

The Loud
Cry
of the
Third
Angel

The Loud Cry of the Third Angel

CAMP MEETING 2007

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Introduction

Camp meeting 2007 has arrived! How quickly another year has passed. For this camp meeting we are studying **The Loud Cry** and all of its important fundamental principles.

Welcome to summer camp meeting 2007! Let us pray, study, and re-consecrate our lives fully to the Master!

May God richly bless you and prepare you for **The Loud Cry**.

Reference Abbreviations

AA — Acts of the Apostles	MM — Medical Ministry
#BC — (Volume) Bible Commentary	NASB — New American Standard Bible
BE — The Bible Echo	OHC — Our High Calling
CD — Counsels on Diet and Food	PK — Prophets and Kings
CH — Counsels on Health	PP — Patriarchs and Prophets
COL — Christ's Object Lessons	RH — Review and Herald
CT — Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students	SC — Steps to Christ
DA — Desire of Ages	SD — Sons and Daughters
ED — Education	#SG — (Volume) Spiritual Gifts
EW — Early Writings	#SM — (Volume) Selected Messages
GC — Great Controversy	SR — The Story of Redemption
GW — Gospel Workers	ST — The Signs of the Times
HL — Healthful Living	#T — (Volume) Testimonies
HP — Heavenly Places	TM — Testimonies to Ministers
MB — Mount of Blessings	WM — Welfare Ministry
MH — The Ministry of Healing#	YI — Youth Instructor

Section 1

Basic Definitions and Prerequisites

Chapter 1

The Loud Cry – A Concise Overview

The “loud cry” is the term Seventh-day Adventists use to describe the **final** gospel warning **message** to be given to the whole world. It will be given with explosive Holy Spirit power immediately before the closure of human probation, the development of the seven last plagues, and the second coming of Christ.

This final glorious global gospel outreach is described in Revelation 18:1-4:

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people,

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that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”
Revelation 18:1-4.

The term “**loud cry**” is deduced from verse two which states that the message will be given with a “**mighty cry and a strong voice.**”

The Fourth Angel

Revelation 18:1 actually introduces **another** angel who follows the sequence of the **three angels** of Revelation 14:6-12 and is therefore numerically called the **fourth**. The message of this is also called the **loud cry** of the third angel. This means that it includes the three angels’ messages but has added power and light.

Power And Light

Spiritual power and spiritual light are inseparable. They go hand in hand. The message will have extreme power and light! The light will be the glorious truth of God’s character revealed with maximum clarity and power through the **full** message of the **true** gospel.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17.

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5.

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:6-9.

Moreover every other doctrine will be included in, and swallowed up by, the central theme of Christ our righteousness as the full revelation of God’s character through fallen, but redeemed, humanity!

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“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. ⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:4-7.

Babylon’s Final Fall

The angel of Revelation 18 cries mightily with a strong voice announcing the fall of Babylon the great. This will be Babylon’s final fall. She will have fallen to the level of being demon controlled and demon possessed (as described in verse 2). The ultimate manifestation of this final fall will be church-state union called **“fornication with the kings of the earth.”** This will be the final church-state union which will commence in the USA and eventually become global in extent. It will be the indication of terminal global apostasy and will result in irreversible global ruin.

Babylon The Great

The classical description of Great Babylon is written down in Revelation 17. There she is described as the great whore that sitteth upon the many waters, i.e., upon the masses of human population.

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.” Revelation 17:1.

“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Revelation 17:15.

Great Babylon is also called the **“mother of harlots”** in Revelation 17:5. This needs explanation.

The original protestant denominations came out of the Medieval European Roman Catholic church. From those original protestant denominations, the more modern evangelical denominatorial churches

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have emerged. The Roman Catholic Church (the Papacy) is the mother harlot. And those protestant and evangelical denominations which hold on to various Papal errors, or to errors of their own, are her daughters.

The mother harlot and her daughters will be fully exposed by the everlasting gospel of the loud cry!

The Latter Rain

The latter rain of the Holy Spirit ripens the “**grain**” from the “**ear**” to the “full corn in the ear.” The true believers in the third angel’s message must at least reach the stage of the “ear” before they can receive the latter rain of the Holy Spirit to ripen them for the harvest.

“And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; ²⁷ And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸ For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. ²⁹ But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” Mark 4:26-29.

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. ⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8.

“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 the earth.” Hosea 6:3.

The setting up of the image and mark of the beast by church-state legislation of compulsory Sunday worship will be the signal that the latter rain is being poured out.

Religious Liberty Issues

The loud cry messengers must have a full and clear understanding of the history, the theology and the law regarding the issues of civil and religious liberties. The **church-state** “fornication” of the daughter harlots and their mother will be fully exposed to be iniquity of the worst kind!

God's People Called Out

The true people of God who are still in Babylon (false Christianity) will be called out by the voice of God. This will be the last separation and it will be the final and complete fulfillment of the words of Jesus in John 10:16.

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” John 10:16.

The Seal Of God Versus The Mark Of The Beast

The final gospel message will divide the entire world into two classes by the time probation closes. The final generation of living saints will receive the seal of the living God as described in Revelation 7:1-4. The final generation of the living unsaved will receive the “mark of the beast” as described in Revelation 13:11-18.

The Obedience Of Faith Versus The Disobedience Of Unbelief

Righteousness by faith means heart obedience to God's immutable moral law through abiding in **Christ!**

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:1-5.

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. ⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:1-4.

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“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.” DA 668.

The seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great test of loyalty. Obedience or disobedience is the question that will make the dividing line between the people of God and the people of Satan. There will neither be any neutral ground nor any pleasant alternatives. The moment of final decision will have arrived!

The Close Of Probation

When every single mind shall have been made up then will occur the general closure of human probation according to Revelation 22:11-12.

“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. ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”
Revelation 22:11-12.

The Investigative Judgment Of The Living

Christ, our High Priest, will blot out the sins of His living remnant elect and their names will be retained in the Book of Life.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”
Acts 3:19.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: 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.

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“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:8.

This will complete the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary which started in the autumn of 1844 at the end of the 2300 day-years of Daniel 8:14. This work of cleansing the heavenly sanctuary has been inordinately and embarrassingly delayed by the lukewarmness of God’s professed people. But at last a true remnant by faith, will **claim** and **experience** full victory over sin.

The Greatest Work In History Apart From Calvary

Those who will be chosen by God to give the final warning message, as well as those who obey the call to come out of Babylon, will participate in the most important work ever given to mere human mortals!

“As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, ‘the time of Jacob’s trouble,’ they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of his Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attends the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel.” RH, May 27, 1862.

Now Is The Time To Get Qualified For Loud Cry Ministry

Every kind of work requires certain specific qualifications and skills. God’s final work will require His chosen servants to be fully **qualified** and **equipped** spiritually, mentally and physically. **Those who fail to prepare are preparing to fail!**

“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. ²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:20-21.

“Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can

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honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?

"Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready."
GC 593-594.

Completing The Reformation

The **loud cry** will complete the Protestant Reformation which commenced in the sixteenth century but became spiritually dead even before 1798. The great Advent Movement, from 1831 to the middle of the nineteenth century, had also made an excellent start but became lukewarm by 1859.

The 1888 "righteousness by faith" message which was sent to revive the third angel's movement was so opposed and resisted that lukewarmness has persisted throughout the **whole** of the twentieth century and now into the start of the twenty first century.

But at last the true gospel, revealing the true character of God, will produce a victorious remnant who will complete the Reformation.

Vindication God's Government

When God's true living remnant-elect experience victory over all sin they will have co-operated with Jesus in clearing God's name of every Satanic charge. And this is the deeper meaning of the "cleansing" of the heavenly sanctuary. God's government will stand vindicated and victorious in the face of all of Satan's charges.

The loud cry servants will understand and experience the character of God and the principles of His government.

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: ²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23-24.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent...²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:3, 23.

Chapter 2

Apply Now For A Post In The Loud Cry Ministry

Most likely you have often seen or heard an advertisement which reads like this: **WORKERS NEEDED. APPLY NOW BEFORE THE DEADLINE ARRIVES.**

Well, listen! God is now receiving applications for the posts of **primary** loud cry messengers. He needs thousands!

Have you applied?

Are you applying?

Time is running out!

When it comes to worldly employment we are usually required to complete application forms either on paper or “on line.” But for employment in the loud cry ministry we apply by our spiritual growth in Christian character perfection and maturity. And the application forms are filled out in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary!

The Three Basic Requirements

1. Genuine Conversion

The **first** basic requirement is that you must be a citizen of God's kingdom by spiritual birth. In other words **you must be born again!** Your name must **have been entered into** the Book of Life.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” John 3:5-8.

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24.

And remember genuine conversion includes **repentance, confession and surrender!**

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:37-38.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” 1 John 1:8-10.

2. Abiding In Christ And Growing In Grace

The **second** basic requirement is that you must be abiding in Christ and therefore be growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Son of God.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean

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through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.” John 15:1-4.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18.

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, ²¹ Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 20-21.

3. The Mind Must Be Fortified With The Truth

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17.

The **third** basic requirement is that you must be thoroughly grounded in the truths of the third angel’s message. While this includes all the basic doctrines of **true** Christianity, it is essentially the experience of righteousness by faith which produces heart-obedience to all the commandments of God. This includes seventh-day Sabbath rest as the seal of God’s holy law.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” John 16:13.

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. ¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” Hebrews 4:9-11.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.

Will Your Application Be Considered?

Failure to meet these three basic requirements means that you cannot **even** be considered for any post in the **primary** loud cry ministry. Only if you satisfy these three basic requirements can your application be **considered!** However in order to **qualify** to be one of the primary loud cry messengers there is a critically important **advanced requirement!**

The Advanced Requirement For Qualification

The three basic requirements are necessary for Heaven's **consideration** of your application. But in order to **qualify** you must have reached the stage of growth called the "ear" by Jesus in Mark 4:26-29.

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; ²⁷ And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸ For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. ²⁹ But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Mark 4:26-29.

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:13-16.

"Progression, not stagnation, is the law of heaven. Progression is the law of every faculty of mind and body. The things of nature obey this law. In the field there is seen first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. In the spiritual life, as in the physical life, there is to be growth. Step by step we are to advance, ever receiving and imparting, ever gaining a more complete knowledge of Christ, daily approaching more closely the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

"The Christian is first a babe in Christ. Then he becomes a child. Constantly he is to make advancement proportionate to the opportunities and privileges granted him. Ever he is to remember that he is not his own, that he has been bought with a price, and that he must make the best possible use of the talents entrusted to him. Even in the infancy of his spiritual understanding, the Christian is to do his best, making steady advancement toward the higher, holier life. He is to realize that he is a laborer together with God. He is to notice the way in which God

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works, and then strive to attain to the possibilities held out to him, saying, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.' (Phil 4:13) He is never to become self-sufficient, but is to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. He is to walk and work in the Saviour's companionship. As he does this, his faith will increase. Constantly beholding Christ, he will be changed into the same image from character to character." RH, May 9, 1907.

"There is to be 'first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.' There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour." RH, March 2, 1897.

The "Ear" And The Latter Rain

The early rain of the Holy Spirit carries forward spiritual growth from the "blade" (conversion) to the "ear." The latter rain then fills out the "ears" and ripens the grain.

"At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude. We must never forget the warnings of Christ, 'Watch unto prayer,' 'Watch and pray always.' A connection with the divine agency every moment is essential to our progress. We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door." RH, March 2, 1897.

The Latter Rain And The Loud Cry

The primary loud cry messengers must receive the latter rain of the Holy Spirit in order to give the loud cry. And the latter rain is received at the

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stage called the “ear” in order to fill out the “ears” and ripen the grain for the harvest. Therefore the primary loud cry messengers must reach the stage of growth called the “ear” in order to qualify for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit which will empower them to give the final warning message.

The Meaning Of The Ear

At the stage of growth called the “ear” the soul temple must be **cleansed** from **every** defilement through **such** a **close** and **intimate** spiritual **union** with Christ that **every** temptation **is overcome** in His strength!

“It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue. God can breathe new life into every soul that sincerely desires to serve him, and can touch the lips with a live coal from off the altar, and cause them to become eloquent with his praise. **Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the wonderful truths of God’s word. The stammering tongue will be unloosed, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth. May the Lord help his people to cleanse the soul temple from every defilement, and to maintain such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out.**” RH, July 20, 1886.

“The third angel’s message is to lighten the earth with its glory; but only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it when it shall have swelled into the loud cry.” RH, November 19, 1908.

It Is All In Christ

“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: ⁴ 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 through lust. ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue

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knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:3-11.

Learning Of Christ — RH, April 24, 1900.

“In his prayer to the Father, Christ said, ‘This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.’ (John 17:3) We must learn of Christ. We must know what He is to those He has ransomed. We must realize that through belief in Him it is our privilege to be partakers of the divine nature, and so escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Then we are cleansed from all sin, all defects of character. We need not retain one sinful propensity. Christ is the sin-bearer; John pointed the people to him, saying, ‘Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.’ And Paul declared, ‘You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, ...and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.’ (Eph 2:1-6)”

Christ’s Invitation

“Christ says to us, ‘Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’ (Matt. 11:28-30). We are ever to learn of Christ. Yoked up with him in perfect restraint, we are to be learners during our whole lifetime. Then

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we are indeed 'laborers together with God.' We can be acceptable teachers only as we learn Christ's meekness and lowliness. Constantly we must learn more and more regarding these attributes. As we partake of the divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are cut away from the character, and we are made a living power for good. Ever learning of the divine Teacher, daily partaking of his nature, we co-operate with God in overcoming Satan's temptations. God works, and man works, that man may be one with Christ as Christ is one with God. Then we sit together with Christ in heavenly places. The mind rests with peace and assurance in Jesus. The Saviour declares, 'He that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.' In him there is inexhaustible fullness. As we follow on to know the Lord, we shall lead souls to the living word. With us they will know that 'his going forth is prepared as the morning.'"

The Cause Of Destitution

"Why, then, do we not have more of the Holy Spirit?—Because we do not abide in Christ; because we do not eat his flesh and drink his blood. All who eat the heavenly bread will have eternal life. God has given us every facility, every grace. He has provided the riches of heaven's treasure, and it is our privilege to draw continually from this capital. But we do not avail ourselves of this privilege. Vanity, evil-thinking, and evil-speaking keep us powerless and inefficient. Self is cherished, petted, exalted; and therefore we can not work out our own salvation in harmony with God's will."

Walking As Christ Walked

"The service of Christ demands prompt obedience. We are to walk as he walked, following closely in his footsteps, manifesting his meekness and lowliness. 'Can two walk together, except they be agreed?' (Amos 3:3) 'He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk even as he walked.' (1 John 2:6) The service of Christ is pure and elevated. The path he traveled is not one of self-pleasing, self-gratification. He speaks to his children, saying, 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.' **The price of heaven is submission to Christ. The way to heaven is obedience to the command, Deny thyself, take up thy cross, and follow me.** As Jesus journeyed, so we must journey. The path he followed, we must follow; for that path leads to the mansions he is preparing for us." RH, April 24, 1900.

Chapter 3

World Conditions Leading Up To The Loud Cry

Perilous Times

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

The longer we delay the coming of our Lord the more complex this world will become. It is already inextricably entangled in the socio-economic web of Godless human secularism and licentious pleasure. At the same time it is moving progressively, even if haltingly, toward a geopolitical new

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world economic order with the promise of utopia which is supposed to be spawned in the expectant nest of trade liberalization.

The increasing levels of terrorism, crime and lawlessness, as well as the deadly outbreaks of an increasingly unstable natural environment, continue to produce fear and induce uncomfortable measures of defense. Notwithstanding the fantastic advances in science, medicine, technology and every other branch of knowledge, the problems facing mankind are fast becoming insurmountable. This means that fear, insecurity and uncertainty will eventually lead the many billions of earth's population to look for some master formula to solve world problems.

*“Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”
Luke 21:26.*

Satan’s Strategies Against Seventh-day Adventists

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

The Spirit of Prophecy clearly spells out Satan’s twofold battle plan against professed believers in the third angel’s message.

First Strategy

Firstly Satan intends to keep Seventh-day Adventists in the lukewarm laodicean condition for as long as they allow him to do so. And with extended lukewarmness there is the evolution of false gospels and doctrinal errors. All this is accompanied by the rejection of real truth and advancing light.

Those who seek to resist lukewarmness and its errors by proclaiming the straight testimony of the true and faithful witness (Revelation 3:14-21) induce a reaction from those who are comfortable in the lukewarm orthodoxy. This results in the shaking which has been accelerating in intensity over the past three decades.

“And this word, yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” Hebrews 12:27.

The official diagnosis of lukewarmness was made way back in 1859. Its long drawn out chronic state has given Satan the time he needed to

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invent unnumbered schemes of sinful pleasure and the complications of modern life. With these he simultaneously distracts Adventists, especially Adventist youth, while holding the world captive in either religious error or the sensuous multi-billion dollar entertainment industry.

He has successfully used his extended time on “death row” to make the world more Godless, more materialistic, more humanistic and more egocentric. But this, as we shall see, will present a delicate problem to him when the time comes for him to implement his second strategy.

Second Strategy

When he sees that the true people of God are obtaining the victory over lukewarmness while ripening towards the stage of spiritual growth called the **ear**, Satan will seek to implement his second strategy. This is the strategy of persecutory pressure which requires church-state union and compulsory Sunday laws (the image and mark of the beast).

But in attempting to implement such a strategy Satan will be confronting a world which is indifferent to religion and hostile to any attempt to interfere with human rights and liberties.

Satan's Dilemma

If, for argument sake, the people of God had allowed Him to get them ready back in the 1890's, Satan would have had an easier time setting up the image and mark of the beast.

Why?

Because the world was then much more religious!

But we live now in what is called the **post-Christian** era!

Therefore for Satan to induce modern western populations to remove the liberties guaranteed under the first amendment of the USA constitution he must bring about a state of fear, alarm, even panic. The masses will then be more easily persuaded by sweet sounding, though false logic, that church-state union and the enforcement of Sunday sacredness will please God and therefore solve the problems of the world. The abuse of freedom will eventually lead to the end of freedom.

Satan Left With No Alternative

Satan is therefore left with no other alternative than to pressurize the USA primarily, and also the rest of Christendom, with increasing attacks of evil from many angles. These will include natural disasters, terrorism,

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epidemics, crime, corruption, threats to the economy, etc. Then as the calamities increase Satan will eventually persuade the masses, by spiritistic deceptions and religious error, that enforcing Sunday sacredness will solve the global problems.

All this is beautifully summarized by Ellen G. White in *The Great Controversy*, pages 589-590:

“Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.

“Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and

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thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. 'The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the haughty people...do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.' Isaiah 24:4-5.

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: 'And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Balaam.' 1 Kings 18:17-18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah." GC 589-590.

As The Scroll Unrolls

The sure word of prophecy has outlined the fundamental issues at stake and the principal methods to be employed in the establishment of the image and mark of the beast. The long delay has allowed the emergence of new errors and changing patterns of international relationships all of which will undoubtedly be factored into the final outworking of the mark of the beast eschatology. Prophecy has given us the clear basic guidelines, the finer details will become clearer as the scroll unrolls.

New Errors

One particular package of new errors deserves our consideration at this point. This is the package containing the secret rapture of the church, the seven year tribulation, and the emergence of an individual antichrist. At the center of this group of errors is a highly deceptive false doctrine which

declares that the Jewish blood descendants of Abraham are still God's favored people and nation.

This terrible misinterpretation of scripture was a significant factor in the re-establishment of the Israeli state in Palestine by the USA, England and western Europe. By taking away Arab land the western-backed Israeli state has stirred up the wrath of the Moslem world and precipitated unrest and war in the Middle East.

America finds itself at the center of the Middle East crisis and more significantly at the center of the war against "terrorism." The USA defines as terrorism any Arab defense or aggression against Israel. But in fact Israel has no God-given right to any territory in the Middle East at all. When Israel, in AD 31, rejected the Messiah and shouted "Give us Barabbas" and "we have no king but Caesar" they wrote themselves off and were no longer God's favored people.

Satan will use the problems of terrorism and Middle Eastern conflict to put pressure on the USA to reaffirm its Christian heritage and consolidate its global supremacy.

The Fate Of The Secret Rapture Theology

Those evangelical Sunday keeping denominations which believe and teach the secret rapture declare that the second coming of Christ can occur anytime. Such a teaching denies the truths of the harvest principle and Christian character perfection of the final generation. The fact of the matter is that Christ will not, in fact cannot, return until the harvest is ripe.

"For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. ²⁹ But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Mark 4:28-29.

"And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe." Revelation 14:15.

Those same denominations will eventually unite in seeking the political-civil enforcement of Sunday sacredness in order to solve the problems facing the USA and the world. But to do so will be a tacit denial of the essence of secret rapture theology which teaches that Christ will snatch away His church from this troubled world before the tribulation.

Unnumbered Schemes

“Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour’s mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.” GC 488.

Satan uses the new generation music to set up iniquitous thinking patterns, thought circuits, in the brain. These are diametrically opposed to the principles of God’s unselfish love expressed in His word and revealed in the plan of redemption.

Satan has also succeeded in causing billions of people to be so engrossed in, and “hooked” by the various modern technological advances and gadgets that they have no time for eternal realities.

The people of God should use the progressing technology for the advancement of God’s work and to the glory of God. But they are not to think or act as if they are dependent on it, because it may fail or they may be denied its use. The people of God must be completely dependent on God. He alone is their efficiency.

Millions more are addicted to licentious pleasure, mind-destroying drugs, and godless materialism to the point where it is nigh impossible for the Holy Spirit to make any impression on their minds.

And millions are satisfied with a form of godliness without the power to genuinely obey the word of God.

Two Main Errors

Through all the unnumbered schemes, Satan will use two main false doctrines to eventually unite false Christianity, false religion and the world

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into one vast confederacy opposed to God and His saints. These two main false doctrines are:

1. Sunday sacredness; and
2. The natural immortality of the soul

These long standing errors will be the means of joining false Protestantism to the Papacy, and both to spiritism. Already miracles of demons are not only deceiving worldlings but especially professed Christians and even professed Adventists.

“As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.

“The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.

“Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against

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one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.

“Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.” GC 588-589.

The Spirit Of The World

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
1 John 2:15-17.

The spirit of the world, with its philosophy and reasoning, has permeated the church. Therefore...

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side.” GC 608.

Preparing For Christ's Return – RH, November 12, 1914

A Greater Urgency Required

*“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”
Revelation 3:19.*

“Seventh-day Adventists profess to believe that the day of this world’s history is far spent, and that the night is at hand. Should we then, as the end draws nigh, manifest greater earnestness and zeal in the service of God, or may we now relax our energies, and participate in the pursuits and pleasures of the world? The Lord has ever required his people to show in all their habits of life a marked difference between themselves and worldlings. Even if the end were not near, it would be the duty of every Christian to be true to his profession of faith, and by an example of simplicity and self-denial, to rebuke the pride and selfishness of the ungodly. How much more, then, is it incumbent upon this people to manifest unflinching zeal and consecration!”

Separation From The World

“In both the Old and the New Testament the Lord has positively enjoined upon his people to be distinct from the world, in spirit, in pursuits, in practice, to be a holy nation, a peculiar people. The east is not farther from the west than are the children of light, in customs, practices, and spirit, from the children of darkness. And this distinction will be more marked, more decided, as we near the close of time. It is not a profession of faith, or a name registered in the church book, that constitutes us children of God. It is a vital connection with Christ. We must be one with him, imbued with his Spirit, partakers of the divine nature, crucified to the world with its affections and lusts, renewed in knowledge and true holiness.”

Entire Sanctification

“God requires of his blood-bought heritage the sanctification of the whole being,—purity like the purity of Christ, perfect conformity to the will of God. ‘Be ye therefore perfect,’ is God’s word to us; and in order that we might obey this word, he sent his only begotten Son to this earth to live in our behalf a perfect life. We have before us his example; and the strength by which he lived this life we also may have. Our duty, our safety, our happiness and usefulness, and our salvation call upon us each to use the greatest diligence to secure the grace of Christ; to be so closely connected with God that we may discern spiritual things,

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and not be ignorant of Satan's devices. The mighty surges of temptation will break upon all; and unless we are riveted to the eternal Rock, we shall be borne away, to become the helpless prey of the enemy. By diligent searching of the Scriptures, and earnest prayer for divine help, the soul must be prepared to resist temptation. The transforming power of Christ's grace will mold the one who gives himself to God's service; for God is bound by an eternal pledge to supply power and grace to every one who yields himself to be sanctified by obedience to the truth."

Preparation Time Is Now

"Now is the time to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Readiness to meet him cannot be attained in a moment. Preparatory to that solemn scene there must be vigilant waiting and watching, combined with earnest work.

"We are living in a time of peril, a time of temptation, of despondency. Every one is beset by the wiles of Satan, and we should press together to resist his power. We should be of one mind, speaking the same things, and with one mouth glorifying God. When unity prevails, the church advances from success to success, and the various departments of the cause of God fulfill their part in the finishing of the great work before us.

"There are many, many in our churches who have but a limited understanding of the real meaning of the truth for this time. I appeal to them not to disregard the fulfilling of the signs of the times, which say so plainly that the end is near. O, how many who have not sought their soul's salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation, 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved!'"

The Great Controversy Is Nearing Its End

"The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. Every report of calamity by sea or by land is a testimony to the fact that the end of all things is at hand. Wars and rumors of wars declare it. Is there a Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before us? The Lord is coming. We hear the footsteps of an approaching God, as he comes to punish the world for its iniquity. We are to prepare the way for him by acting our part in getting a people ready for that great day. No entreaties are so tender, no lessons so plain, no commands so powerful and so protecting, no promises so full, as those which

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point the sinner to the fountain that has been opened to wash away the guilt of the human soul. Let every heart as well as every hand be engaged to do the work that must be done. The word is given from the throne of God, 'Every man to his work, each to do his best.'" RH, November 12, 1914.

Chapter 4

Loud Cry Education

The true education, the highest education, is the progressive knowledge of God and His principles of government.

“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: ²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:23-24.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

During the loud cry this knowledge of God will approach and reach the highest level possible this side of eternity.

“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 the earth.” Hosea 6:3.

The loud cry ministry will give to the world a full demonstration of the **true** higher education both intellectually and experientially. This is what is meant by the earth being lightened with God’s glory.

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*“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.”
Revelation 18:1.*

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to ‘the principalities and powers in heavenly places,’ the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10.”
AA 9.

Those **who** will qualify for the loud cry ministry must be diligent students of God’s word.

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15.

*“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
2 Timothy 3:15-16.*

The Gold Standard

The Apostle Paul informs us that in the classroom of preparation there are students of varying quality.

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. ²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.” 2 Timothy 2:19-20.

If any one is a “vessel...of *wood* and of *earth*” he does not have to remain such. He can purge himself from these and become a vessel of the highest quality.

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“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:21.

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.’ The ‘great house’ represents the Church. In the Church will be found the vile as well as the precious. The net cast into the sea gathers both good and bad.

“‘If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.’ He is not to accept theories that, if received, would corrupt. He is to purify himself from all unrighteous sentiments, which, if received, would lead away from the sure word of God to unstable human devisings, degradation, and corruption. **He is to resist the working of the enemy through vessels of dishonor.** By searching the Scriptures with much prayer, he will find a path to follow, not the path of man, but a path that leads to heaven.

“The work of purification is an individual work. No one can do this work for another. ‘If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master’s use.’ The Spirit of God will work through sanctified human agencies, leading them to work aright. Ability and grace will be provided. Men will be filled with an earnest desire to preach the truths of the gospel, firmly, decidedly, and in a clear manner.

“The men entrusted with sacred responsibilities as teachers of spiritual things are representatives of Christ. Having His meekness and lowliness, they day by day witness for Him. They manifest His Spirit in their earnest endeavor to do good, and they receive the unction represented by the holy oil. The impartation of God’s Spirit is an overflowing of the holy oil from the divine receptacle into human vessels prepared to receive it. Thus by the power and grace of God, and under His superintending care, the work is carried forward, in the face of mighty foes. This work is not to cease until its completion amid the triumphant shout of victory, ‘Grace, grace unto it.’” RH, February 5, 1901.

To reach the gold standard is our high calling of God in Christ.

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“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14.

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:7-9.

“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” Revelation 3:18.

God Himself has promised to bring the remnant living-elect to the gold standard!

“I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.” Isaiah 13:12.

“God’s people seem to be incapable of comprehending and appropriating this promise. They seem to think that only the scantiest showers of grace are to fall on the thirsty soul. They act as if they must rely on their own efforts for salvation, and as a result they have little strength for the work of overcoming. They have little light to give to the souls dying in the darkness of error. Church members have long been content with little of the blessing of God. They have not felt the need of reaching for the exalted privileges provided for them at infinite cost. Their spirituality is feeble, their experience dwarfed and crippled; and therefore they are disqualified for the work of the Lord. They are unable to present in the power of the Spirit the great and glorious truths of God’s Word.

“It is not because of any restriction on God’s part that the riches of his grace do not flow to men. His gift is Godlike. He gave with a liberality that men do not appreciate because they do not love to receive. If all were willing to receive, all would be filled with the Spirit. By resting content with small blessings, we disqualify ourselves for receiving the Spirit in its unlimited fullness. We are

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too easily satisfied with a ripple on the surface, when it is our privilege to expect the deep moving of the Spirit of God. Expecting little, we receive little.”
RH, June 10, 1902.

True education is to know, understand and experience the **“circuit of beneficence”** the law of divine unselfish **agape** love.

“Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education.

This is made plain in the law that God has given as the guide of life. The first and great commandment is, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.’ Mark 12:30,31.

To love Him, the Infinite, the Omniscient One, with the whole strength and mind and heart, means the highest development of every power. It means that in the whole being—the body, the mind, as well as the soul—the image of God is to be restored.

“Like the first is the second commandment, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.’ The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men. And this service, while making us a blessing to others, brings the greatest blessing to ourselves. Unselfishness underlies all true development. Through unselfish service we receive the highest culture of every faculty.

“Lucifer in heaven desired to be first in power and authority; he wanted to be God, to have the rulership of heaven; and to this end he won many of the angels to his side. When with his rebel host he was cast out from the courts of God, the work of rebellion and self-seeking was continued on earth. Through the temptation to self-indulgence and ambition, Satan accomplished the fall of our first parents; and from that time to the present the gratification of human ambition and the indulgence of selfish hopes and desires have proved the ruin of mankind.

“Under God, Adam was to stand at the head of the earthly family, to maintain the principles of the heavenly family. This would have brought peace and happiness. But the law that none ‘liveth to himself’ Satan was determined to oppose. He desired to live for self. He sought to make himself a center of influence. It was this that had incited rebellion in heaven, and it was man’s acceptance of this principle that brought sin on earth. When Adam sinned, man broke away from the heaven-ordained center. A demon became the central power in the world.

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Where God's throne should have been, Satan placed his throne. The world laid its homage, as a willing offering, at the feet of the enemy.

"The transgression of God's law brought woe and death in its train. Through disobedience man's powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened that it was impossible for him to resist the power of evil; and the tempter saw being fulfilled his purpose to thwart the divine plan of man's creation, and fill the earth with misery and desolation. Men had chosen a ruler who chained them to his car as captives." RH, January 16, 1913.

Truth To Be Rescued From Error — RH, October 23, 1894

The Search For Truth (2 Corinthians 13:8)

"The fact that times of trouble and persecution are before the people of God must not deter them in the least from proclaiming the truth. They are to proclaim the truth because it is truth. Gems of thought are to be gathered up and redeemed from their companionship with error; for by their misplacement in the association of error, the Author of truth has been dishonored. The precious gems of the righteousness of Christ, and truths of divine origin, are to be carefully searched out and placed in their proper setting, to shine with heavenly brilliancy amid the moral darkness of the world. Let the bright jewels of truth which God gave to man, to adorn and exalt his name, be carefully rescued from the rubbish of error, where they have been claimed by those who have been transgressors of the law, and have served the purposes of the great deceiver on account of their connection with error. Let the gems of divine light be reset in the framework of the gospel. Let nothing be lost of the precious light that comes from the throne of God. It has been misapplied, and cast aside as worthless; but it is heaven-sent, and each gem is to become the property of God's people and find its true position in the framework of truth. Precious jewels of light are to be collected, and by the aid of the Holy Spirit they are to be fitted into the gospel system. God has poured his Spirit upon his servants, and qualified them to use their ability and talent in revealing truth to those who sit in darkness; but the very ability God has given by which to reveal truth to others, men, perverting their talents, employ to deceive; for they use their gifts as did Satan when he deceived the angels of heaven, and exalt self, causing their God-given abilities to administer to their own glory. These become confused by error, their minds are darkened by the enemy, and the truths which God imparted to them are buried by them in

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a mass of error, or basely perverted to serve the cause of evil. But these heaven-given rays of light are not to be lost to the world. These truths are to be as a lamp unto our feet, and as a light unto our path. It is these gems that will give attractiveness to the gospel plan, and they are to shine as stars amid the moral darkness of the world."

Gather Up The Fragments (John 6:12)

"Jesus has said, 'Gather up the fragments,...that nothing be lost.' Many have seen no further meaning in this than the gathering up of the fragments after the feeding of the five thousand; but in all the teachings of Jesus spiritual applications are to be made. When he said, 'Gather up the fragments,' it was as if he bade them mark all his teachings, gather up every fragment of truth, and of the light which he has given, to let nothing be lost. Open up the truth to others and let every fragment have its place. In dignity and simplicity speak that which your Master has spoken to you, and present that which he has taught you by his daily walk and conversation. Hold up his life and example to those with whom you associate. He has filled every position, from the humblest to the most exalted, with acceptance to the Father, and you are to gather up the fragments of his words and works, that nothing be lost. As you advance heavenward, make use of every common, every-day habit and custom to illustrate truth, and in every calling, however menial, live out the life of Christ. In this way you will be to men a continual revelation of what Christ would have men be in your position."

Gospel Light Is Progressive (Proverbs 4:18)

"The great plan of human redemption is as yet but faintly understood, because men do not place themselves in the divine channel of light. There is too much following of men, and limiting the light by men's opinions and traditions. **The wonderful truth of God is to be sought out by every mind, and the results of many minds are to be brought together from many sources as God's hereditary trust, and the divine power will work in such a way that true harmony will exist.** In the revelation of Christ to the world the necessity of men will be met, and the work of God will move forward with beautiful harmony, as truth is disclosed to the world. Through careful study, through prayerful meditation, men will be enabled to place the truth before men in simplicity, so that the humblest minds can comprehend it, can receive it, and become

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elevated through its sanctifying influence, if they will but appropriate it, and practice its principles in their daily lives.”

The Cooperation Of The Human With The Divine (2 Corinthians 6:1; 4:7)

“Through all ages God has spoken and worked by human instrumentalities. God has given to men their faculties, and he expects them to use them and by use to improve their abilities. They are to employ these faculties in rescuing truth from the rubbish of error where it has been made to serve the cause of the great adversary. The gems of truth are imperishable, and the Lord would have them gathered up and placed in their proper relation, that they may embellish and adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour. Truth is to be communicated from one human agent to another and to be molded into the life and character of those who receive it, in order that glory may redound to God. Truth that has found its proper setting, flashes brilliant rays of divine light into darkened minds, and meets the wants and necessities of the minds and hearts of fallen men who could not be reached by any other agency. It is by living out the truth in human life that souls are to be reached. As the Son of God in human form was perfect in his life, so he requires that his followers shall be perfect in their lives. He was made in all things like unto his brethren. He hungered, he thirsted, he was weary, he slept, he wept, and yet he was the blameless Son of God, he was God in the flesh. He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, and we have not a high-priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows how to succor those that are tempted. In living out the truth of God, man is continually assured that supernatural help will be granted to him, and that while he retains his human nature, yet through an unseen agency he receives the impress of the divine nature through the truth as it is in Jesus.”
RH, October 23, 1894.

Search The Scriptures — RH, March 22, 1906

The Number One Text Book (John 6:63)

“The Bible is to be studied with special interest; for it contains the most valuable information that finite beings can have, pointing out the way in which we are to prepare for the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven, putting away sin, and putting on the white robes of character that will give us entrance into the mansions that Christ told his disciples he was going to prepare for them. ‘If

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I go' away, he said, 'I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.' (John 14:3)"

Soul Food (1 Peter 2:2-3)

"If we do not receive the Word of God as food for the soul, we shall miss the greatest treasure that has been prepared for men and women; for the Word is a message to each and every soul. Christ declares that those who make its truths a part of their lives are eating his flesh and drinking his blood. If obeyed, it gives spiritual life and strength. The pure, spiritual current that enters the life in a living experience is eternal life to the receiver."

The Word Of God Transforms (Psalms 119:130)

"God's Word is our light. It is Christ's message to his heritage, who have been bought with the price of his blood. It was written for our guidance, and if we make this Word our counselor, we shall never walk in strange paths. Our words, whether we are in the home or associating with those outside the home, will be kind, affectionate, and pure. If we study the Word, and make it a part of our lives, we shall have a wholesome experience, which will always speak forth the truth. We shall search our hearts diligently, comparing our daily speech and tenor of life with the Word, that we may make no mistake. With the example of Christ Jesus before us, none need make a failure of the lifework.

"In our daily experience, we shall be safe in criticizing ourselves in the light of the great moral standard of righteousness which never changes. 'The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul,' and when we bring our lives into harmony with the life of Christ, it will be seen that we are eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God. The spiritual life is built up from the food given to the mind; and if we eat the food provided in the Word of God, spiritual and mental health will be the result."

Eternal Consequences (2 Timothy 2:15)

"Eternal interests are involved in this matter. From a diligent study and faithful practice of the principles of the Word of God, we shall obtain the highest of all education. The Word must not be neglected for other interests. No other food can build up the spiritual life. My brethren and sisters, do not depend upon minister or physician to create your experience for you. The Word of God is to be

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your counselor. I am deeply in earnest, because this instruction, in most forcible words, has been given me to give to our church-members."

The Choice Is Ours (1 Timothy 4:13-16)

"We are each deciding our eternal destiny, and it rests wholly with us whether we shall gain eternal life. Shall we live the lessons given in the Word of God, Christ's great lesson book? It is the grandest, and yet the most simply arranged and easily understood study book ever provided for human beings. It is the only book that will prepare men and women for the life that measures with the life of God."

Characters After The Divine Similitude (Revelation 3:21)

"Christ is the only judge of the fitness of human beings to receive eternal life. The gates of the holy city will open to those who are humble, meek, lowly followers of his, those who learn in his school, and receive from him the eternal life insurance policy, forming characters after the divine similitude." RH, March 22, 1906.

Chapter 5

Loud Cry Training

The Greatest Work Given To Mankind

The loud cry of the third angel will be God's final work in the earth for the salvation of souls. It will be a work of such magnitude and quality that the world will be lightened with the glory of God. It should be obvious, then, that those who shall have a part in that great final gospel work must be educated and trained, to the highest level possible, in the **knowledge** and **ways** of God.

God is the teacher and trainer of His people. The church is God's appointed agency for the training of His workers. But the heaviest responsibility for training rests upon the individual believer himself. The individual believer must co-operate with the divine agencies and thereby allow God to accomplish his or her training at the highest possible level!

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. ²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." 1 John 2: 27-28.

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“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” John 16:13.

“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:5.

“And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁴ Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. ⁴⁵ But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; ⁴⁶ The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.” Luke 12: 42-47.

The Soul Must Be Trained For Heaven

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30.

“Learn of Me,’ says Jesus; ‘for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest.’ We are to enter the school of Christ, to learn from Him meekness and lowliness. Redemption is that process by which the soul is trained for heaven. This training means a knowledge of Christ. It means emancipation from ideas, habits, and practices that have been gained in the school of the prince of darkness. The soul must be delivered from all that is opposed to loyalty to God.

“In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. Amid the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. But many who profess to be His followers have

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an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace.

“It is the love of self that brings unrest. When we are born from above, the same mind will be in us that was in Jesus, the mind that led Him to humble Himself that we might be saved. Then we shall not be seeking the highest place. We shall desire to sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn of Him. We shall understand that the value of our work does not consist in making a show and noise in the world, and in being active and zealous in our own strength. The value of our work is in proportion to the impartation of the Holy Spirit. Trust in God brings holier qualities of mind, so that in patience we may possess our souls.” DA 330-331.

The Yoke Of Training Is The Law Of Love

“No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.” 1 John 4:12.

“The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan’s ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, ‘I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.’ Ps. 40:8. ‘I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.’ John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt.” DA 329.

We Must Be Trained To Work In The Circuit Of Beneficence

“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God

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and our Father; ⁴ Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.”
1 Thessalonians 1:3-4.

“The disciples were the channel of communication between Christ and the people. This should be a great encouragement to His disciples today. Christ is the great center, the source of all strength. His disciples are to receive their supplies from Him. The most intelligent, the most spiritually minded, can bestow only as they receive. Of themselves they can supply nothing for the needs of the soul. We can impart only that which we receive from Christ; and we can receive only as we impart to others. As we continue imparting, we continue to receive; and the more we impart, the more we shall receive. Thus we may be constantly believing, trusting, receiving, and imparting.

“The work of building up the kingdom of Christ will go forward, though to all appearance it moves slowly and impossibilities seem to testify against advance. The work is of God, and He will furnish means, and will send helpers, true, earnest disciples, whose hands also will be filled with food for the starving multitude. God is not unmindful of those who labor in love to give the word of life to perishing souls, who in their turn reach forth their hands for food for other hungry souls.” DA 370.

“Pure love is simple in its operations, and separate from every other principle of action. When combined with earthly motives and selfish interests, it ceases to be pure. God considers more with how much love we work, than the amount we do. Love is a heavenly attribute. The natural heart cannot originate it. This heavenly plant only flourishes where Christ reigns supreme. Where love exists, there is power and truth in the life. Love does good, and nothing but good. Those who have love bear fruit unto holiness, and in the end everlasting life. ‘By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.’” YI January 13, 1898.

Personal Responsibility

“Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.”
1 Corinthians 7:24.

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“In our work for God there is danger of relying too largely upon what man with his talents and ability can do. Thus we lose sight of the one Master Worker. Too often the worker for Christ fails to realize his personal responsibility. He is in danger of shifting his burden upon organizations, instead of relying upon Him who is the source of all strength. It is a great mistake to trust in human wisdom or numbers in the work of God. Successful work for Christ depends not so much on numbers or talent as upon pureness of purpose, the true simplicity of earnest, dependent faith. Personal responsibilities must be borne, personal duties must be taken up, personal efforts must be made for those who do not know Christ. In the place of shifting your responsibility upon someone whom you think more richly endowed than you are, work according to your ability.” DA 370.

Humility

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, ² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Philippians 2:1-8.

“Before honor is humility. To fill a high place before men, Heaven chooses the worker who, like John the Baptist, takes a lowly place before God. The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labor for God. The heavenly intelligences can co-operate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls. He who feels most deeply his need of divine aid will plead for it; and the Holy Spirit will give unto him glimpses of Jesus that will strengthen and uplift the soul. From communion with Christ he will go forth to work for those who are perishing in their sins. He is anointed for his mission; and he succeeds where many of the learned and intellectually wise would fail.

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“But when men exalt themselves, feeling that they are a necessity for the success of God’s great plan, the Lord causes them to be set aside. It is made evident that the Lord is not dependent upon them. The work does not stop because of their removal from it, but goes forward with greater power.” DA 436.

“The one who stands nearest to Christ will be he who on earth has drunk most deeply of the spirit of His self-sacrificing love,—love that ‘vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,...seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.’ (1 Cor. 13:4-5),—love that moves the disciple, as it moved our Lord, to give all, to live and labor and sacrifice, even unto death, for the saving of humanity. This spirit was made manifest in the life of Paul. He said, ‘For to me to live is Christ;’ for his life revealed Christ to men; ‘and to die is gain,’—gain to Christ; death itself would make manifest the power of His grace, and gather souls to Him. ‘Christ shall be magnified in my body,’ he said, ‘whether it be by life or by death.’ Philipians 1:21-20.” DA 549.

Fasting And Prayer Essential

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

“In order to succeed in such a conflict they must come to the work in a different spirit. Their faith must be strengthened by fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart. They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith—faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work—can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit’s aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places.

“‘If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,’ said Jesus, ‘ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove.’ Though the grain of mustard seed is so small, it contains that same mysterious life principle which produces growth in the loftiest tree. When the mustard seed is cast into the ground, the tiny germ lays hold of every element that God has provided for its nutriment, and it speedily develops a sturdy growth. If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon God’s word, and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus your faith will strengthen, and will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith. ‘Nothing shall be impossible unto you.’ DA 431.

Adversity Trains The Soul To Endure

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 1:2-4.

It is one thing to **talk** about God being our plan-maker, problem solver, and burden-bearer. It is another thing to **experience** Him as such in our lives. But this we must do if we are ever to successfully endure the great crisis before us. Learning now to endure adversity and using the opportunities to develop the graces of the Spirit in our lives is one of our major assignments in **loud cry** training!

How God Trains His Workers — RH, May 2, 1907

Work For Every Member

“God has given to every man his work, and we are to acknowledge the wisdom of his plan for us by a hearty co-operation with him. It is in a life of service only that true happiness is found. He who lives a useless, selfish life is miserable. He is dissatisfied with himself and with every one else.”

Discipline Essential

“The Lord disciplines his workers, that they may be prepared to fill the places appointed them. Thus he desires to fit them to do more acceptable service.

“A life of monotony is not the most conducive to spiritual growth. Some can reach the highest standard of spirituality only through a change in the regular order of things. When in his providence God sees that changes are essential for the success of the character-building, he disturbs the smooth current of the life.”

The Sanctification Of Surrender

“There are those who desire to be a ruling power, and who need the sanctification of submission. God brings about a change in their lives. Perhaps he places before them duties that they would not choose. If they are willing to be guided by him, he will give them grace and strength to perform these duties in a spirit of submission and helpfulness. Thus they are being qualified to fill places where their disciplined abilities will make them of great service.”

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Learning To Master Difficulty

“Some God trains by bringing to them disappointment and apparent failure. It is his purpose that they shall learn to master difficulty. He inspires them with a determination to make every apparent failure prove a success.

“Often men pray and weep because of the perplexities and obstacles that confront them. But if they will hold the beginning of their confidence steadfast unto the end, he will make their way clear. Success will come to them as they struggle against apparently insurmountable difficulties; and with success will come the greatest joy.”

Learning To Stand Alone

“Again, God sees that a worker needs to be more closely associated with him; and to bring this about, he separates him from friends and acquaintances. When he was preparing Elijah for translation, he moved him from place to place that he might not settle down at ease, and thus fail of obtaining spiritual power. And it was God’s design that Elijah’s influence should be a power to help many souls to gain a wider, more helpful experience.

“Let those who are not permitted to rest in quietude, who must be continually on the move, pitching their tent tonight in one place, and tomorrow night in another place, remember that the Lord is leading them, and that this is his way of helping them to form perfect characters. In all the changes that we are required to make, God is to be recognized as our companion, our guide, our dependence.”

Murmur Not

“There are many who are not satisfied to serve God cheerfully in the place that he has marked out for them, or to do uncomplainingly the work that he has placed in their hands. It is right for us to be dissatisfied with the way in which we perform duty, but we are not to be dissatisfied with the duty itself, because we would rather do something else. In his providence God places before human beings service that will be as medicine to their diseased minds. Thus he seeks to lead them to put aside the selfish preference, which, if cherished, would disqualify them for the work he has for them. If they accept and perform this service, their minds will be cured. If they refuse it, they will be left at strife with themselves and with others.”

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No Need To Be Ignorant

“Many are ignorant of how to work for God, not because they need to be ignorant, but because they are unwilling to submit to his training. Moab is spoken of as a failure because, the prophet, declares, ‘Moab hath been at ease from his youth.... and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity; therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.’

“Thus it is with those whose hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are not purged from them. Their hearts are not cleansed from defilement. They were given an opportunity to do a work for God, but this work they did not choose to do, because they wished to carry out their own plans.

“The Christian is to be prepared for the doing of a work that reveals kindness, forbearance, long-suffering, gentleness, patience. The cultivation of these precious gifts is to come into the life of the Christian, that, when called into service by the Master, he may be ready to use his highest powers in helping and blessing those around him.” RH, May 2, 1907.

APPEAL

“Our perplexities will be removed and our anxieties lightened when we heed the invitation, ‘Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

“At the entrance gate of the path that leads to everlasting life, God places faith, and he lines the whole way with the light and peace and joy of willing obedience. The traveler in this way keeps ever before him the mark of his high calling in Christ. The prize is ever in sight. To him God’s commands are righteousness and joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. The things that first appeared to be crosses are found by experience to be crowns.

“‘Learn of me,’ is the Saviour’s command. Yes, learn of him how to live the Christ-life,—a life pure and holy, free from any taint of sin. There is power for those who receive Christ; for we read, ‘As many as received him, to them he gave power to become the sons of God.’ His promise is that if we accept his invitation to learn of him, we shall be anointed with the oil of gladness. Shall we not place ourselves where we can receive this anointing?” RH, May 9, 1907.

Chapter 6

Health Reform – The Right Arm Of The Third Angel

End-Time Degeneration

The chronic, non-communicable, degenerative diseases such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes mellitus type 2, coronary artery disease, stroke and cancer continue to be the main destroyers of the health and lives of modern humanity. Amidst this end-time physical degeneracy God's people must proclaim, by precept and example, the **true** message of **genuine** health reform.

Self indulgence, intemperance, and transgression of moral and natural laws are the reasons for the terrible physical condition of the world. Overeating, (especially of dangerous fats; refined, processed carbohydrates which are low in fiber and micro nutrients; and sugar filled “sodas”) coupled with lack of physical exercise and pernicious habits, (tobacco, alcohol) are Satan's strategies for physical degeneracy which the majority of people follow, wittingly or unwittingly.

A Message Ahead Of Its Time

God sent the light on health reform to Adventists during the latter decades of the nineteenth century before the advances of modern medical knowledge. Modern medical research is now catching up with that light. But before we examine the messages of the Spirit of Prophecy let us first consider the scriptural evidences for the health reform message.

Temperance

The best definition of temperance states that it is the complete abstinence from all that is injurious and the judicious use of that which is wholesome. (EGW)

Temperance is self-control; moderation; careful, balanced use of the good while completely avoiding the bad.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. ²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:22-24.

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:5-8.

Diet

The ideal diet for mankind is written down in Genesis 1:29-30. Before the fall, man and animals were to eat of the vegetation of the earth. After the flood permission was given to eat animal flesh and God made a distinction

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between the “clean” and “unclean.” See Genesis 6:19-20; Genesis 7:2-3; also Leviticus 11.

The first angel’s message calls upon us to worship God as Creator. In Genesis chapters one and two, God gave us His perfect will concerning **diet, marriage** and the **Sabbath**. In these last days these ideals are to be restored in and through Christ!

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31.

“Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness! ¹⁸ By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.” Ecclesiastes 10:17-18.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 2.

Phytonutrients

Modern nutritional, biological, and medical sciences have now vindicated God’s ideal diet for mankind. The fruits and seeds and vegetables contain antioxidants which help to reduce the onslaught of free-radical damage in the cells of our bodies. These antioxidants are vitamins, minerals, carotenes, bioflavonoids and other complex phytonutrients. Modern research continues to demonstrate a direct relationship between health and the amounts of the various antioxidants in the blood and tissues. Let us now go to the Spirit of Prophecy.

Moral And Physical Law – RH, February 11, 1902.

“There is a close relation between the moral law and the laws that God has established in the physical world. If men would be obedient to the law of God, carrying out in their lives the principles of its ten precepts, the principles of righteousness that it teaches would be a safeguard against wrong habits. But as, through the indulgence of perverted appetite, they have declined in virtue, so they have become weakened through their own immoral practices and their violation of physical laws. The suffering and anguish that we see everywhere, the deformity, decrepitude, disease, and imbecility now flooding the world,

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make it a lazar-house in comparison with what it might be even now, if God's moral law and the law which He has implanted in our being were obeyed. By his own persistent violation of these laws, man has greatly aggravated the evils resulting from the transgression in Eden. How dishonoring to God is all this! How opposed to His design that men should glorify Him in their body and spirit, which are His! How destructive, too, to the health and happiness of mankind!

"Against every transgression of the laws of life nature utters her protest. She bears abuse as long as she can; but finally retribution comes, and the mental as well as the physical powers suffer. Nor does the punishment fall on the transgressor alone; the effects of his indulgence are seen in his offspring, and thus the evil is passed on from generation to generation.

"Many complain of providence when their friends suffer, or are removed by death; but it is not in the order of God that men and women should lead lives of suffering, and die prematurely, leaving their work unfinished. God would have us live out the full measure of our days, with every organ in health, doing its appointed work. It is unjust to charge Him with a result which, in many cases, is due to the individual's own transgression of natural law.

"Because mankind have, by the transgression of these laws, departed so far from God's purpose in their creation, and have brought upon themselves such untold woe, a reform in habits relating to health has become an important branch of the great work of God in the earth. The soul temple has been polluted, and men are called upon to awake, and win back their God-given manhood.

"There is an intimate relation between the mind and the body; they react upon each other. In order, then, to reach a high standard of moral and intellectual attainment and to secure a strong, well-balanced character, the laws that control our physical being must be heeded; both the mental and the physical powers must be developed. Such a training will produce men of strength and solidity of character, of keen perception and sound judgment,—men who will be an honor to God and a blessing to the world.

"In the providence of God, the laws that govern our physical being, with the penalties for their violation, have been made so clear that intelligent beings can understand them, and all are under the most solemn obligation to study

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this subject, and to live in harmony with natural law. Health principles must be agitated, and the public mind deeply stirred to investigation.

“As in everything else, the Bible is the standard on this subject. The teaching of the Bible has a vital bearing upon men’s prosperity in all the relations of life. Compliance with its requirements will be a blessing to both soul and body. The fruit of the Spirit is not only love, joy, and peace, but temperance also,—health of body as well as health of mind.” RH, February 11, 1902.

A Reform Needed — RH, May 27, 1902

“If Seventh-day Adventists practiced what they profess to believe, if they were sincere health reformers, they would indeed be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. And they would show a far greater zeal for the salvation of those who are ignorant of the truth.”

A Higher Standard (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

“Greater reforms should be seen among the people who claim to be looking for the soon appearing of Christ. Health reform is to do among our people a work which it has not yet done. There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental, and spiritual health. Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God’s people, to walk no more with them.”

Be Strictly Temperate (1 Corinthians 9:25)

“In all our work we must obey the laws which God has given, that the physical and spiritual energies may work in harmony. Men may have a form of godliness, they may even preach the gospel, and yet be unpurified and unsanctified. Ministers should be strictly temperate in their eating and drinking, lest they make crooked paths for their feet, turning the lame—those weak in the faith—out of the way. If while proclaiming the most solemn and important message God has ever given, men war against the truth by indulging wrong habits of eating and drinking, they take all the force from the message they bear.

“Those who indulge in meat eating, tea drinking, and gluttony are sowing seeds for a harvest of pain and death. The unhealthful food placed in the stomach strengthens the appetites that war against the soul, developing the lower propensities. A diet of flesh meat tends to develop animalism. A development of

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animalism lessens spirituality, rendering the mind incapable of understanding truth.”

Abstain From Fleshy Lusts (1 Peter 2:11)

“The Word of God plainly warns us that unless we abstain from fleshly lusts, the physical nature will be brought into conflict with the spiritual nature. Lustful eating wars against health and peace. Thus a warfare is instituted between the higher and the lower attributes of the man. The lower propensities, strong and active, oppress the soul. The highest interests of the being are imperiled by the indulgence of appetites unsanctioned by Heaven.”

Right Habits

“Great care should be taken to form right habits of eating and drinking. The food eaten should be that which will make the best blood. The delicate organs of digestion should be respected. God requires us, by being temperate in all things, to act our part, toward keeping ourselves in health. He cannot enlighten the mind of a man who makes a cesspool of his stomach. He does not hear the prayers of those who are walking in the light of the sparks of their own kindling.”
RH, May 27, 1902.

Chapter 7

Preparing For The Closing Work

It should be patently clear from our previous chapters that our most important spiritual work, as individuals and as a church, must be preparation for the closing work. This preparation includes victory over lukewarmness and accelerated growth to at least the stage of growth which Jesus calls the “**ear**” in Mark 4:26-29. The true light of righteousness by faith and the true and glorious message of God’s character, and what He has done for us in the plan of redemption, are the messages which will produce genuine victory over self and sin if God’s people accept and experience the truth as it is in Jesus!

Preparing For Christ’s Return — RH, November 12, 1914

The Night Is Far Spent (Romans 13:11-14)

“Seventh-day Adventists profess to believe that the day of this world’s history is far spent, and that the night is at hand. Should we then, as the end draws nigh, manifest greater earnestness and zeal in the service of God, or may we now relax our energies, and participate in the pursuits and pleasures of the world? The Lord has ever required his people to show in all their habits of life a marked

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difference between themselves and worldlings. Even if the end were not near, it would be the duty of every Christian to be true to his profession of faith, and by an example of simplicity and self-denial, to rebuke the pride and selfishness of the ungodly. How much more, then, is it incumbent upon this people to manifest unflinching zeal and consecration!”

Separation From The World (James 4:4)

“In both the Old and the New Testament the Lord has positively enjoined upon his people to be distinct from the world, in spirit, in pursuits, in practice, to be a holy nation, a peculiar people. The east is not farther from the west than are the children of light, in customs, practices, and spirit, from the children of darkness. And this distinction will be more marked, more decided, as we near the close of time. It is not a profession of faith, or a name registered in the church book, that constitutes us children of God. It is a vital connection with Christ. We must be one with him, imbued with his Spirit, partakers of the divine nature, crucified to the world with its affections and lusts, renewed in knowledge and true holiness.”

Entire Sanctification Required (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

“God requires of his blood-bought heritage the sanctification of the whole being,—purity like the purity of Christ, perfect conformity to the will of God. ‘Be ye therefore perfect,’ is God’s word to us; and in order that we might obey this word, he sent his only begotten Son to this earth to live in our behalf a perfect life. We have before us his example; and the strength by which he lived this life we also may have. Our duty, our safety, our happiness and usefulness, and our salvation call upon us each to use the greatest diligence to secure the grace of Christ; to be so closely connected with God that we may discern spiritual things, and not be ignorant of Satan’s devices. The mighty surges of temptation will break upon all; and unless we are riveted to the eternal Rock, we shall be borne away, to become the helpless prey of the enemy. By diligent searching of the Scriptures, and earnest prayer for divine help, the soul must be prepared to resist temptation. The transforming power of Christ’s grace will mold the one who gives himself to God’s service; for God is bound by an eternal pledge to supply power and grace to every one who yields himself to be sanctified by obedience to the truth.

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“Now is the time to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Readiness to meet him cannot be attained in a moment. Preparatory to that solemn scene there must be vigilant waiting and watching, combined with earnest work.”

Unity In The Faith (John 17:20-23)

“We are living in a time of peril, a time of temptation, of despondency. Every one is beset by the wiles of Satan, and we should press together to resist his power. We should be of one mind, speaking the same things, and with one mouth glorifying God. When unity prevails, the church advances from success to success, and the various departments of the cause of God fulfill their part in the finishing of the great work before us.

“There are many, many in our churches who have but a limited understanding of the real meaning of the truth for this time. I appeal to them not to disregard the fulfilling of the signs of the times, which say so plainly that the end is near. O, how many who have not sought their soul’s salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation, ‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved!’

“We need to humble ourselves before God, because there are those in the church who are failing of accomplishing that which the Lord desires them to accomplish in soul-saving effort. The privileges that he has given them, the promises he has made, the advantages he has bestowed, should inspire them with far greater zeal and devotion than they manifest.

“My brethren and sisters, are we willing to leave self out of the question? Are our energies spent in the Master’s service? Are our voices often raised in earnest supplication for power from on high? Is our faith pure and strong? Have we put away all prejudice, all evil thinking and evil speaking? Are our affections set on things above, or are they twining about the things of this earth? Are our eyes open to see the needs of those around us? Can God call us faithful watchmen?”

Witnessing To Others Revives Your Soul (Hosea 10:12)

“To those who have failed of discerning the opportunities of the present hour, I would say: Do you desire to break the spell that holds you? Would you arouse from this sluggishness that resembles the torpor of death? Go to work, whether you feel like it or not. Engage in personal effort to bring souls to Jesus and to the knowledge of the truth. In such labor you will find both a stimulant and a tonic; it will both arouse and strengthen. By exercise, your spiritual powers

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will become more vigorous, so that you can, with better success, work out your own salvation. The stupor of death is upon many who profess Christ. Make every effort to arouse them. Warn, entreat, expostulate. Pray that the melting love of God may warm and soften their ice-bound natures. Though they may refuse to hear, your efforts will not be lost. In the effort to bless others, your own souls will be blessed.

“The greatest in the kingdom of God are those who love the Saviour too well to misrepresent him; who love their fellow men too well to imperil their souls by setting a wrong example.

“Let every church member kneel before God, and pray earnestly for the impartation of the Spirit. Cry: ‘Lord, increase my faith. Make me to understand thy word; for the entrance of thy word giveth light. Refresh me by thy presence; fill my heart with thy Spirit, that I may love my brethren as Christ loves me.’

“God will bless those who thus prepare themselves for his service. They will understand what it means to have the assurance of the Spirit, because they have received Christ by faith. The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sins. It means that sin is taken away, and that the life is filled with the Spirit. It means that the mind is divinely illumined, that the heart is emptied of self and filled with the presence of Christ. When this work is done for church members, the church will be a living, working church.

“God expects those who claim to be his children to bring others to him. On every hand are opening before us many doors for the presentation of the message of saving truth. Beside all waters the seeds of truth are to be sown. To all the world—to every nation and kindred and tongue and people—the message is to be proclaimed. As those who have received the light of present truth exercise a living faith in Christ, as they labor together with him in soul winning, what a work will be accomplished! For such laborers the angels of God will open ways and furnish opportunities, and will cooperate with the human agent, that he may not run in vain, neither labor in vain.” RH, November 12, 1914.

The Closing Work — RH, October 13, 1904

Pray For The Spirit's Guidance (Jeremiah 29:12-13)

"We see before us a special work to be done. We are now to pray as never before for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Let us seek the Lord with the whole heart, that we may find him. We have received the light of the three angels' messages; and we need now to come decidedly to the front, and take our position on the side of truth."

Revelation 14

"The fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This scripture will soon be understood in all its bearings, and the messages given to John the revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance."

Revelation 18

"The prophecies in the eighteenth of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel's message, 'another angel' is to 'come down from heaven, having great power,' and the earth is to be 'lighted with his glory.' **The Spirit of the Lord will so graciously bless consecrated human instrumentalities that men, women, and children will open their lips in praise and thanksgiving, filling the earth with the knowledge of God, and with his unsurpassed glory, as the waters cover the sea.** (Hab 2:14)"

Be Wide Awake Spiritually (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6)

"Those who have held the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end will be wide-awake during the time that the third angel's message is proclaimed with great power. During the loud cry, the church, aided by the providential interpositions of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere."

Total Victory Over Sin (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

"The saving knowledge of God will accomplish its purifying work on the mind and heart of every believer. The Word declares: 'Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols,

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will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes.' This is the descent of the Holy Spirit, sent from God to do its office work. The house of Israel is to be imbued with the Holy Spirit, and baptized with the grace of salvation."

The Power Of The Word (John 6:63)

"Amid the confusing cries, 'Lo, here is Christ! Lo, there is Christ!' will be borne a special testimony, a special message of truth appropriate for this time, which message is to be received, believed, and acted upon. It is the truth, not fanciful ideas, that is efficacious. The eternal truth of the Word will stand forth free from all seductive errors and spiritualistic interpretations, free from all fancifully drawn, alluring pictures. Falsehoods will be urged upon the attention of God's people, but the truth is to stand clothed in its beautiful, pure garments. The Word, precious in its holy uplifting influence, is not to be degraded to a level with common, ordinary matters. It is always to remain uncontaminated by the fallacies by which Satan seeks to deceive, if possible, the very elect."

The Only Means (1 Corinthians 1:17-24)

"The proclamation of the gospel is the only means in which God can employ human beings as his instrumentalities for the salvation of souls. As men, women, and children proclaim the gospel, the Lord will open the eyes of the blind to see his statutes, and will write upon the hearts of the truly penitent his law. The animating Spirit of God, working through human agencies, leads the believers to be of one mind, one soul, unitedly loving God and keeping his commandments,— preparing here below for translation."

The Church Militant, Soon To Be Triumphant (Revelation 12:11)

"There have been conflicts, and there will be until in heaven the voice of the Lord is heard, saying, 'It is done.' And after the redeemed are taken to heaven, God the Father will be glorified in crowning the Lord Jesus, who gave his life a ransom for the world.

The Holy Spirit Makes The Work Efficient (Acts 1:8)

"Let the work of proclaiming the gospel of Christ be made efficient by the agency of the Holy Spirit. Let not one believer, in the day of trial and proving that has

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already begun, listen to the devising of the enemy. The living Word is the sword of the Spirit. Mercies and judgments will be sent from heaven. The working of providence will be revealed both in mercies and in judgments.”

Put On The Whole Armor Of God (Ephesians 6:11-18)

“If we watch and pray and trust God’s living Word, we shall gain victories ‘Watch and pray,’ Christ said, ‘that ye enter not into temptation.’ The day dawns. We must enter each battle with full faith that through Christ we shall be more than conquerors. **As faithful watchmen we must diligently guard against the dangers threatening God’s people. Other chapters will open before us, and in order to discern their meaning, we shall need keen perception.** We are not to be depressed or discouraged, but filled with holy boldness. We are not to be disheartened by the prevalence of sin, or by the difficulties that arise on the right hand and on the left. **We must put on the whole armor of God, and stand firm for the right.** In the future, Satan’s deceptions will assume new forms. 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. Our watchword is to be, ‘To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’”

God’s Messengers

“Moses was chosen by God as the messenger of his covenant. The Lord called him up into the mountain, to receive his instruction for Israel. Today God chooses men as he chose Moses, to be his messengers. These men are first to receive instruction from God; then they are to impart that which they have received, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. Every word they speak must be spoken in truth.”

Be Instant In Season And Out Of Season (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

“It is fearfully dangerous now to be unable to discern the truth. Those who would proclaim the word of God must be men who know his will. They must be careful lest they make mistakes. They must be men of knowledge, able to instruct others. How can they speak clearly and intelligently of the things of God if they do not commune with him. They must obtain wisdom from on high. They are to be instant in season and out of season, always prepared for whatever they may be called to do.

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“The priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.’ The people should counsel with him, for he is God’s appointed messenger. They should not only hear, but they should ask questions, that they may have a clear knowledge of truth. He is not to withhold his knowledge from them, but is to regard it as a sacred trust, to be imparted to others. His mind is to be a treasure-house of good things, from which, whenever occasion demands, he can draw a ‘Thus saith the Lord.’”
RH, October 13, 1904.

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Section 2

Great Controversy Issues At Stake
During The Loud Cry:

The Character Of God, The
Principles Of His Government, And
The Plan Of Redemption

Chapter 8

The Eternal Law Of Life In The Divine Nature

The Divine Nature

The Divine Nature possesses **Infinite Power, Infinite Wisdom and Infinite Love**. The Divine Nature is absolutely eternal, which means that it is without beginning and without ending. These mysteries we accept by faith even though God has given us enough evidence to be absolutely sure of the existence of these eternal realities within the Divine Nature.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6.

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” Romans 1:20.

“Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.” Psalm 147:5.

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“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” 1 John 4:8.

The Divine name **Yahweh** or Jehovah signifies the absolute eternity and self-existence of the Divine Nature.

Infinite Wisdom includes infinite righteousness and infinite truth. Wisdom is the application of righteousness and truth to power for the production of good.

Power without wisdom is destructive!

Wisdom without power is useless!

Wisdom united to power produces good!

The principle which unites and applies wisdom to power is love.

Within the Divine Nature, Eternal Power always functions through Infinite Wisdom, to produce infinite good! This union of Infinite Power and Infinite Wisdom is accomplished by Infinite Love. In fact Eternal Power must give all of itself to Eternal Wisdom, and Eternal Wisdom must give all of itself to Eternal Power; and this **mutual** giving up of self is the very functional essence of the Divine Nature. It is the eternal principle of **self-sacrificing, all-for-the-other**, unconditional infinite agape love! The Divine Nature can never depart a hair's breadth from this eternal principle of using power righteously and wisely, which is the principle of eternal love!

In scripture the righteous use of power to produce all that is excellent is called **light**. Whereas the unrighteous use of power to produce all that is evil is called **darkness**. Please take careful notice of this absolute fact concerning the Divine Nature.

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5.

The Divine Law

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy

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neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40.

The law of God is the law of love. The law of God describes how love applies wisdom and righteousness to power to produce good. To put it simply, the law of God gives the instructions of how to use power righteously. But the righteous use of power is the very essence of the Divine Nature and character. Therefore the law of God is a transcript of the character of God which is love. Since the Divine Nature can never depart from the wise and righteous use of power, God cannot change, and therefore His law cannot change either. Moreover since the Divine Nature is infinite in power, wisdom and love, God’s law cannot be improved because it is infinitely best! Therefore there can be no change, no modification of the divine law. It is as perfect as God’s character and nature are perfect!

“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” Malachi 3:6.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17.

“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.” Romans 7:12.

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.” Psalm 19:7-11.

Love Does No Ill

Love can do no evil. Love does not even produce fear. Love does not hurt or destroy!

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“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:10.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10.

The Character Of Love

The character of the Divine Nature is the character of **selfless** love. The moral law of God is but a transcript of this character of love which is absolutely changeless.

The character of the Divine Nature, the character of unselfish love is beautifully summarized in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

“Love is patient. Love is kind. Love isn’t jealous. It doesn’t sing its own praises. It isn’t arrogant. It isn’t rude. It doesn’t think about itself. It isn’t irritable. It doesn’t keep track of wrongs. It isn’t happy when injustice is done, but it is happy with the truth. Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up. Love never comes to an end. There is the gift of speaking what God has revealed, but it will no longer be used. There is the gift of speaking in other languages, but it will stop by itself. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will no longer be used.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Good Word Bible).

Since the Divine Nature is eternal and since the righteous use of power is the very basis of the eternal life of the Divine Nature, it follows, incontrovertibly, that self-sacrificing love is life whereas selfishness is death.

In other words any departure from the principle of self-sacrificing love is a departure from the only source of life. Sin is a principle which opposes the principle of self-sacrificing love. Therefore sin is the principle of using power unrighteously. The moral law of God describes how **love** applies **righteousness** to **power**. **Sin** describes how **selfishness** uses **power unrighteously**. Sin, therefore, is the transgression of the law. And sin is therefore the cause of all evil and death.

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Divine Love is life.

Selfishness is death.

Divine Love can never be the source of sin, evil or death.

Selfishness can never be the source of righteousness, good or life.

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4.

“...and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:15.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:6.

The Divine Personalities

We have already established the fact that the Divine Nature is comprised of **Infinite Power, Infinite Wisdom** and **Infinite Love**. But the mystery deepens when we study Proverbs 8 and realize that the **Son of God** is the **Eternal Wisdom** of the **Divine Nature**.

In Proverbs 8 the first 21 verses describe the characteristics and functions of wisdom. But at verse 22 the inspired word suddenly, it seems, introduces us to the astounding fact that Eternal Wisdom is the Son of God!

“The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.” Proverbs 8:22-23.

Co-Eternal

These verses clearly indicate that the Son of God is co-eternal with the Father. Infinite Wisdom is as eternal as Infinite Power. And yet Wisdom is described as being born of Power. Infinite Power must be the source of Infinite Wisdom. In other words Wisdom is Power's only begotten. This is not a birth in time but rather an eternal begetting in eternity. Neither Infinite Power nor Infinite Wisdom has a beginning, they are both co-eternal! Yet Infinite Power is the Father and Infinite Wisdom is the Son!

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“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:1-3.

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;); ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:1-3.

The Holy Spirit

The union, the fellowship, the mutual self-giving of each to the other is the Love of the Father and Son for each other.

“Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him.” Proverbs 8:30.

This Love is the flow of all of Infinite Power to Infinite Wisdom and vice versa. It is all of the Father flowing to the Son and all of the Son flowing back to the Father. This flow is therefore Divine selfless **Love**. It is the very Spirit of both the Father and His Son.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love...¹³ Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.” 1 John 4:7-8, 13.

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Romans 5:5.

“When Christ abides in the heart the whole nature is transformed. Christ’s spirit, **His love**, softens the heart subdues the soul and raises the thoughts and desires toward God and Heaven.” SC 73.

“His **very life** is the outflow of **unselfish love**.” MB 77.

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“God is love, His wisdom, His law is love. It ever has been, it ever will be.” PP 33.

Omnipresence

The eternal love of the Divine Nature carries in its flow the fullness of Infinite Power and Infinite Wisdom. In other words the Holy Spirit contains the fullness of the Father and the Son and, as such, possesses Divine personality. But whereas the Father and Son, as individual persons, possess static personality (i.e. They can be only one place at any given time), the Holy Spirit possesses infinitely dynamic personality (i.e. the Holy Spirit can be everywhere at any given time). And therefore through the Holy Spirit, both the Father and the Son are omnipresent!

The Creation

Infinite Power made all created things by **Infinite Wisdom** through **Infinite Love**. In other words the **Father** made all things by **His Son** through the **Eternal Spirit**.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:1-3.

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.” Colossians 1:16.

Freedom Of Will

God gave to all of His intelligent creatures the power of choice and freedom of will.

“Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator’s will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial. Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. ‘By Him were all things created, that are in heaven,...whether they be thrones, or

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dominions, or principalities, or powers' (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance.

"The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service." GC 493.

The gift of freedom of choice was, and is, **genuine**. Unfallen beings could have chosen to remain obedient to the law of love which results in everlasting creature life, or they could have chosen to disobey the law of love. And disobedience results in everlasting death.

"God made man perfectly holy and happy; and the fair earth, as it came from the Creator's hand, bore no blight of decay or shadow of the curse. **It is transgression of God's law—the law of love—that has brought woe and death.** Yet even amid the suffering that results from sin, God's love is revealed. It is written that God cursed the ground for man's sake. Genesis 3:17. The thorn and the thistle—the difficulties and trials that make his life one of toil and care—were appointed for his good as a part of the training needful in God's plan for his uplifting from the ruin and degradation that sin has wrought. The world, though fallen, is not all sorrow and misery. In nature itself are messages of hope and comfort. There are flowers upon the thistles, and the thorns are covered with roses." SC 9.

God's Way—The Only Way Of Life

God's way is the only way of life, peace, order, happiness, joy, and everlasting, problem-free life. God's way is the way of absolutely unselfish, all-for-the-other, eternal, infinite, unconditional agape love which unites power to righteousness by wisdom to produce only good work.

Before the entrance of sin every created power in the universe was kept in perfect union with its appropriate righteousness and wisdom by the principle of eternal, unselfish love. And every intelligent creature was filled with divine love to the limit of the creature's capacity.

Powers Of God

Since all the various systems of power and energy in the universe were created by the God-head they are called the **powers of God**. Such systems

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of power and energy were to be kept in perfect union with the righteous principles or laws that governed their use for the production of perfectly excellent functioning. Sin is the principle of using any power unrighteously and unwisely by selfishness. Selfishness is the law of sin and death because it separates the powers of creation from their righteous laws. **To put it simply the unrighteous use of any system of power is sin.**

The Wrath Of God

We mentioned earlier that the powers of creation are called the powers of God. When these same powers are separated from their righteous laws they become perverted, spoiled and therefore they malfunction to the point of producing destruction. **Perverted power is wrath.** Wrath is malfunctioning power. But since the powers are called the powers of God, the perverted powers are also called the wrath of God!

It is very important to understand that the term wrath of God means the sin-perverted powers of creation poised to destroy through malfunctioning. Scripture (Revelation 7:1) informs us that God's mercy holds such perverted powers or wrath in check. But when mercy ceases, the perverted powers break out in uncontrolled malfunction ending in destruction.

God Is Not The Executioner Of Transgressors—Sin Is

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23.

“Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:15.

“The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. ⁵ The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. ⁶ The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.” Proverbs 11:3, 5-6.

“In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.” Proverbs 12:28.

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“For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

³⁶ But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.” Proverbs 8:35-36.

“We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection which we enjoy. It is the restraining power of God that prevents mankind from passing fully under the control of Satan. The disobedient and unthankful have great reason for gratitude for God’s mercy and long-suffering in holding in check the cruel, malignant power of the evil one. **But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejecters of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown.** Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest. The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God’s hatred of sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty.” GC 36.

An Eternal Risk

God’s decision to create intelligent creatures carried, of necessity, certain risks. Divine Love never uses coercive force. Moreover Eternal Love never violates the principle of liberty of conscience.

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6.

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Corinthians 3:17.

Furthermore, since the Divine Love is an **all-for-the-other** love, the Father and the Son knew that if sin should arise, They, by love, would have to suffer the full consequences of such sin in order to maintain freedom and save sinners. And with such foreknowledge, the Father and His Son,

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through their Eternal Spirit of Love, still proceeded to make intelligent creatures!

The Agape love of God is an **all-for-the-other** love which contains no trace of selfishness. Such is the love that the Father and Son have for us. Such love was the driving force in both creation and redemption!

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins...¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us.”
1 John 4:9-10, 18-19.

Chapter 9

Satan's Rebellion And His Charges Against God's Government

The Origin Of Sin: A Mystery — GC 492-493.

“To many minds the origin of sin and the reason for its existence are a source of great perplexity. They see the work of evil, with its terrible results of woe and desolation, and they question how all this can exist under the sovereignty of One who is infinite in wisdom, in power, and in love. Here is a mystery of which they find no explanation. And in their uncertainty and doubt they are blinded to truths plainly revealed in God’s word and essential to salvation. There are those who, in their inquiries concerning the existence of sin, endeavor to search into that which God has never revealed; hence they find no solution of their difficulties; and such as are actuated by a disposition to doubt and cavil seize upon this as an excuse for rejecting the words of Holy Writ. Others, however, fail of a satisfactory understanding of the great problem of evil, **from the fact that tradition and misinterpretation have obscured the teaching of the Bible**

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concerning the character of God, the nature of His government, and the principles of His dealing with sin.

“It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. Yet enough may be understood concerning both the origin and the final disposition of sin to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with evil. **Nothing is more plainly taught in Scripture than that God was in no wise responsible for the entrance of sin; that there was no arbitrary withdrawal of divine grace, no deficiency in the divine government, that gave occasion for the uprising of rebellion.** Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin. Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is ‘the transgression of the law;’ **it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.”**

The Condition Of The Universe Before The Entrance Of Sin

“Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator’s will. **Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial.** Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—**the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.** By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. ‘By Him were all things created, that are in heaven,...whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers’ (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance.

“The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.” GC 492-493.

The Circuit Of Beneficence

“But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. ‘I do nothing of Myself,’ said Christ; ‘the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father.’ ‘I seek not Mine own glory,’ but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. **In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give.** So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. **And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.**” DA 21.

How Sin Originated

“Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹ All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.” Ezekiel 28:12-19.

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“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: ¹⁴ I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Isaiah 14:12-14.

“But there was one that chose to pervert this freedom. Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and who stood highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. **Before his fall, Lucifer was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled.** ‘Thus saith the Lord God; Thou **sealest** up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering....Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.**’ Ezekiel 28:12-15.

“Lucifer might have remained in favor with God, beloved and honored by all the angelic host, **exercising his noble powers to bless others and to glorify his Maker.** But, says the prophet, ‘Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.’ Verse 17. Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge a desire for self-exaltation. ‘Thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God.’ ‘Thou hast said,...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation....I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.’ Verse 6; Isaiah 14:13, 14. **Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of His creatures, it was Lucifer’s endeavor to win their service and homage to himself.** And coveting the honor which the infinite Father had bestowed upon His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield.

“All heaven had rejoiced to reflect the Creator’s glory and to show forth His praise. And while God was thus honored, all had been peace and gladness. But a note of discord now marred the celestial harmonies. **The service and exaltation of self, contrary to the Creator’s plan, awakened forebodings of evil in minds to whom God’s glory was supreme.** The heavenly councils pleaded with Lucifer.

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The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker, and bring ruin upon himself. **But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. Lucifer allowed jealousy of Christ to prevail, and he became the more determined.**

“Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the councils of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. ‘Why,’ questioned this mighty angel, ‘should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?’ GC 493-495.

“In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world.” DA 21.

From The Start Of His Rebellion Lucifer Was Opposed To The Son Of God

“Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with

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wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the councils of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. 'Why,' questioned this mighty angel, 'should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?'

"Leaving his place in the immediate presence of God, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. Working with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealing his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God, he endeavored to excite dissatisfaction concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that they imposed an unnecessary restraint. Since their natures were holy, he urged that the angels should obey the dictates of their own will. **He sought to create sympathy for himself by representing that God had dealt unjustly with him in bestowing supreme honor upon Christ. He claimed that in aspiring to greater power and honor he was not aiming at self-exaltation, but was seeking to secure liberty for all the inhabitants of heaven, that by this means they might attain to a higher state of existence.**" GC 495.

Satan's Charges Against The Divine Government

"All the powers of his master mind were now bent to the work of deception, to secure the sympathy of the angels that had been under his command. Even the fact that Christ had warned and counseled him was perverted to serve his traitorous designs. To those whose loving trust bound them most closely to him, Satan had represented that he was wrongly judged, that his position was not respected, and that his liberty was to be abridged. From misrepresentation of the words of Christ he passed to prevarication and direct falsehood, **accusing the Son of God of a design to humiliate him before the inhabitants of heaven.** He sought also to make a false issue between himself and the loyal angels. All whom he could not subvert and bring fully to his side he accused of indifference to the interests of heavenly beings. The very work which he himself was doing he charged upon those who remained true to God. And to sustain his charge of God's injustice toward him, he resorted to misrepresentation of the words and acts of the Creator. It was his policy to perplex the angels with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. His high position, in such close connection with the

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divine administration, gave greater force to his representations, and many were induced to unite with him in rebellion against Heaven's authority." GC 496.

"Satan represents God's law of love as a law of selfishness. He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts. **The fall of our first parents, with all the woe that has resulted, he charges upon the Creator, leading men to look upon God as the author of sin, and suffering, and death. Jesus was to unveil this deception.** As one of us He was to give an example of obedience. For this He took upon Himself our nature, and passed through our experiences. 'In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren.' Heb. 2:17. If we had to bear anything which Jesus did not endure, then upon this point Satan would represent the power of God as insufficient for us. Therefore Jesus was 'in all points tempted like as we are.' Heb. 4:15. He endured every trial to which we are subject. And He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us. As man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given Him from God. He says, 'I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.' Ps. 40:8. As He went about doing good, and healing all who were afflicted by Satan, He made plain to men the character of God's law and the nature of His service. His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God." DA 24.

"That the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.' In the light of the Saviour's life, the hearts of all, even from the Creator to the prince of darkness, are revealed. **Satan has represented God as selfish and oppressive, as claiming all, and giving nothing, as requiring the service of His creatures for His own glory, and making no sacrifice for their good.**" DA 57.

Satan's Real Aim

Satan's real aim was and is to exalt himself above Jehovah God. In heaven, before his dismissal, he had tried to bring about changes in the divine administration and the divine law. After leaving heaven and establishing his rebellion on planet earth, **he has continued his plan to exalt himself above God in the minds of creatures.** The only way this could be done was by changing, modifying or abolishing the spiritual, divine, moral law of God in the minds of creatures. But since any open attack on God's law might arouse religious forebodings, Satan has put forward a religious rationale for his intended change in God's law.

Confusing Minds

One of his masterpieces has been to make religious zealots believe that the moral law is the old covenant and that therefore the new covenant abolishes the moral law of God.

His other strategy is labeling the first day of the week as the Lord's day in honor of the resurrection of Jesus.

The Impending Conflict

“From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan’s purpose to overthrow the law of God. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator, and though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God’s law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued. Whether this be accomplished by casting aside the law altogether, or by rejecting one of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same. He that offends ‘in one point,’ manifests contempt for the whole law; his influence and example are on the side of transgression; he becomes ‘guilty of all.’ James 2:10.

“In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus become incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures. The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.

“The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work. God’s holy word, which has been handed down to us at such a cost of suffering and blood, is but little valued. The Bible is within the reach of all, but there are few who really accept it as the guide of life. Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. The great facts of creation as presented by the inspired writers, the fall of man, the atonement, and the perpetuity of the law of God, are practically rejected, either wholly or in part, by a large share of the professedly Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it as an

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evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil at the Scriptures and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths. Many ministers are teaching their people, and many professors and teachers are instructing their students, that the law of God has been changed or abrogated; and those who regard its requirements as still valid, to be literally obeyed, are thought to be deserving only of ridicule or contempt." GC 582-583.

Satan's Constant Effort

"It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law and gives men license to sin. At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. Thus the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God. By perverted conceptions of the divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of Deity; and horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry." GC 569.

The Reason For Satan's Special Attack On The Sabbath

Planet earth, with its solar system, was created by YAHWEH God, the Father and His Son, **after** the development of Satanic rebellion in Heaven. The Creator made our world in such a way as to teach the fundamental principle **that righteousness must be applied to power by wisdom through love in order for any created system to be perfect.**

In the creation of our planet and solar system, God deliberately proceeded to do, through six days of creating, what He could have done in an instant. As each day of creation week unfolded Infinite Wisdom was seen at work establishing immense and complex systems of energy and power, and uniting with each system of power the appropriate principles of righteousness by which such systems were to function perfectly. (Read Genesis chapter one again for yourself in conjunction with Job chapter 38). The Spirit of God kept every system of energy completely united with

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righteousness by wisdom for the production of perfect structural and functional integrity!

On the seventh day of creation week God celebrated His completed work of creation. The Seventh-day Sabbath became the seal or immutable testimony of the fact that power of any kind; animate, inanimate or divine, **must be completely covered, or sealed, with righteousness by wisdom through love in order to produce perfection.**

Since the law of God describes how love applies wisdom to power then the Sabbath must be the seal of God's law. **Seven is the divine number of completeness!**

In Heaven, before his fall, Lucifer had understood the seal of God. He knew it meant that all systems of power must be **sealed** or covered with righteousness by wisdom through self-sacrificing love! Satan saw that in the creation of our solar system the Seventh-day Sabbath contained this eternal principle which is the foundation of the divine government! Sin is the unrighteous use of power. The foundational principle of sin is selfishness.

Self-sacrificing love always uses power righteously by wisdom to produce all that is perfect. Any power separated from its appropriate righteousness is a perverted power, called wrath, and produces destruction. All of this is clearly taught by the creation Seventh-day Sabbath.

But there is more yet!

When any power is completely **sealed** by its appropriate righteousness, the resulting structural and functional integrity results in order, peace, perfection and **rest!**

Whenever any power is **separated** from its righteous laws, that power becomes **perverted** and produces **unrest**, disorder, destruction! And this is the **modus operandi** of Satan's government! Therefore Satan, in his warfare against the spiritual, divine, moral law of God attacks that law at the point of the fourth commandment. Satan knows that if he rips the seal out of God's law he is establishing his government of sin in the place of God's government of love and righteousness.

In the coming crisis he intends to enforce the **removal** of the Seventh-day Sabbath rest by civil law and to enforce his counterfeit first-day pseudo rest! But God's true people will be delivered from all satanic deceptions through the **true knowledge of God's character of selfless love!**

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It should be clear then that the true knowledge of God's character is of paramount importance. Without this knowledge God's people would be swept away. And those who reject the true **character of God** message will, in fact, be swept away by satanic deceptions, force and fear!

Chapter 10

Jesus Came To Reveal The Real Truth Of God's Character

A careful study of created things along with a careful study of God's word should teach us the truth about God's character. The apostle Paul tells us so in Romans 1:20:

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Romans 1:20.

We are also told so by the very first sentence in the book *Steps to Christ* by Ellen G. White:

"Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love." SC 9.

God's Love Seen In Nature

"'God is love' is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass. The lovely birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately

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tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green—all testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God and to His desire to make His children happy.” SC 10.

God’s Character Revealed In His Word

“The word of God reveals His character. He Himself has declared His infinite love and pity. When Moses prayed, ‘Show me Thy glory,’ the Lord answered, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before thee.’ Exodus 33:18, 19. This is His glory. The Lord passed before Moses, and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.’ Exodus 34:6, 7. He is ‘slow to anger, and of great kindness,’ ‘because He delighteth in mercy.’ Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18.” SC 10.

Yet Minds Are Blinded

It is easy to misinterpret nature because nature is in a fallen state. It is also easy to misinterpret the written word of God because of how the Bible is written.

Therefore the Son of God had to come to fully reveal His Father’s character.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth...¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” John 1:14, 18.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Hebrews 1:1-3.

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5.

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“Others, however, fail of a satisfactory understanding of the great problem of evil, from the fact that tradition and misinterpretation have obscured the teaching of the Bible concerning the character of God, the nature of His government, and the principles of His dealing with sin.” GC 492.

“It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God’s law, but this truth had become perverted. **Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God,—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin.** Hence one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner.

“Thus the way was prepared for the Jews to reject Jesus. He who ‘hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows’ was looked upon by the Jews as ‘stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted;’ and they hid their faces from Him. Isa. 53:4, 3.

“God had given a lesson designed to prevent this. The history of Job had shown that suffering is inflicted by Satan, and is overruled by God for purposes of mercy. But Israel did not understand the lesson. The same error for which God had reproved the friends of Job was repeated by the Jews in their rejection of Christ.” DA 471.

“God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love. **Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.**” SC 10-11.

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“The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet: ‘O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself;’ ‘for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.’ Hosea 13:9; 14:1. **Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work.** By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan’s vindictive power over those who yield to his control.” GC 35.

A Work Only He Could Do

“The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan’s deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. **This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world’s dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, ‘with healing in His wings.’** Mal. 4:2.” DA 22.

“**What speech is to thought, so is Christ to the invisible Father.** He is the manifestation of the Father, and is called the Word of God. God sent His Son into the world, His divinity clothed with humanity, that man might bear the image of the invisible God. He made known in His words, His character, His power and majesty, the nature and attributes of God. Divinity flashed through humanity in softening, subduing light. **He was the embodiment of the law of God, which is the transcript of His character.**” MS 77, 1899; 5BC 1131.

Christ Revealed God's Character By How He Lived

"The Son of God came from heaven to make manifest the Father. 'No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.' John 1:18. 'Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.' Matthew 11:27. When one of the disciples made the request, 'Show us the Father,' Jesus answered, 'Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?' John 14:8-9.

"In describing His earthly mission, Jesus said, The Lord 'hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.' Luke 4:18. This was His work. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by Satan. There were whole villages where there was not a moan of sickness in any house, for He had passed through them and healed all their sick. His work gave evidence of His divine anointing. Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every act of His life; His heart went out in tender sympathy to the children of men. He took man's nature, that He might reach man's wants. The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Even little children were attracted to Him. They loved to climb upon His knees and gaze into the pensive face, benignant with love.

"Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His intercourse with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He wept over Jerusalem, the city He loved, which refused to receive Him, the way, the truth, and the life. They had rejected Him, the Saviour, but He regarded them with pitying tenderness. His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes. While He ever bore Himself with divine dignity, He bowed with the tenderest regard to every member of the family of God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save.

“Such is the character of Christ as revealed in His life. This is the character of God. It is from the Father’s heart that the streams of divine compassion, manifest in Christ, flow out to the children of men. Jesus, the tender, pitying Saviour, was God ‘manifest in the flesh.’ 1 Timothy 3:16.” SC 11-12.

“Coming to Christ, they reported to Him the words of the people, telling Him that they had even refused to give Him a night’s lodging. They thought that a grievous wrong had been done Him, and seeing Mount Carmel in the distance, where Elijah had slain the false prophets, they said, ‘Wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?’ They were surprised to see that Jesus was pained by their words, and still more surprised as His rebuke fell upon their ears, ‘Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.’ And He went to another village.

“It is no part of Christ’s mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederate with evil angels bring suffering upon their fellow men, in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love. He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.” DA 487.

Christ Revealed God’s Character By How He Died

“It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and suffered and died. He became ‘a Man of Sorrows,’ that we might be made partakers of everlasting joy. God permitted His beloved Son, full of grace and truth, to come from a world of indescribable glory, to a world marred and blighted with sin, darkened with the shadow of death and the curse. He permitted Him to leave the bosom of His love, the adoration of the angels, to suffer shame, insult, humiliation, hatred, and death. ‘The chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.’ Isaiah 53:5. Behold Him in the wilderness, in Gethsemane, upon the cross! The spotless Son of God took upon Himself the burden of sin. **He who had been one with God, felt in His soul the awful separation that sin makes between God and man.**

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This wrung from His lips the anguished cry, 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?' Matthew 27:46. It was the burden of sin, the sense of its terrible enormity, of its separation of the soul from God—it was this that broke the heart of the Son of God.

“But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father’s heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! ‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.’ John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.’ 2 Corinthians 5:19. God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption.

“Jesus said, ‘Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again.’ John 10:17. That is, ‘My Father has so loved you that He even loves Me more for giving My life to redeem you. In becoming your Substitute and Surety, by surrendering My life, by taking your liabilities, your transgressions, I am endeared to My Father; for by My sacrifice, God can be just, and yet the Justifier of him who believeth in Jesus.’

“None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father’s love to lost humanity.

“‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.’ He gave Him not only to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is ‘not ashamed to call them brethren’ (Hebrews 2:11); He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father’s throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness.

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“The price paid for our redemption, the infinite sacrifice of our heavenly Father in giving His Son to die for us, should give us exalted conceptions of what we may become through Christ. As the inspired apostle John beheld the height, the depth, the breadth of the Father’s love toward the perishing race, he was filled with adoration and reverence; and, failing to find suitable language in which to express the greatness and tenderness of this love, he called upon the world to behold it. ‘Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.’ 1 John 3:1. What a value this places upon man! Through transgression the sons of man become subjects of Satan. Through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ the sons of Adam may become the sons of God. By assuming human nature, Christ elevates humanity. Fallen men are placed where, through connection with Christ, they may indeed become worthy of the name ‘sons of God.’

“Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Precious promise! Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God. The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother’s yearning sympathy for her wayward child.” SC 13-15.

Satan Sought To Crush Christ

“At the thought of the grievous character of the guilt of the world, Christ felt that He must go apart, and be alone. The hosts of darkness are there to make sin appear as extensive, deep, and horrible as possible. In his hatred of God, in falsifying His character, in manifesting irreverence, contempt, and hatred toward the laws of His government, Satan had made iniquity reach unto the heavens, and it was his purpose to swell iniquity to such great proportions, that it would make atonement seem impossible, so that the Son of God, who sought to save a lost world, should be crushed beneath the curse of sin. The working of the vigilant foe in presenting to Christ the vast proportions of transgression, caused such poignant pain that He felt that He could not remain in the immediate presence of any human being. He could not bear that even His disciples should witness His agony as He contemplated the woe of the world. Even His most

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dearly loved friends must not be in His companionship. **The sword of justice was unsheathed, and the wrath of God against iniquity rested upon man's substitute, Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father.**

"In the Garden of Gethsemane Christ suffered in man's stead, and the human nature of the Son of God staggered under the terrible horror of the guilt of sin, until from His pale and quivering lips was forced the agonizing cry, 'O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:' but if there is no other way by which the salvation of fallen man may be accomplished, then 'not as I will, but as thou wilt.' Human nature would then and there have died under the horror of the sense of sin, had not an angel from heaven strengthened Him to bear the agony.

"The power that inflicted retributive justice upon man's substitute and surety, was the power that sustained and upheld the suffering One under the tremendous weight of wrath that would have fallen upon a sinful world. Christ was suffering the death that was pronounced upon the transgressors of God's law.

"It is a fearful thing for the unrepenting sinner to fall into the hands of the living God. This is proved by the history of the destruction of the old world by a flood, by the record of the fire which fell from heaven and destroyed the inhabitants of Sodom. But never was this proved to so great an extent as in the agony of Christ, the Son of the infinite God, when He bore the wrath of God for a sinful world. It was in consequence of sin, the transgression of God's law, that the Garden of Gethsemane has become pre-eminently the place of suffering to a sinful world. No sorrow, no agony, can measure with that which was endured by the Son of God.

"Man has not been made a sin-bearer, and he will never know the horror of the curse of sin which the Saviour bore. No sorrow can bear any comparison with the sorrow of Him upon whom the wrath of God fell with overwhelming force. Human nature can endure but a limited amount of test and trial. The finite can only endure the finite measure, and human nature succumbs; but the nature of Christ had a greater capacity for suffering; for the human existed in the divine nature, and created a capacity for suffering to endure that which resulted from the sins of a lost world. The agony which Christ endured, broadens, deepens, and gives a more extended conception of the character of sin, and the character of the retribution which God will bring upon those who continue in sin. The

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wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ to the repenting, believing sinner. (MS 35, 1895)" 5BC 1102-1103.

"But God suffered with His Son. Angels beheld the Saviour's agony. They saw their Lord enclosed by legions of satanic forces, His nature weighed down with a shuddering, mysterious dread. There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son, they would better understand how offensive in His sight is sin." DA 693.

"And now the Lord of glory was dying, a ransom for the race. In yielding up His precious life, Christ was not upheld by triumphant joy. All was oppressive gloom. It was not the dread of death that weighed upon Him. It was not the pain and ignominy of the cross that caused His inexpressible agony. Christ was the prince of sufferers; but His suffering was from a sense of the malignity of sin, a knowledge that through familiarity with evil, man had become blinded to its enormity. Christ saw how deep is the hold of sin upon the human heart, how few would be willing to break from its power. He knew that without help from God, humanity must perish, and He saw multitudes perishing within reach of abundant help.

"Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all. He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. **The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing upon His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation.** All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father's mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father's reconciling face. **The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt.**

"Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the

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sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God." DA 753.

"The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooden bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree; that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe. And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, **and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise.** He who stilled the angry waves and walked the foam-capped billows, who made devils tremble and disease flee, who opened blind eyes and called forth the dead to life,—offers Himself upon the cross as a sacrifice, and this from love to thee. He, the Sin Bearer, endures the wrath of divine justice, and for thy sake becomes sin itself." DA 755.

Sin Separates From God And Produces Death

"The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet: 'O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself;' 'for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.' Hosea 13:9; 14:1. Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control.

"We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection which we enjoy. It is the restraining power of God that prevents mankind from passing

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fully under the control of Satan. The disobedient and unthankful have great reason for gratitude for God's mercy and long-suffering in holding in check the cruel, malignant power of the evil one. But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejecters of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest. The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God's hatred of sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty." GC 36.

Jesus Christ The Key To Correct Interpretation

When we want to understand the character of God we must look first at the life and death of Jesus Christ. He came to reveal the character of God. He came to reveal the infinite love of God and to show us clearly the two dimensions of love: justice and mercy.

On the cross He suffered God's wrath for all mankind and He suffered and died the second death under that wrath for us. Therefore if we want to know the mechanism by which God's wrath "destroys" we need only to look at Calvary. And then we **must** interpret all the traditional punitive language by the light that streams from Calvary.

"The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. **In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light which streams from the cross of Calvary,** and in connection with the wondrous, central truth of the Saviour's atonement. Those who study the Redeemer's wonderful sacrifice grow in grace and knowledge." 5BC 1137.

Chapter 11

Calvary: The Decisive Battle

A full and clear understanding of the issues at stake in the great controversy between God and Satan is absolutely necessary for those who intend to be part of the final “loud cry” work of God in the earth.

“Satan’s enmity against Christ has been manifested against His followers. The same hatred of the principles of God’s law, the same policy of deception, by which error is made to appear as truth, by which human laws are substituted for the law of God, and men are led to worship the creature rather than the Creator, may be traced in all the history of the past. Satan’s efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator, and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love; his endeavors to set aside the divine law, leading the people to think themselves free from its requirements; and his persecution of those who dare to resist his deceptions, have been steadfastly pursued in all ages. They may be traced in the history of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, of martyrs and reformers.

“In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end as in all preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity

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such as the world has never witnessed. Satan's deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect. Mark 13:22 R.V." GC xi.

"Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them." GC 593.

No other single chapter or article in the Spirit of Prophecy spells out the issues more clearly than Chapter 79 in *The Desire of Ages*. Let us now analyze this chapter carefully.

It Is Finished (John 17:4; Psalm 98:1) – DA, Chapter 79

"Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, 'It is finished.' John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour's victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost. (John 12:31)"

Deep Significance To Unfallen Beings (Ephesians 3:10)

"To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, 'It is finished,' had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory."

It Was Not Easy to Expose Satan (John 8:44)

"Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The arch apostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion.

"It was a being of wonderful power and glory that had set himself against God. Of Lucifer the Lord says, 'Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.' Ezek. 28:12. Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God's presence. He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God's purposes to the universe. **After he had**

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sinned, his power to deceive was the more deceptive, and the unveiling of his character was the more difficult, because of the exalted position he had held with the Father.”

Not By Force, But By Love (Zechariah 4:6)

“God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan’s government. The Lord’s principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love;** and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God’s government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.”

It Takes Time (2 Corinthians 13:8)

“It was God’s purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God’s principles. Time was given for the working of Satan’s principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe.

“Satan led men into sin, and the plan of redemption was put in operation. For four thousand years, Christ was working for man’s uplifting, and Satan for his ruin and degradation. And the heavenly universe beheld it all.”

Satan’s Onslaught Against Christ (Revelation 12:1-5)

“When Jesus came into the world, Satan’s power was turned against Him. From the time when He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem, the usurper worked to bring about His destruction. In every possible way he sought to prevent Jesus from developing a perfect childhood, a faultless manhood, a holy ministry, and an unblemished sacrifice. But he was defeated. He could not lead Jesus into sin. He could not discourage Him, or drive Him from a work He had come on earth to do. **From the desert to Calvary, the storm of Satan’s wrath beat upon Him, but the more mercilessly it fell, the more firmly did the Son of God cling to the hand of His Father, and press on in the bloodstained path. All the efforts of Satan to oppress and overcome Him only brought out in a purer light His spotless character.”**

The Universe Saw It All

“All heaven and the unfallen worlds had been witnesses to the controversy. With what intense interest did they follow the closing scenes of the conflict. They beheld the Saviour enter the garden of Gethsemane, His soul bowed down with the horror of a great darkness. They heard His bitter cry, ‘Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.’ Matt. 26:39. As the Father’s presence was withdrawn, they saw Him sorrowful with a bitterness of sorrow exceeding that of the last great struggle with death. The bloody sweat was forced from His pores, and fell in drops upon the ground. Thrice the prayer for deliverance was wrung from His lips. Heaven could no longer endure the sight, and a messenger of comfort was sent to the Son of God.

“Heaven beheld the Victim betrayed into the hands of the murderous mob, and with mockery and violence hurried from one tribunal to another. It heard the sneers of His persecutors because of His lowly birth. It heard the denial with cursing and swearing by one of His best-loved disciples. It saw the frenzied work of Satan, and his power over the hearts of men. Oh, fearful scene! the Saviour seized at midnight in Gethsemane, dragged to and fro from palace to judgment hall, arraigned twice before the priests, twice before the Sanhedrin, twice before Pilate, and once before Herod, mocked, scourged, condemned, and led out to be crucified, bearing the heavy burden of the cross, amid the wailing of the daughters of Jerusalem and the jeering of the rabble.

“Heaven viewed with grief and amazement Christ hanging upon the cross, blood flowing from His wounded temples, and sweat tinged with blood standing upon His brow. From His hands and feet the blood fell, drop by drop, upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross. The wounds made by the nails gaped as the weight of His body dragged upon His hands. His labored breath grew quick and deep, as His soul panted under the burden of the sins of the world. All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering,—‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’ Luke 23:34. Yet there stood men, formed in the image of God, joining to crush out the life of His only-begotten Son. What a sight for the heavenly universe!”

Satan And His Demons Pushed Christ To The Limit

“The principalities and powers of darkness were assembled around the cross, casting the hellish shadow of unbelief into the hearts of men. When the Lord

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created these beings to stand before His throne, they were beautiful and glorious. Their loveliness and holiness were in accordance with their exalted station. They were enriched with the wisdom of God, and girded with the panoply of heaven. They were Jehovah's ministers. But who could recognize in the fallen angels the glorious seraphim that once ministered in the heavenly courts?

"Satanic agencies confederated with evil men in leading the people to believe Christ the chief of sinners, and to make Him the object of detestation. Those who mocked Christ as He hung upon the cross were imbued with the spirit of the first great rebel. He filled them with vile and loathsome speeches. He inspired their taunts. But by all this he gained nothing."

The Victorious Saviour

"Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. 'And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.' Rev. 12:10."

Satan Exposed By Christ's Death (1 John 3:8)

"Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken." DA Chapter 79, 758-761.

We pause to ask a question and give the answer from *The Great Controversy*.

But What Was Satan's Disguise? (Revelation 12:9; John 5:39-40)

"The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the

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woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet: 'O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; 'for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.' Hosea 13:9; 14:1. **Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work.** By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control." GC 35.

We go back now to *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 79:

More Time Needed (Ephesians 3:10)

"Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve."

Satan's Initial Declaration (Ezekiel 28:15-17)

"In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner."

The Difference Between Lucifer's Fall And Adam's Fall

"But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love.

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“Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan’s sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God’s love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.”

Divine Mercy

“Through Jesus, God’s mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. The law reveals the attributes of God’s character, and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man’s redemption. ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.’ 2 Corinthians 5:19.”

Righteousness – A Free Gift (Titus 3:4-7)

“The law requires righteousness,—a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God’s holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. **These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them.** His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. **Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ.** God can ‘be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.’ Rom. 3:26.”

Love Is Both Just And Merciful (1 John 5:3)

“God’s love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan’s purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice. He sought to prove that the righteousness of God’s law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God’s plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. ‘Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.’ Ps. 85:10.

“By His life and His death, Christ proved that God’s justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can

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be perfectly obeyed. Satan's charges were refuted. God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love."

Satan's Ultimate Strategy (1 Peter 5:8-9)

"Another deception was now to be brought forward. Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, that the death of Christ abrogated the Father's law. **Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died. But to abrogate the law would be to immortalize transgression, and place the world under Satan's control. It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.**

"That the law which was spoken by God's own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, is the claim which Satan now puts forward. It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world. He needs not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained. For 'whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.' James 2:10. By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan's power. By substituting human law for God's law, Satan will seek to control the world. This work is foretold in prophecy. Of the great apostate power which is the representative of Satan, it is declared, 'He shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand.' Dan. 7:25.

"Men will surely set up their laws to counterwork the laws of God. They will seek to compel the consciences of others, and in their zeal to enforce these laws they will oppress their fellow men."

Ongoing Warfare (2 Timothy 2:19)

"The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. **Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes.** Every character will be fully

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developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion.”

The End Will Come (1 Corinthians 15:25-28)

“Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch, (Mal. 4:1),—Satan the root, and his followers the branches. The word will be fulfilled to the prince of evil, ‘Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;...I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire....Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.’ Then ‘the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be;’ ‘they shall be as though they had not been.’ Ezek. 28:6-19; Ps. 37:10; Obadiah 16.”

The Mechanism Of The Final Destruction (Proverbs 11:19)

“This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is ‘alienated from the life of God.’ Christ says, ‘All they that hate Me love death.’ Eph. 4:18; Prov. 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.” DA 764

We pause again to ask a question and give the answer from *Steps to Christ*.

How Does The Glory Of God Destroy?

“In his sinless state, man held joyful communion with Him ‘in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.’ Colossians 2:3. But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the unrenewed heart. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him. **The sinner could not be happy in God’s presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him. The spirit of unselfish love that reigns there—every heart responding to the heart of Infinite Love—would touch no answering chord in his soul. His**

thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there. He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven. Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its light, and the center of its joy. It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them.”
SC 17.

Let us return to *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 79:

Not Understood At The Beginning

“At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God’s goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe.”
DA 764.

We pause again to read two excerpts.

The Need To Understand God’s Character Aright (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

“At the Kansas meeting my prayer to God was, that the power of the enemy might be broken, and that the people who had been in darkness might open their hearts and minds to the message that God should send them, that they might see the truth, new to many minds, as old truth in new frame-work. **The understanding of the people of God has been blinded; for Satan has misrepresented the character of God. Our good and gracious Lord has been presented before the people clothed in the attributes of Satan, and men and women who have been seeking for truth, have so long regarded God in a false light that it is difficult to dispel the cloud that obscures his glory from their view.** Many have been living in an atmosphere of doubt, and it seems almost impossible for them to lay hold on the hope set before them in the gospel of Christ.” RH, July 23, 1889.

God Destroys No Man (Hosea 13:9; 14:1; Proverbs 12:28)

“God destroys no man. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonitions of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief, and these will produce a sure harvest.” COL 84.

We now return to the last two paragraphs of *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 79:

**God’s Character Will Be Clearly Understood In
The End (Proverbs 4:18; Hosea 6:3)**

“But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God’s love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.”

Christ Fully Comprehended All This On The Cross

“Well, then, might the angels rejoice as they looked upon the Saviour’s cross; for though they did not then understand all, they knew that the destruction of sin and Satan was forever made certain, that the redemption of man was assured, and that the universe was made eternally secure. Christ Himself fully comprehended the results of the sacrifice made upon Calvary. To all these He looked forward when upon the cross He cried out, ‘It is finished.’” DA 764.

Chapter 12

The Government Of God

In the previous chapters in this section we have clearly set out the fundamental principles of God's character and government which we must know in order to give the loud cry final warning to the world. We now want to summarize it all in a comprehensive and succinct manner as we close this section.

For this purpose we go to the Spirit of Prophecy for a wonderful sermon presented by Ellen White in Switzerland on January 23, 1886.

It Is Time For God To Work – RH, March 9, 1886

“It is time for thee, Lord, to work; for they have made void thy law. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold, yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.’ Ps. 119:126-128.

“If this prayer was appropriate in David's time, it is in a special sense appropriate now. If in his day sin and iniquity prevailed to such a degree that it was time for God to work, it certainly is time for Him to work in our day; for the warring powers of darkness are prevailing to a remarkable extent. The entrance of sin

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into heaven cannot be explained. If it were explainable, it would show that there was some reason for sin. But as there was not the least excuse for it, its origin will ever remain shrouded in mystery.”

The Origin Of Sin (1 John 3:9; John 8:44)

“Sin began with Satan when he was an exalted angel in heaven. He had great honor there among the angels. The first sign of his dissatisfaction was the manifestation of his desire to be equal with God, to be worshiped as God. He tried to falsify the word of God, and pervert his plan of government before the angels. **He claimed that God was not just in laying rules and laws upon the inhabitants of heaven. He represented that God was not self-denying, and that Christ was not self-denying; why, then, should the angels be required to be self-denying?**

“Satan was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. Some course must be pursued to uproot him from their affections. God’s government included not only the inhabitants of heaven but of all the created worlds (Hebrews 1:2), and Satan thought that if he could carry the intelligences of heaven with him in rebellion, he could also carry with him the other worlds.”

God Gave Satan Time To Develop His Principles (Revelation 12:7-9)

“God in His wisdom did not immediately thrust Satan out of heaven. This act would not have changed his principles, and would only have strengthened his rebellion, for it would have created sympathy for him as one unjustly dealt with; **and he would have carried a much larger number with him.** He must be displaced, and have time to more fully develop his principles.”

God Employs Only Truth And Righteousness (Psalms 145:17)

“Satan was artful in presenting his side of the question. As soon as he found that one position was seen in its true character, he changed it for another. **Not so with God. He could work with only one class of weapons,—truth and righteousness. Satan could use what God could not,—crookedness and deceit.** These are the very weapons that he uses in our day to make the truth of none effect. When the truth is presented to the people, it seems to many to be consistent and right; and if the enemy and his followers did not come in and oppose it by every means in their power, where there are now ten who take hold of it, there would be thousands.

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“The only way in which God could deal with Satan was to take a straightforward course; and this is the course that his children must pursue in the great controversy which is still being carried on in the world between truth and error, light and darkness. Those who hold the truth in righteousness will be fair; they can afford to be fair. But those who oppose the truth lack Bible evidence to sustain their position. Therefore they are not fair, but are constantly warring against the things that are for their good.”

Satan’s Government Enters Our Planet (Romans 5:12)

“When Satan tempted and overcame Adam and Eve, he thought he had gained possession of this world; ‘because,’ said he, ‘they have chosen me as their governor.’ God had said to man, Thou shalt not eat of the forbidden tree. Satan had said, Thou mayest eat. They did eat, and in consequence were driven out of the garden. The sentence of death rested upon them, and the entire race was plunged in hopeless misery. This world is, as it were, but one link in a chain composed of a thousand links; but because of sin it was struck off from the continent of heaven, and Satan claimed it as his.”

The Plan Of Redemption Implemented

“If God were like us, we would expect to hear him say, ‘Let the world go; let Satan have it for his own.’ But I am so thankful that God is not like man. He so loved the creatures of his care that He provided a way by which they might be brought back to their Eden home. **But at what an immense cost was this provision made! It was no less than by giving up His own dear Son, who was equal to Himself, to bear the penalty of the transgressor. The controversy was not to be taken into the other worlds of the universe; but it was to be carried on in the very world, on the very same field, that Satan claimed as his.**”

Satan Continued His Warfare Against God On Earth

“Ever since his fall, Satan has been at work to establish himself as ruler of this earth. He saw the sacrificial offerings which had been ordained to represent Christ as dying for the race; and he tried in every possible way to so pervert them that the people would lose sight of their true meaning. He was acquainted with the people whom Christ led out of Egyptian bondage, and who were the depositaries of God’s law; and he tried earnestly to overcome them by constantly plying them with his temptations. But God did not give them up to his control. He so far succeeded, however, that nearly the whole company who left Egypt

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fell in the wilderness. Not all, thank God! Not all. There were a few faithful ones to pass the work into the hands of others to carry forward.

“From the Jewish age down to the present time, Satan’s warfare has been directed against the Son of God and his work; and he still flatters himself that he will obtain the victory. Christ came to our world in the form of humanity. **All heaven were intensely interested in following Him from the manger to Calvary, as He traversed, step by step, the blood-stained path to redeem man. Here were the very people whom He had led out of bondage, and to whom God had entrusted His law; but they received Him not. He was the light of the world; but the darkness comprehended it not. (John 1:5)**”

Satan’s Strategy Against The Jewish Nation

“It was Satan’s studied purpose to bring the Jewish nation into such a state of darkness that they would not know Jesus when He came. Had they walked in the light, they would not have been thus deceived. Heaven marked the insult and mockery that He received from the very men who professed to be His children. They knew that it was at Satan’s instigation that spies were placed upon His track as He went from city to city. Christ declared that He came to break the yoke of bondage from every neck, and to let the oppressed go free. Here was a work of counter-agencies going on. Satan was constantly pressing darkness, suffering, and sorrow upon the race; Christ was counteracting it.”

Satan’s Attacks On Christ In The Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

“When Christ went into the wilderness of temptation after His baptism, it was to meet the wily foe in conflict. Satan did not at first appear to Christ in his true character, but as a bright, beautiful, attractive angel sent to Him with a message direct from His Father in heaven. This was a temptation to Christ. His humanity made it a temptation to him. It was only by trusting in His Father that He could resist these temptations. He walked by faith as we must walk by faith. It would have been impossible for Him to know how to succor those who are tempted had He not known what it was to be tempted. The temptations that he endured were as much more severe than those which come upon us as his character is more exalted than ours. He overcame Satan by the word of God, ‘It is written.’ So must we.

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“When Satan exercised his power by taking Christ and placing Him on a pinnacle of the temple, he tempted him, saying: ‘If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.’ Christ answered him saying, ‘It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.’

“Again Satan takes Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and laying aside his disguised character, presents before Him the kingdoms of the world in all their glory and attractiveness. ‘All these will I give Thee,’ he says, ‘if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.’ He declares that they are his to give; and he presents them as a tempting bribe to the Son of God. It is then that the indignation of Christ is stirred; and he says, ‘Get thee hence, Satan.’ The tempter then leaves Christ, faint and dying, upon the field of battle, and one of the heavenly angels who are watching the scene is immediately sent to minister unto him.”

It’s Finished (John 19:30)

“As the ministry of Christ commences, the battle between light and darkness waxes stronger. And as He cries out upon the cross in his expiring agony, ‘It is finished,’ a shout of triumph rings through every world and through heaven itself. The great contest that has been going on in this world for so long is ended, and Christ is conqueror. His death has now answered the question whether there was self-denial with the Father and the Son.

“The angelic host who watched the scenes in the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ, knew that it was Satan who entered into Judas and led him to betray Christ into the hands of the murderous mob; they knew, too, that it was he who impelled the throng to cry out, ‘Crucify him; crucify him;’ and ‘release unto us Barabbas.’ **Satan has now revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer.** It is seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men who were under his power, he would manifest if permitted to control the intelligences of heaven. **The question is settled in all the worlds that there is no place for him in all their dominions.”**

The Resurrection Of Christ

“They see their loved Commander hanging upon Calvary’s cross as a malefactor. He is taken down and laid in Joseph’s tomb. **He comes forth a conqueror.** Again,

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as at His death, a shout of victory echoes and re-echoes throughout the universe. Now that the issue is determined, all are free to express their indignation at Satan's rebellion; and with one voice, the loyal universe unite in extolling the divine administration.

"The penalty of the transgression of God's law is death. Christ suffered death for man, and brought life and immortality to light by coming from the dead. When He died, the death knell of Satan was sounded. The work of Christ was to destroy him who had the power of death; therefore we are today prisoners of hope. How grateful we should be that, notwithstanding this earth is so small amid the created worlds, God notices even us. The nations are before him as the drop in the bucket, and as the small dust in the balance; and yet the great, the stupendous work that has been done for us shows how much He loves us."

Satan's Strategy Against God's Law (1 John 5:2-3)

"As soon as Christ was raised from the dead, Satan's lying propensities led him to start the lie that the body of Christ had been stolen. By this he thought he could conceal the fact that it was the Son of God who had died, and he could, after all, make a victory out of his terrible defeat. **Failing in this, he tried another scheme. He had controlled the Jewish nation so that they had rejected and crucified the Son of God. He now pretends to exalt Christ before the Christian world by telling them that instead of keeping the seventh-day Sabbath they must keep the first day of the week in memory of Christ's resurrection. Anything, he cares not what, to show that the law of God can be changed! If he can make the world believe that this law can be changed, he has gained his point.**"

The Man Of Sin (Daniel 7:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

"There is one pointed out in prophecy as the man of sin. He is the representative of Satan. Taking the suggestions of Satan concerning the law of God, **which is as unchangeable as His throne**, this man of sin comes in and represents to the world that he has changed that law, and that the first day of the week instead of the seventh is now the Sabbath. Professing infallibility, he claims the right to change the law of God to suit his own purposes. By so doing, he exalts himself above God, and leaves the world to infer that God is fallible. **If it were indeed true that God had made a rule of government that needed to be changed, it would certainly show fallibility.**"

God's Law Immutable (Matthew 5:17)

“But Christ declared that not one jot or tittle of the law should fail until heaven and earth should pass away. The very work that He came to do was to exalt the law, and show to the created worlds and to heaven that God is just, and that His law need not be changed. But here is Satan’s right-hand man ready to carry on the work that Satan commenced in heaven, that of trying to amend the law of God. **And the Christian world has sanctioned his efforts by adopting this child of the papacy,—the Sunday institution. They have nourished it, and will continue to nourish it, until Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power. Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God’s creation, and then it is that God “will do a strange work in the earth.”** He has borne long with the perversity of the race; He has tried to win them to Himself. But the time will come when they shall have filled their measure of iniquity; and then it is that God will work. This time is almost reached. **God keeps a record with the nations: the figures are swelling against them in the books of heaven; and when it shall have become a law that the transgression of the first day of the week shall be met with punishment, then their cup will be full.**

“We should consider that it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to demonstrate to all the worlds that God’s law is unchangeable, and that the wages of sin is death.

“There is a great deal more to this subject than we can take in at a glance. Oh that all might see the importance of carefully studying the Scriptures! Many seem to have the idea that this world and the heavenly mansions constitute the universe of God. Not so. The redeemed throng will range from world to world, and much of their time will be employed in searching out the mysteries of redemption. And throughout the whole stretch of eternity, this subject will be continually opening to their minds. **The privileges of those who overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony are beyond comprehension.”**

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The Great Controversy And Our Individual Experiences (Ephesians 6:10-18)

“We have each to battle with the fallen foe. I feel an intense interest that all should look upon this battle in the light of the Bible. **Begin the warfare at once by gaining victories over self. Do not give place to the Devil. Do not sin against God, by indulging sinful thoughts or words. Do not let the enemy have control over your powers, but throw all the weight of your influence on the side of Christ. (Galatians 2:20)**”

Calvary Reveals God’s Infinite Love (1 John 3:1-3)

“When you look at the cross of Calvary, you cannot doubt God’s love or His willingness to save. He has worlds upon worlds that give Him divine honor, and heaven and all the universe would have been just as happy if he had left this world to perish; but so great was His love for the fallen race that He gave His own dear Son to die that they might be redeemed from eternal death. **As we see the care, the love, that God has for us, let us respond to it; let us give to Jesus all the powers of our being, fighting manfully the battles of the Lord. We cannot afford to lose our souls; we cannot afford to sin against God. Life, eternal life in the kingdom of glory, is worth everything. But if we would obtain this precious boon, we must live a life of obedience to all of God’s requirements; we must carry out the principles of the Christian religion in our daily life.**”

Repairers Of The Breach (Isaiah 58:12-14)

“The law of God is made void in the land. For this reason every one who sees the light in regard to that law should put on the armor, and in the name of Jesus try to build the breach that has been made in that law by the man of sin. ‘And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.’”

Conclusion

“Oh that I might impress upon the minds of all the true mission of Christ in coming to our world! It was to redeem man, and at the same time to show the immutability of his Father’s law. The very fact that it was necessary for Him to give His life for the fallen race, shows that the law of God will not release man from one tittle of its claims upon him. Satan’s work has ever been to find fault with the law of God. But the very fact that Christ bore the penalty of the transgression of the law, is a mighty argument to all created intelligences in heaven and in other worlds that that law is changeless; that God is righteous, merciful, and self-denying; and that His administration is one of justice and mercy.” RH, March 9, 1886.

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Section 3

The Everlasting Gospel

Chapter 13

The Light Of The Glorious Gospel Of Christ

Introduction

The **loud cry** of Revelation 18:1-4 will include an advanced repetition of the first angel's message. How do we know this? The answer is found in a careful consideration of the following texts of scripture. Firstly Revelation 18:1:

*“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.”
Revelation 18:1.*

Notice here that during the loud cry the earth will be **lightened** with God's glory. This is the glorious light of the character of God fully revealed in the true and everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul calls it the **light of the glorious gospel of Christ!**

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest

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the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. ⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:3-6.

Moreover Revelation 18:1 also declares that the final loud cry invitation will have **great power!** What is this power? It is the power of God to save sinners and it is manifested through the gospel.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16.

Furthermore it should be made abundantly clear that the **secret** of the gospel's power to save is the fact that the true gospel reveals the righteousness of God, i.e. the gospel reveals how fantastically good our God is!

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17.

And it will be the revelation of God's **goodness** that will produce deep, genuine **repentance** and **win** multiplied thousands to **Jesus** and **all of His truth** during the loud cry!

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Romans 2:4.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19.

God's Love Is Light

During the **loud cry** Jesus will be presented as the **light** of the world. His law will be presented as a **new** commandment of **agape love** causing the darkness to flee and the true light to shine into the hearts of the honest at heart.

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“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12.

“That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But 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 1:9-12.

“Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.” 1 John 2:8.

Thousands upon thousands will receive the true light and pass from condemnation to **final** justification!

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. ²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” John 3:17-21.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:1-2.

But in order to understand and appreciate the light of the gospel, we need to study the deep mysteries of the eternal Son of God who became man in order to be our second or last Adam and our Saviour.

The Word Made Flesh – 1 SM 247-251

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not....And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.’ John 1:1-5, 14.

“This chapter delineates the character and importance of the work of Christ. As one who understands his subject, John ascribes all power to Christ, and speaks of His greatness and majesty. He flashes forth divine rays of precious truth, as light from the sun. He presents Christ as the only Mediator between God and humanity.

“The doctrine of the incarnation of Christ in human flesh is a mystery, ‘even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations’ (Col. 1:26). It is the great and profound mystery of godliness. ‘The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us’ (John 1:14). Christ took upon Himself human nature, a nature inferior to His heavenly nature. Nothing so shows the wonderful condescension of God as this. He ‘so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son’ (John 3:16). John presents this wonderful subject with such simplicity that all may grasp the ideas set forth, and be enlightened.

“Christ did not make believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. ‘As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same’ (Heb. 2: 14). He was the son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the Man Christ Jesus. ‘This man,’ writes Paul, ‘was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house’ (Heb. 3:3).”

Christ’s Pre-Existence

“But while God’s Word speaks of the humanity of Christ when upon this earth, it also speaks decidedly regarding His pre-existence. The Word existed as a divine being, even as the eternal Son of God, in union and oneness with His Father. From everlasting He was the Mediator of the covenant, the one in whom all

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nations of the earth, both Jews and Gentiles, if they accepted Him, were to be blessed. 'The Word was with God, and the Word was God' (John 1:1). Before men or angels were created, the Word was with God, and was God.

"The world was made by Him, 'and without him was not any thing made that was made' (John 1:3). If Christ made all things, He existed before all things. The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore.

"The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by Him as His right. This was no robbery of God. 'The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way,' He declares, 'before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the deep' (Prov. 8:22-27).

"There are light and glory in the truth that Christ was one with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid. This is the light shining in a dark place, making it resplendent with divine, original glory. This truth, infinitely mysterious in itself, explains other mysterious and otherwise unexplainable truths, while it is enshrined in light, unapproachable and incomprehensible.

"'Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God' (Ps. 90:2). 'The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up' (Matt. 4:16). Here the pre-existence of Christ and the purpose of His manifestation to our world are presented as living beams of light from the eternal throne. 'Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek. But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto

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me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting' (Micah 5:1, 2).

"'We preach Christ crucified,' declared Paul, 'unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God' (1 Cor. 1:23, 24)."

A Mystery

"That God should thus be manifest in the flesh is indeed a mystery; and without the help of the Holy Spirit we cannot hope to comprehend this subject. The most humbling lesson that man has to learn is the nothingness of human wisdom, and the folly of trying, by his own unaided efforts, to find out God. He may exert his intellectual powers to the utmost, he may have what the world calls a superior education, yet he may still be ignorant in God's eyes. The ancient philosophers boasted of their wisdom; but how did it weigh in the scale with God? Solomon had great learning; but his wisdom was foolishness; for he did not know how to stand in moral independence, free from sin, in the strength of a character molded after the divine similitude. Solomon has told us the result of his research, his painstaking efforts, his persevering inquiry. He pronounces his wisdom altogether vanity.

"By wisdom the world knew not God. Their estimation of the divine character, their imperfect knowledge of His attributes, did not enlarge and expand their mental conception. Their minds were not ennobled in conformity to the divine will, but they plunged into the grossest idolatry. 'Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things' (Rom. 1:22, 23). This is the worth of all requirements and knowledge apart from Christ.

"'I am the way, the truth, and the life,' Christ declares: 'no man cometh unto the Father, but by me' (John 14:6). Christ is invested with power to give life to all creatures. 'As the living Father hath sent me,' He says, 'and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.' 'It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life' (John 6:57, 63). Christ is not here referring to His doctrine, but to His person, the divinity of His character. 'Verily, verily, I say unto you,' He says again,

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‘The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man’ (John 5:25-27).”

The Significance Of Christ’s Birth

“God and Christ knew from the beginning, of the apostasy of Satan and of the fall of Adam through the deceptive power of the apostate. The plan of salvation was designed to redeem the fallen race, to give them another trial. Christ was appointed to the office of Mediator from the creation of God, set up from everlasting to be our substitute and surety. Before the world was made, it was arranged that the divinity of Christ should be enshrouded in humanity. ‘A body,’ said Christ, ‘hast thou prepared me’ (Heb. 10:5). But He did not come in human form until the fullness of time had expired. Then He came to our world, a babe in Bethlehem.

“No one born into the world, not even the most gifted of God’s children, has ever been accorded such demonstration of joy as greeted the Babe born in Bethlehem. Angels of God sang His praises over the hills and plains of Bethlehem. ‘Glory to God in the highest,’ they sang, ‘and on earth peace, good will toward men’ (Luke 2:14). O that today the human family could recognize this song! The declaration then made, the note then struck, the tune then started, will swell and extend to the end of time, and resound to the ends of the earth. It is glory to God, it is peace on earth, good will to men. When the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings, the song then started in the hills of Bethlehem will be reechoed by the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, saying, ‘Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth’ (Rev. 19:6).

“By His obedience to all the commandments of God, Christ wrought out a redemption for men. This was not done by going out of Himself to another, but by taking humanity into Himself. Thus Christ gave to humanity an existence out of himself. To bring humanity into Christ, to bring the fallen race into oneness with divinity, is the work of redemption. Christ took human nature that men might be one with Him as He is one with the Father, that God may love man as He loves His only-begotten Son, that men may be partakers of the divine nature, and be complete in Him.

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“The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only-begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ. This union is represented by the union of the vine and the branches. Finite man is united to the manhood of Christ. Through faith human nature is assimilated with Christ’s nature. We are made one with God in Christ.” 1 SM 247-251.

Chapter 14

The Two Adams

Introduction

The apostle Paul, in one of his clearest teachings of the gospel, presents in the doctrine of the two Adams, the comparison and the contrast between Adam and Christ. Paul calls them the **first** Adam and the **last** Adam.

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. ⁴⁶ Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.

The first Adam, by his fall, became the origin of sinful humanity.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12.

Christ, the last Adam, by His perfect faith, perfect obedience and perfect sacrifice, became the origin of a new divine-human race, redeemed out of the old.

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“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13.

“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. ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:1-3.

Word Study Of “Adam”

The word “Adam” literally means corporate mankind. It appears 510 times in the Hebrew scriptures and in the majority of cases it means **corporate** or **collective** mankind, only in a few cases is it used to mean the **individual** man God created in Eden.

The Idea Of “Corporate Oneness”

In Hebrews chapter seven, Paul used an amazing argument to prove that the Melchisedec priesthood was and is superior to the Levitical. Using the premise that the lesser is blessed of the greater and the lesser pays tithes to the greater, Paul proves that Levi was the lesser and Melchisedec the greater. How does he do this? He argues that when Abraham was blessed by Melchisedec and paid tithes to Melchisedec **Levi paid tithes in Abraham** because he was in Abraham’s loins (sperm) when Abraham met Melchisedec!

“And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. ⁸ And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. ⁹ And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. ¹⁰ For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.” Hebrews 7: 7-10.

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In other words Abraham was a representative man and represented Levi. What Abraham did, he did for Levi, and Levi did it in Abraham!

The same concept is mentioned in Genesis 25:19-23, note verse 23. When Rebecca inquired of the Lord, He answered her:

“And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.” Genesis 25:23.

Notice here God called the twins **“two nations”**! Two nations – Jacob and Esau. In Jacob, God saw all the descendants of Jacob; in Esau, God saw all the descendants of Esau; and so, as God saw it, there were **two nations** struggling in her womb!

The First Adam

The scriptures clearly teach that Adam was the first Representative or father of the **entire** human race.

“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.” Acts 17:26.

God created the entire human family, all mankind, in one man, Adam. This is further confirmed by looking at Genesis 2:7 where it says that God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” The original Hebrew word for **life** is in the plural form. **This means that when God created Adam, He was creating not just one man, but the whole human race in that one man!** Further proof of this fact is shown in the creation of the woman. Eve was not made **“de novo”** from the earth as Adam was but rather she was taken **out** of Adam. In Adam was the collective genetics and life of the entire human race. Individual human beings would be born by sexual reproduction from the first Adam. Before any sexual reproduction had occurred, Adam stood as the Head and Representative of the entire human race, of all the individual humans who, though yet unborn, were in his **“loins”** or **“spermatozoa.”**

Election Day In Eden

God's government of selfless agape love, wisdom, truth and righteousness, was being challenged by the newly developed Satanic government of selfishness, falsehood and sin.

God made man a free moral agent. Satan was allowed to "canvas" for his political party only at one location, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam would be allowed to fully exercise his free choice to choose either to remain under God's benign government of love and life or to "**vote out**" God's government and "**vote in**" Satan's newly formed political party of self centeredness, sin and death.

Whichever choice Adam made he would be making it for the entire human race which as yet, though unborn as individuals, was inside of him as corporate humanity. In other words what Adam did he was doing for the whole race and the whole race would do it and have it by being in him!

The Fall

So, when Satan caused Adam to fall, sin and condemnation were not confined **only** to Adam himself; sin and condemnation entered the whole human race.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation."
Romans 5:12, 18 first part.

Adam had no children when he fell; all his offspring or posterity was still "**in him**" and therefore was implicated in his sin just as Levi was in Abraham's loins and was implicated in Abraham's payment of tithes to Melchisedec.

Here, then, we have the biblical doctrine of the **corporate oneness** of the human race. Adam's one act of disobedience sold out the entire human race to Satan's government, and condemned the entire race to the consequences of sin. **Individual** human beings experience the "selling out" and the condemnation simply by being born physically. As individuals, though, we did not make Adam's original choice. We inherit the corporate sin, condemnation, and death sentence which resulted from his **representative** choice.

Adam's Choice Was Representative Choice

It must be emphasized that God dealt with the entire race through Adam, the first Head and Representative of the race. Adam had to make the choice to remain under God's government or to "vote out" God's government and "**vote in**" Satan's government. And he had to make that choice for "**all mankind,**" corporate humanity. If Adam had chosen to remain loyal to God **none of his posterity would have chosen otherwise,** the entire race would have been born into loyalty to God's government, there would have been no sin in the human race or in the world!

Similarly Christ's Choice Was Also Representative Choice

The corollary is also true. After Adam's sin had condemned the entire race, no individual could have delivered himself from that condemnation by **his** individual choice or good works. What humanity needed was a second or last Adam who would undo what the first Adam did and then individual humans would have the choice to accept or reject the redemption accomplished by the Second Adam.

"In assuming humanity Christ took the part of every human being. He was the Head of humanity. A Being divine and human, with His long human arm He could encircle humanity, while with His divine arm He could lay hold of the throne of the Infinite." 1SM 252.

Three Choices

To put it even more plainly, our **individual** choice as human beings was not the **primary** choice in either our condemnation or our redemption. Our **individual** choice did not "**sell out**" the human race to Satan's government and our **individual** choice did not "**buy back**" (redeem) the race from Satan's government.

The first Adam sold out the entire race, as corporate humanity, to Satan's government by his one act of disobedience. Therefore all of Adam's ordinary human descendants have been born under condemnation, not by their **individual** choice, but by Adam's **representative** choice. **Our corporate condemnation was accomplished apart from our individual choice or wrong doing.**

Similarly, corporate humanity, the entire human race, as a federal corporate solidarity of humanity, have had their collective redemption price paid for by the Second Adam. If the price has been paid for something

then that thing has been bought. The first Adam had sold out the human race as a collective whole. The Second Adam has bought back (redeemed) the human race also as a collective whole. **Our corporate redemption has been accomplished apart from our individual choice or good works.**

“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.” Romans 5:18.

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.” 2 Corinthians 5:14.

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:19.

Individual Choice

As individual human persons we had no choice in Adam’s fall and we had no choice in being physically born of the flesh from our parents. So we have all been born into condemnation because of Adam’s one act of disobedience and we all have chosen to sin as individual persons.

Christ, the last Adam by His perfect faith and love, His perfect submission to God, His perfect obedience and sinless character and His perfect sacrifice on the cross has bought back corporate humanity without our individual choice. Now comes the difference. Whereas we were physically born without our individual choice, we cannot be spiritually born without our individual choice. In order to **experience** the redemption which Christ has obtained for corporate humanity, the **individual** human person must choose to accept Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord. The individual must choose to “step out” of the *first* Adam and “step into” the *last* Adam. In other words the individual must choose to be born again and to be “in Christ” and to remain “in Christ” in order to be **individually** saved.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not

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that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”
John 3:3, 5-8.

How The Son Of God Became The Last Adam

The question is how did the eternal Son of God become the second Father of the human race, of corporate humanity? The answer is that He had to become a man and in so doing He had to **take on the collective or corporate fallen** human nature of Adam’s lost race. God **gathered together** the collective corporate fallen physical life and nature of humanity into the incarnate Christ and He became the Last Adam.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”
Hebrews 2:14-17.

“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.” Romans 1:3.

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” Romans 8:3.

When the eternal Son of God became man, by taking on the corporate fallen human nature of Adam’s lost race, **He became us!** Therefore He became our **actual** substitute and surety. He had to take on our corporate fallen human nature in order firstly, to be the Saviour of the world; secondly, to prove that God’s moral law of agape love can be obeyed in our sinful

flesh; thirdly, to answer Satan's charges against God's government; and fourthly, to be our example!

Actual Not Vicarious Substitution

Adam was our first father and representative and we were in him when he chose to disobey God and we therefore participated in his disobedience. Similarly Christ, the last Adam, became our new Father and Representative and we were in Him when He chose to die **for us as us!** Therefore corporate humanity participated in His obedience and in His death on the cross. When He died for all, all died **in Him!** See 2 Corinthians 5:14.

This does not mean that all individual humans are automatically saved. In order to be individually **saved** an individual has to accept Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord and be found **in Christ**, born again by the Spirit!

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Philippians 3:8-11.

"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. ¹³ I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father." John 1:12-13.

Dynamic Victory In Christ

Christ, the Last Adam, took on our corporate **fallen** human nature and gathered all mankind into Himself. God actually gave His Son **to** the human race to be our Saviour, to be our **actual** substitute and surety and example!

He was tempted in all points as we are. He overcame every temptation and lived a sinless life (character) in our corporate sinful flesh. **God was**

dealing with us in Him. All the temptations of the sinful flesh that pull on our minds, pulled on His mind because He became us and we were in Him. He took on our corporate sinful flesh, in fact He took us into Himself, and conquered our sinful flesh, conquered our collective human self. He then took our corporate sinful flesh, our collective sinful self, to the cross and gave it up to the second death. Therefore in Him we have the death of self, the denial and crucifixion of the flesh, the death of the “**old man**”.

To put it simply He took on our collective corporate sinful human nature, with the sin-principle resident in it. He denied its sinful desires, subjected it to the will of God, made it obedient to God and then gave it up to the second death. He did all of that **for** us and **to** us and we were in Him and have it all **in Him!** See 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24

“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; ² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” 1 Peter 4:1-2.

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16.

All the temptations that attack us in our individual selves attacked us in Christ because He became corporately one with us. And He overcame every single one of these temptations, mine, yours and the other man’s. Therefore in Him we have victory over any and all temptations. Victory over sin has already been accomplished for us and in us, **in Christ!**

Our Saviour completely conquered the **law of sin and death** in our corporate fallen human nature which He took on. Moreover He established the **law of the Spirit of life** in the human mind. It has been done **for** us, **to** us, **in** us, **in Christ** as an **already** accomplished fact. The Holy Spirit

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simply communicates or reproduces all of these amazing accomplishments in the life of the believer who abides in Christ.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1-4.

Redemption From Guilt And Condemnation

By His death on Calvary’s cross, Christ redeemed humanity from the **guilt** and **condemnation** of sin.

Firstly, His death cancelled the verdict of condemnation which came upon the race as a result of Adam’s sin. That is why all men will be resurrected. No one will be lost because of Adam’s sin but because of his own rejection of Christ’s redemptive work!

“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

Adam’s condemnation is passed on to us simply by our being born with Adam’s life – a life that is indwelt by the law of sin and death. Therefore in order for Christ to save us from Adamic condemnation He had to bear our sinful nature. Moreover we have incurred individual guilt and condemnation by our own individual sins. Therefore in order to save us completely Christ had to bear our personal sins and, as stated before, he had to bear our sinful nature. Both were executed on the cross in Christ. He has atoned for Adam’s corporate sin, guilt and condemnation and He has atoned for our individual sins and condemnation. He is a complete Saviour!

God Has Given Us His Own Life In Christ

On the cross, the human nature and human life of Christ, which in reality was our corporate condemned human life and nature, died the second death which is the wages of sin. At Calvary’s cross corporate sinful humanity

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died in Christ! This death satisfied the just demands of the law and gave God the legal right to forgive us of our sins. See 2 Corinthians 5:14.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

“Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances.” Colossians 2:20.

When Christ was resurrected He came forth from the grave with the same bodily form but **not** with the old sinful human nature and physical life these were given up forever to the second death. Jesus came forth from the grave with the Divine Nature and Divine Life in His glorified body.

This means that in exchange for our condemned life that died eternally on the cross, God has given to us the immortal, eternal Life of His Son! **This is God’s love gift to humanity.** God’s gift to Adam’s fallen race is the Divine, Eternal Life of His Son!

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” 1 John 5:11-12.

This new eternal life is experienced through the new birth and enables us to live victorious lives now. And this new eternal life will be our life in the new body in the resurrection/translation event at the second coming of Christ!

Oh what love! What salvation!

See also Philipians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:45-47; 1 John 3:1-3.

Chapter 15

All In Christ

“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:10.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3.

All that was sold out by Adam has been redeemed by Christ. In Adam’s fall, Satan laid the foundation for everything we experience in the realm of sin, the realm which culminates in the second death. But in Christ God has laid the foundation for everything we are to experience in the realm of redemption, the realm which culminates in eternal life.

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

Everything necessary for the salvation and restoration of fallen humanity has **already** been accomplished and prepared in the life, death, resurrection, glorification and ascension of Christ. This means that there is **nothing, absolutely nothing**, the believer receives or experiences in this life or in the coming kingdom of glory that has not been already accomplished **in Christ**. Our justification, sanctification and glorification have already been accomplished and prepared **in Christ** for all mankind.

Satan's Damage To Humanity In The First Adam

In order to better appreciate and benefit fully from the great salvation God has given us in the second Adam, we must first understand the effects of the fall and the damage done to humanity in the first Adam.

Adam's sin affected corporate humanity in three ways: (1) spiritually, (2) morally, and (3) physically. We shall examine each of these concisely.

1. Spiritually

Before the fall, the Holy Spirit indwelt the spirit of the mind of Adam. Adam was therefore spiritually alive in the spirit of his mind, i.e. at the very seat, origin or fountainhead of his mental and intellectual process. Every thought motive, attitude and desire was under the direct control of God's agape love in the Holy Spirit.

But when Adam turned his back on God, he, Adam, in fact expelled the Holy Spirit from the human spirit leaving corporate humanity spiritually dead. Listen to Paul's description of the spiritual pathology of lost humanity:

"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." Ephesians 4:18.

This spiritual death has been passed on to all human beings: all of us are born into this world spiritually dead.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Ephesians 2:1-3.

2. Morally

As already mentioned, God's agape love in the Holy Spirit controlled Adam's **motives, attitudes, desires** and every detail of the biochemistry of his thinking process. This means that the moral law of agape love was within the chemistry of this **thinking process!** God's love was written in every fiber of his being so that obeying its principles was natural spontaneous and easy.

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When Adam fell, **self-centeredness** replaced **unselfish love** in the biochemistry of the human thinking process, therefore the human thinking process became perverted and sinful (as Paul succinctly describes in Romans 3:10-19).

“Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. He was made captive by Satan, and would have remained so forever had not God specially interposed. It was the tempter’s purpose to thwart the divine plan in man’s creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation. And he would point to all this evil as the result of God’s work in creating man.” SC 17.

The moment Adam sinned, not only did the Holy Spirit leave the human spirit thereby leaving corporate humanity spiritually dead, but the very chemistry of Adam’s behavior, in motives, attitudes, desires and thoughts, became **self-centered**. The **law of sin and death** now controlled the natural mind.

“Satan separated himself from God, and selfishness became the law of those who placed themselves under his leadership. He came to this earth, and entered upon the work of conforming all things to himself. He sought in every way to deface the divine image in man, and to place his principles where the principles of heaven should be.

“To a large degree Satan has succeeded in the execution of his plans. Through the medium of influence, taking advantage of the action of mind on mind, he prevailed on Adam to sin. Thus at its very source human nature was corrupted. And ever since then sin has continued its hateful work, reaching from mind to mind. Every sin committed awakens the echoes of the original sin.” RH, April 16, 1901.

3. Physically

All the complex and wonderful systems of biological powers in the anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of the human body in Adam before the fall were absolutely controlled by righteousness through Agape love. And as long as our first parents had access to the tree of life then physical nature knew no degeneration. But after the fall the complex and delicate

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physical powers became divorced from righteousness and therefore became perverted. Perverted powers are called wrath. This means that our physical biochemistry having become perverted is in fact **“biological wrath”!**

As a result of Adam’s fall humanity became subject to physical degeneracy, sickness, aging, and physical death.

The second Adam, the Lord Jesus, came into our world to redeem corporate humanity from each of these three consequences of the fall. But in order to do such a work He had to be *“made in all things like unto His brethren”* Hebrews 2:1.

Let us now examine how fallen humanity was redeemed from this threefold damage by the last Adam.

1. Spiritually

Since Christ was the second person of the Godhead, as God He could have and did receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and being man He enabled the spirit of the human mind to be filled with all the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Therefore in Christ humanity became, again, spiritually alive! No individual descendant of Adam could have been filled with the Holy Spirit **out** of Christ. Only in Christ do we have the Holy Spirit and we have the Holy Spirit in Christ *“without measure”!* In other words redemption places humanity **in Christ** higher than unfallen humanity was in the first Adam!

*“He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.
34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.” John 3:34-35.*

Christ’s mind was filled with all the infinite fullness of the Holy Spirit from the moment of His conception in the virgin’s womb. In Him corporate humanity became spiritually alive.

“From eternal ages it was God’s purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple.” DA 161.

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The **individual** sinner becomes **spiritually alive** when he yields to the drawing of the Holy Spirit, comes to Christ and, in genuine repentance and confession, surrenders completely to Jesus receiving Him as his personal Saviour and Lord. The individual is now “**in Christ**” in faith, justified by faith and is born again of the Holy Spirit.

“Nicodemus was still perplexed, and Jesus used the wind to illustrate His meaning: ‘The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.’

“The wind is heard among the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves and flowers; yet it is invisible, and no man knows whence it comes or whither it goes. So with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind. A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or to trace all the circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received through meditating upon Him, through reading the Scriptures, or through hearing the word from the living preacher. Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God,—a patient, protracted process.

“While the wind is itself invisible, it produces effects that are seen and felt. So the work of the Spirit upon the soul will reveal itself in every act of him who has felt its saving power. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God.

“It is impossible for finite minds to comprehend the work of redemption. Its mystery exceeds human knowledge; yet he who passes from death to life realizes that it is a divine reality. The beginning of redemption we may know

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here through a personal experience. Its results reach through the eternal ages."
DA 172-173.

2. Morally

Christ Jesus, the second Adam, throughout His earthly life, was engaged in constant warfare against the law of sin and death in our corporate fallen sinful human nature which He took on. By absolute surrender to His Father He never allowed our corporate fallen flesh, which He took on, to induce His mind to sin. He forced our rebellious nature to render a perfect obedience to God and then He gave up our rebellious nature to the second death on the cross!

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; ⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Hebrews 5:7-9.

“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; ² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” 1 Peter 4:1-2.

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.” Romans 6:6, 10.

The born again believer in Christ claims, by faith, this victory of Christ over the flesh.

How?

By believing, claiming and surrendering to the **objective** facts of the gospel! The individual believer is to claim the death of self, the crucifixion of the **“old man”** on one hand, and, on the other hand, the individual believer is to claim the perfect obedience of Christ as his own!

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³

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For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1-4.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24.

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. ¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” Romans 6:11-18.

This means that the perfect obedience prepared in Christ for corporate humanity is as much a part of the “salvation gift-package” as eternal life is. The believer receives the perfect righteousness of Christ as a free gift and by the surrender of faith working by love he allows the Holy Spirit to manifest Christ’s obedience in his daily living! Obedience is therefore not an option, it is an inevitable reality in the believer who abides in Christ! Paul calls it the obedience of faith!

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. ²⁵ Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the

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scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: ²⁷ To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.” Romans 16:24-27.

3. Physically

When the Son of God took on our sinful human flesh, He took on our **mental, moral** and **physical** infirmities. At the physical level He was subject to fatigue, hunger, thirst, aging, and death. But having redeemed and purified our sinful human nature at the cross, Jesus rose from the dead with a glorified body mentally, morally and physically. At this ascension He took this glorified body to heaven where it is reserved for the saved at His second coming!

“Satan had pointed to Adam’s sin as proof that God’s law was unjust, and could not be obeyed. In our humanity, Christ was to redeem Adam’s failure. But when Adam was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him. He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full vigor of mind and body. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation.

“Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam’s position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured.”
DA 117.

What We Have “In Christ”

It is of crucial and vital importance that each born-again believer knows, and claims by faith, all that we have in Christ.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3.

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Professor W. W. Prescott, in 1895, expressed it this way:

“That is, when God put all those spiritual blessings upon Christ when he was here in the flesh, God put those blessings upon us, because Christ was made flesh and dwelt in us, and we were there in Him, and the time when we were blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ was when those blessings were put upon Jesus Christ who dwelt in us; and the only question for us is, have we enjoyed, have we received, the blessings that God gave us in Christ?”

What a wonderful salvation we have **in Christ!** In Him we have faith, repentance, redemption, submission, forgiveness, acceptance, the inheritance, eternal life, perfect obedience, the new creation, good works, justification, sanctification, glorification!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ⁸ Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; ⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: ¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.” Ephesians 1:3-11.

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. ¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that

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which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.” Ephesians 2:6-12.

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: ⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:6-10.

“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³ 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: ⁴ 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 through lust. ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ¹² Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.” 2 Peter 1:1-12.

“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32.

Chapter 16

Individual Salvation

So far we have been studying the **objective** gospel which is the good news of all that God has already accomplished for **corporate** humanity in Christ. In this chapter we shall be looking concisely at the **subjective** gospel which is the application of the **objective facts** of redemption to the **individual** believer.

The Holy Spirit **reproduces** the righteousness of Christ in the believer's character as the believer abides in Christ by faith. But before this can happen the Holy Spirit draws the sinner to Christ while producing conviction and repentance until the sinner makes a complete surrender to Christ. It is critically important that all should understand the first steps to be taken in coming to Christ to be justified by faith.

Justification By Faith

"When God pardons the sinner, remits the punishment he deserves, and treats him as though he had not sinned, He receives him into divine favor, and justifies him through the merits of Christ's righteousness. The sinner can be justified only through faith in the atonement made through God's dear Son, who became a sacrifice for the sins of the guilty world. No one can be justified by any works of his own. He can be delivered from the guilt of sin, from the condemnation of the law, from the penalty of transgression, only by virtue of the suffering, death, and

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resurrection of Christ. Faith is the only condition upon which justification can be obtained, and faith includes not only belief but trust.”

Genuine Faith Appropriates The Merits Of Christ

“Many have a nominal faith in Christ, but they know nothing of that vital dependence upon Him which appropriates the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. Of this nominal faith James says: ‘Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?’ (James 2:19, 20). Many concede that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world, but at the same time they hold themselves away from Him, and fail to repent of their sins, fail to accept of Jesus as their personal Saviour. Their faith is simply the assent of the mind and judgment to the truth; but the truth is not brought into the heart, that it might sanctify the soul and transform the character. ‘For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified’ (Rom. 8:29, 30). Calling and justification are not one and the same thing. Calling is the drawing of the sinner to Christ, and it is a work wrought by the Holy Spirit upon the heart, convicting of sin, and inviting to repentance.”

The First Steps In Receiving Salvation

“Many are confused as to what constitutes the first steps in the work of salvation. Repentance is thought to be a work the sinner must do for himself in order that he may come to Christ. They think that the sinner must procure for himself a fitness in order to obtain the blessing of God’s grace. But while it is true that repentance must precede forgiveness, for it is only the broken and contrite heart that is acceptable to God, yet the sinner cannot bring himself to repentance, or prepare himself to come to Christ. Except the sinner repent, he cannot be forgiven; but the question to be decided is as to whether repentance is the work of the sinner or the gift of Christ. Must the sinner wait until he is filled with remorse for his sin before he can come to Christ? The very first step to Christ is taken through the drawing of the Spirit of God; as man responds to this drawing, he advances toward Christ in order that he may repent.

“The sinner is represented as a lost sheep, and a lost sheep never returns to the fold unless he is sought after and brought back to the fold by the shepherd.

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No man of himself can repent, and make himself worthy of the blessing of justification. The Lord Jesus is constantly seeking to impress the sinner's mind and attract him to behold Himself, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world. We cannot take a step toward spiritual life save as Jesus draws and strengthens the soul, and leads us to experience that repentance which needeth not to be repented of.

"When before the high priests and Sadducees, Peter clearly presented the fact that repentance is the gift of God. Speaking of Christ, he said, 'Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins' (Acts 5: 31). Repentance is no less the gift of God than are pardon and justification, and it cannot be experienced except as it is given to the soul by Christ. If we are drawn to Christ, it is through His power and virtue. The grace of contrition comes through Him, and from Him comes justification."

The Meaning Of Faith

"Paul writes: 'But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation' (Rom. 10:6-10).

"The faith that is unto salvation is not a casual faith, it is not the mere consent of the intellect, it is belief rooted in the heart, that embraces Christ as a personal Saviour, assured that He can save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. To believe that He will save others, but will not save you is not genuine faith; but when the soul lays hold upon Christ as the only hope of salvation, then genuine faith is manifested. This faith leads its possessor to place all the affections of the soul upon Christ; his understanding is under the control of the Holy Spirit, and his character is molded after the divine likeness. His faith is not a dead faith, but a faith that works by love, and leads him to behold the beauty of Christ, and to become assimilated to the divine character. {Deut. 30:11-14 quoted.} 'And the

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Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live' (Deut. 30:6)." ISM 389-391.

Repentance A Gift Of God

"Repentance, as well as forgiveness, is the gift of God through Christ. It is through the influence of the Holy Spirit that we are convicted of sin, and feel our need of pardon. None but the contrite are forgiven; but it is the grace of God that makes the heart penitent. He is acquainted with all our weaknesses and infirmities, and He will help us.

"Some who come to God by repentance and confession, and even believe that their sins are forgiven, still fail of claiming, as they should, the promises of God. They do not see that Jesus is an ever-present Saviour; and they are not ready to commit the keeping of their souls to Him, relying upon Him to perfect the work of grace begun in their hearts. While they think they are committing themselves to God, there is a great deal of self-dependence. There are conscientious souls that trust partly to God, and partly to themselves. They do not look to God, to be kept by His power, but depend upon watchfulness against temptation, and the performance of certain duties for acceptance with Him. There are no victories in this kind of faith. Such persons toil to no purpose; their souls are in continual bondage, and they find no rest until their burdens are laid at the feet of Jesus.

"There is need of constant watchfulness, and of earnest, loving devotion; but these will come naturally when the soul is kept by the power of God through faith. We can do nothing, absolutely nothing, to commend ourselves to divine favor. We must not trust at all to ourselves nor to our good works; but when as erring, sinful beings we come to Christ, we may find rest in His love. God will accept every one that comes to Him trusting wholly in the merits of a crucified Saviour. Love springs up in the heart. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there is an abiding, peaceful trust. Every burden is light; for the yoke which Christ imposes is easy. Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure. The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness becomes bright with beams from the Sun of Righteousness. This is walking in the light as Christ is in the light." ISM 353.

"It is God that circumcises the heart. The whole work is the Lord's from the beginning to the end. The perishing sinner may say: 'I am a lost sinner; but

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Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost. He says, 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance' (Mark 2:17). I am a sinner, and He died upon Calvary's cross to save me. I need not remain a moment longer unsaved. He died and rose again for my justification, and He will save me now. I accept the forgiveness He has promised."

Imputed Righteousness

"Christ is a risen Saviour; for, though He was dead, He has risen again, and ever liveth to make intercession for us. We are to believe with the heart unto righteousness, and with the mouth make confession unto salvation. Those who are justified by faith will make confession of Christ. 'He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life' (John 5:24). The great work that is wrought for the sinner who is spotted and stained by evil is the work of justification. By Him who speaketh truth he is declared righteous. The Lord imputes unto the believer the righteousness of Christ and pronounces him righteous before the universe. He transfers his sins to Jesus, the sinner's representative, substitute, and surety. Upon Christ He lays the iniquity of every soul that believeth. 'He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him' (2 Cor. 5:21).

"Christ made satisfaction for the guilt of the whole world, and all who will come to God in faith, will receive the righteousness of Christ, 'who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed' (1 Peter 2:24). Our sin has been expiated, put away, cast into the depths of the sea. Through repentance and faith we are rid of sin, and look unto the Lord our righteousness. Jesus suffered, the just for the unjust.

"Although as sinners we are under the condemnation of the law, yet Christ by His obedience rendered to the law, claims for the repentant soul the merit of His own righteousness. In order to obtain the righteousness of Christ, it is necessary for the sinner to know what that repentance is which works a radical change of mind and spirit and action. The work of transformation must begin in the heart, and manifest its power through every faculty of the being; but man is not capable of originating such a repentance as this, and can experience it alone

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through Christ, who ascended up on high, led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

“Who is desirous of becoming truly repentant? What must he do?—He must come to Jesus, just as he is, without delay. He must believe that the word of Christ is true, and, believing the promise, ask, that he may receive. When sincere desire prompts men to pray, they will not pray in vain. The Lord will fulfill His word, and will give the Holy Spirit to lead to repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. He will pray and watch, and put away his sins, making manifest his sincerity by the vigor of his endeavor to obey the commandments of God. With prayer he will mingle faith, and not only believe in but obey the precepts of the law. He will announce himself as on Christ’s side of the question. He will renounce all habits and associations that tend to draw the heart from God.

“He who would become a child of God must receive the truth that repentance and forgiveness are to be obtained through nothing less than the atonement of Christ. Assured of this the sinner must put forth an effort in harmony with the work done for him, and with unwearied entreaty he must supplicate the throne of grace, that the renovating power of God may come into his soul. Christ pardons none but the penitent, but whom He pardons He first makes penitent. The provision made is complete, and the eternal righteousness of Christ is placed to the account of every believing soul. The costly, spotless robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has been provided for the repenting, believing sinner, and he may say: ‘I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness’ (Isa. 61:10).

“Abundant grace has been provided that the believing soul may be kept free from sin; for all heaven, with its limitless resources, has been placed at our command. We are to draw from the well of salvation. Christ is the end of law for righteousness to everyone who believeth. In ourselves we are sinners; but in Christ we are righteous. Having made us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ, God pronounces us just, and treats us as just. He looks upon us as His dear children. Christ works against the power of sin, and where sin abounded, grace much more abounds. ‘Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have

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access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God' (Rom. 5:1, 2).

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus' (Rom. 3:24-26). 'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God' (Eph. 2:8). {John 1:14-16 quoted.}"

The Promise Of The Spirit

"The Lord would have His people sound in the faith—not ignorant of the great salvation so abundantly provided for them. They are not to look forward, thinking that at some future time a great work is to be done for them; for the work is now complete. The believer is not called upon to make his peace with God; he never has nor ever can do this. He is to accept Christ as his peace, for with Christ is God and peace. Christ made an end of sin, bearing its heavy curse in His own body on the tree, and He hath taken away the curse from all those who believe in Him as a personal Saviour. He makes an end of the controlling power of sin in the heart, and the life and character of the believer testify to the genuine character of the grace of Christ. To those that ask Him, Jesus imparts the Holy Spirit; for it is necessary that every believer should be delivered from pollution, as well as from the curse and condemnation of the law. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the sanctification of the truth, the believer becomes fitted for the courts of heaven; for Christ works within us, and His righteousness is upon us. Without this no soul will be entitled to heaven. We would not enjoy heaven unless qualified for its holy atmosphere by the influence of the Spirit and the righteousness of Christ.

"In order to be candidates for heaven we must meet the requirement of the law: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself' (Luke 10:27). We can do this only as we grasp by faith the righteousness of Christ. By beholding Jesus we receive a living, expanding principle in the heart, and the Holy Spirit carries on the work, and the believer advances from grace to grace, from strength to strength, from character to character. He conforms to the image of Christ, until in spiritual growth he attains unto the measure of the full

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stature in Christ Jesus. Thus Christ makes an end of the curse of sin, and sets the believing soul free from its action and effect.

“Christ alone is able to do this, for ‘in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted’ (Heb. 2:17-18). Reconciliation means that every barrier between the soul and God is removed, and that the sinner realizes what the pardoning love of God means. By reason of the sacrifice made by Christ for fallen men, God can justly pardon the transgressor who accepts the merits of Christ. Christ was the channel through which the mercy, love, and righteousness might flow from the heart of God to the heart of the sinner. ‘He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9).

“In the prophecy of Daniel it was recorded of Christ that He shall ‘make reconciliation for iniquity, and...bring in everlasting righteousness’ (Dan. 9:24). Every soul may say: ‘By His perfect obedience He has satisfied the claims of the law, and my only hope is found in looking to Him as my substitute and surety, who obeyed the law perfectly for me. By faith in His merits I am free from the condemnation of the law. He clothes me with His righteousness, which answers all the demands of the law. I am complete in Him who brings in everlasting righteousness. He presents me to God in the spotless garment of which no thread was woven by any human agent. All is of Christ, and all the glory, honor, and majesty are to be given to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.’

“Many think that they must wait for a special impulse in order that they may come to Christ; but it is necessary only to come in sincerity of purpose, deciding to accept the offers of mercy and grace that have been extended to us. We are to say: ‘Christ died to save me. The Lord’s desire is that I should be saved, and I will come to Jesus just as I am without delay. I will venture upon the promise. As Christ draws me, I will respond.’ The apostle says, ‘With the heart man believeth unto righteousness’ (Rom. 10:10). No one can believe with the heart unto righteousness, and obtain justification by faith, while continuing the practice of those things which the Word of God forbids, or while neglecting any known duty.”

Good Works The Fruit Of Faith

“Genuine faith will be manifested in good works; for good works are the fruits of faith. As God works in the heart, and man surrenders his will to God, and cooperates with God, he works out in the life what God works in by the Holy Spirit, and there is harmony between the purpose of the heart and the practice of the life. Every sin must be renounced as the hateful thing that crucified the Lord of life and glory, and the believer must have a progressive experience by continually doing the works of Christ. It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.

“Those who are justified by faith must have a heart to keep the way of the Lord. It is an evidence that a man is not justified by faith when his works do not correspond to his profession. James says, ‘Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was his faith made perfect?’ (James 2:22).

“The faith that does not produce good works does not justify the soul. ‘Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only’ (James 2:24). ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness’ (Rom. 4:3).

“Imputation of the righteousness of Christ comes through justifying faith, and is the justification for which Paul so earnestly contends. He says: ‘Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God....Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law’ (Rom. 3:20-31).

“Grace is unmerited favor, and the believer is justified without any merit of his own, without any claim to offer to God. He is justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands in the courts of heaven as the sinner’s substitute and surety. But while he is justified because of the merit of Christ, he is not free to work unrighteousness. Faith works by love and purifies the soul. Faith buds

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and blossoms and bears a harvest of precious fruit. Where faith is, good works appear. The sick are visited, the poor are cared for, the fatherless and the widows are not neglected, the naked are clothed, the destitute are fed. Christ went about doing good, and when men are united with Him, they love the children of God, and meekness and truth guide their footsteps. The expression of the countenance reveals their experience, and men take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Christ and the believer become one, and His beauty of character is revealed in those who are vitally connected with the Source of power and love. Christ is the great depository of justifying righteousness and sanctifying grace.

“All may come to Him, and receive of His fullness. He says, ‘Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest’ (Matt. 11:28). Then why not cast aside all unbelief and heed the words of Jesus? You want rest; you long for peace. Then say from the heart, ‘Lord Jesus, I come, because Thou hast given me this invitation.’ Believe in Him with steadfast faith, and He will save you. Have you been looking unto Jesus, who is the author and finisher of your faith? Have you been beholding Him who is full of truth and grace? Have you accepted the peace which Christ alone can give? If you have not, then yield to Him, and through His grace seek for a character that will be noble and elevated. Seek for a constant, resolute, cheerful spirit. Feed on Christ, who is the bread of life, and you will manifest His loveliness of character and spirit.” 1SM 391-398.

Chapter 17

Spiritual Growth

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” 1 Peter 2:2-3.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18.

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” Ephesians 4:15.

“The change of heart by which we become children of God is in the Bible spoken of as birth. Again, it is compared to the germination of the good seed sown by the husbandman. In like manner those who are just converted to Christ are, ‘as new-born babes,’ to ‘grow up’ to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. 1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:15. Or like the good seed sown in the field, they are to grow up and bring forth fruit. Isaiah says that they shall ‘be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.’ Isaiah 61:3. So from natural life, illustrations are drawn, to help us better to understand the mysterious truths of spiritual life.

“Not all the wisdom and skill of man can produce life in the smallest object in nature. It is only through the life which God Himself has imparted, that either

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plant or animal can live. So it is only through the life from God that spiritual life is begotten in the hearts of men. Unless a man is 'born from above,' he cannot become a partaker of the life which Christ came to give. John 3:3, margin.

"As with life, so it is with growth. It is God who brings the bud to bloom and the flower to fruit. It is by His power that the seed develops, 'first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.' Mark 4:28. And the prophet Hosea says of Israel, that 'he shall grow as the lily.' 'They shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine.' Hosea 14:5, 7. And Jesus bids us 'consider the lilies how they grow.' Luke 12:27. The plants and flowers grow not by their own care or anxiety or effort, but by receiving that which God has furnished to minister to their life. The child cannot, by any anxiety or power of its own, add to its stature. No more can you, by anxiety or effort of yourself, secure spiritual growth. The plant, the child, grows by receiving from its surroundings that which ministers to its life—air, sunshine, and food. What these gifts of nature are to animal and plant, such is Christ to those who trust in Him. He is their 'everlasting light,' 'a sun and shield.' Isaiah 60:19; Psalm 84:11. He shall be as 'the dew unto Israel.' 'He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass.' Hosea 14:5; Psalm 72:6. He is the living water, 'the Bread of God...which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.' John 6:33.

"In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.

"As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ.

"Jesus teaches the same thing when He says, 'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me....Without Me ye can do nothing.' John 15:4-5. You are just as dependent upon Christ, in order to live a holy life, as is the branch upon the parent stock for growth and fruitfulness. Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. Abiding in

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Him, you may flourish. Drawing your life from Him, you will not wither nor be fruitless. You will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

“Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, ‘Without Me ye can do nothing.’ Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,—by abiding in Him,—that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author, but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, but at every step of the way. David says, ‘I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.’ Psalm 16:8.

“Do you ask, ‘How am I to abide in Christ?’ In the same way as you received Him at first. ‘As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.’ ‘The just shall live by faith.’ Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 10:38. You gave yourself to God, to be His wholly, to serve and obey Him, and you took Christ as your Saviour. You could not yourself atone for your sins or change your heart; but having given yourself to God, you believe that He for Christ’s sake did all this for you. By faith you became Christ’s, and by faith you are to grow up in Him—by giving and taking. You are to give all,—your heart, your will, your service,—give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all,—Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper,—to give you power to obey.

“Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, ‘Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.’ This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.

“A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let

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the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul's contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.

"Jesus says, 'Abide in Me.' These words convey the idea of rest, stability, confidence. Again He invites, 'Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest.' Matthew 11:28. The words of the psalmist express the same thought: 'Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.' And Isaiah gives the assurance, 'In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.' Psalm 37:7; Isaiah 30:15. This rest is not found in inactivity; for in the Saviour's invitation the promise of rest is united with the call to labor: 'Take My yoke upon you: . . . and ye shall find rest.' Matthew 11:29. The heart that rests most fully upon Christ will be most earnest and active in labor for Him.

"When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ he hopes to gain the victory. We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the Source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him. Put away all doubt; dismiss your fears. Say with the apostle Paul, 'I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.' Galatians 2:20. Rest in God. He is able to keep that which you have committed to Him. If you will leave yourself in His hands, He will bring you off more than conqueror through Him that has loved you." SC 67-71.

In Mark 4:28 Jesus divides Christian spiritual growth into two broad subdivisions. There is early growth from the **blade** to the **ear** and then **advanced ripening** growth from the **ear** to the **full corn in the ear**. This advanced ripening growth is needful to the end. It is the **latter rain** of the

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Holy Spirit which produces the **advanced ripening** growth from the ear to the **full corn** in the **ear**.

“And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; ²⁷ And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸ For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. ²⁹ But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” Mark 4:26-29.

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. ⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8.

In order to receive the latter rain of the Holy Spirit, those who will be used by God, as primary loud cry messengers must, at least, have reached the stage of growth called the **ear**.

“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain.’ ‘He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.’ In the East the former rain falls at the sowing-time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain, and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God’s grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

“The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of Man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

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“There is to be ‘first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.’ There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving his light and knowledge, must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement, and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and he will finish his work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.

“At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude. We must never forget the warnings of Christ, ‘Watch unto prayer,’ ‘Watch and pray always.’ A connection with the divine agency every moment is essential to our progress. We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will

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never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door." RH, March 2, 1897.

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. ²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹ Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:17-21.

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Section 4

The Loud Cry Itself

Chapter 18

The Final Swelling Of The Third Angel Before The Loud Cry

Perilous Times (2 Timothy 3:1-5, Luke 21:25-26)

Notwithstanding the amazing advances in science, technology, medicine and indeed all branches of learning, the problems which beset the modern world are quantitatively and qualitatively alarming! On every hand and in every land there is a frightening increase in crime, lawlessness, immorality, vice and corruption. Drug trafficking, terrorism, and war continue to defy all efforts to stop them.

In the meantime natural disasters, which have been with us ever since the flood, continue to increase. The “green-house” effect caused by the increasing quantities of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will continue to produce global warming and disastrous changes in the global climate. In addition, the waste by-products of industry continue to pollute land, air and water. As earth’s population continues to increase, the ability of the planet to sustain and maintain life is rapidly becoming seriously compromised.

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All of these problems will continue to increase and will approach the level at which human expertise will be overwhelmed.

The Response Of The Popular Churches To Increasing Godlessness

The widespread materialistic secularism and godlessness of this ultra-modern age coupled with the challenges of non-Christian religions, such as Islam, will strongly influence the denominations of the Christian religion to unite for the purpose of strengthening their Christian influence and improving the moral tone of society. The protestant denominational churches will call for a closer cooperation between church and state, and will influence the government to enforce already existing laws governing moral behavior.

The Most Critical Factor

But the most critical factor will be the **spiritual ripening** of God's true believers in the third angel's message. As the Laodicean message of Revelation 3:14-21 (EW 269-271) produces a faithful group who approach the stage of spiritual growth called the **ear** (Mark 4:26-29), Satan will be forced to make his moves toward the implementation of the **image and mark of the beast**.

Eventually Conditions Will Be Conducive

At a certain critical point, when all the various conditions will be just right, the first definite calls will be made for a national Sunday law **to enforce** Sunday sacredness in the USA. These **first** calls for a USA national Sunday law will trigger national debates, discussions, and agitation which will intensify until finally, **after a certain period of time**, a USA national Sunday law will be passed by the USA Congress. The duration or period of time between the **first** calls for the Sunday law and the **actual final passing** of the national Sunday law will be a critical but, as yet, unknown length of time. One could speculate that the period of time for debate, discussion and agitation might be between 12 to 24 months but it may be more or less. Whatever the duration of this period it will be a time when historians, economists, trade unionists, lawyers, constitutional experts, social workers, educators, and ordinary citizens will give their arguments for or against the proposal. But the most important component in the agitation will be the religious component.

Why? For the answer we go to *The Great Controversy*, page 605.

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“Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel’s message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been—the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.”
GC 605.

It should be clearly seen from the statement just quoted that the passing of the national USA Sunday law is not something that will steal upon us secretly or suddenly. See 2 Thessalonians 5:4. Rather, on account of the widespread agitation, **it will be seen to be approaching**, and as it approaches the third angel’s message will swell in power and glory and will produce an **effect** which it could not have had before the period of agitation. However, this will **not** yet be the loud cry because the loud cry (as we shall see later) commences **after** the official passing of the national Sunday law. Let us now look at the main religious events occurring during this period of agitation **before** the actual passing of the national Sunday law.

The Sunday Movement

The fundamental evangelical Sunday-keeping denominations will be foremost in leading the call for Sunday sacredness to be enforced by law. And as the agitation intensifies the older more established protestant denominations will throw their ecclesiastical weight fully behind the drive for a national Sunday law.

The **initial** reasons put forward for a national Sunday law will **not** be directed against Sabbath-keepers but rather will be directed against the alarming lawlessness, crime, and increasing natural disasters. The leaders in the Sunday-keeping Protestant churches will put forward the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the Christian Sunday. Moreover they will assert, with increasing adamance, that the enforcement of Sunday sacredness will greatly improve the morals of society and bring back the blessings of God to heal the nation. They will, no doubt, review the history of early America when strict Sunday blue-laws

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were the order of the day and the moral tone of society was vastly superior to what it is today. They will argue that America's early success and stability were the direct result of her deep-seated Christian heritage and therefore a return to that heritage will produce national healing.

It will also be claimed that the legislation of Sunday rest and worship will improve family life and put a halt to the alarming waywardness of the nation's youth. Trade unionists, sociologists, and social workers will add their support since a compulsory day of rest would greatly improve the efficiency of the work-force and help to ease the stress of modern fast-paced living.

Secularists will welcome a day of tranquility without the religious trappings. They will be more inclined to accept the "civil-regulation" basis. Civil regulation means that the state may appoint a day as a national holiday whether or not there is a religious sentiment attached to that day.

But the churches will agitate for Sunday to be officially recognized as the Lord's day and they will argue that without this religious basis the whole exercise would be pointless. They will declare that for the Sunday rest to have any serious moral impact upon the nation it must be accepted as the Christian Sabbath.

The Third Angel's Message Swells

Remember that we are focusing now on the period of time when the question of enforcing Sunday observance will be widely agitated. This event, so long doubted and disbelieved, will be seen to be approaching. **During that period of time God's people will clearly spell out the reasons why a Sunday law should not be passed.** The true seventh-day Sabbath will be presented more clearly within the context of the true gospel and character of God!

In addition the Biblical principles of religious liberty (**liberty of conscience**) will be clearly enunciated. Moreover all of the true doctrines and true prophetic interpretations will be thoroughly expounded thereby exposing popular religious errors! God's people will explain carefully what is meant by the **image** and **mark** of the beast. The people will be told about the fatal consequences of enforcing Sunday sacredness. During that period of time, the true Sabbath-keepers of God will press together in fasting and praying and agonizing for more of the Holy Spirit and total victory over

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sin. Many professed seventh-day believers will appear to be joining in this effort as well, but later events will produce a final shaking!

The Role Of Spiritualism (Revelation 16:13-14, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

False prophets will proclaim that God has spoken to them in dreams and visions confirming that it is His will to have a national Sunday Sabbath. Miracles will be performed in support of the Sunday movement. And dazzling spiritual manifestations resembling Pentecost will be accepted as God's stamp of approval for Sunday legislation.

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Revelation 13:13-14.

“The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.” GC 588.

Many Will Show No Interest At This Stage

Notwithstanding the widespread agitation, many people will show no interest in the debate during this period before the actual passing of the national Sunday law (of course this will all change after the Sunday law has been passed and the loud cry has commenced).

Many will consider the Sunday law agitation to be just another modern national debate with no real relevance to their daily living.

The Sunday Movement Will Succeed In Their Aims

Eventually enough people will be persuaded and enough pressure will be exerted on the US Congress to make the necessary changes to, or simply to interpret differently, the first amendment of the US constitution so as to allow a national Sunday law to be passed. In other words, the period of agitation after the first definite calls for Sunday legislation will end with the passing of the USA national Sunday law.

“The religious organizations of the day have refused to listen to unpopular truths plainly brought to view in the Scriptures, and in combating them they have adopted interpretations and taken positions which have sown broadcast the seeds of skepticism. Clinging to the papal error of natural immortality and man’s consciousness in death, they have rejected the only defense against the delusions of spiritualism. The doctrine of eternal torment has led many to disbelieve the Bible. And as the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the people, it is found that the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is enjoined; and as the only way to free themselves from a duty which they are unwilling to perform, many popular teachers declare that the law of God is no longer binding. Thus they cast away the law and the Sabbath together. As the work of Sabbath reform extends, this rejection of the divine law to avoid the claims of the fourth commandment will become well-nigh universal. The teachings of religious leaders have opened the door to infidelity, to spiritualism, and to contempt for God’s holy law; and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world.

“Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called ‘Christian sabbath,’ and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. Here the temperance work, one of the most prominent and important of moral reforms, is often combined with the Sunday movement, and the advocates of the latter represent themselves as laboring to promote the highest interest of society; and those who refuse to unite with them are denounced as the enemies of temperance and reform. But the fact that a movement to establish error is connected with a work which is in itself good, is not an argument in favor of the error. We may disguise poison by mingling it with wholesome food, but we do not change its nature. On the

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contrary, it is rendered more dangerous, as it is more likely to be taken unawares. It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility. The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men.

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.

"As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power." GC 586-588.

The Great Crisis Is Before Us

"The great crisis is before us, and every one is to act as though his own soul was at stake. The most important question of all is, How shall I save my soul, for which Christ died? How shall I be holy, as he is holy? It is time to be seeking for the forgiveness of your sins, for the assurance that your names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Let every one realize that he is not his own, but has been bought with a price, even with the blood of the Son of God.

"Live by the day for Christ. Seek to be a victor just for this one day; for you do not know that you have another day to live. Confess your sins today. You have the promises of pardon.

"The Lord says, 'Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.' God is in earnest with us. He has borne

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long and patiently with us, and the light that has shone upon us from the throne of his glory will not lessen our responsibility, but, if we fail to improve it, will leave us without excuse. God will not be trifled with. You may ask, What shall I do to advance the light of truth? I answer, Work humbly for God; do not exalt yourself, but remember that you are standing upon holy ground. We are living in the last days, and the great question is, How shall I stand before God? Every one is responsible for the light he has received. What have you done with the light of heaven? Have you put it under a bushel?

“There is a great work to be done; for we are to reach the people with the divine light of truth, not in our own way, but through the power and Spirit of God. God will use us as instruments in his hand, if we will yield ourselves to him. O that all may make the effort essential to win eternal life! Every soul is precious in the sight of God. He declares by the prophet, ‘I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.’ This preciousness will be wrought in the soul that is connected with Christ; but our own ways must be abandoned, our own thoughts must be put away.

“Jesus says, ‘Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.’ O, shall Jesus plead in vain for an entrance into your heart? Clear away the rubbish from the door, and let him in, and you will know what is the comfort and peace of his blessing. I present before you the Man of Calvary. He can save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him. The more you have of Jesus, the more you will desire a closer connection with him, and your soul will be hid with Christ in God, and thus be prepared when he shall come with power and great glory.

“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.’ Not in self-confidence, not in self-exaltation, are we to pass the time of our sojourning, but in fear working with Christ for the salvation of others. We are to live as on holy ground, and when the Master shall appear in glory, we can say, ‘This is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us.’” RH, August 18, 1891.

Chapter 19

The Image And Mark Of The Beast

In our last chapter we saw clearly that **before** the passing of the USA national Sunday law, **during** the period of agitation and debate as to whether or not such a law should be passed, the third angel's message will be **swelling**. This **final swelling** will be caused by the **increasing** outpouring of the Holy Spirit in maximum early rain showers in anticipation of the final latter rain outpouring. During the **final swelling**, the messages of the **true** gospel and the **true** character of God will be the basis of a fuller, clearer presentation of the law of God; the seventh-day Sabbath; principles of religious liberty; and correct prophetic interpretation. The two dangerous false doctrines of Sunday-sacredness and the natural immortality of the soul will be fully exposed by the presentation of the **full message of righteousness by faith!**

All of this means that the Sunday keeping leaders and congregations will be given God's light on these subjects during the period of agitation! The people of God will not sit idly by and allow the Sunday movement to obtain its objectives without fully warning the people against it by fully ventilating the issues involved!

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Yet, notwithstanding the swelling of the third angel in warning the nation, the USA national Sunday law will **eventually** be passed.

The Significance Of The National Sunday Law

The passing of the national Sunday law will establish a critically terminal eschatological landmark in the closing scenes of this world's history. It will indicate that:

1. The image and mark of the beast have been set up.
2. The final latter rain outpouring and the loud cry are about to begin.
3. The latter rain ripening of the remnant elect from the **ear** to the **full corn in the ear** is about to commence.
4. The early, lesser time of trouble is about to begin and **will** produce the final shaking among professed believers of the third angel's message.

The Image Of The Beast (Revelation 13:11-18)

"By this first beast is represented the Roman Church, an ecclesiastical body clothed with civil power, having authority to punish all dissenters. The image to the beast represents another religious body clothed with similar powers. The formation of this image is the work of that beast whose peaceful rise and mild professions render it so striking a symbol of the United States. Here is to be found an image of the Papacy. When the churches of our land, uniting upon such points of faith as are held by them in common, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution, as were God's ancient people." SR 381-382.

By the **first** beast in Revelation 13, the leopard bodied beast, is represented the Papacy. Revelation 13:1-10 is a description of the 1260 year world dominance of the Papacy during the "Dark Ages" 538-1798 AD. This leopardlike beast is identical with the "**little horn**" of Daniel 7.

By the **second** beast in Revelation 13, the beast with two horns like a lamb, is represented the USA.

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“And he had two horns like a lamb.’ The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as ‘coming up’ in 1798. Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that ‘all men are created equal’ and endowed with the inalienable right to ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. The oppressed and downtrodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its shores, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth.

“But the beast with lamblike horns ‘spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed;...saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.’ Revelation 13:11-14.

“The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak ‘as a dragon’ and exercise ‘all the power of the first beast’ plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns ‘causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast’ indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.

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“Such action would be directly contrary to the principles of this government, to the genius of its free institutions, to the direct and solemn avowals of the Declaration of Independence, and to the Constitution. The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable result— intolerance and persecution. The Constitution provides that ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ and that ‘no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.’ Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation’s liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is represented in the symbol. It is the beast with lamblike horns—in profession pure, gentle, and harmless—that speaks as a dragon.

“Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast.’ Here is clearly presented a form of government in which the legislative power rests with the people, a most striking evidence that the United States is the nation denoted in the prophecy.

“But what is the ‘image to the beast’? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.

“Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. An example of this is given in

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the long-continued persecution of dissenters by the Church of England. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of nonconformist ministers were forced to flee from their churches, and many, both of pastors and people, were subjected to fine, imprisonment, torture, and martyrdom." GC 441-443.

"The beast with two horns 'causeth [commands] all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.' Revelation 13:16, 17. The third angel's warning is: '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.' 'The beast' mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two-horned beast, is the first, or leopardlike beast of Revelation 13—the papacy. The 'image to the beast' represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. The 'mark of the beast' still remains to be defined.

"After the warning against the worship of the beast and his image the prophecy declares: 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Since those who keep God's commandments are thus placed in contrast with those that worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, it follows that the keeping of God's law, on the one hand, and its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast." GC 445.

The Mark Of The Beast

"After the warning against the worship of the beast and his image the prophecy declares: 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Since those who keep God's commandments are thus placed in contrast with those that worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, it follows that the keeping of God's law, on the one hand, and its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast.

"The special characteristic of the beast, and therefore of his image, is the breaking of God's commandments. Says Daniel, of the little horn, the papacy: 'He shall

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think to change times and the law.' Daniel 7:25, R.V. And Paul styled the same power the 'man of sin,' who was to exalt himself above God. One prophecy is a complement of the other. Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God; whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God.

"The papacy has attempted to change the law of God. The second commandment, forbidding image worship, has been dropped from the law, and the fourth commandment has been so changed as to authorize the observance of the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath. But papists urge, as a reason for omitting the second commandment, that it is unnecessary, being included in the first, and that they are giving the law exactly as God designed it to be understood. This cannot be the change foretold by the prophet. An intentional, deliberate change is presented: 'He shall think to change the times and the law.' The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God.

"While the worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandments,—since this is the sign of His creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage,—the worshipers of the beast will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial, to exalt the institution of Rome. It was in behalf of the Sunday that popery first asserted its arrogant claims (see Appendix); and its first resort to the power of the state was to compel the observance of Sunday as 'the Lord's day.' But the Bible points to the seventh day, and not to the first, as the Lord's day. Said Christ: 'The Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.' The fourth commandment declares: 'The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord.' And by the prophet Isaiah the Lord designates it: 'My holy day.' Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13.

"The claim so often put forth that Christ changed the Sabbath is disproved by His own words. In His Sermon on the Mount He said: 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of

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these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven,' Matthew 5:17-19.

"It is a fact generally admitted by Protestants that the Scriptures give no authority for the change of the Sabbath. This is plainly stated in publications issued by the American Tract Society and the American Sunday School Union. One of these works acknowledges 'the complete silence of the New Testament so far as any explicit command for the Sabbath [Sunday, the first day of the week] or definite rules for its observance are concerned.'—George Elliott, *The Abiding Sabbath*, page 184." GC 445-447.

"Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change of the Sabbath was made by their church, and declare that Protestants by observing the Sunday are recognizing her power. In the Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion, in answer to a question as to the day to be observed in obedience to the fourth commandment, this statement is made: 'During the old law, Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has substituted Sunday for Saturday; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day. Sunday means, and now is, the day of the Lord.'

"As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papist writers cite 'the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of;...because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin.'—Henry Tuberville, *An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine*, page 58. What then is the change of the Sabbath, but the sign, or mark, of the authority of the Roman Church—'the mark of the beast'?

"The Roman Church has not relinquished her claim to supremacy; and when the world and the Protestant churches accept a sabbath of her creating, while they reject the Bible Sabbath, they virtually admit this assumption. They may claim the authority of tradition and of the Fathers for the change; but in so doing they ignore the very principle which separates them from Rome—that 'the Bible, and the Bible only, is the religion of Protestants.' The papist can see that they are deceiving themselves, willingly closing their eyes to the facts in the case. As the movement for Sunday enforcement gains favor, he rejoices, feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome.

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“Romanists declare that ‘the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church.’—Mgr. Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, page 213. The enforcement of Sunday keeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sunday keeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.

“But Christians of past generations observed the Sunday, supposing that in so doing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath; and there are now true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion, who honestly believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of divine appointment. God accepts their sincerity of purpose and their integrity before Him. But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—‘the mark of the beast.’ And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive ‘the mark of the beast.’

“The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel’s message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God’s judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them. Prophecy declares that the first angel would make his announcement to ‘every nation, and kindred, and tongue,

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and people.' The warning of the third angel, which forms a part of the same threefold message, is to be no less widespread. It is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice, by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world." GC 447-450.

USA National Apostasy Will Be Followed By National Ruin

"A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land. The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God's people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin." RH Dec 18, 1888.

The Device Of Satan Perfected

By the setting up of the image and mark of the beast, the **device** of Satan will be perfected. He will then be equipped for his final battle against God's true law, God's **true** gospel, and God's **true** people. By the passing of the US national Sunday law, and then the global Sunday law, Satan will have perfected his device for his final war against God's Government! In fact by inducing the USA and ultimately the whole world to pass national and international Sunday laws, Satan will be openly declaring final war (Armageddon) against God's government!

"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." RH, April 15, 1890.

The National Sunday Law Fully Disconnects The USA From Righteousness

"By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power,

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when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.

“As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God’s forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation’s iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return.” 5T 451.

Closing Admonition

“God calls upon us to awake, for the end is near. Every passing hour is one of activity in the heavenly courts to make ready a people upon the earth to act a part in the great scenes that are soon to open upon us. These passing moments, that seem of so little value to us, are weighty with eternal interests. They are molding the destiny of souls for everlasting life or eternal death. The words we utter today in the ears of the people, the works we are doing, the spirit of the message we are bearing, will be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

“My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us of preparing for the approaching crisis.

“The law of God should be loved and honored by His true people now more than ever before. There is the most imperative necessity of urging the injunction of Christ upon the minds and hearts of all believers, men and women, youth and children: ‘Search the Scriptures.’ Study your Bible as you have never studied it before. Unless you arise to a higher, holier state in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord. As great light has been given, God expects corresponding zeal, faithfulness, and devotion on the part of His people.

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There must be more spirituality, a deeper consecration to God, and a zeal in His work that has never yet been reached. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb." 5T 716-717.

Chapter 20

The Loud Cry Begins

The loud cry will be the response of God's people to the establishment of the image and mark of the beast. It will be the **final** warning given to the world, will announce Babylon's **final** fall, and will commence **after** the passing of the Sunday law.

Remember that **before** the passing of the Sunday law, **during** the period of discussion and agitation, the third angel's message will be swelling **towards** the loud cry. Then at the **right** time, which means the time when the third angel's message is to be given with **greatest** power, the mighty power of the Revelation 18 angel joins the third angel's message in the power of the latter rain to begin the loud cry of the final warning!

And when will that time be?

It will be immediately after the passing of the national Sunday law which will indicate that the image and mark of the beast have been set up **and therefore Babylon the great has suffered her final fall!**

Let us now read the description of the opening of the **loud cry** from the Bible and then two Spirit of Prophecy sources.

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,

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and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” Revelation 18:1-2.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, ‘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.’ The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel’s message.” EW 277.

Now, from *The Great Controversy*:

“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.’ ‘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, 2, 4.

“This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample

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upon one of the precepts of the Decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at naught in the contempt placed upon His word and His people. As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches.

“Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared: ‘Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.’ Revelation 18:5. She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and ‘receive not of her plagues.’ Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: ‘Come out of her, My people.’ These announcements, uniting with the third angel’s message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.” GC 603-604.

The Issues At Stake

The passing of the USA national Sunday law will induce the world to follow suit and will lead to the universal Sunday law.

“When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for his people, that they might worship him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favored by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ,—when that land shall, through its legislators, abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God’s law,—it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed. Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; by a national act enforcing the false Sabbath, they will give life and vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, reviving her tyranny and oppression of conscience. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of his truth.” ST, June 12, 1893.

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"The prophet says: '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 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.' When do her sins reach unto heaven? When the law of God is finally made void by legislation. Then the extremity of God's people is his opportunity to show who is the governor of heaven and earth. As a Satanic power is stirring up the elements from beneath, God will send light and power to his people, that the message of truth may be proclaimed to all the world." ST, June 12, 1893.

"The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world." ST May 6, 1894.

The national and international Sunday laws will bring the world to its **final** and **most fearful** issue!

"Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

"With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment receives the mark of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from heaven is: '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.' Revelation 14:9, 10.

"But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in

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its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.” GC 604-605.

Important History Of How God Works In A Crisis

In all the religious crises of the past God sent His servants to rebuke sin in the world and in the religious organizations. So it will be again in the final showdown.

“In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. But the people desire smooth things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible—doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning.” GC 606.

God Will Qualify His Servants With The Latter Rain And Send Them Forth

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to his service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of his Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power,—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from Heaven.” GC 606.

The above paragraph describes the beginning of the “loud cry” or final warning. It contains some very important information which we need to analyze in order to understand it better.

First of all, the time comes for the third angel’s message to be given with greatest power which means that the image and mark of the beast have been set up by the **passing** of the Sunday law. That time having come, **and not before**, the LORD begins to work with latter rain power through **humble instruments**. We need to take a closer look at who these **humble instruments** are, and the messages they declare, before examining the nature of the popular response to them and the messages.

The Loud Cry Servants

The humble instruments here described are those members of the third angel’s movement who have been victorious in the Laodicean shaking (Revelation 3:14-22 and EW 269-271), and who have reached the stage of growth called the “**ear**” by Jesus in Mark 4:26-29. The early rain of the Holy Spirit produces spiritual growth from initial conversion (the blade) to victory over every defect (the ear). The latter rain of the Holy Spirit produces **advanced ripening growth** from the “**ear**” to the “**full corn in the ear**” which means Christian character perfection!

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In other words, during the loud cry period, these servants are going to be ripened by the latter rain to the level of character maturity and perfection required to pass the judgment of the living and to receive the seal of God. And in the process of achieving these goals they will be victorious over the mark of the beast!

Therefore we should clearly understand that in order to pass the judgment of the living and to receive the seal of God a believer in the third angel's message must emerge victorious in both the Laodicean shaking and the "mark of the beast" shaking. The Laodicean shaking started in 1859, reached a critical point in 1888, and has been continuing ever since. Only those who accept and experience the true message of righteousness by faith along with the advancing light on God's character and the principles of His government will overcome Laodicean lukewarmness and reach the stage of the "ear"!

Seven characteristics of the primary loud cry messengers are given in this particular paragraph in *The Great Controversy*, page 606. Here is the list: humility, consecration, spirit-filled, men of faith, men of prayer, possessing holy zeal, filled with and declaring God's words.

Their Messages

The loud cry messengers will present the righteousness of Christ so fully and clearly that the **sins of Babylon will be laid open!** Since sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:41) this means that they will present God's moral law and seventh-day Sabbath within the context of the everlasting gospel as Paul summarizes it in Romans 8:1-4.

They will also declare the fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil law by showing that freedom of conscience, in matters of faith and worship, is truly biblical and truly protestant!

The evils of spiritualism, leading the people to accept spiritistic manifestations in the place of, and in opposition to, the Bible, will be exposed. This will include a clear presentation on man's condition in death and the natural non-immortality of the human soul.

They will also declare the correct understanding of Bible prophecy and unmask the insidious, yet rapid progress, of the Papacy and its strategies. In so doing they will sweep away the false doctrines of the secret rapture, Middle Eastern Anti-Christ, and the false understanding of Armageddon! They will explain clearly that Babylon in the Revelation means false or

fallen Christianity, fallen because of persistent and progressive rejection of heaven-sent light.

The Early Responses To The Loud Cry

The loud cry messages and warnings will be power-packed with the latter rain of the Holy Spirit and will be given with such scriptural clarity and convicting Holy Spirit power that the masses of people in Christendom, and the whole world, will be stirred in their innermost beings by the final gospel warning. Millions will be spellbound by messages the likes of which they never heard before! Some will quickly accept the messages but the majority will seek the advice and counsel of their religious leaders and teachers. When asked whether or not the messages are true, the ministry of the popular churches will present the usual traditional arguments and false prophecies and try to trivialize the questions. But such will be the convicting power of the Holy Spirit that many will refuse to be satisfied with mere human ecclesiastical authority and will demand clear scriptural proof. This will enrage the popular ministry and they will denounce the loud cry message as of Satan and induce the sin-loving masses to heap ridicule and contempt on the messages and messengers.

“As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears, and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men, and demand a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan, and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.” GC 606.

Notice here that the **first** measures which will be adopted against the people of God will **not** be drastic ones. The reason being that the religious and civil authorities will not at **first** think much of the small remnant of faithful loud cry servants. The authorities will think that the protest will be short-lived. In referring to the people of God in this early period of the loud cry, the Spirit of Prophecy speaks of them as the “**the little company who are standing in the light.**” 5T 209.

Remember that when the Sunday law is first passed, it will not be directed primarily against Sabbath keepers but against the widespread moral declension. The churches will seek the aid of the civil power and

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the latter will gladly comply in order to “save” the world from total moral collapse.

But when the true people of God, in latter rain Holy Spirit power, not only begin but maintain their final protest and their preaching of the loud-cry, the authorities will be shocked out of their complacency. This will precipitate a crisis which will intensify as the loud cry develops and will bring the whole world to the point of final decision and final tribulation.

Chapter 21

The Fundamental Principles of Religious Liberty

Introduction

The remnant people of God must have a clear and complete grasp of the basic Biblical principles of liberty of conscience in matters of faith and worship.

For a more complete study of these principles the reader is referred to a previous publication entitled *The New World Economic Order—How Will It Affect You?* However for the purposes of this camp meeting we shall revise the basic principles of liberty of conscience. We shall now study a comprehensive outline of these principles written early in the last century by an Adventist scholar, the late Francis Wilcox. Before we do so however, let us list the scriptural proof-lines for the Seventh-day Sabbath truth:

Line 1 — Creation-Redemption Rest: Genesis 2:1-3; Mark 2:27,28; Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:9-10, 4, 1-3.

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Line 2—Moral Law: Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 3:28-31; Romans 8:1-4; James 2:8-12; 1 John 5:2-3; Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

Line 3—New Covenant: Galatians 3:15; Hebrews 9:17; Matthew 24:20; Galatians chapters 3 and 4.

The Coming Crisis, By Francis Wilcox — Chapter 5, “The Christian’s Relation To Earthly Government”

“In the crisis hour which awaits the church there will be witnessed a deadly conflict between the commandments of God and the laws of earthly government. How shall the Christian relate himself to this clash of opposing principles? What relation shall he sustain to his government?”

“The duty of the Christian toward the government under which he lives is made clear in Holy Writ: *‘Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.’* Romans 13:1-2.

Limits Of The Authority Of Human Governments

“With what authority has God invested civil government? It is inconceivable that He should have bestowed upon it unlimited power. That would be to make earthly government, to the extent of human capability, equal to the government of God. It would be to place God’s work in the earth, His gospel, His church, the affairs of mankind, physically, socially, civilly, and spiritually, under the control of human government without reference to its attitude toward the principles and problems involved. This we cannot believe the great Ruler of the universe would do.”

Relation To Earthly Government

“We are therefore forced to the conclusion that the jurisdiction of human government is limited to the sphere of civil relations, to the decision of questions governing the relation of man to his fellow men. There is a sphere—the personal relation of man to his Maker—into which civil government has no God-given or Heaven-ordained right to intrude.

God And Caesar

“Christ clearly recognized and taught this dividing line separating the authority of civil government from the sphere of spiritual relations. To some who came to Him inquiring whether it was right to pay tribute to Caesar, or civil government, the Master, after calling attention to the fact that they were recognizing Caesar’s government by using Caesar’s coinage, replied, *‘Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.’* See Matt. 22:16-21.

“There is a sphere in which Caesar may operate. In the field of civil relations he may range freely. He should be a terror to evil works, *‘a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.’* In this he is *‘the minister of God,’* and should be loyally supported with tribute—the Christian being subject to these civil enactments, *‘not only for wrath, but also for conscience’ sake.’* *Romans 13:3-6.*

“The Christian is to *‘render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.’* *Romans 13:7-8.* The apostle then proceeds to quote in substance the last five commandments, which define the civil relations of man. He makes no quotation from the first table of the law, because the first four commandments pertain to the relations of man to God, and belong alone to the sphere of God’s government and jurisdiction. Into this sphere, as we have said, civil government has no right to enter.

Civil, Not Spiritual, Jurisdiction

“Nor does it belong to the sphere of civil government to deal with the second table of the law in the spiritual significance of the commandments of that table. This field belongs alone to God. With the civil relation defined in the last six commandments, the civil government may take account. The government has a right to punish the murderer, the adulterer, the thief, not because they have done a moral wrong, but because they have violated the law of civil ethics. The government can deal with overt acts only. God, however, looks beneath the overt act and takes account of the thoughts of the heart, of the motives and purposes of the life. In His estimate the man who hates his brother, even if he

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commits no overt act, is a murderer. See 1 John 3:15. The lustful man likewise violates the commandment, even though outwardly he may not offend against the law of chastity. See Matthew 5:28.

Loyalty To Government

“In an evil hour, either consciously or unconsciously, civil government oversteps the bounds God has set for it, and seeks to regulate or control the personal spiritual relations which exist between man and his Maker. What should be the attitude of the Christian toward his government under these circumstances?”

“God is supreme, and His requirements are paramount to all others. To Him the Christian owes unswerving allegiance. He cannot surrender this allegiance at the command of any human master. And when the laws of his government require that he should violate the laws of God, he has no alternative, but must obey God rather than men. Above any fear he may have of man, who is able to destroy his body, he is to fear the great God of heaven, who is able to destroy both soul and body. See Matthew 10:28.

“The attitude of the Christian should always be that of loyalty to his government as long as this does not conflict with his duty to God. How shall he manifest his loyalty when the laws of his government conflict with the requirements of God? He must obey his God, at whatever cost, but he may at the same time put forth consistent Christian effort to enlighten the lawmakers as to the principles involved. He may seek to have the law repealed. He may do this by personal effort, and in union with others, in such ways as it is lawful to seek relief.

“Never can the Christian resort to personal violence in the accomplishment of his ends. He will not engage in private brawl, nor will he be found inciting rebellion or riot. Rather than this, he must suffer meekly the penalty of the law, however unjust, leaving to God the vindication of his cause. By this course of conduct, and in this spirit working to redress the wrong, the Christian is giving the highest proof of his loyalty to government. He is standing for fundamental principles; and in seeking to induce his government to confine its activities to that sphere to which God has justly limited its authority, he is rendering to it the highest possible service.

Notable Bible Examples

“For this undeviating stand for right and principle, the Christian has authority in notable examples given in the sacred writings. When Daniel was required, on pain of death, to obey the law of Medo-Persia contrary to the express command of God, he resolutely refused and when he was cast into the den of lions, God wrought for him a wonderful deliverance, thus vindicating him in the noble stand he had taken. See Daniel 6.

“A similar experience came to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. This king erected on the plain of Dura a great golden image, and assembled to its dedication the chief men of his extensive empire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego repaired to the plain of Dura with the others. With the others they stood in the presence of the golden image. Thus far they were willing to obey the law of Nebuchadnezzar. But when the command was given to bow down and worship the golden image, these three men refused to obey the royal edict. They knew it was a direct violation of the law of God. In the words of the Saviour, they feared not him who was able to destroy their bodies, but rather the One who was able to destroy both soul and body. Because of their stand, they were cast into the burning fiery furnace, but God vindicated their course by giving to them a miraculous deliverance. God declared that Nebuchadnezzar was His ‘servant,’ to execute His judgments upon the nations. See Jeremiah 25:9. But when this servant of God exceeded his proper authority, and sought to legislate in things pertaining alone to God’s jurisdiction, his folly was rebuked and his pride humbled.

“Daniel and the three worthies surely showed greater loyalty to the governments under which they lived than did their accusers. Darius and Nebuchadnezzar overstepped the bounds set for their authority by Omnipotence. By their acts they took a course which would inevitably lead to national ruin and invite the judgments of Heaven. In resisting these unjust measures the servants of God sought to save their governments from this dire calamity. Surely they manifested a loyalty to God and a loyalty to their governments in striking contrast to the conduct of those who in their lofty claims to patriotism were willing to put to death men with whom there could be found no fault except in the allegiance which they gave to their God. See Dan. 6:5.

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"Government is never the gainer in the execution of a law that is manifestly unjust...Conscientious men are not the enemies, but the friends, of any government but a tyranny. They are its strength, and not its weakness. Daniel, in Babylon, praying, contrary to the law, was the true friend and supporter of the government; while those who, in their pretended zeal for the law and the constitution, would strike down the good man, were its real enemies. It is only when government transcends its sphere that it comes in conflict with the consciences of men.' James H. Fairchild, *Moral Science*, p. 179.

Obey God Rather Than Men

"Nor are such instances confined alone to the old testament scriptures. The apostle Peter and his companions were brought into similar straits. Commanded by ruling Jewish authorities not to teach nor preach in the name of Jesus, the apostles answered, '*We ought to obey God rather than men.*' *Acts 5:29*. God showed His approval by the mighty power of His Spirit which attended their labors.

"Of all men, the Christian should be free from just offense. He should be quiet, orderly, honest, neighborly, law abiding. Every relation in life should be regulated by sincere devotion to God and to his fellow men. He should love God supremely and his neighbor as himself. Love to God and love to man—upon these two great principles hang all the law and the prophets." *The Coming Crisis*, Chapter 5, page 36-41, by Francis Wilcox.

The distinction between the supreme authority of the word of God and the authority that God has given to civil government is clearly seen in these quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy:

"The principles contained in this celebrated Protest...constitute the very essence of Protestantism. Now this Protest opposes two abuses of man in matters of faith: the first is the intrusion of the civil magistrate, and the second the arbitrary authority of the church. Instead of these abuses, Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate, and the authority of the word of God above the visible church. In the first place, it rejects the civil power in divine things, and says with the prophets and apostles, '*We must obey God rather than man.*'

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“In presence of the crown of Charles the Fifth, it uplifts the crown of Jesus Christ. But it goes farther: it lays down the principle that all human teaching should be subordinate to the oracles of God.’ D’Aubigne, b. 13, ch. 6.

“The protesters had moreover affirmed their right to utter freely their convictions of truth. They would not only believe and obey, but teach what the word of God presents, and they denied the right of priest or magistrate to interfere. The Protest of Spires was a solemn witness against religious intolerance, and an assertion of the right of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences.” GC 203-204.

“The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God’s witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God’s word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is not to be set aside for a ‘Thus saith the church’ or a ‘Thus saith the state.’ The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.

“We are not required to defy authorities. Our words, whether spoken or written, should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as uttering that which would make us appear antagonistic to law and order. We are not to say or do anything that would unnecessarily close up our way. We are to go forward in Christ’s name, advocating the truths committed to us. If we are forbidden by men to do this work, then we may say, as did the apostles, ‘Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’” AA 68-69.

“Pointing to the inscription on the coin, Jesus said, ‘Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.’...

“Christ’s reply was no evasion, but a candid answer to the question. Holding in His hand the Roman coin, upon which were stamped the name and image of Caesar, He declared that since they were living under the protection of the Roman power,

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they should render to that power the support it claimed, so long as this did not conflict with a higher duty. But while peaceably subject to the laws of the land, they should at all times give their first allegiance to God." DA 602.

Chapter 22

The Loud Cry Develops

The loud-cry message will develop and extend under the convicting power of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit. The opposing arguments, based as they are on tradition, culture and false teaching, will be fully exposed by the word and Spirit of God. With ever increasing momentum the message will spread and its clarity and power will demand and command the attention of the people. The proponents of the Sunday law will become enraged at the message and messengers of the loud cry movement and this will lead to increasing aggression against the truth.

“As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God’s downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: ‘Show us from the word of God our error’—the same plea that was made by

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Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.

“Conscientious obedience to the word of God will be treated as rebellion. Blinded by Satan, the parent will exercise harshness and severity toward the believing child; the master or mistress will oppress the commandment-keeping servant. Affection will be alienated; children will be disinherited and driven from home. The words of Paul will be literally fulfilled: ‘All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.’ 2 Timothy 3:12. As the defenders of truth refuse to honor the Sunday-sabbath, some of them will be thrust into prison, some will be exiled, some will be treated as slaves. To human wisdom all this now seems impossible; but as the restraining Spirit of God shall be withdrawn from men, and they shall be under the control of Satan, who hates the divine precepts, there will be strange developments. The heart can be very cruel when God’s fear and love are removed.” GC 607-608.

The previous two paragraphs show clearly that the persecutory pressure mounts progressively as the loud cry develops! It starts in earnest when the Sunday law is invoked “called in,” i.e. directed against Sabbath keepers for the first time. When threatened with fines and imprisonment, Sabbath keepers will use Sundays for missionary work to further proclaim the truth, while continuing to keep God’s seventh day Sabbath holy! By using Sundays for missionary work the loud cry messengers will expose the futility of invoking the Sunday law against them. Consider this instruction from Testimonies Volume 9:

“Dear Brother: I will try to answer your question as to what you should do in the case of Sunday laws being enforced.

“The light given me by the Lord at a time when we were expecting just such a crisis as you seem to be approaching, was that when the people were moved by a power from beneath to enforce Sunday observance, Seventh-day Adventists were to show their wisdom by refraining from their ordinary work on that day, devoting it to missionary effort.

“To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to call you

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lawbreakers. If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the observance of Sunday. Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance.

“When we devote Sunday to missionary work, the whip will be taken out of the hands of the arbitrary zealots who would be well pleased to humiliate Seventh-day Adventists. When they see that we employ ourselves on Sunday in visiting the people and opening the Scriptures to them, they will know that it is useless for them to try to hinder our work by making Sunday laws.

“Sunday can be used for carrying forward various lines of work that will accomplish much for the Lord. On this day open-air meetings and cottage meetings can be held. House-to-house work can be done. Those who write can devote this day to writing their articles. Whenever it is possible, let religious services be held on Sunday. Make these meetings intensely interesting. Sing genuine revival hymns, and speak with power and assurance of the Saviour’s love. Speak on temperance and on true religious experience. You will thus learn much about how to work, and will reach many souls.” 9T 232-233.

The civil and religious authorities will try to bribe the people of God into giving up their faith. But the remnant-elect will remain faithful and loyal to God, His Son and His law!

The time will come when the fines and imprisonments will be directed against keeping the seventh day Sabbath. It will be declared that since keeping the seventh day means refusal to honor the Sunday sabbath, seventh day Sabbath keeping should be penalized. When brought before the courts, the loyal Sabbath keepers will in most cases pay the fines and continue to preach the message. As a matter of fact the court testimonies of loyal Sabbath keepers will be a means of witnessing to many and winning some to the truth.

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.”
2 Corinthians 13:8.

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The persecutory pressure during the early and middle periods of the loud cry will, in fact, facilitate the spread of the message in more ways than one. **Firstly** the persecution will catapult the people of God and the message of God into the front line of the national and international news. **Secondly** the open court cases will allow the highest legal minds to hear the truth. **Thirdly**, when persecuted in one area the people of God will flee to other areas. All of these developments will indeed fulfill 2 Corinthians 13:8!

As the loud cry develops, thousands of God's true people in Babylon will accept the truth under latter rain Holy Spirit conviction. In so doing they will leave the fallen religious organizations and join the ranks of God's true people. Hence will be fulfilled a number of scripture texts:

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John 10:16.

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8.

"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 18:4.

"The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the 'former rain' was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the 'latter rain' will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. '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 the earth.' Hosea 6:3. 'Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.' Joel 2:23. 'In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.' 'And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' Acts 2:17, 21.

"The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in

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the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are 'the times of refreshing' to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: 'Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.' Acts 3:19, 20.

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side." GC 611-612.

The Final Two Levels Of Persecution

The failure of all the lesser measures to silence God's people will induce the authorities to legislate two final measures of extreme severity. Firstly will come the decree forbidding, to buy or sell, those who refuse to honor Sunday and renounce the seventh day Sabbath.

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:17.

This "**buy and sell**" decree will in fact be a starvation sentence upon God's people abandoning them to life threatening poverty and terrible socio economic dislocation.

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Eventually the death penalty will be attached to the Sunday law thereby **threatening** God's people with execution.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' Matt. 6:33. Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God's command? and what His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.

"In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death." DA 121-122.

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.

"In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences

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of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim: 'Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace.' They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it.

"The same trials have been experienced by men of God in ages past. Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Tyndale, Baxter, Wesley, urged that all doctrines be brought to the test of the Bible and declared that they would renounce everything which it condemned. Against these men persecution raged with relentless fury; yet they ceased not to declare the truth. Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God.

"As the opposition rises to a fiercer height, the servants of God are again perplexed; for it seems to them that they have brought the crisis. But conscience and the word of God assure them that their course is right; and although the trials continue, they are strengthened to bear them. The contest grows closer and sharper, but their faith and courage rise with the emergency. Their testimony is: 'We dare not tamper with God's word, dividing His holy law; calling one portion essential and another nonessential, to gain the favor of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?'

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“Persecution in its varied forms is the development of a principle which will exist as long as Satan exists and Christianity has vital power. No man can serve God without enlisting against himself the opposition of the hosts of darkness. Evil angels will assail him, alarmed that his influence is taking the prey from their hands. Evil men, rebuked by his example, will unite with them in seeking to separate him from God by alluring temptations. When these do not succeed, then a compelling power is employed to force the conscience.

“But so long as Jesus remains man’s intercessor in the sanctuary above, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is felt by rulers and people. It still controls to some extent the laws of the land. Were it not for these laws, the condition of the world would be much worse than it now is. While many of our rulers are active agents of Satan, God also has His agents among the leading men of the nation. The enemy moves upon his servants to propose measures that would greatly impede the work of God; but statesmen who fear the Lord are influenced by holy angels to oppose such propositions with unanswerable arguments. Thus a few men will hold in check a powerful current of evil. The opposition of the enemies of truth will be restrained that the third angel’s message may do its work. When the final warning shall be given, it will arrest the attention of these leading men through whom the Lord is now working, and some of them will accept it, and will stand with the people of God through the time of trouble.

“The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel’s message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel’s message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.” GC 608-611.

Chapter 23

The Final Shaking

During the loud cry period the pressure put on God's people will progressively increase in severity as time passes. Initially the opposition to God's seventh day Sabbath will be in the form of argument, scorn, ridicule, which, though unpleasant, will be nothing more than is expected when anyone takes an unpopular stand. But when the authorities realize the power attending the message and the fixed purpose of God's people in standing for and proclaiming the Sabbath message, they will increase the persecutory pressure step by step until ultimately the "buy and sell decree" and the death penalty will be attached to the Sunday laws.

Basic Principles Of The Shaking (Haggai 2:6-7; Hebrews 12:25-28)

In any era of God's work there are always two shakings. The first is caused by a preparatory message from God, the second is caused by persecutory pressure. And only those who allow the message to prepare them are able to endure the persecution without apostatizing.

The Preparatory Message

The message sent to prepare God's people for the final crisis is the counsel of the Faithful and True Witness to the church of the Laodiceans recorded in Revelation chapter three, verses 14 to 22. The Jones-Waggoner message

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of righteousness by faith (1888-1895) was, and is, essentially the message of Jesus to the church of the Laodiceans spelled out in full gospel clarity.

Those who receive the message of Jesus to Laodicea by receiving the full light of the message of righteousness by faith and the advancing light of God's true character (which is the true gospel) will be prepared for the final crisis. The majority of God's professed believers in the third angel's message have risen up in opposition to the message and this is the basis of the **first** or **Laodicean** shaking which started in the 1850's, became intense in the 1888-1901 period, and continues today with serious consequences both at the organizational and individual levels.

The First Or Laodicean Shaking

This Laodicean shaking is described in *Early Writings*, pages 269-271:

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

"Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

"As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

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"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

"I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified." EW 269-270.

The Final Shaking

The **final** shaking will be brought on by the progressive persecutory pressures of the **mark of the beast** crisis. It is described in *The Great Controversy*, page 608:

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." GC 608.

The Serious Implications Of The Two Shakings

Those who truly receive and experience the straight testimony of Jesus to the Laodiceans which is the full message of the true gospel and character of God will be delivered from lukewarmness and will grow to the stage of growth called the **ear** (Mark 4:26-29). They will receive the latter rain, give the loud cry, and be ripened by that same latter rain to the stage of growth called the **full corn in the ear**. These are also represented as the wise virgins (Matthew 25:1-10), and the good-soil hearers (Matthew 13:23).

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Those who do not allow the straight testimony to sanctify them and cause them to reach the stage of the **ear** will not receive the latter rain **but will be self-deceived**. These foolish virgins will co-mingle with the wise and their true colors will not be exposed until the more extreme pressures of the Sunday law system be implemented!

Here now is a description of the perilous condition of foolish virgins during the loud cry:

“Unless those who can help in _____ are aroused to a sense of their duty, they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard. When light goes forth to lighten the earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. 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. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.” TM 300.

Terrible Shaking During The Loud Cry

The final shaking will be a terrible one indeed. Not only will it shake out long standing members of the Seventh-day Adventist faith but also some apparent converts from Babylon who will have joined the loud cry movement during the early excitement. The pressure of the final shaking will be both mental and physical. Every conceivable deception will be progressively put into operation while at the same time the persecutory pressure will be mounting with progressive intensity.

“The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to ‘science falsely so called’ will not be the leaders then. 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

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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 day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.

“The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ’s righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.

“When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then the hidden ones will be revealed to view, and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David—willing to do and dare. The deeper the night for God’s people, the more brilliant the stars. Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear ‘fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’ 5T 80-82.

Final Admonition And Appeal

“Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while

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the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.” 2SM 380.

“Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God’s wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God’s people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader....

“The Captain of our salvation will strengthen His people for the conflict in which they must engage. How often when Satan has brought all his forces to bear against the followers of Christ, and death stares them in the face, have earnest prayers put up in faith brought the Captain of the Lord’s host upon the field of action and turned the tide of battle and delivered the oppressed.

“Now is the time when we should closely connect with God, that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return. If the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. Which side will you be on?” 5T 137.

Chapter 24

The Seal Of The Living God

The **final** sealing is brought to view in Revelation 7:1-4. The living righteous will receive this final seal of God **prior** to the close of probation (ISM 66). And in order to receive this final seal of the living God they must successfully endure the mark of the beast crisis. The final seal means the full reproduction of God's character of righteousness in the believer's life by his abiding in Christ and reaching the growth stage called the **full corn in the ear** (Mark 4:26-29). The seventh day Sabbath will be the external manifestation of this apocalyptic seal of God.

"The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided...[Rev. 13:11-17 quoted.]...

"This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast. Letter 11, 1890." 7BC 976.

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"The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth's history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God's service. All apparently wait for Christ's appearing. But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall." COL 412.

The latter rain will ripen God's people from the **ear** to the **full corn in the ear** and this ripening process will include their successful endurance of the mark of the beast persecutory pressure right up to when the death penalty is attached to the Sunday laws! The living saints will be tried severely both by the persecutory pressure and by the peculiar circumstances which will then obtain as the closure of probation approaches.

"In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim: 'Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace.' They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it." GC 608-609.

The above passage describes the ending of the loud cry period. The latter rain will have slowed down and Satan will be throwing his most fierce temptations along with intense spiritual and mental stress and strain upon the souls of God's people.

But through all this severely intense spiritual and mental strain the people of God will be ripened to the **full corn in the ear**, Christian character perfection! When they reach that stage of growth they will be sealed and thereafter probation will close!

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“Courage, fortitude, faith, and implicit trust in God’s power to save do not come in a moment. These heavenly graces are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right the children of God were sealing their destiny. Beset with temptations without number, they knew they must resist firmly or be conquered. They felt that they had a great work to do, and at any hour they might be called to lay off their armor; and should they come to the close of life with their work undone, it would be an eternal loss. They eagerly accepted the light from heaven, as did the first disciples from the lips of Jesus. When those early Christians were exiled to mountains and deserts, when left in dungeons to die with hunger, cold, and torture, when martyrdom seemed the only way out of their distress, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ, who was crucified for them. Their worthy example will be a comfort and encouragement to the people of God who will be brought into the time of trouble such as never was.

“Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. They had the light of truth, they knew their Master’s will, they understood every point of our faith, but they had not corresponding works. These who were so familiar with prophecy and the treasures of divine wisdom should have acted their faith. They should have commanded their households after them, that by a well-ordered family they might present to the world the influence of the truth upon the human heart.

“By their lack of devotion and piety, and their failure to reach a high religious standard, they make other souls contented with their position. Men of finite judgment cannot see that in patterning after these men who have so often opened to them the treasures of God’s word, they will surely endanger their souls. Jesus is the only true pattern. Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child, if he would know what the Lord requires of him. However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path.

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters,

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to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

“We are too easily satisfied with our attainments. We feel rich and increased with goods and know not that we are ‘wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ Now is the time to heed the admonition of the True Witness: ‘I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.’

“In this life we must meet fiery trials and make costly sacrifices, but the peace of Christ is the reward. There has been so little self-denial, so little suffering for Christ’s sake, that the cross is almost entirely forgotten. We must be partakers with Christ of His sufferings if we would sit down in triumph with Him on His throne. So long as we choose the easy path of self-indulgence and are frightened at self-denial, our faith will never become firm, and we cannot know the peace of Jesus nor the joy that comes through conscious victory. The most exalted of the redeemed host that stand before the throne of God and the Lamb, clad in white, know the conflict of overcoming, for they have come up through great tribulation. Those who have yielded to circumstances rather than engage in this conflict will not know how to stand in that day when anguish will be upon every soul, when, though Noah, Job, and Daniel were in the land, they could save neither son nor daughter, for everyone must deliver his soul by his own righteousness.

“No one need say that his case is hopeless, that he cannot live the life of a Christian. Ample provision is made by the death of Christ for every soul. Jesus is our ever-present help in time of need. Only call upon Him in faith, and He has promised to hear and answer your petitions.

“Oh, for a living, active faith! We need it; we must have it, or we shall faint and fail in the day of trial. The darkness that will then rest upon our path must not discourage us or drive us to despair. It is the veil with which God covers His glory when He comes to impart rich blessings. We should know this by our past experience. In that day when God has a controversy with His people this experience will be a source of comfort and hope.

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“It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. ‘Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.’ We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord’s appearing. The world is in darkness. ‘But ye, brethren,’ says Paul, ‘are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.’ It is ever God’s purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul.

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Go forward, my brethren and sisters. I can only write briefly upon these points at this time, merely calling your attention to the necessity of preparation. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.” 5T 213-216.

Purified Even As Jesus Is Pure (1 John 3:1-3)

“We should study more earnestly the character of our Saviour. We should imitate the lovely Pattern that God has given us. We should dwell upon the matchless charms of Jesus until there will be nothing satisfying in this perishing world. We should desire to reflect his image in kindness, in courtesy, in gentleness, and love, then ‘when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.’ In a little while every one who is a child of God will have his seal placed upon

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him. O that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads?" RH, May 28, 1889.

"As wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of Christ." ST, January 2, 1907.

Latter Rain Ripening

During the loud cry period the people of God will be ripened from the stage of growth called the **ear** to that which is called the **full corn in the ear** (Mark 4:26-29). This advanced ripening growth will include the advanced testing of the mark of the beast persecutory pressure. The "**full corn in the ear**" means that the believers are settled into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved (MS 173, 1902).

"The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of Man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

"There is to be 'first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.' There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

"At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude. We must never forget the warnings of Christ, 'Watch unto prayer,' 'Watch and pray always.' A connection with the divine agency every moment is essential to our progress. We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will

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never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door." RH, March 2, 1897.

"At the transfiguration, Jesus was glorified by His Father. We hear Him say: 'Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in Him.' Thus before His betrayal and crucifixion He was strengthened for His last dreadful sufferings. As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, 'the time of Jacob's trouble,' they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel." 1T 353.

Pure And Spotless

"When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. 'Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.' Malachi 3:4. Then the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a 'glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.' Ephesians 5:27. Then she will look 'forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.' Song of Solomon 6:10." GC 425.

"We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being

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upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing." GC 489-490.

Closing Admonition

"The Lord has shown me the danger of letting our minds be filled with worldly thoughts and cares. I saw that some minds are led away from present truth and a love of the Holy Bible by reading other exciting books; others are filled with perplexity and care for what they shall eat, drink, and wear. Some are looking too far off for the coming of the Lord. Time has continued a few years longer than they expected; therefore they think it may continue a few years more, and in this way their minds are being led from present truth, out after the world. In these things I saw great danger; for if the mind is filled with other things, present truth is shut out, and there is no place in our foreheads for the seal of the living God. I saw that the time for Jesus to be in the most holy place was nearly finished and that time can last but a very little longer. What leisure time we have should be spent in searching the Bible, which is to judge us in the last day.

"My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure." EW 58-59.

Chapter 25

The Investigative Judgment Of The Living

One important component of the final warning message will be the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8:14 and the truths concerning the high priestly ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. The attention of the people will be called to the pre-advent judgment and the closing ministration of Christ in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.

The 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 are 2300 years (using the day-year principle of Ezekiel 4:6) which started in 457 BC and ended in 1844, October 22nd. At the end of the 2300 years Christ our High Priest entered the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary to receive the kingdom (the marriage of the bridegroom in Matthew 25:1-10). In order to receive His kingdom Christ must perform two great functions. He must bring His final generation of living saints to perfection of character. He must also complete the pre-advent investigative judgment thereby showing who are really saved and therefore, entitled by His righteousness to receive eternal life.

The Pre-advent Judgment

Since the judgment renders to every man his reward, and since the righteous receive their reward of immortality at Christ's second coming, it follows truthfully and logically that the professed righteous must be judged **before** the second advent in order to determine who are genuine.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷ To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.” Romans 2:6-7.

“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. ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:11-12.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.” Romans 2:16.

The (Pre-advent) Investigative Judgment Must Be Completed Before The Closure Of Probation

“When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut. Thus in the one short sentence, ‘They that were ready went in with

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Him to the marriage: and the door was shut,' we are carried down through the Saviour's final ministration, to the time when the great work for man's salvation shall be completed.

"In the service of the earthly sanctuary, which, as we have seen, is a figure of the service in the heavenly, when the high priest on the Day of Atonement entered the most holy place, the ministration in the first apartment ceased. God commanded: 'There shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he comes out.' Leviticus 16:17. So when Christ entered the holy of holies to perform the closing work of the atonement, He ceased His ministration in the first apartment. But when the ministration in the first apartment ended, the ministration in the second apartment began. When in the typical service the high priest left the holy on the Day of Atonement, he went in before God to present the blood of the sin offering in behalf of all Israel who truly repented of their sins. So Christ had only completed one part of His work as our intercessor, to enter upon another portion of the work, and He still pleaded His blood before the Father in behalf of sinners." GC 428.

The Judgment Call Must Be Given To All

The attention of the masses must be, and will be, directed to the closing ministration of Christ in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary—the reason being that only those who by faith follow Jesus in His High Priestly work will receive the benefits of His ministry.

"The condition of the unbelieving Jews illustrates the condition of the careless and unbelieving among professed Christians, who are willingly ignorant of the work of our merciful High Priest. In the typical service, when the high priest entered the most holy place, all Israel were required to gather about the sanctuary and in the most solemn manner humble their souls before God, that they might receive the pardon of their sins and not be cut off from the congregation. How much more essential in this antitypical Day of Atonement that we understand the work of our High Priest and know what duties are required of us.

"Men cannot with impunity reject the warning which God in mercy sends them. A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah's day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and

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they perished in the waters of the Flood. In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of Christ. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation: 'Your house is left unto you desolate.' Matthew 23:38. Looking down to the last days, the same Infinite Power declares, concerning those who 'received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved': 'For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. As they reject the teachings of His word, God withdraws His Spirit and leaves them to the deceptions which they love." GC 430-431.

Investigative Judgment Of The Living

The investigative judgment must be completed before the general closure of human probation.

"When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut. Thus in the one short sentence, 'They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut,' we are carried down through the Saviour's final ministration, to the time when the great work for man's salvation shall be completed." GC 428.

The loud cry servants will present the truth of the High Priestly ministry of Christ in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. The attention of the people will be called to the heavenly sanctuary, the 2300 day prophecy, and the closing ministration of Christ in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. This will have to be done because:

"It is those who by faith follow Jesus in the great work of the atonement who receive the benefits of His mediation in their behalf, while those who reject the light which brings to view this work of ministration are not benefited thereby. The Jews who rejected the light given at Christ's first advent, and refused to believe on Him as the Saviour of the world, could not receive pardon through Him. When Jesus at His ascension entered by His own blood into the heavenly sanctuary to shed upon His disciples the blessings of His mediation, the Jews were left in total darkness to continue their useless sacrifices and offerings. The

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ministration of types and shadows had ceased. That door by which men had formerly found access to God was no longer open. The Jews had refused to seek Him in the only way whereby He could then be found, through the ministration in the sanctuary in heaven. Therefore they found no communion with God. To them the door was shut. They had no knowledge of Christ as the true sacrifice and the only mediator before God; hence they could not receive the benefits of His mediation.

“The condition of the unbelieving Jews illustrates the condition of the careless and unbelieving among professed Christians, who are willingly ignorant of the work of our merciful High Priest. In the typical service, when the high priest entered the most holy place, all Israel were required to gather about the sanctuary and in the most solemn manner humble their souls before God, that they might receive the pardon of their sins and not be cut off from the congregation. How much more essential in this antitypical Day of Atonement that we understand the work of our High Priest and know what duties are required of us.” GC 430-431.

The Importance Of This Knowledge

“Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour’s mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.

“All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ’s work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between

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righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.

“The intercession of Christ in man’s behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, ‘whither the forerunner is for us entered.’ Hebrews 6:20. There the light from the cross of Calvary is reflected. There we may gain a clearer insight into the mysteries of redemption. The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God. Jesus has opened the way to the Father’s throne, and through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God.

“‘He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.’ Proverbs 28:13. If those who hide and excuse their faults could see how Satan exults over them, how he taunts Christ and holy angels with their course, they would make haste to confess their sins and to put them away. Through defects in the character, Satan works to gain control of the whole mind, and he knows that if these defects are cherished, he will succeed. Therefore he is constantly seeking to deceive the followers of Christ with his fatal sophistry that it is impossible for them to overcome. But Jesus pleads in their behalf His wounded hands, His bruised body; and He declares to all who would follow Him: ‘My grace is sufficient for thee.’ 2 Corinthians 12:9. ‘Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.’ Matthew 11:29, 30. Let none, then, regard their defects as incurable. God will give faith and grace to overcome them.

“We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so

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many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

“Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour’s admonition: ‘Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.’ Mark 13:33. ‘If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.’ Revelation 3:3.” GC 488-490.

The Final Test And The Investigative Judgment Of The Living

We now come to the crucial question. What terrible test must the final generation of living saints successfully endure in order to pass their investigative judgment?

The answer is: the mark of the beast crisis with its increasing persecutory pressure right up to the **threat** of death.

“The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth’s history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God’s service. All apparently wait for Christ’s appearing. But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall.” COL 412.

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided....[Rev. 13:11-17 quoted.]

“This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will

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receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast (Letter 11, 1890)." 7BC 976.

Only those who endure this full persecutory package and are ripened to the **"full corn in the ear"** will be sealed. They will pass the judgment of the living. Their sins will be blotted out and their names retained in the book of life. Then Jesus ends His High Priestly ministrations.

Chapter 26

The Close Of Human Probation

The End Of The Loud Cry

“At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: 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, everyone that shall be found written in the book.’ Daniel 12:1.

“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. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received ‘the seal of the living God.’ Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, ‘It is done;’ and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: ‘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

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righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.' Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; 'the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,' is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords." GC 613-614.

"I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, 'It is done.' And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, '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.'" EW 279-280.

The Unknown Hour

The close of human probation will be an event of the most momentous significance to all mankind. Then the fate of every human being will have been decided for eternity either for eternal life or the second death. The doctrine of the closure of probation is an important truth not taught by most denominations and so it has become one of the unique doctrines of true Seventh-day Adventism. One critically important aspect of this doctrine is that when the close of human probation finally occurs **the inhabitants of this earth will know it not! Neither the righteous nor the wicked will know that probation has closed!**

"When God's presence was finally withdrawn from the Jewish nation, priests and people knew it not. Though under the control of Satan, and swayed by the most

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horrible and malignant passions, they still regarded themselves as the chosen of God. The ministrations in the temple continued; sacrifices were offered upon its polluted altars, and daily the divine blessing was invoked upon a people guilty of the blood of God's dear Son and seeking to slay His ministers and apostles. So when the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not. The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn; and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God." GC 615.

"When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.' Revelation 22:11, 12.

"The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state—men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. 'So,' says the Saviour, 'shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men.

"'Watch ye therefore:...lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping.' Mark 13:35, 36. Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments—it may be in that hour the Judge of all the

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earth will pronounce the sentence: 'Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.' Daniel 5:27." GC 490-491.

Unknown To Satan As Well

Even during the time of Jacob's trouble Satan will not know that probation has closed.

"As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above." GC 618.

Time Of Probation's Closure Not Revealed

"God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close, or when probation will have an end. Those things that are revealed we shall accept for ourselves and for our children; but let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty..." 7BC 989.

The question may be asked: Will not the occurrence of the seven last plagues indicate that probation has closed? This is a very good question. The term "**seven last**" indicates that there will be plagues leading up to those seven last plagues in such a progressive continuum that there will be no discernable line of demarcation between earlier plagues and later plagues.

As the loud cry develops, Satan, through the agency of spiritualism, will perform many undeniable wonders. At the same time he will cause disease, disaster and calamities of progressively increasing magnitude right up to and beyond the closure of probation. Therefore the seven last plagues will be on a line of continuum from earlier plagues.

"Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept

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away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. ‘The earth mourneth and fadeth away,’ ‘the haughty people...do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.’ Isaiah 24:4, 5.” GC 589-590.

Prepare Now

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: 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, everyone that shall be found written in the book.’ When this time of trouble comes, every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death.

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May God help His people now, for what can they then do in such a fearful conflict without His assistance!" 5T 212-213.

Conclusion

After the close of probation there will only be two classes—those with the seal of the living God, the living saints, called the 144,000; and those with the mark of the beast, the overwhelming majority of earth's population. The great time of trouble, including the time of Jacob's trouble, will occur after the closure of probation but all this will be the subject matter for a future camp book.

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