

## THE ANCIENT PEOPLE

- **ECCLESIASTES 1:9-10**
- **ISAIAH 41:21-23; 44:6-8**

“The **work of God** in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in **every great reformation or religious movement**. The principles of God's dealing with men **are ever the same**. The important movements of **the present** have their **parallel** in those of **the past**, and the experience of **the church in former ages** has lessons of great value for **our own time**.” {GC 343.1}

### REPEATING THEIR HISTORY

“The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before **the first coming of Christ**, illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before **the second coming of Christ**.”-- R. and H., 1890, No. 7. {*Healthful Living*, 280}

“Satan's snares are laid for **us** as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. **We are repeating the history of that people**.--T., No. 31, p. 15” {*Healthful Living*, 280}

“The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.” -- {3SM 339.1}

## THEIR HISTORY?

“Jews were looking for the Messiah; but He did not come as they had predicted that He would, and if He were accepted as the Promised One, their learned teachers would be forced to acknowledge that they had erred. These leaders had separated themselves from God, and Satan worked upon their minds to lead them to reject the Saviour. Rather than yield their **pride of opinion**, they closed their eyes to all the **evidences** of His Messiahship, and they not only rejected **the message** of salvation themselves, but they steeled the hearts of the people against Jesus. Their history should be a solemn warning to us. We need never expect that when the Lord has light for his people, Satan will stand calmly by and make no effort to prevent them from receiving it. Let us beware that we do not refuse the light God sends, because it does not come in a way to please us. . . . If there are any who do not see and accept the light themselves, let them not stand in the way of others.--T., No. 33, p. 256.” -- 5T, 728.1

- **JOHN 14:6; 17:17**

### ANCIENT LITERAL ISRAEL (JEWS)

#### OPENING OF HIS MINISTRY

- **JOHN 2:12-16**

## TEMPLE CLEANSING

“In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah, and **entering upon His work**. That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an object lesson for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God.

Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open **to every soul**. But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield **themselves as holy temples** for the Divine Spirit...” -- *Desire of Ages*, 161.1

#### *DIVINITY FLASHES*

“Christ spoke with the authority of a king, and in His appearance, and in the tones of His voice, there was that which they had no power to resist. At the word of command they realized, as they had never realized before, their true position as hypocrites and robbers. When divinity flashed through humanity, not only did they see indignation on Christ's countenance; they realized the import of His words. They felt as if before the throne of the eternal Judge, with their sentence passed on them for time and for eternity. For a time they were convinced that Christ was a prophet; and many believed Him to be the Messiah. The Holy Spirit flashed into their minds the utterances of the prophets concerning Christ. Would they yield to this conviction? -- -- *Desire of Ages*, 162.3

#### *ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE MESSAGE*

“Overpowered with terror, the priests and rulers had fled from the temple court, and from the searching glance that read their hearts. In their flight they met others on their way to the temple, and **bade them turn back**, telling them what they had seen and heard. Christ looked upon the fleeing men with yearning pity for their fear, and their ignorance of what constituted true worship. In this scene He saw **symbolized the dispersion of the whole Jewish nation** for their wickedness and impenitence.” -- *Desire of Ages*, 162.1

### **MODERN SPIRITUAL ISRAEL (SDA'S)**

#### *OPENING OF HIS MINISTRY*

#### *TEMPLE CLEANSING*

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, **for the cleansing of the sanctuary**, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and **the coming of the Lord to His temple**, foretold by **Malachi**, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” -- *The Great Controversy*, 426.1

#### *DIVINITY FLASHES*

“The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God;”  
GC 611

#### *ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE MESSAGE*

“...‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’ As they raised this cry, I saw those who were in darkness thrusting them with side and with shoulder. Then many who cherished the sacred light, broke the cords which confined them and stood out separated from those companies. As they were doing this, men belonging to the different companies and revered by them passed through, some with pleasing words, and others with wrathful looks and threatening gestures, and fastened the **cords** which were weakening. These men were constantly saying, ‘God is with us. We stand in the light. We have the truth.’”

I inquired who these men were, and was told that they were ministers and leading men who had **rejected the light** themselves, and were **unwilling that others should receive it.**" *Early Writings*, 240.2

#### PARALLEL TO CHRIST'S DAY

"The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of **unholy** traffic, represented all too truly **the temple of the heart**, defiled by the presence of **sensual passion** and **unholy thoughts**. In cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,--from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. 'The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a **refiner** and **purifier of silver**: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver.' Malachi 3:1-3." -- *Desire of Ages*, 161.1

"**Every impure thought** defiles the soul, impairs the moral sense, and tends to obliterate the impressions of the Holy Spirit. It dims the spiritual vision, so that men cannot behold God. The Lord may and does forgive the repenting sinner; but though forgiven, the soul is marred. All impurity of speech or of thought must be shunned by him who would have **clear discernment of spiritual truth.**" -- *Desire of Ages*, 302.2

#### PURIFIER

#### WHY?

- **PSALM 66:10**
- **DEUT. 4:24**
- **PSALM 12:6**
- **ZECHARIAH 13:8-9**
- **DEUTERONOMY 8:2, 16**
- **DEUTERONOMY 13:3**

#### ANCIENT LITERAL ISRAEL (JEWS)

#### CLOSE OF HIS MINISTRY

- **MATTHEW 21:12-17**

#### DIVINITY FLASHES

"Again the piercing look of Jesus swept over the desecrated court of the temple. All eyes were turned toward Him. Priest and ruler, Pharisee and Gentile, looked with astonishment and awe upon Him who stood before them **with the majesty of heaven's King**. <sup>1</sup>Divinity flashed through humanity, investing Christ with a dignity and **glory** He had **never manifested before**. Those standing nearest Him drew as far away as the crowd would permit.

<sup>2</sup>"Except for **a few of His disciples**, the Saviour stood alone. Every sound was hushed. The deep silence seemed unbearable. Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest: 'It is written, **My house** shall be called the house of prayer; but **ye have made it** a den of thieves.' His voice sounded like a trumpet through the temple. The displeasure of His countenance seemed like **consuming fire**. With authority He commanded, 'Take these things hence.' John 2:16..."

1. Increased glory. (Rev. 18:1-3)
2. Few will stand with the truth in the end- see Millerite history.

#### ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE MESSAGE

“On the way from the temple they were met by a throng who came with their sick inquiring for the **Great Healer**. The report given by the fleeing people caused some of these to turn back. They feared to meet One so powerful, whose very look had driven the priests and rulers from His presence. **But a large number pressed through the hurrying crowd, eager to reach Him who was their only hope.** When the multitude fled from the temple, many had remained behind. These were now joined by the newcomers. Again the temple court was filled by the sick and the dying, and once more Jesus ministered to them. {DA 592.1}

“*EAGER TO REACH HIM*” ... *TODAY!*

- **AMOS 8:11**
- **MATT. 5:6**

#### PRIOR TO CRUCIFIXION

[John 2:13-16 quoted] “These were the words Christ spoke at the **first cleansing** of the temple; and at **the second cleansing, just prior to His crucifixion,** He said unto them, ‘It is written, **My** house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.’” *Bible Echo*, October 1, 1894 par.2

“Many who went forth to meet the Bridegroom under the messages of the first and second angels, refused the third, the last testing message to be given to the world, and a similar position **will be taken when the last call is made.**

“Every specification of this parable should be carefully studied. **We are represented either by the wise or by the foolish virgins.** {RH, October 31, 1899 par. 12}

#### CRUCIFIXION

[John 2:13-16 quoted] “These were the words Christ spoke at the first cleansing of the temple; and at the second cleansing, just prior to **His crucifixion,** He said unto them, ‘It is written, **My** house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.’” *Bible Echo*, October 1, 1894 par.2

- **JOHN 1:29**
- **REVELATION 5:6**
- **EXODUS 12:5-7 [SYMBOLIZED THEIR DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT]**
- **EXODUS 12:17-20**

#### MODERN SPIRITUAL ISRAEL (SDA’S)

#### CLOSE OF HIS MINISTRY

- **REVELATION 11:8 (CRUCIFIED)**

“And now another scene passed before him. He had been shown the work of Satan in leading the Jews to reject Christ, while they professed to honor His Father's law. He now saw the Christian world under a similar deception in professing to accept Christ while they rejected God's law.

He had heard from the priests and elders the frenzied cry, ‘Away with Him!’ ‘**Crucify Him, crucify Him!**’ and now he heard from professedly Christian teachers the cry, ‘**Away with**

**the law!**' He saw the Sabbath trodden under foot, and a spurious institution established in its place." -- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 476.2

"The haters of God's law, which is the foundation of his government in heaven and earth, occupy the same ground as did **the unbelieving Jews**. Their defiant power will follow those who keep the commandments of God, and any amount of light will be rejected by them. They have so long violated conscience, and hardened their hearts by choosing darkness rather than light, that they think it a virtue, in order to gain their object, to bear false witness, or stoop to almost any course of equivocation or deception, as did the Jews in their rejection of Christ. They reason that the end justifies the means. They virtually **crucify the law** of the Father, **as the Jews crucified Christ**." -- *Gospel Workers*, 182

### MY HOUSE

- **MATT. 21:13**
- **1TIMOTHY 3:15**
- **<sup>1</sup>HEBREWS 3:6**
- **1 PETER 2:1-5**
- **EPHESIANS 2:13-22**
- **<sup>2</sup>MATTHEW 5-7**
- **ISAIAH 56:1-12**
- **JEREMIAH 7:1-15**
- **1 SAMUEL 3-4**
- **2 CHRON. 7:10-22**
- **<sup>3</sup>LUKE 13:23-35**
- **ISAIAH 64:9-11**

1. "Let us do our best to bring about unity. I am in a position where I cannot change the past experience if I would; for the Lord has led me and has given me such evidence of His power in every advance movement of our work, that I have assurance, made doubly sure, as [to] every position we now hold as truth. We cannot distrust such manifestations of the Lord's power in defining what is truth. I am charged that we are to hold the **beginning** of our confidence firm unto the end. We now need clearly to define what is truth, and let not the enemy steal a march on us." -- *The Retirement Years*, 124.1

2. "Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will." -- *The Great Controversy*, 595.2

3. "Meanwhile worshipers from every nation sought the temple which had been dedicated to the worship of God. Glittering with gold and precious stones, it was a vision of beauty and grandeur. But Jehovah was no longer to be found in that palace of loveliness. Israel as a nation had **divorced herself** from God. When Christ, near the close of His earthly ministry, looked for the last time upon the interior of the temple, He said, 'Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.' Matthew 23:38. Hitherto He had called the temple His Father's house; but as the Son of God passed out from those walls, God's presence was withdrawn forever from the temple built to His glory." -- *Acts of the Apostles*, 145.2

### HOUSE OF PRAYER

*WHAT TO PRAY FOR!*

- **ZECH. 10:1**

"As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the

process of spiritual growth. **The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul.**

“By the power of the Holy Spirit **the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character.** We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.” {RH, March 2, 1897 par. 1}

### THE SHAKING

“I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

“Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

“As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

“I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.

“Said the angel, "List ye!" Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy.

“The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the

truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them.” -- *Early Writings*, 269-271

#### *HOW TO PRAY!*

- **JAMES 1:5-8**

“With the great truth we have been privileged to receive, we should, and under the Holy Spirit's power we could, become living channels of light. We could then approach the mercy-seat; and seeing the bow of promise, kneel with contrite hearts, and seek the kingdom of heaven with a **spiritual violence** that would bring its own reward. We would take it by force, **as did Jacob**. Then our message would be the power of God unto salvation. Our supplications would be full of earnestness, full of a sense of our great need; and we would not be denied. The truth would be expressed by life and character, and by lips touched with the living coal from off God's altar. When this experience is ours, we shall be lifted out of our poor, cheap selves, that we have cherished so tenderly. We shall empty our hearts of the corroding power of selfishness, and shall be filled with praise and gratitude to God. We shall magnify the Lord, the God of all grace, who has magnified Christ. And he will reveal his power through us, making us as sharp sickles in the harvest-field.” {RH, February 14, 1899 par. 13}

#### *WHY PRAY?*

“Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of **spiritual power**. No other means of grace can be substituted and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and **you lose your hold on God**. The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigor.” -- *Messages to Young People*, 249, 250

“God desires us to come to Him in prayer, that He may enlighten our minds. He alone can give clear conceptions of truth. He alone can soften and subdue the heart. He can quicken the understanding to discern truth from error. He can establish the wavering mind, and give it a knowledge and a faith that will endure the test. Pray then; pray without ceasing.” -- *Review and Herald*, March 24, 1904

“Prayer **unites us with one another** and with **God**. Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives to the fainting, perplexed soul new **strength** to overcome the world, the **flesh**, and the devil. Prayer turns aside the attacks of Satan.” -- *Christ's Object Lessons*, 250





## ANCIENT ISRAEL

### JERUSALEM TROUBLED

- **MATTHEW 2:1-6**

“The Jewish rulers were in ignorance of the coming of the Just One, because they had not been making ready for him. They had been separating from God by wicked works. The positions in the service of the priesthood were filled by men wholly unfitted for the work,-- men who had not hesitated to stoop to falsehood and even murder to gain the coveted honor. **They were not ready for Christ's coming.** They had not heard the angel's message, ‘Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.’ They had not heard the song of the heavenly host, because **they were estranged from God.** Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The Lord could not enlighten them; for so great was **the darkness surrounding them** that they would not have made a right use of the light. {YI, October 19, 1899 par. 5}

### SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

- **JOHN 1:1-14**

“When Christ came to this earth, the **traditions** that had been handed down from generation to generation, and **the human interpretation of the Scriptures**, hid from men the truth as it is in Jesus. The truth was buried beneath a mass of **tradition**. The spiritual import of the sacred volumes was lost; for **in their unbelief** men locked the door of the heavenly treasure. Darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Truth looked down from heaven to earth; but nowhere was revealed the divine impress. A gloom like the pall of death overspread the earth.

“But the **Lion of the tribe of Judah** prevailed. He opened the seal that closed the book of divine instruction. The world was permitted to gaze upon pure, unadulterated truth. Truth itself descended to roll back the darkness and **counteract error.**” -- *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 58

### WHY?

“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.

“Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention **to man** in the place of God. He leads the people to look to **bishops**, to **pastors**, to **professors of theology**, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by **controlling the minds** of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to **his will**.

“...But the chief of the priesthood and the leading men of the nation were determined to condemn and repudiate His teachings...These opponents of **Jesus** were men whom the people had been **taught from infancy** to reverence, to whose **authority** they had been accustomed implicitly to bow.

“‘How is it,’ they asked, ‘that our rulers and learned scribes do not believe on Jesus? Would not these **pious** men receive Him **if He were** the Christ?’ It was the influence of such teachers that led the Jewish nation to reject their Redeemer.

“The spirit which actuated those priests and rulers is **still manifested** by many who make a high profession of **piety**. **They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time**. They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and look with contempt upon the advocates of truth as few, poor, and unpopular, having a faith that separates them from the world.” -- *The Great Controversy*, 595

- **MATTHEW 5-7**

*SOUNDED LIKE HERESY*

“The Pharisees prided themselves on their obedience to the law; yet they knew so little of its principles through everyday practice that to them the Saviour's words sounded like heresy. As He swept away the rubbish under which the truth had been buried, they thought He was sweeping away the truth itself. They whispered to one another that He was making light of the law.” -- *Desire of Ages*, 307.3

### MILLERITE HISTORY

*MILLERITES*

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25, also illustrates **the experience** of the Adventist people.” -- *The Great Controversy*, 393

“I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. **This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to **this** time, and, like the third angel's message, has been fulfilled and **will continue to be** present truth till the close of time.” -- {RH, August 19, 1890 par. 3}

*THE ADVENT MOVEMENT ILLUSTRATED*

“I saw a number of companies that seemed to be bound together by cords. Many in these companies were in total darkness; their eyes were directed downward to the earth, and there seemed to be no connection between them and Jesus. But scattered through these different companies were persons whose countenances looked light, and whose eyes were raised to heaven. Beams of light from Jesus, like rays from the sun, were imparted to them.

An angel bade me look carefully, and I saw an angel watching over every one of those who had a ray of light, while evil angels surrounded those who were in darkness. I heard the voice of an angel cry, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’

“A **glorious light** then rested down upon these companies, to **enlighten** all who would receive it. Some of those who were in darkness received the light and rejoiced. Others **resisted the light** from heaven, saying that it was sent to lead them astray. The light passed away from them, and they were left in darkness. Those who had received the light from Jesus joyfully cherished the increase of precious light which was shed upon them. Their faces beamed with holy joy, while their gaze was directed upward to Jesus with intense interest, and their voices were heard in harmony with the voice of the angel, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’ As they raised this cry, I saw those who were in darkness **thrusting them with side and with shoulder**.

Then many who cherished the sacred light, broke the cords which confined them and stood out separated from those companies. As they were doing this, men belonging to the different companies and revered by them passed through, some with pleasing words, and others with wrathful looks and threatening gestures, and fastened the cords which were weakening.

“These men were constantly saying, ‘God is with us. We stand in the light. We have the truth.’ I inquired who these men were, and was told that they were **ministers and leading men** who had **rejected the light themselves**, and **were unwilling that others should receive it.**

“I saw those who cherished the light looking upward with ardent desire, expecting Jesus to come and take them to Himself. Soon a cloud passed over them, and their faces were sorrowful. I inquired the cause of this cloud and was shown that it was their **disappointment.** The time when they expected their Saviour had passed, and Jesus had not come. As discouragement settled upon the waiting ones, the ministers and leading men whom I had before noticed, rejoiced, and all those who had rejected the light triumphed greatly, while Satan and his evil angels also exulted.

“Then I heard the voice of another angel saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen!’ A light shone upon those desponding ones, and with ardent desires for His appearing, they again fixed their eyes upon Jesus. I saw a number of angels conversing with the one who had cried, ‘Babylon is fallen,’ and these united with him in the cry, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.’ The musical voices of these angels seemed to reach everywhere. An exceedingly bright and **glorious light** shone around those who had cherished the light which had been imparted to them. Their faces shone with excellent **glory**, and they united with the angels in the cry, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh.’ As they harmoniously raised the cry among the different companies, **those who rejected the light pushed them** and with angry looks scorned and derided them. But angels of God wafted their wings over the persecuted ones, while Satan and his angels were seeking to press their darkness around them, to lead them to reject the light from heaven.

“Then I heard a **voice** saying to those who had been pushed and derided, ‘**Come out from among them, and touch not the unclean.**’ In obedience to this voice, a large number broke the cords which bound them, and leaving the companies that **were in darkness**, joined those who had previously gained their freedom, and joyfully united their voices with them. I heard the voice of earnest, agonizing prayer from a few who still remained with the companies that were in darkness. The **ministers and leading men** were passing around in these different companies, fastening the cords more firmly; but still I heard this voice of earnest prayer. Then I saw those who had been praying reach out their hands for help toward **the united company** who were free, rejoicing in God. The answer from them, as they earnestly looked to heaven, and pointed upward, was, “**Come out from among them, and be separate.**” I saw individuals struggling for freedom, and at last they broke the cords that bound them. They resisted the efforts which were made **to fasten the cords tighter and refused to heed the repeated assertions: ‘God is with us.’ ‘We have the truth with us.’**

“Persons were **continually leaving** the companies that were in darkness **and joining** the free company, who appeared to be in an open field raised above the earth. Their gaze was directed upward, the **glory of God** rested upon them, and they joyfully shouted His praise. They were **closely united** and seemed to be wrapped in the light of heaven. Around this company were some who came under the influence of the light, but who were not particularly united to the company. All who cherished the light shed upon them were **gazing upward** with intense interest, and **Jesus looked upon them** with sweet approbation. They expected Him to come and longed for His appearing. They did not cast one lingering look to earth. But again a cloud settled upon the waiting ones, and I saw them turn their weary eyes downward. I inquired the cause of this change. Said my accompanying angel, ‘They are again disappointed in their expectations. Jesus cannot yet come to earth. They must endure greater trials for His sake.

“They must give up **errors and traditions received from men** and turn wholly to God **and His Word.** They must be purified, made white, and tried. Those who endure **that** bitter trial will obtain **an eternal victory.**’ -- *Early Writings 240*

## THE CHURCH TODAY

“Never are we absent from the mind of God. God is our joy and our salvation. Each of the ancient prophets **spoke less for their own time** than for ours, so that **their prophesying is in force for us**. (1 Corinthians 10:11, 1 Peter 1:12 quoted.) {3SM 338.1}

- **REVELATION 14:4**
- **JOHN 10:1-11**

“**The Pharisees had not entered by the door**. They had climbed into the fold by another way than Christ, and they were not fulfilling the work of the **true shepherd**. The priests and rulers, the scribes and Pharisees, destroyed the living pastures, and defiled the wellsprings of the water of life. Faithfully do the words of inspiration describe those false shepherds: ‘The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again **that which was driven away**; . . . but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.’ Ezekiel 34:4

“...Christ came that He might re-create the image of God in man; and whoever **turns men away** from Christ is turning them away from the source of true development; he is defrauding them of the hope and purpose and glory of life. **He is a thief and a robber.**” -- *Desire of Ages*, 477

### ROBBERS

“The enemy is seeking to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from **the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days**. His sophistries are designed to **lead minds away** from the perils and duties of the hour. They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give John for his people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to receive special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin, and **rob** the people of God of **their past experience**, giving them instead a false science.” -- {RH, March 3, 1904 par. 11}

### LEFT UNTO YOU DESOLATE

- **MATTHEW 23:37-38**  
Would have gathered  
-2 CHRON. 36:15-16  
-JEREMIAH 44:4-6  
Ye would not!  
-JEREMIAH 6:16-17  
-PROVERBS 1:24-31

### TURNED AWAY

- **JEREMIAH 50:4-6**  
Lost Sheep  
- MATTHEW 10:5-6  
Shepherds responsible  
- JEREMIAH 10:21; 23:11-17

### FEED MY SHEEP?

- **EZEKIEL 34:1-6**
- **JOHN 10:11-13**
- **EZEKIEL 34:7-13**
- **JEREMIAH 23:1-4; 3:14-15 [YE HAVE SCATTERED...]**

“Upon the ministers of God rests a solemn, serious charge. They will be called to a strict account for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibility. If they do not tell the people of the binding claims of God's law, if they do not preach the Word with clearness, **but confuse the minds of the people by their own interpretations**, they are shepherds who feed themselves, but neglect to feed the flock. They make of none effect the law of Jehovah, **and souls perish because of their unfaithfulness**. The blood of these souls will be upon their heads. God will call them to account for their unfaithfulness. **But** this will in no wise excuse those who listened to the **sophistry of men**, discarding the **Word of God.**” (Letter 162, 1900). {4BC 1164.7}

#### WOE UNTO YOU

- **MATTHEW 23:1-2**  
-PSALM 77:20
- **MATTHEW 23:13-39**

#### FOUL THE RESIDUE

- **EZEKIEL 34:17-22**
- **JOHN 10:14-16, 22-30 (MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE)**

#### NOT GUILTY

- **ZECHARIAH 11:3-7, 17 (THEIR ADVERSARIES SAID, WE OFFEND NOT)**
- **JEREMIAH 5:20-24**  
-ZECHARIAH 10:1-2  
-ZECHARIAH 11:17
- **JEREMIAH 5:25-28**  
-EZEKIEL 16:47-52 (GREATEST ABOMINATIONS)
- **JEREMIAH 5:29-31 [LOVE TO HAVE IT SO]**
- **JEREMIAH 8:4-13, 19-22**
- **ZEPHANIAH 3:1-5**

#### TEMPLE TO BE CLEANSED

- **JEREMIAH 7:1-4**

“The warning was not heeded by the Jewish people. They forgot God, and lost sight of their high privilege as His representatives. The blessings they had received brought no blessing to the world. All their advantages were appropriated **for their own glorification**. They **robbed** God of the service He required of them, and they **robbed** their fellow men of religious guidance and **a holy example**. Like the inhabitants of the antediluvian world, they followed out every imagination of their evil hearts. Thus they made sacred things appear a farce, saying, “**The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, are these**” (Jeremiah 7:4), while at the same time they were misrepresenting God's character, dishonoring His name, and polluting His sanctuary. {COL 291.2}

“The husbandmen who had been placed in charge of the Lord's vineyard were untrue to their trust. The priests and teachers were not faithful instructors of the people. They did not keep before them the goodness and mercy of God and His claim to their love and service. These husbandmen sought their own glory. They desired to appropriate the fruits of the vineyard. It was their study to attract attention and homage to themselves.” {COL 292.1}

## KINGLY AUTHORITY

“In the work of God no kingly authority is to be exercised by any human being, or by two or three. The representatives of the Conference, as it has been carried with authority for the last twenty years, shall be no longer justified in saying, ‘The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are we.’ The men in positions of trust have not been carrying the work wisely.

“The Lord calls for wise men to preside over His work and to be **faithful shepherds** of His flock. He has a work to be done in every city. The General Conference has fallen into strange ways, and we have reason to marvel that judgment has not fallen, showing ‘by terrible things in righteousness’ that God is not a man that He should lie.”--Manuscript 26, 1903 (April 3, **1903** Re: The Work of the General Conference).

*Christian Leadership*, 26.2

- **MICAH 3:9-12**
- **MATTHEW 3:5-11** [THE WRATH TO COME!]  
-1 PETER 2:1-10

## THE VERY HANDS

“The minister who has sacrificed truth to gain the favor of men, now discerns the character and influence of his teachings. It is apparent that an omniscient eye was following him as he stood in the desk, as he walked the streets, as he mingled with men in the various scenes of life. Every emotion of the soul, every line written, every word uttered, every act that led men to rest in a refuge of falsehood, has been scattering seed; and now, in the wretched, lost souls around him, he beholds the harvest...

“Ministers and people see that they have not sustained the right relation to God. They see that they have rebelled against the Author of all just and righteous law... No language can express the longing which the disobedient and disloyal feel for that which they have lost forever,—eternal life. Men whom the world has worshiped for their talents and eloquence now see these things in their true light. They realize what they have forfeited by transgression, and they fall at the feet of those whose fidelity they have despised and derided, and confess that God has loved them.

“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.” -- *The Great Controversy*, 654.3

## HOWL

- **JEREMIAH 25:27-37** [PRINCIPAL OF THE FLOCK]  
-JOEL 1:11, 13

*RARELY HIGHER*

**“The church will rarely take a higher stand than is taken by her ministers.** There is need of a converted ministry and a converted people. **Shepherds** who watch for souls as they that must give account will lead the flock on in **paths** of peace and holiness. Their success in this work will be in proportion to **their own growth in grace and knowledge of the truth.**” -- {ST, January 11, 1883 par. 14}

*NOW*

- **PSALM 80**

*THEN*

- **PSALM 23**

*CEASE*

- **ISAIAH 2:10-22**

*THE “HONEST SOUL”*

“The word of God is plain to all who study it with a prayerful heart. **Every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth.** ‘Light is sown for the righteous.’ Psalm 97:11. And no church can advance in holiness unless its members are earnestly seeking for **truth** as for hid treasure.” -- *The Great Controversy*, 521