

Q + A - Darkness at close of probation

4-D-10-a

January 28, 1957

Churubusco, Indiana

Dear Brother

In your letter of December 24, you ask in regard to a statement to the effect that "A darkness will cover the inhabitants of the earth when Jesus moves out of the heavenly sanctuary," etc. This quotation is not from the pen of Sister White, but is taken from an article by Elder G. A. Irwin, found in the Review and Herald Supplement for June 21, 1898. It is true that Sister White speaks of darkness covering the inhabitants of the earth. (See Great Controversy, p. 614), but a careful study of her comments in this regard reveals that it is a spiritual darkness rather than physical darkness that is meant. She speaks of the "darkness of error and delusion," Early Writings, p. 104; "the darkness of error," Testimonies to Ministers, p. 458; "the darkness of misapprehension of God," Christ's Object Lessons, p. 415.

That there is no outward physical sign marking the close of probation is evident from this statement in Great Controversy, p. 615: "When the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced, and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not."

I trust that this information will be of service to you. If we can help you in any time in the future, please feel free to write to us again.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Bessie Mount, Office Secretary
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