

**THE END OF TIMES
PROPHECIES
FROM
“THE WORD OF
GOD”**

**Through the Writings of
Maria Valtorta**



MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP – AUSTRALIA

(Jesus to Maria Valtorta):

“Let us turn to the little sheep,
seeking to be acquainted with their Shepherd.

It is I,
and you are the staff,
leading them to Me.”

(The Poem of the Man-God, Vol. 1, p. 246)
(The Gospel as Revealed to Me, Vol. 1, p. 292)

THE END OF TIMES PROPHECIES FROM
“THE WORD OF GOD”
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The passages in this booklet have been extracted from some of the essential writings of Maria Valtorta, a Mystic writer who lived in the early part of the last century, and who wrote extensively about the lives of Jesus and Mary, of the apostles, and of many other protagonists and antagonists who lived at the time of Jesus (*see “Who was Maria Valtorta?” p.4*).

During His Public Life, Jesus didn't leave Israel, and many of the Jews He encountered did not respond to His teachings - in fact those who were most hostile to Him, had Him crucified. Often during His journeys Jesus acknowledged the integrity and justice of the Gentiles and Samaritans He met - and those of distant countries - and at His Ascension into Heaven, He commissioned His disciples to go to the ends of the earth and preach to them. Also, Jesus foreshadowed that many Christians of future centuries would separate themselves from within His Church.

Maria Valtorta's books from which the selected passages were chosen are:

The Poem of the Man-God (5 volumes)* - now re-published as *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* (10 Volumes)* -referred to as “The Work.”

*Notebooks 1943**

*Notebooks 1944**

*Notebooks 1945-50**

The Little Notebooks

*The Book of Azariah** (Maria's Guardian Angel) – 1993 (HC edition)

*The Book of Azariah** (Maria's Guardian Angel) - 2008 (SC edition)

*Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans** (Dictations by the Holy Spirit).

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(to whom all rights for Maria Valtorta's complete works are reserved)

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the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group (see pp. 92-3),

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19 March 2013 The Feast of Saint Joseph

WHO WAS MARIA VALTORTA?

In the 1940s, Italian-born Maria Valtorta, bedridden for many years with a debilitating back injury, experienced and recorded an extraordinary sequence of visions and dictations relating to the lives of Jesus and Mary – from before Mary’s birth to after her Assumption. Maria died in 1961, and her work - especially *The Poem of the Man-God* [re-published as *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*] - has brought considerable joy, tears, inspiration and hope to her many readers throughout the world. Her writings are in the realm of Private Revelation, and there are numerous testimonies supporting their authenticity.

[On 30 November 1998, Bishop Roman Danylak, then in Rome and later living in Toronto, Canada, granted his own Imprimatur for Maria Valtorta's spiritual writings in the original Italian, and in English translations approved by Centro Editoriale Valtortiano. An Imprimatur is a decision of a bishop exercising his charism of teaching authority, assuring the faithful that a work is free of moral and doctrinal error. Bishop Danylak died on 7 October 2012, the Feast of the Holy Rosary.]

On 26 February 1948, His Holiness Pope Pius XII (before three witnesses) pronounced the following, regarding the manuscript of *The Poem of the Man-God*:

“Publish this work just as it is. There is no need to give an opinion about its origin, whether it be extraordinary or not. Whoever reads it, will understand...”

For Maria Valtorta readers, these writings greatly assist the understanding of, but are not meant to replace, Divine Revelation in Scripture.

Front cover: photograph of a miraculous rose petal given to a Readers’ Group member, and picture of Maria Valtorta during her bedridden years.

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PART ONE: THE BUILD-UP

A Translator's Preface

(Below is an extract from the Preface to Notebooks 1943, by the translator to English of a number of Maria Valtorta's original Italian volumes.)

...These works contain numerous passages with an explicitly prophetic content dealing, for example, with impending ecological imbalances in the world, bloody conflicts, and the apocalyptic battle between Good and Evil as presented not only in the Book of Revelation, but in terms of new applications of passages contained in the Old Testament prophets. A comprehensive vision of the Last Times is thus provided, with particular reference to the mission of the Vicar of Christ and of all convinced Christians, in conveying the Redeemer's life and teachings, and in sharing his human and heavenly destiny - both sufferings and glorification - to the full.

One of the keynotes of these texts is the fusion of Christ's *forcefulness* in affirming his Divine Sonship and unique role, in time and eternity, with his *tenderness* in approaching troubled souls and patiently seeking to raise them to faith, hope, and love through his self-sacrificing humility and their cooperation. He repeatedly insists on the need for all believers - and religious attitudes themselves - to be purified and freed from dross, especially in the case of priests, who are responsible for the welfare of many souls and who must, therefore, be Christ-like in their action. Love and pain, when joined to Christ in deep personal prayer, are the two wings enabling lowly mankind to take flight towards union with the Holy Trinity.

The presence of Mary also forms part of this work, sometimes by way of teachings and intimate confidences about Her life with Christ, and, on occasion, in special contemplations of Her holiness and supernatural maternity.

The Holy Spirit, briefly but emphatically, manifests Himself as dynamic Love in Person, clasping the Father and the Son in a single embrace and acting throughout creation...

These *Notebooks* belong to a category of mystical literature which the Catholic Church has long been familiar with: that of so-called "private revelations". A private revelation is not binding for the faith of Christians, but its value is to be measured by its capacity to instruct and inflame souls, spurring them to love God more, and to apply divine teachings to their everyday lives.

(Notebooks 1943, p. 14)

David G. Murray*
Rome, 28 August 1996

*Not this booklet's compiler

Scriptural Prophecies

(1943 was the first year of messages given by Jesus to Maria Valtorta, in preparation for the major revelations of visions and dictations concerning the lives of Jesus and His Mother, which He would give to Maria during the following years. On 16 July 1943, Jesus says to Maria:)

"...With the world's passing from childhood to greater maturity, *the world's malice and pride have grown.*

"Now you are at the culmination of the world's age, and you have also reached the culmination of malice and pride.

"Do not think, though, that you still have as long to live as you have lived. You are at the culmination, and that ought to mean you have just as long to live. But it shall not be so. The world's parabola, descending towards the end, will not be so long as the ascending one. *It will be a plunge into the end. Precisely malice and pride make you plunge. [These are] two weights which drag you into the chasm of the end, to the tremendous judgment. Pride and malice, in addition to dragging you into the descending parabola, obscure your spirits to such a point that they make you increasingly unable to halt the descent by sincere repentance...*

"The only change, since the instant at which My Will created the world and man, lies in this: before, you had to govern and guide yourselves by the tablets of the Law and the word of the Prophets; afterwards, you had Me, Word and Redeemer, to explain the Law to you, give you My instruction and My Blood, bring you - by My coming - the Spirit Who does not leave shadows, and then support you over the centuries with the Sacraments and sacramentals.

"But what have you made of My coming? A new weight of sins that you will have to answer for.

"Shall we look together at the ancient pages where the explanations of the current hour are found?..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 183)

(Jesus says:)

"One must be able to read the Book, not with one's eyes, but with one's spirit. Then the supernatural Knowledge, which inspired it, is illuminated with the light of Truth. But to obtain this, one must have a spirit united to My Spirit. Then it is My Spirit that leads you.

"Now, look: in the pages of Isaiah let us take the words of the chapters read together¹ - like tesseras in a mosaic - and line them up with supernatural vision. They will prove to be clearer for you. Begin with the ones I have pointed out to you for the blameworthy.

"Even if compassion is shown to the wicked one, he will not learn justice. He will do evil things in the land of the saints, and will not see the glory of the Lord."²

¹ Is. Chapters 26: to 33:.

² Is. 26:10.

"Therefore, listen to the word of the Lord, O mockers, the leaders of my people that is in Jerusalem. You have said, "We have made an alliance with death; we have formed a pact with hell: when the scourges pass by, they will not come upon us, for we have placed our hopes in deceit, and by deceit we are protected."³

"Your alliance with death shall be destroyed; your pact with hell shall no longer exist; when the scourge tempestuously passes, it shall sweep you away with it.⁴ And only the exhaustion will make you learn the lesson.

"So then, do not mock, so that your chains will not be tighter."⁵

"Woe to you that hide yourselves in your hearts to conceal their designs from the Lord! They do their works in darkness and say, "Who sees us? Who recognizes us?"⁶ This thought of yours is perverse.

"Woe to you, children that desert and conceive designs - but without Me - and weave a cloth which is not according to My spirit, and pile up sin upon sin."⁷

"Therefore, this is what the Holy One of Israel says: 'Since you have disdained this word and have hoped in slander and turmoil and grounded yourselves on these things, this iniquity shall be for you like a ruinous, imperceptible breach in a high wall which suddenly - when no one imagines - brings about a collapse and breaks into a thousand pieces.'⁸

"Woe to those who go down into Egypt, to seek help and hope in horses and trust in chariots - for they are numerous - and in cavalrymen who are exceedingly vigorous, and have not placed their trust in the Holy One. They have not sought the Lord."⁹

"Egypt is man and not God; its horses are flesh and not spirit. The Lord will stretch out His hand, and whoever offers help will collapse; whoever is helped will fall, and they will all be destroyed together."¹⁰

"Woe to you, sacker! Won't you be sacked, too? Woe to you, mocker! Won't you be mocked, too? When you have finished sacking, you will be sacked; when, weary, you finish mocking, you will be mocked."¹¹

"Before speaking about topics and God's promises, let us comment on this passage.

"The heart of man, which the prophet calls wicked, is a mixture of pride, overbearance, and rebelliousness. *The threefold lust is in it.* It is the throne on which the Evil One sits, to fill that heart which has repudiated God and His Justice with demoniacal thoughts. From this heart nothing but iniquity can emerge. For its King is the Spirit of Evil, who grants ephemeral triumphs, paid for later by everlasting ruin. The wicked man, who reigns under

³ Is. 28:14-15.

⁴ Is. 28:18.

⁵ Is. 28:22.

⁶ Is. 29:15.

⁷ Is. 30:1.

⁸ Is. 30:12-14.

⁹ Is. 31:1.

¹⁰ Is. 31:3.

¹¹ Is. 33:1.

the sign of the Beast¹², passes like a torrent of pain and corruption in the land of the saints - and Rome is a land of saints - dragging the lesser wicked into evil, and tormenting the children of the Lord...

"My second earthly Jerusalem is Rome. It is a beloved land where I have wanted My Church to be, and which - since it is the centre of the world - should be treated like a shining relic by whoever is its leader. And, instead, how have the new mockers of God behaved? They have allied themselves with the crime which produces death, wedding their souls to Satan, and believing that they can save themselves from the scourges - to which they subjected others by such sacrilegious prostitution..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 200-02)

(Jesus again speaks of Isaiah...)

"My prophet, speaking in the Name of Him Who is the Source of Eternal Life... says, 'All you that are thirsty, come to the water! You that have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk ...! Listen carefully ... and your souls will be gladdened by choice foods.... My word, going forth from My mouth, shall not return to Me void, but shall do My will, achieving the end for which I sent it'¹³.

(Notebooks 1945-50, p. 450)

(During the third year of His public life, Jesus is in the Temple at Pentecost, and He is asked by some elderly people:)

"Since You know, please tell us, what will happen to this place, to this town, to the whole of Israel, who will not surrender to the Voice of the Lord?"

Jesus looks pitifully at those grey or white-haired heads, and replies:

"Jeremiah told you what will happen to those who reply to the flash of divine wrath by increasing their sins, and who consider divine mercy as a proof of weakness on God's side. Because God is not to be derided, children.

"You, as the Eternal God said through the lips of Jeremiah, are like clay in the hands of the potter¹⁴, as clay are those who consider themselves mighty, as clay are the inhabitants of this place and those of the royal palace. There is no human power that can resist God. And if the clay resists the potter and wants to take strange horrible shapes, the potter turns it into a handful of clay again and starts afresh, and works it into another vessel, until it realises that the potter is the stronger. And thus it yields to his will. And it may also happen that the vessel breaks into pieces, because it persists in not being modelled, as it refuses the water with which the potter moistens it in order to be able to shape it without cracks. The potter then throws the refractory clay and the useless unworkable bits and pieces into the garbage-can, and he takes fresh clay and moulds it as he thinks best. Does the Prophet not say so when explaining the symbol of the potter and the clay vessel? That is what he says. And repeating the words of the Lord,

¹² Rev. 13:1-18.

¹³ Jn. 7:37-8; Is. 55:1,2,11.

¹⁴ Jer. 18:1-11.

he says: 'As the clay is in the potter's hand, so you, Israel, are in the hand of God'. And the Lord adds, as a warning to those who are refractory, that only penance and repentance - when God reproaches man - can change the decree of God to punish a rebellious people.

"Israel did not repent. Thus the threats of God have struck Israel many times. Israel is not repenting even now that - not a prophet, but - One Who is more than a prophet speaks to her. And God, Who has had supreme mercy on Israel and has sent Me, now says to you: 'As you do not listen to My own Voice, I will regret the good I have done to you, and I will prepare a disaster for you'. And I, Who am Mercy - although I know that I am speaking in vain - I shout to Israel: 'Each one of you, turn back from your evil ways. Amend your conduct and your inclinations. So that, when the plan of God will be carried out against the guilty Nation, at least the better ones in it may preserve their spirits free from sin - in the general loss of goods, of freedom, of union - and united to God, they may not lose the eternal goods as they lost the earthly ones'.

"The visions of prophets have always one aim: to warn men of what may happen. And it is stated - by the symbol of the earthenware vessel broken in the presence of the people - what is in store for towns and kingdoms that do not surrender to the Lord..."

(The Poem of the Man-God, Vol. 3, pp. 804-5)

(Again at the Temple, as the time draws close to His Passion and Death, Jesus says to a large crowd, hostile to Him:)

"...So I, the Word of God, say to you: I, God, *will send* you new prophets and wise men and scribes. Some you will slaughter; some you will crucify; some you will scourge in your law-courts, in your synagogues, outside the walls of your towns; and some you will hunt from town to town. [This will be] until you draw on yourselves the blood of the just men - that has been shed on the Earth, from the blood of the just Abel¹⁵ to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachian¹⁶ - whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Because for your own sake He had reminded you of your sin, that you might repent and go back to the Lord. It is so. You hate those who want your welfare, and who lovingly call you back to the paths of God..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, pp. 448-9)

(Jesus says to us, through Maria Valtorta:)

"I no longer speak from afar, from the heights of the heavens. *But I take up My dwelling* - and with Me, the Father and the Spirit, for We are one single reality - *in the hearts of those who love Me*¹⁷. *And My word is no longer a whisper, but a full Voice; no longer isolated, but continuous. I am then the true 'Master'*. I am the One Who - twenty centuries ago - tirelessly spoke to the crowds, and Who now finds His delight in speaking to His

¹⁵ Gen. 4:.

¹⁶ 2Chron. 24:20-2.

¹⁷ Jn. 14:23.

beloved ones who are able to listen to Him. And I make them into My channels of grace.

"How much Life I give you! True Life, holy Life, eternal Life, joyful Life, *through My Word, which is the Word of the Father and the Love of the Spirit*. Yes, in truth I have 'the victor' eat of the fruit of the tree of Life. *I give it to him, beginning on this earth through My spiritual doctrine, which I return to bear among men so that not all men will perish. I give it to you in the other life, by My being in your midst eternally...*

"The 'hidden manna' is also My Word,¹⁸ *Manna, because it brings together all the sweetness of love of Our Trinity, which is the Father, Brother, and Spouse of your souls, and which loves you with the three highest loves. Hidden, because it is spoken in the secrecy of the heart, to those deserving to savour it.*

"I would certainly like to be able to have it rain down on everyone, and to nourish all with it. But it is said, 'Do not give pearls to swine and holy things to dogs'¹⁹. And many, who have even been washed in My Baptism and redeemed by My Blood, are lower than swine and more canine than dogs...

"I thus give the manna *to those who gain victory over the lower part, with all its tendencies towards non-faith, towards the senses, and towards base, selfish concerns*. I give the manna of My Word, which fills your spirits with sweetness and light. I give the 'little white stone on which a new name is written'²⁰ - that is, *on which a Truth which is silenced for the unworthy is revealed. It is the Truth which opens to you the gates of eternal Life, which gives you its keys, and which sets you on the Way to arrive at the Gate of My heavenly City...*"

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 249-50)

Maria Valtorta's Writings – Their Scope

(It is not a purpose of this publication to convince the reader of the truth and authenticity of Maria Valtorta's writings. This can be much better addressed in the pages of a 2009 production of the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group in Australia: Maria Valtorta, Victim Soul – Her Saintly Life, Mission and Writings (see page 89). Nevertheless, below is an introductory selection of Maria's writings which have particular relevance to the "End of Times..." theme. – Compiler.)

(On the evening of 16 August 1943, during her "formation" year, Jesus says to Maria:)

"...When I use special means, it is to accelerate - for the times are moving faster - the fullness of the teaching of the Word, and the fullness of the spiritual formation of the true disciples, of the true subjects of King Jesus

¹⁸ Rev. 2:17.

¹⁹ Mt. 7:6.

²⁰ Rev. 2:17.

Christ. Not the King of the Jews²¹ - as a weak man, who thought he was strong with a poor power, said and wrote - but the King of the World before the judgment of the world.

"Man, proceeding towards the final hour, must reach spirituality. But, understand Me, God is spirit; Satan is spirit. The former is the Spirit of Perfection. The latter is the spirit of sin. In the mass - split in two by its own will, which God respects - each portion follows the part chosen. The children of the Most High, and My brothers and sisters, choose God's part, and out of love for Us they spiritualize the flesh. The servants of Satan and children of the Beast²² - Lucifer's portion, and out of slavery willed by themselves - slay the spirit under carnality, and make their spirits a corrupt and repugnant flesh and blood.

"When I reign over and in the spirits who have reached that maturity - which now belongs to individuals, and which will then belong to the entire mass of true Christians - I shall address this portion alone. I will perfect it with the ultimate teaching, with a new evangelization - not different in meaning which cannot change, but in power - which they will understand, but which today they would not understand. The proof is that I must choose special creatures, who are worthy of so much because of their own efforts, or who have been rendered worthy through a miracle of love.

"Twenty centuries ago I spoke to everyone. When the time comes, I shall speak to these alone, convinced of the uselessness of speaking to the others. You have only one thing that's good: the good will of love. But it is that which suffices for Me. Upon it I set My teaching chair as a Master, to make the little soul into a pedestal, and to say - to say again and still again - the words of love and of an invitation to Love, which guides and saves..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 245)

(Jesus has a special appreciation for those who suffer for others. He says to Maria:)

"Suffer, Maria, and tell the good to suffer, to substitute for My second martyrdom which the Father does not want Me to carry out. To every creature practicing self-immolation, it is granted to save some souls - some. And it is not surprising that those granted to each little redeemer are few, if it is remembered that I - the Divine Redeemer, on Calvary, in the hour of immolation - was able to save the thief and Longinus²³, and very, very few others, out of the thousands of persons present at My death..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 20)

(Just before Easter Sunday 1944, Jesus tells Maria:)

"...Maria, I know I am wounding and demoralizing you. You had hoped for joy from My Easter. Roses after the thorns. Smiles after the tears. You are a victim. The thorns and tears remain even in the time of Easter, for it is necessary to stay on the cross for the sake of this perverse humanity.

²¹ Mt. 27:37; Mk. 15:26; Lk. 23:38; Jn. 19:19-22.

²² Rev. 13:1-18.

²³ Lk. 23:39-43, 47.; Mt. 27:54; Mk. 15:39

"I ask you to remain on the cross for Me. To save the world has been My dream. To save souls, My joy. The world is lost for God, but souls can still be saved - those who still have a soul, languishing, but alive. I ask you for charity in their regard. It is Jesus, a Beggar for love in His role as the glorious Risen One, Who asks you for this offering of souls, so that His Kingdom will still have subjects. Go in peace."

(Notebooks 1944, p. 264)

(In 1949, after many years of suffering in her mission, Maria writes:)

I was so weakened by so much war, and so weary and exhausted from always having to fight against the enemies of the Work - even physically exhausted - that I felt I was no longer any good at praying, or generous or good for anything. And I said so to Jesus.

He replied, "Have you perhaps left the way of immolation, upon which you set out so many years ago? Have you perhaps repented of having asked for the cross, sacrifice, and pain, out of love for God and your neighbour?... Does discouragement on observing the growing tide of sins - against vows, the priesthood, and religion - perhaps suggest to you that everything is useless, and it is better not to suffer any more? Answer!"

"No, Lord. Not a bit of this. I want to suffer, now that suffering is total and totally known, as when I asked You to accept me as a host, not knowing how far pain can rise. I want to love You and suffer, to give You souls and make You happy..."

(And Jesus replies:)

"Be at peace, at peace. It is love that counts. And you have love for Me, for Us in Heaven. You love with your whole self, with all your strength and will. You thus love in a perfect measure and make Us happy. Your saying, 'I offer You my sufferings today for the intentions dearest to You' is worth more than a thousand prayers, uttered with one's lips ..."

(Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 533-4)

(Jesus cautions any priest who questions Maria's writings...)

"...Do not be insolent to My spokeswoman... Bless her, for she brings you to know the truth. She gives you the chance to examine yourselves amidst the wounds of the soul, and to remove so much dust which is sully-ing your soul. *If the truth is bitter and displeases you, consider that it is your fault if it is spoken to you. This truth should not have been deserved.* It would have been better that way. But since you have deserved it, don't seethe against My spokeswoman, who is telling it to you with tears. For if I chose her to do this, it is because I love her, and *I see in her spirit a dwelling place where I am always received, with the respect of a subject towards a King, and with the simplicity of a child towards a father.*

"I said this: 'Whoever loves Me, does the same works I do'²⁴. *I live in those who love Me, victims who annul themselves in love to the point of dying from it, and I work the wonders of My power in them.*"

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 529)

(*Jesus says to Maria:*)

"...The last time will be the time of the spirit. And these lights, these voices, will seem to provide guidance for the upright of heart, groping in the haze of the forms of materialism, rationalism and sectarianism, in which priests will take an active part. And God will always be known to His children with His true vitality, not with the cold, automatic mechanism offered by those who no longer believe, though they cry out, 'Faith! Faith!' because that is their profession.

"Oh, what are the ones who cry out that way? Hired mourners or paid barkers?... In truth, in truth I tell you that a 'little voice' - even if it makes some grammatical mistakes but speaks words coming from God - will have more power than the utilitarian and unconvinced action of too great a part of the clergy! For this reason, I go and inspire My 'voices' here and there. And I will always do so, even if I am combatted through them..."

(*Notebooks 1945-50*, p. 126)

"...Live *in* and *for* your mission. Act like the children who are given a toy displaying wonderful scenes... Remain with your eyes fixed on Me and your mission. The world is around you. *It must remain around you*. But *not* within you. Within is *My* world. Give the world - the poor, ignorant, blind world - the teachings and lights coming to you from *My* world. If only you could see how much Heaven is around your work...!

(*Notebooks 1944*, p. 548)

(*Azariah, Maria's Guardian Angel, speaks to Maria of love...*)

"...You, a victim offered for the salvation of souls and so that the Kingdom of Christ - that is, love - will be established in souls, must have this as the main goal of all your actions. They, hard; you, gentle. They, enemies; you, a sister. They, moved to wound you; you, to caress them. Until now you have been heroic in this love opposed to resentment, in this patience against all their obstinate will, to dissolve what God wants and what you ask for in the name of God. They have raised their hands, spiritually, to pierce your spirit. Well then, imitate the lamb that kisses the hand of the one cutting its throat, and imitate the Divine Lamb, Who, docile, did not elude those striking Him, but, rather, was spurred by love to pray for them in His last words²⁵.

"Act this way. And if not even this softens them, and you die consumed before their impenetrable wall, do not fear. Justice is in Heaven..."

[*The Book of Azariah*, p. 173 (1993 edition), p. 180 (2007 edition)]

²⁴ Jn. 14:12.

²⁵ Lk. 23:34.

Jesus' Prophecies – Revealed in the "Work"

(Jesus says to Maria Valtorta:)

"...The Father, after punishing men with the Deluge²⁶, said to Himself and to His Patriarch: 'Never again will I curse the earth because of man, because his heart contrives evil from his infancy. Never again will I strike down every living thing as I have done'. And He has been faithful to His word. He has not sent a Deluge again²⁷. But how many times have you said to yourselves and to God: 'If we are spared *this* time, if You save us, we shall never make wars again, never again'. And after, you have always made more terrifying ones? How many times, o false men, who have no respect either for God or for your own word? And yet God would help you once again, only if the large mass of the faithful would invoke Him with faith and ardent love.

"Lay your worries at the feet of God: you who are too few to counterbalance the many who keep God's rigour alive, you who have remained devoted to Him, notwithstanding the dreadful times which are increasing from day to day. He will send you His angel, as He sent the Saviour to the world. Do not be afraid. Be united to the Cross. It has always defeated the snares of the demon, who, with the cruelties of men and the sadness of life, endeavours to drive to desperation - that is, to separation from God - the hearts he cannot conquer in any other way."

(The Poem..., Vol. 1, p. 165)

(Shortly before His Passion and Death, Jesus warns His apostles:)

"...Until the hour of darkness comes, nothing sinister will take place. But when that hour comes, no distance or power, not even Caesar's armies, will be able to save Me from the Judaeans. Because what is written must take place, and the powers of evil are already working secretly to accomplish their deed... Do let Me do good while I am free to do so. The hour will come when I shall no longer be able to move a finger or utter one word, to work the miracle. The world will be devoid of all My power. A dreadful hour of punishment for man. Not for Me – [but] for man who will have refused to love Me. *An hour that will repeat itself through the will of man, who will have rejected Divinity to the extent of making himself godless and a follower of Satan and of his cursed son. An hour that will take place when the end of this world is close at hand.*²⁸ *The prevailing lack of faith will make My power of miracle of no use. Not because I can lose it, but because no miracle can be granted where there is no faith and no will to have it*²⁹. *[This is] where a miracle would be made a butt of and an instrument of evil, by using the good received, to turn it into greater evil...*"

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, p. 44-5)

²⁶ Gen. 7: and 8:.

²⁷ Gen. 9:11.

²⁸ 2Thess. 2:1-12; 1Jn. 2:18-29; 1Jn. 4:1-6; 2Jn. 7-11; Rev. 13:.

²⁹ See Mk 6:1-6.

(In August 1944, Jesus says to Maria:)

"...I solemnly tell you that what many people think is the victory over the Antichrist - the peace now close at hand - will be only a pause to give the Enemy of the Christ time to acquire strength, to dress his wounds and gather his army for a fiercer struggle...

" Let no false appearance entice you, let no persecution terrify you. Let your 'voices' repeat My words. Let your lives be devoted to this work... And smile at the future safe destiny you will enjoy with the Christ, with His Precursor and with His Prophet..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 3, pp. 415)

(Jesus reveals to Maria the corrupt state of the planet Earth...)

"...As I told you, mankind is splitting increasingly. The spiritual portion, as scanty as can be, is ascending. The carnal portion, extremely numerous, is descending. It is descending to a frightful depth of vice. When the time of wrath has come, mankind will have reached the perfection of vice...

"You are rebels against the laws I have given you; rebels against you are the stars and planets which have until now given you light and heat as you needed, obeying the rules I have indicated out of goodness towards you...

"And it will be of no use. You will go on plummeting. You will go on making your alliances with evil, preparing the way for the 'kings of the East'³⁰ - that is, for assistance from the Son of Evil.

"My angels seem to be the ones that are bringing the plagues. In reality, you are. You want them, and you shall have them..."

"Maria, now I will take your hand to lead you to the most obscure point in John's book. The annotators of it have exhausted their capacity in many deductions, to explain to themselves and to the multitudes, who the 'great Babylon' is.³¹ With a human view, to which the jolts left by desired events or by events taking place were not unconnected, they have given the name of Babylon to many things.

"But how is it that they have never considered that the 'great Babylon' is the whole Earth? I would be a very small and limited God the Creator, if I had created only the Earth as an inhabited world! With a beat of My will, I have brought forth worlds upon worlds from nothing, and cast them as luminous fine dust into the immensity of the firmament.

"The Earth, about which you are so proud and fierce, is nothing but one of the bits of fine dust rotating in unboundedness, and not the biggest one. It is certainly the most corrupt one, though. Lives upon lives are teeming in the millions of worlds which are the joy of your gaze on peaceful nights, and the perfection of God will appear to you when, with the intellectual sight of your spirits rejoined to God, you are able to see the wonders of those worlds.

³⁰ See Rev. 16:12.

³¹ See Rev. 17: & 18:.

"Isn't the Earth really the *great harlot* that has committed fornication with all the powers of earth and hell? And haven't the Earth's inhabitants prostituted themselves - bodies and souls - *just to triumph during the earthly day?...*"

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 260-2)

Modernism, Power and Knowledge, Rationalism and Science

(Jesus lists the main reasons for giving us, through Maria Valtorta, His major Work detailing the lives of Himself and His Mother...)

"...The most profound reason for the gift of this work is that in the present time - when modernism, condemned by My holy Vicar Pius X, becomes corrupted in more and more harmful doctrines - the Church, represented by My Vicar, may have further material to fight against those who deny:

the supernaturalness of dogmas;
the divinity of the Christ; and
the Truth of the Christ God and Man...

"Further: *if you object that the revelation was closed with the last Apostle, and there was nothing further to add - because the same Apostle says in Revelation: 'If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him every plague mentioned in the book'*³²... - I reply that with this work no addition was made to revelation, but only the gaps, brought about by natural causes and by supernatural will, were filled in...

"And I also say to you: Take, do take this work and 'do not seal it', but read it and have it read, *'because the time is close'*³³...

"May the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ be with all those who, in this book, see an approach of Mine and urge it to be accomplished, to their defence, with the cry of Love: 'Come, Lord Jesus!'³⁴"

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, pp. 946, 951-2)

(Jesus has messages for Pope Pius XII, the pope of Maria's times:)

"...Feed My sheep by giving them the tireless word, and the blessings with which I have filled your innocent hand - which knows no blood except My Blood, and which you elevate on the altar as a rite of propitiation. And give them no gesture except that which was My own, in blessing those on whom you have mercy, as I do...

"Speak, in the name of the Justice you represent. It is time to. *And may the masses know that My Doctrine has not changed, that there is one Law*³⁵, *that there is one God alone, and that His first Commandment is love*³⁶. *And He - as in the ages and ages preceding My coming, in which I*

³² Rev. 22:18.

³³ Rev. 22:10.

³⁴ Rev. 22:20.

³⁵ Mt. 5:17.

³⁶ Dt. 6:4-5.

confirmed the Law - gives the order not to steal, not to fornicate, not to kill, and not to take the belongings of others³⁷..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 557-8)

"In the hours of a great storm, it is necessary not only to have a purple banner high on the mast, *but for the hand of Peter to be healthier and surer than ever at the helm. The Disorientor makes use of everything to cause confusion. And in the hours of a gale which assails on all sides to sink the holy values... it is enough for the hand to be removed for an instant through an irreparable misfortune - from the wheel of the tiller - in order for the waves to thwart the mystical boat more forcefully.*

"*Watch over yourself, so that you may watch over others³⁸. Peter, now more than ever, it is necessary for you to feed these lambs of Mine and these little sheep of Mine.³⁹ There is no one but you, that remains as a holy Shepherd. And if you fall, many lambs will be led by imprudent sheep outside the pastures, and other shepherds with wicked doctrines will work their way even into My dominion, to contaminate it with their human pressures. And to say human is indeed a merciful judgment.*

"No, this is not the time to die for Christ. *This is the time to watch, defend, instruct, and act as a barrier, against what seeks to enter to corrupt ever more broadly and deeply.*

"And believe Me... *the sore is already gnawing deeply, and obscuring minds and hearts. And, as the misfortune of misfortunes, [these hearts are] extinguishing the lanterns which had been placed on the mountaintops, so that they would illuminate the way for the pilgrims seeking Heaven. Many are already extinguished; many are smoking; many languish, and others are preparing to languish. If the faithful are icy, the pastors are cold, and the death of the spirit comes by frostbite. An imperceptible death, bringing on a sleep without the light of resurrection...*

"*And without growing weary, insist, preach, exhort, reproach, and evangelize. There are too many temples in which the Gospel has lost value, and too many hearts that hear an untrue sound in the Gospel, which separates them from it.*

"Like the first Peter, make up for the deficiencies of ministers. Cause the throngs to hear again, through your lips, the sweet, holy and salutary doctrine of Christ. And cause those not yet slain, to be saved and come back to Me. And return peace to this earth, on which there is not a clump of sod which does not know the dew of the martyrs."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 617-8)

(Jesus speaks of the aftermath of World War II...)

"...*What many will think is a victory over the Antichrist, the peace which is now near, will be only a pause to give the Enemy of Christ time to recover*

³⁷ Ex. 20:1-17; Dt. 5:6-21.

³⁸ Mt. 26:41; Mk. 14:33-4,38; Lk. 22:40,46.

³⁹ Jn. 21:15-17.

his strength, heal his wounds, and gather together his army for a more cruel battle..."

(Notebooks 1944, p. 500)

(Jesus speaks - to some of us - of the achievement of true peace...)

"...I said that to obtain true peace, and not a pause in the war, it was necessary to remove from your midst what was fornication with Satan. I have said so through the mouths of My saints, and I have had My Mother say so. For decades I have been repeating this... I have told you so with urgent words in these recent times. But you have not changed. Rather, you have increasingly made fornication with Satan your way of life.

"You have preferred everything else to God. And this God - Whom you invoke in the hour of fear - is such a distant, unknown Being for you, that if you were consistent, you should not even invoke or blaspheme any longer, for you have drifted so far away from Him. Indeed... you dare to mix His Holy Name with your plans for crime.

"Peace has been promised to men of good will.⁴⁰ Christ came to bring Peace. But if you send Christ away and your will is not good, how can you have peace? You have pauses. But they are nothing but intervals between one slaughter and another, to give time for your spirits - sold to Satan - to learn new doctrines of death from him, and new instruments of destruction.

"Death to souls and death to the flesh. Destruction of spirits and destruction of things. Your growth in Satan is impressive. In a short while you will have reached the mature age in which he will no longer have anything to teach you. And then Hell will be able to give birth to its son - the Antichrist - for the times will be ripe, and men will have deserved to know the horror preceding the end."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 464-5)

(Jesus says:)

"...Today a great heresy is taking place, a supremely sacrilegious heresy. The son of Satan... proclaims a new faith, which is a tragic, sacrilegious, accursed parody of My Faith. A new gospel is proclaimed; a new church is founded; a new altar is raised up; a new cross is set on high; a new sacrifice is celebrated. Man's gospel, church, altar, cross, and sacrifice. *Not God's.*

"There is one Gospel: Mine.

"There is one Church: Mine, Roman Catholic.

"There is one Altar: the one consecrated by oil, water, and wine, the one founded upon the bones of a martyr and saint of God.

"There is one Cross: Mine. The one from which the Body of the Son of God - Jesus Christ - is hanging, the one reproducing the figure of the wood I bore with infinite love and with such great fatigue, up to the summit of Calvary. There are no other crosses. There may be other signs - hieroglyphics like the ones sculpted upon the Pharaohs' hypogea or upon the Aztecs'

⁴⁰ Lk. 2:14.

stems - signs, nothing more than signs, of man or Satan, but not crosses, not a symbol of a whole poem of love, redemption, and victory over all the forces of Evil, of whatever kind..."

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 85-6)

(Jesus speaks of science and knowledge:)

"...One, one science alone, is necessary. I will repeat a thousand times: to know God and serve Him, to know Him in things, to see Him in events, and to be able to distinguish Him from His adversary so as not to fall into perdition. Instead, you are concerned about increasing human knowledge, to the detriment of superhuman knowledge.

"I do not condemn Knowledge. Rather, I am pleased that man should deepen the insights he has gradually been building up by knowledge, so as to be able to comprehend increasingly and admire Me in My works. I have given you intelligence for this. But you must use it to see God: in the law of the star, in the formation of the flower, in the conception of a being; and not use intelligence to violate life or to deny the Creator.

"Rationalism, Humanism, Philosophism, Theosophism, Naturism, Classicism, Darwinism - you have schools and doctrines of all kinds and are concerned about them all, no matter how much Truth is distorted or suppressed in them. You do not want to follow and deepen knowledge of the school of Christianity alone.

"A natural resistance, moreover. In deepening knowledge of religious culture, you would be obliged either to follow the Law [the Commandments⁴¹] - and you do not want to do so - or to confess openly that you want to trample upon the Law. And you don't want to do this either. You thus *do not want* to become learned in supernatural Knowledge.

"But, poor fools! What will you do with your little schools and your little words, when you have to take My examination? You have extinguished the infinite light of true Knowledge in yourselves, and have believed you are illuminating your souls with substitutes for light, just like some poor madmen seeking to put out the sun, by making a lot of little lamps into a new sun. But even if mists hide the sun, the sun is always in My firmament. *But even if with your doctrines, you create mists concealing Knowledge and Truth, Truth and Knowledge always exist, for they come from Me, Who am eternal.*

"Seek true Knowledge, and you will understand Knowledge as it should be understood. Free your souls of all the artificial superstructures, and lift up the true Faith therein. Like spires of a spiritual cathedral, Knowledge, Wisdom, Intellect, Fortitude, Humility and Contenance will bloom thereupon. For the true sage knows not only what is humanly knowable, but knows what is hardest of all: how to master himself in the passions of the flesh. And he knows to make his lower part the pedestal to lift up his soul and launch his spirit towards the Heavens, to meet Me, Who comes and am in all things, and Who loves to be the true and holy Master of My brothers and sisters." (Notebooks 1943, pp. 258-9)

⁴¹ Ex. 20:1-17; Dt. 5:6-21.

(Jesus speaks to Maria about a soul's "lukewarmness", like having dry bones⁴²...)

"...Humanity is now nothing but bones... The spirit no longer exists. The spirit that is life in flesh, and life in eternity. The spirit that is what differentiates man from animals. Man has killed himself in his best part. Is he a machine? Is he a beast? Is he a corpse? Yes, he is all of this.

"He is a machine, for he goes through his day with the mechanicalness of a device, that works because it must work by virtue of its parts set in motion, but does so without comprehending the beauty of what it is doing. Man, too, rises and goes to bed after having eaten, drunk, worked, strolled, and spoken - without ever grasping the beauty and ugliness of what he does. Simply because, deprived as he is of spirit, he no longer distinguishes beauty from ugliness, or good from evil.

"He is a beast, because he contents himself with sleeping, eating, and accumulating fat on his body and reserves in his lair, exactly like a beast that makes these operations its life goal and the joy of its existence. And he justifies everything - his selfishness and ferocity - through this base and brutal law of the need to plunder, so as to be satisfied...

"When he breathes his last, man becomes a corpse. In reality, man at present is a corpse, kept upright and in motion by the sorcery of mechanics, or by the devil. But he is a corpse.

"Well then, I tell you, 'Behold, I will infuse the spirit into you, dry bones, and you shall live again. I will make your nerves rise up again upon you, and your flesh grow again and your skin spread out again over you. I will give you the spirit, and you shall live again and know that I am the Lord.'⁴³ Yes, I will do this. The time shall come when I will have a people of the 'living' once more, and not corpses.

"In the meantime, to the best ones - not dead, but reduced to skeletons for lack of spiritual food - I give the nourishment of My Word. I do not want your death by consumption. This is the substantial Manna which gives you strength with sweetness. Oh, feed upon it, children of My love and of My sacrifice!... Take nourishment, get to your feet, and come out of your graves. Come out of inertia, come out of the vices of the age and come to knowledge, come to 'recognize' the Lord your God..."

(Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 62-3)

(Jesus speaks about "incrementalism" [or "little by little"], and He asks:)

"...What is temptation? The Catechism says, 'It is an incitement to sin which comes to us from the devil, from the wicked, or from our passions.' *It is an incitement.* If it incites to sin, then, that is a sign that *it is not a sin in itself.* No, it is not a sin. *Rather, it is a means to grow in justice, and to augment our merits by remaining faithful to the Law of the Lord. It begins to*

⁴² Ezek. 37:1-14; Rev. 3:15-16.

⁴³ Ezek. 37:4-14.

become a sin of imprudence when man voluntarily places himself in a position to sin, approaching things or persons that can lead him to sin.

"Who does temptation come from? From the devil, the wicked, and the passions. It comes, then, from external factors and internal factors. In all truth, I tell you though, that the internal factors are the most dangerous ones - that is, the disordered inclinations and the instincts or incitements remaining in man... following upon Adam's Sin...

"If the incitements were to fall upon a devoutly merciless good will, they would remain sterile, like pernicious plants which have dried up or are at least drooping, to the point where they cannot grow, but are instead subjected to ongoing enfeeblement until their complete destruction. Man instead lets them exist within him, and they grow. They grow, reinvigorated by the greedy mouthfuls which incautious man allows himself, without realizing that every act of yielding to what is illicit - even if small and apparently insignificant and innocuous - paves the way for greater concessions. For the more one savours their spicy taste, the more one's appetite for the concupiscences increases. And satisfied appetite, in its ever-reappearing and growing violence, consequently increases the power of the disordered instincts, and these grow until filling the whole man with themselves, and knocking down the barriers of conscience.

"Oh, it happens as with a plant bedded out in a narrow space. As long as it has not fully developed, it is content in the enclosure where it has been placed. But when it is full grown and its roots are as extensive as its leaves, then they can no longer be compressed into an excessively limited space, and it penetrates under the foundations of the confining walls to seek room, just as the branches have sought it above. And on growing, they raise the walls, throw them out of joint, and cause them to cave in... sometimes to the point of provoking its death. With the soul, the plant of the disordered inclination towards the concupiscences - in contrast to the spirit's inclination towards its end: God - opens the way for Satan and the world, which form an alliance [with] seducers, and bring death or violation, the mutilation of the spirit's beautiful integrity..."

(Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 350-2)

(Jesus speak of "rationalism", the most subtle and penetrating virus:)

"Maria, write the explanation of the parable of the sower once again⁴⁴... The parable states that one part of the seed fell along the way and was eaten by birds. The second part fell upon stone and sank in roots, but it at once dried up because of a lack of moisture. The third part fell among brambles and died of suffocation. The fourth part, having fallen on good soil, brought forth fruit in different measures

"The Word of God is the seed of eternal life. But the Word is beset by many dangers. I will leave aside these many dangers and speak of one thing alone..."

⁴⁴ Mt. 13:3-8,18-23; Mk. 4:3-8,14-20; Lk. 8:5-8, 11-15.

"The sinner, whose mind is not corroded by the acid of rationalism, has a ninety percent chance of being able to receive the Word and find Life. *The rationalist has only a ten percent chance, and even less, of keeping himself capable of salvation through the Word.*

"Rationalism is worse than couch-grass... This heresy will be seen to have been the most pernicious one, because it is the most subtle and penetrating of all. It is like a gas. You absorb it, and it kills you, but you don't see it. You sometimes don't even smell it, or, since this smell is pleasant, it is breathed in by you with pleasure. Rationalism is just like that... It is a virus. When one notices it, it has already spread through one's blood, and it is hard to get free of it..."

"The rationalist makes the things of God serve his purpose... He bends, explains, and uses the Word in the light - poor light - of his disturbed mind. And, like a madman who no longer knows the value of things and words, he gives them the sort of meanings which can emerge only from one whom the extremely crafty action of Satan has sterilized."

"There are rationalists and rationalists.

"I will begin with the greatest. The 'supermen'. The deniers of God. They want to explain creation, miracles, and the divinity according to their concepts filled with human pride. *Where there is pride, God is not present. Be sure of this. Where there is pride, Faith is not present. Satan is there, and Satan is the most skilled juggler in seducing man, and making the leaf of tinfoil - picked up in the mud - appear to him to be pure gold...*

"The second category are the humanly learned. These do not deny God... *The Word descends upon them and sinks in roots. But it later dies, because [these roots] oppose and choke it under the useless leaves of their human knowledge... They create Babel in themselves because of too many words. Because of too much knowledge they do not accept the lights, so simple and pure, which God has established so that man will see the way leading to the Father. And they create Babel and darkness for others, too...*

"The third category involves those who have paved their hearts with the stones of the rationalism of others... They close the door to the Divine Word with distrust, but accept the explanations of one of their fellow men who is famous for being learned... They receive the Word with great joy and open themselves to receive it, but they also open themselves to receive any doctrine, under the specious pretext that one must be condescending."

"Yes. So condescending with one's brothers and sisters. Not to disdain anyone. But severe with the things of God..."

"Blessed are those who are only God's terrain, and remain such by assiduous vigilance... Love makes them souls worshipping the Word..."

"For those who possess Him absolutely, the Word becomes their own word. For they are no more, but are one with God, their love."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 466-9)

(The Holy Spirit speaks of science...)

"...I, Love and Wisdom, say to you, less science and more love, and you will possess Wisdom.

"Wanting to explain the mystery of God and the marvellous processes of Creation, of evolution, and of the transformation of created things with human science, is a foolishness which degenerates later into heresy. One cannot explain the origin of the finite, other than by contemplating it with love, that is, with faith - since faith is never separated from love...

"Faith illuminates science, and helps it to understand. It is like maternal milk that turns the infant into an always more formed human being. But like a new-born could never sustain and nourish the mother and not even an adult, so too, science cannot nourish and help faith. Because faith is religion; and religion permits the creature, intelligent but limited, to understand the super-intelligible and the infinite.

"And if science is sufficient in order to understand finite knowledge, wisdom - that is, faith and love - is indispensable in order to know sublime truths. In believing, there is light. In analyzing in order to understand... - because it is investigated in the same way a doctor or lawyer would investigate a physical illness or a moral lesion - is to create darkness and coldness.

"Faith is not contrary to science. Rather, human science finds, in religion, the help in explaining itself, and in achieving discoveries and the laws of Creation. Without the help of religion, human science is destined to inevitably fall into error. Whereas religion, even without the help of science, guides to the Truth and knowledge of essential truths..."

(Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, p. 126)

(Free will is a defining factor in man's destiny, which Jesus explains...)

"...I am the Alfa and the Omega⁴⁵, and I embrace all that is. Only an opposing human will, which places one under the seal of the Beast⁴⁶, turns away My action, since I have made you free and do not do violence to your will. If, then, your will is flesh and blood - that is, Satan - My Will cannot act. For My Will is Spirit and acts on your spirit, and the spirit dies where matter reigns.

"One must be reborn in the spirit⁴⁷, to be able to enter into God's orbit and overcome the flesh and its master, Mammon⁴⁸. Then 'possession' takes place, a foretaste of Paradise on earth, the soul's happy ascent to Heaven in death, and to the fullness of Paradise in My Kingdom..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 136-7)

"... In Paradise you possess God, and God is Light. Man must arrive at the eternal possession of the Light by his own will, as by his own will he wanted to lose the Light and Paradise. I give you help, but the will must be yours.

"I am faithful. I have created you free, and I leave you free. And if you consider how worthy of admiration, this respect by God for man's free will is, you can understand how right and proper it would be for you not to abuse

⁴⁵ Rev. 1:8, 21:6, 22:13.

⁴⁶ Rev. 13:1-18.

⁴⁷ Jn. 3:1-8.

⁴⁸ Mt. 6:24; Lk. 16:13.

it by doing evil, and how right and proper it would be to maintain your respect for, gratitude towards, and love of the Lord God.

"To those who have acted honestly, I say, 'Your dwelling in Heaven is ready, and I ardently desire that you should be in My Blessedness.'"

(Notebooks 1943, p. 266)

The Subtleties and Influences of Satan

(Early in His public life, Jesus is speaking to some people in Bethsaida, about a common enemy. He says:)

"...Satan has challenged the Eternal Father for centuries. Elated with his first victory over man, Satan said to God: 'Your creatures will be mine for ever. Nothing, not even punishment, not even the Law⁴⁹ You want to give them, will enable them to earn Heaven. And that Abode of Yours, from which You expelled me – me, the *only* intelligent being in Your creation - will remain empty, useless and sad, like all useless things'.

"And the Eternal Father replied to the Cursed One: 'You will be able to do that, as long as your poison is the only thing to rule over man. But I will send My Word, and His word will counteract your poison. It will restore hearts to health, curing them of the madness with which you made them wicked, and they will come back to Me. Like lost sheep that find the shepherd⁵⁰, they will come back to My Fold, and Heaven will be filled with souls. I made it for them. And you will be grinding your horrible teeth out of powerless fury, down there in your horrid kingdom. You will be a cursed prisoner, the stone of God will be turned over on you and sealed by the angels, and darkness and hatred will be with you and with your followers. [All this] while Mine will enjoy light and love, songs and beatitude, and infinite, eternal, sublime freedom'. And Mammon, with a burst of sneering laughter, swore: 'And upon my Gehenna I swear that I will come when it is time. I will always be present wherever Your evangelised people are, and we shall see whether I or You is the winner'.

"Satan, of course, lays snares for you, to sift you. And I also circumvent you to sift you. The contestants are two - I and he – and you are in the middle. The duel of Love and Hatred, of Wisdom and Ignorance, and of Good and Evil, is over you and around you. I am sufficient to ward off any wicked blow against you. I come between the satanic weapon and you, and I am willing to be wounded in your stead, because I love you. But you must ward off your internal blows with your will, running towards Me, and following My way, which is Truth and Life.⁵¹ Whoever is not desirous of Heaven will not possess Heaven. Whoever is not suitable to become a disciple of Christ will be like light chaff, that will be blown away by the wind of the world. Whoever is Christ's enemy is pernicious seed, that will grow in the satanic kingdom..." *(The Poem..., Vol. 1, pp. 507)*

⁴⁹ Ezek. 37:1-14; Rev. 3:15-16.

⁵⁰ Mt. 18:12-14; Lk. 15:3-7.

⁵¹ Jn. 14:6.

(Travelling through the countryside late in His public life, Jesus is confronted by a "possessed" man, who cries out:)

"...I am Beelzebul, the Master of the world, and I will not surrender. I defy You, o Christ!"

The demoniac becomes motionless all of a sudden. Stiff and almost dignified, he stares fixedly at Jesus with phosphorescent eyes, hardly moving his lips to utter unintelligible words, and making light gestures, with his hands near his shoulders and his elbows bent...

"Jesus opens His arms. His face flashes command, and His voice sounds like thunder: 'Come out. For the last time. Come out, o Satan! It is I Who command!'

"Aaaaah!" (It is a very long cry of never-ending torture. Not even a man slowly pierced by a sword would yell thus). And the cry ends in words: "I am coming out. Yes, You have defeated me. But I will avenge myself. You are driving me away, but there is a demon beside You, and I will go into him and possess him, investing him with my full power. And no order of Yours will be able to take him away from me. In every age, in every place, I, the author of Evil, procreate sons for myself. And as God procreated Himself by Himself, I procreate myself by myself. I conceive myself in the heart of man and he gives birth to me, he gives birth to a new Satan, who is he himself. And I rejoice, having so many children! You and men will always find those creatures of mine, who are as many Satans.

I am going, o Christ, to take possession of my new kingdom, as You wish, and I leave You this poor wretch whom I maltreated. In his place - as I am leaving him to You, the alms of Satan to You, God - I will take one thousand and ten thousand now, and You will find them when Your body is in lurid tatters and will be given as a plaything to dogs. And I will take ten thousand and one hundred thousand in future centuries, to use them as an instrument for me and a torture for You. Do You think that You will win by raising Your Sign? My followers will knock it down and I will be the winner... Ah! It is not true that I will win! But I will torture You, both in Yourself and in Your followers!..."

A loud crash, like thunder, is heard. But there is neither a flash of light nor a rumbling of thunder, only a sharp lacerating crack. And as the demoniac falls like a dead body to the ground and remains there, a huge tree-trunk collapses near the apostles, as if it had been cut about one metre from the ground by a saw, working as quickly as lightening. The apostolic group moves away just in time, while the local people run away.

But Jesus, Who has bent over the prostrated man and has taken him by the hand, turns round. Still stooping, and with the hand of the cured man in His own, He says: "Come. Be not afraid!" The people approach timorously. The man is cured...

(After the vision ends, Jesus says to Maria:)

"You have seen a man 'possessed' by Satan. There are many replies in My words. Not so much for you as for other people. Will they be of any use?"

No. *They will be of no use* to those who need them most. Rest with My peace."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 4, pp. 34-5, 39)

(*Jesus speaks to Maria Valtorta of the dramatic confrontations between Good and Evil, and He says:*)

"...Will all this be understood by modern society, to which I grant this knowledge of Myself, to strengthen it against the more and more powerful attacks of Satan and the world? Also nowadays, as twenty centuries ago, those to whom I reveal Myself will contradict one another. Once again I am the sign that is rejected.⁵² Not with regard to Myself, but with regard to what I stir up in them.

"Good people, those of good will, will have the good reactions of the shepherds and of humble people. The others will react in a wicked manner, like the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and priests of those days. One gives what one has. A good person who comes in touch with wicked people provokes a surge of greater wickedness in them. And judgement will be passed on men as it was done on Good Friday, according to how they have judged, accepted and followed the Master, Who with a fresh attempt of infinite mercy, has made Himself known once again..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 4, p. 828)

(*Jesus says:*)

"...Man rejected the Law of God to take up many other doctrines. But *none of them was or is of God*, and true Charity is thus not in any of them. Hence man - who had embraced atheism, changing from an eagle and a lion into a mere man through a hellish sorcery *giving birth to himself* - turned into a *bear*, the fierce devourer of his fellows.

"But horror produces horror. By an ascending ladder. Horror is ever greater, for in accursed unions with Satan, man... generates increasingly monstrous monsters. And they are the children of his erring, sold to Satan to receive his earthly assistance.

"From *man the demigod* came *man*; from *man* came the *bear*; and from the *bear* came the *new monster, ferocious and false as the leopard*, endowed by Satan with multiple wings so as to be swifter in doing harm.

"I told you that Satan is the *aper* of God. He, too, thus wanted to give wings to 'his' child - *by now his child* - to humanity, without Faith and without God. Not the wings of an eagle, but of a vampire, so that it would be a nightmare for humanity itself, and be quick to rush down upon its own parts - the victims of itself - to suck their blood..."

"I have opened My heart to give you *My blood*. Satan makes man - to whom I have given My blood - the vampire that sucks parts of itself, and slays itself with torment..."

(*Notebooks 1944*, pp. 108-9)

⁵² Lk. 2:34.

(Azariah, Maria's Guardian Angel, says:)

"...Peter was familiar with the sudden attacks of the Adversary!⁵³ And he knew that it was necessary to be sober in all things, so as to remain awake to repel him. Sobriety does not involve just food or drink. There are the intellectual and spiritual varieties, just as necessary to save oneself from Satan. And they are necessary, even if one does not drink and eat like a glutton, but then satisfies - without measure - hunger and thirst for knowledge, and goes seeking to drink at the founts of all human successes and praises... And they are necessary when he then causes charity to degenerate into sentimentalism, or into piety into quietism, or into a search for the emotional thrill of mysticism, which is sterile because it excites the senses. This does not increasingly and continuously renew the spirit in goodness, but it gets intoxicated with these outward appearances - piling up one after another - to receive praise from men on this account, and to engage in self-praise. He then shatters the beautiful sobriety, which involves not just the palate and the stomach, but above all, the mind and the spirit, contrary to the threefold concupiscence, the reason for all the ruins of souls..."

[*The Book of Azariah*, pp. 160-1 (1993 edition), pp. 165-6 (2007 edition)]

(*The Holy Spirit says:*)

"...The multitude of saints and the elect is not only composed of martyrs who have suffered bloody martyrdom. But truly, every saint is worthy of carrying the palm of the martyrs. Because every saint is a martyr of Love and of Hate, of the spirit and of the flesh, and of all the powers of Heavens. Those of the world - those of the carnal *I*, and those of the abysses of the Darkness that have assailed him on Earth in order to test him - tempt him and martyr him daily.

"The martyrdom - given by he whom Christ calls 'the murderer from the beginning'⁵⁴ - is truly astute, tenacious and ferocious! Nor is there a murderer who is equal to him. Because no assassin can commit violence other than to the flesh of man. However, Satan kills or attempts to kill the immortal part of man by depriving it, not of existence - because the soul that has been created can no longer perish in eternity - but of Life, that is, of its God. And this he does.

"For God has, as the purpose of His creation, the reward of giving Himself to men... in order to make them blessed of His Knowledge and Vision, and to rejoice amongst the People of His children. So Satan has - as the purpose of his rebellion - that of depriving the Creator of as many creatures paternally beloved to Him as he can, and of depriving as many creatures as he can of delighting in their Creator.

"The ape of God also wants to give *his* people to himself, and he does this by preying, because he is a thief. Whereas God, in order to create *His* people for Himself, has endowed man - created in His image and

⁵³ 1Pet. 5:8.

⁵⁴ Jn. 8:44.

likeness⁵⁵ - with all the supernatural gifts apt at guiding him to the eternal Kingdom. And still not content, He gave His Only Begotten and beloved Son, so that He could be immolated in order to become the Saviour of men. And this, because God is the Origin of Good, Love, Truth and Order, and is the divinely munificent Giver of every grace. While Satan is the origin of evil, hatred, falsehood, disorder, and is a thief...

"Satan wanted to be equal to God in his every action, freedom, power and will to act, *by disordinately desiring - he who is a created creature - to being equal to He Who is Uncreated*. God, as the Father... dictated to the Evangelist of Love and Light... 'All things were made through Him'⁵⁶. And from that moment, the fulminated archangel [commits] sacrilege, and is a murderer and a predator..."

(...St. Paul to the Romans, pp. 184-5)

(On July 20, 1943, Maria writes:)

...Since the night of the 18th [of July], Jesus has been showing me a horrendous beast - so horrendous that it fills me with disgust and makes me feel like shrieking. Its name is well known. And the good Jesus has me understand that this appearance is still inferior to reality. For no human reality can come to depict supreme Beauty and supreme Ugliness with precision.

Now I will describe the beast to you. I seem to be seeing a big, very deep black hole. I comprehend that it is very deep, but I see only the opening, entirely occupied by a horrible monster. It is not a snake, a crocodile, a dragon, or a bat, but it has some of the qualities of all four.

[It has] a long, pointed head without ears and with two sly, ferocious eyes which are always on the hunt for prey; and an enormous mouth armed with very sharp teeth, ever intent on instantly snagging some imprudent creature coming within reach of its jaws. In short, the head is much like a serpent's in shape, and as a crocodile's with regards the teeth. A long, flexible neck gives the tremendous head a lot of agility.

[It has] a big, slippery body covered with skin like that of eels... It even has the colour of leeches. At its shoulders and hips... there are four short legs with webbed feet like a crocodile's. On its back, it has two bat's wings... The beast moves only its tail and its horrible head, with fascinating eyes and murderous jaws.

God have mercy!... I felt like screaming with revulsion. It's a good thing that I saw that it never looked towards me... It's also a good thing that, if the beast was in a corner, my white, handsome, blond Jesus was very close by... Light in light! If the luminous, consoling figure of Christ is compared to that of the other... there is real reason to feel compassion for the unfortunate sinners destined to [this corner] because they have rejected Jesus...

⁵⁵ Gen. 1:26-7.

⁵⁶ Jn. 1:3.

Today, the dear Voice has me understand the reason for that vision, which terrified me yesterday, when I thought it was destined for me as a warning...

(The next day, Jesus says to Maria:)

"...Satan has no need to work, to labour, to gulp you down! I *must labour* to see about attracting you... I remember that I am your Father and your Saviour. Until the final hour, when you will be gathered together for the inexorable selection, I will not deny My unfortunate children, and I still try to save them.

"This punishment, O Maria, this one is not undeserved. It is just. It is serious because your sins are most serious. But it is not meted out, no, out of wickedness, by a God Who is all goodness. Your God would give Himself to spare you from it, if He knew that this would benefit you. But He must - *He must - let you punish yourselves for your acts of madness, for your commerce with the Beast*⁵⁷.

"A thousand and ten thousand will be lost in every corner of the earth. But, in the agony strangling you, someone will hear the Voice of God re-sound, and raise his face from darkness towards the Light. *That one person, who returns, will justify the scourge. For - know this and consider what an obligation you have to conserve it - the price and the value of a soul is such, that the treasures of the earth do not suffice to buy it. The Blood of a God is needed. Mine.*"

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 185-6)

(Jesus says)

"...The Beast gives you the fruits of his kingdom of darkness: death, ruin, indigence, famine, shame and servitude; and the collapse of faith, freedom, and honour. *And if you don't cling to the Cross - your final salvation - you will come to imitate the beasts made rabid by hunger and wrath. And you will tear each other to pieces, thinking you are satisfying yourselves by killing the servants of God. But you will do nothing but destroy the Good still flourishing among you...*

"Don't you hear the Voice of God crying out in your consciences? Don't you hear it thundering in the skies?..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 418)

"Draw away, separate yourselves from the laws of the Beast, and dissociate yourselves from him while you can. His destiny is already marked out. When God's scythe cuts away the parts of the Beast which are torturing the Earth - and which constitute the precursors of the Unity of Evil which will rock the Earth - act so as to be very far from the ones plunging into the oven of the abyss, as putrid members of this horrible manifestation..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 493)

⁵⁷ Rev. 13:1-18.

PART TWO: THE END TIMES

The Sequence of Episodes

(In August and September 1943, Jesus says to Maria:)

"Even in the Apocalypse, the periods seem to be confused, but that is not the case. It would be better to say they are reflected in the future times under increasingly grandiose aspects.

"We are now in the period I call *'the forerunners of the Antichrist'*.

Then the period of the *Antichrist*, who is the *forerunner of Satan*, will come. He will be helped by the manifestations of Satan: the two beasts named in the Apocalypse⁵⁸. It will be a time worse than the current one. Evil is constantly increasing.

Once the Antichrist is defeated, the *Period of Peace* will give men - struck by amazement at the seven plagues⁵⁹ and the fall of Babylon - time to gather under My sign.

The anti-Christian epoch will rise to the maximum power in its third manifestation - that is, *when the last coming of Satan takes place*.

"Do you understand?... The dictations do not contradict each other. One must read them with faith and simplicity of heart.

"Like one who is anxious to make something understood, I always go straight to what is most important, which in this case is My kingdom. For in the kingdom there is the justification for My having become incarnate and having died. For in the kingdom there is proof of My infinite power, goodness, and wisdom. For in the kingdom there is proof of eternal life, of the resurrection of the flesh, of My power as Judge. Therefore, when I spoke to explain the Apocalypse, I almost always crowned off each individual point explained with My Judgment, My triumph, My kingdom - and with the defeat of Satan in himself, in his creature, and in the forerunners.

"Read carefully, and you will see there is no contradiction. I have said what I have said."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 273-4)

"...The words of Joel⁶⁰ are not said particularly for one people or another. *They are for My people, the people of the One, True, Great King: of your Lord God, Triune, Creator, and Redeemer of the human race*. That period of well-being Joel speaks about *is the advance announcement of - what long after - John talks of in his Apocalypse*.

"After the tremendous wars which Satan will have brought upon the Earth - through his Messenger of Darkness, the Antichrist - the period of truce will come in which, after having shown you with the bloody evidence what gifts Satan can be author of, I will seek to attract you to Myself, by filling you with My gifts.

"Oh, My gifts! They will be your sweetness! You will not know hunger, massacres, and calamities. *Your bodies, and even more your souls, will be*

⁵⁸ Rev. 13:

⁵⁹ Rev. 15:1,6-8.

⁶⁰ Joel 2:18-32.

fed by My hand. The Earth will seem to rise by a second creation, entirely new in its sentiments, which will be of peace and concord among peoples, and of peace between Heaven and Earth. For I will have My Spirit extend Himself over you, and He will penetrate you and give you supernatural vision of God's decrees...

"It will be the Kingdom of the Spirit. The kingdom of God is the one you ask for with the 'Our Father'⁶¹... Where do you want the Kingdom of God to occur, if not in your hearts?⁶² It is from there that My Kingdom on Earth must begin. A great Kingdom, but still limited...

"And then my great and terrible day will come. Not a day of twenty-four hours - My time has a different measure.⁶³ 'Day' is said because one works during the day, and I will work at that time. I will carry out the final selection of those living on the earth. And that will take place during the last raging of Satan..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 312-3)

(On December 31, 1947, Maria Valtorta writes:)

...How many warnings concerning the more or less near future are to be found in the dictations from 1943 until today! On both the pause between one war and another (1943-1945); on the period of the precursors of the Antichrist; on the Antichrist and the weapons (atomic and others) given by Satan to men to kill bodies and spirits, in a despair cursing God; and on the persecution of the Church and the fall of one third of the stars swept away by the Dragon's tail⁶⁴... The stars... Priests... Alas! I would like to forget so many things! But revelation, in its essence, *is not forgotten*. Why know, my God? I preferred not to know!...

(Notebooks 1945-50, p. 472)

(Less than a week later - on 6th January, 1948 - the Holy Spirit says:)

"...The wrath of God⁶⁵ - the true immutable wrath - more than manifesting itself with chastisements, will manifest itself by abandoning you to yourselves. What you all call the wrath of God - wars, atrocious means of destruction, cataclysms, and pestilence - is still not a wrath without mutation, an absolute wrath. [These atrocious means] are the reproaches and reminders of an offended Father who is still solicitous, however, to give aid and forgiveness to His guilty children...

"God will no longer reprimand with paternal chastisements - which regretfully, it is true, save only a few, because most, however, are already the servants of Satan - but He *will leave you to yourselves*. He will withdraw. He will no longer act, until the moment in which a flash from His Will will order His angels to open the seven seals⁶⁶, to sound the four trumpets, and

⁶¹ Mt. 6:9-13; Lk. 11:1-4.

⁶² Lk. 17:20-21.

⁶³ Ps. 90:4; 2Pet. 3:8.

⁶⁴ Rev. 12:4.

⁶⁵ See Rom. 1:18.

⁶⁶ Rev. 5:1-5.

to free the eagle of the three woes. Then horror, a breath will be given to the fifth trumpet, and the Judas of the end times will open the bottomless pit⁶⁷, in order to issue forth that which man will have desired more than God...

"And then, as a peaceful star upon the horror and terror of waves in a storm... the aurora of the Star of the Sea will come, precursor to the rising, to the last apparition of the Morning Star⁶⁸.

"In His second and final coming, the Lamb of God - the Redeemer, the Saint of saints - will have as a precursor... our Angel: She Who, though having flesh, was the Seraph; She in Whom we have made our dwelling place. Neither sweeter nor more worthy could we have had Her, the most beloved Ark of pure gold who still contains us, just as She is contained by us. And She will fly across the heavens, radiating Her love in order to prepare a perfumed and regal road for the King of kings. And She will prepare - in order to generate and to give birth, in a last maternity - as many living seeds as there are and who will want to be given birth to the Lord...

"She will only descend, as swiftly as an archangel, to put Her seal upon the foreheads of the faithful, next to the mark of the Tau⁶⁹, of those saved for the eternal Kingdom. And strength and peace will enter into their spirits under the touch of Her hand, Mother of Life and Fountain of Salvation..."

(...St. Paul to the Romans, pp. 44-6)

(In September/December 1950, Maria Valtorta writes:)

The open enemies are already at the service of the Adversary and the Antichrist. And the crafty enemies corrode the edifice of faith, and consequently they cause charity to grow chill, by wanting to offer a new version of the mysteries and miracles of God...

Those who are prone to pride should not say, "The Church cannot experience this because it will always be holy."

It has been said - both by the Divine Word speaking to the Prophets, and by the Divine Incarnate Word of the Father speaking to His chosen ones - that "great abominations such as jealousy, and horrible abominations such as the worship of human idols (and knowledge devoid of wisdom is one of them), and perversion with the worship of what should not be venerated", will come into the Temple⁷⁰... There will no longer be hosts and sacrifices, and in the temple will be the abomination of desolation, which will last until the end⁷¹. And further, as direct confirmation by the Word of the words of His announcers, the Prophets: "When you see the abomination of desolation in the holy place..., then the tribulation will be great, as never before since the beginning of the ages.... And after the tribulation ... they will see the Son of Man⁷². And the charity which will grow cold in too many

⁶⁷ Rev. 8:6 to 9:2.

⁶⁸ Rev. 22:16.

⁶⁹ Ezek. 9:4-6; Rev. 7:2-3.

⁷⁰ See Ezek. 8:5-17.

⁷¹ Dan. 9:26-7.

⁷² Mt. 24:15,21,29-30.

hearts will be one of the precursory signs of the end"⁷³.

It has been said. And it will come. Open your spiritual eyes to read the predictions of Heaven! If you open them, you will read the truth and see what the true signs of the end are, and the fact they are already occurring.

For Him Who is eternal, a century is less than a minute.⁷⁴ It has not been stated, then, that it will be tomorrow. But if the path is still long in order for everything to be fulfilled, the things which are already happening tell you that the final process has now begun.

[These are] the great abominations: jealousy where there should be only fraternal charity; excessive love for human knowledge where there should be only faithful love for Wisdom, the source of Revelation; compromises between what offers earthly gain and what offers supernatural gain in order to receive immediate gain; and Christ slain in too many souls, too many from His people who have come to deny their Saviour. These are the preparatory things.

Then [will be] "the people that will come" for the purpose of devastating. Another prophet said, "People coming from the north... A great tumult from the lands of the north... Behold, coming from the north..."⁷⁵.

And what will it devastate? Oh, not just buildings and towns! But, above all, faith, morality, and souls. And not all the souls devastated will be common souls. And the sacrifices and hosts will be lacking, for freedom of worship will no longer be allowed, and many will fear being seized for this reason. Already - though the devastation and persecution are not yet taking place - many deny the way previously chosen. For the abomination is spreading like evil wild-fire, and charity is growing cold, as the false prophets arise about whom Christ speaks⁷⁶.

For the time being only these. But afterwards, the one they precede will come: the Antichrist, for whom they will have prepared the way by weakening charity, just as the Baptist prepared the ways for Christ by teaching charity⁷⁷. Of charity he [the Baptist] was full, in being "filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb"⁷⁸, as the indispensable means to be able to unite to Christ, and lead to the life of God.

In reality, charity is the bond which keeps the Catholic community united to God and to brothers and sisters... If charity comes to be lacking, it is replaced by self-love...

(Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 599-600)

⁷³ Mt. 24:12-13.

⁷⁴ Ps. 90:4; 2Pet. 3:8.

⁷⁵ Jer. 6:22, 10:22, 50:41.

⁷⁶ See Mt. 24: and 2Thess. 2:

⁷⁷ See Lk. 3:10-14.

⁷⁸ Lk. 1:15.

Signs of the Times

(Jesus says:)

"Many ask Me for a sign. What sign? A sign of the hour or a sign of My power?

"You already have the sign of the hour. I repeat, *'I have not come to change the Law'*⁷⁹. It is you that have changed it. And *I do not change My Word. I said what I said. All that had to happen* - from the moment I spoke, a Man among men, until the moment I come, God the Son of God, to judge men - *is contained in My Gospel...*

"Do you want a sign of My power? But I have been giving you this sign for twenty centuries! What good has it been? I have opened upon you the torrents of My graces, and from Heaven, I have brought them down onto the earth in a thousand and ten thousand miracles. I have cured your sick, subdued your wars, made your affairs prosper, and responded to your doubts concerning matters of faith as well. For I know your weakness, which does not believe if it does not see. I have come to repeat My doctrine. I have sent My Mother, so that with Her tenderness She would bend you to penance and love. What good has it been?...

(Notebooks 1943, p. 52)

"If one were to observe closely what has been going on for some time, and especially since the beginning of this century preceding the conclusion of the second millennium, one ought to think that the seven seals have been opened.⁸⁰ Never before, as at present, have I gone into action to return among you with My Word. And I have gathered together the multitudes of My chosen ones, so as to set out with them and My angels to do battle against the hidden forces, working to bore open the gates of the abyss for mankind.

"Nothing is lacking among the signs: war, famine, pestilences, the instruments of military homicide (which are more than the ferocious beasts mentioned by the Beloved One), earthquakes, signs in the sky, eruptions in the entrails of the earth, the miraculous calls towards mystical ways of little souls moved by Love, persecutions against my followers, the loftiness of souls and the lowliness of bodies. [You have experienced all of these], whereby the time of My Wrath and My Judgment may seem to you to be near.

"In the horror you experience, you exclaim, 'The time has come; it cannot get more tremendous than this!' And you loudly call for the end which will free you. The blameworthy call for it, mocking arid cursing, as always; the good call for it who can no longer bear to see Evil triumphing over Good..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 251)

"...Keep watch. I say it once again. *Observe the signs - you that read God's books, and you simple faithful. The signs are tremendous. Divert*

⁷⁹ Mt. 5:17.

⁸⁰ See Rev. 5: to 8:.

them with the Cross. Bear out the crosses and My effigies. *Throw out Satan with Christ the Victor.* Have faith. Have faith. You are dying from not having faith. *I would like you to bless every region, every province, every city with Myself, the Redeemer - not with celebrations. This is not the time. But [have] true adorations and pure blessings - to free yourselves from the One who makes you and your present and previous masters obsessed...*"

(Notebooks 1943, p. 418)

"...Famine and the mortality of epidemics shall be one of the precursory signs of My second coming. Punishments created to punish you and call you back to God, with their painful power, shall effect one of the selections between the children of God, and those of Satan.

"[There will be] famine produced by plundering and accursed wars, wanted without the justification of the independence of nations, but only out of the ferocity of power and the pride of demons in the guise of men. [There will be] the arresting, through God's will, of the cosmic laws: whereby the cold shall be harsh and protracted; whereby heat shall be seething and not mitigated by rains; whereby the seasons shall be reversed and you shall have drought in the rainy seasons and rains in the time of the ripening of the harvests; and whereby, deceived by sudden warmth or unaccustomed freshness, plants shall bloom out of season, and, after having already generated, the trees shall be covered with new, useless flowers, extenuating the plant without fruit. For all disorder is harmful and leads to death. Remember this, O men, hunger shall cruelly torment this arrogant race, hostile to God.

"The animals - deprived of hay and fodder, of grains and seeds - shall die of hunger and, because of man's hunger, shall be destroyed without giving them time to procreate. Birds of the sky, fish of the waters, and herds and flocks shall be attacked on all sides to give your bellies the food which the earth shall not produce for you any longer, except meagrely..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 432)

(The Eternal Father says:)

"You ask for a sign. You ask for it with your impure hearts and your blasphemous lips. And you thus request it in a way that is derision of My power, negation of My existence. You badger Me to show Myself with a sign, because you doubt My existence.

"In the time of My Son, the Jews also badgered Him to give them a sign about His Nature, for they denied in their hearts that He was the Son of God. And the only sign which made them aware of their deicide was the one that came after the death of My Word. An unavoidable punishment for those who were deaf and blind to the prodigies and words of My Christ.

"You do not receive a sign from your God, because I do not manifest Myself to those who deny Me. You instead receive the multiple signs of the one you worship as slaves. He, the Enemy, multiplies his signs. And you - now close to the time of worship of the apocalyptic Beast⁸¹ - remain

⁸¹ Rev. 13:1-18.

seduced by them, and you consider that the creator of such signs is greater than I, and is the only one that exists. You wonder, 'Who is God? Who is He?' And inside yourselves, to justify your acts of wickedness, you reply, 'God does not exist.'

"I am Who I am⁸². I am so superior to you, that no manifestation of Mine would now be understood by the world, which has plunged into the most terrible darkness and foolishness. What you think is progress is your regression to the twilight of the early times, when men, having lost God and His Paradise, were only slightly superior to beasts. And they pushed their corruption to such a point that I decided to exterminate the race, at which I was indignant.

"The end will be like the beginning. The circle closes by joining the two dark stumps to each other. The new flood - that is, God's wrath - will come in another form. But it will still be wrath. Faithful to My word, I will not send the flood again.⁸³ *But I will let the Satanic forces send the flood of the Satanic acts of cruelty...*

"The Earth howls like a creature afraid of the monsters inhabiting it; the Universe trembles with horror at the sight of the crimes covering the Earth. I, your God, burn with divine wrath at your corruption in flesh, mind, and spirit. Neither the mercy of the Saviour, nor that of the Virgin and the Saints, appease My wrath with their prayer.

"Truly, as in the times of Moses, I say, *'I will erase from My Book those who have sinned against Me. And if I were to enter into your midst just once, I would exterminate you.'*⁸⁴ Truly, I say that *only to My remaining children do I speak as a friend. For by their faithfulness, they have found grace in My sight, and I will show them My Good and have mercy on them. And even more benign than with My servant Moses, I will make the Face of My Christ shine in you, O my faithful children, who adore Me with holy respect ..."*

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 236-9)

(In "Easter day in the evening" 1944, Jesus says to Maria:)

"Last year I said to you... 'The Father is weary, and to cause the human race to perish He will let the punishments of Hell be unleashed.' I said - it was Good Friday - 'I would like to come a second time, to die to save them from an even more atrocious death... But the Father does not allow this... He knows it would be useless... Oh, if only men were still able to turn to Me, Who am salvation!'...

"On another occasion, I said, 'You would like Me to appear and show Myself... But, even if I showed Myself, where is that residue of faith and respect - in hearts which would make them bend with their faces to the ground - to ask Me for forgiveness and mercy?'

"Even now you ask Me for a sign of power, which, since it is the Power of a Holy One - of the Holy of holies - *ought to be inexorable, tremendous*

⁸² Ex. 3:14.

⁸³ Gen. 9:11.

⁸⁴ Ex. 32:33-4.

punishment of an incalculable number of people. For - I repeat what I have said a thousand times - the great sinners exist, because the mass is all more or less guilty of the same sins as they are.

"Poor soul, to you I have granted the vision of Me as triumphant, to infuse strength into your being - weakened in your dying flesh and desolate in spirit - because of the trial you have endured and the horrors surrounding you. But - I say this to you - *I cannot give this sign. Not because God has lost his capacity to act. Nothing is impossible for Me as God. But it is the hour of the power of Darkness. And men have spontaneously wanted it. The kingdom of Evil is already established. Anything I were to do would be rendered null by man's will. Any Good would be destroyed by Evil.*

"I impotently witness all humanity's race towards spiritual death. There is no gift, benefit, call or punishment by Me, that will serve to arrest this spontaneous shipwreck - in Satan - of mankind, redeemed by Me. Like an enraged bull, humanity is demolishing everything: reason, morality, and faith. And it is heading for a crash against what slays it. The profaning hand of man *rises up for a new crime which does not deserve forgiveness.* And the Father does not want to forgive. He lets you perish, as you have wanted to.

"The only thing I can do and will do - and I do it out of mercy on the saints, who, as rare as flowers in the desert, still pray... - is to hold back the wrath of My Father. He, weary of the crimes of a race for which My Blood has been shed to no avail, goes on wanting and wanting to apply Justice to you. And justice, since you are blameworthy, would mean tremendous punishments, which My Mercy does not want to be added, to those you cause yourselves on your own.

"Maria, I know I am wounding and demoralizing you. You had hoped for joy from My Easter. Roses after the thorns. Smiles after the tears. *You are a victim.* The thorns and tears remain, even in the time of Easter, for it is necessary to stay on the Cross for the sake of this perverse humanity.

"I ask you to remain on the Cross for Me. To save the world has been My dream. To save souls, My joy. The world is lost for God, but souls can still be saved, those who still have a soul, languishing, but alive. I ask you for charity in their regard. It is Jesus - a Beggar for love in His role as the glorious Risen One - Who asks you for this offering of souls, so that His Kingdom will still have subjects.

"Go in peace."

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 262-4)

(Immediately before His Passion and Death, Jesus tells His apostles...)

"Learn the similitude from the fig-tree⁸⁵: when you see its twigs grow supple and put forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So, when you see all these things, know that the Christ is about to come. I solemnly tell you... Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

⁸⁵ Mt. 24:32-6; Lk. 21:29-33.

"But as for the day and the exact hour, nobody knows them, not even the angels of the Lord, only the Father knows them. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of man comes⁸⁶...

"So be vigilant and pray, being always prepared for the coming, without letting your hearts become sluggish... and distracted from the things of Heaven, by excessive care for the things of the Earth. So that death may not take you all of a sudden, when you are not prepared. Because, bear in mind, each one of you must die... And this death and subsequent judgement is a particular coming of the Christ⁸⁷... and will take place at the solemn coming of the Son of man..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 5, pp. 465-6)

The Antichrist

(Jesus speaks of the earthly emergence of Satan's major demon, who will drag after him the weak, the corrupted, and those with a "threefold lust"...)

"...Lucifer was the most beautiful of My beautiful creatures. From the abyss into which he had fallen - eternally ugly after the blasphemous revolt against his Creator - he was thirsty for revenge. To the first sin of conceit he thus added an endless series of crimes, avenging himself for ages and ages. And the first act of vengeance was upon My creatures, Adam and Eve. On the perfection of My creation, his poisoned tooth left the mark of its bestiality, communicating to you his very own lust for lasciviousness, vengeance, and haughtiness. Since then your spirit has been duelling in you against the poisons of the hellish bite... At times it is literally killed by the creature, who voluntarily forfeits the throne of a child of God and becomes worse than a beast - turning into a demon, the child of a demon.

"In truth I tell you, that over two thirds of the human race belong to this category, which lives under the sign of the Beast⁸⁸. For this category I died in vain..."

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 63)

"...I told you previously: 'Lucifer strives to imitate God - in evil, of course. He takes on the forms, shall we say, of life and death, which the Son of God had. The devil poses as Christ, and like Christ, he has apostles and disciples. *Among them he will select the perfect one, to make him the Antichrist. For the time being, we are in the period preparatory to the precursors of the latter.*'..."

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 221)

"...In a world where so many spiritual lights will be extinguished, there will be manifestly established the short-lived but tremendous reign of the Antichrist, generated by Satan, just as Christ was generated by the Father.

⁸⁶ Lk. 17:26.

⁸⁷ See 2Cor. 5:1-10; Heb. 9:27.

⁸⁸ Rev. 13:1-18.

Christ, the Son of the Father, generated by Love with Purity. The Antichrist, son of Satan, generated by Hatred with the threefold Impurity.

"Like olives between the wheels of the oil press, children of Christ will be persecuted, squashed, and crunched by the voracious Beast⁸⁹... Like the first ones, the last will be cut down like sheaves of ears of grain in the final persecution, and the earth will drink in their blood. *But eternally blessed for their perseverance are those who die faithful to the Lord...*"

(Notebooks 1943, p. 191)

"...*There are forerunners of the one I said could be called 'Negation', 'Evil incarnate', 'Horror', 'Sacrilege', 'the Son of Satan', 'Vengeance', and 'Destruction.'*⁹⁰ And I could go on giving him names, designating him clearly and fearfully. *But he is not yet present.*

"He will be a very lofty person, as lofty as a star. Not a human star shining in a human sky, but a star from a supernatural sphere that, yielding to the flattery of the Enemy, will experience pride after humility, atheism after faith, lust after chastity, the hunger for gold after Gospel poverty, and a thirst for honours after concealment.

"To see a star plummet from the firmament is less fearful than to see this creature, already chosen, plunge into the coils of Satan. This creature will copy the sin of his elective father, Lucifer, who out of pride, became the accursed and Dark One... after having been a star in My army.

"As a reward for his denial - which will shake the heavens with a shudder of horror, and make the pillars of My Church tremble in the dismay his fall will occasion - he will obtain the complete assistance of Satan, who will give him the keys to the pit of the abyss⁹¹, in order for him to open it. *But let him open it altogether, so that the instruments of horror - which Satan has concocted over millennia to lead men to complete despair - will come out in such a way, that they will invoke Satan as King by themselves. And they will run after the Antichrist, the only one who will be able to open wide the gates of the abyss to make the King of the abyss come out, just as the Christ opened the gates of the Heavens⁹² to make grace and forgiveness come out. [The latter] makes men similar to God, and makes them kings of an eternal Kingdom in which I am the King of kings.*

"As the Father has given Me all power⁹³, so Satan will give him all power, especially for seduction, to drag after him the weak and those corrupted by the fevers of ambitions, as he, their chief is. But in his unbridled ambition, he will still find Satan's supernatural aids to be too scanty, and he will seek additional aid in the enemies of Christ, who, armed with increasingly deadly weapons - which Evil's lust led them to create, to sow despair in the masses - will help him until God pronounces His 'Enough', and burns them to ashes with the splendour of His appearance..." (Notebooks 1943, p. 252-3)

⁸⁹ Rev. 13:1-18.

⁹⁰ Jn. 17:12.

⁹¹ Rev. 9:1-2.

⁹² Mt. 27:51-3; Rev. 22:14.

⁹³ Mt. 28:18.

"...This is one of the initial battles. The kingdom of the Antichrist needs a cement made of blood and hatred, to become consolidated.

"And you, that are no longer able to love, serve him in proper fashion, and butcher each other. And you curse the One Who is not to blame for this misfortune of yours. [That One is] God, Who fights with His angels to protect what is His: Faith in the hearts of Christians, and Goodness in the hearts of the good...

"It is not I who make the selection, For the time being. It is you that select yourselves, spontaneously. Those who, in spite of the horror, are able to grasp that God remains God - that is, Goodness and Justice - and that salvation lies in following the Law of God, separate themselves from those who deny these truths. The former rise up to meet the Light; the others plummet down towards the Darkness.

"Satan, with his demons, really aims to make a second ascent to Heaven. But, rebuffed by My archangel, he plunges to the earth to defeat God, by way of the hearts of his children. For every soul that is lost is a defeat for God. And Satan easily succeeds, because the hearts of men no longer have a spiritual flame. They no longer have the life of the spirit, but a knot of sin in which the threefold lust - which kills the spirit - prospers.

"Blessed are those who have overcome, by virtue of the Blood of the Lamb, and have remained and will always remain faithful. Blessed will be those who have rebuffed Satan and his enticements, and have not worried about his apparent triumphs, [nor] about the efforts he launches in this hour - which he knows is brief - for his kingdom of accursedness. And they remain faithful to Christ and to His Church... to enter, glorified, into Heaven, where the true Pontiff awaits to celebrate the wedding..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 256-7)

(With a dictation which refers to the Church and particularly to priests, Jesus gives a message for Pope Pius XII during World War 2:)

"...Remember John's Apocalypse. Remember the dragon⁹⁴: the Evil One begetting the future Antichrist, who prepares the former's kingdom, not only by unsettling consciences, but by sweeping away a third of the stars in his coils, and turning the stars into mire...

"The Church, even in periods of horror, will preserve just that amount needed, to become radiance again after the trial. And the idol shepherd shall come, who shall be and shall remain where his masters will. 'Let whoever has ears to understand, understand.'⁹⁵ For those alive at that time, death will be a blessing."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 559)

(Before His Ascension into Heaven, Jesus is speaking to His apostles of future times. He is very sorrowful, and He says:)

⁹⁴ Rev. 12:1-9.

⁹⁵ Mt. 11:15, 13:9,43; Mk. 4:9,23, 7:16; Lk. 8:8.

"...O grief, that makes the Wound of My Heart bleed, as it did when it was opened on Golgotha!⁹⁶ But what do My divine eyes see? Are there perhaps no priests among the infinite crowds passing by? Is that why My Heart is bleeding? Are seminaries empty? Does My divine invitation no longer resound in hearts? Is man's heart no longer capable of hearing it?

"No. Throughout ages there will be seminaries and Levites in them. Priests will come out of them. Because in the hour of adolescence, My invitation will have sounded with a celestial voice in many hearts, and they will have followed it. But other, other, other voices will have come later with their youth and maturity, and My Voice will have been overwhelmed in those hearts. My Voice speaks throughout ages to its ministers, that they may always be what you are now: the apostles at Christ's school.

"The cassock has remained. But the priest is dead. This will happen to too many in the course of ages. *Useless dark shadows, they will not be a lever that lifts, a rope that pulls, a fountain that quenches people's thirst, corn that satisfies their hunger, a heart that is a pillow, a light in darkness, or a voice that repeats what the Master says to them. But for poor mankind, they will be a weight of scandal, a weight of death, a parasite, a putrefaction...*

"Horror! Once again and always, I shall have the greatest Judases of the future, in My priests!..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 5, p. 760)

(*Jesus says:*)

"...I told you that [the *Antichrist*] will be the son of man's lust, born of the marriage of lust with the Beast⁹⁷. I told you. *I do not change* in My mode of expression. What I say is true. I know it with no need to read it; I remember it with no need to reread it. *It is written in My mind as God...*

"This Antichrist, the perfection of Horror - as I was the perfection of Perfection - with his numberless weapons, is symbolized by the ten horns⁹⁸, his jaws toothed with iron, his savage feet, and finally his small horn⁹⁹. [This horn is] a symbol of the extreme hatred with which Satan will endow his son to corrupt humanity, as he seduces it with his lying mouth. Having himself [being] worshipped as a god, he will excessively torment those who, as a little faithful flock, will remain My followers. The little horn will grow by the hour, to do harm. The Satanic intelligence will grow, to make the mouth tell the most distressing lies. He will grow in power - as I grew in wisdom and grace¹⁰⁰ - armed with eyes to read the thought of holy men, and will kill them through that thought..."

(*Notebooks 1944*, pp. 109-10)

"...*Mankind stands at a major fork. Two roads branch off therefrom: one leads upwards to God; the other leads downwards to Satan. At the fork*

⁹⁶ Jn. 19:34.

⁹⁷ Rev. 13:1-18.

⁹⁸ Rev. 12:3, 13:1, 17:12-16.

⁹⁹ Dan. 7:7-8.

¹⁰⁰ Lk. 2:40.

there is a rock. It is you. If you act as a bulwark and spur towards the first road, Satan will not burst forth, and souls will be propelled towards God. But if you are the first to roll towards Satan's slope, you will drag mankind towards the horrors of the Antichrist ahead of time.

"If he must come, woe to those who hasten his coming and prolong it. For he will cease to be, at the eternally pre-established hour. And the longer he remains, the more souls will be lost. Not one of them shall go unavenged - remember this. For, if your God sees the dying sparrow, how can He fail to see a dying soul? I will call those who slay it - whoever they are - to account and pronounce My sentence."

(Notebooks 1944, p. 118)

"...I tell you in truth that what many will think is a victory over the Antichrist - the peace now near [after World War II] - will be only a pause to give Christ's enemy time to recover his strength, heal his wounds, and gather together his army for a more cruel battle.

"You are the 'voices' of your Jesus, the Faithful and Truthful One Who judges and combats with justice. And you will be the Victors over the Beast and his servants and prophets. Recognize your Good, and always follow Him. Let no deceitful appearance seduce you, and no persecution terrify you. Let your 'voice' say My words. Let your lives be for this work.

"And if, on earth, you have the destiny common to Christ, to His Forerunner¹⁰¹, and to Elijah¹⁰² - a bloody destiny or one tormented by moral tortures - smile at your future, certain lot, which you will share with Christ, with His Forerunner, and with His Prophet..."

(Notebooks 1944, p. 500)

(Maria speaks of the apostle John...)

...He foresaw the final horror: the time of the Antichrist...

Through cycles of ages it is repeated, growing more and more, the more the Church grows. It is also painfully logical for this to occur. For the more Christ's affirmation and triumph grows in the saints, the more He is hated and opposed by the Antichrist. Is the Mystical Body winning its battles? The Antichrist increases his power and unleashes more atrocious ones. For if Christ wants to triumph - as is only right - the Antichrist also wants to triumph. And his violence grows - the more Christ triumphs - to defeat Him and to destroy Him. Oh, he cannot! Christ is the Victor. But he hopes to and tries to. And since he cannot have a collective victory over the whole people of God, he seizes his individual or national victories, leading intellects astray and possessing spirits...

(Notebooks 1945-50, p. 577)

¹⁰¹ Mt. 14:3-11; Mk. 6:17-28; Lk. 9:9.

¹⁰² 2Kings 2:1-14.

The Chastisement

(We begin with some verses from the Book of Hebrews¹⁰³...)

"...You have forgotten the consolation, which speaks to you, as unto children, saying: *My son, neglect not the discipline of the Lord; neither be thou wearied whilst thou art rebuked by him.*

For whom the Lord loves, he chastises; and he scourges every son whom he receives.

Persevere under discipline. God deals with you as with *his* sons; for what son *is there*, whom the father does not correct?...

Now all chastisement for the present indeed seems not to bring with it joy, but sorrow: but afterwards it will yield, to them that are exercised by it, the most peaceful fruit of justice.

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,

And make straight steps with your feet: that no one, halting, may go out of the way; but rather be healed.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness: without which no man shall see God..."

(During His public life, Jesus, speaking to some townspeople in Hebron about future times of persecution, may be echoing our present times:)

"...True desecrators and persecutors of God - worse than Nebuchadnezzar and Antiochus¹⁰⁴ and all future persecutors - they are already raising their hands, to knock Me down in their limitless pride...

"Children, listen! When they will persecute you for loving Me, fortify your hearts, considering that I was persecuted before you. Remember that they already have in their throats howling cries of triumph, and they are preparing flags to wave them in the hour of victory. On each flag there will be a lie against Me, and I shall seem the Defeated One, the Evil-Doer, the Cursed One.

"Are you shaking your heads? Do you not believe Me? Your love is preventing you from believing... You cannot believe that I, the King, the Powerful One, can be at the mercy of nonentities. Above all, you will not be able to believe it later, and the doubt will arise: 'Was it really He? And if it was, how could He be defeated?'

"Strengthen your hearts for that hour! Remember that: if 'in a moment' the enemies of the Holy One have knocked the doors down, demolishing everything, and setting the fire of hatred to the Word of God; if they have pulled down the Tabernacle of the Most Holy Name, saying in their hearts: 'Let us stop all the feasts of God on the Earth', because it is a feast to have God among you, and saying: 'Let His insignia never be seen again, and let there be no prophet who knows what we are'...; He - Who is the master of day and night, of summer and springtime, of life and death, of *everything* - will make His Christ rise quickly. [It will be] even more quickly - as it is written

¹⁰³ Heb. 12:5-7,11-14 (Douay-Rheims Bible).

¹⁰⁴ Daniel; 1Macc.:

- and He will be King for ever. And those who have been firm in their faith, will reign with Him in Heaven..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 3, p. 721)

(*Shortly before His Passion and Death, Jesus is speaking to His apostles about future happenings. He says:*)

"...Much will be changed. Not everything. Because also in future there will be, against *My* doctrine, what is already active: the hatred of those who do not love the Light. Because against the strength of *My* followers, there will be the power of Satan's followers.

"How many! In how many appearances! How many new heretical doctrines will always be opposed to *My* doctrine, which is immutable, because it is perfect! How much sorrow will germinate from them! You do not know the future. You consider great, the sorrow *now* existing in the world..."

"But He Who knows, sees horrors that would not be understood, even if I explained them to you... What a tragedy, if I had not come! If I had not come to give future generations a code, that checks instincts in the better people, and contains a promise of future peace! How dreadful it would be if man did not have, through *My* coming, spiritual elements capable of keeping him 'alive' in the life of the spirit, and assuring him of a reward!... If I had not come, in the long run, the Earth would have become a huge earthly hell, and the human race would have torn itself to pieces, and would have perished, cursing the Creator..."

"The Most High has promised never to send universal punishments again, like the Deluge¹⁰⁵. A promise of God never fails" says Judas.

"Yes, Judas. That is true. And never again will the Most High send universal calamities like the Deluge. But men themselves will create scourges that will be more and more dreadful, in comparison with which the deluge and the rain of fire that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah¹⁰⁶ are still merciful punishments. Oh!..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 5, pp. 355-6)

(*To some other disciples near Jericho, Jesus prophesies some more:*)

"...Grace may be lost for cruel people, and the Scourge may come from the world, not from Heaven. *And nothing is more painful than the scourges that men use for men.* It will be so. Oh! so! *I shall be struck, and two thirds of the sheep will be scattered. Only one third - always one third only - will be saved and will persevere until the end.*¹⁰⁷ *This third part will pass through the fire through which I shall be the first to pass; it will be purified and tested like silver and gold; it will be said to it: 'You are My people'; and it will say to Me: 'You are my Lord'*¹⁰⁸..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 5, p. 305)

¹⁰⁵ Gen. 9:11.

¹⁰⁶ Gen. 19:23-9.

¹⁰⁷ Zech. 13:7-9.

¹⁰⁸ Hos. 2:1,23; Rom. 9:25; 1Pet. 2:9-10.

(Speaking to Maria Valtorta in the twentieth century, Jesus says:)

"...It is always the profanation of the cult of God, of the Law of God, that provokes the punishments of Heaven. By turning the House of God into a robbers' den, those worthless priests and those worthless believers (only such by name) were drawing malediction and death on all the people. It is useless to give this or that name to the misfortunes that make a people suffer. Look for the right name in this: 'Punishment for living like brutes'. God withdraws and Evil advances. That is the result of a national way of living, undeserving to be named Christian.

*"As in the past, also now in the short period of this century, I have not ceased shaking and warning people by means of prodigies. But as in the past, I did nothing but draw mockery, indifference and hatred, upon Myself and upon My means. But individuals and nations ought to bear in mind *that they weep in vain, when beforehand they did not want to acknowledge their salvation. In vain they invoke Me when, while I was with them, they drove Me away with a sacrilegious war that started from individual consciences devoted to Evil, which spread throughout the Nation. Fatherlands are not so much saved with weapons, as they are by means of a form of life that may attract protection from Heaven...*"*

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, pp. 404-5)

(Jesus now speaks about His Church, and especially His priests:)

"...When the time comes, many stars will be shaken from the coils of Lucifer¹⁰⁹, who, in order to win, needs to diminish the lights of souls.

"This can happen because not only lay people, but also ecclesiastics, have lost and are increasingly losing the firmness of faith, charity, strength, purity and detachment - through the seductions of the world...

"Do you understand who the stars I am speaking about are? They are the ones I have described as salt of the earth and light of the world¹¹⁰: My ministers.

"Satan's piercing malice studies the way to extinguish these luminaries - that are lights reflecting My Light for the multitudes - by shaking them. With all the light the priestly Church is still emitting, souls are sinking deeper and deeper into darkness, the kind of darkness which will crush the multitudes, when many stars fade out in My sky. This is obvious.

"Satan knows this, and sows his seeds to prepare the weakness of the priesthood, so as to be able to overwhelm it easily in sins. [These are] not so much of sense, as of thought. In mental chaos, it will be easy for him to provoke spiritual chaos. In spiritual chaos, the weak - faced with the flood of persecutions - will commit the sin of cowardice, denying the faith.

"The Church will not die, because I will be with her. But she will experience hours of darkness and horror - similar to those of My Passion, and multiplied over time - because it must be that way.

¹⁰⁹ Rev. 12:3-4.

¹¹⁰ Mt. 5:13-16; Mk. 9:50; Lk. 14:34-5.

"The Church must suffer what her Creator suffered... for much longer. Because the Church, in her members, is not perfect like her Creator. And if I suffered for hours, she must suffer for weeks and weeks of hours.

"As she arose, persecuted and nourished by supernatural power in the early times and in her best children, exactly the same will happen to her when the last times come. During [these times] she will exist, subsist, and resist the Satanic tide and the battles of the Antichrist with her best children. A painful, but just selection..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 190-1)

"...The world has rejected the Church, and the churches fall. But woe to that day when the Son of Man no longer has altars to repeat the Sacrifice and ciborium, for the Sacrament of My love."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 239)

(Jesus has frightening words to say of punishment – for those who have ignored or denied the existence of God...)

"...The forms of mortality created by wars and pestilences, by earthquakes and storms, shall hurl into the next life the good and the wicked. The former, for your punishment, for, deprived of the best, you shall grow worse and worse; the latter, for their punishment, for they shall have hell as their dwelling before the anticipated hour.

"The victims - prepared by the Lord to purify the altar of the earth, and profaned by the sins of idolatry, lust, hatred, and pride - shall be you, men, thousands and tens of thousands of whom shall perish under the sharp scythe of the divine thunderbolts. Like grass mown down in a meadow in April, you shall fall upon each other: the holy flowers mixed with the poisonous ones; the soft steles mixed with the sharp brambles. The hands of My angels shall select and separate the blessed from the accursed, taking the former to Heaven, and leaving the latter to the tridents of the demons for the pasturage of Hell. Being kings or beggars, learned or ignorant, young or old, warriors or priests, shall not constitute a difference or bulwark against death. There shall be punishment, and a tremendous one.

"The eye of God shall choose those destined: by removing the 'lights', so that they will not have to suffer any longer from the haze created by men joined to Satan; and by removing the 'darkness' generating darkness, because it is possessed by the father of darkness: Satan.

"The eye of God, which penetrates into palaces, churches, and consciences - and there is no barrier or hypocrisy which keeps it from seeing - shall scrutinize within the Church... and within souls. And [it shall] write the individual decree for the indolent, the indifferent, the lukewarm, the rebellious, the betrayers, the killers of the spirit, and the deicides.

"No, do not think that God will do you neither good nor harm, for your works. I swear to you, I swear to Myself, I swear by My Justice, I swear with a triple oath - I will do good to you for the good you do, and harm for the evil done by you.

"If the uncleanness of the flesh, and of your life as beasts, forms a scale over the eyes of your souls - to keep them from seeing God - nothing forms

a veil for God. *I will make My hand weigh heavily upon those who delight in being in the slime, for they make the slime of sin into the food preferred by their impure hunger.*

"The day is approaching, children who have denied the Father. The time of the Earth is at once long and brief.

"Wasn't it yesterday that you enjoyed an honest well-being, provided by peace and by the pacific works producing bread and labour? Wasn't it yesterday - O you that live in this tremendous hour - that you enjoyed the bliss of the family not dismembered and destroyed, of children around the father's dinner table, of the marriage bed - the husband alongside the wife - and of the father bending over the heads of his children as a teacher and friend? And now?... See that a sum of days - which horror multiplies with its bloody intensity - separates you from these. You take refuge in memory, but heaps of ruins and rows of tombs destroy the sweetness of your memory, with the reality of the present..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 432-3)

*"...I have given you everything, and you have given Me so little, less and less! With the patience of God I have taken care of you, and you have always rebelled against Me. *The least blameworthy were always the indolent. You have always been afraid to do too much for your God, Who has done everything for you.**

*"This is why punishments come to you. *They are a further call of love, to convince you that a God exists, and that the other gods that you serve - with the faithfulness which you deny Me - cannot give you anything but deceitful promises and certain evil.* From punishment to punishment - increased in the measure in which you increase idolatry and fornication - I arrive at the great punishments. And *this is one of them, whereby no longer a row of My vineyard, but the whole vineyard is opened and invaded, devastated and over-turned, by the one whom you serve, and whom I allow to convince you of his deathly gifts...*"*

(Notebooks 1943, p. 477)

(On December 9th, 1943, Jesus speaks to His vicar Pope Pius XII, about a possible outcome of World War II:)

"...If afterwards, in spite of every means, Justice should perish, and both the dominators and the dominated - carried away increasingly by Satan - should, out of malefic mimicry, detach themselves more and more from God, I will then remove Light and Truth. And this shall occur when even in My dwelling - the Church - there are too many who, out of human self-interest and unworthy weakness, are among those dominated by the sowers of Evil in their different doctrines. You shall then know the shepherd who does not take care of the abandoned sheep, the shepherd Zechariah speaks about¹¹¹..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 559)

¹¹¹ Zech. 11:14-17, 13:1-9.

(On 12 June 1953, Feast of the Sacred Heart, the Holy Spirit says:)

"On this same feast three years ago, when the war in Korea was about to break out, I already said how strongly disturbed and troubled is the Divine Justice toward all of Humanity, for its way of acting. And I announced to you [Maria], that because of this, terrible chastisements would have descended upon the Earth. The facts: floods, cyclones [hurricanes] and earthquakes - with victims and disasters everywhere - have confirmed My statement. But today I repeat to you, that Divine Justice is at the limit of its tolerance.

"Do not blame what is happening on anything else but the piling up of sins of every kind, being committed always more on Earth. [They are]: horrible sins against the Faith, the Church and good morals; unnameable vices, compared to which adultery is still a small thing; hatred... against the Church and the Priesthood; crimes, sacrileges in actions and words - and I could continue endlessly. These things - and nothing else - cause the misfortunes that have happened until now. And they will also cause future [misfortunes], always more grievous, which will befall the Earth and Humanity, because of the always more grievous faults committed..."

(The Little Notebooks, p. 219)

(Jesus foreshadows a period of horror, when He says to His apostles shortly before His Ascension into Heaven:)

"...Woe, when a religion dies, and from a real living power becomes a clamorous exterior pantomime... Woe! Ponder! Remember this truth and tell your successors about it, so that it may be known throughout ages. *The fall of a planet is less frightening than the fall of religion. If the sky should be depopulated of its stars and planets, it would not be for peoples as bad a misfortune, as if they remained without religion. God would provide, with provident power, for the needs of men... But if the day should come when men no longer loved God, because the priests of every religion had made only an empty pantomime of it - as they were the first not to believe in their religion - woe betide the Earth!...*"

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, p. 831)

(Jesus says to His most faithful followers:)

"My beloved ones, who live enclosed in the circle of My arms - as if within the enclosure of the ancient Tabernacle - I give you My order in these times of wrath, which has come not for you, but because of the sins of the world.

"...When you see men become agitated and upset and start to writhe with unjust pain, do not join them. *Have compassion for the common misfortunes, but while recognizing that they are a sign of Divine Justice, do not abandon yourselves to forms of human unbalance.*

"My Spirit has skimmed over your pupils, and has given them sight which the human eye does not have. You see beyond the earth, and know the truth of things. Give this hour its name, then, and the attention it deserves: *expiatory... Let the blameworthy mourn, because this hour is the result of them. You, prostrated before My glory, bless it. For with a punishment, it is*

still calling faithless, idolatrous humanity to the one, holy God. And remain in Me.

"The oil of love is upon you, and overflows from you upon the world. You are the ones who attract it, you precious vases in whom the sacrifices of your lives become incense or burning lamps, which no wind disturbs. And keep your spirits enkindled like an upright flame, towards My altar.

"Do not forget your election, and do not profane the regal sign with human contamination. Remain in the Tabernacle, to bless for those who curse, and to pray for those who need all mercy. The world shall be saved through you."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 580)

(Jesus speaks of the subtle, continued and increasing warfare by the world, against His Church:)

"...From My Heaven, I, the Head of the Mystical Body composed of all Christians, pour forth My waves of life. And from My Church, I shed them upon the world. *I would shed them. But the world erects embankments and dikes, and prevents Me from pouring Myself forth. And the world shoves these dikes against the Church to engulf her, to bury her - and Me along with her... It is the true War, the one from which all the wars in the whole of mankind in the Christian era come. The struggle against Christ.*

"Be aware of this: it is not necessary to engage in major persecutions or schisms, to fight against Christ. Even the small, individual, interior struggle by each of you against My Law, and the hidden, crafty struggle by the government of a country against the voice of Catholic Rome... are fights against Christ. They are the guerrillas. You are so familiar with the terminology of warfare, that you understand Me if I characterize them in this way... The real assaults, the major advances, the imposing manoeuvres, and the cruel massacres then, originate from them..."

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 136-7)

The "Warning", and the Chosen Ones

(There have been many recent speculations, from various "visionaries" around the world, about a (so-called) "Warning" – an illumination of conscience or mini-judgement for all people on the earth - preceding the "First Judgement" at death, and the "Last Judgement" at the End of Time. Maria recorded the following three passages, in the 1940s...)

(On 6 November 1943, Jesus says to us, through Maria Valtorta:)

"...Go and reject the signs I send you from Heaven, and laugh at the celestial warnings... When you least expect, I will have you experience a sign before which you shall plummet in terror, and the wrath you now unleash against the defenceless will be flung back upon you.

"I am that sign. At My appearance, not on earth - the time has not yet come - but spiritually, to the children of wrath and to the father of extermination, your arms and his shall fall like dust, when the wind dies down. *And*

if prayers had risen from the earth, instead of curses, that appearance of Mine would already have occurred, and you would now be liberated from your terrors - unfortunates who tremble and are unable to come to the One Who loves you..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 462)

(On 2 December 1943, Jesus says:)

"...It is useless to say, 'May the heavens rain the Just One down upon the earth:' He came down once, but you have remained - and have increasingly become - sterile lands and arid flint. You are enclosed in your spirits, wrapped in flesh and blood... and the Saviour cannot enter to save you..."

"And yet I will come. I will come tirelessly and to each individual, to try the doors to hearts. And wherever I find someone to open to Me, I will go in to make you a dwelling of peace. I will come, for I am still the One desired by the just of the Earth, and by the saints for the Earth; I will come to take up My Kingdom, for My second coming, and for My final triumph.

"I will attract the world of the spiritually alive to Myself, and races and nations shall converge upon Me to see My glory, crowned with a cross..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 527)

(On 19 November 1945, Maria Valtorta recorded the following passage, where the apostles are discussing whether Jesus ever gets tired of taking decisions and responsibilities, in "the world that is not holy". John has been silent during the conversation, and Andrew asks him:)

..."Since you always know everything about Jesus - at times you seem to be very close to each other - has He ever told you why He behaves like that?"

[And John says:] "Yes. I asked Him also recently. He always replied: 'Because I must. I must act as if the whole world were of ignorant but good people. I teach everybody the same doctrine, and thus the children of Truth will be separated from those of Falsehood'. He also said to me: 'See, John? This is like a first judgement, not a universal or collective one, but a single judgement. According to their action of faith, charity and justice, lambs will be separated from kids. And that will last also afterwards, when I shall no longer be here. But there will be My Church, for ever and ever, until the end of the world.

"The first judgement of the mass of human people will take place in the world, where men act freely, in front of Good and Evil, Truth and Falsehood. [Just] as the first judgement took place in the Earthly Paradise, in front of the tree of Good and Evil, infringed by those who disobeyed God. Then at the death of each individual, the judgement already written in the book of human actions¹¹² by a faultless Mind, will be ratified. *The Great, the Terrible Judgement*¹¹³ will be the last one, when the mass of men will be judged again. From Adam to the last man. They will be judged for what they freely wanted for themselves on the earth.

¹¹² See Ex. 32:30-3; Ps. 69:28; Dan. 7:10, 12:1; Mal. 3:16; Lk. 10:20; Rev. 3:5; 13:8, 20:12-15.

¹¹³ Mt. 25:31-46.

"Now, if I should select by Myself those who deserve the Word of God [which is] Miracle and Love, and those who do not - and I could do it by divine right and ability - those who are excluded, even if they were demons, on the day of their individual judgement would shout loud: "Your Word is the culprit because He did not want to teach us". But they will not be able to say that... or rather, they will say so, lying once more. And they will therefore be judged'..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 3, p. 315)

(*The Holy Spirit speaks of God's chosen ones...*)

"...Only to His elect, to His chosen ones, does God indicate His Cross and His fate. And He says, 'Love one another as I have loved you' and insists, 'Greater love than this no man has, that a man lay down his life for his friends'. And He concludes, 'You *are* my friends if you *do* that which I command you.'¹¹⁴

"Predestination is never separated from heroism. Saints are heroes. In one way or another, in the manner which is proposed to them by God, their life is heroic. They know what it is they do, and they know where they will be guided to, by doing that which they do. They are not frightened however. They also know that what they do serves to continue the Passion of Christ, to increase the treasures of the Communion of Saints, to save the world from the punishments of God, and to snatch many lukewarm souls and sinners from Hell...

"If predestination were separate from the heroic will of the being, it would not be a just thing. And God cannot will unjust things. I am speaking here of the predestination to sanctity...

"There is the predestination to divine Grace, common to all men, and therefore freely given by God in sufficient measure, in order to be saved. And there is the predestination to glory, which is given to those who, during their earthly life, have used the gift of Grace well, and who have remained faithful, despite every trial of temptation to evil...

"And even in this, there is justice... Because with difficulty does man correctly use this regal gift of God, given so that man - aware of his final end - freely elects of only doing good actions, in order to merit the attainment of that beatific end... Every reasoning individual must freely choose the path that he wishes to take, and elect for himself the end which he prefers.

"The predestination to glory is not a free gift that is granted to *all* men, but it is a conquest besides being a gift, made by those who persevere in justice. It is a conquest which is obtained with the perfect use of the gifts and aids of God. And with a good will which does not ever leave anything inert that is proposed or given by God, it renders everything active, and it turns everything towards the holy purpose of the intuitive vision of God, and to the joyous possession of Him..."

(...*St. Paul to the Romans*, pp. 166-9)

¹¹⁴ Jn. 15:12-14.

(Shortly before His Ascension into Heaven, Jesus tells His apostles:)

"...I remind you that at times God allows also His chosen ones to fall¹¹⁵, not because He likes to see them fall, but because a greater future advantage may come from a fall. So offer your hands to those who fall, because you do not know whether that fall is the resolute crisis of an illness that dies for ever, leaving in the blood a purification that brings about health. In our case: that brings about holiness..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 5, p. 845)

(Jesus says:)

"Poor men - how bad you are! If I were to thunder this truth from the heavens, man would be left offended by it, like the Pharisees when I denounced them, uncovering their hidden vices.

"But it is as I say. *Holy, true peace is not desired by all. You are so obtuse and besmeared with wicked tendencies, that you don't even manage to hear the tone of the truth, which One who is more than you discloses to you.* But that is the truth - *there cannot be another, for there is one alone.*

"We are always dealing with that same theme: 'If there were ten just men...'¹¹⁶ But there are so few just men, as opposed to the mass of the unjust. Satan has an immense number of children and servants. The Son of God has an insignificant number of true children and true servants..."

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 240)

(The Holy Spirit says:)

"...God will be compassionate and merciful with whomever He wishes. That is, with *all* those who at their turn will want to be, through good will, 'children of God', having received Christ with love, and having followed and practiced the commands and teachings of the divine Word.

"God always draws good from everything.

"He drew good from the Redemption - the measure of the divine Love which is infinite and most perfect – and from the Sin of Adam.

"He drew the confirmation of His infinite power, justice, and goodness from the stubbornness of Pharaoh towards the divine orders that Moses, His servant, passed down to the Egyptian monarch. In this way [Pharaoh understood] - through the plagues which struck Egypt, the extermination of the first-born, and of the Egyptians in the Red Sea¹¹⁷ - that God is the Lord. And the People of God knew it through the prodigies, and were confirmed in its faith in the One God, *in their God.*

"He drew from the sin of Israel - crucifier of His Word incarnate - the beatific certainty of the Resurrection of the flesh and of the eternal Jerusalem¹¹⁸, where the spirits of the just ascend¹¹⁹, and where the flesh of the

¹¹⁵ James 1:2-4,12.

¹¹⁶ Gen. 18:22-33.

¹¹⁷ Ex. 7:, 8:, 12:33-6.

¹¹⁸ Rev. 21:1-8.

¹¹⁹ Mt. 27:52-3.

just will then reunite with their spirits, for an eternal life full of joy¹²⁰.

"The Good One draws good things from everything. It was only necessary that man, with his will which has to be good, knows how to draw his good from all that God does. How? By not rebelling, and by not distancing himself from the Father of the Heavens, if His hand is burdensome and His chalice bitter..."

(...St. Paul to the Romans, pp. 261-2)

(Jesus speaks of His special witnesses...)

"In my witnesses are concealed all the masters in faith: pontiffs, bishops, the inspired, doctors of the Church, and souls pervaded by the Light and by the Voice. With their voices purified of every human timbre, they have proclaimed Me and the truth of My doctrine, and have set a seal of holiness, pain, and even blood, as confirmation of their voices.

"Hated, like Me - the Master of masters, the Holy of Holies - they have always been tormented, more or less, by the world and by power. *These find in them the ones who - by their very conduct - say to the world and to the great of the world, 'What you do is not licit'. But when the hour of the son of Satan comes, Hell - rising from the abyss opened by the Antichrist - will ruthlessly wage war on them... - will overcome and kill them.*

"But it will not be true death. It will instead be the Life of lives, true and glorious Life. For if those who follow My Law in the Commandments¹²¹ will have Life, what an infinite fullness of Life will be possessed by those following My Gospel... to the point of sacrificing their lives?"

"Called to a brilliant resurrection, they will be the ones who strip themselves of what is dearest to man - life - just for the sake of following Me, out of love for Me and for their brothers and sisters. I will never tire of repeating this: there is nothing greater than love, in Heaven and on earth. And there is no greater love than that of those who give their lives, for the sake of their brothers and sisters¹²²."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 255-6)

(Jesus says:)

"...The flowers of today... are My slain children. *And blessed among them are those who fall innocently, and whose death - without rancour - becomes as beautiful as a martyrdom.* My Blood is not seen midst the blood of the slain. I remain with My whiteness as a Host. It is the blood of the others that splashes Me, as it is the cruelty of those subject to the Enemy that wounds Me. With Me, it wounds those who are hosts like Me. And the greatest among you... are wounded, spat upon, pierced and flagellated, like his Lord, by the lie sold to the Enemy - down to the smallest child with his throat cut, like an innocent lamb. *But these hosts are not immolated to no avail. In them there is no stain of hatred. They are the victims. Eternally blessed in being victims!..."*

(Notebooks 1943, p. 110)

¹²⁰ Mt. 25:31-46.

¹²¹ Ex. 20:1-17; Dt. 5:6-21.

¹²² Jn. 15:13.

"...My wounds shall be a sword for the impenitent, the obstinate, and for those sold to Satan - and a caress for the 'little ones', who love Me as a loving father. This caress of Christ shall descend upon their weakness to fortify them, and My hand shall carry them towards the trial, which only those who love Me with a true love withstand. A third. But this portion shall be worthy of possessing the City of Heaven, the Kingdom of God..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 565)

(Jesus speaks of true priests:)

"... Never, as now, has it been necessary to ask the Master of the harvest to send *true* workers to His harvest¹²³, which is falling in ruins. Because the number of *true tireless* workers - upon whom My gaze rests with infinite, grateful blessings and love - is not sufficient.

"If only I could say to all My priests, 'Come, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your Lord!'..."

"The more true priests there are in the world - when the times are fulfilled - the shorter and less cruel the time of the Antichrist and the final convulsions of the human race will be. For 'the just' - about whom I speak when I preach the end of the world - are the true priests, those truly consecrated in the convents scattered over the earth. These are the victim souls, an unknown array of martyrs that only My eye knows, while the world does not see them. These are those who act with true purity of faith. But these are - even though unaware of it themselves - consecrated, and victims."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 85)

(The Eternal Father speaks of people who do not know God. He says:)

"...Paul of Tarsus, at one time a supporter of the synedrium and a relentless persecutor of Christ's disciples, returned to the Light by way of a divine thunderbolt, and become the tireless Apostle of My Son. In the Areopagus of Athens, he announced to the Athenians that 'Unknown God'¹²⁴ to whom they had dedicated an altar.

"Now as well, many living altars are deprived of their God, and they could write on their religious nudity *at least* these words: 'To the Unknown God'... And they called upon Him to make Himself known through that altar dedicated to Him - upon which there was not yet a statue or a name - as they waited for Divine Revelation to affix them to it..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 612)

¹²³ See Mt. 9:37-8; Lk. 10:2.

¹²⁴ Acts 17:22-33.

(Early in His public life, Jesus is speaking to some pilgrims at "Clear Water" about a disturbing attitude to gentiles, among some Israelites...)

"...The God of Israel is the same God Who created all men. Why prevent creatures from feeling the attraction of their Creator? Do you think that heathens do not feel something in the bottom of their hearts, something unsatisfied, that shouts, stirs, seeks? Whom? What? The unknown God¹²⁴.

"And do you think that if a pagan moves towards the altar of the unknown God, to the incorporeal altar which is the soul, in which there is always the remembrance of its Creator... do you think that God will reject the pagan's offer as one rejects a profanation? And do you consider a sin, the action caused by the honest desire of a soul that - aroused by celestial summons - says: 'I am coming' to God, Who says to it: 'Come'?"

"Do you consider holiness the corrupted cult of an Israelite, who offers to the Temple what is left over from his pleasures... and mentions the name of the Most Pure One, with body and soul polluted by countless foul sins?"

"No. I solemnly tell you that the perfect sacrilege is committed by the Israelite, who with his impure soul, takes the Name of the Lord in vain..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 1, pp. 652-3)

(Jesus says to His apostles:)

"...After the end of the world... there will be *one Heaven only*. And there will be one reward only: God, the Creator... You may say: 'Then, what justice is there in belonging to the holy religion, if at the end of the world we shall be treated exactly as the Gentiles?'. I reply: ...it is true justice - for those who, although they belong to the holy religion, will not be beatified, because they did not lead a holy life. A virtuous heathen, only because he lived according to choice virtue, convinced that his religion was good, will have Heaven at the end..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 4, pp. 167)

(Jesus says:)

"...Apply love, for truth in relationships with God and man. Do not betray. One of your race betrayed twenty centuries ago, instigated and followed by deceivers and the wicked. Remove that stain which has been crushing you for centuries, by your just and loyal way of acting.

"In order to be loved, one must make oneself loved. You have forgotten this many, too many times. Love peace. It is the sign of Christ, whom your fathers killed, drawing down upon you the war which has no end. And with the pauses of a truce, it explodes and reappears like an incurable disease in the Earth's body, and gives you no safety or rest. You must now learn to love this peace, so as to be able to belong to Christ, and thus end the eternal exodus of your race..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 544)

"...Forgive those who offend you, love those who hate you, help those who are less fortunate than you. Love, love, love.¹²⁵

¹²⁵ Mt. 5:3-12; Lk. 6:20-3.

"In truth, I tell you that not a single act of love, though minimal - such as a sigh of compassion for someone suffering - shall go unrewarded. It will [deliver] a boundless reward in Heaven. And [it will also deliver] a great reward, not comprehensible except for the one experiencing it, even on earth. It will be the reward of the peace of Christ for all My good ones, and of the luminousness of the Word for the 'very good ones', into whom I come to find My comfort..."

(Notebooks 1944, p. 90)

(This is a story about a happening which became – what I believe to have been – the most important personal lesson I've learnt, during the 20-plus years I've been studying Maria Valtorta's writings – Compiler.)

One night some years ago, when I was completing the final assembly of a booklet: "Forgiving, and Being Forgiven", I realized that I couldn't fit it all into the 32 pages allocated in my computer program. So I decided to delete the last passage - "On Not Judging".

A little later I suddenly noticed a tiny little spider, hanging down from the ceiling and wriggling its legs, right between my eyes and the computer screen. Fascinated by this, I rang my friend Christine, and said that there could be a message in this little event.

When we finished our conversation, I went back to the computer. A few minutes later the same little spider was back again. It must have returned to the ceiling, moved about nine inches closer, come down, and now was almost touching my glasses. A message, for sure!

I rang Christine again. She told me that after my first call she went into the bathroom and had a similar visit from another tiny little spider! We each picked up our Bible and found a passage at random. But neither passage seemed to be relevant, and I was left mystified.

36 hours later, in bed, the word: "*thread*" came to my mind. Was this the missing link? I went to the computer and, would you believe, that word was in the passage I'd deleted from booklet! In "On not judging", Maria Valtorta described the vision she had had of a large bronze door and a dazzling light behind it - from *Notebooks 1943*, pages 28-9. She concluded with the words:

"I understood in that Light that *we must love everyone, not judge anyone, forgive everything, and live through God alone*. Two years have passed, but I still see that brilliance..."

So I inserted that whole passage into the booklet's inside back cover.

There was subsequent passage in *Notebooks 1944*, page 599, in which Jesus said to Maria:

"If I had not halted you with my 'Do not judge' - making you reflect that even in someone apparently less suited to being an instrument of God, God might be present - you would have broken, with your violence, what I had knotted together: a silk *thread* destined to become a ship's hawser, with cables of superhuman charity and human affection..."

"Go in peace. Your Jesus does nothing without a perfect purpose..."

About six months later in Brisbane, while giving a talk about Maria Val-torta's writings - on a quite unrelated subject - a tiny (third) spider walked across my notes. Another message, of course: "tell the 'two spiders' story", which I did, and which I've done numerous times since. For me, the pas-sage "On Not Judging" reveals this important lesson of a vital story:

When I am judging, I am falling into the trap of not forgiving. But when I am not judging, I am more likely to forgive, and all good things become possible.

Prayer, Hope, and a Call to Courage

(Jesus says:)

"...In your blood, Satan's venom ferments. I know, My poor children. But I have given you Myself as an antidote. I have taught you to engrave My Sign, which overcomes Satan, upon yourselves and in yourselves...

"...Say 'our Father'¹²⁶ just as I taught you - that the Father will give you both the Kingdom of Heaven as is requested in the first part, and your daily bread and the forgiveness of sins as is requested in the second...

"Remember, that as I have regenerated you to the Life of Grace - to which you were dead - so I have raised you up with Me to eternal Life. Look, then, at that place of Life. Seek all the things which are currency for you to enter therein: *all the things of the spirit: Faith, Hope, Charity, and the other virtues which make man a child of God...*"

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 88-9)

(The Holy Spirit speaks of the 'Our Father'¹²⁶...)

"...The 'Pater' is made alive by the establishment of the Kingdom of God in creatures and in the world, for the twofold love towards God and towards one's neighbour¹²⁷, pathway to possessing the Kingdom of Heaven.

"The 'Pater' is made alive by adherence to the Will of God, whatever it may be: through the two-fold love that makes one accept trials, sufferings, agonies and bereavements with peaceful obedience; and through the power of God. And [thus we] endure our neighbour for the sufferings that he can give us, by considering him a '*means*' to the attainment of eternal merits. And one needs continual patience to exercise, towards your poor brothers who test you - guilty against love - who require mercy and prayers, so that they can come back into the way of Life.

"The 'Pater' is made alive in the love for one's neighbour, the most ar-duous to perform: that of forgiveness of one's own offenders, offered to God Love, so that He may forgive our trespasses towards Him..."

(...St. Paul to the Romans, p. 178)

¹²⁶ Mt. 6:9-13; Lk. 11:1-4.

¹²⁷ Dt. 6:5; Lev. 19:18.

(Jesus presents us with an entreaty to Our Lady of Sorrows...)

"Mary, Who have taken us as Your children at the foot of the Cross, and Mary, who are our Mother and the Mother of our God and Brother Jesus - listen to the voice of Your children.

"It is this: we drag ourselves to the foot of the Cross where Your Son is agonizing, and where You too are agonizing, with Your Heart torn apart... Look at us, Mary. We are all sprinkled with the Blood of Your Son. He died for us, to give us Life and Peace in this world and in the other. And we turn to You - Who were the foundation stone of our redemption - to receive life, salvation, and peace, which we have forfeited through our way of living, opposed and rebellious to the doctrine of Your Son...

"Save us, save us, O Mary, from the enemy's rage!...

"Also save those who are absent by their obstinate will, the wayward children, the greatest unfortunates. For they have lost the Light, the Way, and the Life¹²⁸ - in losing Your Son, authentic Truth...

"In this hour we remember the prayer of Your Jesus, a Martyr for our sake - "Father, forgive them"¹²⁹ - and we repeat it for all, over all, so as to be forgiven in turn by God, and saved by You...

"Holy Mary, pray for us..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 57-8)

(Shortly before His Passion, Jesus talks of Joseph, His foster-father...)

"If he were here, among us, oh!... A new Abraham, with a broken heart, but with perfect will... he would have spoken the words that he used to utter when anything painful weighed heavily on us: 'Let us raise our spirits. We shall meet the yes of God, and we shall forget that it is men who grieve us. And let us do whatever is burdensome, as if the Most High presented it to us. In this way we shall also sanctify the least things, and God will love us'. Oh! He would have said so to comfort Me, to suffer the deepest sorrows..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, pp. 154-5)

(In Jerusalem at the Temple, Jesus says to the people present:)

"...It is never too late for the Most High. In a moment, and because of a persistent prayer, He can change the course of events. Between the cup and the lips, there is still time for death to thrust its dagger in, and thus prevent him - who was taking the cup to his lips - from drinking of it. And through the intervention of God, I am telling you, go back to your places of prayer, and persist today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. And if you can have faith, you will see the miracle..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 4, p. 561)

(Azariah, Maria's Guardian Angel, says:)

"...To deserve Love, every soul must, with its own will, want Love. And it must maintain itself worthy of Love, by obedience and unwearying prayer. If it did not do so, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon it would be in vain. For

¹²⁸ Jn. 14:6.

¹²⁹ Lk. 23:34.

in descending, He could not make His dwelling there, and would swiftly ascend again to Heaven...

"But if this is for all the faithful, for the instruments it is even more so. The Apostles were changed - from men into voices of God - through the work of the Paraclete, and through their own preparation in obedience and prayer... It is their obedience - their speaking with God, their obeying the commands of God - which makes them what they are...

"I, soul of mine, will never cease, at the cost of seeming monotonous to you, to exhort you to practice those virtues necessary for all, but absolutely indispensable. And [they are necessary] in full measure, in being chosen in an extraordinary way: in perfect obedience and in perfect humility, for a spirit in union with God..."

[*The Book of Azariah*, pp. 128-9 (1993 edition), p. 134 (2007 edition)]

"...Man, even the most perfect man, would never be able to pray with that loving violence which obtains miracles, *all* miracles. And so it is, then, that the Spirit of God prays in you, through you, to obtain: what is useful and necessary for you; and what, as holy, is suitable for sanctifying you. It is always the Spirit of God that, enclosed in the hearts of the faithful, asks and cries out with ineffable moans: 'Abba! Father!'¹³⁰

"And He says it through you. What, then, are you afraid of, if you can call God 'Father'? If the Spirit of God Himself says it through you, thus confessing that you may call yourselves children of the Father, that you are children of God? If the Spirit Himself - Whom God loves infinitely, for He is God - prays and calls out through you?

"Courage, then, and do not be afraid of the things that pass..."

"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit."

[*The Book of Azariah*, p. 305 (1993 edition), pp. 316-7 (2007 edition)]

(*Jesus says:*)

"...Oh Water of Divine Grace, on passing would have brought life, would have purified and nourished the sands, and would have removed saltiness and corruption from the waves with which you would have mingled. These enabled [those in its path] to be a cradle for strong trees laden with fruits of every kind, and a dwelling place for fish of every kind!¹³¹... This water is the water issuing forth from My Heart¹³², opened out of love for mankind. It brings with it the essence of this divine love, in contact with which every impurity falls, as if through a blessed filter.

"Your humanity filtered through Mine! And can there be a greater poem of love than this - of a God who becomes Man to save all mankind through Himself?..."

(*Notebooks 1944*, pp. 137-8)

¹³⁰ Gal. 4:6.

¹³¹ See Ezek. 47:1-12.

¹³² Jn. 19:34-7.

(Lazarus is dying, and Jesus tells Lazarus' two sisters – Martha and Mary Magdalene - that He would not desert His friend at his death...)

"...*The more one loves, the more one achieves. To be able to hope, and to believe above all limits and above all realities that disprove faith and hope, is to love. Well, for the sake of that, I tell you to hope and believe against all contrary realities...*

The Most High knows how much I would like to stop here with you, to assist and comfort him, to assist and comfort you. But as the Son of God I know that I must go, that I must depart... One day, very soon, you will understand these reasons that now may seem cruel to you. They are divine reasons. Sorrowful to Me Man, as they are to you... When everything is accomplished, then you will understand and rejoice..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 4, p. 793)

(Azariah speaks of a paralysis, caused by fear of the future:)

"How much worry there is in man, over his health and prosperity! If one considers carefully, man is tormented and bound by this perennial anxiety, like a galley slave to his bench... The fear of tomorrow! Fright over illnesses! The nightmare of a possible loss of money, employment, business. Terror at meteorological upsets for farmlands, at epidemics for those raising livestock, at workers' rebellions for industrialists, and at national revolts for the majority of the people..."

"If man were spiritual - in his affections and in his thoughts - he would not tremble like this. First of all, because he would raise his glance to God in prayer; secondly, because he would say, 'This is the passage; Heaven is the goal. The passage will be painful, but the goal is luminous and joyful. Let us endure today so as to enjoy tomorrow, eternally... And let us trust in the Lord, Who says, "I am the salvation of the people; whatever tribulation they cry out from, I shall hear them...""

[The Book of Azariah, pp. 243-4 (1993 edition), pp. 253-4 (2007 edition)]

"...Live with prudence as the companion of one's actions, without wasting time, which you do not know if you can later recover. Always consider, that even the best will have to render an account for many hours: hours of lukewarmness, useless gossip, lazy somnolence, and even sin. Benefit therefore from every minute, in order to make reparation for the evil done, and for the good not done. Tomorrow is never sure. Use the present, therefore - which is always a gift of God - to provide yourselves with the way to acquire merits in His Most Holy Eyes..."

[The Book of Azariah, p. 253 (1993 edition), pp. 263-4 (2007 edition)]

(Jesus says:)

"Oh, what a good thing prayer is! God has placed it in man's heart, like the need to breathe. Isn't it in fact the breathing of the soul?. Without breath, the movement of the blood also ceases, and the body dies. Prayer is what keeps the spirit alive, always maintaining it in the sight of God..."

(Notebooks 1944, p. 476)

The Mercy of Jesus

(Jesus says to Maria:)

"... You must always bear in mind Who I am and who you are. You must always remember your faults and My perfection, so that your heart may be cleansed by contrition. But at the same time you must put so much trust in Me.

"I said: 'Be not afraid. Stand up. Let us go. Let us go among men, because I have come to be with them. Be holy, strong and faithful in remembrance of this hour'. I say so also to you and to all My favourites among men, to those who have Me in a special way...

"Stand up. May the joy of the gift give you energy, and do not let it blunt your minds with the savour of quietism, considering yourselves already saved because I have shown Heaven to you.

"Let us go together among men. I have invited you to superhuman deeds, by means of superhuman visions and lessons, so that you may be of greater help to Me. I make you partners in My work. But I have never had and I never have a minute's rest. Because Evil never rests, and God must be always active, to make void the work of the Enemy as much as possible. We shall rest when the Time is accomplished. Now we must proceed untiringly, work continuously and sacrifice ourselves unremittingly, for the harvest of God.

"May My continuous contact sanctify you, may My continuous teaching fortify you, and may My fond love for you make you faithful against all snares..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 3, p. 414)

(Travelling through the countryside as the time approaches of His Passion and Death, Jesus meets two men who question Him as to whether there is forgiveness after death. He says:)

"...When He sees that one of His children errs because he is absent-minded, or is slow in distinguishing, or is not very well educated, or because he is very weak in one or more things, do you think that the Most Holy Father may judge him with inflexible severity?...

"Man ought to remember that God is Love. His face shines upon men, not to reduce them to ashes, but to comfort them as the sun comforts with its beams. Love, not severity, radiates from God: sunbeams, not flashes of lightning. In any case... what did Love impose of His own will? A burden which cannot be carried? A code of numberless chapters easy to be forgotten? No. Just ten Commandments¹³³, to bridle like a colt the animal man, who without a bridle goes to rack and ruin...

"Listen: love God with your whole self¹³⁴, love your neighbour as yourself¹³⁵. Meditate... If you love God, you will certainly honour Him every hour of the day. If you love your neighbour, you will not do anything which may

¹³³ Ex. 20:11-17; Dt. 5:6-22.

¹³⁴ Dt. 6:5.

¹³⁵ Lev. 19:18.

grieve him. You will not lie, steal, kill or injure, you will not commit adultery. Is it not so?

"It is... just, Master..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 4, pp. 369-70)

(*In His further travels, Jesus is approached by a man who tells Him:*)

"...Oh! there is no name for my crime!... Lord, I have in my hands the virginity of young girls seduced, and the honour of young wives taken in conquered towns. My trade centres... and my brothels were famous, Lord... Do not curse me, now that You know!..."

The apostles have unintentionally moved away from the man who has spoken. Jesus stands up and approaches him. He lays a hand on his shoulder and says: "It is true! Your crime is grave. You have much to redress. But I, the Mercy, tell you that even if you were the demon himself and you were responsible for all the crimes of the Earth, *if you want*, you can make amends for everything and be forgiven by God, the true, great, paternal God. If you want. Join your will to Mine. I also want you to be forgiven. Join Me. Give Me your poor spirit, so ill-famed, ruined, full of scars, and disheartened after you abandoned sin. I will put it on My Heart, where I place the biggest sinners, and I will take it with Me to the redeeming Sacrifice. The holiest Blood, that of My Heart - the last Blood of Him Consumed on behalf of men - will be shed on the greatest ruins, and will regenerate them. Have hope for the time being. Let your hope be greater than your immense crime, in the mercy of God. Because it has no limit, o man, for those who can trust in it..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 4, p. 691)

(*Jesus says to Maria:*)

"The first time My Father, to purify the world, send a lavacre of water¹³⁶; the second, He sent a lavacre of blood - and what Blood!¹³⁷ Neither the first nor the second lavacre has availed to make men sons and daughters of God. Now the Father is weary, and to make the human race perish He lets the punishments of hell be unleashed, for men have preferred hell to Heaven And their dominator – Lucifer - tortures them to spur them to curse Us, so as to render them his sons and daughters completely.

"I would come a second time to die, to save them from an even more atrocious death... But My Father does not allow Me to... My Love would permit it; Justice does not. It knows that it would be useless. I will thus come only at the final hour. But woe to those who will see Me in that hour, after having chosen Lucifer as their lord! There will be no need for weapons in the hands of My angels, to win the battle against the antichrists. My look will suffice.

¹³⁶ Gen. 6: to 9:.

¹³⁷ Heb. 9:11-14.

"Oh, if men even now were capable of turning to Me, Who am salvation! I desire nothing but this. And I weep, because I see nothing is able to make them lift up their heads to Heaven ..."

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 19-20)

"...The only thing I can do... and I do it out of mercy on the saints... is to hold back the wrath of My Father. Weary of the crimes of a race for which My Blood has been shed to no avail, He goes on wanting and wanting to apply Justice to you. And justice, since you are blameworthy, would mean tremendous punishments, which My Mercy does not want to be added, to those you cause yourselves on your own..."

(*Notebooks 1944*, p. 264)

"...To God, the first fruits and the totality of goods should be given. But, since you have been unable to do this - O sons and daughters who have cost Me My life - *give to the great, merciful, and powerful Lord what still remains to you. In your spiritual poverty - not evangelical, but human poverty - wrest the last leafstalk from your hearts, deny that remainder to the flesh, and give it to Me.* I know that the sacrifice of life costs one of My beloved less - for love inebriates him - than the sacrifice of a kiss costs you. *And for your effort, disproportionate to the offer, I will give you a reward disproportionate to the gift. I will give it to you, provided you come...*"

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 434)

"...I am Mercy. And I remain such, as long as man is on earth. I wait for their conversion, as long as they have breath. But later, for the obstinate and the tempters of their Lord - and they tempt Him because they know He is excessively good to them - there will be the first and second Judgments. And they will know a Face of the Lord that is different, from the one against which they hurl the spittle of their provocative sentence..."

(*Notebooks 1945-50*, p. 531)

(*Jesus speaks to Maria Valtorta of His two great loves:*)

"Do you want to know who was the apostle who loved more than any other? John. It was truly John. Before and after the Passion. Before and after Pentecost..."

"And who was the apostle I loved the most? It was Judas Iscariot. Do not stare in disbelief, or be startled. It's true. I loved Judas Iscariot more than anyone else. And now I'll explain to you, and you'll understand.

"John was the beloved one... Everyone knows the truth. He was good, pure, and faithful. It is obvious that he attracted the love of God and the love of the Man - that is, the love of Jesus the God-Man.

"But tell me: is it more wearisome to perform an action demanding continuous effort, which we know beforehand will be *futile* - or to perform another which, instead of effort, involves joy and repose in carrying it out? The former, isn't it? And who will have more merit?... In the former case, where the *sole* purpose is to do one's full duty with no hope of receiving compensation, or in the latter, where minute by minute we are amply repaid for what we are doing? Whoever carries out the former act will have more merit..."

"This is the love I want, in you... If only you knew how this love we give... to the *unconvertible* - works miracles!...

"Love is not lost. Not even an infinitesimal part of love... remains without fruit. Gathered in by the angels, noted by God, it rises into the treasury of Heaven. And there it serves... to acquire, to bring growth to, and to treat... wounded and sick souls...

But Judas! To love Judas! To love Judas completely, when I was aware of every wrinkle in his heart!... This love demands a spirit of highly perfected mercy, meekness, and humility... Here is your model: I am Jesus! Imitate Me, and you will be perfect as I want you to be for your eternal joy.

"The horrendous, shadowy figure of Judas, that I have so amply displayed in the Work, is not without a purpose... In doing so, I revealed the way spiritual teachers, and all Christians as well, must act towards the many Judases peopling the earth, whom none can fail to encounter during their mortal day..."

(*Notebooks 1945-50*, pp. 394-7)

(*Jesus says:*)

"...The Judases are not the mass. *For often, after a vile life lived by a body in which the soul was kept a slave, a triumph of the soul over matter is obtained by the fact that in the final hour that soul, on the threshold of death - which frees the spirit from the flesh - turns to God, of Whom it has conserved a memory, and takes refuge in Him.*

"And believe Me: *in truth, a throb of love, confidence, and repentance suffices, to make the lavacre of My merits descend upon the sinner and deliver him...*"

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 356)

"...Exult, O My faithful servants. The mouth that does not lie tells you this. *You will no longer have to fear any evil, because I will put an end to the time of evil. I will hasten this end, out of mercy on My blessed ones.*

"O you, My beloved at present - exult, above all. For you the advent of Christ and His glorious embrace will be even more solicitous. For you the gates of the City of God are already opening, and Your Saviour is coming out to meet you and to give you true Life.

"A little longer, and I will come for you. As with Lazarus, My friend, I will call you one by one: 'Come out!'¹³⁸ Out of this earthly life which is a tomb for the spirit imprisoned in the flesh... Into the Life and freedom of Heaven.

"*Call Me with your faithful love.* Let it be the blaze which melts the chains of flesh, and gives the spirit the freedom to come quickly to Me. Utter the most beautiful cry written by man: 'Come, Lord Jesus'.¹³⁹"

(*Notebooks 1943*, pp. 435-6)

¹³⁸ Jn. 11:43.

¹³⁹ Rev. 22:20.

Mary, Co-Redemptrix and Advocate

(Jesus says:)

"...When *our* Enemy tries to bother you too much, say, 'Hail Mary¹⁴⁰, Mother of Jesus, I entrust myself to You'. *The devil feels even more repugnance at the name of Mary, than at My Name and My Cross... He tries to harm Me in My faithful in a thousand ways. But just the echo of the name of Mary sets him to flight. If the world were able to call Mary, it would be saved.*

"To invoke Our two Names together, is thus a powerful way to bring down and break all the weapons which Satan hurls, against a heart that is Mine..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 87)

(Mary says to Maria:)

"...Now that a furious, unwearying, more-and-more violent rain of hail-stones is being hurled by Humanity against its Lord, I am wearing the mantle of penance, as a victim with My Son, the Divine Victim..."

"I remain with this gesture of supplication which I adopted in the Tomb, at the moment of My complete sacrifice... I beseech and scatter graces.... I gather in prayers and acts of reparation.... I offer Myself and make offering. I implore the Father and the Father's mercy. I comfort the faithful with My graces. I take in their prayers and acts of reparation. I offer them to console the Love of My Heart. And to make them powerful, I offer Myself with you - I, the Victim Mother, of and for Humanity.

"Greet Me, Maria, in this way: 'Hail, Mary¹⁴⁰, Victim Mother for the sins of men, pray for us'..."

(Notebooks 1945-50, p. 528)

(Maria Valtorta writes about Mary, and Her priests:)

As a complement to all my suffering, I distinctly see Mary Most Holy, entirely dressed in black... She is moving with a face of limitless sadness, as if through a garden... There are flowers and paths. I see nothing else.

Our Lady is bending to pick flowers. I add, to explain better, that a hurricane seems to have fallen upon that place, for the grass and flowers are partly broken, and partly bent into the mud on the path. Mary gathers the broken ones and kisses them, and She pushes aside the bent ones into the mud, but does not pick them. And She is crying. She replies to a mental question of mine: "These are the souls of priests, against whom the world and Satan have raged, and are raging, particularly in these times.

"The broken ones are those slain by the hatred of the world - [they are] the martyrs of this century. I gather them and take them to Heaven - because I am the Mother of the Priesthood - and I take these, My sons, out of the horror, into the Light which they have merited. I gather them into My mantle, to pour out this holy carpet of flowers at the foot of God's throne. The others are the priests who have let themselves be bent, for the sake of

¹⁴⁰ Lk. 1:28 (Douay-Rheims).

human utility or quietism¹⁴¹... They have lost the temper which the priestly character infused into them, and they have become pliant to human winds - to the point of staining their florid silk with the mire of the earth.

"I weep over the pain of the former, and the error of the latter. But My weeping over the former changes into eternal pearls, destined for their crowns. Over the latter, *it is only pain, which would like to save them and cannot, unless first it is they who weep over themselves.*

"It is the greatest sorrow of My sorrows as the Universal Mother, over Her children who offend My Firstborn, Who died to give life to all My children. In these days - in which My rejoicing as the Mother of God is renewed - the world manages to change My robe of snow-white joy, into a robe of mourning, by killing My priests or their souls. It is a twofold death without hope.

"Pray and suffer, to help the martyrs and save the blameworthy."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 584-5)

(Mary says:)

"...To save a soul is to predestine one's own soul to Heaven. But to save the soul of a priest is to save a large number of souls, because every *holy* priest is a net that drags souls to God..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 1, p. 160)

(Jesus says:)

"...Mary was the Co-Redemptrix. *And the mission of a redeemer is always a mission of infinite pain.* Otherwise, how could a redeemer pay the ransom for the sins of others? Or redeem his brothers and sisters as a victim? Mary was a redeemer, as I was the Redeemer. It was right, then, that Pain should be Her companion..."

"Always consider that She is the Master of Pain, as I am the Master of Life. *Always consider that Pain is real, absolute, only when God is no longer close to a spirit to support it in trial. Consider that Mary was alone, in the tremendous hour, to know the horror of solitude, and to expiate your acts of desperation as creatures.*

"She is Hope, in addition to Faith and Charity... And no one else in the world loved as She did; no one believed, and, above all, no one hoped.

"She was an abyss of hope... May Mary, the Hope of God who awaited Her to accomplish man's Redemption, be man's hope.

"O mortals, do not lose sight of the Morning Star¹⁴², whose rays are made of the seven swords driven into Her most sweet and pure Heart, driven in out of love for you. Live in Her. And die in the Holy One, Who is the Mother of God, and Who prays for you without wearying..."

"The soul that falls asleep upon the Heart of Mary, will have its flesh glorified in Heaven when the time is fulfilled, for She is your Salvation."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 310-11)

¹⁴¹ See Rev. 3:16

¹⁴² Rev. 22:16.

(In October 1947, Jesus said to Maria:)

"...*Mary is your Salvation in this terrible conclusion to this terrible century, in which the complete opening of the seven seals¹⁴³ may take place, as God's punishment...* For too many centuries now, Christendom has been awaiting this triumphal proclamation of the Virgin Mother, taken up into Heaven by God¹⁴⁴, to be a joy for God - Whose living Temple on earth She was...

"Many of the seals have in reality already been opened. But woe if they were all opened or should come to be!

"Hasten the hour of the triumph of the Woman, Foundress of the lineage of those marked with the sign of the servants of God, the chosen One Whose dwelling is Heaven. Hasten the hour of Mary's triumph over Satan, the world, matter, and death... Let the men, women and children of the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church, join the Angels, headed by Michael. So that the dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven accursed diadems - the seven seductions¹⁴⁵ - will be cast down for a certain period. [Then] Christendom will have time to gather together and fortify itself in charity and faith, and to close ranks as a defence for the final battle...

"There cannot be a second Redemption carried out by Me, Christ. But there can still be one to save a greater number of spirits from the coils of hell: that of glorious Mary. In devotion to Her, lies the secret of the last Redemption..."

(Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 428-9)

(After the joy of a vision of Mary, Maria Valtorta writes...)

...[Firstly], there appeared the archangel Michael - always very imposing, I would say frighteningly handsome - with his blazing sword in his right hand...

The archangel pointed to Our Lady - thoroughly lovely in her virginal humility... - and cried out, "Set the weapon that is *Mary* against the Great Serpent that is advancing!" What a powerful voice! It shook the atmosphere like the sound of a harmonious thunder-clap. Our Lady lowered Her head, looking at the earth with boundless compassion.... The archangel cried out powerfully, three times... and was very severe and imperious....

After the third cry, and a pause following it, he prostrated himself before Mary, venerating Her by saying, "You alone are a defence! You alone are victorious! You alone are the hope of salvation against Satanic venom. Mother of the One who is without equal, I greet You, my Queen."

He was still prostrate when the archangel St. Gabriel came, racing down in flight from the Heavens to the earth, bringing with him a light compared to which St. Michael's splendour was tenuous. He was holding a golden thurible, smoking with incense in his hands... He flew around Mary,

¹⁴³ See Rev. 5: and 6:.

¹⁴⁴ In 1950, Pope Pius XII would define as a dogma, the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.

¹⁴⁵ Rev. 12:3.

incensing Her with his thurible and saying, "Hail Mary!¹⁴⁶ Queen of the Angels, salvation of men, love of the Triune God!

"After God, Who is like You, Mary! Hail, most glorious Queen in Heaven, medicine for all the illnesses killing spirits and extinguishing Faith, Hope, and Charity in men. Hail, Mary!"...

(Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 426-7)

(The Holy Spirit, in a dictation to Maria Valtorta, says:)

"...In Genesis, it is said, '...I will set My rainbow in the clouds, and it shall be the sign of a covenant between Me and the Earth¹⁴⁷...'

"Rainbow: sign of peace. Rainbow: bridge between Heaven and Earth.

"Mary: the peaceful bridge joining Heaven and Earth, the most Beloved One Who obtains mercy for sinners with Her sole presence...

"With the growth of sins, and the increasing of storm clouds of divine wrath and satanic fumes, Mary is always the One Who scatters the clouds and disarms the lightning. She builds Her mystical bridge for Humanity - who has fallen into the abyss - so that it can rise up sweetly towards its Good.

"I will set My rainbow amongst the clouds... and I will remember My covenant'... Truly the Rainbow of peace, the Co-Redemptrix, is amongst the clouds, *above* the clouds. She is the sweet star that shines in the presence of God, in order to remind Him that He has promised mercy to men, and has given His Son so that men may have forgiveness..."

(The Holy Spirit speaks of Mary, when darkness covers the Earth...)

"...Great will be the length of Her walk. [She is] opposed by Her eternal enemy [Satan], who on account of having been defeated, is no less obstinate in grieving Her and fighting against Her. He dulls the intellects of men so as not to let them know Mary. He extinguishes the faith of men in Her. He creates fogs. He throws mud. However, the Star of the Sea¹⁴⁸ is too far above the polluted waves... She will only descend - as swiftly as an archangel - to put Her seal next to the mark of the Tau upon the foreheads of the faithful¹⁴⁹, of those saved for the eternal Kingdom. And strength and peace will enter into their spirits under the touch of Her hand - Mother of Life and Fountain of Salvation..."

(...St. Paul to the Romans, pp. 102-3,46)

(Jesus says:)

"If it were not for the care of Mary, for the prayers of Mary, the human race would no longer exist. I would have annulled it, for your way of life has truly touched the depths of Evil... I can bring Paradise to its knees and make the stars tremble, [but] I can do nothing against Her..."

"To punish you would mean giving the Mother of the human race¹⁵⁰ - the *true* Mother - a stabbing pain. For She always hopes She can lead you to

¹⁴⁶ Lk. 1:28 (Douay-Rheims).

¹⁴⁷ Gen. 9:13

¹⁴⁸ Rev. 22:16.

¹⁴⁹ See Ez. 9:4-6; Rev. 7:2-3

¹⁵⁰ Jn. 19:26-7.

Her Son... To those in the world who still believe, I say: *'The salvation of the world is in Mary'... If you knew how God is withdrawing into the depths... you would tremble...*

"Previously, it was I that was the bridge between the world and Heaven. But truly, in the face of your obstinacy in Evil, *the Christ is withdrawing... He is leaving you to your Evil...*

"Now, Mary is the only bridge left. *But if you disdain Her too, you shall be crushed. I do not allow the Woman - upon Whom the Holy Spirit descended to conceive Me... - to be disparaged."*

(Notebooks 1943, p. 138)

(*Maria Valtorta writes:*)

...If it is true, that before the end of time more and more false prophets - servants of the Antichrist - will arise, it is equally true that Christ the Lord will set more and more of His servants against them, raising up new apostles in places where they are least expected.

Infinite Mercy - taking pity on distressed men, overwhelmed by the storm of blood, fire, persecution and death - will have Mary, the pure Star of the Sea¹⁴⁸, shine upon the sea of blood and horror. She will be the forerunner of Christ in His final coming, and these new evangelizers will bear the Gospel of Mary. She was truly left in the shadow by all the Evangelists... whereas vaster knowledge of Her would have instructed many...

Mary is the Co-Redemptrix and Teacher. The Teacher of *pure, humble, faithful, prudent, and devout life*... She is always a Teacher, down through the centuries. [And She is] worthy to be all the better known - the more the world sinks towards the mire and darkness - so as to be all the more imitated, in order to lead the world back to what is not darkness and mire.

The times ahead will be times of war - not only materially but, above all, between materiality and spirit. The Antichrist will seek to drag rational creatures into the swamp of a beastly life. Christ will seek to prevent this repudiation - not only of religion, but also of reason - by opening up new horizons and ways illuminated by spiritual lights, prompting a powerful awakening of the spirit in whoever does not openly reject it. [It will be] an awakening assisted by these new evangelizers, bearing not only Christ, but the Mother of God. They will uplift the standard of Mary. They will lead people to Mary... For She is the holy Adversary of the wicked Enemy. And Her heel is destined to crush the infernal dragon perpetually¹⁵¹, just as Wisdom - which has found its seat in Her - is destined to defeat the heresies corrupting souls and intellects...

(Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 565-6)

¹⁵¹ Gen. 3:15.

The Period of Peace

(Jesus speaks of a time following the Chastisement:)

"...In that hour, the blood of the martyrs and prophets - steaming with a smell pleasing to My throne - will seethe. And the clods of the earth - which have gathered in the moans of those slain out of hatred for Me, and have received their last shudders - will cast forth a loud cry, made up of all those holy moans. They will tremble with anguished convulsion, shaking men's cities and homes where there is sinning and killing, and filling the vault of the Heavens with a voice calling for Justice.

"And there will be Justice. *I will come. I will come because I am Faithful and Truthful*¹⁵². *I will come to bring Peace to the faithful, and holy Judgment to those who have lived.* I will come with My Name, whose meaning is known to Me alone, and in whose letters are the main attributes of God, of Whom I am Part and Whole...

"In My name, the praises of God are thus proclaimed. A holy Name whose sound terrifies the demons. Name of Life that gives Life, Light and Strength, for whoever loves and invokes you.

"Name which is a crown upon My head, as the Victor over the Beast¹⁵³ and his prophet - whose corrosive ferocity is inconceivable for human sensation - who will be taken, driven down, submerged, and buried in the liquid, eternal fire¹⁵⁴...

"It will then be the time of My Kingdom on Earth. There will thus be a truce in the demoniacal crimes¹⁵⁵, so as to give man time to hear the heavenly voices again. Once the power unleashing horror has been taken out of the way, *immense spiritual currents will come down like waterfalls of grace, like rivers of celestial waters, to speak words of Light...*"

(Notebooks 1943, p. 263)

*(Jesus says to Maria*¹⁵⁶*:)*

"...Let us together propel our gaze into the times which, like a placid dawn following a stormy night, will precede the Day of the Lord. You will no longer be present, but from the place of your rest you will exult over it. For you will see man's combat nearing its end and sorrow fading, to give [mankind] the living time to fortify themselves for the last brief convulsion of the Earth, before hearing the command assembling it in all the living, past and present, from the time of Adam onwards...

"My Church shall have her day of hosanna before the final passion. Then the eternal triumph shall come.

"The whole world will then know the Roman Church, for the Gospel will resound from the poles to the equator. And from one side of the world to the other, like a band of love, the Word will go. The Catholics, having emerged from a very fierce struggle to which this one is only the prelude...

¹⁵² Rev. 19:11.

¹⁵³ Rev. 13:1-18.

¹⁵⁴ Rev. 19:20.

¹⁵⁵ Rev. 20:4.

¹⁵⁶ For this passage, see Is. 4:2-6.

will hear the loving and forgiving Voice, and will see the Light, whiter than a lily, descending from the Heavens, to instruct them for the Heavens.

"Like a march of millions and millions of tribes, men will go with their spirits towards Christ, and place their trust *in the only entity on Earth* in which there is no thirst for overbearance, or desire for revenge.

"It will be Rome that speaks... It will be the Rome of Christ, the one that overcame the Caesars; it overcame them without weapons or struggles, with a single force: love; with a single weapon: the Cross; and with a single oratory prayer. It will be the Rome of the great Pontiffs which, in a world darkened by barbarian invasions and dazed by acts of destruction, was able to preserve civilization and expand it among the uncivilized. It will be the Rome that stood up to the arrogant, and through the mouths of her holy elders, was able to side with the weak...

"Listen to the voice of the one who is not thirsty for domination and, in the Name of his Most Holy King, wants to reign *only over spirits*... *There will come from his mouth, which I inspire, the words similar to the ones I would say to you - I, the Prince of Peace*¹⁵⁷. *He will teach you the most precious pearl of mutual forgiveness, and convince you that there is no weapon more beautiful than the ploughshare and the scythe*... He will teach you that the holiest labour is that which is performed to obtain bread, clothing, and a house for one's brothers and sisters, and that *only by loving one another as brothers and sisters, is there no longer knowledge of the poison of hatred and of the tortures of wars*.

"Children, begin the march towards the Light of the Lord. Do not go further, groping in the blind darkness. My beloved ones at the head, overcome every human fear, for I am with you, O those dearest to My Heart. The others - drawn along by the example of My saints - *begin this new Exodus towards the new Earth*¹⁵⁸, *which I promise you and which will be your very same Earth, but changed by Christian love*.

"Separate yourselves from those who are idolaters of Satan, the world, and the flesh... so as not to be infected by them. *Love them with the love of redeemers, placing your faith in Christ as a bastion between them and yourselves*. You are not strong enough to be able to live in their midst without danger. Too many centuries of increasingly marked spiritual decay have weakened you. Imitate the early Christians. *Be able to live in the world, but isolated from the world* by virtue of your love for God...

"When the time of My peaceful Kingdom comes - and it shall come, for I have promised, and I do not fail to keep my promises - the good on earth will all come to Me. It will be the period about which I have spoken to you, the period when the spirit will have reached that evolution whereby you will spontaneously separate into two parts: those living outside the spirit will lie in their darkness, waiting to be the militia for the Prince of Evil; and those living in the spirit will come into the retinue of the Holy Son of God, of the

¹⁵⁷ Is. 9:6.

¹⁵⁸ Rev. 21:1.

Seed of the Lord, loved and blessed by men in grace, who will then comprehend what is now comprehended by a few chosen ones...

"I will assemble My saints... from the four corners of the Earth. And because of their love, I will forgive the iniquity of men. *The goodness of the saints will extinguish the sternness of Justice, and My love and that of the saints will cleanse the Earth with its fire.* The Earth - reconciled with itself and with God - will be like a great altar, and on this altar the Master will instruct men in the exact knowledge of Truth..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 472-6)

(Jesus says:)

"...I am the One who can give you peace, not by the use of your homicidal weapons, but with My holy weapon: the Cross. And this is by breaking your murderous weapons with My love.

"Do not instigate God's judgment by overstepping all bounds in sin. Do not make the pause, between the time of the Antichrist and the time of Christ, too brief. For, if it is true that the last days will be shortened out of love for the chosen, it is also true that it is necessary for you to have a pause of peace, to fortify yourselves for the final Satanic combat..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 487)

(In the final passage of this chapter, Jesus appears to be foreshadowing the re-emergence of Satan in a final assault, after the Period of Peace and before His Second Coming and the Last Judgement...)

"...When the hour of punishment is over, I say My 'Enough' and gather together the multitudes, stricken and dispersed, and give them peace and bread. For I am a Father... and *I would always give you peace and bread. The more numerous the just of God are... the more quickly and abundantly and securely I give bread and peace. For Good, in order to flourish, always needs the tears of saints and the holocausts of redeemers.*

"Oh, blessed are these christs whom you do not know, but whom My Heart gathers like gems into a coffer! Oh, blessed are these angels who, in the midst of the chorus of curses and obscenities in which you perish, are able to sing the *Gloria* and the *Sanctus* to their God!... For their sake, I will again work the miracle of forgiveness, the miracle of gathering together the remnants of My people, and making them understand that only in God is there salvation..."

"The world is not to die without Christ's army being gathered together under His command. Dispersed, stricken, knocked down, and rendered like sand which the wind scatters over the shores of the sea, you will hear the command, and come to Me. For a time will come when I will be the King - of these poor kingdoms without a crown, and of these subjects without a king. I already see the spirits of that time turning to the call, and coming to fight against all the obstacles sown by centuries of error, coming towards the Light and towards the Truth. I say 'spirits', because only the spiritually alive will be able to know the Voice which calls them.

"O you that are already spiritually alive - precursors of the Christ in His second coming, and antithesis of the precursors of the Antichrist - carry out the work, in His Name, preparatory to desolation. And prepare the ways for Me by your holocaust...

"But, as always, and especially in the hour in which Pain had to overcome Sin, it is always pain that saves; it is always sacrifice that redeems. And now the world, to be redeemed, needs not so much to be covered with ears of grain, as with heroic souls, victims of charity..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 489-90)

Satan's Last Stand, and the Mark of the Cross

(Near the end of His public life and in the Temple at Jerusalem, Jesus is speaking of future times. He says:)

"...The hand of God weighed heavily on this people in the past. But the past and present are nothing as compared to the dreadful future which is awaiting it, for not accepting the Messenger sent by God... I am telling you, straining My eyes into future ages: like a tree uprooted and thrown into a stormy river, the Hebraic race will be struck by divine anathema. It will stubbornly try to stop on the banks, here or there. And vigorous as it is, it will sprout and take root. But when it thinks it has settled, the violence of the flood will get hold of it again, tearing it away and breaking its roots and shoots. And it will be carried farther away, to suffer, to strike roots again, and then be torn off and scattered once more. And nothing will be able to give it rest, because the flood pursuing it will be the wrath of God and the contempt of peoples. Only by throwing itself into a sea of living sanctifying Blood, it could find peace. But it will shun that Blood, because although its voice will be an inviting one, it will sound like the voice of Abel's blood calling it: the Cain of the heavenly Abel¹⁵⁹..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 4, pp. 573-4)

(Shortly before His Ascension into Heaven, Jesus talks to His apostles about a future priesthood:)

"...Consider what is a priest. The good he can do, the evil he can do... I truly tell you that the Earth will be destroyed when the abomination of desolation¹⁶⁰ will affect the new priesthood, by leading men to apostasy in order to embrace the doctrines of hell. Then the son of Satan will arise, and peoples will moan in dreadful fright, as only few will remain faithful to the Lord. Then, after horrible convulsions, the end will come, after the victory of God and of His few Chosen ones, and after the wrath of God on all the cursed ones. Woe, three times woe, if for those few there will still be no *saints*, the last pavilions of the Temple of Christ! Woe, three times woe, if to comfort the last Christians, there will be no *true* priests..."

¹⁵⁹ Gen. 4:8-12.

¹⁶⁰ See Dan. 9:26-7, 11:31, 12:11; Mt. 24:15.

"Really, the last persecution will be horrible, as it will not be the persecution [by] men, but [by] the son of Satan and [by] his followers. Priests?... They will have to be untiring in marking a Tau¹⁶¹ with their perfection, on the spirits of the few faithful ones, so that the flames of many do not cancel that sign. Priests?... More than angels: other Christs, others Myself, so that the believers of the last times may be able to persevere until the end...

"But avalanches begin with a snowflake. A priest who is unworthy, impure, heretic, unfaithful, incredulous, tepid or cold, dull, insipid, lustful - does ten times as much harm as a believer guilty of the same sins, and he drags many more to commit sin... Now, in future ages, the Son of God can no longer be killed. But the faith in God, the idea of God, can. So a decide will be accomplished which is even more irreparable, because it is without resurrection. Oh! it can be accomplished... because of the too many Judases of Kerioth of future ages. How horrible!..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 5, pp. 847-8)

(*Jesus is speaking of a sign on the forehead*¹⁶¹, given to the faithful after the Period of Peace. He says:)

"...This is one of the first selections of humanity, which is approaching its final hour, to separate the harvest of the elect from the harvest of the reprobate. But, unfortunately, the harvest of the elect is small in comparison to the other.

"When Christ comes to defeat the perpetual adversary in His Prophet, He will find few marked, in their spirits, by the Cross.¹⁶¹"

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 97)

"The sign of *Tau* is a pollarded cross, as is proper for the one marking subjects... (who are) the children of God, but not the 'Firstborn of the Father.' Only the Firstborn sits on His kingly throne. Only Christ, Whose earthly throne was the Cross, bears His glorious sign at the top of it, on the board rising above His head: 'Jesus Christ, King of the Jews.'¹⁶² Christians bear Christ's sign, humbly incomplete at its summit, as is appropriate for the children of a royal lineage who are not, however, the Firstborn of the Father.

"What does the sign of *Tau*¹⁶¹ consist of? Where is it affixed?... It will not be a material sign that will make you immune to the verdict enforced by the angels. *It will be written* - in letters invisible to the human eye, but quite visible to My angelic ministers - *upon your spirits. And it will be with your works - that is, yourselves - that during your lives you will engrave that sign, which makes you worthy to be saved for Life...*"

(*Notebooks 1944*, p. 125)

"...Purifying incense and oil is consecrating the great, boundless altar where the last Mass will be celebrated by Me, the eternal Pontiff, served at the altar by all the saints which heaven and earth contain in that hour. [And it consecrates] the prayers and sufferings of My saints, of My Heart's

¹⁶¹ Ezek. 9:4-6; Rev. 7:2-3.

¹⁶² Mt.27:37; Mk.15:26; Lk.23:38; Jn.19:19-22.

beloved, of those already marked with My Sign¹⁶¹ - of the blessed Cross - before the angels have marked them.

"It is on earth that the sign is engraved, and it is your will which engraves it. Then the angels fill it with incandescent, indelible gold, which makes your brows shine like the sun, in My Paradise..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 252)

"...Babylon...will be succeeded one day by a holy Jerusalem¹⁶³. Act so that on that day and on the unending Day, the mark of the powerful in Babylon - of the lesser Lucifers, and of the forms of filiation and excrescence of Satan - will not be upon you, but the holy, unmistakable, glorious sign of the Son of God.¹⁶¹ "

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 493-4)

(The Eternal Father says:)

"...We are inseparable in our Trinity, and in Christ there are the Father and the Son and the Divine Spirit... *Only God Himself could be a temple for God and bear His Name, without this being an irony and offense...*

"Only God, O Christians, could give you His Name as a sign of salvation upon all the races of the Earth. It is that Name which the angels will read on the brows of those who will not die eternally¹⁶¹. And it will preserve them, through that Name, from the scourges of the final hour, as it has already preserved - from the second death - the elect who are singing the holiness of My Son in the heavenly dwelling.

"Woe to those who deny the Name, and offend it by substituting the demoniacal sign of Satan for this Name - which is holy... Death, true Death, awaits the deniers of the Name of My Son..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 613)

(Jesus speaks of those will reject His love and forgiveness, in these last times...)

"...Nearly all of them are totally deaf to spiritual voices and gifts, and almost completely deaf to bodily gifts. Instead of recognizing My Goodness and loving Me out of gratitude, they will take advantage of the well-being which I will give them, to sink lower and lower into the abyss they are pleased with. They are like filthy beasts in a swamp. They wallow, and the things which seduce nine-tenths of mankind await them: desire, lust, deceit, violence, thievery, heresy, superstition, and other corruptions of the senses and the mind. These are so horrendous, that it seems impossible to the honest that they can be true. But they are true, they make the Heavens blush, and they rouse Our Divinity to a movement of disdain.

"Neither the paternal offering of gifts, nor the non-terrorizing signs in the sky, will be able to make those living at that time into children of God. And then My great and terrible day will come.

¹⁶³ Rev. 17:5, 18:2-3, 21:2.

"Not a day of twenty-four hours. My time has a different measure¹⁶⁴... I will carry out the final selection of those living on the earth. And that will take place during the last raging of Satan.

"Then, those who have within themselves the Kingdom of God, and those who have the kingdom of Satan, will be seen. For the latter - with their mouths, deeds, and, above all, blasphemous hearts - will commit the final acts of disdain for My Law¹⁶⁵, and for the last acts of sacrilege towards God. Whereas the former, the Lord's children and subjects - as the final battle hits the Earth with unspeakable horror - will cling to My Cross and invoke My saving Name. And My coming as Judge will not terrify them, but rather, it will be their jubilation. For the faithful are the saved, those Joel calls the Lord's 'remainder'¹⁶⁶ - that is, those who remain for the Lord after Satan's plunder.

"Thrice blessed eternally are these children of Mine, and the eternal Paradise belongs to them. Joined to those faithful to the Lord in all times, they will possess God, the possession of Whom is eternal blessedness."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 313-4)

(Jesus says:)

"...When Satan's final revolt against God takes place, the final Judases will not be lacking among those called to the knowledge of the King. The gold of the Eternal City must be refined by three filters, so as to become a thurible before the throne of the glorious Lamb... The 'faithful' shall remain faithful; they shall know that I am with them, and that they are My eternal people..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 430-1)

"...Those who on the final day imitate Judas and sell their souls to Satan - harming the Mystical Body of Christ - shall remain outside. In them the Beast¹⁶⁷ will have his deputies for his last war.

"And woe to those in Jerusalem, in the last times... who exploit their function therein, for human gain. Woe to those who let their brothers and sisters perish, and neglect making the Word I have entrusted to them, bread for the souls hungry for God. Woe. I will not distinguish between those openly denying God, and those denying Him with their works. And in truth I tell you, with the sorrow of the supreme Founder, that in the final hour, three-fourths of My Church will deny Me, and I will have to cut them away from the trunk as dead branches, corrupted by an unclean fever..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 435)

"...There will be a struggle of spirit against spirit. Over against My spiritual Kingdom and My instruction, Satan will set his Satanic war on spirits, to corrupt as many of them as he can, the weakest ones. And from his reserves, from his fortresses - where there are to be found those who have

¹⁶⁴ Ps. 90:4; 2Pet. 3:8.

¹⁶⁵ Ex. 20:1-17; Dt. 5:6-21.

¹⁶⁶ Joel 2:30-2.

¹⁶⁷ Rev. 13:1-18.

remained faithful to the Beast, even after the defeat of the Beast and his minister - he will draw the agents of seduction, to ruin God's work for the last time, the ruin of which began at the foot of the tree of Good and Evil.¹⁶⁸

"The Satanic epoch will be three times fiercer than the anti-Christian epoch. But it will be brief, because for those living in that hour: the whole triumphant Church amidst the lights of Heaven will pray; the Church in Purgatory¹⁶⁹ amidst the purgative flames of love will pray; and the militant Church with the blood of the last martyrs will pray.

"While Satan's darkness, heat, storms, and lightning bolts upset the world, those will be saved who are able to remain under the shelter of the tabernacle, from which every strength issues forth. For I am the Strength of the living, and whoever feeds on Me with faith and love, becomes one with My Strength. And there will be few of these saved ones, for after centuries and centuries of My love for man, man has not learned to love..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 476)

"...The final battle will involve exclusively Satanic hatred... Even among you, the saints more or less hate their enemies and their neighbours. This facilitates the works of Satan, and obstructs the works of God in individuals and nations..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 527-8)

(Jesus speaks of the three and one-half years, which Daniel prophesies¹⁷⁰...)

"...The last time of three years and six months, the most tremendous time ever known by man, will be when Satan... uses his perfect and ultimate acts of craftiness, to harm, ruin, and slay Christ in hearts..."

"The wise will comprehend Satan's trap - *the numberless traps of Satan, for those who possess true Wisdom are illuminated* - and through their fidelity to Grace, will become snow-white and tested like fire, worthy to be chosen for Heaven. The wicked will follow Evil and do evil, unable to understand Good, for by their spontaneous will they will fill their hearts with Evil.

"Then the time will come when, trampled under-foot to a point never reached before, the Church will no longer be free to celebrate the perpetual Sacrifice, and the abomination of desolation will be upraised over the Holy Place and over the holy places, just as is stated by the prophets and repeated by Me, Who do not err.

"Daniel says, 'There will be 1290 days [of this trampling]. Blessed is he who waits and arrives at 1335.'¹⁷¹

"This means that in the three years and six months which will precede the end, a short time will finally be reserved for the faithful to gather together and listen to the last Word, resounding in their spirits, as an invitation to Heaven, while Michael with his angels overcome Satan and his demons.

¹⁶⁸ Gen. 2:9, 3:.

¹⁶⁹ See 2Macc. 12:44-6; 1Cor. 3:13,15; 1Pet. 1:6-7.

¹⁷⁰ Dan. 12:7,10-13.

¹⁷¹ Dan. 12:11-12.

'Blessed is he who waits and arrives at 1335 days means *'Blessed is he who has persevered until the end,' for he will be saved.*¹⁷²

"And I say to you, *'Go to the limit established for your time, as one living on earth, and you shall have rest, and shall remain in your destiny until the end of days.*¹⁷³"

(*Notebooks 1944*, pp. 106-7)

(Jesus says:)

"...*Abbreviating the duration of the monstrous reign over the race of Adam - in regard to the time... - it will be so cruel that every minute will be a day, every day will be a year, and every year will be a century for those living at that time*¹⁷⁴. *But for God every century is a thousandth of a second, since eternity is a being in time whose extent is limitless. That horror will be so enormous, that the darkness of the darkest night would be midday sun, in comparison, for the sons and daughters of men ...*

"Oh, poor people! What you are living through is like distant rumblings of thunder. *Then there will be a burst of lightning over your heads.*

"Be good. My Mercy is upon you."

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 215)

Jesus' Second Coming

(Jesus says:)

"...*My [second] coming... will be an advent of severe, inexorable, General Judgment, and for most of you it will be a judgment of condemnation...* Even if My Face flared out in your skies, and My Voice - which made the worlds - thundered from east to west, things would not change. But a new blasphemous chorus of insults, a new tumult of affronts, would merely be hurled against My Person.

"I repeat: *I could work a miracle. And I would do so, if I knew that you would afterwards repent and become better...* But neither you major culprits nor you minor ones would repent, and you would not become better after the miracle...

"I don't want you all to be damned. *Those mainly to blame are already judged.* But I am attempting to save you. *And this hour, for you, is the sieve of salvation.* Those who already have the devil's darnel¹⁷⁵ in them, will fall into the power of the Prince of the devils. Whereas those who have in their hearts the wheat germinating the eternal Bread, will spring up into eternal life in Me."

(*Notebooks 1943*, pp. 56-7)

"...I now tell you: Behold, I Myself will become their Shepherd. I will come to gather My sheep together. I will gather them in My pastures outside

¹⁷² Mt. 10:22.

¹⁷³ Dan. 12:13.

¹⁷⁴ See Ps. 90:4; 2Pet. 3:8.

¹⁷⁵ Mt. 13:24-30,36-43.

the haze of the foolish, pernicious doctrines, which produce the deadly fevers of the spirit. I will separate them; indeed, by themselves they will separate from the kids and the rams, for they shall hear the Voice that loves them. They shall no longer hear it as they do now, through My servants, but [they shall hear it] issuing forth like a river of Life from the mouth of the Word, coming back to take possession of His Kingdom.

"I will gather in My sheep with mercy, including those that your neglect has ruined. But get out, get out of my flock, wolves in sheep's clothing; get out, slothful shepherds; get out, those thirsting for wealth and pleasure... And this also applies to those who - in the congregations of lay people - are inclined only towards offices arousing vainglory. *Down with pride*, if you want to be My lambs, *and down with hardness of heart*. *They are the pointed horns with which you wound and reject the meek, and oppress the weak*.

"When I have cleansed the flock of what is false and impure - in My period as King of Peace - I will instruct those remaining, for the final instruction. They shall know Me as now only the chosen know Me. There shall be not twelve of them, but twelve thousand times twelve thousand creatures¹⁷⁶, called to the knowledge of the King. Heresies and wars shall fall. Light and Peace shall be the sun of the Earth. They shall feed on the living seed of My Word, and they shall no longer be languishing with spiritual hunger. They shall worship Me in spirit, and in truth..."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 430)

"...In My brief reign over the world, it shall be I that reign, I and the remnants of My people - that is, the true faithful, those who have not denied Christ and covered the sign of Christ with the tiara of Satan. Then the deceitful deities of excessive power - and the obscene doctrines denying God, the almighty Lord - shall fall.

"My Church, before the world's hour ceases, shall have her shining triumph. *Nothing is different in the life of the Mystical Body, from what was in the life of Christ. There shall be the hosanna on the eve of the Passion*, the hosanna when the peoples, caught by the fascination of the Divinity, shall bend their knee to the Lord. *Then the Passion of My militant Church shall come, and finally, the glory of the eternal Resurrection in Heaven*.

"O blessedness of that day, on which the deceits, acts of revenge, and struggles of Satan - and of the flesh - shall be over forever! My Church shall then be made up of true Christians... She shall end in holiness as she began in holiness..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 434-5)

"...Hear Christ's promise. Wait for Me faithfully and lovingly, and I will come to you with all My gifts. With the gift of gifts - Myself - I will come to redeem and to provide care. I will come to illuminate the darkness, to overcome it and set it to flight. I will come to teach men to love and worship the Eternal God, the Most High Lord, the Holy Christ, the Father, the Son, the

¹⁷⁶ Dan. 7:10; Rev. 5:11.

Holy Spirit. I will come to bring you not the peace of this world - the eternal Destroyer of Peace - but the Peace of the undying Kingdom.

"Exult, My faithful servants. The Mouth that does not lie tells you this. *You will no longer have to fear any evil, because I will put an end to the time of evil, and I will hasten this end, out of mercy on My blessed ones.*

"O you - My beloved at present - exult, above all. For you, the advent of Christ and of His glorious embrace will be even more solicitous. For you, the gates of the City of God are already opening, and Your Saviour is coming out to meet you and give you true Life.

"A little longer, and I will come for you. As with Lazarus, My friend, I will call you one by one: 'Come out!'¹⁷⁷ Come out of this earthly life - which is a tomb for the spirit imprisoned in the flesh - into the Life and freedom of Heaven.

"*Call Me with your faithful love.* Let it be the blaze which melts the chains of flesh, and gives the spirit the freedom to come quickly to Me. Utter the most beautiful cry written by man: 'Come, Lord Jesus.'¹⁷⁸"

(*Notebooks 1943*, pp. 435-6)

(*Jesus speaks to His priests:*)

"...Come back to God. Come back to Christ. *Priests, come back so as to become 'priests'. You need His consecration, this oil dripping from the Eternal Priest. Too many of you are reduced to being lamps without oil, and the faithful are lost because they have no light in the darkness. Take the Light to them. I am the Light of the world*¹⁷⁹. *But you cannot take Me if you don't have Me in yourselves...*"

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 529)

(*Early in His Public Live, Jesus is speaking to His apostles about His fellow Israelites. He says:*)

"...Many people in Israel are, and will be, really more idolatrous and cruel than the most barbarian idolater in the world. They will not sacrifice human victims to this or to that idol. But [they will do so] to themselves, and to their pride, which is avid for blood. This is after they have become parched with an unquenchable thirst, which will last until the end of centuries. That terrible thirst may be quenched only by drinking once again, and with faith... But it will then be the end of the world, because Israel will be the last to say: 'We believe that You are God and the Messiah', notwithstanding all the proofs that I have given, and will give, of My Divinity..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 2, p. 647)

¹⁷⁷ Jn. 11:43.

¹⁷⁸ Rev. 22:20.

¹⁷⁹ Jn. 8:12.

(The Holy Spirit now speaks of the Jews...)

"One of the signs of the final coming of God, and of the Judgement that will follow the end of the world, is the conversion of Israel, which will be the extreme conversion of the world to God.

"Why are they the last, they who were the first to be the people of God? It is through an eternal and human decree.

"Nor does the eternal decree seem unjust. They, who were already the first – rather, the only ones in knowing the eternal truths - should have been the very first of the new people of God: of the Christian people...

"Out of its sins, Israel will be reproached by God. And from being the first, it will become the last to enter into the Kingdom of Christ...

"Christ died even for the Hebrews. Rather, in His utmost requests from the Cross, He commended to the Father the Hebrews more than any other people¹⁸⁰. Because it was they who had merited the reproachfulness of God, and who pertinaciously would have persisted in their errors..."

(...St. Paul to the Romans, pp. 294-6)

(Jesus speaks again of the Jews...)

"As the Saviour of the peoples, I cannot fail to be the Saviour of My people. Mine because of the old Law, Mine because of the new law.

"In human terms, I emerged from that race. And if it has derided, denied, betrayed, and killed Me... it is no less true that I died for it, too. And in regard to it, I have the rights of a King, and the love of a Creator.

"With harshness and ferocity, the fathers of the fathers - of those now living - rejected the Eternal's gift, and asked for My Blood¹⁸¹, to satisfy their hatred of Truth. With patience, intelligence, strength, and goodness I will attract them to Myself.

"Man's good or evil works always serve a supernatural purpose. For human wickedness is gathered in by God, and in contact with His hands, it turns into a tool for good. God leaves no stone unturned in His far-sighted action to reach the goal, which is to reunite humans in a single core for the Last Day...

"And the persecutors - who harm and offend what is human - do not know they are creating the Great Day of the Lord with their iniquities, when I shall gather together My immense flock at the foot of the Cross, like sheep gone astray¹⁸². And I shall re-baptize - with the name of 'lamb' - the children of the flock which was Mine, who have grown wild...

"Remember when I persecuted the powerful for your sake; I opened the sea¹⁸³; I made fountains flow forth in the aridity of the desert¹⁸⁴ and made food rain down from the sky¹⁸⁵; and I sent my angels to open the way for you amidst your enemies, so as to lead you into the Land I had promised

¹⁸⁰ Lk. 23:34.

¹⁸¹ Mt. 27:25.

¹⁸² Mt. 18:12-14; Lk. 15:4-7.

¹⁸³ Ex. 14:21-31.

¹⁸⁴ Ex. 17:1-7.

¹⁸⁵ Ex. 16:4,15.

to the first saints on Earth.¹⁸⁶ *I am always that powerful and merciful God. I am doubly such, now that I am not only the Creator Father, but the Saviour Son, now that the Third Person has generated the miracle of the Incarnation of a God, to make Him the expiatory Victim for all mankind.*

"I await you, so as to be able to say 'Peace' to the Earth, and say to Heaven, 'Open yourself to receive the living. The time is fulfilled!' Come. My Heart is not different - now that I am in Heaven - from the Heart I had on Golgotha when I prayed for your fathers"¹⁸⁷, and forgave Disma¹⁸⁸..."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 542-4)

(Shortly before His Passion and Death, Jesus is asked by some Jewish notables:)

"...Will there never again be a Kingdom of Israel? Shall we never again be what we dreamed?"

(And Jesus replies:)

"...Have you ever watched an old tree whose medulla has been destroyed by disease? For years it vegetates with difficulty, with so much difficulty that it neither blossoms nor yields fruit. Only rare leaves on the worn out branches reveal that there is still a little lymph rising... Then in April it blossoms miraculously, it becomes covered with dense foliage. And the owner - who for many years took care of it without receiving any fruit - rejoices, thinking that it has recovered and has become luxuriant after so much decay... Oh! deception! Sudden death follows such an exuberant outburst of life. The blossoms, leaves and little fruit fall off, while they seemed to have already set on the branches, promising a rich harvest. And with a sudden crash the tree, rotten at its base, falls to the ground. That is what Israel will do.

"After ages of sterile scattered vegetation, it will gather on its old trunk and will have an appearance of reconstruction. The dispersed People gathered together at last. Gathered and forgiven. Yes. *God will wait for that hour to end the course of ages.* Then time will no longer exist, but only eternity. Blessed are those who, being forgiven, will form the fleeting blossoming of the last Israel. After so many ages, they will have become of the Christ and will die redeemed, with all the peoples of the Earth. They are blessed with those who, among them, have not only become acquainted with My existence, but have embraced My Law¹⁸⁹ as the law of salvation and life..."

(*The Poem...*, Vol. 5, p. 310)

(Azariah, Maria's Guardian Angel, says to Maria:)

"...It is always love which saves and conserves... It is being Christians as Christ wanted, in both the Church in all its hierarchies, and in the faithful in all their conditions. Then, from a Church militant that is truly Christian in all its members... there will come the joy of tranquil devotion... tranquil joy

¹⁸⁶ Ex. 23:20-23, 32:34, 33:2-3.

¹⁸⁷ Lk. 23:34.

¹⁸⁸ Lk. 39-43.

¹⁸⁹ Ex. 20:1-17; Dt. 5:6-21.

to grow in the Lord, constant faith, and warm charity which will swathe and fortify them...

"Daughter of the Church, pray, always pray for this Mother of yours; pray for your brothers who are not, like you, children of the Church. Perhaps they are prodigal, sometimes separated, at other times led astray. Pray that they may be with the Mother, and that the Mother may have only the charity of Christ, for the faithful flock, and for the sheep led astray..."

[*The Book of Azariah*, pp. 167-8 (1993 edition), pp. 173-4 (2007 edition)]

(The Holy Spirit says:)

"...Christ, most holy and most perfect - being God and Man without any sin, neither hereditary nor voluntary - did not scorn anyone. And through His compassion for all the miseries, He brought many people to salvation...

"[He is] Minister to the circumcised, and is the one, eternal, universal Shepherd, Who does not gather only the sheep of His Fold, but also 'those who were not of His Fold'¹⁹⁰. In order that that these, too, could also be under the guidance of the one Shepherd, He gathered and received Gentiles as well as Jews, so that all could glorify God for His mercy.

"And the Gentiles glorified Him. They glorified God the Father finally known to them, and [they glorified] His most holy Son, and the Spirit who proceeds from Them. And they became members of the flock of Christ. In this way, the prophesies were fulfilled, where it is said that God has given His Word so that He could be a 'covenant' amongst the people, and a light to the nations¹⁹¹...

"This is what the Lord has worked, in order to save every man who has fallen because of Adam's sin. He has brought the Light and the Law, even to the Gentiles...

"And they will have life, the however many of every age and nation who will have loved Christ, the Source of their eternal Salvation¹⁹²."

(...*St. Paul to the Romans*, pp. 308-10)

(*Jesus says*:)

"...I have only a few faithful lambs left, ready to offer their neck to the sacrificer's blade, to mix their blood - not innocent but loving - with My most innocent Blood. And you shall fill *the chalice which shall be uplifted on the last day, for the last Mass, before you are called to the tremendous Judgment*. Because of *that* Blood and of those bloods, in the final hour, I shall be able to reap My last harvest among the last to be saved. All the others shall serve as fodder for the demons' repose, and as dead branches in the eternal fire.

"My lambs shall be with Me, in a place chosen by Me for their blessed repose, after so much struggle... *Persevere, you that love Me. That place is worth all present fatigue, for it is the area of the co-redeemers, at the head of whom is Mary, My Mother.*"

¹⁹⁰ Jn. 10:16.

¹⁹¹ Is. 42:6-7.

¹⁹² Heb. 5:9.

(Jesus says:)

"...Then the Father will say, 'Enough,' before the immense choir that will be formed in Heaven, through the 'sound of the solemn words' of the saints. And the wicked Beast¹⁹³ will be slain and cast into the well of the abyss, and along with it all the lesser beasts, to remain there with Satan their begetter, for eternity.

"I shall then be called by the Father to 'judge the living and the dead,'¹⁹⁴ as stated in the Symbol of the Faith. And the 'living' - those who preserved life in themselves by having kept Grace and Faith alive - will inherit 'the kingdom, the power, and the magnificence of God.' The spiritually dead will receive eternal Death, as their will has chosen to receive.

"And there will no longer be the Earth or fleshly man, but there will be only 'children of God' - creatures freed from all pain. And there will no longer be sin, no longer darkness, and no longer fear, but only joy, joy immense, eternal joy inconceivable for men. [It will be] the joy of seeing God, of possessing Him, and of understanding His thought and love.

"Come, O men, to the Fount of life. I open its source to you. Draw from it, fortify yourselves in it - so as to be intrepid in trials - and come to immerse yourselves completely in it, and in Me, the source of blessedness. And come into the lovely Paradise which My Father has created for you, in which the threefold Love of the One God, and the Purity of 'our' Mother, await you. And, along with them, [there will be] those who, by having been faithful, have already obtained Life."

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 110-11)

The Last Judgement

(Early in His public life, Jesus is explaining the parable of the corn and the darnel¹⁹⁵, to a crowd of people in Korazim. He says:)

"...The good seed is the children of the Kingdom of God sown by God in the world, while they wait to reach their end and be cut by the Mower. Then they will be taken to the Master of the world, Who will store them in His granaries. The subjects of the Evil one are the darnel, which has also been spread in the field of God, for the purpose of causing grief to the Master of the world, and damage to the corn of God.

"The enemy of God has sown them deliberately, through witchcraft, because the demon really perverts the nature of man, making him a creature of his own. And he then sows it to lead astray other people whom he has not been able to enslave otherwise. The harvest - that is the tying of the sheaves and carrying them to the granaries - is the end of the world, and that is accomplished by the angels. They are given instructions to gather

¹⁹³ Rev. 13:1-18.

¹⁹⁴ Mt. 25:31-46.

¹⁹⁵ Mt. 13:24-30,36-43.

together the creatures which have been cut, to separate the corn from the darnel. And as in the parable, the darnel is burnt, so the damned will be burnt in the eternal fire, at the Last Judgement¹⁹⁶...

"The just, instead - the chosen seed - will be taken to the eternal Jerusalem, where they will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of My Father and yours..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 2, p. 212-3)

(Some time later, Jesus is with His apostles and some disciples at Caesarea, and He is asked:)

"...Master... I think... I think of all the words of our psalmists, of the book of Job, and of the words of the wisdom books, where the power of God is celebrated. And - I do not know why - the thoughts coming from what I see make me feel that we shall be elevated to perfect beauty... - if we are just - until at the end [we will be] in the great gathering, in Your eternal Triumph, the one which You described to us, and which will be the end of Evil... And I seem to be seeing this azure immensity, peopled with bright risen bodies, and You shining [like] more than a thousand suns in the middle of the blessed souls... with no more sorrow, tears, insults, disparagement... and with peace, peace, peace... But when will Evil stop being harmful? Will it perhaps blunt its arrows against Your Sacrifice? Will it be convinced that it has been beaten?" [This question was asked by] John, who at first was smiling, and now is depressed.

And Jesus replies: "Never. It will always think that it is triumphant, notwithstanding all the contradictions of the just. And My Sacrifice will not blunt its arrows. But the hour will come, the final hour, when Evil will be defeated. And in a beauty even more infinite than that foreseen by your spirit, the chosen ones will be the only People, the eternal, holy true People of the true God. "

"And shall we all be there? " ask the apostles.

"Yes, all. "

"And what about us? " ask the already large group of the disciples.

"You will all be there, too. "

"All the ones present, or all those who are Your disciples? We are many now, notwithstanding those who parted from us. "

"And you will be more and more. Not everyone will be faithful until the end. But many will be with Me in Paradise. Some will have their reward after expiation, some immediately after their death, but the reward will be such that, you will forget the Earth and its sorrows ..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 4, pp. 58-9)

¹⁹⁶ Mt. 25:31-46.

(Jesus says to Maria:)

"...When the time comes for the earth to cease to be, My Church, *which cannot perish*¹⁹⁷ - because it is cemented by the Blood of a God and of His saints - will be transported by the angels into Heaven.

"A people, Isaiah says, shall be struck by the sword of Justice¹⁹⁸. *But there will be many more, for the world has fornicated with the devil in many parts...*

"The demons - oh! The demons are already in the place where I shall punish. *It is the demons*, installed as masters in hearts, *that lead the nations to death*. And there are peoples in which only a few hearts are not the dwelling-place of demons...

"Pray. Your God will open the doors for you, before you experience the maximum horror. For the time being, enter into the dwelling of His Heart, and *give Me your love, to appease My Justice...*"

(Notebooks 1943, p. 208)

(Maria Valtorta writes her description of the Last Judgement¹⁹⁹...)

I see an immense expanse of land, as boundless as a sea. I say "land" because there is earth, as on fields and roads. But there is not one tree, stem, or blade of grass. Dust, dust, and more dust.

I see this in a light which is not light. A barely outlined, leaden brightness of a green violet hue, as is seen at the time of a very heavy thunderstorm, or of a total eclipse. *A light* prompting fear, *of burnt-out stars*. That's it. The sky is devoid of stars. There are no stars, no moon, no sun. The sky is empty, as the earth is empty. The former is stripped of its flowers of light; the latter, of its plant and animal life. They are two vast remains of what was.

I have every opportunity to see this desolate vision of the death of the universe, which I think will have the same appearance as at the first moment²⁰⁰, when heaven and earth already existed. But the former was devoid of stars, and the latter - deprived of life, a now solidified globe, but still uninhabited - is flying through space, waiting for the Creator's finger to give it grass and animals.

Why do I understand that it is the vision of the death of the universe? Through one of those "*second voices*". I don't know who they come from...

As I turn my gaze over this desolate scene... I see Death²⁰¹, springing from I don't know where, standing upright in the middle of the boundless plain. It is a laughing skeleton - with her teeth bared and empty eye sockets, queen of the dead world - wrapped in her shroud as if in a cloak. She does not have a scythe. *She has already cut down everything*. She is turning her gaze over her harvest, and leering.

¹⁹⁷ Mt. 16:18.

¹⁹⁸ Is. 34:5.

¹⁹⁹ Mt. 25:31-46.

²⁰⁰ Gen. 1:1-2.

²⁰¹ See 1Cor. 15:26.

Her arms are joined over her breast. She then separates these skeletal arms, and opens her hands with nothing more than naked bones. And since it is a giant, omnipresent - or, rather, *omniproximate* – figure, it sets a finger, the right index finger, upon my forehead. I feel the chill of the pointed bone, which seems to perforate my brow and penetrate into my head like a needle of ice. But I understand that this has no meaning, other than to seek to call my attention to what is happening.

Indeed, with her left arm she gestures, indicating to me the desolate expanse which we - she the queen, and I the only living being - are dominating. At her silent command - given by the skeletal fingers of her left hand, and by turning her head rhythmically to the right and the left - the earth splits into thousands and thousands of clefts. And in the depths of these dark furrows, scattered white objects appear...

As I strive to figure out what they are, Death continues to plough the [land] with her gaze and her command - as if with a ploughshare - and they go on, opening increasingly as far as the distant horizon. And she furrows the waves of the seas devoid of sails, and the waters open in liquid eddies.

And then, from the furrows of earth and the furrows of sea, there arise the scattered, disconnected white objects that I saw, which are being re-composed. They are millions and millions and millions of skeletons surfacing from the oceans, [and] rising straight up from the ground. Skeletons of all heights. From the [very] minute ones of infants with little hands like small dusty spiders, to those of adult men and even giant ones, whose mass brings to mind certain antediluvian beings. And they stand in astonishment, as if trembling, like those who are suddenly awakened from a deep sleep, and who do not grasp where they are²⁰².

The sight of all those skeletal bodies, standing whitely in that apocalyptic "non-light", is tremendous.

And then around those skeletons there slowly condenses a nebulosity-like mist, rising from the open ground and from the open seas. It takes on shape and opacity and becomes flesh, a body like the one we have, who are alive. The eyes - rather, the eye sockets - are filled with irises; cheekbones are covered with cheeks; gums extend over the exposed jaws; and lips form again. Hair appears once more on the craniums; arms become shapely, and fingers, nimble; and the whole body becomes alive again, just the way ours is. The same, but different in appearance.

There are very beautiful bodies, with a perfection in shape and colour which make them resemble artistic masterpieces.

There are other horrible ones, not because of any real crippling or deformity, but because of their overall appearance, which is more proper to a brute beast, than to a man. They have grim eyes, contracted faces, a savage appearance, and - what strikes me most - a darkness emanating from their bodies and increasing the lividness of the air surrounding them. [In contrast], the very beautiful ones have laughing eyes, a serene visage and

²⁰² See Ezek. 37:1-14.

a gentle appearance, and give off a luminosity which forms a halo around their being - from head to foot - and radiates out on all sides.

If they were all like the former, the darkness would become total, to the point of concealing every object. But by virtue of the latter, the luminosity not only endures but it increases, to the extent that I can observe everything.

The ugly ones... remain silent, casting frightened, surly glances up and down around them. They group together on one side, at an inner command which I do not understand, but which must have been given by someone, and perceived by the risen ones. The very beautiful ones also gather, smiling at one another, and looking at the ugly ones with pity mixed with horror. And these lovely ones are singing - they are singing a slow, sweet chorus of blessing for God. I see nothing else. I understand I have viewed the final resurrection²⁰³...

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 118-21)

(Jesus speaks of the bodies' and souls' final resting places...)

"...The wicked ones will be led to the tomb... And when the totality of the evil committed by the wicked one is fulfilled, I give the order to Death to take possession of that flesh. That flesh thus experiences the horror of the tomb...

"For the good, the redeemed, and the forgiven..., it is a place where mortal garb returns to its nature as dust. *It discharges the spirit in expectation of that hour, when what was created will be re-formed...* with the perfection of creation which God created for man - *that is, with the union of a spirit to flesh. [It will be] an immortal spirit - like God, its Creator and Father²⁰⁴ - and [also] mortal flesh, as formed from an earthly animal, king of the earth, and heir of Heaven.*

"Souls, when separated from bodies, have three dwellings... until there remain only two, after the Judgment... The blessed immediately rejoice in eternal rest... The damned toss and turn in anger over the good lost. No, the more wicked they have been, the less they find rest in their terrible torture.

"But the Wicked One, he who by his wickedness has drawn others into wickedness and pushed others into sin... will be like an unsleeping tower in a stormy sea. Before him, will be the throng of those slain (in their souls) by him; before him, the keen memory of so many homicides of souls committed by him. And remorse - which has given no peace to those who kill, since the day Cain shed his brother's blood²⁰⁵ - *will scourge him much more atrociously than the infernal scourges...*

"But now, Maria, for the consolation of your heart... relieve your spirit by listening to these words entirely for you, and for souls like you.

"Do you know what the souls given to Love mean for Me? My Paradise on earth. It is you that bring a little slice of heaven into this poor world, and

²⁰³ See 1Cor. 15:35-8.

²⁰⁴ Gen. 1:26-7.

²⁰⁵ Gen. 4:8.

on that little slice, the Son of God sets His feet, to come to find His delights among the sons and daughters of the Father.

"Open your heart to your Jesus. And give Me your heart. Give it entirely to Me. I want it, as the Physician and Friend of the spirit and the flesh, and as the Spouse and God, Who has chosen you - because of your faith and your bold sentiment of love."

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 222-3)

(Jesus says:)

"When time is over - and life is to be exclusively Life in the heavens - the universe, as you thought, will again become as it was at the beginning, before being dissolved completely. This will take place when I have judged.

"Many think that there will be just an instant between the moment of the end, and the universal Judgment. But God will be good until the end, O daughter. *Good and just.*

"Not all of those living at the final hour will be holy, and not all of them will be damned. There will be some among the former who are destined to Heaven, but have something to expiate. I would be unjust, if for them I annulled the expiation which, however, I had inflicted on all those preceding them who were in the same state at their death.

"Therefore, while justice and the end come for other planets... and the stars in the sky fade out one by one, darkness and cold progressively increase in My hours, which are your centuries... And those living in the final hour, dying in the final hour - deserving of Heaven but in need of cleansing themselves further - will go into the purifying fire²⁰⁶. I will increase the heat of that fire, so purification will be more expeditious, and the blessed will not wait too long to take their holy flesh to glorification...

"That is why you saw the earth devoid of grass and trees, animals, men and life, and the oceans devoid of sails - a still expanse of still waters. For movement will no longer be necessary, for them to give life to the fish of the waters, as warmth will no longer be necessary for the earth to give life to crops and beings. That is why you saw the firmament empty of its stars, with no more fires, no more lights. Light and heat will no longer be necessary for the earth, now an enormous cadaver, bearing in itself the cadavers of all the living - from Adam until the last son of Adam.

"Death, My last handmaiden upon the earth, will perform her last task, and then cease to exist as well. There will be no more Death, but only eternal Life. In blessedness or in horror. Life in God or life in Satan, for yourselves, recomposed in soul and body..."

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 122-3)

²⁰⁶ See 2Macc. 12:44-6; 1Cor. 3:13,15; 1Pet. 1:6-7.

(Jesus says:)

"Whoever worked well in the final hour shall be admitted into the Kingdom²⁰⁷, like the one who guided the plough until falling upon it, from dawn to the dusk, arriving in haste. You shall not regret having a different dwelling in Heaven; there the baseness of human envies does not exist. But conquer this Heaven, which I created for you, and which I opened to you with My Death on the Cross. *Come to the Lord...*

"In regard to you, my beloved ones, remain on the way you have chosen. Whirlwinds and storms cannot make you lose the goal which I am, with My Heart open to receive you - with the most intense kiss of love... "

(Notebooks 1943, p. 434)

(Shortly before His Ascension into Heaven, Jesus tells His apostles:)

"...I have told you which is the way and which is the door that lead to the Kingdom of Heaven²⁰⁸. I was the first to walk along it, and I have gone back to the Father by it. If there had been another one, I would have taught it to you, as I take pity on your weakness as men. But there is no other one..."

"And pointing it out to you as the *only* way and the *only* door, I also tell you - I repeat to you - which is the medicine that gives strength to go along it and enter. *It is love*. Always love. Everything becomes possible when there is love in us. And the Love Who loves you will give you all the love, if in My Name you ask for so much love as to become athletes in holiness..."

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, pp. 873-4)

²⁰⁷ See Mt. 20:1-16.

²⁰⁸ Mt. 7:13-14; Lk. 13:23:4; Jn. 10:7-9, 14:6.

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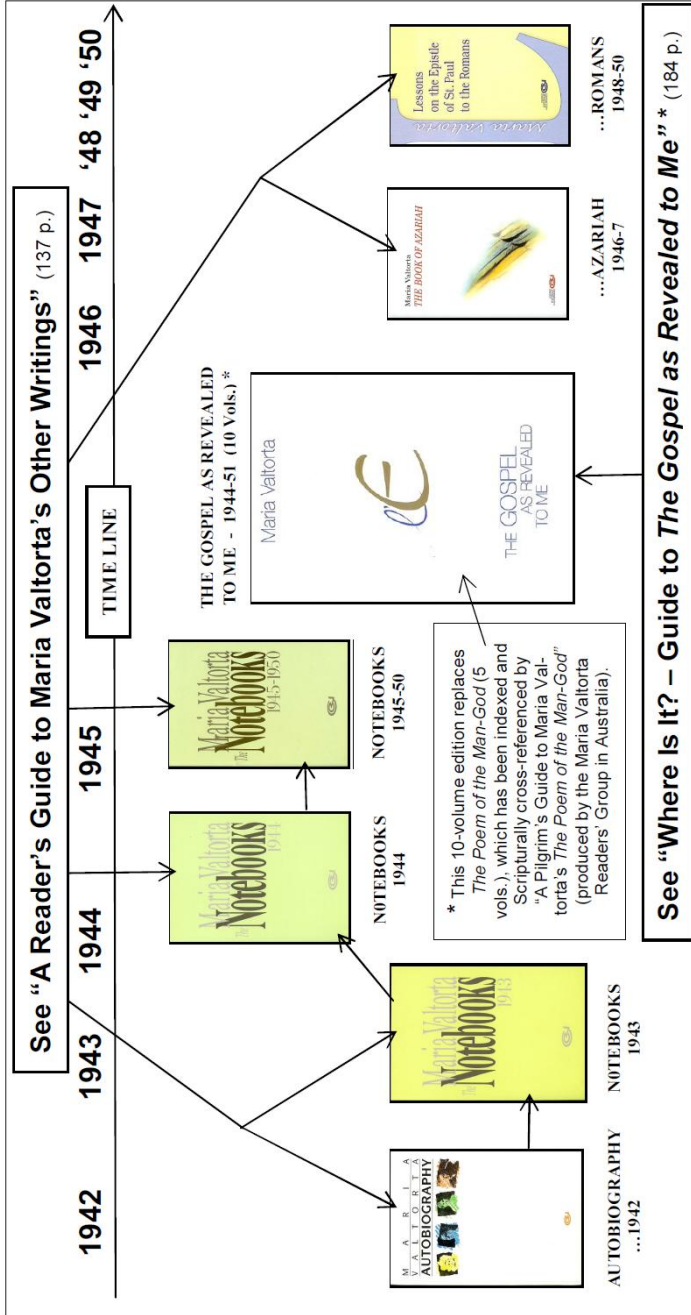
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(Jesus says:)

"You are at the culmination... The world's parabola, descending towards the end, will not be so long as the ascending one. *It will be a plunge into the end... Pride and malice, in addition to dragging you into the descending parabola, obscure your spirits to such a point, that they make you increasingly unable to halt the descent by sincere repentance...* So what have you made of My coming?" (Maria Valtorta's *Notebooks 1943*, p. 183)

"If the world were able to call Mary, it would be saved. To invoke Our Two Names together, is a powerful way to bring down and break all the weapons Satan hurls, against a heart that is Mine." (*Notebooks 1943*, p. 87)