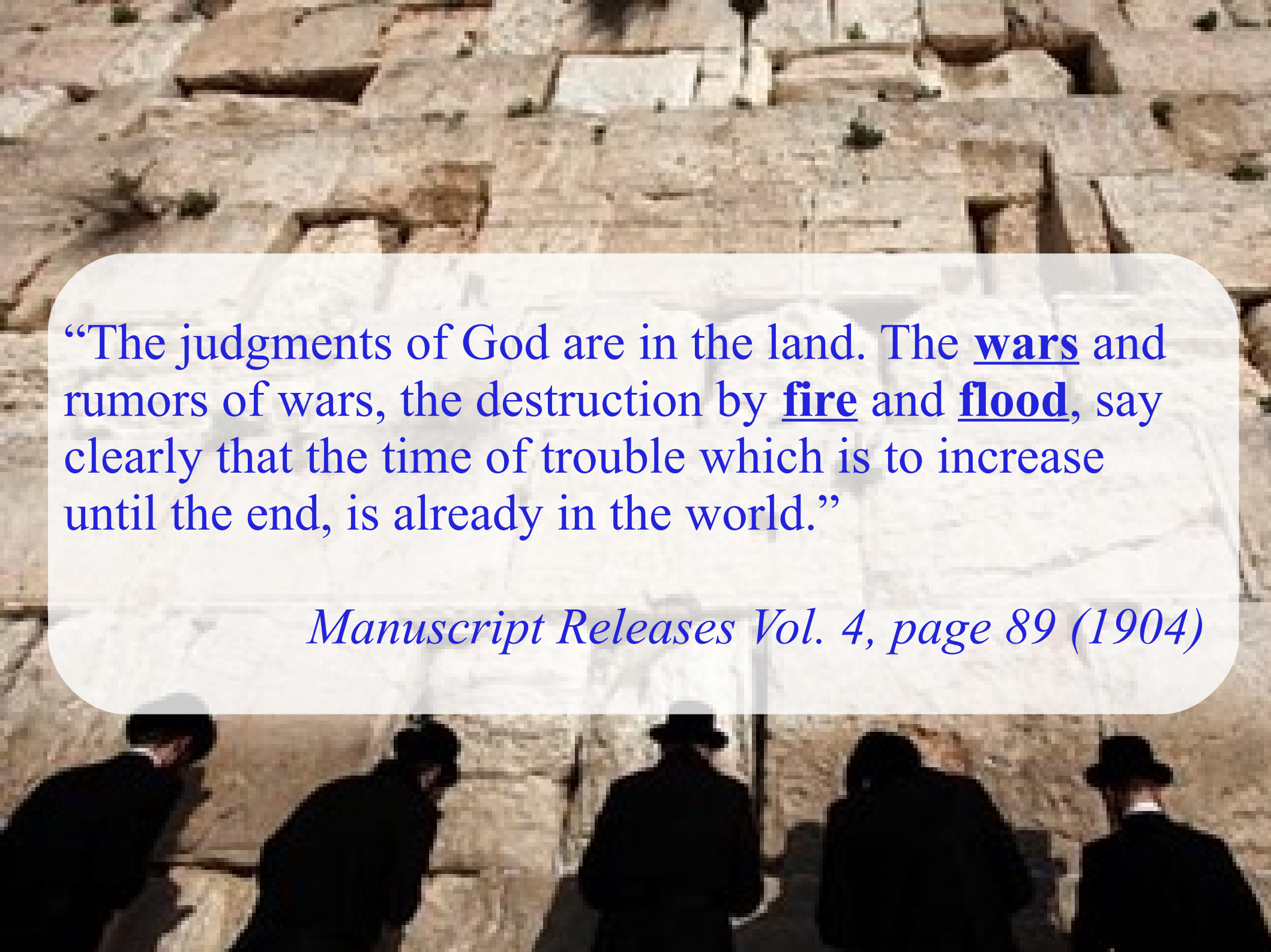
There are three distinct periods within the time of trouble of Daniel 12:1. It is true that when sister White quotes Daniel 12:1 she is often talking about Jacob's trouble. She defines the time of national trouble, Jacob's trouble, and the seven last plagues all of which are covered very briefly by the angel with the words. "A time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." Daniel 12:1. We also saw in our last study that Sunday law comes, not at the beginning of the time of trouble but almost simultaneously with the close of probation.



The background image shows a dry, rocky, and hilly landscape under a clear sky. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people wearing dark clothing and hats are visible, suggesting they are observing the landscape. A large, semi-transparent white text box with rounded corners is centered over the middle of the image.

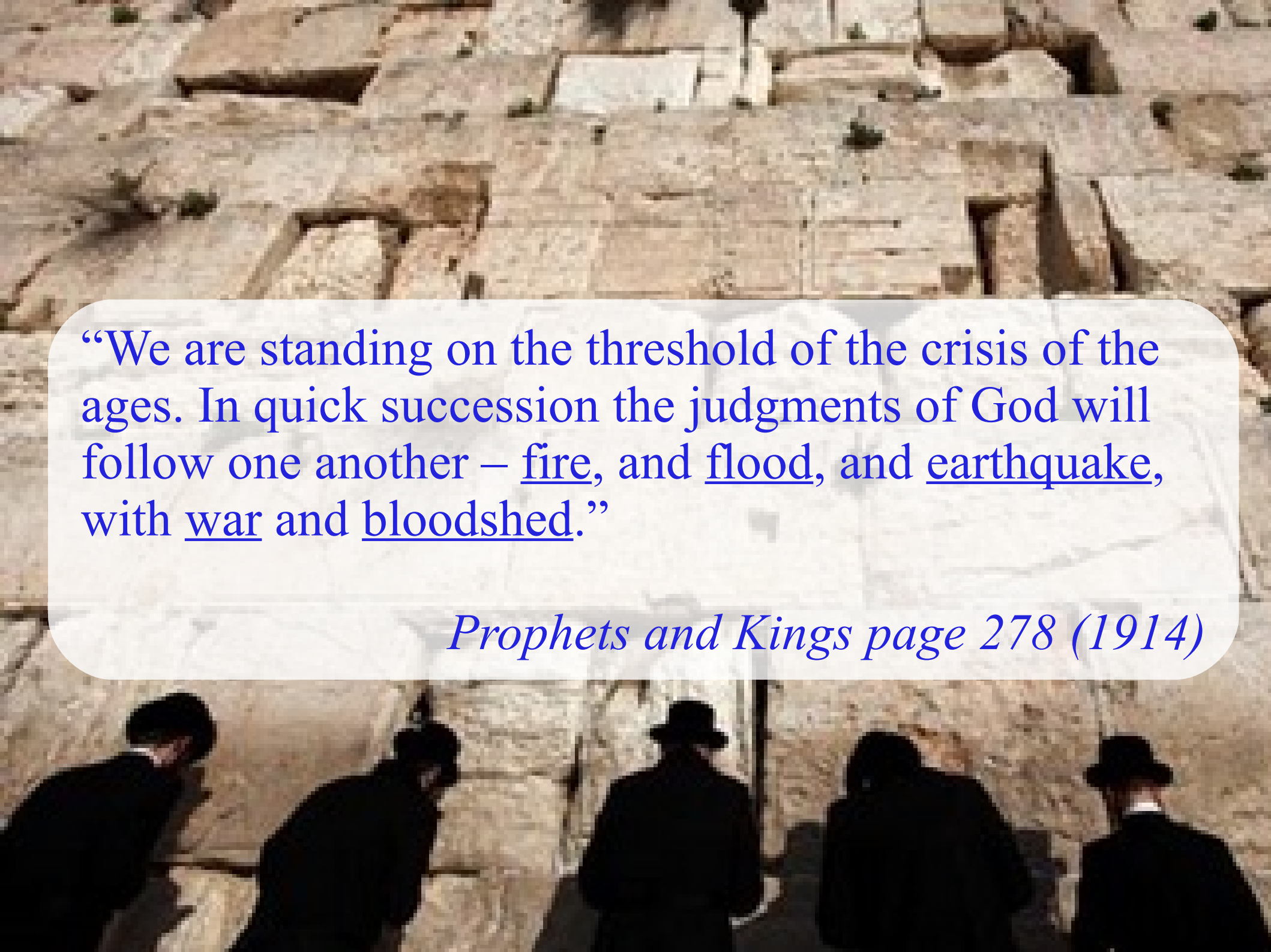
“The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the **time of trouble**, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields.”

Early Writings, page 56.



“The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble which is to increase until the end, is already in the world.”

Manuscript Releases Vol. 4, page 89 (1904)

The background image shows a vast, arid landscape filled with ancient stone ruins. In the foreground, there are large, rectangular stone blocks and walls, some of which are partially buried in the sand. In the distance, more ruins and structures are visible under a clear sky. A semi-transparent white text box with rounded corners is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing a quote in blue text. The quote is: "We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another – fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed." The words "fire", "flood", "earthquake", "war", and "bloodshed" are underlined. Below the text box, the title "Prophets and Kings page 278 (1914)" is written in a blue, italicized font. At the bottom of the image, there is a black and white photograph of five men in dark suits and hats, standing in a line and looking towards the ruins. They appear to be observing the site with interest.

“We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another – fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.”

Prophets and Kings page 278 (1914)

“The time of trouble has already begun. We hear continually of riots and accidents, of murders and robberies. Human life is no longer safe unless under the protection of God. God’s servants must not be surprised that they meet with great difficulties and persecution at this time. In His day, the world’s Redeemer, the Son of God, was shamefully treated by the people He came to bless. He had to go from city to city to ensure His safety, and this persecution followed Him until His work on earth was accomplished.”

*Manuscript Releases, Volume 21, page 101,
Written September 3, 1907*

What does the Time of Trouble consist of? Not just the enforcement of Sunday sacredness (the Mark of the Beast). It consists of – nations getting angry, lawlessness, wars and rumors of wars, destruction by fire and flood, everything in the world being in a state of agitation, the Spirit of God withdrawing from the earth, calamity following calamity by sea and by land, tempests, hurricanes, tornadoes, cloudbursts, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade, insecurity and lack of assurance in anything human or earthly, the world being stirred with the spirit of war, the spirit of war stirring the nations from one end of earth to the other, a period of stormy times for God's people, a time of trial, riots, accidents, murders, robberies where Human life is no longer safe unless under the protection of God.





It is a time of great difficulties, persecution, suffering, calamities and casualties by land and sea, with the state of society being in an unsettled condition, a period with alarms of war, with the agencies of evil combining their forces and consolidating and strengthening for the last great crisis, with great changes taking place, the final movements being rapid ones, having perplexities that were scarcely dreamed of, with all these things forecasting events of the greatest magnitude. Let's take a closer look at the 20th century.





The Trenches – World War I



Street Fighting – World War I

When we consider warfare in history we immediately find that the most destructive wars in history have occurred in the last one hundred years. World War I was the most destructive war and caused more casualties than any previous war in history. There were more than 35 million casualties in this war. Compare this with the Napoleonic wars which killed, at most, about 6.5 million.

But within 20 years, World War II started, which killed more than 70 million people. This war was so bad, it makes World War I, the worst war in history, look like a mild conflict. Never before in history have we had two such devastating wars within 100 years, yet these two wars occurred within 30 years of each other.



Images from World War II



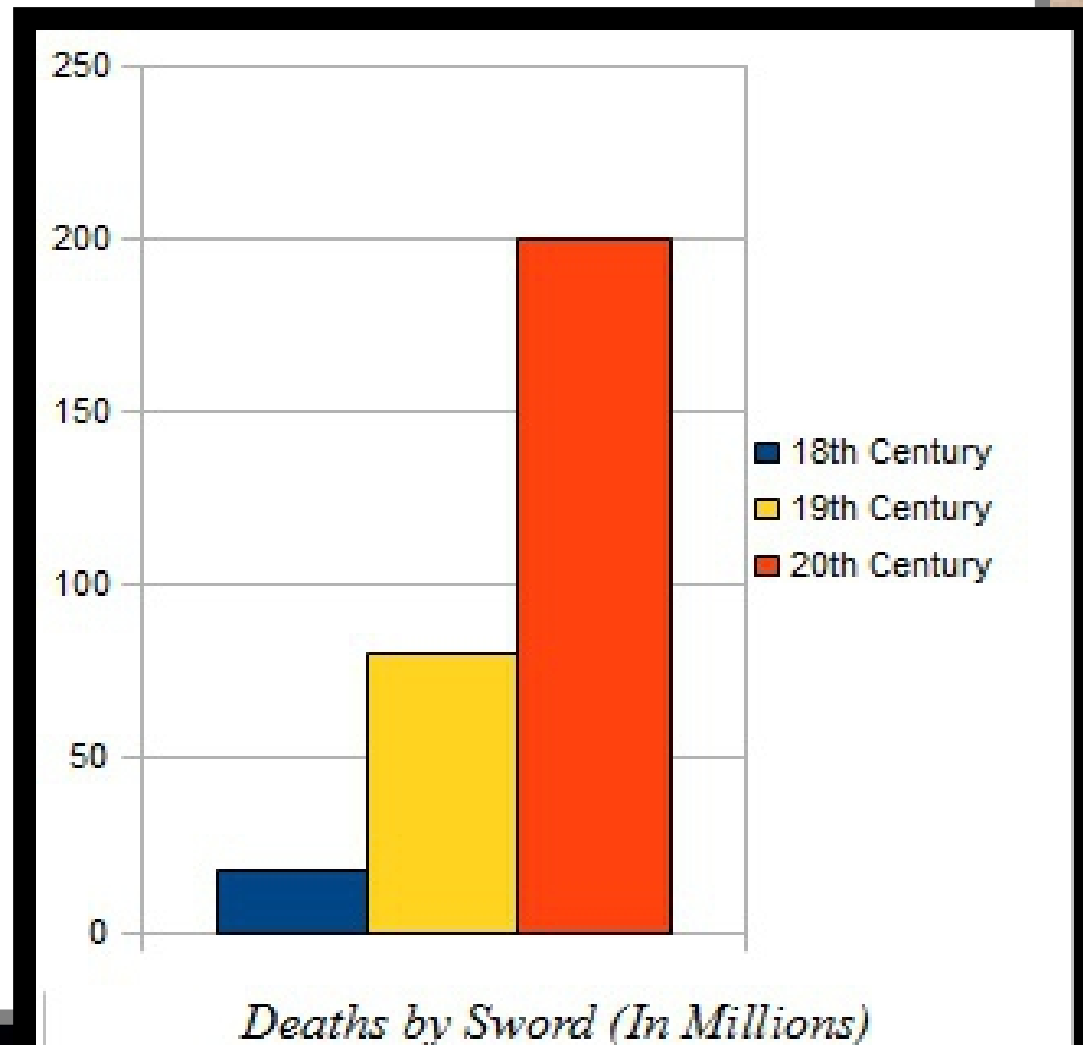
Poland – World War II



Atomic Bomb



Besides the world wars there has been one war after another during the last century. We had the Russian Civil war in 1917, taking 9 million lives, the Mexican Revolution in 1911, with 2 million killed. In 1950 the Korean War killed 3.5 million. Then we had Vietnam with over 6 million. The war on terror itself has claimed more than 4 million lives. In addition to this there are all the genocides that have happened. The last 100 years has been the deadliest century in history and there were many more conflicts during this time that we didn't even mention. In all, there have probably been more than 200 million deaths from the sword, or military operations, in just the last 100 years.



“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. As these things surrounded God's people, they began to press together, and to cast aside their little difficulties... My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for fear, 'and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.'”

Testamonies Vol. 1, page 268



Civil War



World War I



World War II

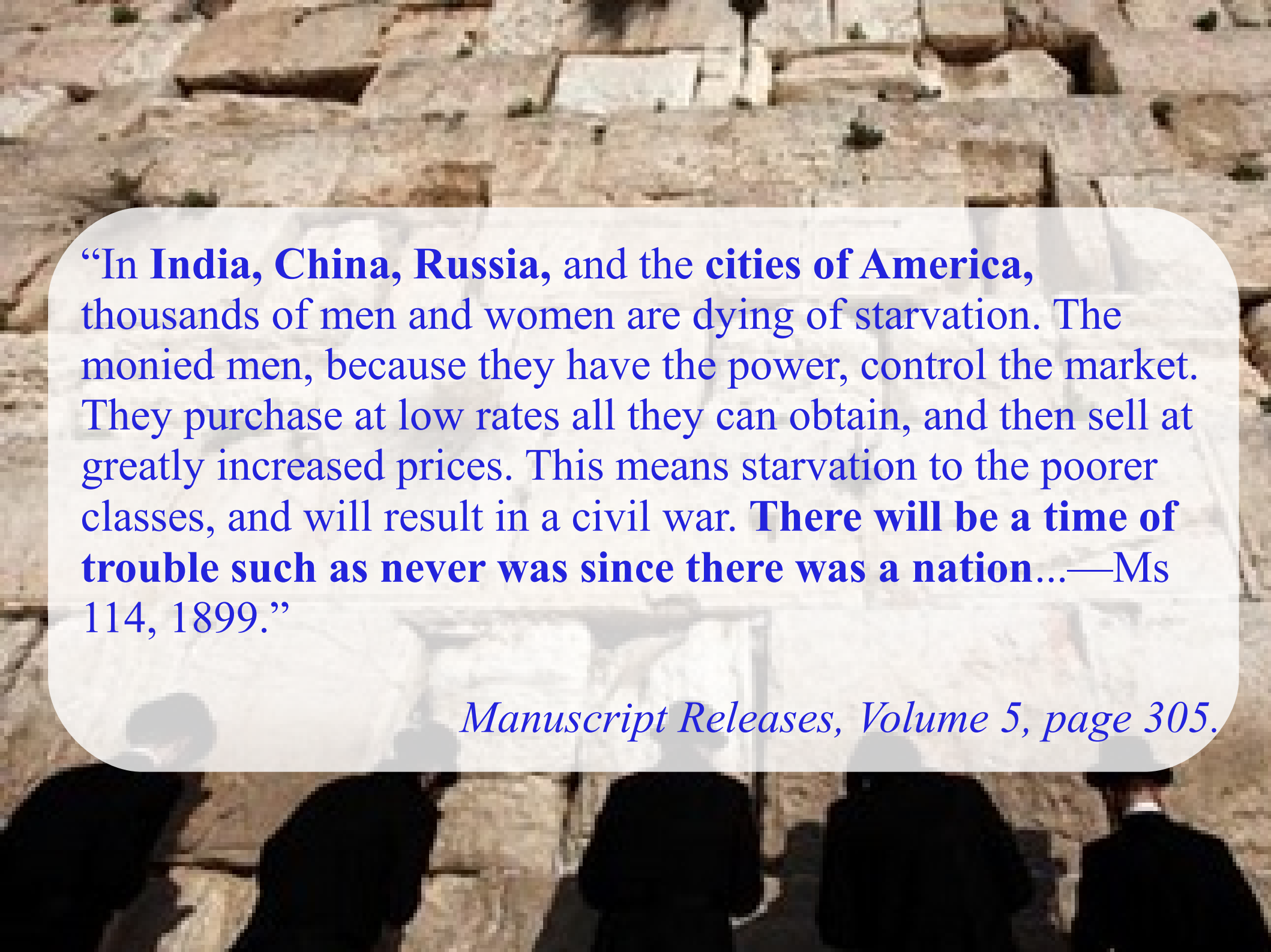
Most Adventists believe that this is predicting wars that are still future, but is it not a perfectly accurate description of World Wars I and II? A terrible conflict, then a time of peace followed by a more terrible conflict with more and different nations involved. Have we not seen men's hearts fail them for fear of a nuclear holocaust ever since World War II? "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7. What is interesting is that Sister White wrote those words during the Civil War, in the middle of an article about that conflict, and modern historians consider the American Civil War to be the first modern war, a foretaste of what would happen in World Wars I & II.

“John writes, ‘I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne.’ Angels were united in the work of Him who had broken the seals and taken the book. 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. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.”

Bible Commentary, Volume 7, page 967.

This was written in 1900. Think about it. The airplane had not yet been invented. Today we not only have war planes, but incendiary bombs, nuclear bombs, Napalm bombs that burn with white hot heat, laser weapons that reduce their targets to the molecular level, and a host of other instruments of warfare that could not even have been conceived of in her day! They are the most sinister and deadly weapons ever known.





“In India, China, Russia, and the cities of America, thousands of men and women are dying of starvation. The monied men, because they have the power, control the market. They purchase at low rates all they can obtain, and then sell at greatly increased prices. This means starvation to the poorer classes, and will result in a civil war. There will be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation...—Ms 114, 1899.”

Manuscript Releases, Volume 5, page 305.

Russia was the first of the nations mentioned to see civil war in 1917. It is interesting the the Bolshevik Revolution began with food riots in the Russian capitol. This was followed by the division of India and Pakistan in 1947. Then we had China in 1949. We have not seen civil war in the cities of America but that time could certainly be coming, we have certainly seen plenty of rioting and violence in American cities in the last 100 years. Can we brush this fulfillment of prophecy aside as insignificant? Are we not nearing the great climax of the time of trouble?



Russian Civil War -1917



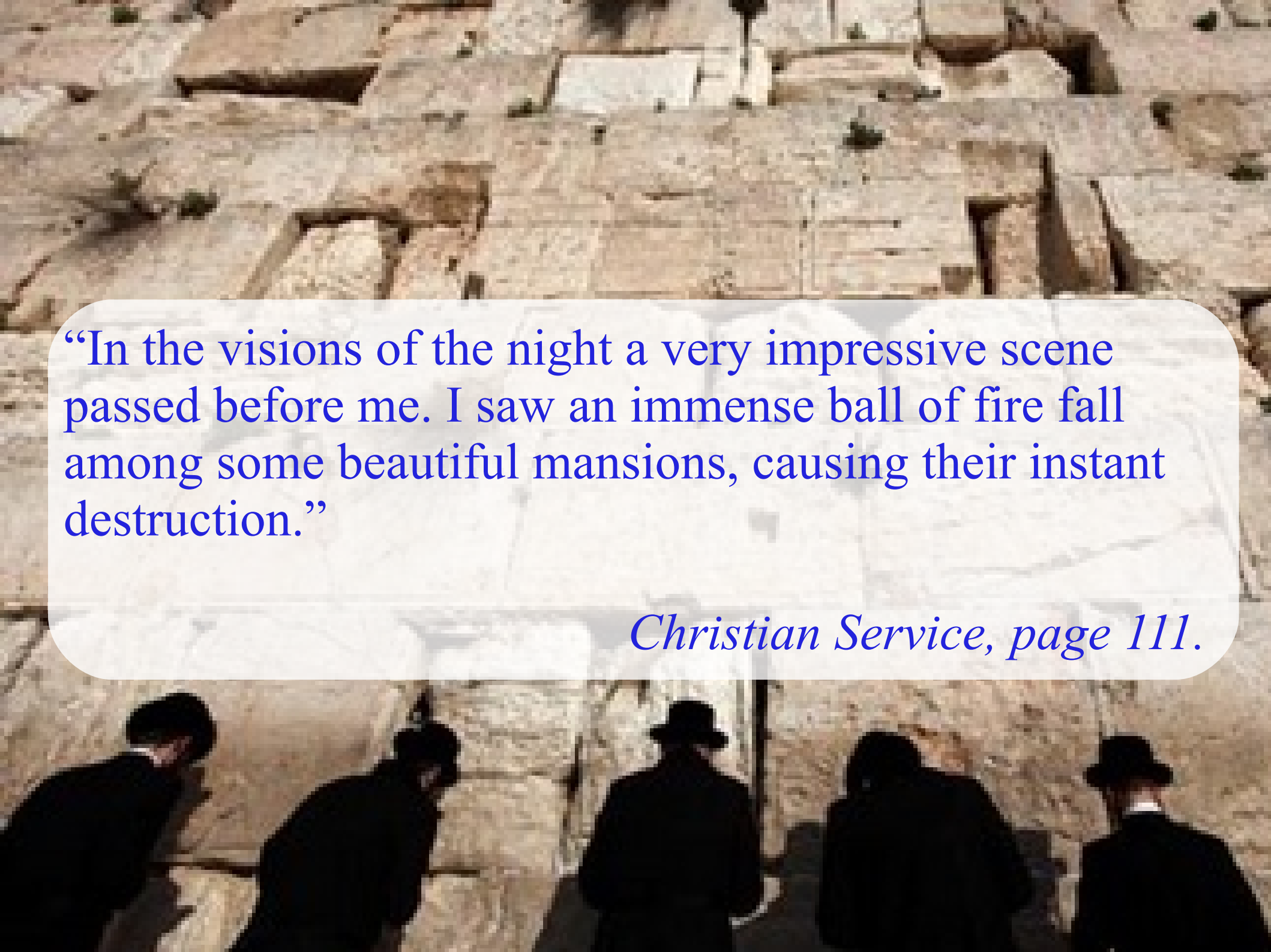
Communist Revolution - 1917



Chinese Civil War - 1949



Indian Civil War - 1947

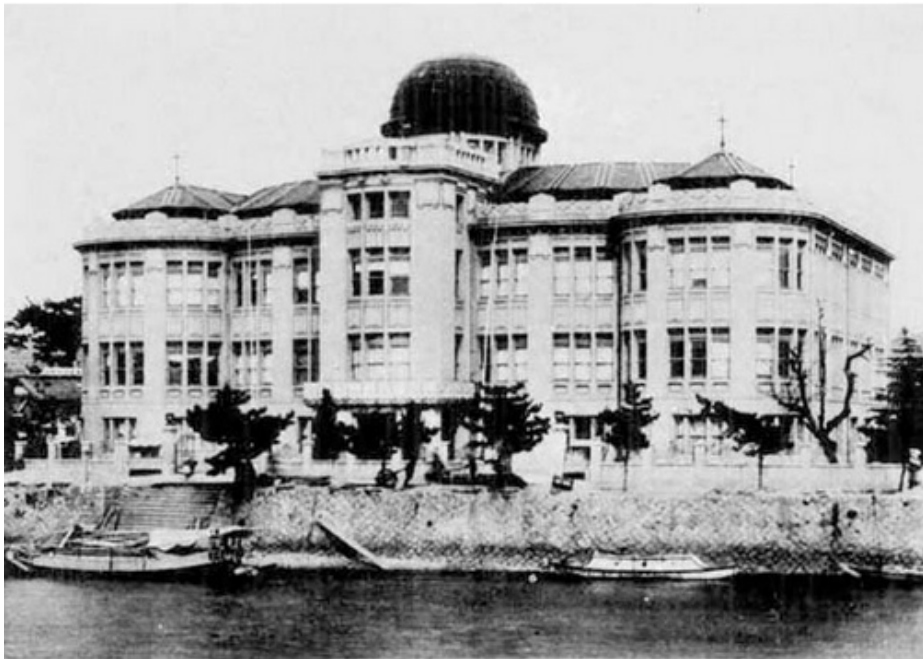
The background of the slide is a photograph of a weathered, light-brown stone wall. A semi-transparent white rectangular box with rounded corners is centered over the wall, containing the main text. At the bottom of the image, the dark silhouettes of several people are visible, suggesting they are standing in front of the wall.

“In the visions of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire fall among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction.”

Christian Service, page 111.

“On August 6, 1945, the first choice target, Hiroshima, was having clear weather. At 8:15 a.m. (local time), the Enola Gay’s door sprang open and dropped “Little Boy.” The bomb exploded 1,900 feet above the city and only missed the target, the Aioi Bridge, by approximately 800 feet... Two-thirds of Hiroshima was destroyed. Within three miles of the explosion, 60,000 of the 90,000 buildings were demolished. Clay roof tiles had melted together. Shadows had imprinted on buildings and other hard surfaces. Metal and stone had melted.”

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/worldwarii/a/hiroshima.htm>



Hiroshima before August 6, 1946



Hiroshima after August 6, 1949

“In the night I was, I thought, in a room but not in my own house. I was in a city, where I knew not, and I heard expression after expression. I rose up quickly in bed, and saw from my window large balls of fire. Jetting out were sparks, in the form of arrows, and buildings were being consumed, and in a very few minutes the entire block of buildings was falling and the screeching and mournful groans came distinctly to my ears. I cried out, in my raised position, to learn what was happening: Where am I? And where are our family circle? Then I awoke. But I could not tell where I was for I was in another place than home. I said, Oh Lord, where am I and what shall I do? It was a voice that spoke, ‘Be not afraid. Nothing shall harm you...’

“I was instructed that destruction hath gone forth upon cities. The word of the Lord will be fulfilled. Isaiah 29:19-24 was repeated. I dared not move, not knowing where I was. I cried unto the Lord, What does it mean? These representations of destruction were repeated. Where am I? ‘In scenes I have represented that which will be; but warn My people to cease from putting their trust in men who are not obedient to my warnings and who despise My reproof, for the day of the Lord is right upon the world when evidence shall be made sure. Those who have followed the voices that would turn things upside down will themselves be turned where they cannot see, but will be as blind men.’”

Manuscript Releases, Volume 11, page 361 (1906)



Dresden Germany - 1890's

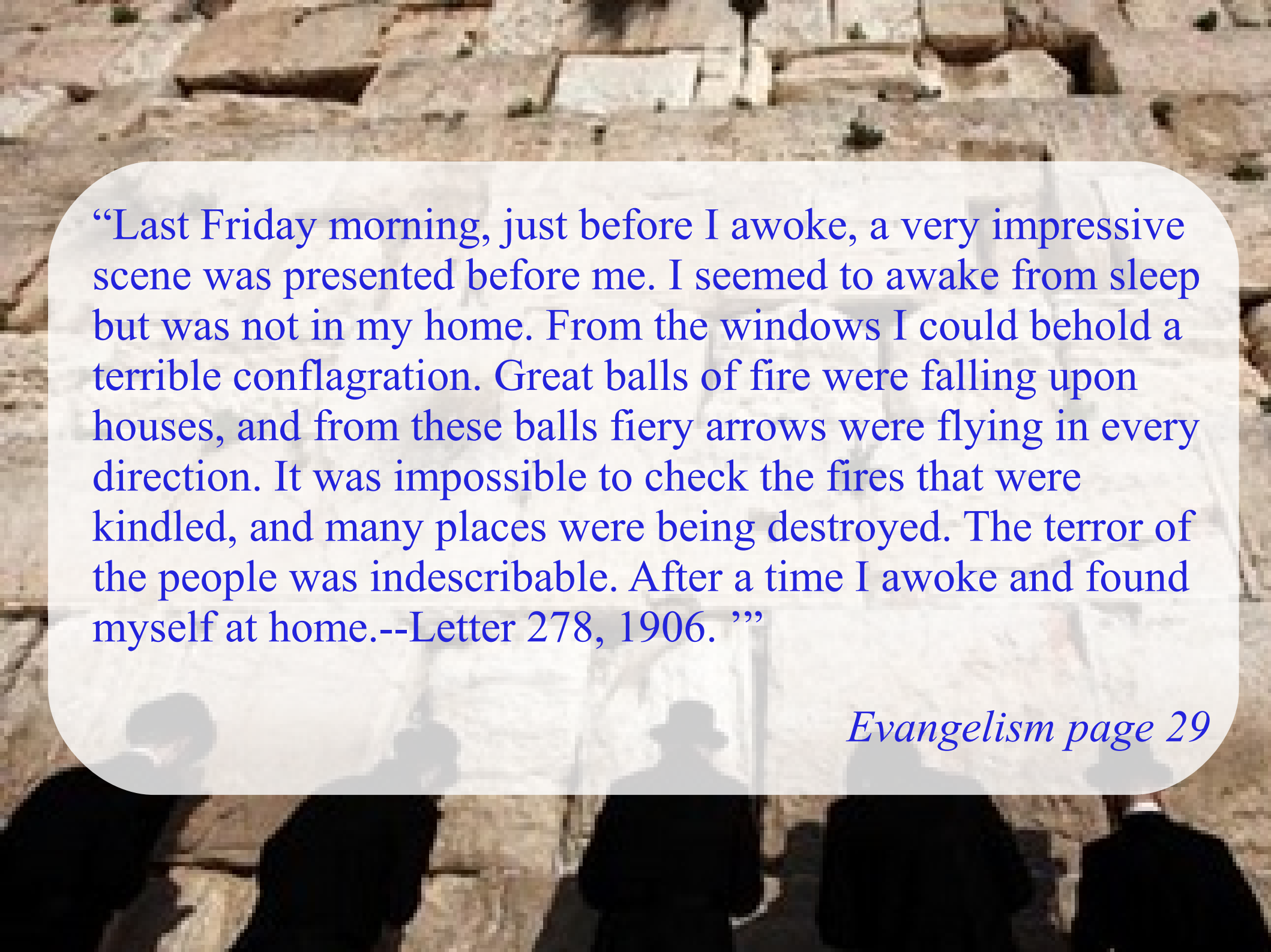
Near the end of the World War II millions of refugees from the eastern front flooded into Germany. Trying Desperately to escape the Russians and assured by the Allies that Dresden, the capitol city of Saxony, would not be bombed, more than a million sought refuge in the city. But after luring the

people there, the Allies double crossed these people and firebombed the city on February 13. Turning the city into a hurricane of flames, creating winds that sucked people and animals into the inferno. More people died in this disaster than were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined.



Dresden Germany - 1945





“Last Friday morning, just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep but was not in my home. From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable. After a time I awoke and found myself at home.--Letter 278, 1906. ””

Evangelism page 29

An incendiary bomb dropped from an airplane, appears like a ball of fire dropped from the sky with fiery arrows flying out in all directions, causing fires that are unquenchable. Remember, incendiary bombs were not dropped from airplanes until after World War I, more than 10 years after Ellen White received this vision.

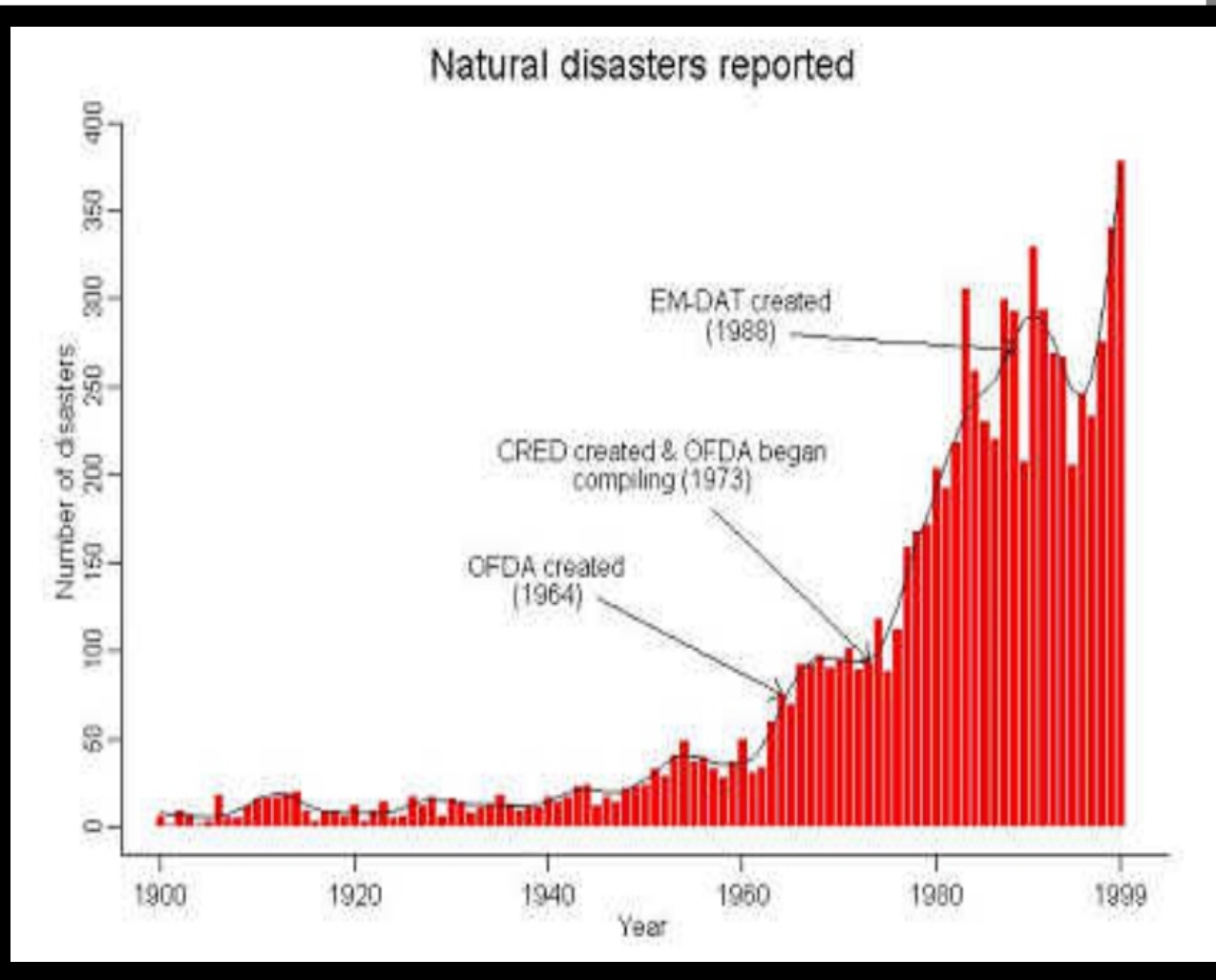


“There will be crimes greater than any now on record. There will be weeping and lamentation and woe... **Already sprinklings from the vials of God’s wrath have been let fall upon land and sea**, affecting the elements of the air. The causes of these unusual conditions are being searched for, but in vain...These things are the result of drops from the vials of God’s wrath being sprinkled on the earth, and are but **faint representations of what will be in the near future**. Earthquakes in various places have been felt, but these disturbances have been very limited... And the religious world too is to be terribly shaken; for the end of all things is at hand. —Ms 24, 1891. (Written about January 1, 1890.)”

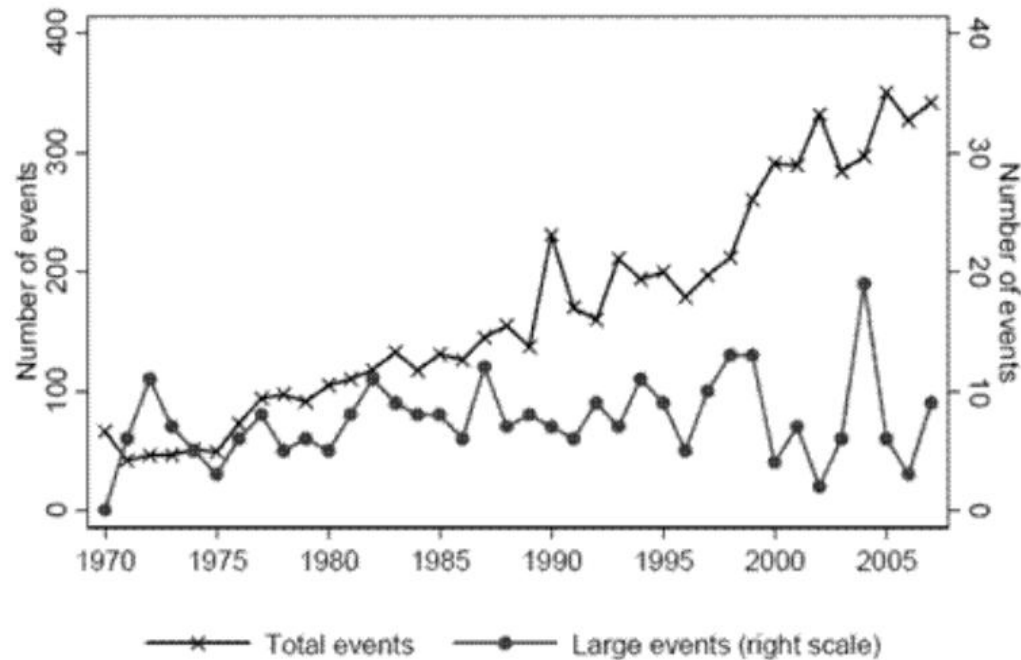
Manuscript Releases, Volume 5, page 15-16

The Holocaust is certainly a crime greater than any on record when Sister White wrote that, and today natural disasters are increasing at an astounding rate. "In comparison to previous years, the number of casualties from natural disasters in 2010, which is already well above 200,000, is outside the norm... Over the decade from 2000 to the end of 2009, the yearly average was 78,000, according to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). For the 1990s, the average was 43,000..."

www.livescience.com/6212-disastrous-year-2010-Death-toll-abnormally-high.html



Increasing Prevalence of Natural Disasters 1970 - 2007



Note: Large events refers to events which their intensity is above the mean of the normalized killed distribution
Source: Authors' calculations based on EM-DAT.

“The total natural disasters reported each year has been steadily increasing in recent decades, from 78 in 1970 to 348 in 2004... A portion of that increase is artificial, due in part to better media reports and advances in communications... However,

about two-thirds of the increase is real and the result of rises in so-called hydro-meteorological disasters. These disasters include droughts, tsunamis, hurricanes, typhoons and floods and have been increasing over the past 25 years. In 1980, there were only about 100 such disasters reported per year but that number has risen to over 300 a year since 2000.” <http://www.happyheartsfund.org/disstat.php>

Wars, fires, and natural disasters have increased dramatically in the 20th century. But so have the famines and pestilence. Were you aware that the worst famine on record occurred in China from 1958-61. The government has ruthlessly suppressed the figures, but the estimate is that 43 million people perished. But this has not been the only famine, when you add together just the major famines of the last 100 years, the total is around 75 million dead.



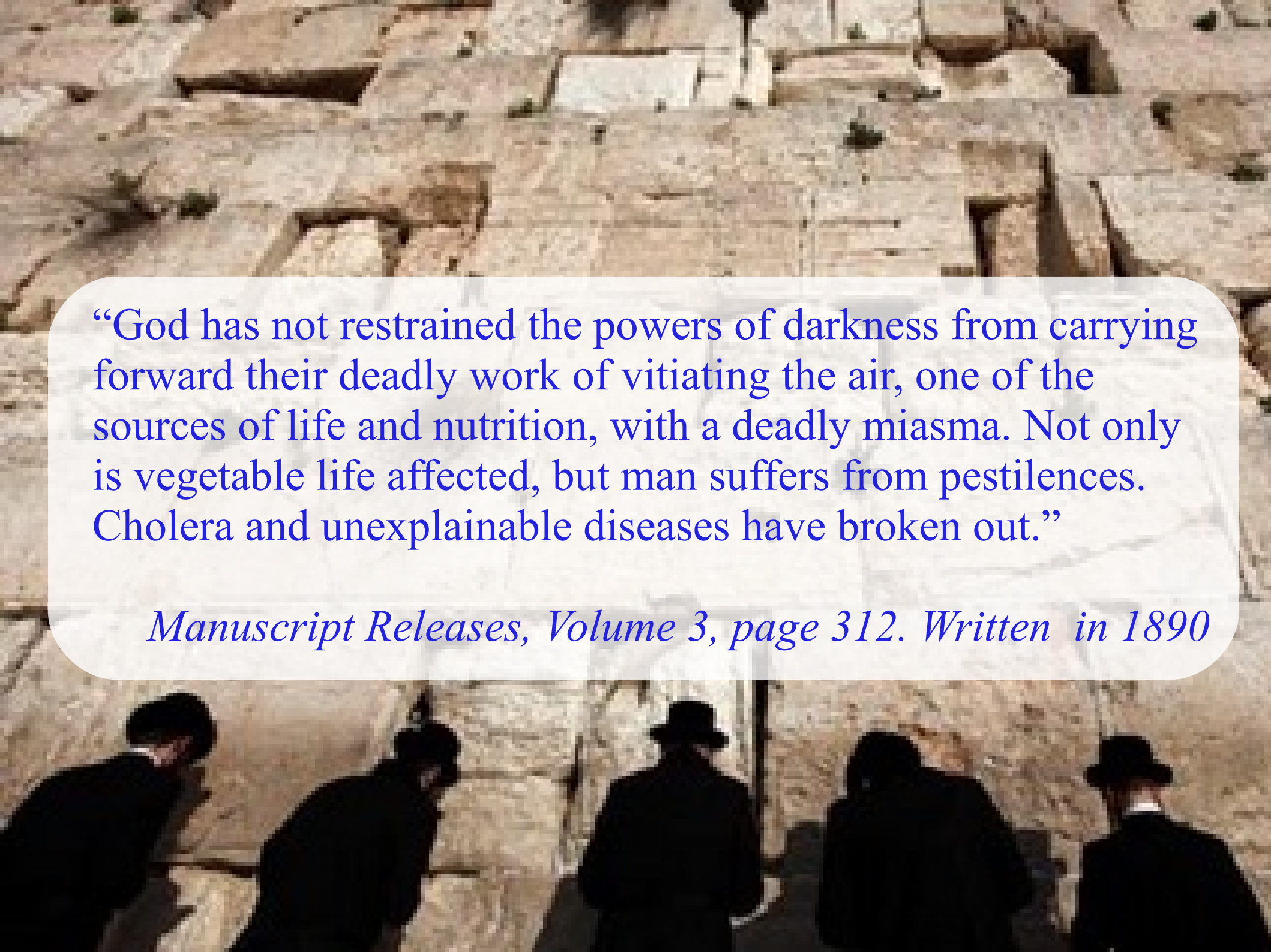


TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. Matthew 24:44

But millions have also died of the pestilence in the 20th century. In 1918-19 alone nearly 100 million died of the Spanish flu. We may think that we are conquering disease, but when you consider cancer and all the other diseases we suffer from today, it is obvious that pestilence rages in the world. In the United States alone, out of a population of about 300 million, at least 100 million are chronically ill. It is difficult to find the numbers of deaths from pestilence in previous centuries to compare these numbers to, but we do know that the black death killed 75 million people over a span of 5 centuries.





“God has not restrained the powers of darkness from carrying forward their deadly work of vitiating the air, one of the sources of life and nutrition, with a deadly miasma. Not only is vegetable life affected, but man suffers from pestilences. Cholera and unexplainable diseases have broken out.”

Manuscript Releases, Volume 3, page 312. Written in 1890

This is certainly true today and Satan uses men as his helpers in this. Consider the massive aerosol campaigns that are going on and the major nuclear disasters of the last century that have certainly given the air a deadly taint of radiation.



Chemtrails



Chernobyl - 1986



Fukushima - 2011



Stalin 1940's



Hitler 1940's

But what about persecution and the Sunday law? We always hear that persecution and martyrdom are coming soon, but let's consider the history of persecution in the last 100 years. We talked about the Armenian genocide in a previous study. When the genocide was over only 2 Adventist colporteurs were left alive in Turkey. The Jews claim 6 million deaths in the Nazi camps in World War II, but since the Nazi files have been unsealed, the numbers have risen to more than 10 million. Who are the other people that the Nazis considered Jews, but the Jews don't claim as their own?

While it is impossible to know for sure who all these people were, we do know who some of them were. During the reformation, there were some reformers who were known as Anabaptists because they did not believe in infant baptism. Of these, there was a small group who adopted the seventh day Sabbath. Not accepted and persecuted by the protestants, some of these went with Count Zinzendorf to create a Sabbath keeping colony in Moravia (Czechoslovakia). Some of these Sabbath keepers also moved to America where Count Zinzendorf visited them in the 1700's. This American group later organized themselves into the Seventh Day Baptist denomination.



Burning the Anabaptists



Count Zinzendorf
Protector of Sabbath Keepers

Of the group who remained in Europe, some began to adopt the Jewish feast days and learned Hebrew. They eventually gave up the New Testament and belief in Jesus. They adopted Jewish dress, becoming Jews in everything but name and race. Known as Sabbatarians or Judiazers, they were persecuted as Jews by the Christians and rejected as Gentiles by the Jews. They formed their own communities, mostly in Eastern Europe. Today these communities no longer exist. These people were almost entirely wiped out in the Nazi death camps.



Orthodox Jews - 1800's



Nazi Persecution of Orthodox Jew

Have you heard it said that Communism must end before the Sunday laws can be enacted? It's time to think again. In the 1890's the United States was considering Sunday legislation. At the same time Russia was also considering a national Sunday law. But there was a problem. There was a very large minority in Russia who found Sunday laws a burden to them economically and lobbied hard for a repeal of the laws. They were the Jews and the Moslems, who did not wish to be forced to keep their businesses closed 2 days out of every week. But then came the Bolshevik revolution and guess what day Russians have as a rest day today? Sunday. So far from being an enemy of Rome, communism has helped to enforce the very mark of Rome and prepared the way for the world to wonder after the beast.

Orthodox Jews



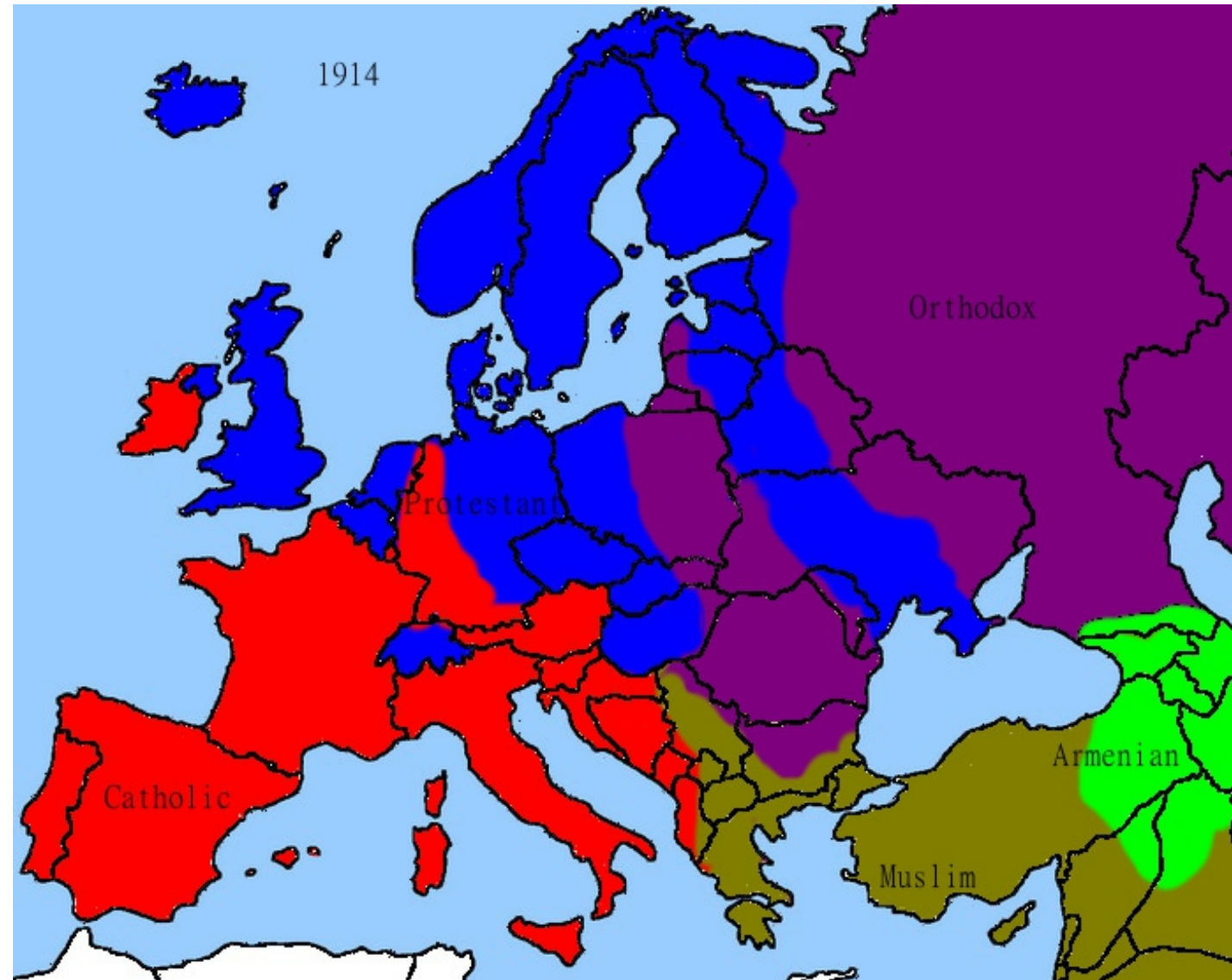
Devout Moslems



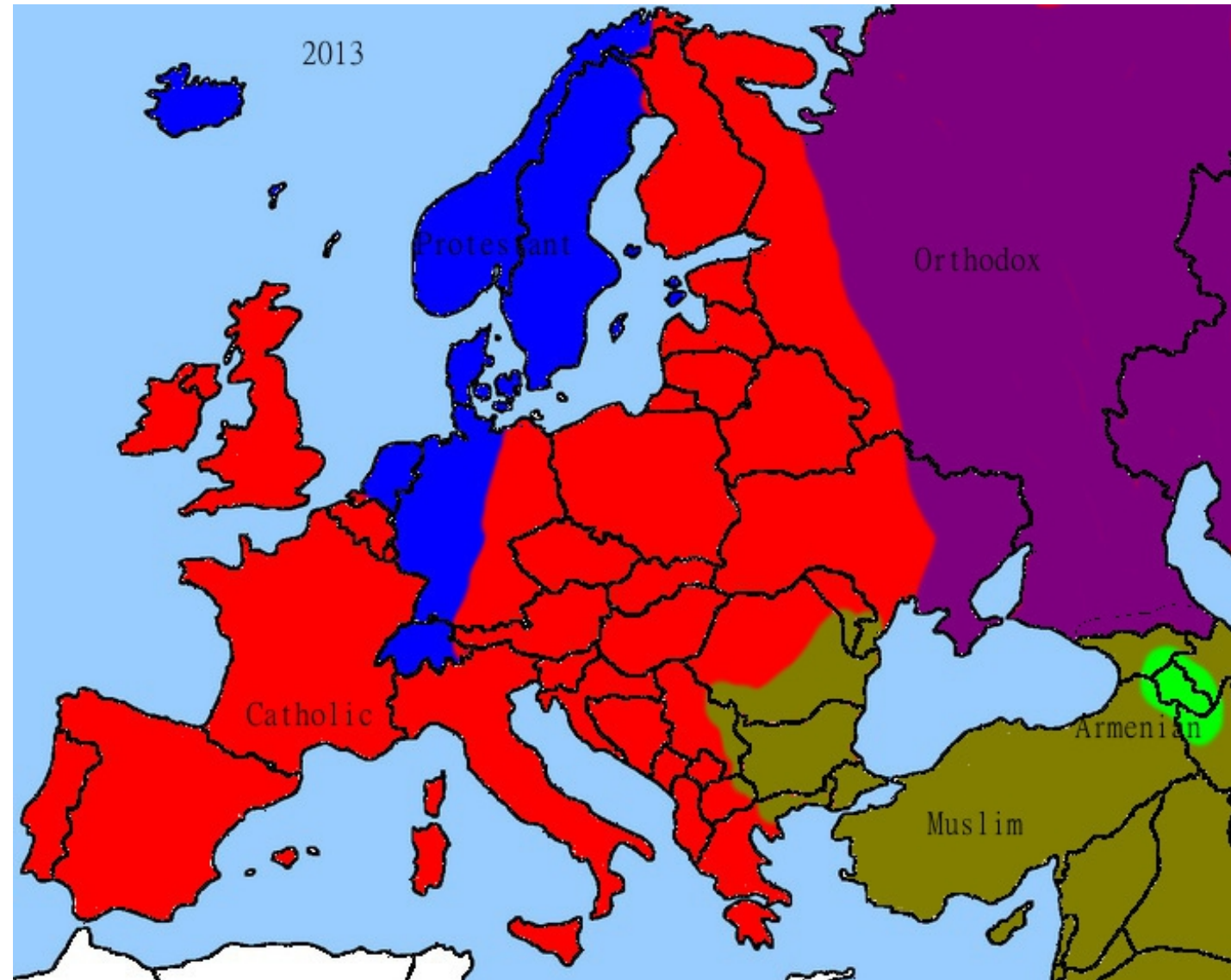
Lenin - 1917



Even Hitler enacted Sunday laws in Germany, in order to cause economic hardship for the Jews, and everyone else who kept the Seventh day Sabbath. The heathen of China worked 7 days a week and did not keep any weekly rest day. Today, after 60 years of communism, China does not work on Sundays. If you do not believe that there has been persecution during the 20th century, you should consider a map of Europe before 1914 and today. Take a look these religious maps.



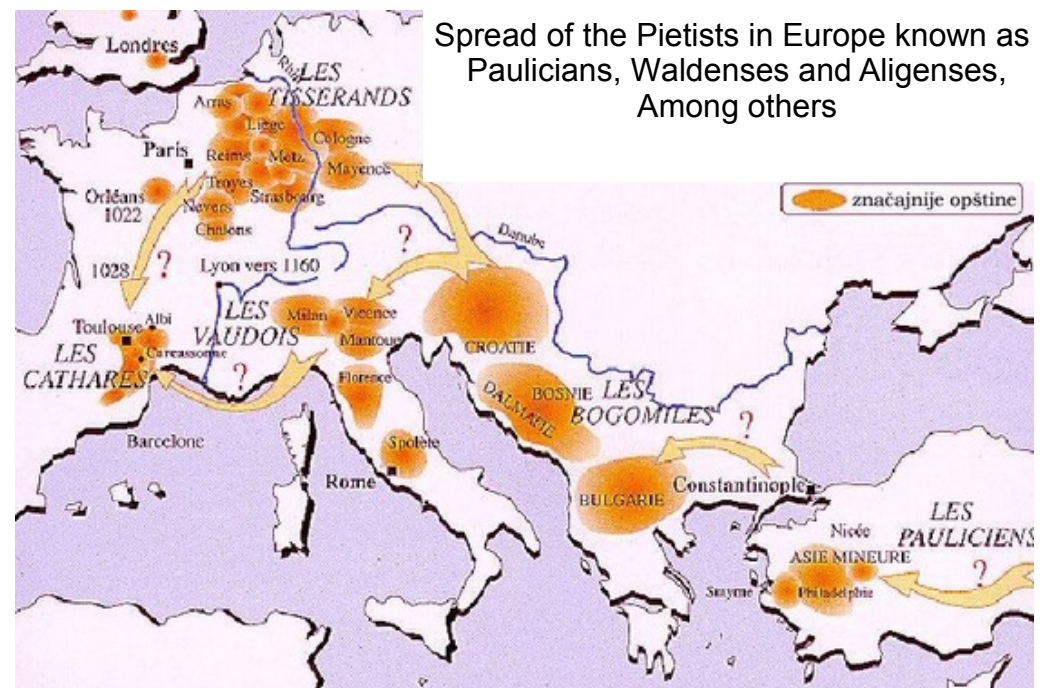
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But surely the pope cannot have supported Nazism and Communism, just to get rid of protestants and Jews. Thousands of Catholics were killed as well. Well, let's consider history. Back in the days of the inquisition, in the 10th through 12th centuries, when the church was uprooting the Albigensian and Waldensian heresies in south-western Europe, they came to towns that had mixed Catholic and heretical populations. The troops asked their superiors how they were to tell the Catholics from the heretics. The chilling answer came back, "Kill them all! God will know His own." The church has not changed.



Waldensian Persecution

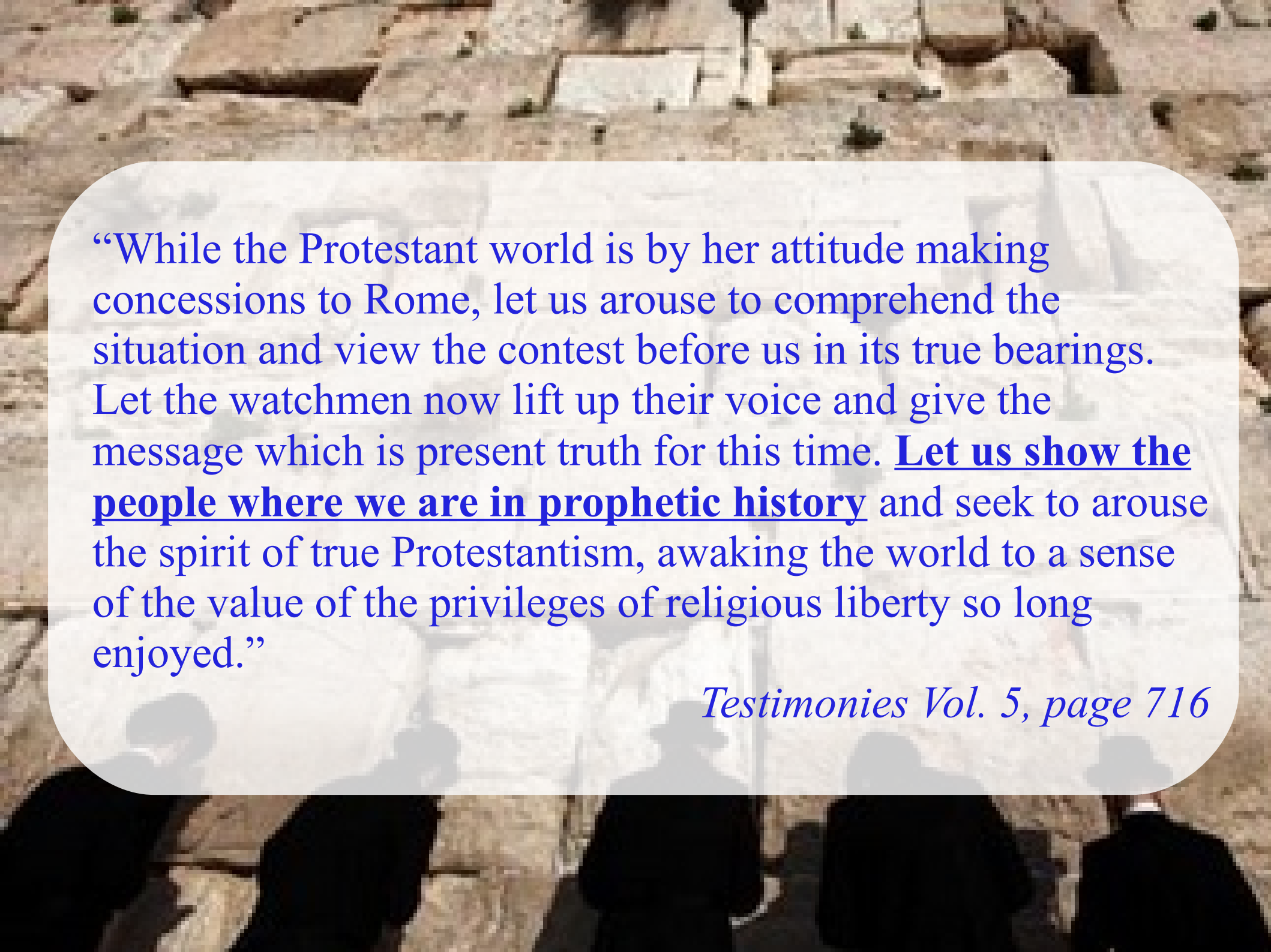


“The time of trouble has already begun. We hear continually of riots and accidents, of murders and robberies. Human life is no longer safe unless under the protection of God. God’s servants must not be surprised that they meet with great difficulties and persecution at this time. In His day, the world’s Redeemer, the Son of God, was shamefully treated by the people He came to bless. He had to go from city to city to ensure His safety, and this persecution followed Him until His work on earth was accomplished.”

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 21, page 101, (1907)

“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... Let all read and understand the prophecies of this book, for we are now entering upon the time of trouble spoken of: ‘...and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time...’ Daniel 12:1-4”

Manuscript Releases, Volume 13, page 394 (1904).

The background of the slide is a photograph of a cemetery. In the foreground, the dark, out-of-focus silhouettes of several people are visible, suggesting they are standing and looking towards the graves. The middle ground is filled with numerous tombstones of various shapes and sizes, some of which are weathered and partially obscured by shadows. The ground is dry and sandy. The overall lighting is bright, creating strong contrasts between the dark figures and the sunlit graves.

“While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. **Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history** and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.”

Testimonies Vol. 5, page 716

The 20th century is supposed to have been the most civilized and advanced century and yet it has been a humanitarian catastrophe. Why didn't the Bible warn us of all this? The fact is, it did. In Daniel 12:1 we were told that when the king of the north came to his end there would commence a time of trouble of nations such as never was since there was a nation. Just think about it a little bit, put yourself back in 1890. Now imagine that someone came to you and told you about the events of the 20th century. Would you not be horrified? Would you even be able to imagine what was coming? We are looking at history and it is hard to grasp, even when we know we are looking at the facts. Can there be any other explanation for this, except that the time of trouble commenced around 1922, at the end of the king of the north, just like the angel told Daniel it would? But what about the Loud Cry and Latter Rain? How do they fit in? Is it really possible for Adventists to be caught unprepared? We will talk about this in our next presentation, so this is not really...



The End

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