



Lesson 60

Revisiting the Time of Trouble

- **EGW and the Time of Trouble**
 - *The Great Controversy*
- **The Time of Trouble**
 - The times of trouble in the Bible
- **Job's Time of Trouble**
 - Who was Job?
 - Job's time of trouble and death decree
 - The voice of God and the end of Job's trouble
- **Elijah's Time of Trouble**
 - Who was Elijah?
 - Elijah's time of trouble and death decree
 - The voice of God and the end of Elijah's trouble
- **Our Time of Trouble**
 - The beginning and end of our time of trouble
 - Our death decree
 - Our voice of God and the end of our time of trouble

The Priests are currently in a time of trouble. We are about in the middle of our time of trouble, having just passed the death decree. Like at any point on the line, we can find stories in the Bible that parallel our time of trouble. In this lesson, we'll look at two other times of trouble: Job's and Elijah's, and see what they say about our time of trouble.

EGW and the Time of Trouble

The Great Controversy

The most familiar version of the Time of Trouble is found in Ellen White's writings- specifically *The Great Controversy*. The Time of Trouble starts after the Close of Probation. In that time the seven last plagues are poured out. There are two important events in this time period, the first is the Death Decree. The enemies of God's people pass a decree saying that they should be killed after a certain point in time. Then God's people will be severely tempted by Satan; they fear that they haven't confessed all of their sins. They also pray to God and ask Him to stop the wicked people and protect them. Their earthliness is being removed. And at the time they are supposed to be killed God interposes. Many signs appear in nature and while the wicked are terrified God's people rejoice. Then God speaks- He tells His people the day and hour of Jesus' Second Coming. This is the second important event during the Time of Trouble. Soon after Jesus comes back. From the Close of Probation to the Second Coming is one dispensation; the Death Decree and the Voice of God are the two little, but important, waymarks in the middle.

The Time of Trouble

The times of trouble in the Bible

When this Movement thinks of the time of trouble in the Bible, we think of Jacob. That is one reason we have named the time of trouble in our history "Jacob's time of trouble". Jacob's time of trouble is perhaps the clearest example of a time of trouble in the Bible, but it is certainly not the only one. There are multiple examples of the time of trouble. Perhaps we use Jacob as our most prominent example because his is the first mention of it and first mentions are important. Or perhaps we use Jacob because that is the example Ellen White connects to the 144,000's time of trouble. But whatever the reason, it still does not take away the fact that there are multiple examples in the Bible. Job's time of trouble and Elijah's time of trouble are two, just to name a few.

Job's Time of Trouble

Who was Job?

"There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job" (Job 1:1). Job owned a lot of cattle; he owned a total of 11,000 animals. In our day that many animals would be worth over 50 million US dollars. Job had seven sons and three daughters. Overall, Job was the greatest man in the East. Most importantly, Job feared God. Unlike most rich people of today that worship their money, Job worshiped God. Job was "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1).

Job's time of trouble and death decree

Satan went to visit God, and God told him about His faithful servant Job. Satan told God that Job only served Him because He blessed him. So God gave Satan permission to mess with everything he owned. This started Job's time of trouble. Satan destroyed or took all of Job's cattle and children and most of his servants. But Job did not sin. Later Satan went to visit God again, and they had the same conversation as the first time. This time though, Satan said that Job was only faithful because he had not been personally hurt. So God gave Satan permission to hurt Job- but not to kill him. Satan smote Job with boils. This can be seen as the death decree in Job's time of trouble. He was hurt but not killed, just like no one will be killed because of the death decree in our time. Unlike the 144,000's Time of Trouble- where God's people remain faithful- Job did not remain faithful. He began to wish that he was dead. Most of the rest of the book of Job is about when he is talking back and forth with his friends in his time of trouble.

The voice of God and the end of Job's trouble

During Job's time of trouble, we can mark the waymark of the voice of God. After Job's friend, Elihu, finished talking, the Lord spoke. "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" Job 38:1,2. He continued to speak for the rest of the entire chapter and on through chapters 39, 40 and 41. We can mark this as the voice of God during the time of trouble. We know all the calamities that befell Job can be marked as the time of trouble- Job's time of trouble. Then God spoke. Job and his friends heard Him speaking- they heard the voice of God. That is why we mark chapters 38-41 as the voice of God in the time of trouble. After God spoke, Job said a few things, then, his time of trouble came to an end in chapter 42. All that he had lost was restored. "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job... also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before." Job 42:10.

Beginning of
Job's time of
trouble

God speaks
to Job

End of Job's
time of trouble



Elijah's Time of Trouble

Who was Elijah?

One of the prophets in the Bible was Elijah. Elijah is first mentioned in the Bible in 1 Kings 17:1. Elijah was a prophet. He, being informed by God, predicted a drought which later came to pass. During that time Elijah was fed by God through ravens. Probably the most significant act Elijah did was in 1 Kings 18. After speaking with God, Elijah told Ahab, the king of Israel, to gather all of Israel to Mount Carmel. He also told Ahab to gather 850 prophets of Baal and of the groves to Mount Carmel. Ahab listened and gathered the people. On Mount Carmel, Elijah said to bring two cows, and for the prophets of Baal to prepare a sacrifice to Baal, and he would prepare a sacrifice to God. And the God that sent fire to either sacrifice would be the true God. Everyone agreed. The prophets of Baal went first, jumping around and on the alter to get fire to come down. They continued from the morning until past noon, but no fire came. Next, it was Elijah's turn. He built an alter and poured water over it, then prayed to God. God sent fire onto the alter and it burned up everything. Then all the Israelites knew Baal was false, and at the command of Elijah, killed all the false prophets. This was the height of Elijah's ministry, but trouble was to follow.

Elijah's time of trouble and death decree

Elijah also had a time of trouble; it started after the events at Mount Carmel. Ahab told Jezebel what had happened on Carmel and she was furious. She sent a message to Elijah saying that she would have him killed by the next day. So Elijah fled into the wilderness. In the wilderness he, like Job, wished he would die. Then an angel brought him bread and water twice to prepare him for his coming journey. After he had slept and eaten, he traveled forty days through the wilderness to Mount Horeb. These forty days can line up with the forty days after Christ's baptism and after His resurrection. This was Elijah's experience in the first half of his time of trouble.

The voice of God and the end of Elijah's trouble

In all times of trouble, we can mark the voice of God. The time of Elijah's trouble is no exception. Elijah's time of trouble began when he began to flee Jezebel. He went to Mount Horeb as the angel instructed him and lodged in a cave there. That is when the Lord spoke to him. "And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD...." 1 Kings 19:9-11. After that followed the signs of the wind, earthquake, and fire. After the fire, Elijah heard a still small voice. God spoke to Elijah; he heard the voice of God. God asked him what he was doing at Mount Horeb and then He gave him some instructions. That is why we mark verses 9-18 as the voice of God during Elijah's time of trouble.

Beginning of
Elijah's time of
trouble

God speaks
to Elijah

End of Elijah's
time of trouble



Our Time of Trouble

The beginning and end of our time of trouble

Our time of trouble began on November 9, 2019. So far we have looked at two times of trouble, Job's and Elijah's. Now we are going to look at our time of trouble. The time of trouble begins at the Close of Probation and ends at the Second Coming. We know this from Ellen G. White quotes. November 9, 2019 was our fractal close of probation. Therefore, our fractal time of trouble began then. The time of trouble has different names. It is also the harvest on the agricultural model, and it is the chasm on the line of Ellen G. Whites vision (in *2T* 594-597). Since it began on November 9th, we are currently in our time of trouble.

Our death decree

The first of the middle two waymarks is the death decree. The structure of the last dispensation is the same on all reform lines. There is a death decree on the fractal of the Priests in this current dispensation. It was May 25th. That was the day that George Floyd was killed. This death decree was on a fractal and unlike the Death Decree on the line of 144,000, we (this Movement), were not the objects of it. Instead the death decree for us, Priests, had to do with the test of this dispensation: equality (in this case racism). The death decree is also the increase of knowledge for this dispensation- which is about equality. We have been past the first little waymark in this dispensation, May 25th (our death decree) for a while.

Our voice of God and the end of our time of trouble

Like all the histories we looked at before, we know that there is a voice of God waymark that can be marked during the time of trouble. We can mark one in the history of the Priests as well. The Priests' time of trouble began on November 9, 2019 and will end in 2021. The voice of God waymark can also be known as the Exeter waymark. On our reform line, we know that each dispensation has both a Concord and Exeter waymark. For the final dispensation they can be called the death decree and voice of God. For the Priests we know the primary death decree waymark date was on May 25, 2020. We have yet to come to the voice of God waymark. But despite that, we know that we will come to it before the end of the time of trouble in late 2021. We also know that, unlike the histories of Job and Elijah, God won't literally speak from heaven- He will speak through the lines.

Nov. 9, 2019
beginning of
our time of
trouble

May 25,
2020

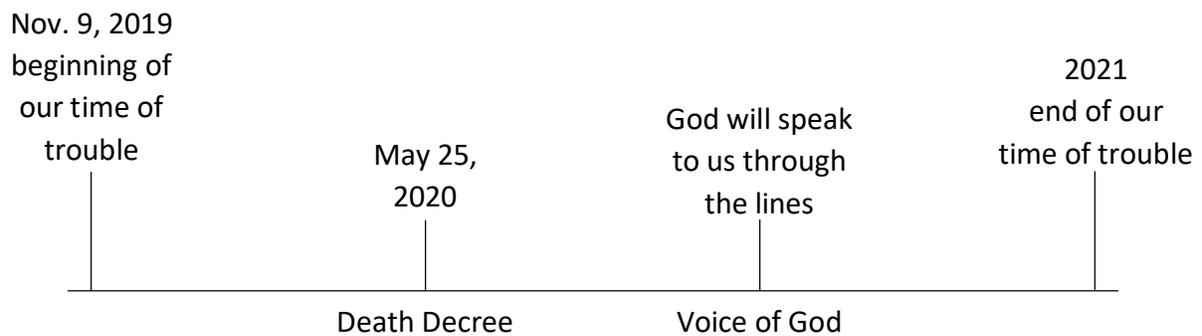
God will speak
to us through
the lines

2021
end of our
time of trouble

Death Decree

Voice of God

In Summary:



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