**“WHEN EVERY KNEE WILL BOW!”**

LAST DAY EVENTS SERIES #3, LA SIERRA SPANISH CHURCH, 4/13/20. LLBN WORSHIP, 7/17/20

**INTRO.** A. **One boy** in college, came to his final test, ornithology, study of birds. Teacher had put pictures of 13 bird legs on the wall, you had to tell what the bird was. Kid says, Hopeless. Teacher—still have to take it. Nobody could pass this test. Not going to take it. Going to fail. I don’t care. Teacher gets out gradebook—“What’s your name?” kid rolls up his pants—“**You tell me who I am!”** Many of us grew up—Judgment—hopeless. Tonight—Go over the **Last Day Events—where I have had to change my beliefs along the way.**

 B. Like many people, I grew up scared to death of the Last Days. Scared to death of the book of **REVELATION. Scared of the INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT—**never be good enough. Forget one sin, you’re out. God could call up your name any minute, and if you weren’t perfect right then, going to church, no bad words, reading the Bible every day, nice to everybody no matter how mean they were to you. Love everybody, Democrats, Republicans, cops who give you tickets, your boss, everybody. You’d be lost, taken off the List, and you wouldn’t even know it! **Scared of the TIME OF TROUBLE. Scared of the CLOSE OF PROBATION. But the verses said, we’re supposed to preach it like it was GOOD NEWS. REVELATION 14:6 “This Gospel of the Kingdom shall go to all the world.”** Gospel means Good News. How did we turn Good News into something that scared all of us to death?

**I. WHAT ABOUT THE JUDGMENT?**  A. Thought I had to be perfect. But didn’t know anybody who had ever made it to being perfect. So what hope was there? But the Bible says, not supposed to have any fear. **JOHN 14:1 “’Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God.’” Which means that if we’re scared of the Last Days, afraid of the Judgment—don’t really believe in God enough.**

 B. I still believe that some sort of Judgment happened in 1844. But we have had to make some changes over the years. Here were some of the questions people had: **#1—How could something so crucial, be so complicated?** You had to be an expert in math to figure it out. You couldn’t figure it out just from the Bible—you had to know archaeology and chronology and a lot of ancient history in order to figure it out. How people in Outer Mongolia supposed to know all of that? John Wyclife said he wanted the Bible to be in English so that the poorest plowboy in England could read it. Our beliefs have to be simple enough for everybody. What good would it be for Jesus to die for everybody but then you had to be a Ph.D. to figure it all out?

 **#2—**It scared people—but it was supposed to be GOOD NEWS. Bible says—**1 JOHN 5:12 “He who has the Son has life.”** **JOHN 3:17 “Whoever believes in Him is not condemned.”** If you’re in Jesus, you know you’re saved. It doesn’t WHEN the Judgment started or when it ends—you have nothing to worry about. That’s where I had to change. To be so scared, I was just wrong.

 **#3—We said Jesus didn’t do the COMPLETE ATONEMENT for sin until 1844, when God did the JUDGMENT in the heavenly sanctuary and cleaned out all the sins that were in the books. And you got rid of all the sins in your life.** People accused us everywhere, of minimizing the Cross. Gradually we changed. We were just wrong. Jesus completed the Atonement at the Cross. Jesus shouted on the Cross, “It is finished.” He went straight to heaven and God accepted the Sacrifice. The book of HEBREWS is clear—Jesus has died, and now we have **FULL ACCESS to God. The world is not waiting for God to do anything else to save us. Jesus did it all. Now He’s just waiting for us. HEBREWS 4:16 “Come boldly to the throne of grace.”**

 **#4—We said Jesus was in the Holy Place for 1810 years, but then in 1844 He went through the Veil into the Most Holy Place.** I was just wrong. Jesus said, **JOHN 10:30 “’I and the Father are One.’” The Bible is crystal clear—**Jesus went back to heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. They are absolutely together. Rev. 14 says we are standing around the throne of God and we have the name of God and the name of the Lamb on our forehead. Together.

 **#5—**We said God had to have a Judgment **so that HE WOULD KNOW WHO TO SAVE. WHOSE NAMES TO PUT ON THE LIST!** No I was just wrong. Jesus said,

**Here are some of the main ideas that the Church has hammered out over the last 40 years:**

 **B. #1—Judgment is not first of all about us, but about God.** **REVELATION 14:7 “The Hour of His Judgment is come.”** The Judgment is first of all about God. Is He the kind of God you want to be with, every day, forever? **RED ROSE—**famous story, guy in WWII bought a used book in NY, found the girl’s address, wrote to her in Florida, she wrote back, kept writing all through the war in the South Seas. Asked for a picture, no, let’s leave it like this. Came back to NY, asked her to come see him, OK, on the train. How will I know which one is you? One with a Red Rose. Train came in, thousands, looking, finally sees red rose—little old lady! No wonder she didn’t want to send a picture. Nice to her, she hands him the flower, points to a pillar, that lady gave me a dollar to give you the rose. All a test. He thought he was judging her—but she was testing him, would he like her when she’s young and pretty, but what about later? Trying to decide, if she wants to be with him forever. I grew up, thinking God was judging us—but it’s clear in the Bible, we are **JUDGING GOD,** see if we want to be with Him, Not just for one hour at church--but for 1000 years and forever after that.

 **1.** For 6000 years God has had to sit in heaven, watching wars, 6 million Jews killed in WWII, **MARAWI, 250,000 in TSUNAMI, ISIS,** divorce, cancer, funerals. Can’t stand it, go through it all again. **NAHUM 1:9 “The affliction will not arise a second time.”** Going to get this right once and for all. Every question has to be answered, everybody has to vote—**108 billion to zero**—that God was right.

 2. Somebody told me about an old movie, **King Arthur**. The king sees the Queen **Gwinevere,** kissing Sir Lancelot. What can he do? Can use power, kill him, throw in jail—but then never know if he has her heart. God has the same problem. Can’t use power, fear—then never sure about the heart!

 **E. #2—Judgment is not Bad News for Us, but AGAINST the Little Horn.** Whatever bad things have happened to you—maybe your family is poor. Maybe your parents broke up. Maybe something happened to you, just not fair. The Judgment is God’s promise—the bad stuff will not happen forever. Going to end.

 F. **#3—If you are in Christ—DANIEL 7:22 “God pronounced judgment in favor of the saints.”** If in Christ, don’t have to worry about the Judgment one more minute. **1 JOHN 5:12 “He who has the Son has life.” JOHN 3:18 “‘There is no judgment for those who trust Him.’” 1 CORINTHIANS13:5 “Love keeps no records of wrongs.”** In the movies–Court Room, always that moment, the jury comes back, verdict. Two of the greatest words in the world–“**Not Guilty.**” People dance, hug their lawyers, everybody’s cheering. You get to go home. Judge says—“You’re Free to Go.”

 **1. GOLF CLUB**—somebody tried to sell me a high-end set of golf clubs one time, could try them out for 6 weeks, if didn’t like them, send them back. OK. Terrible clubs. Called the company, no answer. Scared. $1300 showed up on my VISA card. Terrified to have to tell Hilda, $1300 for golf clubs. I called VISA, sent the clubs back. Waited like 6 months. Finally little note on the VISA bill--the JUDGMENT was decided in your favor--$1300 off! **That’s the GOOD NEWS about the JUDGMENT—sins are gone, Jesus shouted, “It is finished.” Sins To the bottom of the ocean. Why Judgment is for us, not against us.**

**II. ONLY JESUS.** A. Thee is this movement in Adventism, called **LAST GENERATION THEOLOGY.** At the end of the world—Jesus will leave the Most Holy Place, no more mediator, no more grace, no more forgiveness, you’re on your own. Have to be perfect. NO--**HEBREWS 7:25 “He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”** There will never be a time when we will be totally on our own with God, stand on our two feet, God helps those who help themselves. Always Jesus.

 B. Yes, God calls us to live holy, godly lives, yes. BUT **LOOK AT THIS:**  **REVELATION 7:9 “I saw a GREAT MULTITUDE**, **that no one could number.’”** Says they have VICTORY These are good people, they keep the commandments,! Dressed in white. But when you ask them how they got in—**REVELATION 7:10 “’Salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb.’”** Ellen White says not one person thinks they had anything to do with it themselves. All Jesus.

**III. FINAL SHOWDOWN! A.** Some people tell me–they don’t want to go through the last days, Time of Trouble. Sleep through it all, wake up, see Jesus coming on clouds. **Not me!** I want to see it all.

 B. On one side, God is going to let Satan go crazy. God has told the **4 ANGELS, REV. 7--**angels, hold back the worst of Satan. God said at the Tree, **GENESIS 2:15-17 “’If you eat of the Tree, you shall surely die.”** Satan said, **“You will NOT surely die.’”** OK, let’s see how you like it, a world w/o God. Disasters—not one a year, every day, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, maybe nuclear bombs, terrorists. Bible says, under the **7 SEALS**, ¼ of the world gets destroyed, then God lets go some more, under the **7 TRUMPETS** 1/3. Now we have this terrible **PANDEMIC. Friend of mine, ER Doctor in Chicago, in the hospital himself. Struggling to breathe, can hardly talk to me. Terrible.**

 C. Can’t give a full sermon on the **SIGNS**. We have had wars, earthquakes, typhoons, all of that, forever. But what we believe, it will get faster and faster, worse and worse, like a river goes faster and faster as it comes to a **WATERFALL or RAPIDS.** This **PANDEMIC** May be the beginning of the 4 angels letting go.

 1. A big issue, just starting to get some articles right now—is **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, FREEDOM, separation of CHURCH & STATE.** Now they have the power to close all our churches. We can’t even tape. Governments all over the world are taking more power, they say because it is an **EMERGENCY.** Will they give the power back when the emergency is over? But REVELATION says in the last days, Church and State joining together, taking power, force. They’re laying the groundwork right now.

 **2. But the BIGGEST SIGN**—for me—is the **CROSS.** Why would Jesus go through all of that—the Nails, the Crown of Thorns, the whipping—and then not come back to get us? He said, I’m going to prepare a place for you and if I go I will come back, and take you to be with Me, that where I am there you may be also. That’s why he died. **EPH. 5--He died for the Church. HEBREWS 12:2 “For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the shame of the Cross.”** If He doesn’t come back, **WHAT FOR? VIETNAM WALL—**TV camera, there was a father, hand on the name of his son. What for? My son dies, we lost the country anyway. I give my son—What for? That’s how I know Jesus will come back.

 D. The ultimate SIGN is of course the **GOSPEL going all over the World.**  The Bible says, Rev. 7 and 14, there will be **144,000**, we think a symbolic number, get excited about God, no more Laodicea, lukewarm, white-hot for God. Every seat full. Ask us to be on TV. **AWR STORY—**small village, secret country, man in white suit showed up, showed chief, small radio, turn dial, this time every day, listen. They turned, he was gone, maybe an angel. Listened every day, pretty soon whole village, all believing in Jesus, all keeping the Sabbath, 6 villages, the same. Last Days. **LOOK HOW LONG it has taken for us all to learn new words—Pandemic, Social Distancing, Corona virus, COVID 19, ventilators, PPE’s, Dr. FAUCI, DR. BIRX.** When the right issue comes, and the right people stand up—won’t take long, go to the whole world

 E. Everyone will have to make a final choice. Are you in or out, fully devoted to God or just half?

 F. **CLOSE OF PROBATION—**I grew up, thought that there would just come a day when God would get fed up, bring the curtain down, that’s it, too late, too bad. No, God will never close probation until everybody has made their final choice. Is there anything else I could do? No, we’re good. Final Answer.

**IV. FINAL EVENTS:** A. Then comes the cloud in the east. **1 THESSALONIANS 4:16 “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a shout, the call of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God.”** Some churches teach, secret, God will just suck people away. NO. **REVELATION 1:7 “Every eye will see Him.**.” Jesus is getting married. He’s been waiting for thousands of years--Not going to sneak off.

 **B. RESURRECTION:** Finally the day will come that my family has been waiting for for 18 years already. My father is under a stone—but someday, going to come out. **NY TAXI—man** went to NY, got in a taxi, told him where to go, sat back. All of a sudden sees where he’s supposed to go, taps the driver on the shoulder, taxi driver goes crazy, almost hits a few cars, finally stops. He turns back and says, “Don’t ever touch me like that again! This is my first day driving a taxi. For the last 15 years I’ve been driving the **FUNERAL CAR!** Thought a dead man had woken up! But someday that’s what’s going to happen.

 1. Jesus said. **REVELATION 1:17-18 “And behold, I have the keys to DEATH & HELL.’”**

 C. **Why–1000 YEARS?** Time to ask every question. Why are some there? God, do you know what they did down there? Yes. But they changed.

 D. **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.** God will raise all the wicked. Gather around the City. Great White Throne Judgment–some sort of video, story of the Cross. As if we were there. When people see the whole Cross, the whipping, the nails, people begin to bow down. **AMAZING GRACE. HOW GREAT THOU ART.** **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 “Every knee will bow and tongue confess, Jesus is Lord.”** People begin to bow down Christ is there, Father, Holy Spirit. Adam and Eve. Started it all. All going to bow. Then the wicked. All the terrorists. ISIS. Then every demon. Then in the very back. Satan himself. You think what that will mean to God—after all the lies that Satan has told. Now—everybody is bowing. **The vote is 108 Billion to ZERO**. God was right. Don’t miss that moment.

**APPEAL:** **A. WILLIAMS—**old illustration. You know the Bible calls heaven and the second coming like a **PARTY.** I came out of Seminary, Christmas, got to my first church, southern OR, bought a little house on Friday. Preached my first sermon, a couple people invited us to a party that night, no pressure. Sundown changed our clothes, start unpacking, thought, my first church, maybe we should go to that party. Changed again, drove back out there. Drove into the parking lot, completely full. Walked in the door, whole church there, welcome party for us! Terrifying how close we came, not going to my own welcome party! **That’s why I go to every party now—might be another party for me!** **Someday going to be the party to end all parties! Don’t miss it!**