

The Third Angel

A holy, Peculiar and royal people with a peculiar faith

At the outset let me say that I believe we have been called to be a separated people for a divine purpose otherwise we would not have been called. It is not my present understanding that God calls any human agent or people to live outside of His divine purpose and will. We shall turn to the scriptures and seek to receive God's thoughts to us bringing us comfort strength and victory. And if we believe, as did Enoch, job Abraham Moses, Joshua, Rahab Daniel and many others we shall truly be a separated people on whom the ends of the earth are come fulfilling the divine purpose for our own individual calling and as a people, toward the heathen and the purpose of glorifying God. The following is recorded in (Num 23:9) For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations." Why did God call them and required them to dwell alone? What was the character of these nations?

"Balaam was shown the peculiar favor with which God regarded Israel, and their distinctive character as his chosen people. **He saw that the position to be maintained by the Israelites--a complete separation from all surrounding nations--represented the relation which all true Christians should sustain to the world.**" The people shall dwell alone, and shall not be **reckoned** among the nations." At the time these words were spoken, the Israelites had no permanent settlement, and their peculiar character, their manners and customs, were not familiar to Balaam. Yet how strikingly was this prophecy fulfilled in the after-history of this people! Through all the years of their captivity in Babylon, through all the ages since they were dispersed among the nations, they have maintained the distinctive characteristics of their nationality and their religion. {ST, December 2, 1880 par. 19} Not only was Balaam shown the history of the Hebrew people as a nation, but he beheld the increase and prosperity of **the true Israel of God** to the close of time." This was indeed a wonderful prophecy of God's purpose for Israel as instruments and mediums of light to the nations who had chosen to be heathen.

"Often the Israelites seemed unable or unwilling **to understand God's purpose for the heathen.** Yet it was this very purpose that had made them a separate people and had established them as an independent nation among the nations of the earth. Abraham, their father, to whom the covenant promise was first given, had been **called** to go forth from his kindred, to the regions beyond, that he might be a **light bearer to the heathen.** Although the promise to him included a posterity as numerous as the sand by the sea, yet it was for no selfish purpose that he was to become the founder of a great nation. . . . "I will bless thee," Jehovah declared, "and make thy name great; . . . in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." . . . {CC 236.3} So why has God called us? What is his purpose for us now at this very moment? Let's read and believe it.

(Lev 11:45) **I, the LORD, brought you out of Egypt** so that you could be my special people and I could be your God. I am holy, so you must be holy too."

What is God's purpose for us now? Now if this is a renewed call from God it means that His jewels are almost made

up. We need that efficiency that only God can give to be light bearers in His divine purpose for us and the heathen glorifying Him every moment while being a separate but a light bearing people.

(Lev 20:26) **I have separated you** from other nations to be my own special people. So you must be holy because I am the LORD, and I am holy.

God has repeated his word. He wants us to receive his thoughts of life and peace moment by moment that we be what he declares us to be.

(Deu 14:2) For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, **and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people** unto himself, above all peoples that are upon the face of the earth.

Do we believe him this very moment? Can the Lord say yes we do? God's thoughts should mean something to us. God is still speaking to us and with us. We can truly be a separated and holy people revealing the works of God to the nations of the world for the last time. What an honour indeed.

Inspiration writes, "The **followers** of Christ are required to come out from the world, and be separate, and touch not the unclean, and they have the promise of being the sons and daughters of the Most High, members of the royal family. But if the conditions are not complied with on their part, they will not, cannot realize the fulfillment of the promise. **A profession of Christianity is nothing in the sight of God; but true, humble, willing obedience to his requirements designates the children of his adoption, the recipients of his grace, the partakers of his great salvation. Such will be peculiar, a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. Their peculiar, holy character will be discernible, and will distinctly separate them from the world, with its affections and lusts.** Those who are living branches of the heavenly Vine will partake of the sap and nourishment of the Vine. They will flourish and bear fruit to the glory of God. They will be careful to depart from all iniquity, and to perfect holiness in the fear of God. {RH, May 5, 1885 par. 2} What a word of promise and certainty from the God of our salvation. May he be praised continually. We want to hear God's voice we want God to speak to us.

(Deu 10:15) **Only the LORD had a delight** in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, **even you** above all people, **as it is this day**. Whose seed are you? Whose seed am I?

(Psa 33:12) **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;** and the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Are we a blessed people brethren? If we really hear God's voice now, that is, believe and receive his thoughts by faith, we shall be blessed this very moment

(Deu 33:29) **Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD,** the shield of thy help, and who *is* the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places." Brethren, let us think on the Lord's thoughts to us.

Peter addressed his letters to believers who were living in the midst of heathen people, and much depended on their remaining true to the high calling of their profession. The apostle was seeking to impress upon them their privileges as followers of Christ Jesus. And this is what he wrote for them and for us.

(1Pe 2:9) However, you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people who belong to God. You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Were we? Indeed. Let us value this calling of God to and of us. Let's put God's value upon it. Oh what a calling – why? To tell of the excellent qualities of God. What a message, what a mission, what a work. Can there be a higher or better calling? Brethren what is our response? Do we have a dead to bury and some oxen to prove or just married and will pass up this opportunity and so will let this calling past forever. For if it passes now it is forever. What a calling! Are we reckoned among the nations or are we a separated people?

Satan is determined to hinder this call and work. He will employ everyone who will engage in his service to hinder the chosen people of God from showing forth the praises of Him who has called them from darkness into His marvelous light. To hide, to cover up this light, to cause people to distrust it, to disbelieve it, is the work of that serpent the devil and his loyal supporters.

“However black the clouds that roll upon the world at the present time, there is light beyond. Ignorance, superstition, darkness, unbelief strong and masterful, will meet us at every step we advance. But our faith must soar above all and see the bow of promise encircling the throne. We must reflect the light with pen and voice, praising God before the world. {HP 96. What a thought brethren!

God continues to speak to us in (Tit 2:14) who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works.

Brethren what did we just hear? Words of comfort and cheer indeed. Let us be glad. And what kind of worship will emanate from this called and chosen people? We are called to a more elevated plane of worship, to worship and glorify him that made that we may be recreated in him.

Yes God is ready and able to live this life in us for us and through us. Oh let us let him. Some people have allowed him to do so as far back as Abel. Some are three days journey away from Jesus. Let us be part of the closing chapter of human history glorifying God.

We have most precious promises in the word of God, which ought to give us courage and confidence. They should enable us to come out of uncertainty and darkness, to come where we may know that the Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. There is nothing lacking in the store-house of our God.

God gives this word to us in (Php 2:15) that ye may become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world,

It takes the power of God to accomplish that. We need that efficiency urgently. Hence it takes the calling of God

which puts us where God's power keeps us firm and sure without falling by that efficiency of the Holy Spirit.

Peter speaks to us again in (2Pe 3:14) Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in his sight.

That will be the blessed result if we are looking. Let's look and keep looking and so keep living in God.

"The time has come when those who choose the Lord for their present and future portion must trust in Him alone.

Everyone professing godliness must have an experience of his own. The recording angel is making a faithful record of the words and acts of God's people. Angels are watching the development of character and weighing moral worth.

Those who profess to believe the truth should be right themselves and exert all their influence to enlighten and win others to the truth. Their words and works are the channel through which the pure principles of truth and holiness are conveyed to the world. They are the salt of the earth and the light thereof. I saw that in looking heavenward we shall see light and peace, but in looking to the world we shall see that every refuge must soon fail us and every good soon pass away.

There is no help for us but in God; in this state of earth's confusion we can be composed, strong, or safe, only in the strength of living faith; nor can we be at peace, only as we rest in God and wait for His salvation.

Greater light shines upon us than shone upon our fathers. We cannot be accepted or honored of God in rendering

the same service, or doing the same works, that our fathers did. In order to be accepted and blessed of God as they

were, we must imitate their faithfulness and zeal,--improve our light as they improved theirs, --and do as they would

have done had they lived in our day. We must walk in the light which shines upon us, otherwise that light will

become darkness. God requires of us to exhibit to the world, in our character and works, that measure of the spirit of

union and oneness which is in accordance with the sacred truths we profess and with the spirit of those prophecies

that are fulfilling in these last days. The truth which has reached our understanding, and the light which has shone on

the soul, will judge and condemn us, if we turn away and refuse to be led by them. {1T 262.1}

Some in the church will prove to be false brethren; their faith, their love, their patience, their constancy will be tested

and tried; and if they are not rooted and grounded in the truth, if they are not filled with the fruits of righteousness

which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and the praise of God, they will become offended at reproofs and warnings,

will not humble their souls before God, and will go back and walk no more with those who love the truth. RH Dec,

11th 1888. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.' {PH114

2.2} God gives us a glimpse of the peculiar experience of a peculiar people. Listen to the thoughts and meditations

of the peculiar people. "How excellent is Thy loving-kindness, O God!" "The children of men take refuge under

the shadow of Thy wings. . . . Psalm 36: 5-7 And Thou wilt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures. For

with Thee is the fountain of life: In Thy light shall we see light." Psalm 36: 8-9. This experience is right before us.

Let's take it. What a wonderful experience oh let us rejoice and be glad for ever more. Are these thoughts of God our

meditation day and night? He requires us to be peculiar in faith and in character, to meet a standard far in advance of worldlings.

“ If we are thinking soberly, if we are living righteously, we shall have a good influence over those that are associated with us; for we shall be breathing in the atmosphere of heaven. And we should think soberly; for we are not here to bless ourselves only, but as sinners and debtors to God, we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, and help others that they, too, may be saved. If we would have the Lord purify us unto himself, we must do on our part all that we can that iniquity may be removed from us. We must have a living experience with Christ; and if we love God, we shall want to talk of him to others, and lead them to the fountain of life. {ST, October 28, 1889 par. 5 }

Daniel was counted peculiar, and every man who makes God his counselor, and who seeks him in simplicity of heart, will be counted peculiar by the world. But this is the faith we need, this is the experience that we must have; for Christ has died to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. We should live with an eye single to his glory, and then we shall be able to gain the victory over the world. We must come out from the world and be separate, if we would be the sons of God, the heirs of heaven. If we do this, we shall enter in through the gates into the city, we shall have a right to the tree of life, and we shall see the King in his beauty. {ST, November 4, 1889 par. 11 }

We are not to make the world's manner of dealing ours. “We are to give to the world a nobler example, showing that our faith is of a high and elevated character. Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you. Let every action reveal the nobility of truth. Be true to your faith, and you will be true to God. Come close to the Word, that you may learn what its claims really are. When God speaks, it is your duty to listen and obey. Remember that everything in the world is judged by appearances; therefore, study carefully the Word of God, and see that the words of instruction given to ancient Israel affect your arrangements and plans. While you shall not conform to the world, remember that our faith bears the stamp of singularity, and makes us a peculiar people. Therefore, all odd notions and individual peculiarities and narrow plans that would give false impressions of the greatness of the work, should be avoided. None of the workers should manufacture crosses and duties; for the Bible has given the rule, the cross, the way. {TSA 11.3 }

Lev 20:26 And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD *am* holy, and have severed you from *other* people, that ye should be mine.

“Our faith is peculiar. Many who profess to be living under the sound of the last message of mercy are not separated in their affections from the world. They bow down before the friendship of the world and sacrifice light and principle to secure its favor. The apostle describes the favored people of God in these words: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." {3T 201.3 }

Yours in the peculiar faith of the 3rd Angel

P L Blackman. 15/11/2024

