

# IN THE TIME OF HARVEST

## **The Everlasting Gospel in Prophecy**

*Throughout the entire history of this old world since the fall of man, the Everlasting Gospel has been inseparably linked with Prophecy. Those who are trying to present a Gospel Message that is not woven through and through with the Golden Thread of Prophecy, will find their preaching degenerate into sentimental foolishness. God Himself states His claim to Godhood is based on the fact that He alone can tell the End from the Beginning. Here we wish to echo the very first words that Jesus preached when He began His ministry: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel!”*

**The Budding Trees of Spring:  
#11 in Time of Harvest Series  
Jamal Sankey**

Turn with me to Luke 21 again. You remember that Jesus was asked by His disciples two specific questions and the first of these questions was, ‘when will the destruction of Jerusalem be?’ Jesus delineated events and showed them when exactly it would transpire—He didn’t give them a date but He gave them a sign that would show them when it was to come. And the next question they asked was, ‘what sign, singular, are we to look for that would point to your Second Coming?’ As yet Jesus has not answered that to the disciples, but now we will see His answer.

We will recap a little on what we have covered; Luke 21:20—the Bible says:

### **THE MYSTERIES**

- Luke 21:20-28 “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. 25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

We saw how Jesus took those disciples and us here at the end of the world step by step, beginning with 70 AD and the destruction of Jerusalem; then through the Dark Ages, 538-1798; took them from the time of the sun, moon, and stars falling, and brought them to 1833; took them through the Millerite history that started at 1840 with the distress of nations, an Islamic problem; then He moved forward to 1844 when they would see Him in the clouds with power and great glory.

Now Jesus comes to His final thought, and His final thought needs to be directly connected with the events He had just delineated. As we looked through the events, we saw that there was a thread that was interwoven throughout each event. As God revealed Present Truth to the people, two classes were made up. It was working on this principle of the 'mysteries'. We can see one of the mysteries in Colossians 1. We saw that Satan desired the prerogatives of Christ, Christ works through the truth and Satan works through error.

- Colossians 1:26, 27 “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”

So as Christ works through this mystery of godliness, Satan had a corresponding mystery in the book of 2 Thessalonians 2:6; we'll see this counterfeit mystery that Satan uses to cause division. The Bible says:

- 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7 “And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

As Christ laid out His prophetic timeline from Jerusalem to the end of the world He intertwined the truth of the two mysteries that were at work in the hearts of men. As these mysteries worked they would move to create two classes. Truth and error were to work as wedges and divide the world. So the mystery of iniquity and the mystery of godliness, these are two conflicting mysteries, and God uses them throughout time to divide classes.

Flip over to Matthew 22:1-14. We saw that there was this wedding invitation, invitation to the marriage, that Christ sent out. He sent out this invitation but those who were bidden did not come, they were not worthy.

### **THE MARRIAGE**

- Matthew 22:1-14 “And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and

slew them. 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

So He sent others out—notice what it says in verse 8:

- 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Let me submit to you that these 'bad and good', are the same individuals as in Matthew 25 that Jesus calls wise and foolish. These individuals were invited to the wedding and these virgins were getting themselves prepared. But 5 of these virgins, one part, were not ready—they were void of something—the oil.

- Matthew 25:1-13 “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

We saw that the oil is grace, and we saw in the Bible that grace is the power of God. We saw that the power of God was manifested in the Millerite movement in 1840, August 11. This power began to grow and to develop and the same message, that First Angel's Message that was empowered August 11, 1840, began to swell and build—and it came to the Second Angel's Message and the Midnight Cry. We differentiate these messages but notice this statement:

The work for this time is represented by the first, second, and third angels flying in the midst of heaven. The first angel has his message, the second follows the first and bears his message. But the first is not dropped; it loses none of its force as the second is proclaimed. So also with the third. These angels represent the people of God proclaiming the word of God to the world, whereby are produced impressions so powerful that truth is separated from the rubbish of error and stands revealed in its unblemished pure beauty. These messages of truth open the most lofty contemplation of scenes through which they conduct us--solemn, refining, and awfully grand. {1888 Materials 939.}

As the First Angel's Message was empowered by God and it swelled and grew until this Midnight Cry experience—in 1844 two classes were developed and then they went in with Christ to the marriage and the door was shut—probation's close, October 22, 1844. Those foolish virgins that did not have the experience of the First Angel were not able to carry through to the marriage. We saw that this experience in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy was likened unto a living testimony.

This experience of Jesus splitting the two classes, trying to bring to culmination the Great Reformation, was even at that time incomplete.

“When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the Temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the Temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches. The second angel's message is, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:8). And in the loud cry of the third angel's message a voice is heard from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:4, 5).” {2SM 118.2}

The Second Angel's message was likened unto the first cleansing of the temple. Soon after Christ was baptized and anointed by the Holy Spirit, He went into Jerusalem to the temple as saw all these foolish things going on inside and He cleansed it. Then right before the cross, He went back to the temple and He had to do it a second time.

Spirit of Prophecy tells us that the first temple cleansing on the Ephesus platform was the cleansing paralleled by the Millerite Movement during Philadelphia. The Ephesus church platform is repeated again to the very letter in Philadelphia.

The last cleansing of Christ's ministry parallels happens under Laodicea during the Third Angel's Message. But it is the exact repeat of History.

Now we are going to be dealing specifically with the Latter Rain.

### **LIVING TESTIMONY**

“In every part of the land, light was given upon the second angel's message, (the Millerite Experience) and the cry melted the hearts of thousands. It went from city to city, and from village to village, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. In many churches the message was not permitted to be given, and a large company who had the living testimony left these fallen churches. A mighty work was accomplished by the midnight cry. The message was heart-searching, leading the believers to seek a living experience for themselves. They knew that they could not lean upon one another.” {EW 238.3}

This 'Living Experience' was the Second Angel's Message, and it was based on the experience of the First Angel when it was empowered. As it began to build, this true experience—not just an understanding of what was happening in events, but a corresponding experience happened in the lives of the people.

“The people are asleep in their sins, and need to be alarmed before they can shake off this lethargy. Their ministers have preached smooth things. God's servants, who bear sacred, vital truths, should cry aloud and spare not, that the truth may tear off the garment of security, and find its way to the heart. The straight testimony that the people... should have had was walked all around, and the seed of truth was sown among thorns, and has been choked by the thorns.

God's servants must bear a pointed testimony. It will cut the natural heart, and develop character.” {2SG 300}

We saw that the living testimony was likened unto a two edged sword that would cut away this false pretense in the lives of the people. The living testimony is likened to the straight testimony which creates an experience in the receptive heart, is likened to a living testimony. It's called the Shaking—and we were told that the shaking blows multitudes away like dry leaves. In the time of the Millerites this living testimony was what separated the virgins, and this experience is repeated at the end of the world with the SDA “virgins.” The Shaking is what causes God's church to be purified. But what brings the power of this testimony to rest upon the heart?

“I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.” {EW 279.1}

What gives power to the living testimony is the Latter Rain—but what is the Latter Rain? Many of us believed that on 7/7/07 we were going to have this experience. So the churches got together and there was this big to-do and it was all over 3ABN and flyers went out and everybody was praying for an experience and they had no idea what the Latter Rain is!

I don't believe that these individuals were insincere—but neither was Eve. Eve was sincere but she was deceived and she was, as a result, cut off from God for the moment. In Luke 21:29, Jesus answers the disciples' question, “Lord what sign should we look for? What sign is it going to be when you are going to come? Can you give us something we can notice?”

So Jesus answers them, but it wasn't for them it's for us.

### **THE BUDDING TREES OF SPRING**

- Luke 21:29-32 “And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; 30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. 31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. 32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.”

In order to answer the disciples' last and most important question, Christ gave them a parable; He pointed them to the budding trees of spring. Whatever generation sees the Budding Trees of Spring will be the generation that will see Christ's coming in His glory.

“Christ had bidden His people watch for the signs of His advent and rejoice as they should behold the tokens of their coming King.”When these things begin to come to pass," He said, "then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." He pointed His followers to the budding trees of spring, and said: "When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21:28, 30, 31." {GC 308.2}

## THE SPRING

What happens in the springtime? We're going to dissect this parable and find out what it means.

- Isaiah 18:5 “For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, he shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches.”

Before the harvest, the fruit is ripening in the vine. This is before the harvest—you don't gather the fruit while it is still unripe it has to ripen.

- James 5:7 “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

What produces and ripens the fruit? The rain; the Latter Rain is what ripens the fruit for the harvest.

“In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. *The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle.* The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, *and then to ripen the harvest*, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. *The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.*

*The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man.* But unless the for-

mer 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.” {TM 506}

We need this early and latter rain experience. The Latter Rain is what brings the ripening of the harvest.

## **THE SUMMER**

Let’s look in the Bible at Summertime. Jesus said, “Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.” What is summertime in the Bible? Jesus said to watch for the budding trees of spring because then you would know that summer is at hand.

- Proverbs 10:5 “He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.”
- Jeremiah 8:20 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

When Harvest ends it’s done—when summer comes it’s done.

- Matthew 13:39 “The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.”

Summer is the Harvest. Summer time is the harvest time and harvest is the end of the world. But we must look at the harvest as a progressive event because that is how the Bible and nature explain it. It is the angels that do the reaping and we saw that this is not referring to literal angels—it is not them that literally come in to harvest the church, it’s the messages that do the harvesting.

If you have ever done any planting, you know that there is something that transpires before you bring all the fruit in. It happens at the beginning of harvest—you bring in what is called the first fruits. The Bible employs natural, literal things to describe the workings of the Holy Spirit. We need to look at the literal harvest in order to understand the spiritual harvest at the end of the world.

- Exodus 23:16 “And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.”

During harvest season the “first fruits” are gathered first out of the field. Then at the end of the harvest season the rest, and majority, of the crops are brought in. Does prophecy portray the harvest as a progressive event coming in two parts? Prophecy is built on that platform, that there is a harvest of first fruits, and then a harvest at the end of the world. When we understand who the first fruits are it should make us understand that our time of visitation is here.

- Revelation 14:1-7, “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

The firstfruits of the harvest take place in Adventism. Adventism’s harvest closes at the Sunday Law. If you and I are not ready by then—when the door is shut—there is no getting in. Probation closes at the Sunday Law for Seventh-day Adventists, which means that BEFORE the harvest, something has to fall to perfect the fruit. What do we call it? The Latter Rain.

Are we close to a Sunday Law? Then that must mean that something is falling, and if we cannot discern it—we won’t receive it. It is important to understand the Latter Rain. The Bible says:

- “These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

What did we see in Matthew 13 that reaps the harvest? The Angels. The 144,000 employ this understanding because they then go out and preach and give a message found in Revelation 6-12. These first, second and third angels’ messages that are to gather in the harvest of the world. After the third angel’s message was given, the Bible says:

- Revelation 14:14-20 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. 17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Two Harvests at the end of the world, just like two in the church. Two classes are separated; the harvest of wheat is brought in—the first fruits. At the end of the world there are two classes separated; the wheat and the grapes. The grapes are trodden in the wine-press of God’s wrath.

What is the winepress of God’s wrath—God’s wrath? The Bible tells us in verse 1 of Revelation 15:

- Revelation 15:1 “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.”

When Michael stands up, the Seven Last Plagues are poured out. All human probation has closed—there is no more getting it right for anyone then. But you and I don't have to worry about that harvest—because our harvest comes first and it's closer than it might appear.

### **WHAT ARE THE SHOWERS**

We know that springtime is when the Latter Rain falls. The Latter Rain prepares the fruit for the harvest which was summertime—but what is the rain? I have heard so many different understandings of what the Latter Rain is—but none of them Biblical. Some say that the Latter Rain is a manifestation of this lovey-dovey relationship with God. It's this emotional fight of feeling and oh you're just enraptured in Christ. Oh, when you receive the Latter Rain you just bubble with joy.

Let's see what the Bible says the Latter Rain is:

- Acts 3:19 “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;”

The 'Times of Refreshing' is the Latter Rain.

“The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus." Acts 3:19, 20.” {GC 611.3}

All over the Great Controversy she shows how the platform of Ephesus repeats at the end of the world. She says the prophecies that were fulfilled when the Former Rain was poured out at the time of Pentecost, are to be fulfilled again. All through her writings she shows how it repeats. But what is the Latter Rain?

The term refreshing in the Greek is anapsuxis which means revival. We are told that to seek for revival should be our first work and that it comes from an increase of prophetic knowledge or “new light.”

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.” {1SM 121}

We should be seeking for revival or for the refreshing. But again, what is it?

“The light that Daniel received from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai (Daniel 8—the foundation of Adventism) and the Hiddekel, (Daniel 10-12 the capstone of Adventism) the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon come to pass...

“Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy," God declares, "and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival. We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it.” {TM 112-113}

The revival is built on the platform of prophecy—you cannot get the revival any other way. People seek for revival so many different ways, but you can only get it through a correct delineation of prophecy. We are told that many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.

Satan knows that you can study prophecy all day long, but if you have it wrong—you won't have a revival. You'll think you are better off than you really are and you'll come up to the time of the fifth plague without a shelter. Many people won't recognize their folly until then. So it is very important that we understand what the Latter Rain is. The Latter Rain is mentioned as being truth, doctrine, understanding, all over the bible.

- Deuteronomy 32:2 “My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:”

#### Doctrine is the Latter Rain.

- Isaiah 28:9-13 “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. 13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.”

What is the ‘rest’ that we are to enter into and we should fear if we don't enter into this rest? What is the refreshing? It is Knowledge, Doctrine, Understanding—it's the Latter Rain—why don't we enter into it? Why is it missing and going over the heads of some? Notice what Isaiah says in verse 7;

- Isa 28:7 “But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. 8 For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.”

Why don't they understand knowledge and doctrine? Why don't they get the Latter Rain? It's because they keep sipping on the Wine of Babylon! Individuals read books by infidel authors; they allow these infidels to come on their platforms; they get into confederacies with infidels—unbelievers; and they take in their thoughts and look to see what they have in common. They bring it to the people and they expect there to be some kind of revival. But instead, the Bible says, there is no place clean. Spiritually—the church is full of vomit! That's what it is saying—no place clean! That's why they cannot understand knowledge and doctrine. That's why they haven't entered into God's Rest. That's why they have no understanding of what the Latter Rain is!

- Daniel 12:4 “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

What was sealed up that would be unsealed at the ‘time if the end’? The book of Daniel, that is clear—but is it the Book of Daniel, or a certain portion?

“The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days. The Scripture says, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, "Time shall be no longer." (See Revelation 10:6.) The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:6, 7).

This message, if heeded, will call the attention of every nation and kindred and tongue and people to a close examination of the Word, and to the true light in regard to the power that has changed the seventh-day Sabbath to a spurious sabbath. The only true God has been forsaken, His law has been discarded, His sacred Sabbath institution has been trampled in the dust by the man of sin. The fourth commandment, so plain and explicit, has been ignored. The Sabbath memorial, declaring who the living God is, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, has been torn down, and a spurious sabbath has been given to the world in its place. Thus a breach has been made in the law of God. A false sabbath could not be a true standard.

In the first angel's message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject.” {2SM 105-106}

Now what was that portion which applied to the last days which was sealed? I've said it was Daniel 11:40-45; but how do we show that from the Bible that this is the portion that was sealed? We can do it in many ways, but notice chapter 12, in verse 4, Daniel is told to seal up the book, so we continue reading in verse 5:

- Daniel 12:5 “Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. 6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?”

Daniel just received his last vision; he's just gone through and been explained Daniel 11 and 12:1-3, Gabriel came and broke it down to him, but Daniel wants to understand something specific. He hears this discourse between angels and the question is 'how long until the end of these wonders, and notice what it says:

- 7 And I heard (The word for this in Hebrew means he listened intently) the man clothed in linen, (Christ) which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

Now Daniel was intently listening, he wanted to understand this vision. Now what part of the vision didn't he understand? Turn over to Daniel 10, this is the beginning of his last vision:

- Daniel 10:1 “In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.”

So there was something he understood but when the angels were talking and he was listening for a certain point, he said he heard—but he understood not. This phrase again in the Hebrew means, 'he couldn't put two and two together'. He thought they were talking about one portion and they were mentioning something else.

“What do you mean, time, times and a dividing of time—I understood the 1260 years, that's not what I want to know”. Then he said:

- 8 “And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

He specifically wanted to know the final parts of the prophecy.

- 9 “And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”
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“But I want to understand the last part of the vision—I understand Daniel 11:1-39 I understand it—it’s been explained in all the other visions, but what about 40-45 and 12:1-3? What about these portions?”

“Seal it up—it’s not for you.” But who is it for?

“The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days. The Scripture says, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4).

When is the ‘time of the end’? 1798? Notice what it says:

“When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, "Time shall be no longer." (See Revelation 10:6.) The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.

The Millerites—certain things were revealed to them, John wanted to write it down, but He said seal it up again—it was opened in 1844 after the events had transpired. It’s for us at the end of the world. Since 1844 we can look back on the experience of the Millerites, we can look back on the First and Second Angels’ messages—those Seven Thunders that were sealed. Time shall be no longer. The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.

What is the increase of knowledge?

“In the first angel's message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject.” {2SM 105-106}

Daniel 11:40-45 is the final movements of the Papacy. This is the increase of knowledge that is to prepare a people to stand in the latter days. What is the increase of knowledge? It’s the Latter Rain. The Latter Rain is Daniel 11:40-45 and a correct understanding of these events. If we don’t understand it, can we receive something we don’t understand? The Holy Spirit works upon our mind—not our emotions.

Part of those virgins had a ‘feelings’ religion. They were caught up in the emotional aspect of religion but they didn’t have the knowledge. And so many of God’s people have an emotional experience but have no understanding.

The Holy Spirit does not work on emotion—He works on the mind. Truth is not brought into the emotions—those five senses are the avenues of the soul that we are told to guard because Satan works on the emotions. It’s the mind that Jesus wants; it’s the mind that God is trying to work on.

“To John were opened scenes of deep and thrilling interest in the experience of the church. He saw the position, dangers, conflicts, and final deliverance of the people of God. He records the closing messages which are to ripen the harvest of the earth, either as sheaves for the heavenly garner or as fagots for the fires of destruction. Subjects of vast importance were revealed to him, especially for the last church, that those who should turn from error to truth might be instructed concerning the perils and conflicts before them. None need be in darkness in regard to what is coming upon the earth.” {GC 341.4}

Who records the final messages? John. But wait a minute, we said Daniel’s vision was the Latter Rain—so how can it be John’s vision that ripens the harvest of the earth? Daniel 11:40-45 is the Third Angel’s Message—it’s the same. People talk about preaching the Third Angel and have no clue what it is. It’s Daniel’s vision; it’s the same things that Paul was not able to write. remember when he was caught up to the third heaven and he saw things that it is not lawful for men to write? It was the same thing that John saw when Christ said to seal it up. It was the same things Ezekiel saw; it was the same things Isaiah saw; all the prophets, the Bible says, wished to be at this day. And we are here—living every portion of the Bible at once.

Brethren; if that doesn’t hit you—if that doesn’t make you really consider your stance with God—then nothing will arouse you.

The messages are the latter rain, and if we were to take a closer look at prophecy we would see that the three angels’ messages, and how we relate to them, are what will separate the tares from the wheat in the church. [See Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43]. The very way Revelation chapter 14 is written is based around this understanding.

The 144,000 have had an experience with God based upon their understanding of and experience in the prophetic word and are harvested as the first fruits, they then give the messages that are to ripen the harvest of the earth and as a result two classes are formed and the earth is harvested.

### **THE EXPERIENCE**

“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.”

Can you see Him? Can you see the Spirit? Then how are we to recognize his manifestation? If you can't see Him, you won't receive Him. The way the Spirit moves is through events. He shows Himself to people by movements throughout history. Unless we understand them, we will not receive it—and Brethren; that's the words of Jesus.

“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.” Testimony to Ministers, 507

We have a part to play in our own salvation and we have to be searching the Word of God as if you would actually find millions, and billions and trillions of dollars. If you knew that under this platform there was cash stacked, everyone in this room would bypass what I am saying—push me out of the way and tear up this floor. We need to understand that unless we are just devouring through the Word of God, we will not have that experience that will cross us over.

Jesus in John 14 let us know that if we don't see the Holy Spirit, we won't receive Him; He says:

- John 14:16, 17 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

Do you see Him? Do you see what is transpiring in the world right now? Do you see how it's repeating the Millerite history? You might be looking at Islam and the wars, but what does that have to do with the experience of the Millerites? If you don't know—you're not seeing. We need to understand where we are in earth's history and the way that we understand is by understanding the past. The only way we can know what is ahead is by understanding what has already happened. We have nothing to fear for the

future except as we forget how God has led us in our past history. And so many of us forget and have no idea.

That's why Satan through calculated study has caused the Millerite experience—the history of Adventism to be not understood by the majority of Seventh-day Adventists. It should be taught; it should be preached; it should be diligently chronicled and studied in every church—but it is not, because Satan knows that if you knew it—he'd have no power over you. He would have no power if you were settled in the Rock that is Christ Jesus. If you knew these things—oh, Brethren; what would transpire in your experience? But if you don't know them—nothing else will arouse your soul.

“If the truth for this time, if the signs that are thickening on every hand, that testify that the end of all things is at hand, are not-sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who profess to know the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which has been shining will overtake these souls.”

Do you understand how much light is shedding on the Adventist pathway right now? And if we don't understand it and follow with the light—darkness in proportion to that light will overtake us. We have no idea how dark that is!

“There is not the semblance of an excuse for their indifference that they will be able to present to God in the great day of final reckoning. There will be no reason to offer as to why they did not live and walk and work in the light of the sacred truth of the word of God, and thus reveal to a sin-darkened world, through their conduct, their sympathy, and their zeal, that the power and reality of the gospel could not be controverted.” Review and Herald, July 21, 1896

No excuse!! If we don't have a living testimony—there is no excuse!

The wedding can be completed—Jesus needs to have subjects that are ready. We saw in the parable of Jesus that the King came in and examined the guests and there was a man there that had not on the wedding garment. He had not on Christ—that living testimony, and when he was asked, ‘Friend; how did you enter in here not having on a wedding garment?’ Have you read his response? He was speechless.

We just read that if we are not aroused—if our sleeping energy is not aroused by the signs that are thickening on every hand, by the truth for this time, the light that's flooding on our pathway—we will not have a word to say to Jesus as to why. We'll be speechless.

He's examining the guests—He's looking down and He's waiting—but He won't wait too much longer for those garments to be spotless. We all need to have an experience. I believe that in many hearts the decision has been made—and we all need to continue in that choice.

Let us all kneel and pray that Jesus will keep us until He comes.