

Strive To Be Among The 144,000

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Chapter One

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE

Whenever the subject of the 144 000 is brought up some students of the word quote a statement from the Spirit of Prophecy to suggest that the subject should not be studied.

Here is the statement:

“It is not His (God’s) will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as who is to compose the 144 000. This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question” MS 26, 1901

But while this statement warns against making the subject controversial, it at the same time gives the assurance that the elect of God will know the answer without question in a short time. Seems paradoxical doesn’t it?

Moreover the Spirit of Prophecy describes the characteristics and qualifications required to be among the 144 000 and actually urges us to strive to be among the 144 000.

In Review and Herald March 9, 1905 we read this wonderful counsel:

“Let us strive with all the power God has given us to be among the 144 000” R.H. 1905 March 9.

It is clear then that this subject should be studied, carefully, allowing scripture to interpret scripture and establishing principles which are incontrovertible.

God would never give us the command to strive to be among the 144 000 and

at the same time prohibit us from studying the subject to understand how to be among that illustrious group.

TRUE KNOWLEDGE

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of the God, I will also forget thy children.”
Hos. 4:6

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;” 1 Pet. 1:5

“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,” Phil 3:8

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” Col. 1:9, 10

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

“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. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” 2Cor. 4:6, 7

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

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

“But continue thou in the things which thou has learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee

wise unto salvation through faith which is the Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Tim. 3:14-17

KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE “PUFFETH UP”

“Now as touching things offered to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him.” 1 Cor. 8:1-3

“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.” 1 Cor. 3:18-23

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” 1 Cor. 1:27-31.

THE SCRIPTURE A SAFEGUARD

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God’s work the prince of evil is

aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.

“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. 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?” G.C. p. 593, 594

“But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority – not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support.” Ibid p. 595

“We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner. Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many enter the domains of science, but with a prayerful

dependence upon God and a sincere desire to learn His will. We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I AM. Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth.

Many a portion of Scripture which learned men pronounce a mystery, or pass over as unimportant, is full of comfort and instruction to him who has been taught in the school of Christ. One reason why many theologians have no clearer understanding of God's word is, they close their eyes to truths which they do not wish to practice. An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness." Ibid p. 599

PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

1. Scripture must interpret scripture.
2. Scripture must determine the context.
3. Every passage of scripture dealing with the subject must be thoroughly analysed.
4. By employing these three basic principles we should be able to establish "foolproof" definitions which are incontrovertible.

WITH HUMBLE HEARTS SURVEY THE ATONEMENT

"Let no one take the limited, narrow position that any of the works of man can help in the least possible way to liquidate the debt of his transgression. This is a fatal deception. If you would understand it, you must cease haggling over your pet ideas, and with humble hearts survey the atonement.

"This matter is so dimly comprehended that thousands upon thousands claiming to be sons of God are children of the wicked one, because they will depend on their own works. God always demanded good works, the law demands it, but because man placed himself in sin where his good works were valueless, Jesus' righteousness alone can avail. Christ is able to save to the uttermost because He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

“All that man can possibly do toward his own salvation is to accept the invitation, “Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” No sin can be committed by man for which satisfaction has not been met on Calvary. Thus the cross, in earnest appeals, continually proffers to the sinner a thorough expiation.” (MS 50, 1900)

Chapter Two

END-TIME DECEPTIONS

SWEEPING CHANGES

The whole world is on the move, socially, morally, politically, materially, scientifically, and religiously. The pace is so rapid, the trends so radical, the abandonment of values and standards so irresponsible, defiant, and carefree, that there is every justification for seeing in this the harbingers of that final disaster which will bring about the end of the world.

SECURITY ONLY IN THE WORD OF GOD

With the open pages of the prophetic Word before him, the child of God observes these developments with intense and watchful interest. He knows that, on one hand, they are the stern warnings of the need of the closest personal preparation for the events which are coming, and, on the other, they are the glad tidings of the coming end of sin and the revelation of the Saviour and Deliverer. Everything depends on his ability, through the study of the Word of God under the guidance and tutelage of the Holy Spirit, to rightly evaluate and analyse the happenings in the world. Failure to do so is to be caught off-guard, with all the attendant fatal consequences.

AVOID FALSE SECURITY

The final and coming conflict will be the last great show-down between the powers of light and the forces of darkness. It will be essentially religious in character and nature. Therefore, the true child of God will understand that the events which need to be watched most closely are those in the religious world, not only in the fallen churches but also in the church of God itself.

We shall begin with a study of the warnings of the fearful subtlety of the last day deceptions, which will sweep the vast majority of this world's inhabitants into eternal loss and ruin. It is all too easy to be deceived. A little carelessness; a failure to watch unto prayer; a neglect to study for one's self; or a willingness to let the preacher do all the thinking, all open the door to one's being carried forever captive by the deceptions of the enemy. All too late will come the fearful awakening; all too late will come the dreadful realization that we have been seduced into eternal, irrecoverable ruin. Then how each one will wish that he had been watchful and careful.

In spite of the copious and clear warnings given in the Word of God, there seems to rest upon the vast majority the firm assurance that, while others around them may be deceived, they, being a member of what they firmly believe to be the church of God, are secure. Such do not realize their peril, yet so deep is the stupor upon them that it seems impossible to rouse them to an awareness of the danger in which they stand. Well and truly written are the warning words of Scripture, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12.

COUNTERFEITING AT ITS' BEST

Satan's last desperate effort to overthrow the church of God will be the masterpiece of deception. It will not be sprung upon the world or the church in a moment, but will be woven with masterful subtlety, thread by binding thread, until it is impossible to extricate one's self from its deceptive power. The fact is that this work is already well advanced and thousands of those who think themselves secure, are even now enmeshed in the snares of Satan's final delusion. If already partially deceived, how can it be expected that they will escape the final masterpiece of deception when it is fully formed?

END-TIME SIGNS AND WONDERS

Let us turn to some of the Scriptures which reveal something of what is to be faced. Revelation 13:4 prophesies the rise of the beast and his image in these last and closing events of this world's history. Chapter 13 begins with the leopard-like beast with the mouth of a lion, the feet of a bear, and the body of a leopard, declaring with infallible certainty, that once again he is to rule over every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Then comes the eleventh verse, which introduces the image of the beast.

“And I beheld another beast come up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he 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. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 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. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth 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. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”
Rev. 13:11-18.

Notice that he does great wonders and deceives those who dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do. These miracles are not mere pretensions and trickery. They are real miracles, for he has the power to do them. The comment on these verses as found in *The Great Controversy*, 553, reads thus: “No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.”

That is well worth remembering. Satan’s miracles in the last days will be genuine miracles, real miracles, and they will be incontrovertibly supernatural. But God’s people are not to be deceived by this, because such evidences are not the test of truth. Let the warning words of Christ ever ring in our ears,

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24.

What are these signs and wonders? Naturally we tend to look for miracles of a spectacular nature such as healing the sick, bringing down fire from heaven, etc., as the kind of things which Satan will do, and be assured that he will do

these things, but not these alone. The deception is to come much closer than this. The counterfeit is to be of the message and work which the Lord Himself will do in these last days, so that it will be made to appear that Satan's work is the work of God. It will be shown from the Scriptures that the counterfeit always comes before the true. Those who are not able to distinguish the false or counterfeit message of righteousness by faith from the true, will be deceived into following the false, and will reject God's righteousness as the work of the devil. Having been deceived into giving their allegiance to a false god, they will follow his dictates and directions. Yet, they will be fully persuaded that they are doing the will of God and serving the Lord Himself.

Let us gather the evidence which declares that this is so. That Satan comes to us as an angel of light is clearly shown by the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:12-15.

“But what I do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostle of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

An angel of light speaks the truth of God and brings with him the gospel of Jesus Christ. If Satan is to come as an angel of light, then he must appear to speak the truth of God. To every appearance it must look like it, and sound like it, just as a counterfeit note is not the real note, despite its deceptive appearance, so the message of the false Christ can never be the message of the true one. It takes skilled and minute examination by the investigator to discern the counterfeit note from the true one, and so likewise it takes skilled and painstaking investigation on the part of God's children to distinguish the false from the true message in the gospels being presented in these last days.

Let no mistake be made in regard to this. Do not suppose that because there are some clear-cut doctrinal differences such as the Sabbath versus Sunday, infant baptism versus adult baptism, soul sleep versus immortality, and so on, that this clearly distinguishes the false from the true. The test will run deeper than this, and, in the end, it will be found that you can hold any of the above doctrines and still be on the wrong side, deceived and lost. When antichrist is abroad in the earth, he is there to all appearances as Christ, Himself. He will

appear to bring the very gospel of Christ, without it being the actual gospel itself.

“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true, that it will be impossible to distinguish between them...” The Great Controversy, 593.

Did the full impact of those words break upon your mind? “So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true...”

Here is brought to light the revelation of a counterfeit so nearly perfect that its differences from the true cannot be discerned. So reads the statement quoted above. If the sentence stopped where we left off quoting it, there would be no hope of any one of us escaping deception. But the statement goes on to make the one and only exception, “except by the Holy Scriptures.”

This means that our eyes will tell us that Satan’s counterfeit is the work of God; our ears will declare the same; every sensory organ will believe it to be the work of God, and all too many will tragically depend upon the witness of their senses. But not so with that little company, the very elect. They will take a second look; this time, not through their senses, but through the witness of the Word of God. When it tells them differently, they will believe the Word and not what they see and hear. By the testimony of the Holy Scriptures, “every statement and every miracle must be tested.” *ibid.*

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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. 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.” Gal. 1:6-9

In the statement under consideration, we have reference to the counterfeit and the true. As each one living in these last days is to be tested by this counterfeit, it is important for us to understand what it is going to be, If we know just where to look, then we will be better able to see it when it appears.

An illustration giving point to this argument is when counterfeit money is in circulation and the warning goes out. That warning will specify which notes have been counterfeited. Should they be ten dollar notes, then everyone carefully inspects each ten dollar note they are handed to see if it is true or false. Likewise, if we are warned what area of the truth is being counterfeited, we can watch that area with special care.

The revelation of which area is to be the special subject of counterfeiting in the last days is brought out in the following statements from G.C 464

“Notwithstanding the wide-spread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time, to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it, by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christ world.” The Great Controversy, 464.

Only by abiding in CHRIST, by a thorough knowledge and experience of the truth, and by being filled with the Holy Spirit, will the remnant be foolproof against the end-time counterfeit.

Chapter Three

THE TEST OF DECEPTION

The purpose of the chapter just closed was to lay out in some of its reality the fact that there is coming upon each man, woman, and child in these last days, the fearful test of deception. It must be a self-evident truth that anyone who fails to penetrate the deception will pay for this with his eternal life. This makes us realize that the pathway from here to the kingdom is a perilous one indeed. Let none tread this path with complacency and easy confidence. The stakes are far too high.

One may well wonder why it is that each person who is to find a place in the heavenly land, must successfully endure such stringent and close testing; for there is no doubt that a counterfeit of the master qualities involved will not be easy to recognize and reject. Surely, one would suppose, if an individual is faithful to the truth of God, then he ought to have his place in the kingdom. There is nothing more certain than that, but in order to be faithful to the truth of God, one must be able to reject the counterfeits which are designed expressly to lead one away from the truth.

There was a time in the distant history of the universe when there was nothing in existence but truth. At that time, there were no alternative theologies or beliefs. One great pulse of perfect harmony existed in the whole of God's kingdom. They had no knowledge of evil. All that the angels and the inhabitants of the worlds afar needed to do to maintain their place in the kingdom was to hold to the truth they had – the knowledge of good only. But the time came when a new element was introduced. The masterful power of deception, coming as it did, clothed in the shining garments of the brightest angel in heaven, gave God the appearance of being the evil one, and Lucifer

the appearance of being the saviour of the situation which was supposedly in existence.

With great cunning and skill, Satan professed to have found serious fault in the law of God. He declared that there was error and imperfection, that God was partial and unjust, and that there had to be a reformation in God Himself. With a profession of his most self-sacrificing interest in the well being of the heavenly beings, he sought to enlist their support and cooperation in a campaign to have God change things as he thought they ought to be. So skilful, so subtle, so persuasive was this master of lies and counterfeiting, that he was able to win a full third of the angelic host to his side while the remainder, in order to maintain their positions in the kingdom of God, had to discern the nature of the deception. If they did not, they were lost.

What does this mean? It means that there is a difference between the condition of things as they were in heaven before the fall, and the condition of things as they are after the fall. Before the fall they had to have only the knowledge of good in order to have heaven, but after the fall it was a case of having the knowledge of good and the ability to detect the deceiver in his disguise so that they would know what was truth from error.

When Lucifer and the angels who rebelled with him were cast out from heaven, this left a large gap in the heavenly kingdom which had to be refilled. As angels neither marry nor are given in marriage (Matthew 22:30), they do not have the power of reproduction. The gap could not be filled by this means. The only way to overcome this was to bring into effect a work of creation, and it was for this purpose that the world was created and man placed upon it.

“God created man for His glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God’s purpose to re-populate heaven with the human family, if they would show themselves obedient to His every word.” Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 1:1082, Ellen G. White comment.

“All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made ‘in the image of God,’ and it was the Creator’s design that they should populate the earth.” Review and Herald, February 11, 1902.

As a new and distinct order, the human family had a power the angels did not have – the power of reproduction. It seems evident enough that the necessity of giving man this power was created by the different conditions involved at this time in maintaining a place in the kingdom. Now there was the test of deception which had not been there before. If, with that risk there, the Lord had directly created the exact number of replacement angels and set them on the earth for their training period before their filling up the vacated positions, and the evil one had succeeded in seducing even a portion of them into sin, God's work would have been frustrated, necessitating a further work of creation and in turn, a further risk of losing a portion.

But, by creating man with the power to reproduce, this problem is solved, **though not without the intervention of the plan of salvation.** Even though the vast majority of the people of this earth in all its history have been deceived by the great counterfeit, there has always been a faithful minority in each generation who have escaped the power of this deception. It is only a matter of waiting till the numbers are fully made up by this faithful remnant for God's purpose in re-populating heaven to be achieved. It also explains why there will be no marrying and giving in marriage in heaven. The redeemed will replace the number of fallen angels but will be exalted even above the unfallen angels thereby restoring and advancing heaven's perfect arrangement.

In order for man to ascend to that position, he must have more than the angels had in heaven before the fall. What they had was a knowledge of, and loyalty to the truth, without it having been subjected to any test. But, since the appearance of the great deceiver, conditions have changed. From that time on, no one could remain in heaven and no one can enter there again, unless he has proved by experience and demonstration that he can hold the truth in the face of the most delusive arguments to the contrary. This knowledge gives a new angle to the aim of achieving a place in the heavenly kingdom. We should all awaken to a far more careful, prayerful, and watchful attitude as we face the insidious temptations coming our way from day to day.

Never could the need for watchfulness be greater than it is today, and from here on into the final scenes. The reason for this is that the time in which we now live is the time of all times for the appearing of many false Christs and false prophets. Of this the Scriptures are very plain in their warnings. Matthew 24:21, 22 speaks of the great tribulation: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

“And except those days should be shortened, they should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

The tribulation referred to is the long night of papal persecution which lasted from A.D. 538, till almost the end of the one thousand, two hundred and sixty years in 1798. This is made clear in the same chapter by the text which says: “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven...” Matthew 24:29. These strange phenomena occurred around the close of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, confirming that the tribulation preceding these signs was the long night of the Dark Ages.

Having referred to this period in the verses quoted above, Christ warns as follows:

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe in not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:23-27

The ones against whom we are warned, appearing in plural numbers in these last days are false Christs and false prophets. They come not as open enemies of the truth, but as counterfeits of the real.

Amongst those who are opposed to God’s living truth are men so polite, courteous, helpful, calm, and nice, that you would ask yourself: “How could such a person ever be the enemy of God? Outwardly he bears all the marks of conversion. Surely from all I can see of this man he is a true child of God?” But do not be deceived. That is not the test – the ministers of unrighteousness come amongst us as angels of light to deceive and draw back God’s people. In this connection there is a most enlightening statement which has been omitted from the record of the vision as given in Early Writings, but which appeared in the original version of the vision and reveals that the miracles which the devil works are actually miracles of apparent conversions. The subjects of his power appear to have been truly converted.

The unabridged version of the vision is to be found reproduced in facsimile form in *Ellen G. White and Her Critics* by F. D. Nichol, page 222, of the original article in *Present Truth*, August 1849, page 21, 22.

“I saw that the mysterious signs and wonders, and false reformations would increase, and spread. The reformations that were shown me, were not reformations from error to truth; but from bad to worse; for those who professed a change of heart, had only wrapt about them a religious garb, which covered up the iniquity of a wicked heart. Some appeared to have been really converted, so as to deceive God’s people; but if their hearts could be seen, they would appear as black as ever.”

Let every soul who professes to be a child of God recognize the warning given. Those who are Satan’s agents will appear to be really converted for a definite and specific purpose: to deceive and draw back the people of God from the truth. Devilish indeed is the work of Satan. He has neither mercy nor scruples and delights in the cruel destruction of the people of God in particular. Be warned and on guard.

When a person appears to be truly converted, will he be courteous? Certainly! Will he be kind and patient? Certainly! He will bear outwardly all the apparent marks of conversion. Satan is able to give people the appearance of conversion, but, “if their hearts could be seen they would appear just as black as ever.” If you could be with them constantly they would appear as they really are: just people who have wrapped around themselves the deception of apparent conversion.

In the last days we will have miracles –genuine, undeniable miracles of apparent conversions –worked by Satan’s ministers. They will teach a message which appears to be the doctrine of Christ. It will look the same and sound the same, but God’s folk will know by His Word that it is not the same because there are distinct differences.

It would be serious enough if there was only one false prophet or one false Christ to contend with, but the Scripture speak of them in the plural. “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1.

Each one of these will come with the appearance of righteousness. They will

be kind, courteous, sincere, zealous, and loving, but we are not to accept them on these merits alone. We must first test their credentials from the Word of God and then make our decisions.

A prophecy which pinpoints the conditions of the time in which we live is found in *The Review and Herald*, December 13, 1892.

“After the truth had been proclaimed as a witness to all nations, every conceivable power of evil will be set in operation, and minds will be confused by many voices crying, ‘Lo, here is Christ, Lo, He is there. This is the truth, I have the message from God, He has sent me with great light.’ Then there will be a removing of the landmarks, and an attempt to tear down the pillars of our faith. A more decided effort will be made to exalt the false Sabbath, and to cast contempt upon God Himself by supplanting the day He has blessed and sanctified. This false Sabbath is to be enforced by an oppressive law.”

“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.” 5T p. 80

But even now every wind of doctrine is blowing, with each and every man claiming that he has the message from God for this time. Do all these men, and all these movements, have the message of present truth? Is God the author of confusion, division, and scattering? Of course not! Yet somewhere in it all, God has a voice. God has a movement to whom He is teaching His truth, not just an individual here and there.

To find and to stand with the people to whom the Lord is teaching His truth, and to hold to that truth and that people, is the task of all who are truly concerned with eternal life. That there are so many voices claiming they have the truth most seriously complicates the task, making it much more difficult and dangerous. But it can and must be done if we would be saved. It is not enough to have only what the angels had in the kingdom before the fall. We must have that and **the victory over the power of deception**. This is the great test which all must successfully pass. Failure will cost eternal life, while success guarantees the bliss of an eternity in the earth made new. Do not rest satisfied. Check your present position. You may already be the victim of

deception. Even now you may be heading into the folds of a net from which there is no escape.

It is not enough for this book to warn of the present and increasing peril. It must also show the way of deliverance. It must show how to detect the deceiver in his disguise, so that every honest soul will be able to escape. We pray that in the chapters to come this will be spelled out from the Word of God in words so clear and convincing, that every reader will be able to endure the test and be found among the happy throng upon the sea of glass.

Chapter Four

DEFINING THE END-TIME REMNANT

We surely can build a foolproof definition of the end-time apocalyptic remnant. And this we shall do from the Bible because it is crucially and vitally important. As a matter of fact, without a true definition of the end-time living remnant any wind of doctrine about the 144 000 may present a challenge.

There are 7 passages of scripture which build our definition, these are:-

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; Revelations 12:17; Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Revelation 6:17 – 7:1-3; Revelation 15:1-4

We shall study each passage carefully.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16, 17

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Here the remnant is defined as those saints who remain alive right up to the Second Coming of Christ to be caught up together with the resurrected saints to meet the Lord in the air.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51, 52

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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.”

This passage defines the remnant as those end-time living saints who, **never having died**, will be alive and remain right up to the Second Coming of Christ and will be “**changed**” or translated.

REVELATIONS 12:17

“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.”

The word “**remnant**” in this text comes from the Greek word **LOIPOS** and means: **that which remains or that which is left after all the others have gone.**

Rev. 12:17 informs us that Satan’s final war (before the Second Coming of Christ) will be against this remnant.

DANIEL 12:1

“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.”

This text defines the end-time remnant as those who will endure the time of trouble such as never was and who shall be delivered because their names shall be found written in the book.

In Daniel 12:1 the standing up of MICHAEL means the closure of human probation, at which point **the time of trouble such as never was** will commence, and will not end until the Second Coming of Christ. During the

time of trouble such as never was, the seven last plagues will occur and the world will collapse to utter ruin and destruction.

Two other passages which describe the time of trouble such as never was are Amos 5:18-20; Zephaniah 1:14-18 and in these passages the time of trouble such as never was is called **THE DAY OF THE LORD, THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD** or **THE DAY OF THE LORD'S WRATH**.

JEREMIAH 30:7

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”

Jeremiah 30:7 employs the term **THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE**.

The **TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE** will commence after the second plague when the Death Decree will be issued against the people of God. But God’s people will be delivered by His voice at the start of the seventh plague. We therefore see that the **TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE** will be **shorter** than the **TIME OF TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS** because it will start after the second plague and end at the commencement of plague 7 when the voice of God delivers His people.

REVELATION 6:17 – 7:1-3

“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”
Rev. 6:17

“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” Rev. 7:1-3

The question asked in Rev. 6:17 is who shall be able to stand in the great day of wrath i.e. the time of trouble such as never was. The answer given in Rev. 7:1-3 is that only those who are sealed with the seal of the living God will be able to endure the time of trouble such as never was.

REVELATION 15:1-4

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

This passage, which is about to introduce the seven last plagues in the time of trouble such as never was, pauses to picture the remnant standing victorious on the sea of glass. And this passage defines the remnant as those who will be victorious over the beast, and over his image and over his mark and over the number of the name of the beast.

We can now put together a complete and incontrovertible definition of the end-time remnant:-

THOSE LIVING SAINTS WHO, NEVER HAVING DIED, PASS THROUGH PROBATION’S CLOSURE WITH THE SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD, PASS THROUGH THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE AND ARE DELIVERED OUT OF IT BE GOD’S VOICE BECAUSE THEIR NAMES ARE IN THE BOOK OF LIFE; PASS THROUGH THE TIME OF TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS; ARE VICTORIOUS OVER THE BEAST HIS NAME, MARK AND NUMBER AND ARE ALIVE AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND ARE TRANSLATED.

Now comes an important question. Will there be one or two righteous remnants? By definitions the word remnant means the last remaining group and therefore can only be one group. Moreover in order to be protected in the **“time of trouble such as never was”** everyone who goes through that time must have the seal of the living God.

The theory which states that there will be 2 groups going through the great time of trouble; one group sealed and the other group not sealed, cannot be

substantiated by scripture. Study well the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy.

“The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai.

The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name. At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another’s feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet.” EW 14.

“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 righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” [Rev. 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

Having established the definition of the end-time living remnant, we can now list or itemize the specific goals which an end-time believer must “strive” to reach in order to be among that remnant.

To be among the remnant, end-time believers must “strive” to achieve the following:-

1. **Survival** - They must survive the early time of trouble i.e. the time between the passing of the Sunday Law and the closure of Probation. They must then also survive “**the time of trouble such as never was**”. They must overcome or escape all diseases or injuries or dangers which would threaten death. They must not die.
2. **Reception of the Revelation 7 Seal of the Living God** - This will involve confronting and overcoming the deceptive and persecutory pressure of the Image and Mark of the Beast before probation closes.
3. **Success in the Investigative Judgement of the Living**
4. **HAVE THEIR NAMES RETAINED IN THE BOOK OF LIFE**
5. **Safe Passage through PROBATION’S CLOSURE**
6. **ENDURE THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE AND BE DELIVERED BY GOD’S VOICE.**
7. **ENDURE THE TIME OF TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS.**
8. **TRANSLATION AT CHRIST’S SECOND COMING.** - In the Bible the number 8 is the number of **VICTORY**. Anyone striving to be among the end-time living remnant must strive to successfully reach the 8 achievements mentioned.

Chapter Five

NUMERICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE REMNANT

In the Bible **two** numbers are employed to describe the end-time living righteous remnant. These are the number 5 and the 144 000

THE NUMBER 5

In Matthew 25, Jesus *“likened”* the end-time church to ten virgins, five wise and five foolish.

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.” Matt. 25:1

“Christ with His disciples is seated upon the Mount of Olives. The sun has set behind the mountains, and the heavens are curtained with the shades of evening. In full view is a dwelling house lighted up brilliantly as if for some festive scene. The light streams from the openings, and an expectant company wait around, indicating that a marriage procession is soon to appear. In many parts of the East, wedding festivities are held in the evening. The bridegroom goes forth to meet his bride and bring her to his home. By torchlight the bridal party proceed from her father’s house to his own, where a feast is provided for the invited guests. In the scene upon which Christ looks, a company are awaiting the appearance of the bridal party, intending to join the procession.

“Lingering near the bride’s house are ten young women robed in white. Each carries a lighted lamp and a small flagon for oil. All are anxiously

watching for the appearance of the bridegroom. But there is a delay. Hour after hour passes; the watchers become weary and fall asleep. At midnight the cry is heard, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." The sleepers, suddenly awaking, spring to their feet. They see the procession moving on, bright with torches and glad with music. They hear the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. The ten maidens seize their lamps and begin to trim them, in haste to go forth. But five have neglected to fill their flasks with oil. They did not anticipate so long a delay, and they have not prepared for the emergency. In distress they appeal to their wiser companions saying, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are going out." (Margin.) But the waiting five, with their freshly trimmed lamps, have emptied their flagons. They have no oil to spare, and they answer, "Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves."

"While they went to buy, the procession moved on, and left them behind. The five with lighted lamps joined the throng and entered the house with the bridal train, and the door was shut. When the foolish virgins reached the banqueting hall, they received an unexpected denial. The master of the feast declared, "I know you not." They were left standing without, in the empty street, in the blackness of the night. As Christ sat looking upon the party that waited for the bridegroom, He told His disciples the story of the ten virgins, by their experience illustrating the experience of the church that shall live just before His second coming.

"The two classes of watchers represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the word of God. The psalmist says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps. 119:105. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Spirit is represented in the prophecy of Zechariah. "The angel that talked with me came again," he says, "and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, and said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof; and two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left

side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? . . . 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. . . . And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? . . . Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.” Zech. 4:1-14.

“From the two olive trees the golden oil was emptied through the golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So from the holy ones that stand in God’s presence His Spirit is imparted to the human instrumentalities who are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate to God’s people that heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zech. 4:6.

“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ’s second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,” many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.” COL 405.

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great

final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.

“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

“Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, “Behold your God.” The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.” COL 415

It should be clearly seen then, that the “**five wise virgins**” is a description of the end-time righteous remnant. It should be equally clear too that the number 5 is symbolic and not literal. The end-time righteous remnant will all be wise virgins and their number is 5!

THE NUMBER 144 000

The number 144 000 is found in the following passages of scripture:- Rev. 7:1-4; Rev. 14:1-5.

The actual number is mentioned 3 times in Revelation:- Rev. 7:4; Rev. 14: 1 and 2.

“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire,—so resplendent is it with the glory of God,—are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.”[Rev. 15:2.] With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, “having the harps of God,” they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, “the voice of harpers harping with their harps.”[Rev. 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17] And they sing “a new song” before the throne, a song which no man can

learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb,—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience,—an experience such as no other company have ever had. “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as “the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

“These are they which came out of great tribulation;” [Rev. 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17.] they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments. But they have been delivered, for they have “washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” “In their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault” before God.

“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.” [Rev. 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17.] They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst. But “they shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” [Rev. 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17.] G.C. 648-649.

The number 144,000 describes all of the end-time righteous remnant.

The end-time righteous remnant are called 5 wise virgins. They are also called 144,000 Israelites. Since the “tribes of Israel” in Revelation 7 is a symbolic term, the 12,000 from each tribe must also be symbolic of translation-ripe kingdom character.

ANAYSIS OF THE NUMBER 144 000

$$144\ 000 = 12 \times 12$$

Twelve is the kingdom number.

12 x 12 is the square of twelve and represents perfect symmetrical character building for the kingdom.

$$1\ 000 = 10 \times 10 \times 10^3$$

10 is the general number

3 is the number of Divine Decisive Action; i.e. the call of God.

The five wise are called out of the general church of ten virgins, by God, to be perfected for the kingdom.

The 5 wise virgins in the end-time will be the 144,000. That is the 144 000 will be the 5 wise virgins. Since 144,000 and 5 both describe the end time living remnant both numbers must be symbolic.

WHAT IS MEANT BY NUMBERING THE LIVING SAINTS

“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.”

“Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted

out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. EW p 279, 280

“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 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. p. 613, 614

Note that the **numbering** in *Early Writings* is equivalent to **testing** in *Great Controversy*.

CONCLUSION

The weight of evidence indicates that the number 144 000 represents the **perfection of character** of the final remnant.

Chapter Six

SURVIVAL

The end-time living righteous remnant will have to live through present world conditions right up to the passing of the Sunday Laws. They will then have to live through the early time of trouble between the passing of Sunday Laws and the general closure of probation. And then they will have to live through the **“time of trouble such as never was”** and be alive at the Second Coming of CHRIST.

In order to live through all of that the living saints must survive physically, mentally and spiritually. We shall deal with spiritual survival in the chapter entitled **“THE SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD”**.

In this chapter we shall deal with physical and mental survival.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SURVIVAL

Since the global environment is becoming increasingly hostile to healthy living, the question of surviving and being in good health is critically important for any end-time believer aiming to be in the 144,000.

“Health is a blessing of which few appreciate the value; yet upon it the efficiency of our mental and physical powers largely depends. Our impulses and passions have their seat in the body, and it must be kept in the best condition physically and under the most spiritual influences in order that our talents may be put to the highest use.

“Anything that lessens physical strength enfeebles the mind and

makes it less capable of discriminating between right and wrong. We become less capable of choosing the good and have less strength of will to do that which we know to be right.

“The misuse of our physical powers shortens the period of time in which our lives can be used for the glory of God. And it unfits us to accomplish the work God has given us to do. By allowing ourselves to form wrong habits, by keeping late hours, by gratifying appetite at the expense of health, we lay the foundation for feebleness. By neglecting physical exercise, by overworking mind or body, we unbalance the nervous system. Those who thus shorten their lives and unfit themselves for service by disregarding nature’s laws, are guilty of robbery toward God. And they are robbing their fellow men also. The opportunity of blessing others, the very work for which God sent them into the world, has by their own course of action been cut short. And they have unfitted themselves to do even that which in a briefer period of time they might have accomplished. The Lord holds us guilty when by our injurious habits we thus deprive the world of good.

“Transgression of physical law is transgression of the moral law; for God is as truly the author of physical laws as He is the author of the moral law. His law is written with His own finger upon every nerve, every muscle, every faculty, which has been entrusted to man. And every misuse of any part of our organism is a violation of that law.

“All should have an intelligent knowledge of the human frame that they may keep their bodies in the condition necessary to do the work of the Lord. The physical life is to be carefully preserved and developed that through humanity the divine nature may be revealed in its fullness. The relation of the physical organism to the spiritual life is one of the most important branches of education. It should receive careful attention in the home and in the school. All need to become acquainted with their physical structure and the laws that control natural life. He who remains in willing ignorance of the laws of his physical being and who violates them through ignorance is sinning against God. All should place themselves in the best possible relation to life and health. Our habits should be brought under the control of a mind that is itself under the control of God.

“Know ye not,” says the apostle Paul, “that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.”
C.O.L. 346-348

THE PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH

- HEALTHY NUTRITION
- TEMPERANCE
- EXERCISE
- REST
- PURE WATER
- AIR
- SUNLIGHT
- FAITH IN GOD

HEALTHY NUTRITION

The scourge of modern mankind is overindulgence of “*foods*” which are of poor protective value and or which are directly toxic.

Those who are striving to be in the 144,000 must reform and will reform in this area.

THE PROTECTIVE DIET

The First Angel’s Message proclaims the everlasting gospel, announces the judgment and invites all to worship the Creator and to give Him the glory.

When we go back to the Creation account in Genesis 1 we read there the ideal diet which the Creator gave to mankind.

“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.” Genesis 1:29.

The ideal diet consists of fruits, vegetables, grains (seeds), legumes, nuts, i.e. a plant-based nutrition. Such a diet is rich in fibre and antioxidants and low in fat. Ideally 5-9 servings of fruits and vegetables should be consumed daily.

Those who are preparing for translation will put away animal flesh from their diet.

“It is a duty to know how to preserve the body in the very best condition of health, and it is a sacred duty to live up to the light which God has graciously given. If we close our eyes to the light for fear we shall see our wrongs, which we are unwilling to forsake, our sins are not lessened, but increased. If light is turned from in one case, it will be disregarded in another. It is just as much sin to violate the laws of our being as to break one of the ten commandments, for we cannot do either without breaking God’s law. We cannot love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength while we are loving our appetites, our tastes, a great deal better than we love the Lord. We are daily lessening our strength to glorify God, when He requires all our strength, all our mind. By our wrong habits we are lessening our hold on life, and yet professing to be Christ’s followers, preparing for the finishing touch of immortality.” CD 44

“God requires of His people continual advancement. We need to learn that indulged appetite is the greatest hindrance to mental improvement and soul sanctification. With all our profession of health reform, many of us eat improperly.” CD 45

“Some do not exercise control over their appetites, but indulge taste at the expense of health. As the result, the brain is clouded, their thoughts are sluggish, and they fail to accomplish what they might if they were self-denying and abstemious. These rob God of the physical and mental strength which might be devoted to His service if temperance were observed in all things.

Paul was a health reformer. Said he, “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.” He felt that a responsibility rested upon him to preserve all his powers in their strength, that he might use them to the glory of God. If Paul was in danger from intemperance, we are in greater danger, because we do not feel and

realize as he did the necessity of glorifying God in our bodies and spirits, which are His. Overeating is the sin of this age.” CD 132

“Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to His original design,— that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth.” CD 380

“Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us. All who are connected with our health institutions especially should be educating themselves to subsist on fruits, grains, and vegetables. If we move from principle in these things, if we as Christian reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God’s plan, then we may exert an influence upon others in this matter, which will be pleasing to God.” CD 651

TEMPERANCE OR ABSTEMIOUSNESS

The modern term now used is **CALORIE-RESTRICTION**. Excessive intake of calories overloads the metabolism with excess glucose and fats causing increased secretion of insulin leading to obesity and systemic inflammation. Inflammation plays a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of all of the chronic non-communicable disorders.

Eating less calories leads to a reduction of inflammation, loss of excess fat, lower levels of insulin and prolongation of life,. Moreover brain function is sharpened.

In practice this means avoiding refined sugars, white flour and refined grains. It also means eating less carbohydrates and fats and eating more vegetables and legumes. The longevity formula is: **EAT LESS, EXERCISE MORE, LIVE LONGER!**

Not only do many people eat too much, a great many also eat too often. After a meal, 5 hours should elapse before the next meal. Another pernicious habit is eating just before bedtime, this should be avoided.

“After the regular meal is eaten, the stomach should be allowed to rest for five hours. Not a particle of food should be introduced into the stomach till the next meal. In this interval the stomach will perform its work, and will then be in a condition to receive more food.

“In no case should the meals be irregular. If dinner is eaten an hour or two before the usual time, the stomach is unprepared for the new burden; for it has not yet disposed of the food eaten at the previous meal, and has not vital force for new work. Thus the system is overtaxed.

“Neither should the meals be delayed one or two hours, to suit circumstances, or in order that a certain amount of work may be accomplished. The stomach calls for food at the time it is accustomed to receive it. If that time is delayed, the vitality of the system decreases, and finally reaches so low an ebb that the appetite is entirely gone. If food is then taken, the stomach is unable to properly care for it. The food cannot be converted into good blood.

“If all would eat at regular periods, not tasting anything between meals, they would be ready for their meals, and would find a pleasure in eating that would repay them for their effort.” CD 281

“As a people, with all our profession of health reform, we eat too much. Indulgence of appetite is the greatest cause of physical and mental debility, and lies at the foundation of a large share of the feebleness which is apparent everywhere.” CD 219

“Overtaxing the stomach is a common sin, and when too much food is used, the entire system is burdened. Life and vitality, instead of being increased, are decreased. This is as Satan plans to have it. Man uses up his vital forces in unnecessary labor in taking care of an excess of food.

“By taking too much food, we not only improvidently waste the blessings of God, provided for the necessities of nature, but do great injury to the whole system. We defile the temple of God; it is weakened and crippled; and nature cannot do its work wisely and well, as God has made provision that it should. Because of the selfish indulgence of his appetite, man has oppressed nature’s power by compelling it to do work it should never be required to do.” CD 210

“Were all men acquainted with the living, human machinery, they would not be guilty of doing this, unless, indeed, they loved self-indulgence so well that they would continue their suicidal course and die a premature death, or live for years a burden to themselves and to their friends. C.D. p 189 # 311

“Indulging in eating too frequently, and in too large quantities, overtaxes the digestive organs, and produces a feverish state of the system. The blood becomes impure, and then diseases of various kinds occur. . . .

“The sufferers in such cases can do for themselves that which others cannot do as well for them. They should commence to relieve nature of the load they have forced upon her. They should remove the cause. Fast a short time, and give the stomach a chance for rest. Reduce the feverish state of the system by a careful and understanding application of water. These efforts will help nature in her struggles to free the system of impurities. C.D. p 415 # 727

“I should eat sparingly, thus relieving my system of unnecessary burden, and should encourage cheerfulness, and give myself the benefits of proper exercise in the open air. I should bathe frequently, and drink freely of pure, soft water.” C.D. p 380 # 651

“Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us. All who are connected with our health institutions especially should be educating themselves to subsist on fruits, grains, and vegetables. If we move from principle in these things, if we as Christian reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God’s plan, then we may exert an influence upon others in this matter, which will be pleasing to God.”

ANTI-OXIDANTS

There are amazing nutrients in nature which produce antioxidants and anti-inflammatory effects in the body. These nutrients are major protectors against chronic degenerative diseases.

Vitamins C, D, E, Selenium, Magnesium, Zinc, Carotenes, bioflavonoids or flavonols are some of these important antioxidant anti-inflammatory nutrients. There is a place for judicious supplementation with these wonderful substances. Lycopene, a carotene found in ripe tomatoes; **RESVERATROL** a flavonol found in red grapes and Japanese knotweed root; **Punicalbins**, found in pomegranates; **Vitamin D₃**; **Gamma Vitamin E** and **Vitamin C** deserve special mention.

EXERCISE

Physical exercise, such as walking, swimming, jogging etc., produces superb benefits. Exercise helps to prevent all of the chronic degenerative diseases. It improves the elasticity of the arteries, strengthens the heart muscle, lowers heart rate, improves the circulations to the brain and enhances the function of insulin receptors. It also lowers the levels of fat in the blood and improves metabolism.

Exercise also strengthens the immune system allowing quicker recovery from viral or bacterial infections. It also strengthens bones and muscles.

REST

Adequate rest, seven or eight hours of sleep at night, not only enhances the immune system but is necessary for optimal brain function. Moreover adequate sleep helps in the proper functioning of the metabolic and endocrine systems.

WATER

“In health and in sickness, pure water is one of Heaven’s choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God provided to quench the thirst of animals and man. Drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system, and assists nature to resist disease.” HR, January, 1871

“I should eat sparingly, thus relieving my system of unnecessary burden, and should encourage cheerfulness, and give myself the benefits of proper exercise in the open air. I should bathe frequently, and drink freely of pure, soft water.” CD 727

“Many make a mistake in drinking cold water with their meals. Taken with meals, water diminishes the flow of the salivary glands; and the colder the water, the greater the injury to the stomach. Ice water or ice lemonade, drunk with meals, will arrest digestion until the system has imparted sufficient warmth to the stomach to enable it to take up its work again. Hot drinks are debilitating; and besides, those who indulge in their use become slaves to the habit. Food should not be washed down; no drink is needed with meals. Eat slowly, and allow the saliva to mingle with the food. The more liquid there is taken into the stomach with the meals, the more difficult it is for the food to digest; for the liquid must first be absorbed. Do not eat largely of salt; give up bottled pickles; keep fiery spiced food out of your stomach; eat fruit with your meals, and the irritation which calls for so much drink will cease to exist. But if anything is needed to quench thirst, pure water, drunk some little time before or after the meal, is all that nature requires. Never take tea, coffee, beer, wine, or any spirituous liquors. Water is the best liquid possible to cleanse the tissues.” CD 731

FAITH IN GOD

The mental security, joy and peace which salvation brings is a boost to mental and physical health. Peace of mind, forgiveness of sins, enables strength of mind and body.

Chapter Seven

THEY MUST OVERCOME PROGRESSIVE DECEPTIVE PRESSURE

THE PURPOSE OF SATANIC MIRACLES

Satan and his associate fallen angels, called demons, will work miracles and wonders to “gather” or “bring” world authorities and the world’s population to the position of:

1. firstly, establishing the image and mark of the beast and
2. secondly, appointing the death decree of mass execution of the remnant Rev. 16:13, 14.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE PROPHETIC WORD

Although the above texts of scripture are written down under the heading of the “**sixth plague**” we are not to think that these texts will **begin** to be fulfilled at that time. The phrase “**AND I SAW**” indicates a new or separate scene in prophecy. In fact Rev. 16:12 states what the sixth plague will be. It will be the symbolic “**drying up**” of the symbolic “**river Euphrates**”.

Then in Rev. 16:13, 14 the prophet proceeds to explain by what means Satan will bring the world to the point of appointing the death decree on Gods remnant.

In fact Rev. 16:13, 14 in its modern form started “officially” about 4 years after 1844 October, when the Third angel’s message was in its earliest phase of development.

“I saw that the mysterious knocking in New York and other places was the power of Satan, and that such things would be more and more common, clothed in a religious garb so as to lull the deceived to greater security and to draw the minds of God’s people, if possible, to those things and cause them to doubt the teachings and power of the Holy Ghost.

“I saw that Satan was working through agents in a number of ways. He was at work through ministers who have rejected the truth and are given over to strong delusions to believe a lie that they might be damned. While they were preaching or praying, some would fall prostrate and helpless, not by the power of the Holy Ghost, but by the power of Satan breathed upon these agents, and through them to the people. While preaching, praying, or conversing, some professed Adventists who had rejected present truth used mesmerism to gain adherents, and the people would rejoice in this influence, for they thought it was the Holy Ghost.” E.W. p.43

“The mysterious rapping with which modern Spiritualism began was not the result of human trickery or cunning, but was the direct work of evil angels, who thus introduced one of the most successful of soul-destroying delusions. Many will be ensnared through the belief that Spiritualism is a merely human imposture; when brought face to face with manifestations which they cannot but regard as supernatural, they will be deceived, and will be led to accept them as the great power of God.

“These persons overlook the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the wonders wrought by Satan and his agents. It was by Satanic aid that Pharaoh’s magicians were enabled to counterfeit the work of God. Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ there will be similar manifestations of Satanic power. The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by “the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.”[2 Thess. 2:9, 10.] And the apostle John, describing the miracle-working

power that will be manifested in the last days, declares: “He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.” [Rev. 13:13, 14.] No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.” G.C. p 553

FOUNDATION LAID IN EDEN

Although modern spiritualism began soon after the start of the Third Angel’s Message, we must not forget that Satan laid the foundation of his deception work at the start of human history.

“Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden, “Ye shall not surely die.” “In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” [Gen. 3:4, 5.] Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of Spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time. Says the prophet: “I saw three unclean spirits like frogs; . . . they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” [Rev. 16:13, 14.] Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in his Word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion. The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God.” G.C. 561, 562

THE WORST IS STILL TO COME

The full end-time exhibition of Satan’s marvelous work of deception will commence **after** the **U.S.A** National Sunday Law and reach its culmination in the Time of Trouble during the falling of the first few of the 7 last plagues.

“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, 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.” Quote 5T 451

“The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of deceit and destruction will reach its **culmination in the Time of Trouble**” G.C. 623

MIRACLES OF HEALING WILL DECIEVE MANY

“We need not be deceived. Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his Satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ.” 2SM 53

MIRACLES NOT A TEST

“The way in which Christ worked was to preach the word, and to relieve suffering by miraculous works of healing. But I am instructed that we cannot now work in this way, for satan will exercise his power by working miracles. God’s servants today could not work by means of miracles because spurious works of healing, claiming to be divine will be wrought.” 2SM 54

SATAN’S MOST FASCINATING DELUSION

“He has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of Heaven; and without suspicion of danger, they give ear to “seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

“When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared. They claim to be happy in Heaven, and even to occupy exalted positions there; and thus the error is widely taught, that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked. The pretended visitants from the world of spirits sometimes utter cautions and warnings which prove to be correct. Then, as confidence is gained, they present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures. With an appearance of deep interest in the well-being of their friends on earth, they insinuate the most dangerous errors. The fact that they state some truths, and are able at times to foretell future events, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; and their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible. The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits deny the divinity of Christ, and place even the Creator on a level with themselves. Thus under a new disguise the great rebel still carries forward his warfare against God, begun in Heaven, and for nearly six thousand years continued upon the earth.” G.C. 552

“Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends, and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies, and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to withstand them with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.” G.C. 560

FEARFUL SIGHTS IN THE HEAVENS

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 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.” Rev. 13:13, 14

“Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. The

spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of Heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from Heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures." G.C, 624

SATAN'S ULTIMATE MASTERPIECE OF DECEPTION

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt 24:24

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."
2 Cor. 11:14

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation.[Rev. 1:13-15.] The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, "Christ has come! Christ has come!" The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed his disciples when he was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by

Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying, This is “the great power of God.”[ACTS. 8:10.]

“But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures His blessing is pronounced upon the worshipers of the beast and his image,—the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God’s unmingled wrath shall be poured out.

“And, furthermore, Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ’s advent. The Saviour has warned his people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of his second coming. “There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”[Matt. 24:24-27, 31, 25:31; Rev. 1:7; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.] This coming, there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world.

“Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures, and who have received the love of the truth, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all, the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation, the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon his Word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible, and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life, and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief.”
G.C. 624-626

Chapter Eight

THE SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD PART ONE

DEFINITION

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads." Rev. 14:1

"Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come." 4BC p. 1161

The Seal of the Living God means the full manifestation of God's righteousness, God's truth and God's government in the end-time believer, in CHRIST, by the early and latter rain of the Holy Spirit.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Rev. 7:1-4

“And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.” Ezekiel 9:4

“John sees the elements of nature--earthquake, tempest, and political strife-- represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God’s church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads. The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrising). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose.

“Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by. Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the position of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great anti-typical day of atonement, will be recognized and marked as worthy of God’s protection. The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour--more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning--will be numbered with those who are sealed. Those who, while having all the light of truth flashing upon their souls, should have works corresponding to their avowed faith, but are allured by sin, setting up idols in their hearts, corrupting their souls before God, and polluting those who unite with them in sin, will have their names blotted out of the book of life, and be left in midnight darkness, having no oil in their vessels with their lamps. “Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings.”

This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision." T.M pp. 444, 445.3

THE EXTERNAL SIGN OF THE APOCALYPTIC SEAL

"Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples." Isaiah 8:16

The External Sign of God's righteousness is in His Law. This Sign is of His Rest because the **work** and the **effect** of righteousness shall be peace, quietness, assurance i.e. REST.

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Isa. 32:17

The Creator's Seventh Day Rest of Genesis 2:1-3 indicates that all created things must be sealed in righteousness in order to function perfectly. At the end of creation week all created things in our solar system and on earth were in perfect harmony with God's righteousness in Christ. The Seventh Day Sabbath celebrated that fact.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Gen. 2:1-3

Sin fractured the oneness between Creator and creation but the Son of God has redeemed the fallen creation and has restored the REST that was lost.

"And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Mark 2:27, 28

"Come unto me, all [ye] that labour 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." Matt. 11:28, 29

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his." Heb. 4:9, 10

“For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.” Heb. 4:4

THEREFORE THE SABBATH IS THE SEAL

“Too late they see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God.” G.C. 640

“True observance of the Sabbath is the sign of loyalty to God.”
7BC 981

“Those who would have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. This is what distinguishes them from the disloyal, who have accepted a man-made institution in the place of the true Sabbath. The observance of God’s rest day is the mark of distinction between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not (MS 27, 1899) 7BC 970

“The fourth commandment alone of all the ten contains the seal of the great Lawgiver, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Those who obey this commandment take upon themselves His name, and all the blessings it involves are theirs.” 6T 350.

THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE SEALED REMNANT

PERFECTION OF CHARACTER

“Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us—the perfection of His character? When the Lord’s people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, “It is finished” 6BC 1118

CHRISTLIKENESS

“The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character.” 7BC 970

OVERCOMERS

“Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by. Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the position of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great anti-typical day of atonement, will be recognized and marked as worthy of God’s protection. The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour—more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning—will be numbered with those who are sealed. Those who, while having all the light of truth flashing upon their souls, should have works corresponding to their avowed faith, but are allured by sin, setting up idols in their hearts, corrupting their souls before God, and polluting those who unite with them in sin, will have their names blotted out of the book of life, and be left in midnight darkness, having no oil in their vessels with their lamps. “Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings.” T.M. 445

PURE AND SPOTLESS

“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.” 5T 216

THEY MOURN OVER THEIR OWN SINS AND SINS IN THE CHURCH

“At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world... They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and

deception of almost every kind are in the church...The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God...The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land." 5T 209-212

WHAT TEST MUST BE PASSED IN ORDER TO BE SEALED?

"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..." 7BC 976

"Reference to our published works will show our belief that the living righteous will receive the seal of God prior to the close of probation; also that these will enjoy special honors in the kingdom of God." 1SM 66

WHEN THE SEALING ANGEL HAS FINISHED HIS WORK WHAT WILL JESUS DO?

"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 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.

AND WHAT WILL THE FOUR ANGELS DO?

“Just before we entered it [the time of trouble], we all received the seal of the living God. Then I saw the four angels cease to hold the four winds. And I saw famine, pestilence and sword, nation rose against nation, and the whole world was in confusion (*Day-Star*, March 14, 1846).” 7BC 968

ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SEALED WILL BE PROTECTED IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE

“Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” I saw that none could share the “refreshing” unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence.” EW 71

Chapter Nine

THE SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD PART TWO

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

The Early Rain of the Holy Spirit produces spiritual growth from the new birth to the level of growth called the *“ear”*.

The Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit produces ripening growth from the *“ear”* to the *“full grain in the ear”*. The *“ear”* signifies such a close connection with Jesus and such absolute surrender to Him that victory over sin is a real experience.

Ripening growth from the *“ear”* to the *“full grain in the ear”* is *“maturational”* growth.

“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:” Ephesians 4:13.

Remember that Jesus, though sinless in character, also had to experience character growth and maturity to the level of mature perfect character.

“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; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” Hebrews 5:7-9

The end-time people of God must be, at least, at the stage of growth called the “**ear**” in order to receive the “**latter rain**” of the Holy Spirit. In point of time the out-pouring of the latter rain will commence at the time of the setting up of the “**image**” and “**mark of the beast**”.

The latter rain will then produce ripening growth from the level of the “**ear**” to the level of the “**full grain in the ear**”. At that point the individual’s mind will be fixed in Christ and he or she will receive the **seal of the living God**.

EARLY RAIN, LATTER RAIN AND GROWTH STAGES

“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.

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 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

DEFINITION OF THE EAR

"... 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

OUR PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES

"The third angel's message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. Today you are to give yourselves to God, that he may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for his service. Today you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil-surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit" RH March 22, 1892

PERFECTION OF CHARACTER

The level of growth called the "*full corn in the ear*" is the level at which the living remnant believer will receive the "*seal of the living God*". It means Christian character perfection and maturity. The latter rain ripening from the "*ear*" to the "*full corn in the ear*" and the seal of the living God fits the believer for translation.

"Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the

True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.” 1T 187, 188

“There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God.

The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life. DA 311

TRUE OBEDIENCE

“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 pg. 668

PRAYER HABIT

“When it becomes the habit of the soul to converse with God, the power of the evil one is broken; for Satan cannot abide near the soul that draws nigh unto God.” RH December 3, 1889

SANCTIFICATION: THE WORK OF A LIFETIME

“Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which

we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.” AA 560, 561

THE BLESSINGS OF CONSECRATION

“All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life.” DA pg. 827

NO TIME TO WASTE

“... Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition is brought upon you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils, and every position of truth which we hold will be severely criticised. The time that we are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge God has given us, of preparing for the approaching crisis. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.” RH Extra December 11, 1888

SPIRITUAL MIND THERAPY

“If we would permit our minds to dwell more upon Christ and the heavenly world, we should find a powerful stimulus and support in fighting the battles of the Lord. Pride and love of the world will lose their power as we contemplate the glories of that better land so soon to be our home. Beside the loveliness of Christ, all earthly attractions will seem of little worth.

“Let none imagine that without earnest effort on their part they can obtain the assurance of God’s love. When the mind has been long permitted to dwell only on earthly things, it is a difficult matter to change the habits of thought. That which the eye sees and the ear hears, too often attracts the attention and absorbs the interest. But if we would ever enter the city of God, and look upon Jesus in his glory, we must become accustomed to beholding him with the eye of faith here. The words and the character of Christ should be often the

subject of our thoughts and of our conversation; and each day some time should be especially devoted to prayerful meditation upon these sacred themes.

“Sanctification is a daily work. Let none deceive themselves with the belief that God will pardon and bless them while they are trampling upon one of his requirements. The willful commission of one known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit, and separates the soul from God. Whatever may be the ecstasies of religious feeling, Jesus cannot abide in the heart that disregards the divine law. God will honor those only who honor him.

“His servants ye are to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey.” If we indulge anger, lust, covetousness, hatred, selfishness, or any other sin, we become servants of sin. “No man can serve two masters.” If we serve sin, we cannot serve Christ. The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, for the flesh lusteth against the Spirit; but the Spirit striveth against the flesh, keeping up a constant warfare. Here is where Christ’s help is needed. Human weakness becomes united to divine strength, and faith exclaims, “Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

“If we would develop a character which God can accept, we must form correct habits in our religious life. Daily prayer is as essential to growth in grace, and even to spiritual life itself, as is temporal food to physical well-being. We should accustom ourselves to often lift the thoughts to God in prayer. If the mind wanders, we must bring it back; by persevering effort, habit will finally make it easy. We cannot for one moment separate ourselves from Christ with safety. We may have his presence to attend us at every step, but only by observing the conditions which he has himself laid down.” RH May 3, 1881

Chapter Ten

THE BOOK OF LIFE, THE JUDGEMENT AND THE SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD

THE BOOK OF LIFE

The book of Life contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God by initial conversion.

“And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and [with] other my fellowlabourers, whose names [are] in the book of life.” Philippians 4:3

“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20

A name which has been entered into the Book of Life will have one of two fates or destinies in the Judgment. It will be either blotted out of or be retained in the Book of Life.

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Rev. 3:5.

“And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD

said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.” Exodus 32:30-33

Only those whose name are both *entered into and retained* in the Book of Life shall be saved. Those whose names were never entered, or, if entered, blotted out, will be lost.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Rev. 20:15

“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” Rev. 21:27

According to scripture probation closes for an individual either at death (Hebrews 9:27) or at the time of the Mark of the Beast test.

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” Hebrews 9:27.

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

For those who will be alive in the time at and around the closure of probation and whose names will be retained in the Book of Life, the Bible gives some wonderful assurances.

“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.” Rev. 13:8

“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” Rev. 17:8

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matt. 24:13

“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.” Dan. 12:1

In Matthew 24:24 Jesus describes this same group and calls them the “elect”:

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matt 24:24

This group will be alive at the Second Coming of Christ. They will be translated and, along with the resurrected saints, meet Christ in the air.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1Thes. 4:16-18

All those, dead or alive, whose names will be *retained* in the Book of Life are called the *elect* of God and will be gathered to meet Christ in the air at His second coming.

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matt. 24:30-31

But the living elect at the end of time may be called the *end-time living remnant elect*.

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” Rom. 11:5

“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.” Rev. 12:17

Some of the texts we quoted before (Rev. 13:8; Rev. 17:8; Matthew 24:13; Daniel 12:11) apply only to the end-time living remnant elect. But there are many assurances given to the general elect. Here are a few of them:

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye.” Col. 3:12, 13

“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” 2 Tim. 2:1

“And not only [they], but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, [to wit], the redemption of our body.” Rom. 8:23

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32

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: 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. 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, 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 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. 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

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.

“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 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.... Revelation 13:11-17... 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

Only those who endure this full persecutory package and are ripened to the **“full corn in the ear”** will pass the judgment of the living. Their sins will be blotted out and their names retained in the book of life. They will receive the Rev. 7 Seal of the Living God. This testing will proceed individual by

individual until all minds are made up. Then will come the general closure of probation when Jesus ends His High Priestly ministry.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND THE BLOTTING OUT OF SINS?

The unique Seventh Day Adventist doctrine of the investigative judgment and the “cleansing” of the Heavenly Sanctuary sheds clear light on this question. The work of our High Priest in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary will have a presiding power in the hearts of the living remnant elect. Now to answer the question:

“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 2:38

“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

Forgiven sins are transferred to the Heavenly Sanctuary but the believer may, under the pressure of temptation, fall back into the same sin for which he previously asked forgiveness. Or forgiveness can be rejected by the forgiven sinner and the sin be reactivated in his character experience. But for the living remnant elect whose names will be retained in the book of life in the investigative judgment there must come a time when they are finished with sin. They will not fall back into previously forgiven sin. In other words, sin would have been not only forgiven and cleansed initially but ultimately blotted out from their characters. Their names will be retained in the book of life and their sins will be blotted out of the heavenly records. This transaction is also called the *final sealing* work whereby sin is sealed out and righteousness sealed in, and *irreversibly* so!

We can say then that the blotting out of sin is the ultimate and irreversible forgiveness in which the believer’s mind is fixed in its choice for Christ and His righteousness and against Satan and sin!

This ultimate forgiveness is beautifully described in the following statement from *Mount of Blessing*:

“But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the promise that He “will abundantly pardon,” He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:7-9. God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness *for* sin, but reclaiming *from* sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart.” MB 114.

The Agape love of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit is the means by which sin is blotted out of the character and out of the Sanctuary records. This love has fully atoned for sin through the sacrifice of Christ and therefore we can say that the blood of Christ Jesus, His infinite sacrifice, brings us both initial and final forgiveness i.e. both initial forgiveness and the blotting out of sin.

The 1888 message of righteousness by faith, being the Third Angel’s Message in verity, is the preaching of the gospel for the blotting out of sins.

When our High Priest was in the first Apartment of the Heavenly Sanctuary His intercessory mediation offered full and free forgiveness. But now that our High Priest is in the second apartment or Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary He is doing the work of blotting out sin. Therefore the Third angel’s Message is the teaching of the gospel for the blotting out of sin!

Prof. W. W. Prescott, one of the pioneers who threw his full support behind the 1888 Jones-Waggoner message, understood this glorious work:

“There is a difference between the forgiveness of sins and the blotting out of sins. There is a difference between the gospel being preached for the forgiveness of sins and the gospel being preached for the blotting out of sin. Always, and today, there is abundant provision for the forgiveness of sins. In our generation comes the provision for the blotting out of sin. And the blotting out of sin is what will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord; and the blotting out of sin is the ministry of our High Priest in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary; and it makes a difference to the people of God today in their ministry, in their message, and in their experience, whether

they recognize, or experience the fact of the change...That should be distinctly brought out in the third angel's message; and with that, of course, will come the clearest revelation of the gospel ministry for this time,... thus preparing the way of the Lord. General Conference Bulletin, 1903 pp. 53, 54

And, from The Spirit of Prophecy:

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Peter 3:;12 margin).” COL. 69.

“It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Saviour's matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary's cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice, and they follow Him.” DA. 480

A.T. Jones presented righteousness by faith within the context of preparation for translation. The remnant living elect will claim and experience Christ's complete victory over sin. They will be totally emptied of self, i.e. selfish, sinful thoughts (the carnal mind) will be eradicated from their characters!

“Christ is cleansing the temple in heaven from the sins of the people, and we must work in harmony with him upon the earth, cleansing the soul temple from its moral defilement. If we will work thus, we shall find that the sweet influence of God's Spirit will be wrought into our life. Grace and peace and strength will take the place of strife and weakness, and instead of talking of discouragement and gloom, we shall speak of God's light and love and joy. We shall be looking at the things that are not seen, which are not temporal, but eternal. When we engage in this work, the angels of God will draw near to communicate divine power, and combine heavenly strength with human weakness.

Then we shall grow into the image of our Lord. We shall be learning how to believe in him, learning how to commit our souls to him, as unto a faithful Creator. The apostle says, "It is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." And as a result, our mental and spiritual powers increase. As we learn of Christ, we shall understand how to keep our spiritual strength, we shall feed on the word of God, and we shall have the blessed experience described by the apostle in these words: "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." RH. 1890, Feb. 11.

Chapter Eleven

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The parable of the ten Virgins describes the church which lives just before the second coming of Christ. In other words it describes the church which will undergo the investigative judgement of the living.

In the parable there are only two groups: five wise virgins and five foolish virgins. So now comes the question: Which of the two groups will have their names retained in the book of life, and which will have their names blotted out of the book of life? The answers should be obvious and straightforward. The five wise virgins will have their names retained in the book of life. The five foolish virgins will have their name blotted out of the book of life.

"The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour--more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning--will be numbered with those who are sealed. Those who, while having all the light of truth flashing upon their souls, should have works corresponding to their avowed faith, but are allured by sin, setting up idols in their hearts, corrupting their souls before God, and polluting those who unite with them in sin, will have their names blotted out of the book of life, and be left in midnight darkness, having no oil in their vessels with their lamps." **TM 445**

But to be a subject of the investigative judgement one's name must have been **initially entered** into the book of life through initial conversion.

"In the typical service only those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary, had a part in the service

of the Day of Atonement. So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period. "Judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel?" 1 Peter 4:17. GC 480.1

Notice the definition of the term: "THE PROFESSED PEOPLE OF GOD" it is "those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary."

Every initially converted believer is a "professed" child of God, because every initially converted believer has to wait until the investigative judgement either shows him or her to be an overcomer whose name will be retained or a failure whose name will be blotted out. In other words the judgement will show whether the initial profession of faith was allowed to develop or allowed to perish.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life) but I will confess his name before It!)! Father, and before his angels. Revelation 3:5

The book of life contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God. Jesus bade His disciples: "Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20. GC 480

Consider three other quotations:

"All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers

of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares, by the prophet Isaiah: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy

sins." Isaiah 43:25. Said Jesus: "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels." "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." Revelation 3:5; Matthew 10:32, 33."
GC 483

Notice that this passage explains how a believer's name is entered and how it is retained. "As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: "Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book." Exodus 32:33. And says the prophet Ezekiel: "When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, ... all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned." Ezekiel 18:24. **GC 483**

It is clear then that the Spirit of Prophecy defines a professed child of God as one whose name has been entered into the book of life by initial conversion.

"By the king's examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life". **COL. 310**

If, as some say, the five foolish virgins were never initially converted then they will not be subjects of the investigative judgement. This would mean that in the investigative judgement of the Ten Virgins there would be no

names to be blotted out. Remember, there are only two groups: five wise and five foolish. If the foolish were never initially converted, their names were never in the Book of Life and could not therefore be blotted out. But this makes nonsense of the investigative judgement. Let us read again what happens in the investigative judgement.

"As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected." **GC 483**

"The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour--more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning--will be numbered with those who are sealed. Those who, while having all the light of truth flashing upon their souls, should have works corresponding to their avowed faith, but are allured by sin, setting up idols in their hearts, corrupting their souls before God, and polluting those who unite with them in sin, will have their names blotted out of the book of life, and be left in midnight darkness, having no oil in their vessels with their lamps." **TM 445**

SPIRITUAL EQUIVALENTS

In Review and Herald August 19th, 1890 we are told:

"THE STATE OF THE CHURCH REPRESENTED BY THE FOOLISH VIRGINS IS ALSO SPOKEN OF AS THE LAODICEAN STATE. THE TRUE WITNESS DECLARES, 'I know thy works that thou are neither cold nor hot: I would that thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.'"

Cold water left alone doesn't become lukewarm. It is water that was once hot which, when it loses its heat becomes lukewarm!

The Laodicean state is one that has degenerated from a hot initial conversion to a lukewarm condition devoid of the Spirit. It represents a fall from its first love. Listen to this quotation from Review and Herald February 25th, 1902.

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

"I am instructed to say that these words are applicable to Seventh-day Adventist churches in their present condition. The love of God has been lost, and this means the absence of love for one another. Self, self, self, is cherished, and is striving for the supremacy. How long is this to continue? Unless there is a reconversion, there will soon be such a lack of godliness that the Church will be represented by the barren fig tree. Great light has been given to her. She has had abundant opportunity for bearing much fruit. But selfishness has come in, and God says, "I will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."**RH, February 25, 1902**

It is clear then that Laodiceans were once initially converted and hot but have lost the love of God and now need reconversion. Since the foolish virgin state is equivalent to the Laodicean state, it should be clearly seen that the five foolish virgins had an initial conversion but suffered failure of growth and therefore: "THEIR SERVICE TO GOD DEGENERATES INTO A FORM" COL 411

Only that which was once "generate" could degenerate. If they were not initially spiritually alive they could not have suffered a degeneration!

FALSE THEORIES

Any theory of salvation which even hints at the idea that if a professed child of God falls away he could not have been initially converted, or if initially converted, he cannot fall away, is spurious. Furthermore it would render the unique Adventist doctrine of the investigative judgement null

and void. Such a doctrine is better known as "once saved always saved." It is utterly false.

Another false theory is one which makes initial conversion the "be all" and "end all". It is only a beginning. Growth must follow, growth unto perfection.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MALADIES WHICH CAN AFFLICT IT

INITIAL conversion produces a newborn babe, born again of incorruptible seed, the word of God. The newborn babe then has to grow by feeding on the same word of God.

Being born again) not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever: 1 Peter 1:23

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 1 Peter 2:2

In nature all babes are not born with the same vigour or birth weight, but they are all born! And sometimes a small birth-weight baby may grow vigorously and outgrow a normal birth-weight baby! You see, birth, as important as it is, is only the beginning. Growth after birth is even more important! As in nature, so in grace. !

In botanical terms, germination is equivalent to birth, after germination the plant must grow or die!

"The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die." COL 65

And remember that as vital as the new birth is, it is nonetheless **small** compared to where Christian growth is intended to take the believer.

"So the work of grace in the heart is small in its beginning" **COL78**

We are not to be content with this small beginning but we must advance in growth to perfection.

"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 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 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 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." SC 67-70

EARLY GROWTH FAILURE IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

The Apostle Paul encountered early growth failure in the Corinthian Church. Certain believers were still babes when they ought to be mature, well grown Christians.

*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?
1 Corinthians 3:1-3*

Notice the term "carnal". Some would jump at this to conclude that these believers were not initially converted, but Paul calls them babes in Christ meaning that after initial conversion they had not grown commensurately with the years they had to study the word! So when we see Sister E.G. White using the term "carnal" or its equivalent to describe the foolish virgins, we are not to conclude that they were never initially converted!

DAILY CONVERSION- A NECESSITY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"Genuine conversion is needed, not once in years, but daily. This conversion brings man into a new relation with God. Old things, his natural passions and hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong, pass away, and he is renewed and sanctified. But this work must be continual; for as long as Satan exists, he will make an effort to carry on his work. He who strives to serve God will encounter a strong undercurrent of wrong. His heart needs to be barricaded by constant watchfulness and prayer, or else the embankment will give way; and like a millstream, the undercurrent of wrong will sweep away the

safeguard. No renewed heart can be kept in a condition of sweetness without the daily application of the salt of the Word. Divine grace must be received daily, or no man will stay converted . . . " **OHC 215**

"Sinful man can find hope and righteousness only in God, and no human being is righteous any longer than he has faith in God and maintains a vital connection with Him." **TM367**

"There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ and who really desire to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Said the beloved John, "These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. And do not forget the words of Christ, "The Father Himself loveth you." John 16:27. He desires to restore you to Himself, to see His own purity and holiness reflected in you. And if you will but yield yourself to Him, He that hath begun a good work in you will carry it forward to the day of Jesus Christ. Pray more fervently; believe more fully. As we come to distrust our own power, let us trust the power of our Redeemer, and we shall praise Him who is the health of our countenance." **SC 64**

"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." **TM 506**

"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." **TM 506, 507**

In summary up to this point, we have clearly shown that the problem with the five foolish virgins and lukewarm Laodiceans is not that they were not initially born again. The problem is the terrible malady of early growth failure after initial conversion. Such growth failure produces spiritual death and therefore the need for reconversion. This is our **FIRST WITNESS OR EVIDENCE**, we need two more, because the principle is that we need two or three witnesses to be conclusive. Let us now go to the parable of the Sower. (**THIS WILL BE OUR SECOND WITNESS**)

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Please don't forget- the basic definitions.

"THE GERM:INATION OF THE SEED REPRESENTS THE BEGINNING OF SPIRITUAL LIFE, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLANT IS A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH. AS IN NATURE, SO IN GRACE, THERE CAN BE NO LIFE WITHOUT GROWTH. THE PLANT MUST BE EITHER GROW OR DIE." COL 65

NOW TO THE PARABLE ITSELF

The parable of the sower is recorded in Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-8, 14-20; Luke 8:4-8, 11-15.

Now this parable should present no difficulty unless we are not prepared to accept the interpretation that Jesus Himself gave. Jesus told the parable and Jesus gave the interpretation. Strictly speaking, therefore, between the words of the parable itself and the words of the interpretation we should be able to arrive at the meaning with absolute surety.

SOIL	PARABLE MATTHEW 13:4-8	MATTHEW 13:19-23 JESUS' INTERPRETATION	MEANING
Wayside	<p>Mat 13:4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them</p>	<p>Mat 13:19 When any one hearth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, ad catcheth away that which sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside</p> <p>Luke 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved</p>	<p>No germination No faith. No conversion.</p>
Stony Ground	<p>Mat 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: Mat 13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.</p>	<p>Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed in the stony places, the same is he that hearth the word, and anon with jot receiveth it;;</p> <p>Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for whentribulation of persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended</p>	<p>Quick germination. Quick initial conversion. No deep root development. Early growth failure and death.</p>

Thorny Ground	Mat 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:	Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.	Germination growth but no fruit for HARVEST, but late growth failure
Good Ground	Mat 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.	Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth [it]; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.	GERMINATION, GROWTH, CONVERSION, HARVEST. STEADY GROWTH TO HARVEST RIPE CHARACTER

One soil-type is incompatible with initial conversion; it is wayside soil-type. Two soil-types allow initial conversion and growth up to a certain point: stony ground causes early growth failure and, if not remedied, spiritual death; thorny ground causes harvest failure. One soil type allows conversion, and growth to harvest ripe maturity, it is the good soil. By cooperation with the Holy Spirit, a person can improve the soil-type of his or her mind and therefore improve spiritual growth.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THAT OF THE TEN VIRGINS

Of the many connections between the two parables we will focus on one, that is, the connection between the five foolish virgins and stony ground hearers.

Let us now carefully follow the line of proof which establishes the basic spiritual disease of the "five foolish virgins".

First of all in C.O.L. 411 we are told (concerning the foolish virgins) that: "This class is represented also by the stony-ground hearers." **C.O.L. 411**

Now let us turn to C.O.L.46 ("In Stony Places") and read what is said about the stony-ground hearers.

"The seed sown upon stony ground finds little depth of soil. The plant springs up quickly, but the root cannot penetrate the rock to find nutriment to sustain its growth and it soon perishes." **COL 46**

Here is established for us a very clear sequence:-

1. The plant springs up quickly (germination).
2. The root cannot penetrate the rock to find nutriment to sustain growth ... (growth failure).
- 3 and it soon perishes (death)

And so we have established the sequence:-

Germination → growth failure → death

"The plant springs up quickly, but the root cannot penetrate the rock to find nutriment to sustain its growth and it soon perishes." **COL46**

This means:

There is initial conversion, the beginning of spiritual life, but the abiding relationship does not deepen, there is no sustained spiritual growth. This results in spiritual death which is exposed by tribulation or persecution.

This has been our second witness or second line of evidence, now to our third witness or third line of evidence.

LACK OF DAILY CONVERSION IN STONY GROUND HEARERS

"There were many in Christ's day, as there are today, over whom the control of Satan for the time seemed broken; through the grace of God they were set free from the evil spirits that had held dominion over the soul. They rejoiced in the love of God; but, like the stony-ground hearers of the parable, **they did not abide in His love. They did not surrender themselves to God daily**, that Christ might dwell in the heart; and when the evil spirit returned, with "seven other spirits more wicked than himself," they were wholly dominated by the power of evil." {DA 323.3}

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

We have confirmed in the mouth of "three witnesses" that the five foolish virgins suffered early spiritual growth failure after initial conversion. It should be carefully noted that all initial conversions are not the same in spiritual depth but can all experience EVER improving growth by progressive improvement in the "soil" of the mind.

The issue now is this. Those who contend that the five foolish virgins never had an initial conversion must have what they consider to be evidence for that position. This brings us to an important question. Upon what evidence is such a position based? The answer is that it is based upon the language used in the book "**CHRIST OBJECT LESSONS.**"

The description which seems to be such evidence is found on page 411.

" ... but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working, **THEY** have not fallen upon the **ROCK, CHRIST JESUS,** and permitted their old nature to be broken up." **COL 411**

Now remember that this parable is dealing with Christian character perfection and preparation for the Judgement of the living. In other words it is not dealing with starting the Christian race but with the finishing of that race, i.e. with Christian growth to the "full corn in the ear". And as we have seen, this requires daily conversion, progressive breaking up of the old nature, ever advancing and deepening growth.

The language on C.O.L. 411 is therefore not dealing with initial conversion but with final conversion, perfection of character and passing the Judgement of the living.

EVIDENCES FOR INITIAL CONVERSION IN C.O.L

Moreover, CHRIST OBJECT LESSONS in fact presents clear evidence for the initial conversion of the virgins.

1. **They are called 'virgins'**. This term cannot apply to one who was not initially born again nor entered into the book of life.

2. *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ* 2 Corinthians 11:2

3. **They are not 'hypocrites'**. A hypocrite talks doctrine which he has no saving faith in. but the five foolish virgins started with a genuine faith in the truth and initially applied it to themselves in initial conversion.

4. **Their service to God degenerates into a form.** A person who was never converted cannot degenerate because he was never regenerated or born again. Therefore this statement would make no sense if the five foolish virgins were not initially regenerated.

In truth and in fact, CHRIST OBJECT LESSONS actually gives us our "fourth witness" in proving that the five foolish virgins were initially converted but suffered early growth failure and spiritual death.

CONCLUSION

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to

the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end." {DA 324.1 }

Chapter Twelve

PERFECT IN CHRIST: CHRISTIAN CHARACTER PERFECTION

THE HIGH CALLING

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

What is the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus?

“Till we all come in 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 fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13

Read also Matthew 5:48; Colossians 1:27-28; 2 Corinthians 13:5-9; Ephesians 3:16-19; 4:11-15; John 15:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-10.

God’s ideal for His children is that they reach the mark.

“God’s ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. ‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.’ This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.

“The tempter’s agency is not to be accounted an excuse for one wrong act. Satan is jubilant when he hears the professed followers of Christ

making excuses for their deformity of character. It is these excuses that lead to sin. There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God.

“The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life. Jesus was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He shared the lot of man; yet He was the blameless Son of God. He was God in the flesh. His character is to be ours. The Lord says of those who believe in Him, ‘I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ 2 Cor. 6:16

“Christ is the ladder that Jacob saw, the base resting on the earth, and the topmost round reaching to the gate of heaven, to the very threshold of glory. If that ladder had failed by a single step of reaching the earth, we should have been lost. But Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature might overcome. Made ‘in the likeness of sinful flesh’ (Rom. 8:3), He lived a sinless life. Now by His divinity He lays hold upon the throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us by faith in Him attain to the glory of the character of God. Therefore are we to be perfect, even as our ‘Father which is in heaven is perfect.’
DA 311

It is one of Satan’s charges against God’s government that we cannot overcome.

“Satan represents God’s law of love as a law of selfishness. He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts.” DA 24

Therefore the honor of God is at stake in the answering of this particular charge.

“In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could

solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.

“Of the Spirit Jesus said, ‘He shall glorify Me.’ The Saviour came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world. The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people.”
DA 671

THE TWO DISTINCT BUT INSEPARABLE ASPECTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

According to scripture the believer abides in Christ and Christ dwells in the believer's heart, through the Holy Spirit, by faith. The two distinct aspects of righteousness by faith are:

1. The believer *abiding in* Christ (you in Christ), and
2. Christ *in* the believer (Christ in you).

So long as the believer *abides in* Christ, Christ *dwells in* the believer. So long as you are *in* Christ, Christ is *in* you. Read carefully Romans 8:1-14; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Ephesians 3:17; John 15:4-5; 1 John 3:6; Ephesians 2:4-13.

Now we come to some very important facts about being in Christ.

THE BELIEVER ABIDING IN CHRIST

In Christ there is *no* condemnation because the believer is *covered* with the righteousness of Christ. And *so long as* the believer *abides in* Christ, he continues to be covered with the righteousness of Christ. See Romans 8:1; Phil. 3:7-9.

In Christ the believer is a *new creation*. See 2 Corinthians 5:17. And *in Christ* the believer has a *perfect standing* before God. See Colossians 1:28.

Our standing before God, both initially and at the end, depends entirely upon the righteousness and sacrifice of Christ covering us, and being put to our account! See Revelation 16:15; 3:18.

- Christ *obeyed* **perfectly** for us. See John 15:10; Romans 5:18-19.
- He *overcame* **completely** for us. See Revelation 3:21.
- He *lived* a **perfectly sinless** life for us. See 2 Peter 2:22.
- He *died* the **second death** for us. See 1 Corinthians 15:3.
- He *suffered* the **full penalty** of sin for us. See 2 Peter 2:21; Isaiah 53:4-12
- He *paid* the **price** for every human soul. See 1 Peter 1:18-19.
- He *fully satisfied* **Divine Justice** for us. See 2 Corinthians 5:21.

And now, as our High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary:

- He *presents* to the Father **His own spotless character** on our behalf and for us.

The law of God demands *perfect* obedience (that is, *life-long* perfection) and the broken law demands the *second* death. Jesus *obeyed* **for us** and He *died* **for us**. And God the Father accepts Christ's obedience and Christ's sacrifice in the place of our sinfulness.

Jesus therefore presents us to His Father clothed with His righteousness, covered with His atoning sacrifice, and complete in Himself. And the Father accepts us in Him! In Him we are accounted perfect.

This then is the *primary* meaning of the term "*perfect in Christ.*" Before we go on to the *secondary* meaning, let us carefully consider these quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy:

"Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned." SC 62

"The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith. By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account. Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son. This is how faith is accounted righteousness; and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light." 1SM 367

"The moment the sinner believes in Christ, he stands in the sight of God uncondemned; for the righteousness of Christ is his: Christ's perfect obedience is imputed to him." FE 429

Jesus says:

"So I will be your representative in heaven. The Father beholds not your faulty character, but He sees you as clothed in My perfection. I am the medium through which Heaven's blessings shall come to you. And everyone who confesses Me by sharing My sacrifice for the lost shall be confessed as a sharer in the glory and joy of the redeemed." DA 357

"You are powerless to do good, and cannot better your condition. Apart from Christ we have no merit, no righteousness. Our sinfulness,

our weakness, our human imperfection make it impossible that we should appear before God unless we are clothed in Christ's spotless righteousness. We are to be found in Him not having our own righteousness, but the righteousness which is in Christ." 1SM 333

"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, ... 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." 1SM 394

"By His spotless life, His obedience, His death on the cross of Calvary, Christ interceded for the lost race. And now, not as a mere petitioner does the Captain of our salvation intercede for us, but as a Conqueror claiming His victory. His offering is complete, and as our Intercessor He executes His self-appointed work, holding before God the censer containing His own spotless merits and the prayers, confessions, and thanksgiving of His people. Perfumed with the fragrance of His righteousness, these ascend to God as a sweet savor. The offering is wholly acceptable, and pardon covers all transgression." COL 156

"Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul." COL 311

"Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His." DA 25

"Jesus stands in the holy of holies, now to appear in the presence of God for us. There He ceases not to present His people moment by moment, complete in Himself ... We are complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved, only as we abide in Him by faith." FW 107

And what is meant by abiding in Him by faith? *Abiding in Christ by faith* means: **trusting** Him, **believing** His word, **fixing our affections** upon Him, **surrendering self fully** to Him, and **having full confidence** in Him to save us from all sin.

The abiding relationship is a relationship of *trust, surrender and communion*. We trust Him and believe the Good News that He has obeyed for us and died for us; that God accepts us in Christ.

We must surrender to Him, thereby giving ourselves fully to Him and depending entirely on Him to save us. We must claim his forgiveness and believe that He forgives us.

And we must maintain the relationship of trust and surrender by continuous communion through prayer and study of His word.

So we understand what abiding in Christ means. Remember that *His perfect righteousness and infinite sacrifice will only cover us as we abide in Him*.

This brings us to the second aspect of righteousness by faith: Christ in the believer.

CHRIST IN THE BELIEVER—TRANSFORMATION OF CHARACTER UNTO PERFECTION

We have already learned that so long as the believer abides in Christ the righteousness of Christ covers the believer. Now we come to the other inseparable aspect. The righteousness which covers the believer also fills the believer's soul, thereby progressively transforming his character unto Christlikeness or perfection of Christian character.

So long as the believer abides in Christ the righteousness of Christ covers the believer, and the same righteousness which *covers* the believer *fills* his soul and gives *progressive victory over every defect* thereby transforming the character unto Christlikeness.

So long as the believer abides in Christ the righteousness of Christ *covers* the believer and this is his **title** to Heaven. And the righteousness which covers him as his title to heaven, *fills* him and *transforms* him thereby making his character righteous, and this is his **fitness** for heaven.

“The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ.” DA 300

The same righteousness of Christ which entitles us to Heaven by covering us, fits us for heaven by transforming us, making us Christlike in character!

The righteousness of Christ *cannot cover us without transforming us*, neither can it *transform us without covering us*. Therefore Jesus says to us:

“Abide in Me, and in you.” John 15:2

“He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5

There are some professed Christians who only, or mainly, emphasize Christ’s righteousness *as our covering* while either rejecting or limiting the *infilling and transforming* aspect. **Such persons believe that perfection of character can never be an actual experience before the second coming of Christ.** To them perfection means only to be covered with Christ’s righteousness.

Then there are others who only, or mainly, emphasize the *character transformation* while either rejecting or minimizing the aspect of Christ’s righteousness *covering* the believer. **Such persons tend to believe that our standing before God depends upon our performance.**

But in this study we believe that we are presenting the accurate and complete balance to this wonderful truth of righteousness by faith. **The righteousness of Christ must cover us as our title, and fill us as our fitness.** *Both aspects, though distinct, are inseparable and necessary.*

Those believers who die before experiencing character perfection (the majority) will have that work performed for them by our High Priest in the Pre-Advent Judgment. So long as they died in Christ, His character is *imputed and imparted* to them through His work of intercession and judgment for them.

But the word of God is most definitely clear that God will have a final generation of believers who will reach the mark of experiencing Christian character perfection while alive on this earth, before the closure of probation.

It will be the righteousness of Christ fully reproduced in them, giving them full victory over all sins. See Matthew 5:48; Revelation 3:21.

PERFECTIONISM—THE SATANIC COUNTERFEIT TO CHARACTER PERFECTION

Perfectionism is a false doctrine and a false experience in which the deluded person bases his acceptance with God upon his own performance and is fully conscious of his assumed perfection. Such a person boasts about his “holiness” and compares himself with others. The faults he sees in them are the reasons for his thinking he is so much better than others. Such persons usually claim that they are holy and they itemize proudly their good deeds.

In contrast, *true Christian character perfection* is characterized by humility, by depending entirely on the covering of Christ’s righteousness and by being unconscious of the imparted perfection because the mind is fixed upon Christ and what He has done rather than upon self and its performance.

“He who bears with him a continual sense of the presence of Christ cannot indulge self-confidence or self-righteousness. None of the prophets or apostles made proud boasts of holiness. The nearer they came to perfection of character, the less worthy and righteous they viewed themselves. But those who have the least sense of the perfection of Jesus, those whose eyes are least directed to Him, are the ones who make the strongest claim to perfection.” FW 54

“We may always be startled and indignant when we hear a poor, fallen mortal exclaiming, ‘I am holy; I am sinless!’ Not one soul to whom God has granted the wonderful view of his greatness and majesty, has every uttered one word like this. On the contrary, they have felt like sinking down in the deepest humiliation of soul, as they have viewed the purity of God, and contrasted with it their own imperfections of life and character...

“When the Spirit of Christ stirs the heart with its marvelous awakening power, there is a sense of deficiency in the soul, that leads to contrition of mind, and humiliation of self, rather than to proud boasting of what has been acquired.” RH, October 16, 1888.

“Those who experience the sanctification of the Bible will manifest a spirit of humility. Like Moses, they have had a view of the awful majesty of holiness, and they see their own unworthiness in contrast with the purity and exalted perfection of the Infinite One.

“The prophet Daniel was an example of true sanctification. His long life was filled up with noble service for his Master. He was a man ‘greatly beloved’ (Daniel 10:11) of Heaven. Yet instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honored prophet identified himself with the really sinful of Israel as he pleaded before God in behalf of his people: ‘We do not present our supplications before Thee for our righteousness, but for Thy great mercies.’ ‘We have sinned, we have done wickedly.’ He declares: ‘I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people.’ And when at a later time the Son of God appeared, to give him instruction, Daniel says: ‘My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.’ Daniel 9:18,15, 20; 10:8.” GC 470

“‘If we,’ says John, not separating himself from his brethren, ‘say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.’” 1 John 1:8.” AA 562

“Enoch was a man of strong and highly cultivated mind and extensive knowledge; he was honored with special revelations from God; yet being in constant communion with Heaven, with a sense of the divine greatness and perfection ever before him, he was one of the humblest of men. The closer the connection with God, the deeper was the sense of his own weakness and imperfection.” PP 85

“No man can look within himself and find anything in his character that will recommend him to God, or make his acceptance sure. It is only through Jesus, whom the Father gave for the life of the world, that the sinner may find access to God. Jesus alone is our Redeemer, our Advocate and Mediator; in Him is our only hope for pardon, peace, and righteousness.” 1SM 332-333

“Before the believer is held out the wonderful possibility of being like Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself man is utterly unable to reach this condition. The holiness that God’s

word declares he must have before he can be saved is the result of the working of divine grace as he bows in submission to the discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of truth. Man's obedience can be made perfect only by the incense of Christ's righteousness, which fills with divine fragrance every act of obedience." AA 532

"Thus when the servant of God is permitted to behold the glory of the God of heaven, as he is unveiled to humanity, and realizes to a slight degree the purity of the Holy One of Israel, he will make startling confessions of the pollution of his soul, rather than proud boasts of his holiness ...

"One ray of the glory of God, one gleam of the purity of Christ, penetrating the soul, makes every spot of defilement painfully distinct, and lays bare the deformity and defects of the human character." RH, October 16, 1888. (Italics supplied.)

"At every advance step in Christian experience our repentance will deepen. It is to those whom the Lord has forgiven, to those whom He acknowledges as His people, that He says, 'Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight.' Eze. 36:31

"Then our lips will not be opened in self-glorification. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone. We shall make the apostle's confession our own. 'I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.' Rom. 7:18." COL 160-161

"Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects." SL 7. (Italics supplied)

THE IMPORTANCE OF VICTORY OVER DEFECTS

Our standing before God depends entirely upon the righteousness and sacrifice of Christ covering us, being put to our account.

But Christ's righteousness will only cover us if we abide in Him to the end. And for the final generation of living saints the end means the close of probation after the great final test.

Every test and attack by Satan is aimed at causing us to stop abiding in Christ because he knows that out of Christ we are lost sinners. And at the great final test at the end of the "loud cry" period when probation will be closing. Satan will attack God's people severely in his last desperate attempt to get them to stop abiding in Christ. He will know only too well that if he gets any one of them at that point in time he will have that one for keeps.

Now comes an important question: Upon what will Satan be depending to get the people of God to succumb to his final attacks?

The answer: Defects of character!

"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." GC 489

Satan's formula is this: his attacks from the outside combined with our defects of character on the inside will cause us to stop abiding in Christ. Therefore, he attacks us with progressively increasing pressure.

In the final crisis he will be attacking with the final pressure. A pressure which if it found any defects in the soul would cause the believer to give in and to stop abiding in Christ.

Therefore by the time the great final test comes at the close of probation, every character defect will have been cleansed out or else the believer will be overcome!

God's formula for victory is this: by abiding in Christ unto the end, His righteousness covers us while it fills us and transforms us giving us victory over every defect! And by the close of probation God's faithful final generation of believers will be perfected in character. They will be *perfect in Christ* in both of the aspects dealt with before. *Firstly:* Christ's perfection will cover them making them acceptable to the Father. *Secondly:* Christ's righteousness will have filled and cleansed them giving them victory over the assaults of Satan and making them fit for heaven!

Can the love and righteousness of Christ give complete victory over sin? The word of God answers yes! Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Revelation 3:21; 1 Peter 4:1-2; 1 John 3:6; Romans 6.

“The Saviour was deeply anxious for His disciples to understand for what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.” DA 664

“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 FINAL REMNANT WILL BE SINLESS IN CHARACTER AT PROBATION'S CLOSURE

According to Revelation 22:11-12 when probation closes there will be but two classes of people; those who are righteous and those who are not righteous.

The remnant people of God will have been purified from sin.

“Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil.” GC 425

“We are preparing to meet Him who, escorted by a retinue of holy angels, is to appear in the clouds of heaven to give the faithful and the just the finishing touch of immortality. When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects and give them holy characters. The Refiner does not then sit to pursue His refining process and remove their sins and their corruption. This is all to be done in these hours of probation. It is now that this work is to be accomplished for us.” 2T 355

Thus it is made very clear and plain that the righteous will have become truly and fully righteous and will have no sin in them, or on them, whatsoever during this period. But while this will be true in fact, it will not be known to them. Instead, they will be distressed by the terrible fear that there is still some hidden root of evil still within them during this time of fearful trouble.

If they could know that probation has ended, then they might resign themselves to whatever their fate might turn out to be, but they will not know that probation has closed; they will not know that their eternity is sealed to them, and, because they do expect that the end will come very soon, they will fear that it will come upon them while they are unprepared to stand sinless without a mediator through those final and trying scenes.

A truly sinless person is a truly selfless person. A selfless person is one whose concern is not for a moment in regard to himself and what will happen to him, but he is concerned only for the cause for which he is responsible, in part or in whole, as the case may be. The believers will be, therefore, a selfless people during the time of Jacob's trouble, so the fear and the trouble which

they experience will not be on any account of concern for themselves, but rather for the Lord with whose cause they are concerned.

The remnant will have to live by faith alone. There will be no conscious boasting of holiness or self confidence. The remnant will put their confidence only in Christ's righteousness and blood. They will fully reflect the humility of Christ and will have their eyes so fixed on Him that they will not be conscious of their character perfection.

Let us close with this account of the ordeal of the remnant just before, at, and after the close of probation:

“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. He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels. He claims them as his prey and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy.

“As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God.

“Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has

not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise: *I 'will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.'* Revelation 3:10. If they could have the assurance of pardon they would not shrink from torture or death; but should they prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God's holy name would be reproached.

“On every hand they hear the plottings of treason and see the active working of rebellion; and there is aroused within them an intense desire, an earnest yearning of soul, that this great apostasy may be terminated and the wickedness of the wicked may come to an end. But while they plead with God to stay the work of rebellion, it is with a keen sense of self-reproach that they themselves have no more power to resist and urge back the mighty tide of evil. They feel that had they always employed all their ability in the service of Christ, going forward from strength to strength, Satan's forces would have less power to prevail against them.

“They afflict their souls before God, pointing to their past repentance of their many sins, and pleading the Saviour's promise: ‘Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.’ Isaiah 27:5. Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions. They lay hold of the strength of God as Jacob laid hold of the Angel; and the language of their souls is: ‘I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.’

“Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.” GC 620

Chapter Thirteen

THE CLOSURE OF HUMAN PROBATION

A BIT OF HISTORY

There have been at least four occasions in the past when there was a close of probation for a large number of people. In each case a crisis developed which demanded final decisions from those then alive. When each individual made up his/her mind then there occurred a general closure of the group's probation.

The four occasions were the Flood of Noah's day; Sodom and Gomorrah; the Jewish Nation in Christ's day; and 1844.

There was a shut door in Noah's day. There was at that time a withdrawal of the Spirit of God from the sinful race that perished in the waters of the Flood. God Himself gave the shut-door message to Noah:

"My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" Genesis 6:3.

There was a shut door in the days of Abraham. Mercy ceased to plead with the inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot, with his wife and two daughters, were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven.

There was a shut door in Christ's day. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation,

"Your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:38.

Looking down the stream of time to the last days, the same infinite power proclaimed through John:

“These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.” Revelation 3:7.

“I was shown in vision, and I still believe, that there was a shut door in 1844. All who saw the light of the first and second angels’ messages and rejected that light, were left in darkness. And those who accepted it and received the Holy Spirit which attended the proclamation of the message from heaven, and who afterward renounced their faith and pronounced their experience a delusion, thereby rejected the Spirit of God, and it no longer pleaded with them.

“Those who did not see the light, had not the guilt of its rejection. It was only the class who had despised the light from heaven that the Spirit of God could not reach. And this class included, as I have stated, both those who refused to accept the message when it was presented to them, and also those who, having received it, afterward renounced their faith. These might have a form of godliness, and profess to be followers of Christ; but having no living connection with God, they would be taken captive by the delusions of Satan. These two classes are brought to view in the vision—those who declared the light which they had followed a delusion, and the wicked of the world who, having rejected the light, had been rejected of God. No reference is made to those who had not seen the light, and therefore were not guilty of its rejection.” 1SM 63

THE IMAGE AND MARK OF THE BEAST WILL BE ENFORCED BEFORE PROBATION CLOSURE

“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....”7BC 976

The *image* and *mark of the beast* will commence in the USA and then progress internationally until the Sunday law becomes universal. All this must occur *before* the general closure of probation.

“The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. When the laws of men are exalted above the laws of God, when the powers of this earth try to force men to keep the first day of the week, know that the time has come for God to work. He will arise in His majesty, and will shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity”
7BC 980

IMPORTANT TASKS MUST BE COMPLETED BY OR FOR EACH LIVING SAINT

The people of God will be completing their final loud cry mission. Each will be tested until his or her mind is made up. Each will be investigated and judged. Each will have his/her sins blotted out and name retained. Each will receive the seal of the living God. When the last living saint will have been tested, judged and sealed then the *general closure* of probation will occur.

“Reference to our published works will show our belief that the living righteous will receive the seal of God prior to the close of probation; also that these will enjoy special honors in the kingdom of God.” 1SM
66

“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,” GC 428

“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 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

BIBLE PASSAGES WHICH DESCRIBE THE GENERAL CLOSURE OF PROBATION

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

"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." Dan. 12:1

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled." Rev. 15:8

NO TIME PROPHECIES REACH TO TIME OF PROBATION'S CLOSURE

"And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: " Rev. 10:5, 6

"This time, which the angel declares with a solemn oath, is not the end of this world's history, neither of probationary time, but of prophetic

time, which should precede the advent of our Lord. That is, the people will not have another message upon definite time. After this period of time, reaching from 1842 to 1844, there can be no definite tracing of the prophetic time. The longest reckoning reaches to the autumn of 1844.” 7BC 971

THE TIME FOR CLOSURE OF PROBATION HAS NOT BEEN 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. It is our duty to watch and work and wait, to labor every moment for the souls of men that are ready to perish. We are to keep walking continually in the footsteps of Jesus, working in His lines, dispensing His gifts as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Satan will be ready to give to anyone who is not learning every day of Jesus, a special message of his own creating, in order to make of no effect the wonderful truth for this time.

“Letters have come to me asking me if I have any special light as to the time when probation will close; and I answer that I have only this message to bear, that it is now time to work while the day lasts, for the night cometh in which no man can work. Now, just now, it is time for us to be watching, working, and waiting. The Word of the Lord reveals the fact that the end of all things is at hand, and its testimony is most decided that it is necessary for every soul to have the truth planted in the heart so that it will control the life and sanctify the character.

“The Spirit of the Lord is working to take the truth of the inspired Word and stamp it upon the soul so that professed followers of Christ will have a holy, sacred joy that they will be able to impart to others. The opportune time for us to work is now, just now, while the day lasts. But there is no command for anyone to search the Scripture in order to ascertain, if possible, when probation will close. God has no such message for any mortal lips. He would have no mortal tongue declare that which He has hidden in His secret councils.—RH, Oct 9, 1894 - 1SM 191, 182

“I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place,—when the mighty angel will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; my message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning. Christ has told us to watch; “for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.” “Watch and pray” is the charge that is given us by our Redeemer. Day by day we are to seek the enlightenment of the Spirit of God, that it may do its office work upon the soul and character. O, how much time has been wasted through giving attention to trifling things. Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” R & H March 29, 1892

THE UNKNOWN HOUR

When the general closure of human probation finally occurs the inhabitants of this earth will know it not! Neither the righteous nor the unsaved will know that probation has closed. Satan will not know either!

“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 horrible and malignant passions, they still regarded themselves as the chosen of God. The ministration 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

“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 earth will pronounce the sentence: “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.” Daniel 5:27. GC 491

“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. He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels. He claims them as his prey and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy.” GC 618

CLOSING GEM

“When probation ends, it will come suddenly, unexpectedly—at a time when we are least expecting it. But we can have a clean record in heaven today, and know that God accepts us; and finally, if faithful, we shall be gathered into the kingdom of heaven (MS 95, 1906).” 7BC 989

Chapter Fourteen

THE TIME OF TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS PART ONE THE FIRST FOUR PLAGUES, THE DEATH DECREE AND JACOB'S TROUBLE

The day when human probation closes, though unknown to earth's inhabitants, will mark the beginning of the “*time of trouble such as never was.*”

“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.” Dan. 12:1

THE DEATH PENALTY

Before Probation's Closure, in the period of time following the passing of the Sunday law in the USA, Europe and then globally, the persecutory pressure will be increasing progressively. The “*buy and sell*” decree and the *attachment* of the “*Death Penalty*” to the Sunday Legislation will both occur before Probation's Closure.

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

And he causeth 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.” Rev. 13:15-17

“Says the great deceiver: “We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man’s salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

We must exalt the sabbath of our creating. We have caused it to be accepted by both worldlings and church members; now the church must be led to unite with the world in its support. We must work by signs and wonders to blind their eyes to the truth, and lead them to lay aside reason and the fear of God and follow custom and tradition.

“I will influence popular ministers to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their minister’s explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will.

“But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbath keepers. We must excite popular indignation against them. We will enlist great men and worldly-wise men upon our side, and induce those in authority to carry out our purposes. Then the sabbath which I have set up shall be enforced by laws the most severe and exacting. Those who disregard them shall be driven out from the cities and villages, and made to suffer hunger and privation. When once we have the power, we will show what we can do with those who will not swerve from their allegiance to God. We led the Romish church to inflict imprisonment, torture, and death upon those who refused to yield to her decrees; and now that we are bringing the Protestant churches and the world into harmony with this right arm of our strength, we will finally have a law to exterminate all who will not submit to our authority. **When death shall be made the penalty of violating our sabbath, then many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side.**” TM 472, 473

“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. GC 604

MARTYRDOMS

The attachment of the death penalty to the Sunday Laws before the general closure of probation means that some of God’s people will be martyred *before* the closure of probation.

ONLY TWO CLASSES

After the close of probation there will only be two classes of people:

- (i) those with the seal of the Living God, the living righteous remnant, called the 144 000 and
- (ii) those with the “*mark of the beast*”, the overwhelming majority of earth’s population.

WRATH WITHOUT MERCY

Once human probation has closed the four angels of Revelation 7 will let go their restraint of the forces of evil. Then the seven last plagues of Revelation 16 will begin and continue from the first plague right through to the seventh plague.

THE FIRST TWO PLAGUES

“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and [upon] them which worshipped his image.

And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead [man]: and every living soul died in the sea.” Rev. 16:1-3

THE REACTION OF THE WORLD

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues.

These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble.” EW 36, 37

THE DEATH DECREE

The decree for the mass execution of the remnant will be issued *after* the second plague. We know this because the third plague will occur after the issuing of the Death Decree and as a consequence of it.

“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous [are] thy judgments.” Rev. 16:4-7

“Terrible as these inflictions are, God's justice stands fully vindicated. The angel of God declares: “Thou art righteous, O Lord, ... because Thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.” [Revelation 16:2-6](#). By condemning the people of God to death, they have as truly incurred the guilt of their blood as if it had been shed by their hands. In like manner Christ declared the Jews of His time guilty of all the blood of holy men which had been shed since the days of Abel; for they possessed the same spirit and were seeking to do the same work with these murderers of the prophets.” GC 628

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE

The issuing of the Death Decree after the start of the second plague will plunge the remnant into the terrible distress called “*THE TIME OF*

JACOB'S TROUBLE".

"For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jer. 30:5-7

“As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the state ought not to be tolerated; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion and lawlessness. The same argument many centuries ago was brought against Christ by the “rulers of the people.” “It is expedient for us,” said the wily Caiaphas, “that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.” [John 11:50](#). This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts.

The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble.”
GC 615, 616

WHERE WILL THE REMNANT BE DURING THIS TIME?

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together

in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries and will thank God for “the munitions of rocks.” [Isaiah 33:16](#). But many of all nations and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage. The beloved of God pass weary days, bound in chains, shut in by prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark and loathsome dungeons. No human ear is open to hear their moans; no human hand is ready to lend them help.

Will the Lord forget His people in this trying hour? Did He forget faithful Noah when judgments were visited upon the antediluvian world? Did He forget Lot when the fire came down from heaven to consume the cities of the plain? Did He forget Joseph surrounded by idolaters in Egypt? Did He forget Elijah when the oath of Jezebel threatened him with the fate of the prophets of Baal? Did He forget Jeremiah in the dark and dismal pit of his prison house? Did He forget the three worthies in the fiery furnace? or Daniel in the den of lions?

“Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands.” [Isaiah 49:14-16](#). The Lord of hosts has said: “He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye.” [Zechariah 2:8](#).

Though enemies may thrust them into prison, yet dungeon walls cannot cut off the communication between their souls and Christ. One who sees their every weakness, who is acquainted with every trial, is above all earthly powers; and angels will come to them in lonely cells, bringing light and peace from heaven. The prison will be as a palace; for the rich in faith dwell there, and the gloomy walls will be lighted up with heavenly light as when Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight in the Philippian dungeon. GC 626, 627

“The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth; and they will be

tried singly, not in groups. Every one must stand the test for himself”
4BC 1143

THE ANGUISH OF JACOB’S TROUBLE

“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. He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels. He claims them as his prey and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy.

As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God.

Though God’s people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth’s sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour’s promise: I “will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.” [Revelation 3:10](#). If they could have the assurance of pardon they would not shrink from torture or death; but should they

prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God's holy name would be reproached.

On every hand they hear the plottings of treason and see the active working of rebellion; and there is aroused within them an intense desire, an earnest yearning of soul, that this great apostasy may be terminated and the wickedness of the wicked may come to an end. But while they plead with God to stay the work of rebellion, it is with a keen sense of self-reproach that they themselves have no more power to resist and urge back the mighty tide of evil. They feel that had they always employed all their ability in the service of Christ, going forward from strength to strength, Satan's forces would have less power to prevail against them.

They afflict their souls before God, pointing to their past repentance of their many sins, and pleading the Saviour's promise: "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me." [Isaiah 27:5](#). Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions. They lay hold of the strength of God as Jacob laid hold of the Angel; and the language of their souls is: "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." GC 618-620

Remember that most of the duration of Jacob's trouble will be under plagues 3 and 4 with plagues 1 and 2 still occurring.

THE FOURTH PLAGUE

"In the plague that follows, power is given to the sun "to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat." [Verses 8, 9](#). The prophets thus describe the condition of the earth at this fearful time: "The land mourneth; ... because the harvest of the field is perished.... All the trees of the field are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." "The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate.... How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture.... The rivers of water are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness." "The songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord

God: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.” [Joel 1:10-12, 17-20](#); [Amos 8:3](#).

These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.

In that day, multitudes will desire the shelter of God’s mercy which they have so long despised. “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.” [Amos 8:11, 12](#).

The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation and suffer for want of food they will not be left to perish. That God who cared for Elijah will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He who numbers the hairs of their head will care for them, and in time of famine they shall be satisfied. While the wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, angels will shield the righteous and supply their wants. To him that “walketh righteously” is the promise: “Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.” “When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.” [Isaiah 33:15, 16](#); [41:17](#).” GC 628, 629

SOME SAINTS WILL EXPERIENCE GREATER DISTRESS THAN OTHERS

“Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of

falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.” GC 622

PREPARATION TIME IS NOW

“We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands.

The young would not be seduced into sin if they would refuse to enter any path save that upon which they could ask God’s blessing. If the messengers who bear the last solemn warning to the world would pray for the blessing of God, not in a cold, listless, lazy manner, but fervently and in faith, as did Jacob, they would find many places where they could say: “I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” [Genesis 32:30](#). They would be accounted of heaven as princes, having power to prevail with God and with men.

The “time of trouble, such as never was,” is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. “Though Noah, Daniel, and Job” were in the land, “as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.” [Ezekiel 14:20](#).

Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us,

we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." [John 14:30](#). Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.

It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits. God's providence is the school in which we are to learn the meekness and lowliness of Jesus. The Lord is ever setting before us, not the way we would choose, which seems easier and pleasanter to us, but the true aims of life. It rests with us to co-operate with the agencies which Heaven employs in the work of conforming our characters to the divine model. None can neglect or defer this work but at the most fearful peril to their souls." GC 622, 623

Chapter Fifteenth

THE TIME OF TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS

PART TWO

THE LAST THREE PLAGUES AND THE DELIVERANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The issuing of the death decree after the second plague would have set the time for mass execution of the living saints, called the 144 000. After the issuing Death Decree the third and fourth plagues will directly affect those with the mark of the beast. The living saints, though sustained by the ministration of holy angels, will indirectly feel the effects of the terrible conditions obtaining at that time.

As the saints wait for the appointed time for their execution they endure the anguish of Jacob's trouble and cry to God for deliverance. They will have to endure weariness, hunger and delay. Satan and his angels will tempt them and harass them to the limit of human endurance and beyond!

CLEANSSED OF ALL EARTHLINESS

“The righteous remnant in their distress will have a deep sense of their unworthiness and with many tears will acknowledge their utter unworthiness, and like Jacob will plead the promises of God through Christ, made to just such dependent helpless, repenting sinners.” 3SG 132; (SR 97; 1SP 121, 122).

They will have to depend entirely and utterly on CHRIST. Every earthly support will be cut off. Their faith will be tried to the uttermost! They will want to *be absolutely sure that all sins are forgiven and removed from them.*

THE EVIDENCE OF SINS BLOTTED OUT

“Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.” GC 620

“They cannot bring to mind and particular sins, but in their whole life they can see but little good. Their sins had gone beforehand to Judgment, and pardon had been written. Their sins had been borne away into the land of forgetfulness, and they could not bring them to remembrance”. 3SG 135 (1SP 124)

So when Satan reminds them of their past sins they will have to maintain their belief that those sins would have been taken care of by their Saviour! *“THEY AFFLICT THEIR SOULS BEFORE GOD, POINTING TO THEIR PAST REPENTANCE OF THEIR MANY SINS”* GC 619

THE BEGINNING OF THEIR DELIVERANCE AND PLAGUE FIVE

“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.” Rev. 16:10, 11

It is important to understand that plagues 5, 6 and 7 merge into each other and follow each other in rapid succession. The **process of deliverance begins** with the fifth plague and is **completed** by the voice of God announcing **“IT IS DONE”** at the **start** of the **seventh** plague.

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

which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.

The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. Saith the Lord; “Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth ... to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel. And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.” [Isaiah 30:29, 30](#).

With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God’s covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.

By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying, “Look up,” and lifting their eyes to the heavens, they behold the bow of promise. The black, angry clouds that covered the firmament are parted, and like Stephen they look up steadfastly into heaven and see the glory of God and the Son of man seated upon His throne. In His divine form they discern the marks of His humiliation; and from His lips they hear the request presented before His Father and the holy angels: “I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.” [John 17:24](#). Again a voice, musical and triumphant, is heard, saying: “They come! they come! holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels;” and the pale, quivering lips of those who have held fast their faith utter a shout of victory.” GC 635, 636

PLAGUE SIX

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” Rev 16: 12

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him [are] called, and chosen, and faithful.

And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.” Rev. 17:14-17

The drying up of Babylon’s river, the Euphrates, means that the people will not only withdraw their support from the **MARK OF THE BEAST SYSTEM** but will attack and destroy the authorities, false pastors and each other!

“The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. “We are lost!” they cry, “and you are the cause of our ruin;” and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God’s people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed.

“A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword.” [Jeremiah 25:31](#). For six thousand years the great controversy has been in progress; the Son of God and His heavenly messengers have been in conflict with the power of the evil one, to warn, enlighten, and save the children of men. Now all have made their decisions; the wicked have fully united with Satan in his warfare against God. The time has come for God to vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. Now the controversy is not alone with Satan, but with men. “The Lord hath a controversy with the nations;” “He will give them that are wicked to the sword.” GC 655, 656

DELIVERANCE OFFICIALLY COMPLETED AT START OF PLAGUE SEVEN

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

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: “It is done.” [Revelation 16:17](#).” GC 636

PALGUE SEVEN

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

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her

the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.” Rev. 16:18-21

“That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, “such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.” [Verses 17, 18](#). The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of a hurricane like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters. Babylon the great has come in remembrance before God, “to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.” Great hailstones, every one “about the weight of a talent,” are doing their work of destruction. [Verses 19, 21](#). The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. The lordly palaces, upon which the world’s great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and God’s people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free.

Graves are opened, and “many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth... awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” [Daniel 12:2](#). All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. “They also which pierced Him” ([Revelation 1:7](#)), those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.

Thick clouds still cover the sky; yet the sun now and then breaks through, appearing like the avenging eye of Jehovah. Fierce lightnings leap from the heavens, enveloping the earth in a sheet of flame. Above the terrific roar of thunder, voices, mysterious and awful, declare the doom of the wicked. The words spoken are not comprehended by all; but they are distinctly understood by the false teachers. Those who a little before were so reckless, so boastful and defiant, so exultant in their cruelty to God's commandment-keeping people, are now overwhelmed with consternation and shuddering in fear. Their wails are heard above the sound of the elements. Demons acknowledge the deity of Christ and tremble before His power, while men are supplicating for mercy and groveling in abject terror." GC 636-638

THE SWEETNESS OF DELIVERANCE

"A marvelous change has come over those who have held fast their integrity in the very face of death. They have been suddenly delivered from the dark and terrible tyranny of men transformed to demons. Their faces, so lately pale, anxious, and haggard, are now aglow with wonder, faith, and love. Their voices rise in triumphant song: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." [Psalm 46:1-3](#)." GC 639

GOD'S LAW APPEARS IN THE HEAVENS

"And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God [is] judge himself. Selah Ps. 50:6

"While these words of holy trust ascend to God, the clouds sweep back, and the starry heavens are seen, unspeakably glorious in contrast with the black and angry firmament on either side. The glory of the celestial city streams from the gates ajar. Then there appears against the sky a hand holding two tables of stone folded together. Says the prophet: "The heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself." [Psalm 50:6](#). That holy law, God's righteousness, that

amid thunder and flame was proclaimed from Sinai as the guide of life, is now revealed to men as the rule of judgment. The hand opens the tables, and there are seen the precepts of the Decalogue, traced as with a pen of fire. The words are so plain that all can read them. Memory is aroused, the darkness of superstition and heresy is swept from every mind, and God's ten words, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, are presented to the view of all the inhabitants of the earth." GC 639

THE HORROR OF CONDEMNATION

"It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God's holy requirements. The Lord gave them His law; they might have compared their characters with it and learned their defects while there was yet opportunity for repentance and reform; but in order to secure the favor of the world, they set aside its precepts and taught others to transgress. They have endeavored to compel God's people to profane His Sabbath. Now they are condemned by that law which they have despised. With awful distinctness they see that they are without excuse. They chose whom they would serve and worship. "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." [Malachi 3:18](#).

The enemies of God's law, from the ministers down to the least among them, have a new conception of truth and duty. Too late they see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. Too late they see the true nature of their spurious sabbath and the sandy foundation upon which they have been building. They find that they have been fighting against God. Religious teachers have led souls to perdition while professing to guide them to the gates of Paradise. Not until the day of final accounts will it be known how great is the responsibility of men in holy office and how terrible are the results of their unfaithfulness. Only in eternity can we rightly estimate the loss of a single soul. Fearful will be the doom of him to whom God shall say: Depart, thou wicked servant." GC 639, 640

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man’s hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a “Man of Sorrows,” to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. “Faithful and True,” “in righteousness He doth judge and make war.” And “the armies which were in heaven” ([Revelation 19:11, 14](#)) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—“ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. “His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light.” [Habakkuk 3:3, 4](#). As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. “And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, *King of kings, and Lord of lords.*” [Revelation 19:16](#).” GC 640, 641

Watchman, Blow the Gospel Trumpet

Henry Lake Gilmour, 1886

William James Kirkpatrick

♩=110




1. Watch-man, blow the Gos-pel trump-et, Ev-ery soul a warn-ing give;
2. Sound it loud o'er ev-ery hill-top, Gloom-y shade and sun-ny plain;
3. Sound it in the hedge and high-way, Bar'n's dark spots where ex-iles roam;
4. Sound it for the heav-y in-fer-nal, Wear-y, long-ing to be free;

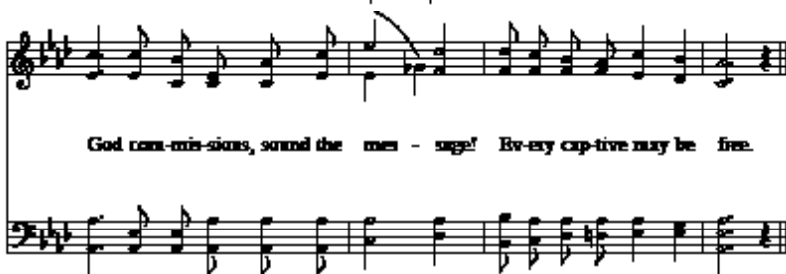


Who-so-ev-er hears the mes-sage May re-pent, and turn and live.
O-cean depths re-peat the mes-sage, Full sal-va-tion's glad re-frain.
Let it tell all things we see to-day, Fa-ther waits to wel-come home.
Sound a Sav-ior's in-vi-ta-tion, Sweet-ly say-ing, "Come to Me."

Refrain



Blow the trump-et, trust-y watch-man, Blow it loud o'er land and sea;
loud o'er land and sea



God com-mis-sions, sound the mes-sage! Ev-ery cap-tive may be free.

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Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, ye sol - diers of the
 2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the trum - pet call o -
 3. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, stand in his strength a -
 4. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the strife will not be

4

cross; lift high his ro - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer
 bey; forth to the might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious
 lone; the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your
 long; this day the noise of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's

8

loss: from vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his
 day: ye that are men now serve him a -
 own: put on the gos - pel ar - mor, each
 song: to him that o - ver - com - eth a

ar - my he shall lead, till ev - 'ry foe is
 gainst un - num - bered foes; let cour - age rise with
 piece put on with pray'r; where du - ty calls, or
 crown of life shall be; he with the King of

14

van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.
 dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.
 dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.
 glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

As a Volunteer

W. S. Brown, 1907

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

1. A call for joy - al sol - diers Comes to one and all; Sol - diers for the con - flict,
 2. Yes, Je - sus calls for sol - diers Who are filled with pow'r, Sol - diers who will serve Him
 3. He calls you, for He loves you With a heart most kind, He Whose heart was break - en
 4. And when the war is o - ver, And the vic - t'ry won, When the true and faith - ful

Will you heed the call? Will you an - swer quick - ly, With a read - y cheer, Will you be en -
 Ev - 'ry day and hour; He will not fur - sake you, He is ev - er near; Will you be en -
 Bank - en for man - kind; Now, just now, He calls you, Calls in ac - cents clear; Will you be en -
 Gath - er one by one, He will crown with glo - ry All who there ap - pear; Will you be en -

Repeat

- list - ed As a vol - un - teer?
 - list - ed As a vol - un - teer? A vol - un - teer for Je - sus, A sol - diers true! Oth - ers have en - list - ed, Why not
 - list - ed As a vol - un - teer?
 - list - ed As a vol - un - teer?

you? Je - sus is the Cap - tain, We will nev - er fear, Will you be en - list - ed As a vol - un - teer?
 O why not?

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346 Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

Philip Doddridge, 1755

CHRISTMAS: C. M.
Arr. from Georg Friedrich Handel, 1728

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system includes a vocal line and a bass line. The second system also includes a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1. A-wake, my soul, stretch ev-ery nerve, And press with vig-or on; A heav-en-ly race de-
2. A cloud of wit-ness-es a - round Hold thee in full sur - vey: For - get the steps al-
3. 'Tis God's all an - i - mat-ing voice That calls thee from on high; 'Tis His own hand pre-
4. Blest Sav-iour, in-tro-duced by Thee, Have I my race be-gun; And, crowned with vic-tory,

mands thy zeal, And an im-mor - tal crown, And an im - mor - tal crown.
read - y trod, And on-ward urge thy way, And on - ward urge thy way.
sents the prize To thine as - pir - ing eye, To thine as - pir - ing eye.
at Thy feet I'll lay my hon - ors down, I'll lay my hon - ors down. A-MEN.

