

The Close of Human Probation

(Endtime Events and the Great Controversy)

By Saul Leacock

This world is soon coming to a close. Disasters upon land, air and sea clearly reveal the fulfillment of the prophecies of Jesus Christ. Luke 21: 8-11, 25- 28, 34-36. While these events are occurring daily, individuals are daily making up their minds for or against God. Soon, very soon, the final decisive, irrevocable, irreversible, moment will come. Shockingly, God has given to man a whole lifetime to make one decision and to maintain it unto the end. Matthew 24:13. How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation. Hebrews 2:3. Not to choose is also a choice. Those who neglect to put themselves on God's side are automatically placing themselves on the side of the enemy, choosing his side. We must inevitably be under the control of one or the other of the two great powers contending for the loyalty of the human mind. However, we don't have to deliberately choose Satan's side to be controlled by him. We only have to refuse to give ourselves to Christ and be controlled by Him, and we are automatically giving ourselves up to be controlled by the prince of darkness. This time or event when all human beings will have made up and fixed their final choice is called

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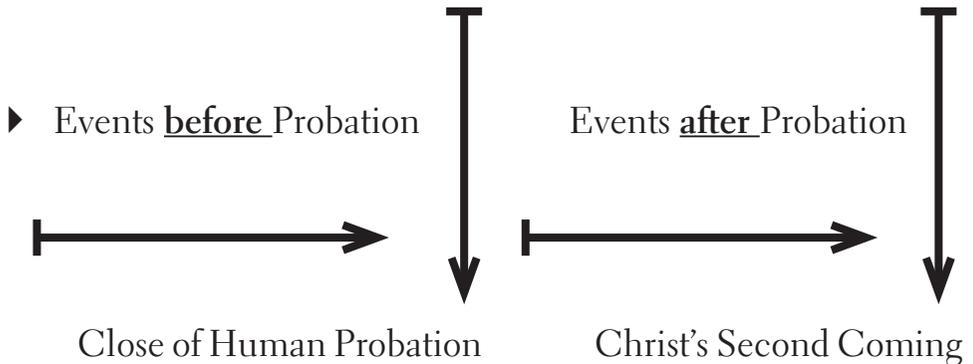
The closure of human probation is one of the most distinguishing and unique features of biblical thinking when it comes to endtime events. Probation is a period of time granted to every single human being in which they determine their own eternal destinies (whether they will be saved or lost), by choosing to accept God or Satan. Using Biblical typology and ancient Hebrew understanding, the close of human probation can be defined as the time when Jesus ceases His mediatorial ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary and human beings no longer have an opportunity to change their decision for

or against God.

This is the time when the final verdict and pronouncement will be made,

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Rev.22:11, 12.

The close of human probation is a great prophetic landmark that divides human history into two parts. It can be said that no point in Christian thinking, when it comes to choices and last-day events, is more important than the close of human probation. We identify prophetic events according to whether they come **before** the close of probation or **after**. The second coming of Christ will end human history on this earth as we know it. 1 Thess. 4:1-17; 1Cor.15:51-57. But there is a short period of history left after the close of human probation during which there will be no opportunity for unrepentant sinners to accept Christ and be saved.



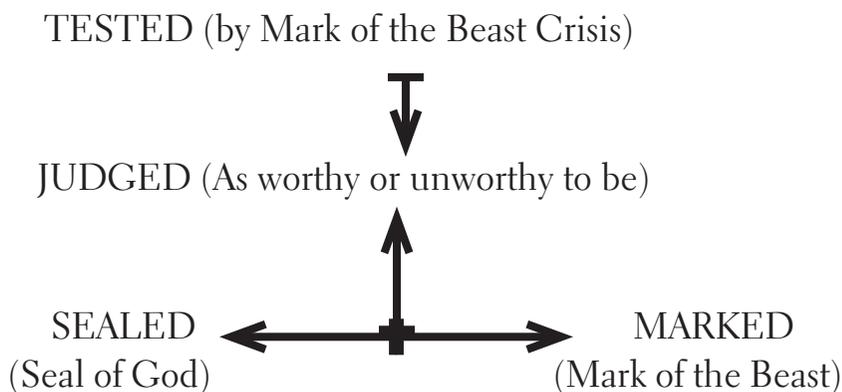
Jesus said that after “this gospel of the kingdom” is preached unto the world as a witness”, then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14. Every mind will at that time be irreversibly made up for Christ or for satan. That is what will make the close of probation such a momentous landmark, such a pivotal point in history and prophetic interpretation.

When God's final warning message shall have gone to all the world (Rev.18:1-4), the close of probation will "come as a thief". No one knows when probation will close, but it is certain that it will close for everyone around the same period of time.

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Rev. 16:15.

After the last warning message is given to the world, the seven last plagues will be poured out upon those who have received the mark and image of the Beast. (See Rev. 18:1-4; Rev.15:1; Rev.14:9-11; Rev.16:1,2).

All human beings must be tested, then judged, then sealed or marked. Revelation 13:11-17; Rev.14:9-11; Rev. 15:2, 3; Rev.7:2-4.



There are many who have not yet heard the testing truth for this time. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. **The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth.** Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; **His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter.** The mercy of God is shown in His long forbearance. He is holding back His judgments, waiting for

the message of warning to be sounded to all. See also 1 Peter 4:17; 1 Tim.5:24.

BIBLICAL EVIDENCES AND EXAMPLES OF THE CLOSE OF HUMAN PROBATION

Evidence from the Parables of Jesus

Many of the parables of Jesus teach this concept of human probation closing a short time before His second coming. There are three classes of people in the world today: those who have accepted Christ, those who have rejected Him, and those who have not made a decision one way or the other. The Bible teaches that when human probation closes, there will be just two classes: the righteous and the wicked. Christ's parables and illustrations that teach only two groups at the end of time are :

- The wheat and the tares. (Mat. 13:24-30,36-43)
- The fish in the net. (Mat. 13: 47-50)
- The ten virgins. (Mat. 25: 1-13)
- The men with talents. (Mat. 25:14-30)
- The sheep and the goats. (Mat. 25:31-46).
- The obedient and the disobedient sons (Mat.21:28-32, Luke 15:11-32)
- The two women, one taken and the other left.(Mat.24:37-42)
- The Pharisee and the Publican. (Luke 18:9-14)
- The sealed and the marked (Rev. 7:1-4; Rev.14:9-11)

There will be a judgment which will produce a separation between the good and the bad. After everyone's mind is made up or fixed, then there will be the execution of the judgment in terms of the

rewards which they will receive. Rev.22:11-14.

Even church people will be divided into two classes. Therefore, it is not enough to have accepted Jesus Christ, to have been baptized and joined the church.

It is “he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matthew 24:13,14.

The Apostle says, “For we are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.” Hebrews 3:4).

Many lifelong “Christians” will say to Jesus in that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Thy name, and in your name cast out demons and perform many miracles?” And Jesus will unfortunately have to say to them, “I never knew you, Depart from me, you evildoers.” Mat 7:22,23.

Old Testament Types of the Close of Human Probation.

There are several stories and one prophecy in the Old Testament that are types of the close of human probation at the end of the world.

The Death of the Firstborn in Egypt (Exodus 11:4-6; 12:7,12, 13, 23, 29-37).

Judgment of death came upon all the firstborn in Egypt of the parents who did not follow God’s strict instructions through Moses of putting the blood (symbol of Christ’s blood) upon the lintel and the two side posts (thus forming a cross). This was God’s means of protection and of separating those who were obedient from those who were not. The very night that the firstborns were killed by the destroyer was the very time when Pharoah released the Israelites to leave Egypt. Minds were made up for or against God and God delivered them in a signal manifestation of His power. This was a type of a greater deliverance which Christ was to accomplish in freeing His people from the bondage of sin. (1 Cor. 5:7). Probation closed for the Egyptians who

were later destroyed at the Red Sea.

The Story of Noah and the Flood. (Genesis 6:3-8,11-14, 17; Gen.7:10-13,17-24).

Noah preached for one hundred and twenty years and warned the antediluvians that a flood was going to come. The people who were granted this period of probation had they listened and repented to the preaching of Noah and others, they would not have been destroyed. The ark was a physical barrier between the two classes of those who served God and those who did not. When the door of the Ark was shut, probation closed for that civilization and when the flood came, every living thing outside of the Ark drowned. Only Noah and his family were safe and saved in the Ark. (See booklet on “The Gospel in the Flood”).

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 19: 15-25).

God sent two angels to tell Lot that Sodom and Gomorrah were going to be destroyed. Their cup of iniquity had become full and there was nothing God could do to save them from their wickedness. The door of Probation closed for those cities because their minds and choices had become fixed in their licentious behaviours. So the angels led Lot and his two daughters to safety before its rained fire and brimstone upon their unrepentant heads. Before the city was divided into two classes, Abraham had interceded for the people.

The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish People. (Matthew 21:33-43; Matt.23:34-38).

God gave the Jews 490 years of probationary time (see Daniel 9:24). The Jews rejected Jesus Christ who was central to the covenant God made with them through Abraham. Jesus had told them, “Your house is left unto you desolate” (Matt.21: 43) and that “The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” (Matt. 23:38). The probation of

the Jewish church as a nation at that time ended in A.D 34 at the conclusion of the seventy weeks prophecy, and the city of Jerusalem was terribly destroyed in AD 70. However, the Christians following Jesus' instructions made good their escape before its destruction. (Mat. 21:43; Matt.23:38, 34-37).

Revelation 22: 11

This verse speaks of a final division of the entire human race into two classes. It is a definite reference to the close of human probation when every mind will be fixed or made up. In the climax of the book of Revelation, the two classes of people receive either the seal of God (Rev.7:1-4; Rev.14:1-5) or the Mark of the Beast during the Final Mark of the Beast crisis (Rev.13:15-17; Rev.14:9-11). This apocalyptic book reveals that the wicked will receive the mark of the beast before the seven last plagues begin to fall. By the close of probation, the two classes will be clearly defined. While the plagues fall on the wicked (Rev.16:1, 2; Rev.14: 9-11), the Sealed people of God, the 144000, are victorious and protected during the crisis. (Rev.7:1-4; Rev.15:1-3).

The Finishing of Christ's Mediatorial Ministry

Revelation 15 tells us that Christ's mediatorial ministry will end before the seven last plagues begin to fall. The fact that the "temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in Heaven was opened" vs.5, means that Christ work as our intercessor is completed. Moreover, the priest could not carry on their mediatorial ministry as long as the cloud and the glory of God filled the temple. Vs 8. (See also 2 Chron.7:1,2; 2 Chron.5:13,14; 1 Kings 8:10,11). Therefore Christ's final work in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary is finished before the seven last plagues are poured out. By that time, probation would have closed for mankind.

The Close of Human Probation as a Process and at a Point in Time

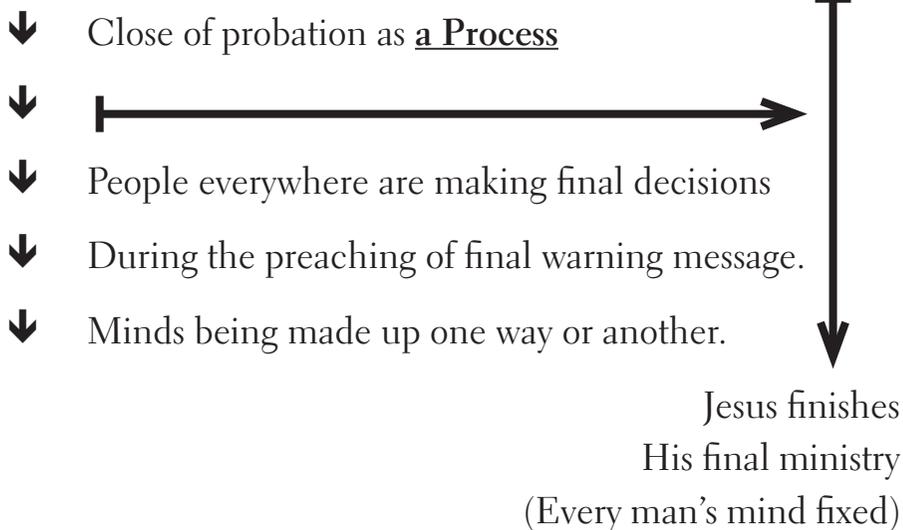
The Scriptures also teach that the judgment **begins first** at the House of God, and then to the rest of the world. (1 Peter 4:17,18. 1 Tim.5: 24,25; Ezek.9). These passages tell us that the close of probation, which must come after the judgment, is a process, having a beginning and an end. It begins with those to whom much is given, who knew better, who had been exposed to greater light and truth than others. From them, it passes unto all others who hear the truth for themselves and make a decision one way or another, until every individual human being chooses to make up his/her mind for or against God. (Romans 14:10b; 2 Cor.5:10; Romans 2:2-11; Eccl.12:13,14).

The close of probation then, will be the time when people all over the world make their final decisions about the truth, thereby sealing their eternal destiny. This will occur during the preaching of the final warning message of Rev.18:1-4, when, depending on their final choices for or against the truth, individuals will be receiving the Seal of God or the Mark of the Beast. Some people will make their choices earlier than others, but Jesus will not finish His ministry until every choice has been made. The making of final choices will occur over a **period of time**, not all at once. This is how the close of probation will be a **Process**.

However, when the world has been warned and every individual has made up his/her mind for or against God, **when there is no one else to be judged**, everyone sealed or marked, then will be the time when Jesus ceases His mediatorial ministry in the Heavenly sanctuary. It is at that **point in time when Jesus makes the pronouncement**, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” (Rev.22:11), that everyone will already be fixed in their condition unchanged. Jesus’ words will not close anyone’s probation. Every human being will already have

closed his or her own probation by the choice made regarding the truth. It will simply be a formal declaration that the choices made are now final and eternal; there will never again be an opportunity to change hearts or sides.

Close of Probation as a fixed
Point in Time



The close of probation will not be God's decision at all. It will be God's recognition and respect of our decision—the collective decision of the entire human race. Christ's ministry will stay open till the last person has made his or her final choice and closed his/her own probation. Jesus will not cease His ministry as long as one soul is left to decide. He is not going to close probation until we are ready.

We are near the close of probation, when every case is to pass in review before God. Now, in probation, is the time God has given us for the formation of pure and holy characters. If this time is not improved, if the thoughts are impure, if the heart is not sanctified, if unholy practices are indulged, be sure that the portion of such will be with the unholy, the debased, the abominable.

It is now, in probationary time, that every soul must make his choice. This choice will be seen in the family, will be seen in the association with the church. Virtue and true, unselfish principles will bring their own reward, for they will be reproduced in others.

When probation ends, it will come suddenly, unexpectedly—at a time when we are least expecting it. But we can have a clean record in heaven today, and know that God accepts us; and finally, if faithful, we shall be gathered into the kingdom of heaven.

Now is the time to make preparation by receiving the principles of the Seal of God by settling into the truth intellectually and spiritually so that we will not be moved. It is now that we are to develop strong spiritual characters by building on the Rock Christ Jesus so that when the rain, the winds and the floods beat upon our house it will not fall. Those who build on the sand will be washed away by the tempest crisis.

However, it is in a crisis that character is revealed, not formed. Whatever is within will come out. In the parable of Matthew 25, when the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, **it was seen who had made preparation for the event.** Both parties were taken unawares; but one was **prepared for the emergency**, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity is soon to break, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. **The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul’s need to be supplied.**

Scripture also reveals that at death a person’s probation closes. Hebrews 9:27.

All around us are souls going down to ruin as hopeless, as terrible, as that which befell Sodom and Gomorrah. Every day the probation of some is closing. Every hour some are passing beyond the reach of mercy. And where are the voices of warning and entreaty to bid the sinner flee from this fearful doom? Where are the hands stretched out to draw him back from death? Where are those who with humility and persevering faith are pleading with God for him?

We have no time to lose. We know not how soon our probation may close. At the longest, we have but a brief lifetime here, and we know not how soon the arrow of death may strike our hearts. We know not how soon we may be called to give up the world and all its interests. Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. But a few short years, and for everyone now numbered with the living the mandate will go forth:

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11.

We are fast approaching the close of our probation. Let every soul inquire, How do I stand before God? We know not how soon our names may be taken into the lips of Christ, and our cases be finally decided. What, oh, what will these decisions be! Shall we be counted with the righteous, or shall we be numbered with the wicked?

May we recognize the solemn truth that anyone who is prepared for the close of probation will be ready for the second coming of Jesus, and anyone who is not ready for the close of probation won't be ready for the second coming of Jesus. He who is right with God today is ready if Christ should come today.

Dear Friend/Reader, please do not delay, hesitate or procrastinate your decision for Jesus and His truth. While probation lingers,

why not choose to surrender yourself to Christ, make a serious commitment to serve Him now and prepare for the final crisis and the end of this world.

MY PERSONAL HEARTFELT PRAYER

Dear Father, I understand solemnly that you have given me a whole lifetime to make one choice and to remain committed to that choice. I realize too that You are a loving and a Merciful God and that it is not you who will determine if I will be saved or lost, but that it is my choice. I recognize based on what is happening in the world that probation hours are closing and that it is daily that I am making decisions that will determine my ultimate destiny. I surrender my heart fully to you now, asking You to transform me by Your Holy Spirit, and I now make an honest commitment today to live for you for the rest of my life. I thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen.