


Sermon 14: “The Apocalypse Unfolded”

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Opening Hymn: “Lift Up the Trumpet” (#213, SDA Hymnal)

Closing Hymn: “We Know Not the Hour” (#604, SDA Hymnal)

 **Scripture Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-13** – *“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), **2** that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of [a]us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, **3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, **4** and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” **5** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, **6** by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. **7** But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and [b]perdition of ungodly men. **8** But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward [c]us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be [d]burned up. **11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”*

The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami: Ignoring the Warnings

On the morning of **December 26, 2004**, a powerful **9.1-magnitude earthquake** struck off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. It was one of the **largest earthquakes ever recorded**, and within minutes, the ocean itself began to shift.

The quake sent **shockwaves across the Indian Ocean**, triggering one of the **deadliest tsunamis in history**.

- The water along the coastline **mysteriously receded**, exposing the ocean floor.
- Fish flopped helplessly in the sand.
- Tourists, unaware of what was happening, **ran toward the shore**, marveling at the strange sight.

But **a few people recognized the danger.**


- A **10-year-old British girl, Tilly Smith**, had learned about tsunamis in school just two weeks before. She saw the warning signs and **begged her family to flee to higher ground.**
- A **native fisherman**, who had grown up hearing stories of the ocean, saw the water recede and **urged his village to run inland immediately.**

Minutes later, **a monstrous 100-foot-high wall of water** roared inland at **500 miles per hour**, swallowing entire villages. **Over 230,000 people perished** across 14 countries—many because they did not recognize the warning signs.

But **Tilly Smith’s family and the fisherman’s village survived**—because they **knew what was coming** and acted before it was too late.

A Prophetic Parallel: Recognizing the Signs of the End

Just like the tsunami warning signs were ignored, many today are ignoring the signs of the final events in Bible prophecy.

 **Luke 21:25-26** – *“There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear.”*

Just as the tsunami came suddenly upon the world, **the events of Revelation—the opening of the Seven Seals, the sounding of the Trumpets, and the pouring of the Seven Last Plagues—will unfold rapidly, catching the world off guard.**

Today, we will unfold the apocalyptic timeline in Revelation—are we recognizing the warning signs, or are we standing on the shore, unaware of the disaster about to strike?

Let’s turn to the book of Revelation and see where we are in God’s final countdown!

I. The Seven Seals: History’s Judgment Unfolded (Revelation 6-8:1)

Revelation 6:1-17, 8:1 – *“When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”*

The **seven seals** represent **God’s unfolding judgment upon the world and the church throughout history**. They show how **faithful believers have been tested and how apostasy has crept into the world**.

☐ **The First Four Seals: The Four Horsemen (Revelation 6:1-8)**

- **White Horse** (Spreading of the Gospel) – The early church moving forward in victory.
- **Red Horse** (Persecution) – The blood of martyrs shed for Christ.
- **Black Horse** (Spiritual Famine) – Truth is corrupted; compromise spreads.
- **Pale Horse** (Death & Hell) – Apostasy leads to destruction.

☐ **The Next Two Seals: The Cry of the Saints & Cosmic Disturbances**

- **Fifth Seal** (Martyrs Cry for Justice) – The faithful persecuted for Christ.
- **Sixth Seal** (Heavenly Signs) – Earthquakes, blood moons, and the sky shaking—signs of Christ’s return!

☐ **The Seventh Seal: Silence in Heaven**

The **seventh seal is unique**—it brings complete **silence in heaven (Revelation 8:1)**. Why?

- Because **heaven stops to witness what happens next—the final warnings through the trumpets!**

Key Lesson: The Seals show **history’s progression toward the final crisis**.

II. The Seven Trumpets: God’s Final Warnings (Revelation 8-11)

Revelation 8:6 – *“Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.”*

The trumpets **sound alarms** for the world to **repent before it’s too late**.

☐ **The First Four Trumpets: Partial Judgments (Revelation 8:7-12)**

- **1st Trumpet** – Hail & Fire (Earth burned)

- **2nd Trumpet** – Mountain of Fire (Sea turned to blood)
- **3rd Trumpet** – Star Called Wormwood (Waters poisoned)
- **4th Trumpet** – Darkness (Sun, moon, and stars struck)

☐ **The Last Three Trumpets: The Three Woes (Revelation 9-11)**

- **5th Trumpet (1st Woe): Demonic Locusts Attack Humanity** – Spiritual torment upon those who reject God.
- **6th Trumpet (2nd Woe): The Great War & Chaos** – World conflict intensifies.
- **7th Trumpet (3rd Woe): The Kingdom Declared!** – Christ’s reign is announced in heaven!

Key Lesson: The Trumpets are **God’s last call before judgment falls.**

III. The Seven Plagues: The Full Wrath of God (Revelation 16)

Revelation 16:1 – *“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, ‘Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.’”*

Unlike the **trumpets**, which are **warnings**, the **plagues** are **final judgments** upon those who reject God. **Once these plagues begin, probation is over.**

☐ **The First Four Plagues (Revelation 16:2-9)**

- **1st Plague** – Painful Sores
- **2nd Plague** – Sea Becomes Blood
- **3rd Plague** – Rivers Turn to Blood
- **4th Plague** – Scorching Heat from the Sun

☐ **The Last Three Plagues: The Final Crisis (Revelation 16:10-21)**

- **5th Plague** – Darkness Over the Beast’s Kingdom
- **6th Plague** – The Euphrates Dries Up & Armageddon Begins
- **7th Plague** – The Greatest Earthquake & Hailstorm Ever

Key Lesson: The **plagues** show that **the door of mercy has closed—God’s final judgment is now unavoidable.**

IV. The Final Moment: Christ’s Return (Revelation 19)

Revelation 19:11-16 – *“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True...”*

At this point:

1. **The Seven Seals have prepared God’s people.**
2. **The Seven Trumpets have warned the world.**
3. **The Seven Plagues have sealed the fate of the wicked.**

Now, **Jesus appears in glory to bring final judgment.**

THE COUNTDOWN IS OVER!

The Day the Mississippi River Ran Backward

It was the **early morning of December 16, 1811**, when something **unimaginable** happened along the Mississippi River.

The people of **New Madrid, Missouri**, were **fast asleep** when, without warning, the **ground beneath them roared to life.**

A massive earthquake—estimated at **8.0+ magnitude**—shook the region with a force so great that:

- **The Mississippi River began to flow backward for hours.**
- **The land itself cracked open**, swallowing trees, homes, and even entire towns.
- **Waves surged onto the land, creating temporary lakes where farmland once stood.**

The shaking didn’t stop. **For three months, the region was rocked by relentless aftershocks**, some nearly as powerful as the original quake. People were terrified—**they thought it was the end of the world.**

And yet, even though the signs were clear, **many refused to flee.**

- Some **mocked the idea** that the world could change in an instant.
- Others believed **life would return to normal** and ignored the devastation around them.
- Only those who **heeded the warnings and left the area survived unscathed.**

A Prophetic Parallel: The World is Shaking

The world is shaking again. Not just physically, but spiritually, economically, politically, and prophetically.

Hebrews 12:26-27 – *“Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven... that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”*

The **seals are breaking.**

The **trumpets are sounding.**

The **plagues will soon be poured out.**

The question is: Are we standing on solid ground or will we be swept away?

The Final Appeal: I Have Seen the End, and I Choose to Stand

I have seen a world on the edge of eternity, and I refuse to sleep through the warning.

I have seen the love of God calling us to flee from Babylon, and I will not delay my decision.

I have seen the seals unsealed, the trumpets sounded, and the plagues poured out, and I will not be caught unprepared.

I have seen a generation distracted by the temporary, while the eternal is unfolding before their eyes. But I will not be deceived.

I have seen churches comfortable in their seats while the world burns, but I will rise and proclaim the truth!


I will not wait for the final shaking to wake me up—I will wake up NOW.

I will not watch prophecy unfold like a spectator—I will stand on the side of truth.

I will not fear the coming storm—for my hope is in the coming King.

The world is shaking, but my faith will not be moved. The kingdoms of men are falling, but I stand on the Rock of Ages.

Who will stand with me today?

 **Revelation 22:12** – *“Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”*

Let’s pray together—let’s be sealed, let’s be ready, let’s stand.