

Some more thoughts on
Jacob's Trouble

(I have added the emphasis in all the quotes.)

[It is recommended that you click here to read an earlier version of thoughts on this subject.](#)

It is thought that Benjamin Franklin originated the phrase “in this world nothing can be said to be certain, **except death and taxes**”.¹ I beg to differ and although death came early in our history (from Adam), taxes only came after Satan brought in the idea of Nations after the Flood, and Joseph is the first recorded one who imposed them. Instead of taking a lease on the common peoples’ lands, he bought them and gave them to Pharaoh. He then allowed the people to go back to them after the famine years with an income tax of 20% and as servants of Pharaoh WHO WAS SATAN’S AGENT! (Genesis 47:15-26). See note 1.

Why do I mention this? Because we need to see that as it is with taxes (there will come a time when they will not exist, for there will be no more nations), so there will come a time when death will not exist.

But *how* will that happen?

There needs to be a “fit” man near the close of our Day of Atonement and he is pictured by the group identified as the 144,000 who are to be “redeemed *from among men*” [not the grave]. Revelation 14:1-4. They will be free from the “last enemy”, and *actually in control of its originator*, for it is written of them:

Leviticus 16:

20 And when he [the high priest] has made an end of reconciling the Holy Place, and the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and the altar [of incense], he [the fit (capable) man] **shall bring** the live goat [to the entrance of the tabernacle representing Satan, without using any force.] [How?]

21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat [through the curtain, for Christ does not touch the earth before the Third Advent], and confess over him **all** the iniquities of the children of Israel, and **all** their transgressions in **all** their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and **shall send him away by the hand of a fit man** into the wilderness [how?]: 22 and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities to a land not inhabited: and he [the fit man] shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

¹ [Wikipedia says:](#)

The goat was NOT killed in the wilderness, as some commentators have stated, but was restricted in its movements by the distance from the camp as Satan is restricted to an earth empty of humanity. There is no use of force in this. What the Son of God does is call to those in the graves and those who hear will be those who are listening for Him. (Not in reality of course, for the “dead know not anything” but their thoughts as they died were of Him, and the power to hear and be resurrected is in His word.)

Isaiah 26:19

... [He will call],
*Awake and sing, you that dwell in dust:
for your dew is as the dew of herbs,*²
and the earth shall cast out the [righteous] dead.

{Great Controversy 300.1-2}

The coming of Christ to usher in the reign of righteousness has inspired the most sublime and impassioned utterances of the sacred writers. The poets and prophets of the Bible have dwelt upon it in words glowing with celestial fire. The psalmist sang of the power and majesty of Israel’s King: “Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. ***Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence.... He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge [lead] His people.***” Psalm 50:2-4.

“Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad ... before the Lord: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge [lead] the earth: He shall judge [lead] the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth.” Psalm 96:11-13. {GC 300.1}

Said the prophet Isaiah: “***Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.***” “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise.” [He made the same call at His resurrection, but only a few among the dead (10,000) responded. This time there will be millions.] “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; ***we have waited for Him***, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.” Isaiah 26:19; 25:8, 9. {GC 300.2}

Then the living saints will join them, and they will all meet the Son of man on His cloud.
1Thessalonians 4:16-18.

² “Your dew [awakening to Life] is [like] morning dew catching the first rays of sun. . .” *Message* version. So when you lie on your death bed, remember that.

Those who had ignored Him in life will not hear His voice then either, so they will remain “asleep” in their tombs till the thousand years are over.

John 5:

²⁵ Verily, verily, I say to you, The hour is coming, and now is, when ***the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.***

²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself; so has He given to the Son to have life in Himself; ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man.

²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ***all that are in the graves*** shall hear His voice, ²⁹ and shall come forth [it's their choice]; they that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation [1,000 years apart.]

And that is how the “goat” can be led out to the wilderness by the “fit” man. Not physically, but by removing those whom he loves to torment.

{Acts of the Apostles 34.1-2}

... Those who have loved Him and waited for Him, He will crown with glory and honor and immortality. The righteous dead will come forth from their graves, and those who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. They will hear the voice of Jesus, sweeter than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying to them, ***Your warfare is accomplished.*** “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34. {AA 34.1}

Well might the disciples rejoice in the hope of their Lord's return. {AA 34.2}

But how will they first lead the goat to the High Priest to have the sins laid on him?

We know from other places that there is to come a “Time of Trouble” which the prophets have called “Jacob's Trouble” after an experience that man had.

{Great Controversy 616.2}

Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau (Genesis 32:24-30), represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble.

Because of the deception practiced to secure his father's blessing, intended for Esau, Jacob had fled for his life, alarmed by his brother's deadly threats. After remaining for many years an exile, he had set out, ***at God's command*** [when God said, “It is time”], to return with his wives

and children, his flocks and herds, to his native country. On reaching the borders of the land, ***he was filled with terror*** by the tidings of Esau's approach at the head of a band of warriors, doubtless bent upon revenge. Jacob's company, unarmed and defenseless, seemed about to fall helpless victims of violence and slaughter. ***And to the burden of anxiety and fear was added the crushing weight of self-reproach, for it was his own sin that had brought this danger.*** His ***only*** hope was in the mercy of God; his ***only*** defense must be prayer. {GC 616.2}

It will not be a time of rejoicing, but, like Christ in Gethsemane, a time of great agony and reluctance. (See note 2.) It was not fear for Himself, but that He might fail to give the example, and many be lost forever. We must remember that He went to the cross as the Son of man, not the Son of God! Contrary to what many are teaching, there was NO power of Life at the cross.

[Youth's Instructor January 3, 1905, par. 1]

"I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25). He who had said, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again" (John 10:17), came forth from the grave to life that was in Himself.

Humanity died; divinity did not die.

In His divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death. He declares that He has life in Himself to quicken whom He will. {1SM 301.1}

Jeremiah 30:

⁵ For thus says the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. ⁶ Ask you now, and see whether a man does travail with child? wherefore [so why] do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? [See note 3.]

⁷ Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: ***it is even the time of Jacob's Trouble***; but ***he shall be saved out of it.***

⁸ For it shall come to pass in that day, says the LORD of hosts, that I will [be able to] break his [Satan's] yoke from off your neck, and will burst your bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: ⁹ but they shall serve the LORD their God, and David [Jesus] their king, whom I will raise up to them.

It is during that time that the people of God will have accepted the gift of righteousness so completely that they will at last believe His words to Martha at the time of the resurrection of Lazarus.

It is written that He came to the earth the first time to teach mankind (especially His own branch of it), a special lesson.

1Peter 1:

⁴ Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious *promises*: that by these *you might be partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1Peter 4:

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you: ¹³ but rejoice, inasmuch as *you are partakers of Christ's sufferings*; that, when His glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy.

But all the evidence will be against the 144,000 as it was for the Man Christ Jesus. As a man He had to die with faith in God's word that He would be resurrected, and they must face the words of God which say that they will NOT die. (Verse 7 above.) But both were and will be, "crucifixions". It is the finality of Romans 6:6, the demonstration of a great love.

Hebrews 2:

¹⁴ Forasmuch then [because] as the children [of God] are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same [flesh and blood, supplied by a willing servant of His]; that *through death* ³ He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ and deliver them who *through fear of death* were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

¹⁶ For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels [or of Adam BEFORE the fall]; but He took on Him the seed [nature] of Abraham [to deliver them from the fear of death.]

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her [Martha], I am the resurrection, and the Life: he that believes in Me [to a certain level], though he were dead, yet shall he live [in the resurrection]: *and* whosoever lives and believes in Me [to the total level] *shall never die* [but be translated]. *Believe you this?*

And, of course, no one has believed that since He said it!!

They have stumbled over words like the following, thinking that they have to do them. It has been forgotten (?) that when the LORD requests He also supplies the power. He says, "MY burden is light".

³ Our God uses a product of sin to defeat sin!

Psalm 24: [A psalm of David.]

³ Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place? ⁴ He that has clean hands, **and a pure heart**; who has not lifted up his soul to vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶ This is the generation of them that seek Him [like no other has], that seek Your face, O [God of] Jacob. Selah. [“Selah” means, think prayerfully on what you have just read.]

They need to be like David, who, although he broke some of the last six of the Ten Commandments, never wavered on the first four! (1 Samuel 13-14; Acts 13:22.) In other words, his commitment to the spiritual “marriage” was steadfast and unmoving.

And they will all need to be volunteers, because God does not conscript anyone into His kingdom or His missions. “Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, *Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?* Then said I, *Here am I; send me.*” Isaiah 6:8.

So our problem today is HOW will he [they] be able to lead the goat to the curtain?

Leviticus 16:

²⁰ And when he [the high priest] has made an end of reconciling the [most] Holy Place, and the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and the altar, he [the fit man] shall bring the live goat [to him]: ²¹ and Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him **all** the iniquities of the children of Israel, and **all** their transgressions in **all** their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away **by the hand of a fit man** into the wilderness:

²² And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities to a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

What can make the goat willingly come to the curtain and accept the burden? There has to be a bait of some sort. Something he cannot pass up.

What made him come to the wilderness just after the baptism of Jesus?

Matthew 4:

¹ Then was Jesus **led up of the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil [a definite purpose]. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungered [in a desperate state.] ⁴

³ And when the tempter came to Him, he said, ***If you be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*** ⁴ But He answered

⁴ Have you ever watched a film of a wild animal approaching a snare? Satan and his angels were circling all those 40 days for now he had the scent of victory in his nostrils!

and said, *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*

In the same manner, Satan will have been circling the saints of God since the death decree was passed (and even before that), whittling them down one by one into accepting death and here now is the last of them, not in one group of solid faith, but mostly alone and frightened that their behaviour will affect the family of Christianity and let their beloved LORD down. Do you think that he will be able to resist when the whole world is so close to his grasp? Not only will he come, but he will come willingly, for this is no fake desperation on the part of the 144,000 – they really are on their last gasp as Jacob was.

But they have been “[sprinkled with the ashes](#)”. This not a new thing – there have been others in the past who have been willing, nay anxious, to give their lives for others – but it is the first time that *every living Christian* is clean from *the fear of death* and only wanting to bring about the resurrection of their brothers and sisters.

So the goat will come and receive the burden of the guilt of the sins of the righteous. But in the reality he already has it because of his part in the sin controversy, but it is necessary for us to SEE that in the play-acting.

Jacob hung on because the lives of his family depended on it, and these men and women (yes, some of the 144,000 will be female, some will be old and some young), know that the lives of all the dead righteous hang in the balance, depending on them. Not to make them Christians or to save them from sin, but to save them from the grave. They have volunteered for this job because they trust in Him to bring them through. They will be facing Satan’s greatest temptations, God’s apparent refusal to help them (“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”), and their own human nature (their self), plus the anger of the world who will blame them as being responsible for the plagues.

I repeat, what Christ did at Calvary was NOT the act of a God, but the act of a man who trusted God’s word. His real “death” began with Adam (Revelation 13:8). (See note 4.) Only by standing at the doorway of death can the 144,000 complete their mission.

{Desire of Ages 623.4}

The grain of wheat that preserves its own life can produce no fruit. It abides alone. Christ could, if He chose, save Himself from death. But should He do this, He must abide alone. He could bring no sons and daughters to God. Only by yielding up His life could He impart life to humanity. Only by falling into the ground to die could He become the seed of that vast harvest, — the great multitude that out of every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, are redeemed to God. {DA 623.4}

{Great Controversy 618.3}

As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good.

They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God. {GC 618.3}

They will think that they have come to that point where they will have to give their lives for others, like Christ on the cross, and like their friends who have been torn from them (EW16.1) and are prepared to do so, but He has said that it will not happen. Can they live on that promise? (See note 5.)

{Great Controversy 634.1}

The eye of God, looking down the ages, was fixed upon the crisis which His people are to meet, when earthly powers shall be arrayed against them. Like the captive exile, they will be in fear of death by ***starvation or by violence***. But the Holy One who divided the Red Sea before Israel, will manifest His mighty power and turn their captivity. “They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and ***I will spare them***, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” Malachi 3:17.

When Isaac was willing to be sacrificed there was a ram nearby. (Genesis 22:13).

If the blood of Christ’s faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more [for probation has closed]. ***If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness.***

Their agony was not just for mankind, but for the universe, for they are the dowry of the LORD. [See that article.](#)

Says the psalmist: “In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His Tabernacle shall He hide me.” Psalm 27:5.

Christ has spoken: “Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.” Isaiah 26:20, 21. Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for His coming and whose names are written in the book of life. {GC 634.1}

The *fifth* angel of Revelation 14:15 will sound (or demonstrate) their attitude,⁵ and after that point they will be helped by some loyal angels as Christ was. Matthew 4:11. Satan will have to retreat then because sin cannot exist where righteousness reigns (in the form of the loyal angels), any more than darkness can exist with light.

Revelation 14:

¹⁵ And another angel [the *fifth* of seven] came out of the temple [where their thoughts had been], crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, ***Thrust in Your sickle, and reap: for the time is come for You to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*** [“I will not let You go except You bless me”. Genesis 32:26.]

¹⁶ And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Now move on to the next part of this trilogy, [the “Ritual of the Red Heifer”](#).

Note 1:

Genesis 47: [Where is God or His advice in this story?]

¹⁵ And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph, and said, *Give us bread: for why should we die in your presence? for the money fails.* ¹⁶ And Joseph said, *Give [me] your cattle; and I will give you [food in exchange] for your cattle, if money fail.* ¹⁷ And they brought their cattle to Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year [but now he owned the animals.]

¹⁸ When that year was ended, they came to him the second year, and said to him, *We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also has our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands:* ¹⁹ *wherefore shall we die before your eyes, both we and our land? **Buy us** and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants to Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate.*

²⁰ And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's. ²¹ ***And as for the people, he removed them to cities*** from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof [and they became pensioners of the state.]

²² Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh [for Egypt had a state religion], and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them [they were paid by the state]: wherefore they sold not their lands. [It was always under Pharaoh's control.]

⁵ Angels in Revelation 14 represent groups of people on earth.

²³ Then Joseph said to the people, *Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.* ²⁴ *And it shall come to pass in the increase [on the profit], that you shall give the fifth part [20%] to Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones.*

²⁵ And they said, **You have saved our lives:** *let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.* [They willingly gave up their freedom for protection.]

²⁶ And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's [during the famine.]

Note 2:

Luke 22:

⁴² Saying, Father, if You be willing, remove this cup from Me [My human nature recoils at the thought]: nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.

⁴³ And there appeared an angel to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

⁴⁴ And **being in an agony** He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Note 3:

Isaiah 66:

⁶ A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that renders recompense to His enemies.

⁷ **Before** she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. ⁸ Who has heard such a thing? who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for **as soon as** Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

⁹ Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? says the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? says your God. ¹⁰ Rejoice you with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all you that mourn for her.

Note 4:

{Desire of Ages 576.1

The tears of Jesus were not in anticipation of His own suffering.

Just before Him was Gethsemane, where soon **the horror of a great darkness** would overshadow Him. The sheepgate also was in sight, through which for centuries the beasts for sacrificial offerings had been led. This gate was soon to open for Him, the great Antitype, toward whose sacrifice for the sins of the world all these offerings had pointed. Near by was Calvary, the scene of His approaching agony.

Yet it was not because of these reminders of His cruel death that the Redeemer wept and groaned in anguish of spirit. His was no selfish sorrow. The thought of His own agony

did not intimidate that noble, self-sacrificing soul. It was the sight of Jerusalem that pierced the heart of Jesus — Jerusalem that had rejected the Son of God and scorned His love, that refused to be convinced by His mighty miracles, and was about to take His life. He saw what she was in her guilt of rejecting her Redeemer, and what she might have been had she accepted Him who alone could heal her wound. He had come to save her; how could He give her up? {DA 576.1}

{Desire of Ages 690.2 to 693.1}

Turning away, Jesus sought again His retreat, and fell prostrate, overcome by the horror of a great darkness. **The humanity** of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour. He prayed not now for His disciples that their faith might not fail, but for His own tempted, agonized soul. The awful moment had come — that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. **The fate of humanity trembled in the balance.** Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father.

Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save the guilty? The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, “O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.” {DA 690.2}

Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times **has humanity** shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world’s Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. **He will save man at any cost to Himself.**

He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression. And He will not turn from His mission. **He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin.** His prayer now breathes only submission: “If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.” {DA 690.3}

Having made the decision, He fell **dying** to the ground from which He had partially risen [\[this was Thursday night.\]](#) ... {DA 693.1}

Note 5:

{Desire of Ages 24.3}

By His humanity, Christ touched humanity;
by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God.
As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience;
as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey.

It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses saying, “I AM THAT I AM.... Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” Exodus 3:14. This was the pledge of Israel’s deliverance.

So when He came “in the likeness of men,” He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, is God “manifest in the flesh.” 1 Timothy 3:16. And to us He says: “I AM the Good Shepherd.” “I AM the living Bread.” “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” John 10:11; 6:51; 14:6; Matthew 28:18.

I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. “God with us” is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven.
{DA 24.3}
