

# JESUS NEVER TOUCHES EARTH

## No 2nd Coming Until 1888 Revisited and Christ's Righteousness Fill the Earth

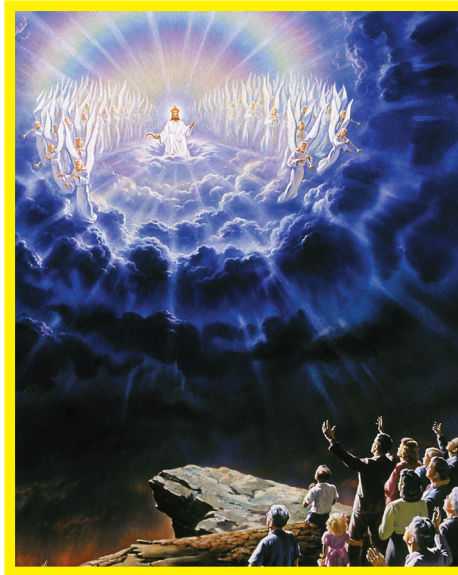
### ALL ABOUT HEAVEN, CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS TO USHER IN SECOND COMING.

**A Small Black Cloud** Is the Sign of Jesus' Coming—"Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror."—GC 640, 641. "Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence we all gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer, and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man. His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders, and upon His head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle, in His left a silver trumpet. His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through."—1T 60.

**WHOLE WORLD WILL SEE.**—"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:24-27, 31; 25:31; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. This coming there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world.—GC 625.

**ANGELS.**—With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast unnumbered throng; attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. . . . As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. . . . The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place.

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heaven



from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people." Psalm 50:3, 4.—GC 641, 642.

**JESUS CLEARLY SEEN ON THE CLOUD.**—The living cloud of majesty, and unsurpassed glory, came still nearer, and we could clearly behold the lovely person of Jesus. He did not wear a crown of thorns; but a crown of glory decked his holy brow. Upon his vesture and thigh was a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. His eyes were as a flame of fire, his feet had the appearance of fine brass, and his voice sounded like many musical instruments. His countenance was as bright as the noon-day sun.—1SG 207.

**JOY OF GOD'S PEOPLE.**—The revelation of His own glory in the form of humanity will bring heaven so near to men that the beauty adorning the inner temple will be seen in every soul in whom the Saviour dwells. Men will be captivated by the glory of an abiding Christ. And in currents of praise and thanksgiving from the many souls thus won to God, glory will flow back to the great Giver.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1. To those who go out to meet the Bridegroom is this message given. Christ is coming with power and great glory. He is coming with His own glory and with the glory of the Father. He is coming with all the holy angels with Him. While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing. The unsullied light will shine from His splendor, and Christ the Redeemer will be admired by all who have served Him. While the wicked flee from His presence, Christ's

followers will rejoice. The patriarch Job, looking down to the time of Christ's second advent, said, "Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not a stranger." Job 19:27, margin.

To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven; for they have heaven in their hearts.

With uplifted heads, with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shining upon them, with rejoicing that their redemption draweth nigh, they go forth to meet the Bridegroom, saying, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us." Isaiah 25:9.

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. . . . And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." "He is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful." Revelation 19:6-9; 17:14.—COL 420, 421.

**GARMENTS OF WHITEST WHITE.**—Christ emptied Himself, and took the form of a servant, and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim. As the high priest, after performing his service in the holy of holies, came forth to the waiting congregation in his pontifical robes, so Christ will come the second time clothed in glorious garments of the whitest white, "such as no fuller on earth can whiten them." He will come in His own glory, and in the glory of His Father, as King of kings and Lord of lords, and all the angelic host will escort Him on His way.—Ms 113, 1899 quoted in 1BC 1111, 1112.

**JESUS RAISES THE SLEEPING SAINTS TO IMMORTAL LIFE.**—Amid the reeling of the earth, the flashing of lightning, and the roaring of thunder, the voice of the Son of God call forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then raising His hands to heaven He cries, "Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!" Throughout the length and breadth of the earth, the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison-house of death they come, clothed with immortal



glory, crying, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" [1 Corinthians 15:55.] And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory.

All come forth from their graves the same in stature as when they entered the tomb. Adam, who stands among the risen throng, is of lofty height and majestic form, in stature but little below the Son of God. He presents a marked contrast to the people of later generations; in this one respect is shown the great degeneracy of the race. But all arise from their last deep slumber with the freshness and vigor of eternal youth. In the beginning, man was created in the likeness of God, not only in character, but in form and feature. Sin defaced and almost obliterated the divine image; but Christ came to restore that which had been lost. He will change our vile bodies, and fashion them like unto His glorious body. The mortal, corruptible form, devoid of comeliness, once polluted with sin, becomes perfect, beautiful, and immortal. All blemishes and deformities are left in the grave. The redeemed bear the image of their Lord. Oh, wonderful redemption! long talked of, long hoped for, contemplated with eager anticipation, but never fully understood.—4SP 463, 464.

**FIRST THOUGHT OF THE RESURRECTED.**—As they [the righteous] are called forth from their deep slumber they begin to think just where they ceased. The last sensation was the pang of death; the last thought, that they were falling beneath the power of the grave. When they arise from the tomb, their first glad thought will be echoed in the triumphal shout: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" [1 Corinthians 15:55].—GC 550.

**CHILDREN RESTORED.**—His faithful ones [will] be rewarded, when, at His coming, death loses its sting and the grave is robbed of the victory it has claimed. Then will He restore to His servants the children that have been taken from them by death. "Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded . . . and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border. Jeremiah 31:15-17. PK 239.

**SLEEPING SAINTS GUARDED AS PRECIOUS JEWELS.**—The Life-giver will call up His purchased possession in the first resurrection, and until that triumphant hour, when the last trump shall sound and the vast army shall come forth to eternal victory, every sleeping saint will be kept in safety and will be guarded as a precious jewel, who is known to God by name. By the power of the Saviour that dwelt in them while living and because they were partakers of the divine nature, they are brought forth from the dead.—Letter 65a, 1894 quoted in 4BC 1143.

**WE WILL KNOW OUR FRIENDS.**—The resurrection of Jesus was a type of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him. The countenance of the risen Saviour, His manner, His speech, were all familiar to His disciples. As Jesus arose from the dead, so those who sleep in Him are to rise again. We shall know our friends, even as the disciples knew Jesus. They may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured, in this mortal life, and they rise in perfect health and symmetry; yet in the glorified body their identity will be perfectly preserved. Then shall we know even as also we are known. 1 Corinthians 13:12. In the face radiant with the light shining from the face of Jesus, we shall recognize the lineaments of those we love.—DA 804.

**WE WILL KNOW ONE ANOTHER.**—God's greatest gift is Christ, whose life is ours, given for us. He died for us, and was raised for us, that we might come forth from the tomb to a glorious companionship with heavenly angels, to meet our loved ones and to recognize their faces, for the Christlikeness does not destroy their image, but transforms

it into His glorious image. Every saint connected in family relationship here will know each other there.—Letter 79, 1898 quoted in 3SM 316.

**PERSONALITY PRESERVED IN A NEW BODY.**—Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {Hvn 40.1}

Paul illustrates this subject by the kernel of grain sown in the field. The planted kernel decays, but there comes forth a new kernel. The natural substance in the grain that decays is never raised as before, but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him. A much finer material will compose the human body, for it is a new creation, a new birth. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.—Ms 76, 1900 quoted in 6BC 1093. }

**CLOSENESS BETWEEN GOD AND RESURRECTED SAINTS.**—Christ declared to His hearers that if there were no resurrection of the dead, the Scriptures which they professed to believe would be of no avail. He said, "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." God counts the things that are not as though they were. He sees the end from the beginning, and beholds the result of His work as though it were now accomplished. The precious dead, from Adam down to the last saint who dies, will hear the voice of the Son of God, and will come forth from the grave to immortal life. God will be their God, and they shall be His people. There will be a close and tender relationship between God and the risen saints. This condition, which is anticipated in His purpose, He beholds as if it were already existing. The dead live unto Him.—DA 606.

**RAISED TO ONENESS WITH CHRIST.**—He [the believer] may die, as Christ died, but the life of the Saviour is in him. His life is hid with Christ in God. "I am come that they might have life," Jesus said, "and that they might have it more abundantly." He carries on the great process by which believers are made one with Him in this present life, to be one with Him throughout all eternity. {Hvn 41.1}

At the last day He will raise them as a part of Himself. . . . Christ became one with us in order that we might become one with Him in divinity.—RH June 18, 1901 quoted in Mar 301.

**AWAKENED TO DIE NO MORE.**—Ministering angels are round about us giving us to drink of the water of life to refresh our souls in the closing scenes of life. There is a pledge from Him who is the resurrection and the life, that those who sleep in Jesus will Christ bring with Him from the grave. The trump will sound, the dead will awaken to life, to die no more. The eternal morning has come to them, for there will be no night in the city of God.—Letter 78, 1890 quoted in 2SM 250.

**THE FINISHING TOUCH OF IMMORTALITY.**—The Life-giver is coming to break the fetters of the tomb. He is to bring forth the captives and proclaim, "I am the resurrection and the life." There stands the risen host. The last thought was of death and its pangs. The last thoughts they had were of the grave and the tomb, but now they proclaim, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" The pangs of death were the last things they felt. "O death, where is thy sting?" The last thing they acknowledged was the pangs of death. When they awake the pain is all gone. . . .

Here they stand, and the finishing touch of immortality is put upon them, and they go up to meet their Lord in the air. The gates of the city of God swing back upon their hinges, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There are the columns of angels on either side, and the ransomed of God walk in through the cherubims and seraphims. Christ bids them welcome and puts upon them His benediction. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." What is that joy? He sees of the travail of His soul, and is satisfied. {Hvn 42.2}

That is what we labor for. Here is one, who in the night season we pleaded with God on his behalf. There is one that we talked with on his dying bed, and he hung his helpless soul upon Jesus. Here



is one who was a poor drunkard. We tried to get his eyes fixed upon Him who is mighty to save and we told him that Christ could give him the victory. There are the crowns of immortal glory upon their heads, and then the redeemed cast their glittering crowns at the feet of Jesus.—Ms 18, 1894 quoted in 6BC 1093.

**THE FUTURE KINGDOM IN MINIATURE.**—Moses upon the mount of transfiguration was a witness to Christ's victory over sin and death. He represented those who shall come forth from the grave at the resurrection of the just. Elijah, who had been translated to heaven without seeing death, represented those who will be living upon the earth at Christ's second coming, and who will be "changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;" when "this mortal must put on immortality," and "this corruptible must put on incorruption." 1 Corinthians 15:51-53. Jesus was clothed with the light of heaven, as He will appear when He shall come "the second time without sin unto salvation." For He will come "in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." Hebrews 9:28; Mark 8:38. The Saviour's promise to the disciples was now fulfilled. Upon the mount the future kingdom of glory was represented in miniature—Christ the King, Moses a representative of the risen saints, and Elijah of the translated ones.—DA 421, 422.

**FAMILIES AND FRIENDS REUNITED.**—The living righteous are changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels "gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God. {Hvn 45.4}

On each side of the cloudy chariot are wings, and beneath it are living wheels; and as the chariot rolls upward, the wheels cry, "Holy," and the wings, as they move, cry, "Holy," and the retinue of angels cry, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." And the redeemed shout, "Alleluia!" as the chariot moves onward toward the New Jerusalem.—GC 645.

**WICKED UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPT TO HIDE FROM JESUS.**—The wicked pray to be covered by the rocks of the mountains, rather than meet the face of Him whom they have despised and rejected. . . . {Hvn 46.2}

Those who derided His [Jesus'] claim to be the Son of God are speechless now. There is the haughty Herod who jeered at His royal title, and bade the mocking soldiers crown Him king. There are the very men who with impious hands placed upon His form the purple robe, upon His sacred brow the thorny crown, and in His unresisting hand the mimic scepter, and bowed before Him in blasphemous mockery. The men who smote and spit upon the Prince of life, now turn from His piercing gaze, and seek to flee from the overpowering glory of His presence. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet, the soldier who pierced His side, behold these marks with terror and remorse. {Hvn 46.3}

With awful distinctness do priests and rulers recall the events of Calvary. With shuddering horror they remember how, wagging their heads in Satanic exultation, they exclaimed, "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him." [Matthew 27:42, 43.] . . .

And now there rises a cry of mortal agony. Louder than the shout, "Crucify him! crucify him!" which rang through the streets of Jerusalem, swells the awful, despairing wail, "He is the Son of God! He is the true Messiah!" They seek to flee from the presence of the King of kings. In the deep caverns of the earth, rent asunder by the warring of the elements, they vainly attempt to hide.—4SP 460-462. {Hvn 47.1}

**REDEEMED TAKE SEVEN DAYS TRAVELING TO HEAVEN.**—We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet. Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, "You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in." We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect

right in the city.—LS 66, 67. {Hvn 47.2}

**JESUS WELCOMES THE REDEEMED TO THE NEW JERUSALEM.**—Before the ransomed throng is the Holy City. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There they behold the Paradise of God, the home of Adam in his innocence. Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying: "Your conflict is ended." "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." {Hvn 48.1}

Now is fulfilled the Saviour's prayer for His disciples: "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." "Faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24), Christ presents to the Father the purchase of His blood, declaring: "Here am I, and the children whom Thou hast given Me." "Those that Thou gavest Me I have kept." {Hvn 48.2}

Oh, the wonders of redeeming love! the rapture of that hour when the infinite Father, looking upon the ransomed, shall behold His image, sin's discord banished, its blight removed, and the human once more in harmony with the divine! {Hvn 48.3}

With unutterable love, Jesus welcomes His faithful ones to the joy of their Lord. The Saviour's joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation. And the redeemed will be sharers in His joy, as they behold, among the blessed, those who have been won to Christ through their prayers, their labors, and their loving sacrifice. As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts, when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus' feet and praise Him through the endless cycles of eternity.—GC 646, 647. {Hvn 48.4}

### 1888 REVISITED

A SPECIAL LETTER TO GOD'S messengers working abroad and at home who are announcing that probation is about to close and to remind us that it will close for Adventists first.

Will you take the message of this newsletter seriously and determine to usher in the Second Coming that should have taken place in 1849 or 1888 which is now more than 120 years late or will we remain in the wilderness another

40 years?

We are on the eve of the second coming and we must fall on our knees and plead for ourselves and our brethren to accept the real Righteousness of Christ's message and renounce worldliness and our lukewarm condition. We must reflect the character of Jesus perfectly to the world; otherwise we will be responsible for the failure to receive the Latter Rain, which is the signal to the mighty angel of Rev. 18 to go forward with the Loud Cry.

As you give the call to the brethren and you experience difficulty, follow the principles that Christ, the apostles, the reformers, early Adventists and Sr. White used as outlined in this newsletter. Plan to attend the Three Angels Camp Meeting in June at scenic Fruitland, WA and hear the thrilling fresh end-time reports from the field. Come for a deeper spiritual vision and see what God is doing for His people in this crisis hour and for the Cornerstone Publishing Team as they reach the world.

This letter is investigating the history of what took place at Minneapolis in 1888 and why God requires every Seventh-day Adventist to confess and repent of the sin, which was committed there. It is true that not one of us was there in person, and therefore did not personally participate in the fearful rejection of truth which has so terribly delayed Christ's coming, but the Lord requires us to confess it as if we were there. In making this strong statement it is asked only that we believe the written word of God. God has laid down the condition of receiving His blessings in these words:

"If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against Me, and that also they have walked contrary unto Me;

"And that I also have walked contrary unto them and have brought them into the land of their enemies, if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity;

"Then will I remember My covenant with Jacob and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember, and I will remember the land." Leviticus 26:40-42

There, the conditions of God's coming in the full blessing of the covenant are clearly set forth. He did not say, "If they shall confess their iniquity...then will I remember my covenant." That is not what He said. He said, "If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers—then will I remember My covenant."

Those are God's words and that is what God requires of His people. Why He requires it we shall see as we study on, but for the moment let us see that this is the Lord's plain word to us today as much as it ever was to Israel in the past. Every one of the great men of God who have led out in revival and reformation have always confessed their sin and the sin of their fathers. When good King Hezekiah came to the throne and went to work to cleanse the temple and restore its services, his first act was to make a confession of the sins of his fathers. See 2 Chronicles 29:3-11. The godly Ezra, who led out in a great spiritual revival in Israel during the early days of the restoration, began by a confession of the sins of his fathers. See 2 Ezra 9:5-15.

So likewise, Nehemiah confessed both his own sins and the sins of his fathers as he viewed the plight of the Israelites of his own day. "Let Thine ear now be attentive and Thine eyes open, that Thou mayest hear the prayer of Thy servants which I pray before Thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel Thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against Thee: both I and my father's house have sinned..."Nehemiah 1:6. So, too, was the nature of the confession of that great and true man of God, Daniel. Daniel 9:3-19. These men obeyed God's command and wonderful was the blessing that followed in each case. Only if we too obey the voice of the Lord can He bless us. As they confessed both their own sins and the sins of their fathers the Lord blessed them, and only as we confess both our own sins and the sins of our fathers can the Lord bless us. The worst sin of the Advent fathers was the rejection of the message back in 1888. That message was sent to bring the greatest blessing to God's people, to usher in the loud cry, and to bring the second coming of Christ. In that rejection is to be found the secret of why the Lord's coming has been delayed and delayed.

### **A SPECIAL LETTER TO**

GOD'S messengers working abroad and at home who are announcing that probation is about to close and to remind us that it will close for Adventists first. This letter also states what really happened in 1888.

Will you take the message of this newsletter seriously and determine to usher in the Second Coming that should have taken place in 1849 or 1888 which is now more than 170 years late or will we remain in the wilderness another 40

years? This is 2nd part of a new tabloid that will include a new Righteous by Faith article. that will run two more months. It will announce that Christ will come with power and great glory and that an innumerable multitude during the loud cry will receive this message with tears of joy.

This means that God cannot return until the loud cry has done its work in giving the final warning to the world. In turn, the loud cry can never come until the Lord's people receive from Him the loud cry message both in theory and actual living experience. We can never receive the blessing of that message until we have confessed both our own sins and the sins of our fathers in rejecting it.

Thus the issue stands clearly before the professed people of God today. This constitutes a great test for each one individually to see whether he really does desire the Lord to come quickly - to see if he is prepared to do his part in hastening that return, even if he is the only one prepared to do it; and to see if he will obey the voice of God and make the confession and restoration He requires. Confessing the sins of our fathers means far more than simply saying the words of confession. True confession of the kind acceptable to God is inseparable from true repentance. Repentance is to hate sin to the point where we put it away, thus rectifying the mistake of the past and turning completely from it.

Why it is really necessary for us to confess the sins of our fathers is that their sins have become our sins. When they rejected that light, they took a stand, adopting attitudes and a way of life, which they taught, to their children and their children's children. In this way, their sin has become our sin, and consequently we are participants in their rejection of that message back then. Thus, we have to confess both the sin of our own lives and the sin of our fathers.

We are the only ones who can do that which will bring it all to an end. God is waiting, and waiting, and waiting.

### **MUST HE WAIT FOREVER?**

#### **The General Conference Attitude Today**

Over fifty years ago, in 1950, two Seventh-day Adventist ministers, Elder R.J. Wieland and Elder D.K. Short, became deeply concerned over the trends in Adventism. Accordingly, they approached the leaders in the General Conference and presented to them the plea that they turn to the study of the message sent by God in 1888 and make

it fully available to the people. The leaders showed an interest and asked them to prepare the whole case in written form and submit that to them for their consideration.

This they did. Working extremely hard, they produced in very short time a manuscript known today as 1888 Reexamined, in which they presented much documentary evidence from the Spirit of Prophecy and from others who were present at the conferences, to show that the message had been rejected, the coming of Christ delayed, and a serious departure from sound Adventism effected. The central point made in the presentation was that there could never be the loud cry and the Second Coming of Jesus until there had been a confession and repentance on the part of the entire Advent movement of their sins and the sins of their fathers. Without a shadow of doubt, the Lord was leading these two ministers to prepare this submission. Equally important, the issue of the real cause of the present position was laid out in clearest terms before the leading brethren, and, as surely as it was, there rested upon them the responsibility of making their decision in regard to it. They could never have been held as responsible prior to that issue being laid before them as after. If they refused to obey the Lord by confession and repentance once it was laid before them, their position before God could never be the same afterwards. In God's magnificent and wonderful providence, He has made sure that the answer of the General Conference became available to His people today. That answer clearly shows that the General Conference leaders saw the nature of the issue before them. Hear their words:

"Throughout your manuscript it is evident that you feel the denomination should rectify certain things pertaining to 1888, and then make due acknowledgement and confession of the same. This is really more than a suggestion; you strongly urge that this course be followed. The following extracts are quoted from your manuscript:

'Every failure of God's people to follow the light shining upon their pathway for the past century must be completely rectified by the present generation before the remnant church can be granted any divine vindication before the world.' Page 2.

'There is before the remnant church a heavy account to settle. The sooner the issue is faced squarely and candidly the better.' Page 2.

'Such a view of the matter will require that this generation recognize the facts of the case, and thoroughly rectify the tragic mistake.' Page 38.

"Then on page 137 you write that 'a denominational repentance' is essential before the loud cry can be received."

—Page 8-9 of letter by the General Conference of Seventh day Adventists in reply to 1888 Re-examined by R.J. Wieland and D. K. Short, December 4, 1951.

### **THEIR DETERMINED REFUSAL TO CONFESS**

These words show how clearly the men in leadership in 1951 saw and understood the appeal made to them by the Lord through His instruments, Wieland and Short. These leaders are men who claim to be, and are looked upon, as great students of the word of God and professors of religion. We would expect them to follow with haste in obeying the word of God, to confess their own sins, and the sins of their fathers, and to lead the whole church in that wonderful work which alone can bring us the living message of true righteousness and then bring the loud cry and soon return of Jesus to earth. We would expect to see them follow in the footsteps of the good King Hezekiah, the devoted Ezra, the godly Nehemiah, and the noble Daniel. But they refused to do this, claiming that God does not require it and that no one in the past ever did it. We are shocked and amazed that men in such responsible positions with the plain word of God before them requiring just this, and showing how the men of the past did this, could deny that it was required. We ask that you read their words for yourself:

"We do not believe that it is according to God's plan and purpose for the present leadership of the movement to make acknowledgement or confession, either private or public, concerning any of the mistakes made by the leadership of a bygone generation. On many occasions there were periods of apostasy in the days of Israel, and at times these departures from God were very grievous indeed, but we do not find the Lord requiring of the next generation that they confess the mistake and transgressions of the generation before as a condition for the bestowment of His blessing upon His people. God did call His children to repentance of their sins and when they turned to Him with the whole heart He received them graciously and gave to them the richest divine benedictions

"The same thing is true but from

another standpoint in the experience of the early disciples of Jesus. Even up to the time of the ascension they entertained erroneous views concerning the kingdom of God, but we do not find the Lord requiring them to make any public statement of such misconceptions of His purpose, whether their own or those of their predecessors. These men had enjoyed a unique experience in having actual personal fellowship with their Lord; yet even with this intimate relationship they failed to discern many of the vital truths He taught.

“We call attention to these instances not to minimize in any way the wrong doing of the Israelites or the failure of the disciples to walk in advancing light but for the purpose of emphasizing the thought that your proposal is not according to God’s plan in His dealings with His people.

“We have no need to go back to 1888; those days are past, decades in the past, and in most cases beyond the lifetime of those now labouring for God. We need to think in terms of today, and to make sure in our hearts, that any lessons which may be gleaned from past experiences of the children of God are truly learned by us in this generation, lest we, too, fail after the same examples of unbelief. At this late hour it is not our duty to deal with mistakes of leaders or believers of bygone days. We can safely leave those brethren with the Lord whom they sought to serve. After all, who are we to presume to repent on their behalf! Who has granted us the prerogative to judge them so that a confession on our part at this late date should be necessary that God might release His blessings to His remnant people! Such teaching is totally at variance with the divine pattern, and we feel that such a course could accomplish no good purpose.” — *ibid.*, 9.

That is their answer. No one should have difficulty in seeing that it is directly contradictory to the teaching of the Scriptures. The Scriptures require that we confess the sins of the fathers as well as our own, but the brethren deny that the Lord requires this. We know that many who read this will be possessed of such blind faith in the brethren at the head of the work that they will excuse them and take their side, but that will not alter the case in the least degree. Facts are facts. Truth is truth. If the Lord says that He requires us to confess the sins of the fathers as well as our own, then that is the truth, even though the General Conference leaders say it is not. No wonder Sister White said,

“Your turning things upside down is known of the Lord. Go on a little longer as you have gone, in rejection of the light from heaven, and you are lost. ‘The man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation.’” — TM 97

No one knew better than God the fearful choice of resistance to His call made by the General Conference leaders in 1951. Yet He would give them another opportunity. The writings of Wieland and Short became available on a worldwide scale to earnest Bible students and a strong agitation arose in the ranks of Adventism. This demanded again that the leaders make a decision in regard to the message.

In September 1958, they gave an even more detailed answer in which they strongly reaffirmed their stand in opposition to the message of 1888. In addition to this, they took every active step they could to quiet the agitation, and led the church in the strongest opposition to those who were prepared to study and to spread the message of Waggoner and Jones. Thus the leaders have fulfilled the very prophecies quoted earlier in this plea.

“The third angel’s message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory.” RH, 5-27, 1890

“In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it.” — RH Extra, Dec. 23, 1890

How accurately, and to the very letter, these words have been fulfilled just as they were spoken. Prophecy is the sure word and it cannot be broken. To it, we do well to take heed.

### WHAT NOW?

The third angel’s message must triumph. The Lord has promised to finish the work and to cut it short in righteousness. How will this be done when the church, which should have been the first to do it, has taken such a stand against the only message by which the work can be finished and has thus delayed the coming of God still further? We turn to the infallible word of God for the answer.

“Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any



human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands.” — TM 300

When those in leadership refuse to take the message, the Lord will turn to the humble, honest ones who are prepared to follow Him, no matter what the cost may be, and no matter what the opposition. He will use those who study the word for themselves and obey it regardless of how it may be denied in life and word by the leaders of the established church. This is how He has worked in the past, and this is how He will work again in these last days.

“Brethren, if you continue to be as idle, as worldly, as selfish as you have been, God will surely pass you by, and take those who are less self-caring, less ambitious for worldly honour, and who will not hesitate to go as did their Master, without the camp, bearing the reproach. The work will be given to those who will take it, those who prize it, who weave its principles into their everyday experience. God will choose humble men who are seeking to glorify His name and advance His cause rather than to honour and advance themselves. He will raise up men who have not so much worldly wisdom, but who are connected with Him, and who will seek strength and counsel from above.” — 5T 461

“Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not

then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the daytime we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. At night we see their genuine luster.” 5T 80, 81

God has promised that: “surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

Therefore, what took place at Minneapolis and what would develop thereafter was written in the prophetic word before the events themselves were due to occur. First, we will look at prophecies written after 1888 that predict the return of the message and its rejection by the majority. This first one to be quoted was written in 1890, subsequent to the tragedy of Minneapolis:

“There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations, they will oppose the work. ‘Why’, they say, ‘should not we know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?’ — Because they did not respond to the warnings, the entreaties of the messages of God, but persistently said, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods and have need of nothing.’ Talent, long experience, will not make men channels of light, unless they place themselves under the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.” — RH Extra, December 23, 1890

Once again the ministry will be the chief opponents of the proclamation of the truth and will do all in their power to make certain that it is not received and advanced. But despite this bitter opposi-



tion, the message will be taken up by the honest in heart and will succeed where it has failed in the past.

Thus, by the 1950s, there eventually came the time when the people who had been following their own ways realized that they were not making any real progress towards the kingdom, and that therefore they had to examine their belief and procedures to see wherein they had gone astray. Their spiritual destitution had become so desperate that they were ready to listen to something other than Laodicean Adventism. Thus the necessary conditions developed to clear the way for the return to the Lord, His truth, and His ways.

This would lead one to ask how this time the angel could come to stay if his reception was even worse? The answer lies in the fact that the Lord will never accept separation from His people until there is no hope of their return to Him. Then and only then does He proceed to build a fresh movement outside the body, the members of which are unaware that the glory of the Lord has departed from them.

When, in 1888, the angel first appeared, the rejection lacked finality and there was still the possibility that they would repent. But when the message would come again, the situation would be very different. The church members and their elders would have the advantage of hindsight, God's evaluations of the truth as given through the Spirit of Prophecy, and the visible consequences to the church in lack of spiritual power, personal victory over sin, and serious delays in the finishing of the work. With these realizations, any decision they made would be far more responsible, critical, and final.

After this second time in the 1950s would come the third, during which the Lord would raise up into a distinct and separate movement which would live "... in His sight",

those who had accepted the angel's message and worked in close collaboration with him. During this period of consolidation, the Lord's people must not expect recognition either from the fallen churches or from the world. It is only in the sight of the Almighty that they will be recognized as a living people. To all the rest, they will be counted too insignificant to be worthy of attention.

There is a further work of advancement in the knowledge of God which, once fulfilled, will bring the outpouring of the latter rain. In the original King James Version, Hosea 6:3 reads:

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto earth."

God had intended to finish the work in the nineteenth century (the 1800s). If the brethren had accepted the 1888 message "we would have been in the kingdom in two years from that date." E.G. White, RH May 7, 1892.

But God not only sent the gospel to the SDA church as the third angel's message in verity, He sent it under the ministry of the Rev 18:1 angel because it was His intention to finish the work. (The Rev. 18:1 angel may therefore be called the fourth angel.) "The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth." — RH Nov.22, 1892 Such was the great effort made by God in his attempt to heal the Laodicean church in 1888 and the 1950s; additional comments on this period follow. Sadly, like Israel of old, the SDA church organization rejected that first call of the 1888 message. There were and are many SDA officials who tell the people that the church accepted the 1888 message. To say so must be to say one of the biggest lies in religious history. Listen to Sister White:

1. "In 1888 at the General Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the angel of Revelation 18:1 came down to do his work and was ridiculed, criticized and rejected." — E.G. White, Taking Up A Reproach

2. "For nearly two years, we have been urging the people to come up and accept the light and the truth concerning the righteousness of Christ and they do not know whether to come and take hold of this precious truth or not. They are bound about with their own ideas. They do not let the Saviour in." — RH March 11, 1890

3. "All through our churches there are those who are spiritually paralyzed. They do not manifest spiritual life." — RH May 24, 1892

4. "The doctrine of justification by faith has been lost sight of by many who have professed to believe the third angel's message." — RH Aug. 13, 1889

5. "For the last twenty years a subtle, unconsecrated influence has been leading men to look to men, to bind up with men, to neglect their heavenly companions. Many have turned away from Christ.

They have failed to appreciate the One who declares, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Let us do all in our power to redeem the past. — RH Feb. 18, 1904

Here Ellen White in 1904 was appealing to the church to redeem the past 20 years. Twenty years back from 1904 would take us back to the mid-1880's approaching 1888!

It is absolutely clear from the foregoing statements that the SDA church did not accept the 1888 message. But common sense should allow any person who possesses it to understand that the message was not accepted. Sister White made it clear that God sent the 1888 message to finish the work two years later. This is 2014 and the SDA church is more lukewarm than ever. As a matter of fact, as we shall see, it is worse than lukewarm. So how could it have accepted the healing message and still be sick unto death? Is God an incompetent physician?

Let us continue our study. Far from accepting the 1888 message, the church has continued to reject it as Sister White predicted:

"And when the message he (the Rev. 18:1 angel) brings again, swells into a loud cry, it will again be ridiculed, spoken against and rejected by the majority." — E.G. White, Taking Up A Reproach

God allowed the 1888 message, the first call (of Matt. 22:1-14) to be sounded from 1888 to 1895 by the messengers and by Sister White. In the years that followed 1888, the lukewarm condition intensified—consider this sadly solemn testimony from E.G. White, writing in 1890.

"Since the Minneapolis meeting, I have seen the state of the Laodicean Church as never before. I have heard the rebuke of God spoken to those who feel so well satisfied, who know not their spiritual destitution. Jesus speaks to these as He did to the woman of Samaria: 'If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give Me to drink: thou wouldst have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.'

"Like the Jews, many have closed their eyes lest they should see; but there is as great peril now, in closing the eyes to light, and in walking apart from Christ, feeling need of nothing, as there was when He was upon the earth. I have been shown many things which I have presented before our people in solemnity and earnestness, but those whose hearts have been hardened through criticism, jealousy and evil surmising knew not that they were poor and miserable and blind,

and naked." — RH August 26, 1890

Of course the church machinery continued to expand and to be very busy. Seventh-day Adventists measure success by evangelism and the expanse of their publishing work, etc. But there are other religious organizations which are growing as fast or faster, that are expanding in publishing in some areas even faster than the SDA church. But that does not mean that God is with them as organizations. The real measures of spiritual success are the gospel, the truth, advancing in truth, and righteousness of character.

"Those who have not a daily experience in the things of God will not move wisely. They may have a legal religion, a form of godliness, there may be an appearance of light in the church; all the machinery—much of it human invention—may appear to be working well, and yet the church may be as destitute of the grace of God as were the hills of Gilboa of dew and rain." — Letter, Jan. 31, 1893

After the Jews had rejected their first call, they crucified Christ. So after the SDA church organization had rejected their first call in 1888, they reached such a level of apostasy in the twenty-five years from 1930 to 1955 that they crucified "to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to open shame."

(See Heb. 6:4-6). This they did by altering the doctrine of the nature of the humanity of Christ.

The early and true SDA position on the nature of Christ is stated in the 1914 and 1944 editions of the book Bible Readings for the Home Circle, page 174:

"In His humanity Christ partook of our sinful, fallen nature. If not, then He was not 'made like unto His brethren', was not 'in all points tempted like as we are', did not overcome as we have to overcome, and is NOT, therefore, the complete and perfect Saviour man needs and must have to be saved. The idea that Christ was born of an immaculate or sinless mother, inherited no tendencies to sin, and for this reason did not sin, removes Him from the realm of a fallen world, and from the very place where help is needed. On His human side, Christ inherited just what every child of Adam inherits—a sinful nature. On the divine side, from His very conception He was begotten and born of the Spirit. And all this was done to place mankind on vantage ground, and to demonstrate that in the same way every one who is 'born of the spirit' may gain like victories over sin in his own sinful flesh. Thus each one is to overcome as Christ overcame. Rev.

3:21. Without this birth there can be no victory over temptation and no salvation from sin. John 3:3-7”

This statement is in perfect harmony with the Waggoner and Jones message and with the Spirit of Prophecy and most importantly, of course, with the Bible (Romans 1:3; Romans 8:3; Hebrews 2:9-18; Hebrews 4:14-16. Yet during the 1930's and 1940's when the Seventh-day Adventist organization was seeking the friendship of the Protestant Babylonian churches, this wonderful statement of truth in the 1914 and 1944 editions of Bible Readings was declared to be error and was deleted, removed, expunged in 1949.

To prove this, let us go to Froom's book *Movement of Destiny*. This book came out in 1971 after 40 years of preparation. If you read the introduction to the book, you will see that four successive General Conference presidents endorsed the church's preparation of the book and it was analyzed by 70 of the church's ablest scholars and leading men. There can be no doubt that the book is official and representative of the positions of the SDA organization. Now let us see what the book has to say about the statement we have quoted on the nature of Christ from the 1914 Bible Readings.

From *Movement of Destiny*, pages 427, 428:

“Erroneous Position Injected by Colcord—Cognizance must also be taken of the correction, in 1949, of a definite error appearing in a note on the nature of Christ during the Incarnation. For years it has appeared, unchallenged, in the standard (book) Bible Readings for the Home Circle (p. 174). It was in the section on ‘A Sinless Life’. Apparently it was first written by W.A. Colcord in 1914... Colcord had declared that during the incarnate earthly life Christ ‘partook of our sinful, fallen nature.’”

“Erroneous Note Deleted—In 1949, Professor D.E. Rebok, then president of our SDA Theological Seminary, when it was still in Washington, D.C., was requested by the Review and Herald to revise Bible Readings for the Home Circle. Coming upon this unfortunate note on page 174... he recognized that this was not true. But in eliminating the note he found that some still held with Colcord in his position.”

Froom goes on in the next paragraph to even say that Spirit of Prophecy statements supported the new position that Jesus took sinless nature of Adam before the fall, and then concludes his comment in this way:

“So the inaccurate note was deleted, and has remained out in all subsequent printings. Thus another error was removed through these revisions of the 1940's, as concerned some of our standard and otherwise helpful books.” *Movement of Destiny*, 427-428.

Then came the 1950's and the meetings between General Conference representatives and Protestant scholars Dr. Barnhouse, Dr. Martin and also Dr. E. Schuyler-English. During those encounters, the nature of the humanity of Christ was again the central issue. Dr. Schuyler-English stated the Protestant position on the nature of Christ's humanity thus: “He (Christ) was perfect in His humanity, but He was nonetheless God, and His conception in his incarnation was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit so that He did not partake of the fallen sinful nature of other men.” *Movement of Destiny*, 469.

This position is not surprising, for the Protestant churches are BABYLON (See Rev. 17) and are therefore ANTICHRIST and therefore they do deny that Christ is come in the flesh. 1 John 4:1-3.

But alas! Dr. Schuyler-English was assured that the SDA church held the same position on the nature of Christ's flesh as the Protestant churches. Thus the church that God had called to be a peculiar church agreed with Babylon on a doctrinal point that the Bible defines as the difference between Christ and antichrist!

In *Movement of Destiny* on pages 421-422, Froom stated that “the culminating events of the decade 1931 to 1941 consequently marked the end of an old epoch, and the beginning of a new day... It was definitely another major turning point in denominational history.” But what kind of turning point? According to 1 John 4:1-3, it was a turning point for the worse, a turning away from truth.

The present “official” SDA teaching on Christ's human nature is a dangerously deceptive mixture of truth and error presented in a mass of good sounding words but denying that His flesh was our sinful fallen flesh.

But God was still eager to heal His people. He still would give them the Second Call as stated earlier. This came in the period 1950 to 1962.

### ***THE SECOND CALL AND ITS REJECTION:***

The events of the 1940's and 1950's though performed in secrecy by a backsliding organization, nevertheless leaked out. Many an honest-hearted Adventist

raised voice in protest begging the authorities not to remove the landmarks and not to tamper with the gospel. Notably among these was Pastor M.L. Andreasen (read his book *Letters to the Churches*), and the late A.L. Hudson.

Two pastors working in Africa, Pastors Wieland and Short, became concerned over the trend of modern Adventism and were moved by the Spirit of God to invite the SDA organization to reexamine and reconsider the 1888 message. They prepared and presented their manuscripts to a representative committee. After consideration of the manuscripts, the committee came to the conclusion that nothing should be done at that particular time, that when God was ready He would act. Some of the Wieland and Short material got into the hands of some concerned Adventists, e.g., Bro. A.L. Hudson. The message was studied with earnestness and again brought before the authorities who again did nothing. As a matter of fact, it was emphatically stated that the SDA church had no need to repent or confess for the mistakes of 1888-1893 as noted earlier.

But God was persistent with this His last call, and the matter was still being agitated. It even got onto the agenda of a General Conference Committee of the early 1960s, but it was not discussed.

Ellen White's prediction had come true:

“In 1888 at the General Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the angel of Revelation 18:1 came down to do his work and was ridiculed, criticized and rejected. ... and when the message He brings again swells into a loud cry it will again be ridiculed, spoken against and rejected by the majority.” E.G. White in *Taking Up A Reproach*.

This quotation from E.G. White does not support the idea, held by many, that the organization will return to the full truth sometime in the future.

### ***REVIVAL AT LAST***

Thank God a minority would accept and become the “servants” through whom God would again raise up true Seventh-day Adventism. This did, in fact, occur. Among other things occurring in the agitation of the period 1958-1962 was the discovery of the Waggoner-Jones books in the Avondale College cellar.

A minority of truth-seeking Seventh-day Adventists eagerly accepted the messages and, at last, the Rev. 18:1 angel had been accepted - not by the SDA organization, but by a precious few who were treated in the worst ecclesiastical

way for accepting the light. Since then (1961-1962), God has used his personally chosen messengers and spokesmen to proclaim the increasing light of the Rev. 18:1 angel: the truths of the three angels' messages with increasing clarity, power, and added light.

Those of us who have been reading the messages of Jones and Waggoner and the advancing light that has been coming under the fourth angel know by experience the power, the sweetness of truth and the transforming grace brought to our lives by this mighty angel who is now preparing a people for the latter rain and the final loud cry explosion. Yes! God has and is visiting His true people. True Seventh-day Adventism is being revived! Not all who claim to have embraced the fourth angel are wise virgins. Sadly, there will always be the five foolish virgins. May God help us to be wise virgins in His true revival movement.

Although God's true believers are scattered throughout the various denominational organizations, none of these organizations is the true movement of God. As a matter of fact, God's move now is to give Laodiceans the victory of Christ so as to enable them to overcome as Christ overcame.

When the Adventist Laodiceans (those who so choose) totally overcome lukewarmness, God will use His third and final call to call His other people out of the various denominations, which constitute Babylon. And this, the very last movement before the close of probation, is described in Revelation 18:14. See also John 10:14-16.

Since God's move now is to cure Laodiceans of lukewarmness, then it follows inescapably that His true movement now is the worldwide revival movement in Laodicean Adventism, which is presenting the special truths. These truths, when truly accepted, will produce the final generation of living saints, God's true remnant of Revelation 12:17.

The revival is now going on worldwide. In a few places it is being accommodated within the churches of the Seventh-day Adventist organization. In most places however, it has been formally forced outside such churches.

The special truths are summarized in such passages as Revelation 12:17; Revelation 14:12; Revelation 18:1-14; and Isaiah 60:1, 2. The central truth is the testimony of Jesus Christ which produces obedience to all of God's commandments, including the fourth commandment, and therefore guarantees victory over the end-time “mark of the

beast” worldwide compulsory Sunday laws which will be enforced by the fallen “Protestant” evangelical Sunday-keeping churches. The Testimony of Jesus Christ is the revelation of the righteous character of God in sinful human nature. Such a revelation in such a nature was given by Christ.

If an organization rejects or refuses to accept truth, it places itself where God cannot use it in the fullest sense to prepare His final generation of living saints. Although God’s people are scattered everywhere, He intends to unite them in the truth by the truth in Christ by the Holy Spirit. And so in any age the movement that obeys the great principle of 1 John 1:7 is the movement of present truth, (1 Tim. 3:15) the true movement of God. This is not to say that God cannot or is not using the others, for all things work together for the good of God’s cause, but He always has a true movement of present truth (2 Peter 1:12) in every age at any particular time. At this present time His true movement is the Revival in Adventism that will culminate with the full preparation of those who give the final warning. John 10:14-16; Rev. 18:1-4; Rev. 12:17.

The principle of John 10:14-16 is the principle of separation from fallen “churches” and it will reach its grand climax with the call of Revelation 18:1-4 in the near future at the time of the enforcement of Sunday laws. Jesus Himself was forced to obey that principle of separation from an organization that refused to walk in the light while claiming adamantly to be God’s chosen organization.

“The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ’s message and was bent upon His death; therefore Jesus departed from Jerusalem from the priests, the temple, the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message, and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations.

“As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ’s withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth. In our day, few of the professed followers of the Reform-

ers are actuated by their spirit. Few are listening for the voice of God, and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience.” DA p. 232

What about you, friend? Are you in the church of God, the body of Christ? Are you in Christ? And do you intend not only to be in the body of Christ now but also to be part of His final movement? The formula for success is clearly spelled out in God’s word. Read and obey, John 15:1-14; John 6:37; 1 John 1:5-7; and Rev. 3:14-22.

The opposition to the real messages at Minneapolis was so vigorous that the living truth of justification by faith died away altogether giving Laodicean Adventism sole charge of the church for many decades. It also explains why the work has not been finished after 150 years since William Miller began to proclaim God’s last warning message. There are those within the church who have come to realize this, while others cling tenaciously to the conviction that, given enough time, things will work themselves out.

On the other hand, many who have come to see that the substitute message as preached over the past century will never complete the work have turned to an even worse solution. They have returned to the same position on justification by faith held by the Protestant Babylonian World. Such cannot finish the work either. Thus in the SDA church organization there are two major factions. On one side stand those who doggedly cling to the laws and doctrines but with no real knowledge or experience of the true gospel of the 1888 message. On the other side stand those who have taken up the more liberal position of the evangelical protestant world. Both believe that they have the truth on righteousness by faith when in fact neither of them has.

Then there is a third group in the Adventist world who, for the most part, at least functionally has been forced outside the corporate denominational organization.

This group is the true SDA revival in progress under the ministry of the Rev. 18:1 angel, who holds to the true gospel of 1844 and 1888 and is walking in the advancing light, learning and experienc-

ing the truths and spreading the message worldwide to finish the work. Then the latter rain of the Holy Spirit will empower God’s final remnant to give the loud cry with explosive power. See Great Controversy, Chap 38.

At that time Laodicea will structurally cease to exist, for the majority in her will unite with the world and accept the Sunday Law while the minority will have joined the Loud Cry in progress. Large numbers will also join from papal and Protestant Babylon.

Despite persecution and condemnation unto death, that special group (the 144,000) will receive the final Seal of God, and as God’s true final Remnant, go through the time of Jacob’s Trouble and seven last plagues on to final victory at the glorious presentation of the church militant when she becomes the church triumphant at translation! Plan to be there? You can be by accepting the true gospel of Jesus Christ and by being truly born again and by allowing God to sanctify you to perfection.

## **JESUS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH IN JESUS**

### **Introduction**

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and the glory of Jesus is His character; this we must behold with spiritual vision.

It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.

By the wedding garment in the parable of Matthew 22 is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ’s true followers will possess. To the church it is given “that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white,” “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.” Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 5:27. “The fine linen,” says the Scripture, “is the righteousness of saints.” Revelation 19:8.

In the same parable we are told of the guest who did not have the wedding garment, the robe of righteousness and that his destiny was outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. This is a topic of life or death which would be worthy of our consideration.

How then is this righteousness available to us? Jesus promised - “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Matt. 5:6.

How do we hunger and thirst? Are we not prompted from time to time?

Did not Jesus tell us to “search the Scriptures?” [John 5:39] Jesus says, “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.” [John 6:63.]

“But if from thence (that time on) thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.” Deut. 4:29.

As we go to the word of God, seek the Lord in prayer.

As you confess your sins, as you repent of your iniquity, Christ takes your guilt upon Himself and imputes to you His own righteousness and power.

Imputes = To reckon to one what does not belong to him.

You do not deserve it, but Jesus gives you His righteousness and power (grace). “Ask, and ye shall receive.”

His righteousness to be a partaker of His divine nature. To overcome evil and to resist temptation.

(Step by step.) Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, (what is happening here?) by beholding we become changed. We develop a character which is the counterpart of the divine character. (See 2 Cor. 3:18.)

When the heart is brought into harmony with the word of God, a new life will spring up within you, a new light will shine upon every line of the word, and it will become the voice of God to your soul.

Peter, writes in his second epistle, 1:1-4. - “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world.

No discrimination with righteousness  
Whatever may be the nation, kindred, or tongue, whether a man is white or black, he still bears the image of God.

The ignorant and the wise, the rich and the poor, the heathen and the slave, white or black - Jesus paid the purchase money for their souls.

Realize that Christ is a personal Saviour. Show to the world what He



can do even through the weakest of human beings. Work out before the world the principles of righteousness. Obey the commandments. Demonstrate the power of truth. This is the most powerful witness you can bear in favor of the truth. But you are not to do this in your own strength. You are to work in the strength and grace that God gives. Thus you can walk in His footsteps. Cling to the mighty Redeemer, who is also your Elder Brother. God desires us to seek earnestly for a place among the number who will stand around His throne. To every sincere follower, white or black, He will say, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. Whatever you may be called upon to suffer, remember that Christ has said, "I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3. Have faith in God, and day by day He will give you the victory.

You are the children of God. He has adopted you, and He desires you to form characters here that will give you entrance into the heavenly family. Remembering this, you will be able to bear the trials which you meet here. In heaven there will be no color line; for all will be as white as Christ himself. Let us thank God that we can be members of the royal family.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is." 1 John 3:1,2.

### **PRELUDE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**

We hear, we read of the term 'righteousness by faith.' Books are written about the subject. And yet we struggle with what it means. What does it mean?

Righteousness is the unblemished character of Jesus. 'By faith' simply means we receive the character of Jesus by beholding the divinity, the life, the work of Jesus and by so doing, by believing in faith, we become changed into His likeness.

Every man needs to walk humbly with God. Grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. By looking unto your Saviour, beholding with open face as in a glass the glory of the Lord, you will be changed

into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. As I work with you and you abide in Me, you will reveal perfection of character, you will be made perfect in one. You cannot possibly atone for your own sins. Through faith in Christ Jesus purify your soul from all dross, and reveal the righteousness of Christ, which is of God by faith. Christ has marked your desires when your spirit has striven with you.

Through faith, the believer passes from the position of a rebel, a child of sin and Satan, to the position of a loyal subject of Christ Jesus, not because of an inherent goodness, but because Christ receives him as His child by adoption. The sinner receives the forgiveness of his sins, because these sins are borne by his Substitute and Surety. The Lord speaks to His heavenly Father, saying: "This is My child. I reprieve him from the condemnation of death, giving him My life insurance policy--eternal life--because I have taken his place and have suffered for his sins. He is even My beloved son." Thus man, pardoned, and clothed with the beautiful garments of Christ's righteousness, stands faultless before God. Let us see what happened to the King of Israel after he was convicted of the enormity of his sin.

David was pardoned of his transgression because he humbled his heart before God in repentance and contrition of soul, and believed that God's promise to forgive would be fulfilled. He confessed his sin, repented, and was reconverted. In the rapture of the assurance of forgiveness, he exclaimed, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." Psalms 32:1, 2. The blessing comes because of pardon; pardon comes through faith that the sin, confessed and repented of, is borne by the great Sin-bearer. Thus from Christ cometh all our blessings. His death is an atoning sacrifice for our sins. He is the great Medium through whom we receive the mercy and favor of God. He, then, is indeed the Originator, the Author, as well as the Finisher, of our faith.

We are to talk of heaven and heavenly things, keeping ourselves in a position of supplication before God. It is not safe for any of us to feel that we are where our feet cannot slip, but we should feel that the ground whereon we stand is holy. Cleanse the soul temple of its defilement, that Christ may come in and reign supreme. By beholding Jesus Christ, we shall grow up into His like-

ness. The more closely we are connected with Him, the more clearly we shall see our imperfections. In order to know the power and strength of true godliness, we must hide in Jesus, dedicating ourselves to Him without reserve. Fully dedicate your strength, your mind, all your abilities, to God. Wherever He places you, however humble may be your position, work with fidelity.

He who receives Christ by faith is a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King, an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. His lot is a part of the cross of Christ. He is bound up with Christ for life and for death in the great plan of redemption. The full and entire renunciation of self that appeared in Christ appears also in him who is consecrated to Christ's service. He shows Christlike tenderness by speaking kind, gentle words, words which are full of comfort and hope and love. He is filled with an untold solicitude for human souls. He can say, "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." He is willing to make any sacrifice to draw lost, perishing souls to the cross of Christ.

Remember that with God there is no caste or nationality, no divisions or parties.

Truth never places her delicate feet in a path of uncleanness or impurity. Truth does not bring people down to a low level, but brings all up to a high, exalted level. Truth never makes men or women coarse, or rough, or uncourteous. It takes men in all their sin and commonness, separates them from the world, and refines their tastes, even if they are poor and uneducated. Under Christ's discipline a constant work of refinement goes on, sanctifying them through the truth. If they are tempted to exert one particle of influence that would lead away from Christ into the way of the world, in pride, or fashion, or display, they speak words of resistance that will turn aside the enemy's power. "I am not my own," they say, "I am bought with a price. I am a son, a daughter of God. I cannot possibly give God more than He claims. All is His, by creation and by redemption. Christ has purchased the whole being, mind, soul, strength, and body, and I am to express, in my words, my deportment, my actions, a sense of my obligation to God. I am wholly His. My life is hid with Christ in God, and when He who is my life shall appear, then shall I also appear with Him in glory."

There is a great work before us. The world is to be warned. The truth is to be translated into many languages, that all



nations may enjoy its pure, life-giving influence. This work calls for the exercise of all the talents that God has entrusted to our keeping--the pen, the press, the voice, the purse, and the sanctified affections of the soul. Christ has made us ambassadors to make known His salvation to the children of men; and if we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit, we shall not be able to hold our peace.

### **IS RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPORTANT?**

Righteousness is the foundation of God's throne. Of Jesus it is written, "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." Hebrews 1:9.

A resident in our town says that he reads the Bible every day because he wishes to be like Jesus. To be like Jesus produces something and that something is "righteousness."

This vast subject of "righteousness" put in a nutshell is holiness, likeness to God. It is conformity to the law of God; for "all Thy commandments are righteousness." Psalms 119:172 The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him. Not by painful struggles or wearisome toil, not by gifts or sacrifice, is righteousness obtained; but it is freely given to every soul who hungers and thirsts to receive it. As the body is continually receiving the nourishment that sustains life and vigor, so the soul must be constantly communing with Christ A divine element combines with the human when the soul reaches out after God.

These sentences are full of meaning and should be meditated upon until their full significance is discerned. Righteousness, which is holiness, likeness to God, conformity to God's law, is received by

receiving Christ. This is simplicity itself. The human element is the only weak link in the chain, for God's love prevents Him from forcing man to receive righteousness. Man must receive it of his own volition. It is a gift, but man has to reach out after God, to hunger and thirst after righteousness. A divine element combines with the human when the soul reaches out after God. Righteousness by faith is not a theory, not merely a doctrine, but it is a living power that possesses the soul, giving it enabling grace or power to be like Christ. The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ's day was, that a mere assent to the truth constituted righteousness. In all human experience a theoretical knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth, often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in the life. The darkest chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists. The Pharisees thought themselves the greatest religionists of the world, but their so-called orthodoxy led them to crucify the Lord of glory. The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Christians, simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believed and loved it, therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through sanctification (perfect love, perfect obedience, entire conformity to the will of God) of the truth. Men may profess faith in truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly-minded, it is a curse to its possessors and, through their influence, it is a curse to the world. The righteousness which Christ taught is conformity of heart and life to the revealed will of God. Sinful men can become righteous only as they have faith in God and maintain a vital connection with Him. Then true godliness will elevate the thoughts and ennoble the life.

If we believe in God, we are armed with the righteousness of Christ; we have taken hold of his strength. The promise is, "Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me, and he shall make peace with me." Isaiah 27:5. We want to talk with our Savior as though He were right by our side. We should have our minds stayed upon Him. We should hold communion with Him while we walk by the way, and while our hands are engaged in labor.

The theory of this glorious truth is powerless to bring the divine power into the life to change the heart and the mind. But when the soul by faith reaches to God and believes that power comes in this way, the life becomes changed and goes on from glory to glory - the work continuing just so long as that vital connection with the Life-Giver is sustained. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer."

Righteousness by faith means faith that reaches to God's throne, that enables one to "see Him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11: 27) and accepts the power extended by God for the development of character so that it becomes like to that of Jesus.

The extent of the growth of the character depends upon the continuous nature of the exercise of faith. The vital connection of the mind with God must be maintained. An electric train proceeds to its destination so long as the pole connects with the power lines above. The hungering and thirsting after righteousness must continue and the soul reach out after God continually in order for the character to be woven as a robe in the loom of heaven. As the soul thus seeks God the power continues to flow from God until the character is made righteous and conforms to the law of God, which is the standard of righteousness.

Righteousness by faith is represented by the wearing of a pure garment that has-been woven in the loom of Heaven. (See Revelation 3:4,5,18; 16:15; 19:8, etc.

The Lord employed a garment by which to illustrate the development of character, because the illustration is so simple and so widely known. We all understand how the strands of material are made up, and then how the various strands are woven into materials from which the garment is made. In this way the Lord presents us with a practical, homely illustration by which He has driven home to our consciousness the important spiritual truth that our characters can be formed only as we look to Him day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, and accept by faith the power He extends to all who believe. It is in this way that we gain our fitness for heaven. In the first place, righteousness is our title to heaven and, secondly, it establishes our fitness for heaven.

In the Bible, the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding. In the parable of the wedding garment (Matthew 22), the Lord

has emphasized that there is a preparation to be made by all who attend the feast. Those who neglect this preparation are cast out. The fate of all who neglect this work of preparation, of character building, is illustrated in the man who is pictured in the parable as being without "a wedding garment" - he was cast out and destroyed. By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess.

To the church it is given "that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing". The fine linen, says the Scripture, "is the righteousness of saints" (Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 5:27). It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Savior ... This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repentant, believing soul. "I counsel thee," He says, "to buy of Me ... white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear" (Revelation 3: 18). This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising.

When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us, He sees not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of God.

Let us open our Bibles to see what is meant by righteousness by faith and how it is obtained:-

Faith is a living connection with God - the hand of faith reaches to the throne of God where Jesus, the great High Priest mediates solely, between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).

There He makes continual intercession for all who come to God by Him (Romans 8:35; Hebrews 7:25).

From that throne "of the Majesty on high" - where He "upholds all things by the word of His power" - (Hebrews 1:3) from that "throne of the Majesty in the heavens" (Hebrews 8:1), He dispenses mercy and help (Hebrews 4:16).

It is in His capacity as High Priest that He gives His people power to overcome sin (1 Corinthians 15:57; Revelation 3:21); that power flows from Him as a

living stream to all those who make a living connection with Him by faith. That connection must be made with Him or no benefits will be received.

To illustrate this vital truth, the Lord overruled in the circumstances relating to the healing of the afflicted woman who "had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse" (Mark 5: 25). Hearing of the miracles performed by Jesus, she believed that Jesus could heal her. She had tried in vain to reach our Lord. But Jesus Who knows everybody in the world and Who knew that this woman was yearning to meet Him and to experience His healing power, saw to it that He passed near her. He was thinking not only of how He could answer this woman's prayer; He also saw in this an opportunity of making clearer to His people the vital lesson of making contact with Him, the Source of all power.

So in spiritual things. To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul-hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Savior of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Savior; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion.

Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.

Again, "saving faith is a transaction" - it is not merely assenting to a belief that Jesus once lived upon the earth. To live by faith, means hour by hour and moment by moment - maintaining a living connection with Christ. Every thought is to be brought into captivity to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

### **THE QUALITY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven.

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His

name” [John 1:12].

This power is not the human agent. It is the power of God. When a soul really receives Jesus, he receives His righteousness. He lives the life of Jesus. Then as he trains himself to behold Jesus, to study His life and practice His virtues, he eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God.

Those whose characters are marred by a passionate disposition, should be in haste to seek the Lord. From their hearts the prayer should arise, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” [Psalms 51:10]. Give me a correct estimate of Jesus Christ and His merits. Lead me by His Spirit. “Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee” [verse 13].

The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Jesus. The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness, and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow. From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld. He has unrestricted access to Him in whom all fullness dwells. “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:15.

The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. They lived in perfect conformity to the will of God. All the strength of their affections was given to their heavenly Father. A beautiful soft light, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair. This robe of light was a symbol of their spiritual garments of heavenly innocence. Had they remained true to God it would ever have continued to enshroud them. But when sin entered, they severed their connection with God, and the light that had encircled them departed. Naked and ashamed, they tried to supply the place of the heavenly garments by sewing together fig leaves for a covering.

This is what the transgressors of God’s law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve’s disobedience. They have sewed together fig leaves to cover the nakedness caused by transgression. They have worn the garments of their

own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins and make themselves acceptable with God.

But this they can never do. Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence. No fig-leaf garment, no worldly citizen dress can be worn by those who sit down with Jesus and angels at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Only the covering which Jesus Himself has provided can make us proper to appear in God’s presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Jesus will put upon every repenting, believing soul. “I counsel thee,” He says, “to buy of Me . . . white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear.” Revelation 3:18.

This robe of righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Jesus in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. “All our righteousness are as filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God “was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.” Sin is defined to be “the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:5, 4. But Jesus was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, “I have kept My Father’s commandments.” John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Jesus, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.

### **LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF ENOCH**

“Enoch walked with God.” Genesis 5:24.

Enoch, we read, walked with God three hundred years. That was a long time to be in communion with Him. He communed with God because it was agreeable to him, and he loved the society of God.

Enoch was a marked character. Many look upon his life as something above what the generality of mortals can ever reach. But Enoch’s life and character represent what the lives and characters of all must be, if like Enoch, they are

subjects to be translated when Christ shall come. His life was what the life of every individual may be if he closely connects with God. We should remember that Enoch was surrounded with influences so depraved that God brought a flood of waters on the world to destroy its inhabitants for their corruption.

We are living in an evil age. The perils of the last days thicken around us. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold.

Enoch’s case is before us. He lived in a corrupt age, when moral pollution was teeming all round him; yet he trained his mind to devotion, to love purity. His conversation was upon heavenly things. He educated his mind to run in this channel, and he bore the impress of the divine. His countenance was lighted up with the light which shineth in the face of Jesus.

Enoch had temptations as well as we. He was surrounded with society no more friendly to righteousness than is that which surrounds us. The atmosphere he breathed was tainted with sin and corruption, the same as ours; yet he lived a life of holiness. He was unsullied with the prevailing sins of the age in which he lived. So may we remain pure and uncorrupted. He was a representative of the saints who live amid the perils and corruptions of the last days. For his faithful obedience to God he was translated. So, also, the faithful, who are alive and remain will be translated. They will be removed from a sinful and corrupt world to the pure joys of heaven.

Our present work is to come out from the world and be separate. This is the only way we can walk with God, as did Enoch.

### **THE MORAL DETERIORATION OF THE NATION**

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

The image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, while representing the deterioration of the kingdoms of the earth in power and glory, also fitly represents the deterioration of religion and morality among the people of these kingdoms. As nations forget God, in like proportion they become weak morally.

Babylon passed away because in her prosperity she forgot God, and ascribed the glory of her prosperity to human achievement.

The Medo-Persian kingdom was visited by the wrath of heaven because in this kingdom God’s law was trampled under foot. The fear of the Lord found no place in the hearts of the people. The pre-

vailing influences in Medo-Persia were wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption.

The kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt. They deteriorated because they cast off their allegiance to God. As they forgot him, they sank lower and still lower in the scale of moral value.

The vast empire of Rome crumbled to pieces, and from its ruins rose that mighty power, the Roman Catholic Church. This church boasts of her infallibility and her hereditary religion. But this religion is a horror to all who are acquainted with the secrets of the mystery of iniquity. The priests of this church maintain their ascendancy by keeping the people in ignorance of God’s will as revealed in the Scriptures.

It is sin that is ruining nations today. Even many leaders in the religious world have not a good conscience toward God. Many of those who claim to be Protestants have not the faith in God’s word that Luther had in the early days of the Reformation. They have left the old landmarks and depend on ceremony and formal display to make up for their lack of the purity and piety, the meekness and lowliness, found in obedience.

There is no real standard of righteousness apart from God’s law. By obedience to this law the intellect is strengthened, and the conscience is enlightened and made sensitive. We need to gain a clear understanding of God’s law. They are not left to follow blindly the guidance of men. The great prophetic waymarks which God himself has set up show the path of obedience to be the only path that can be followed with certainty.

Those who love and obey the law of God will meet with trials and temptations; but if they hope and pray and trust his word, they will be able to say, with Paul, “I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38, 39)

Have you wholly given yourselves up to God, to do his will? Are you transformed by the grace of Christ? Some claim to be one with Christ, while their special work is to make void the law of God. Will you accept their assertions? How will you distinguish God’s true servants from the false prophets that Christ said would arise to deceive many? There is only one test of character, -God’s holy law.

We are living in a momentous period



of this earth's history. The final conflict is just before us. We see the world corrupted under the inhabitants thereof. Satanic agencies have made the earth a stage for horrors that no language can describe. War and bloodshed are carried on by nations claiming to be Christian. A disregard for God's law has brought the sure result.

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Eph 6:12, 13) "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Eph 6:10, 11)

There will be a sharp conflict between those who are loyal to God and those who cast scorn upon his law. The church has joined hands with the world. Reverence for God's law has been subverted. The religious leaders have taught for doctrine the commandments of men. As it was in the days of Noah, so it is in this age. But shall the prevalence of disloyalty and transgression cause those who have revered God's law to have less respect for it, or to unite with the powers of earth in attempting to make it void?

The test comes to everyone. There are only two sides. On which side are you standing?

### **THE RIGHTEOUS, THE FUTURE OF—**

A quarter of a million people die every day. They fall into three classes.

1. Those who are right with God.
2. Those who deliberately have no association with God.
3. Those who have not made a decision.

The importance of this subject takes on new meaning when the whole world will be divided into only two classes. That is all!

Just before Jesus comes, the world will be divided into two classes - the sheep and the goats. Which class will we be?

The two groups are further defined in the proclamation to be made in heaven!

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

Remember, who are the righteous? Those who reflect the character, the righteousness of Jesus, fully.

Immediately after this proclamation, Jesus says,

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." Rev. 22:12,13.

Again the two groups emerge.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the (holy) city. Rev. 22:14

For without are dogs, [dog. A gay young man; Webster, 1828] and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Rev. 22:14, 15.

### **THE DISTINGUISHING TEST**

Whoever obeys the fourth commandment will find that a separating line is drawn between him and the world. The Sabbath is a test, not a human requirement, but God's test. It is that which will distinguish between those who serve God and those who serve him not; and upon this point will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error.

As the disrespect for God's law becomes more manifest, the line of demarcation between its observers and the world becomes more distinct. Love for the divine precepts increases with one class, accordingly contempt for them increases with the other class.

When the two groups, the righteous and the unrighteous become distinct, just as the ripened wheat and tares, (Matt. 13:30) then the literal harvest of the world takes place at the second coming of Jesus.

"The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." 1 Peter 3:12.

### **THE ROLE OF THE RIGHTEOUS**

1. Warning message

The third angel's warning message is to be sounded by God's people.

(Proviso: If the power of Satan can come into the very temple of God and manipulate things as he pleases, the time of preparation will be prolonged. Movements are made to oppose the men whom God sent with a message of blessing for his people. These men are hated. The men and God's message are despised, as verily as Christ himself was hated and despised at his first advent.)

## **THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE IS TO SWELL TO THE LOUD CRY.**

2. "The loud cry of the third angel" begins with "the revelation of the righteousness of Christ," and "is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth."

"... I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon\* the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:1-4

\*The law of God, through the agency of Satan, is to be made void. In our land of boasted freedom, religious liberty will come to an end. The contest will be decided over the Sabbath question, which will agitate the whole world. False theories, clothed with garments of light, will be presented to God's people. Thus Satan will try to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Most seducing influences will be exerted; minds will be hypnotized. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7. Those who cling to sin will perish in its destruction.

"I will be merciful to their unrighteousness," the Lord declares of those who repent, "and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Heb. 8:12. ... If the sinner repents, and confesses his sin, he will find pardon. Forgiveness is secured for him by Christ's sacrifice in his behalf. Christ has paid the demands of the law for every repentant, believing sinner. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12.

Nothing but holiness will prepare you for heaven. It is sincere, experimental piety alone that can give you a pure, elevated character and enable you to enter into the presence of God, who dwelleth in light unapproachable. The heavenly character must be acquired on

earth, or it can never be acquired at all. Then begin at once. Flatter not yourself that a time will come when you can make an earnest effort easier than now. Every day increases your distance from God. Prepare for eternity with such zeal as you have not yet manifested. Educate your mind to love the Bible, to love the prayer meeting, to love the hour of meditation, and, above all, the hour when the soul communes with God. Become heavenly-minded if you would unite with the heavenly choir in the mansions above."

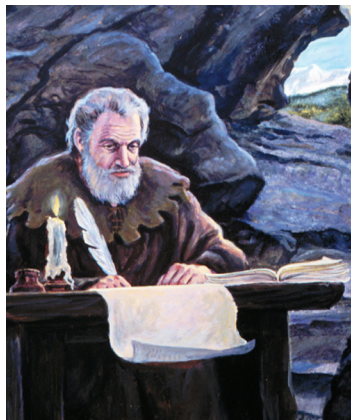
3. Message of Christ's righteousness closes the work of the third angel

The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone, is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness, we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth "the fruits of the Spirit." Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as he walked. Through the prophet he declared of himself, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalms 40:8.

The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Famines, pestilences and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there shall be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.

In spite of the existing chaos in the



Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7. The righteous are prepared to stand in this last period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out culminating with the return of Jesus and all the angels.

Daniel wrote of this terrible time – “And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” Daniel 12:1.

These plagues enrage the wicked against the righteous; they think that the righteous had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of the righteous, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob’s trouble. [See Genesis 32.] Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God. Jesus replied, “Surely I come quickly” Rev. 22:20

### ***THE WARNING MESSAGE OF THE THIRD ANGEL***

There is a great work to be done. The last message of mercy is being given to the world. Everything in the political world is being stirred with agitation. There are wars and rumors of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come that they should be judged.

A most solemn and important work is to be done in our world by God’s people. This work is represented by the third angel flying in the midst of heaven. The third angel’s message is preceded by the messages of the 1st & 2nd angels.

The first angel’s message in Rev. 14 proclaims the hour of God’s judgment. In this message people are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. This message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven is the everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was declared in Eden when God said to the serpent, “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.” The second declares the fall of Babylon. “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornications.” God denounces Babylon, because she has

disregarded the fourth commandment which points out the true God, and has torn down the Sabbath, God’s memorial of creation. God has a controversy with the churches today. “Rome is mystical Babylon.” Matthew Henry

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast, and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.”

These messages must go to all the inhabitants of the world. The Lord is soon to come, and He calls upon all to whom He has entrusted His capital of means to invest it in His work as it demands help. His money is not to be shut up in banks and buildings and lands when there is such a great work to be accomplished. The Lord will not send His judgments for disobedience and transgression upon the world until He has sent His watchmen to give the message of warning.

The Lord has been pleased to give His people the third angel’s message as a testing message to bear to the world. John beholds a people distinct and separate from the world, who refuse to worship the beast or his image, who bear God’s sign, keeping holy his Sabbath, the seventh day, to be kept holy as a memorial of the living God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Of them the apostle writes, “Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12.

God has given men the Sabbath, not Sunday, as a sign between Him and them, as a test of their loyalty. Those who, after the light regarding God’s law comes to them, continue to disobey, and exalt human laws above the law of God in the great crisis before us, will receive the mark of the beast.

“Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse: a blessing if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day; and a curse if ye will not obey the ... Lord your God.” Deuteronomy 11:26-28. The curses are evident. Why does the earth not produce as it once did? Why are the cattle all so full of disease?

### ***LOUD CRY***

The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness

of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth. For it is the work of every one to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus.

God’s last warning and His righteousness to crescendo in the end, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him.

If you would stand through the time of trouble, you must know Christ, and appropriate the gift of His righteousness, which He imputes to the repentant sinner.

The health reform is a part of the third angel’s message, and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body. God’s people must make an advance move in this great work. Ministers and people must act in concert. God’s people are not prepared for the loud cry of the third angel. They have a work to do for themselves which they should not leave for God to do for them. He has left this work for them to do. It is an individual work; one cannot do it for another. “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” Gluttony is the prevailing sin of this age. Lustful appetite makes slaves of men and women, and beclouds their intellects and stupefies their moral sensibilities to such a degree that the sacred, elevated truths of God’s word are not appreciated. The lower propensities rule men and women.

Those clothed with the armor will speak forth the truth in great power. It had effect. Those who had been bound; some wives had been bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents. The honest who had been held or prevented from hearing the truth, now eagerly laid hold of the truth spoken. All fear of their relatives was gone. The truth alone was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth. What made this great change? The latter rain. The refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The loud cry of the third angel. Great power will be with these chosen ones.

When Jesus leaves the ‘most holy’ apartment in heaven, His restraining Spirit is withdrawn from rulers and





people. They are left to the control of evil angels. Then such laws will be made by the counsel and direction of Satan that, unless time should be very short, no flesh will be saved.

There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of “the third angel” shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.

The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord’s memorial of creation. . . . The mark of the beast is the opposite of this—the observance of the first day of the week.

He (Satan working through government) “causeth all, both small and great, . . . to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.” (Revelation 13:16). Not only are men not to work with their hands on Sunday, but with their minds they are not to acknowledge Sunday as the Sabbath—a man-made law.

### 3rd Angel Given with Great Power

As foretold in verses one to six in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel’s message is to be proclaimed with great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image: “I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants

of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.”

This is the message given by God to be sounded forth in the loud cry of the third angel.

Those whose faith and zeal are proportionate to their knowledge of the truth will reveal their loyalty to God by communicating the truth, in all its saving, sanctifying power, to those with whom they associate. Their lives of holiness and unselfish service will be in conformity with the vital principles of the kingdom of heaven.

The Lord has a time appointed when He will bind off the work; but when is that time? When the truth to be proclaimed for these last days shall go forth as a witness to all nations, then shall the end come.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Psalms 23:3

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - in right paths, or right ways. He conducts me in the straight path that leads to Himself; He does not permit me to wander in ways that would lead to ruin. In reference to His people it is true:

(a) that He leads them in the path by which they become righteous, or by which they are “justified” before Him; and

(b) that He leads them in the way of “uprightness” and “truth.” He guides them in the way to heaven; His constant care is evinced that they “may” walk in that path.

For His name’s sake - for His own sake; or, that His name may be honored. It is not primarily on their account; it is not solely that they may be saved. It is that He may be honored:

(a) in their being saved at all;

(b) in the manner in which it is done;

(c) in the influence of their whole life, under His guidance, as making known His own character and perfections. Barnes

By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ’s true followers will possess. To the church it is given “that she should be arrayed in fine linen,

clean and white,” “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.” Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 5:27. The fine linen, says the Scripture, “is the righteousness of saints.” Revelation 19:8. It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.

Christ does not lessen the claims of the law. In unmistakable language He presents obedience to it as the condition of eternal life—the same condition that was required of Adam before his fall. The Lord expects no less of the soul now than He expected of man in Paradise, perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness. The requirement under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement made in Eden—harmony with God’s law, which is holy, just, and good.

In order to meet the requirements of the law, our faith must grasp the righteousness of Christ, accepting it as our righteousness. Through union with Christ, through acceptance of His righteousness by faith, we may be qualified to work the works of God, to be collaborators with Christ. If you are willing to drift along with the current of evil and do not cooperate with the heavenly agencies in restraining transgression in your family, and in the church, in order that everlasting righteousness may be brought in, you do not have faith. Faith works by love and purifies the soul. Through faith, the Holy Spirit works in the heart to create holiness therein; but this cannot be done unless the human agent will work with Christ. We can be fitted for heaven only through the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart; for we must have Christ’s righteousness as our credentials if we would find access to the Father. In order that we may have the righteousness of Christ, we need daily to be transformed by the influence of the Spirit, to be a partaker of the divine nature. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to elevate the taste, to sanctify the heart, to ennoble the whole man.

### Change the Law of God – Second Commandment.

Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to “think to change times and laws.” Daniel 7:25. This work it was not slow to attempt. To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship. To complete the sacrilegious work, Rome presumed to expunge from the law of God the second command-

ment, forbidding image worship, and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number.

That they (relics) were essentially all phony is not the issue. The point is that people believed in them. Malachi Martin, p. 110 *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church*.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7.

### Change the Law of God – Fourth Commandment.

It is one of Satan’s devices to lead the people to accept the fables of infidelity; for he can thus obscure the law of God, in itself very plain, and embolden men to rebel against the divine government. His efforts are especially directed against the fourth commandment because it so clearly points to the living God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth.

Satan has come in and shown himself the decided enemy of man, and he seeks to make of none effect the work of God, and get in every conceivable thing of human origin, to hide God and His glory from our sight. The man of sin, it is declared in Daniel, “shall think to change times and laws.”

He cannot do this, because God’s holy law is as unchangeable as His throne, and is from everlasting to everlasting. Christ has said, “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” But the question of Sabbath and Sunday observance is to be agitated everywhere, and the deceptions of Satan will flood the world. The man of sin has instituted a spurious sabbath, and the Protestant world has this child of the papacy and cradled and nurtured it.

### FOLLOWING UNSCRIPTURAL PLANS LEADS TO FALSE THEORIES AND PIETY.

Satan is ever seeking to bring about a state of things in which righteousness may be termed unrighteousness, unrighteousness righteousness. What are we to do?—We are to keep in living connection with the God of heaven, ranking in His army and under His banner, and we cannot afford to be in such gross blindness that we cannot discern truth from error. We want to know what is truth. Many say, “The whole world is keeping the first day of the week, and do you think that all the great and good men are in error?” God is going to bring around a condition of



things where the good men and the men in authority will have an opportunity to know what is truth indeed. And because a people will not bow the knee to the image, and receive the mark of the beast in the hand or the forehead, but will stand to the truth because it is truth, there will be oppression, and an attempt to compel the conscience; but those who have known the truth will be afraid to yield to the powers of darkness. God has a people who will not receive the mark of the beast in their right hand or in their forehead. God has a place for His people to fill in this world, to reflect light. You are God's sentinels. Christ says of His people, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

God does not force the conscience of any man, but the powers of darkness have been trying to compel the consciences of men ever since Abel fell under the murderous blow from the hand of pitiless Cain because Abel's works were righteous and his own were sinful. God had respect unto the offering of Abel, but He had no respect for Cain's offering, and this made Cain very angry, and the Lord said, "Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." God was not at fault that Cain's offering was not respected. It was valueless because it was destitute of the thing that gave it virtue, and that was the blood that was to be shed for the sins of the world,—the blood of Jesus Christ.

The righteous are to stand the trial and test of persecution because of allegiance to the truth. Not a move has been made in exalting the idol sabbath, in bringing around Sunday observance through legislation, but Satan has been behind it, and has been the chief worker; but the conscience should not be compelled even for the observance of the genuine Sabbath, for God will accept only willing service. The question is asked, Shall we not obey the powers that be?—Yes, when they are in harmony with the higher powers that be. God made His law for all the universe. He created man, He gives the bounteous provisions of nature, holds our breath and life in His hand. He is to be recognized, His law honored, before all the great men and the highest earthly powers.

Satan's chief agent in bringing about the rejection of the fourth commandment, and the institution of the first day of the week as a day of rest, has been the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church does not deny

the part she has acted in this change, but makes a boast of her power as shown in the change which she has brought about in the world. Papists acknowledge that the Bible gives no sanction to this change, and that Protestants have no Scriptural authority for Sunday worship. The Catholic Church changed the day of rest from the seventh to the first day, and without the shadow of divine sanction it has been accepted by almost all the Protestant churches, and Rome, pointing to the adherents of her doctrines, claims the supremacy. In changing the fourth precept of God's law, the papal power has thought itself able to exalt itself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped. This was the very work that the prophecy foretold would be done by this power. In trampling upon the fourth commandment, the first commandment is broken.

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." James Cardinal Gibbons, "The Faith of Our Fathers," page III.

Through the pope of Rome the same work has been carried on here on earth as was carried on in the courts of heaven before the expulsion of the prince of darkness. Satan sought to correct the law of God in heaven, and to supply an amendment of His own. He exalted his own judgment above that of his Creator, and placed his will above the will of Jehovah, and in this way virtually declared God to be fallible. The pope also takes the same course and, claiming infallibility for himself, seeks to adjust the law of God to meet his own ideas, thinking himself able to correct the mistakes he thinks he sees in the statutes and commands of the Lord of heaven and earth.

The Papacy, claiming to be the vicegerent of the Son of God, is in truth the vicegerent of another power. She points to the Sunday institution as the sign of her authority; but in the change of the law and time of God, she is only doing that which Satan tried to do in heaven,—prove the law of God faulty, and the Lawgiver fallible. In boasting of her power above the law of God, she is but echoing the sentiments of the great deceiver.

God instituted the Sabbath as a sign of His authority and power, and the Papacy, acting for the prince of evil, points to the Sunday as a sign of her power and

jurisdiction. The day of the sun, Sunday, was a day devoted to the most vile of the heathen worship, for it was celebrated in connection with sun-worship. This Sunday-sabbath has been accepted by many who know it to be the founding of heathenism, which has been cherished and nourished by the Church of Rome, and by her clothed in the garments of sanctity.

But while many are now aware of its origin, there are true Christians in every church who do not know the origin of the Sunday-sabbath, and believe that they are keeping the day which God sanctified and blest. This is true of worshipers even in the Catholic Church; and while this ignorance and integrity remain, God accepts of their sincerity; but when light shall fall upon their pathway, God requires them to come into harmony with His law, and to observe the Sabbath of His appointing. The time has come when the glory of the Lord is to fill the earth, and when the whole earth shall be lightened with His glory.

The cry is sounding to the honest in heart to "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Satan means to make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of the fornication of Babylon. Men are binding themselves together in bonds of union to show their disloyalty to the God of heaven. The first day of the week is to be exalted and presented to all for observance. Shall we be partakers of this cup of abomination?

There will be an effort made to unsettle the faith of every believer in present truth. Since Satan fell from heaven, he has been trampling underfoot the word of God, and putting something of his own devising in its place. His work has been accepted as the work of God. When the legislature frames laws which exalt the first day of the week, and put it in the place of the seventh day, the device of Satan will be perfected.

Many thousand who have accepted the change made in the day of rest have done so ignorantly and unwittingly have

placed themselves under the banner of the prince of darkness. The Christian church has accepted the false sabbath, but the day of light has now dawned. The times of their ignorance God winked at, but now He commandeth men everywhere to repent.

The Sabbath, sanctified and blessed by God, was designed as His great memorial of creation. It is ever to stand unmoved, a rock of offense, as Christ was to the Jewish nation. The Sabbath is the test today, as Christ was a test to the Jews.

Forty years after Christ uttered His prediction respecting Jerusalem and the temple, His words were fulfilled to the letter. Jerusalem was destroyed, and in the siege it is stated that more than a million people perished. The rejection of the Son of God decided the destiny of that nation. Let Christians take heed, lest by rejecting God's holy memorial their fate also be decided.

If man had always kept the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, there never would have been an atheist or an infidel in the world. Armageddon

All the world will be on one side or the other. Either for or against the government of heaven. The battle of Armageddon will be fought!

When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation eighteen, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from slumber, and the armies of the living God will take the field.

Men will learn of the reconciliation for iniquity and of the everlasting righteousness which the Messiah has brought in through His sacrifice. Many will be brought to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God, and will stand with God's people to welcome the soon coming, in power and glory, of our Lord and Saviour.

Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle:

On one side stands the Creator of heaven and earth. - "Here are they that (a) keep the commandments of God and (b) the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.

(a) They are obedient to His commands.

(b) All on His side bear His signet. The righteousness of Jesus by faith which is the unblemished character of Jesus.

On the other side stands the prince of darkness, with those who have chosen apostasy and rebellion.

The principalities and powers of earth are in bitter revolt against the God of heaven. They are filled with hatred against those who serve Him, and soon, very soon, will be fought the last great

## JESUS NEVER TOUCHES EARTH

battle between good and evil. The earth is to be the battlefield—the scene of the final contest and the final victory. Here, where for so long Satan has led men against God, rebellion is to be forever suppressed.

The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend.

We need to study the pouring out of the seventh vial [Revelation 16:17-21].

16:17 “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.”

16:18 “And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

16:19 “And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.”

16:2 “And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”

16:21 “And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”

When Christ shall cease His work as mediator in man’s behalf, then this time of trouble will begin.

When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth.

The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received “the latter rain,” “the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,” and they are prepared for the trying hour before them.

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried.

Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects. He has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God.

Especially will the wrath of man be aroused against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and at last a universal decree will denounce these as deserving of death.

The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation, and suffer for want of food, they will not be left to perish.

The righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels. Their bread and water will be sure at that time.

Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them.

When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof. The wicked loose ascendancy

It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying, “It is done.” (Revelation 16:17). That voice shakes the heavens and the earth.

There is a mighty earthquake, “such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.” (Revelation 16:17, 18)

When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life. The gain of a lifetime is swept away in a moment. The rich bemoan the destruction of their grand houses, the scattering of their gold and silver. The wicked are filled with regret, not because of their sinful neglect of God and their fellow men, but because God has conquered. They lament that the result is what it is, but they do not repent of their wickedness.

The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place.

### JESUS RIDES FORTH AS A MIGHTY CONQUEROR

With anthems of celestial melody, the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—“ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” No human pen can portray the scene, no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor.

Those who have acted the most prominent part in the rejection and crucifixion of Christ come forth to see Him as He is, and those who have rejected Christ come up and see the saints glorified, and it is at that time that the saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. The very ones who placed upon Him the purple robe and put the crown of thorns upon His brow, and those who put the nails through His hands and feet, look upon Him and bewail. Did not Jesus say to

the High Priest at His trial, “Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Matthew 26:64.

The clouds begin to roll back like a scroll and there is the bright, clear sign of the Son of man. The children of God know it is the time of their deliverance. The sound of music is heard, and as it nears, the graves are opened and the dead are raised.

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth” [John 5:28, 29].

The precious dead, from Adam down to the last saint who dies, will hear the voice of the Son of God and will come forth from the grave to immortal life.

And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory.

To sin, wherever found, “our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:29) In all who submit to His power, the Spirit of God will consume sin. But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them.

The glory of His countenance, which to the righteous is life, will be to the wicked a consuming fire.

At the coming of Jesus, the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Jesus takes His righteous people to the city of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants.

“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

The bereaved look forward to the glorious day when the Life-giver shall break the fetters of the tomb, and the righteous dead shall arise and leave their prison-house, to be clothed with glorious immortal life.

All that have put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness will stand before Him as chosen and faithful and true.

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