

FUTURE NEWS

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CERTAINTY OF PROPHECY

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19



All that God has in prophetic history specified to be fulfilled in the past has been, and all that is yet to come in its order will be. Daniel, God's prophet, stands in his place. John stands in his place. In the Revelation the Lion of the tribe of Judah has opened to the students of prophecy the book of Daniel, and thus is Daniel standing in his place. He bears his testimony, that which the Lord revealed to him in vision of the great and solemn events which we must know as we stand on the very threshold of their fulfillment.

"In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. That conflict is yet in progress. Those things which have been, will be repeated, and new theories will be continually arising. But God's people, who in their belief and fulfillment of prophecy have acted a part in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages, know where they stand. They have an experience that is more precious than fine gold. They are to stand firm as a rock, holding the beginning of their confidence steadfast unto the end.

"A transforming power attended the proclamation of the first and second angels' messages, as it attends the message of the third angel. Lasting convictions were made upon human minds. The power of the Holy Spirit was manifested. There was diligent study of the Scriptures, point by point. Almost entire nights were devoted to earnest searching of the Word. We searched for the truth as for hidden treasures. The Lord revealed Himself to us. Light was shed on the prophecies, and we knew that we received divine instruction....

"After the great disappointment there were few who set themselves to seek the Word with all their heart. But some souls would not settle down in discouragement and deny that the Lord had led them. To these the truth was opened point by point, and entwined with their most hallowed recollections and sympathies. The searchers after truth felt that the identification of Christ with their nature and interest was complete. Truth was made to shine forth, beautiful in its simplicity, dignified with a power and invested with an assurance unknown before the disappointment. We could then proclaim the message in unity.

"But among those who had not held fast their faith and experience, there was great confusion. Every conceivable opinion was presented as the message of truth; but the Lord's voice was, 'Believe them not; for I have not sent them.'

"We walked carefully with God. The message was to be given to the world, and we knew that this present light was the special gift of God. The impartation of this gift was the prerogative of God. His disappointed ones, who were still seeking after truth, were led step by step to communicate to the world that which had been communicated to them. The prophetic declarations were to be repeated, and the truth essential for salvation was to be made known. The work moved hard at first. Often the hearers rejected the message as unintelligible, and the conflict began in decided earnest, especially upon the Sabbath question. But the Lord manifested His presence. At times the veil which concealed His glory from our eyes was drawn aside. We beheld Him in the high and holy place.

"The Lord will not lead minds now to set aside the truth that the Holy Spirit has moved upon His servants in the past to proclaim." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 109-110.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified by the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future; for it is taking place before our very eyes. The historic and prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth—we are the final generation. Our emphasis is placed upon the prophetic word, including all of the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law and faith in His promises, we are to receive that experience.

FFA and its educational institution of **School of the Prophets (SOTP)** fully endorse the definition of the everlasting gospel as being the work of Christ in developing and thereafter demonstrating two classes of worshippers based upon the introduction of a three-step prophetic testing message. Coupled with this prophetic gospel, we uphold all aspects of country living and the medical missionary work.

FFA is proactively spreading God's final warning message through various mediums, such as this monthly newsletter, daily recorded classes held by **SOTP**, DVD production, biannual camp-meetings, and social media. An integral part of this responsibility is meeting the demands of our extensive travel itinerary. The urgency in advancing present truth extends to every corner of the earth. By God's grace, we are fervently working to meet such demands.

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WHY PROPHECY?

by TAMINA BLAESING

This article is purposed to affirm the importance of studying prophecy. Often times, people will bolster the idea that although it is well and good to understand prophecy, it is far more important to share the gospel instead. So, in this submission, we will cover why prophecy is paramount. Prophecy is the gospel. The first angel of Revelation 14 (arguably one of the most commonly known prophetic books in the Bible) is preaching the everlasting gospel. Our Savior came to this earth as a fulfillment of prophecy. Even the sanctuary itself had prophetic significance, as it predicted the work of Christ. Through prophecy, all of the different pieces of the puzzle of salvation come together and make a beautiful picture.

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:12-14.

Paul informs us here that we need to be teachers. This was also the commission Christ gave to His disciples—to go and teach all nations, kindreds, and tongues. The everlasting gospel of Revelation 14 is to be preached to the entire world. Additionally, Paul communicates that though we ought to be teachers, we also need someone to teach us “the first principles of the oracles of God”. We need milk first, then strong meat. But, we cannot subsist on milk only; we need meat. For if we remain consuming milk only, we are “unskillful in the word”. Further on in the passage, Paul writes what meat signifies—to be able to discern between good and evil, or between truth and error.

“The apostle cautioned the Thessalonians not to despise the **gift of prophecy**, and in the words, ‘Quench not the Spirit; **despise not prophesyings**; prove all things; hold fast that which is good;’ **he enjoined a careful discrimination in distinguishing the false from the true**. He besought them to ‘abstain from all appearance of evil;’ and closed his letter with the prayer that God would sanctify them wholly, that in “Spirit and soul and body” they might ‘be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you,’ he added, ‘who also will do it.’” *Acts of the Apostles*, 263.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 2 Timothy 2:15.

To discern between truth and error is to rightly divide the word of truth. This is the gift of prophecy, as we read in the quote from Sister White. The gift of prophecy is the meat that Paul writes about. Prophecy makes us both full of age and to be teachers, which we ought to be.

IS PROPHECY IMPORTANT TO US FOR THE TIME IN WHICH WE LIVE?

We have seen that prophecy is meat, making us full of age. This begs the question, is prophecy pertinent to the time in which we live? Is it important for me to personally know and understand prophecy? Is this topic of study salvational? The following passages will answer these questions, and we will find that it indeed is salvational to each individual.

“Peter exhorts his brethren to ‘grow in grace, and in the **knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.’ **Whenever the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths.** This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end. **But as real spiritual life declines, it has ever been the tendency to cease to advance in the knowledge of the truth. Men rest satisfied with the light already received from God's word and discourage any further investigation of the Scriptures. They become conservative and seek to avoid discussion.**

“**The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God's people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error.** When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for **themselves** to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition and worship they know not what.

“**I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith.** They have no just



appreciation of the work for the present time. **When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason.** Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. **When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth.** Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom.

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, **heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat.** The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. **This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold.** God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. **Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.**” *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 5, 706, 707.

We would have constant new light if we were feasting upon the meat of the word. But, the church today has become complacent and satisfied with the knowledge that they have. They have no need to seek for greater light; thus they have fallen asleep. This condition is repeated in every reform line. What about the state of the people in ancient Israel? When a prophet arose and judgment was pronounced upon the people, they converted for a time, only to later backslide again. So it was with the early Christian church. They deviated and lost their first love, falling victim to compromise. Precisely the same happened to Adventism. We received great light from God in the time of the Millerites, but not long after, the people of God fell asleep. Ever since this time, we have remained in our Laodicean condition. Thankfully, God in

His great mercy has aroused His people again through this prophetic message beginning at the time of the end. This light is to swell into the loud cry. The messages of this present truth movement are the meat that Paul writes we are to eat. It is the same message that the angel of Revelation 10 gives to John to eat. What does Sister White say regarding this message? Is it only for certain individuals? Is it limited to only a few people who understand it? No! She says that everyone is to study the Bible for themselves. Why is this? It is because if we wish to be counted among the faithful, we will be brought before the courts and will need to testify of the faith in which we profess. She also tells us that many will have no real evidence of why they believe what they claim to believe. We can attend every camp-meeting and watch all of the videos on present truth, but if we do not study this message for ourselves personally, if we do not learn the evidences of our faith for ourselves, how will we ever be able to teach the gospel to someone? Therefore, it is not purposed that only a few number of people understand this message. Christ desires that every individual studies prophecy for themselves.

Once, I had an experience at work that opened my mind to this subject. My brother and I were working with some colleagues together, and one day the topic of our conversation was about believing the Bible. Our colleagues had seen that we were vegetarian, that we prayed before we ate, and that we did not drink. Thus, they asked us what was the reason we did these things. We shared with them that we believe in God and that is our motivation behind such a lifestyle. This answer opened a new can of worms, and we began to talk about the Bible—why do we believe the Bible as it is written, why do we believe in Creation, why do we keep the Sabbath, etc. Hearing all of these questions made me aware of my poor condition. If I am not even able to explain the most basic understandings of my faith, how would I ever be able to share the third angel’s message with someone? This experience taught me how little I actually know and how important it is, as a professing Christian, to know for yourself why you believe the faith in which you profess.

“Whatever may be man’s intellectual advancement, **let him not for a moment think that there is no need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light. As a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy. We must watch with earnestness that we may discern any ray of light which God shall present to us.** We are to catch the first gleamings of truth; and through prayerful study clearer light may be obtained, which can be brought before others.

“When God’s people are at ease and satisfied with their present enlightenment, we may be sure that He will not favor them. It is His will that they should be ever moving forward to receive the increased and ever-increasing light which is shining for them. **The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light.** We are living at a time when Satan is at work on the right hand and on the left, before and behind us; and yet as a people we are asleep. **God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action.**”

Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, 708.

Sister White makes it abundantly clear that “as a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy”. Everyone is to study for themselves. “Study to shew thyself approved.” You and I are to study prophecy. Why? Because when we study prophecy, God sheds more light upon us, and we thus grow in our understanding of Him. We become full of age. Is it salvational that those who are now living at the end of the world grow in their understanding of God? We need to do so now more than ever before. For when the time comes that all earthly support will be cut off, our faith in Him will be our only Anchor. But, if we do not know God, we do not have an Anchor and will be swept away when the overflowing scourge will pass through.

THE TESTING MESSAGE

“Let every discourse that does not enlighten the soul, that does not answer the question, What must I do to be saved? be cut off from your program. Preach the testing message of the third angel. It is essential that our ministers preach the truth that has a direct bearing on the message for this time, and that they present the subjects in the most simple language. What must I do to be saved, and the righteousness of Christ, are themes that are of vital importance to the people.”

Letter 29, 1895.

Sister White tells us that anything that does not answer the question “What must I do to be saved?” must to be put away. Our churches and our institutions need to graduate from the milk of the word to the strong meat of the word. This is what will save us.

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of

many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days, and He says, ‘Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.’ Revelation 1:3.

“‘This is life eternal,’ Christ said, ‘that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.’ John 17:3. **Why is it that we do not realize the value of this knowledge? Why are not these glorious truths glowing in our hearts, trembling upon our lips, and pervading our whole being?**”

“In giving us His word, God has put us in possession of every truth essential for our salvation. Thousands have drawn water from these wells of life, yet there is no diminishing of the supply. Thousands have set the Lord before them, and by beholding have been changed into the same image. Their spirit burns within them as they speak of His character, telling what Christ is to them, and what they are to Christ. But these searchers have not exhausted these grand and holy themes. Thousands more may engage in the work of searching out the mysteries of salvation. As the life of Christ and the character of His mission are dwelt upon, rays of light will shine forth more distinctly at every attempt to discover truth. Each fresh search will reveal something more deeply interesting than has yet been unfolded. The subject is inexhaustible. The study of the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice and mediatorial work, will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last; and looking to heaven with its unnumbered years he will exclaim, ‘Great is the mystery of godliness.’” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 133.

We must study the book of Revelation; it is full of truth. Satan has blinded the eyes of many that they do not study or wish to understand prophecy. What is the reason for God’s people not waking up to the import of the message for our time? Sister White says the truth is essential for our salvation. How can we say that the “gospel” (term used in the generic connotation that the Adventist church employs) or the “sanctuary” are more important for study than prophecy is? In actuality, prophecy encompasses these two topics, but people do not wish to accept this. They hold fast to their traditions and wish to remain in their complacency. Revelation 3 informs us that the church of Laodicea believes themselves to be rich and in need of nothing. How sad that they do not realize how poor and wretched they are. This condition is the current



state of our church. Satan has so blinded the church that they do not realize the time of their visitation. We need to awaken out of our slumber by feasting upon the meat of the word, or the manna from Heaven. That is the only way to be saved.

THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

"It is our privilege to expect large things, even the demonstration of the Spirit of God. This is a power which will convict and convert the soul. **Our message is a life-and-death message, and we must let this message appear as it is the great power of God.** Then the Lord will make it effectual. We are to present it in all its telling force. The first and second angels' messages are bound up with the third angel's message. The power of the proclamation of the first and second angels' messages is to be concentrated in the third." *Letter 209, 1899.*

The messages of the three angels are the message for our time. How grave are these messages we are to proclaim! The three angels' messages are a matter of life and death. Such a message is the Holy Spirit, who comes to us through the latter rain—a message sent from God. What does the Spirit do within us when we accept the message?

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of **sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**.
John 16:6.

The Holy Spirit first convicts of sin. This is the first of three steps, or tests. Judgment being the last test. Prophecy is the message by which the Holy Spirit arouses and convicts of sin, showing that probation is about to close and that it is salvational to make it right with God. It is unfortunate that the church chooses to shut their ears to this, for it is far more comfortable to listen to a peace and safety message that neglects to inform me of my present Laodicean condition.

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

"Brethren, to whom the truths of God's word have been opened, what part will you act in the closing scenes of this world's history? Are you awake to these solemn realities? Do you realize the grand work of preparation that is going on in heaven and on earth? **Let all who have received the light, who have had the opportunity of reading and hearing the prophecy, take heed to those things that are written therein; 'for the time is at hand.'** Let none now tamper with sin, the source of every misery in our world. No longer remain in lethargy and stupid indifference. Let not the destiny of your

soul hang upon an uncertainty. Know that you are fully on the Lord's side. Let the inquiry go forth from sincere hearts and trembling lips, 'Who shall be able to stand?' Have you, in these last precious hours of probation, been putting the very best material into your character building? Have you been purifying your souls from every stain? Have you followed the light? Have you works corresponding to your profession of faith?

"It is possible to be a partial, formal believer, and yet be found wanting and lose eternal life. It is possible to practice some of the Bible injunctions and be regarded as a Christian, and yet perish because you lack qualifications essential to Christian character. If you neglect or treat with indifference the warnings that God has given, if you cherish or excuse sin, you are sealing your soul's destiny. You will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Grace, peace, and pardon will be forever withdrawn; Jesus will have passed by, never again to come within reach of your prayers and entreaties. While mercy lingers, while the Saviour is making intercession, let us make thorough work for eternity.

"Satan is not asleep; he is wide awake to make of no effect the sure word of prophecy. With skill and deceptive power he is working to counterwork the expressed will of God, made plain in His word. For years Satan has been gaining control of human minds through subtle sophistries that he has devised to take the place of the truth. In this time of peril, rightdoers, in the fear of God, will glorify His name by repeating the words of David: 'It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law.' Psalm 119:126.

"We as a people profess to have truth in advance of every other people upon the earth. Then our life and character should be in harmony with such a faith. The day is just upon us when the righteous shall be bound like precious grain in bundles for the heavenly garner, while the wicked are, like the tares, gathered for the fires of the last great day. But the wheat and tares 'grow together until the harvest.'" *Counsels for the Church, 342, 343.*

When the Lord has convicted us of sin by sending us His Holy Spirit through a message. After conviction, the next step is to obtain righteousness. It is not enough to know that the Sunday Law is coming soon and to know what my sins are. Present truth must be put into practice. It is here that prophecy produces a change in the character. God

can only forgive us our sins when we depart from them. He wishes to give us His robe of righteousness, and the price for this holy garment is to depart from iniquity. This is a moment by moment struggle that will last a life time.

THE ENEMY AT WORK

"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 to 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.

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein.' Jeremiah 6:16.

"The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a **resurrection from apparent death.**

"By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway. As we do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us. We need the Pentecostal energy. This will come, for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power.

"Perilous times are before us. **Everyone who has a knowledge of the truth should awake and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him.** We must put on the whole armor of God. **We must follow the directions given through the spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions.** God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy. **The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?**

"I beseech those who are laboring for God not to accept the spurious for the genuine. Let not human reason be placed where divine, sanctifying

truth should be. Christ is waiting to kindle faith and love in the hearts of His people. **Let not erroneous theories receive countenance from the people who ought to be standing firm on the platform of eternal truth. God calls upon us to hold firmly to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority."**

Counsels for the Church, 326.

NEED OF WATCHMEN

"Brethren, in the name of the Lord I call upon you to **awake to your duty.** Let your hearts be yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit, and **they will be made susceptible to the teaching of the word. Then you will be able to discern the deep things of God.**

"The testimony of Christ, a testimony of the most solemn character, is to be borne to the world. **All through the book of Revelation there are the most precious, elevating promises, and there are also warnings of the most fearfully solemn import. Will not those who profess to have a knowledge of the truth read the testimony given to John by Christ? Here is no guesswork, no scientific deception. Here are the truths that concern our present and future welfare. What is the chaff to the wheat?**

"The Lord is soon coming. **The watchmen on the walls of Zion are called upon to awake to their God-given responsibilities. God calls for watchmen who, in the power of the Spirit, will give to the world the last warning message; who will proclaim the time of night. He calls for watchmen who will arouse men and women from their lethargy, lest they sleep the sleep of death."** *Counsels for the Church, 327, 328.*

The Lord is calling for you and me to be watchmen on the walls of Zion. The job description for a watchman: to warn the people when danger is approaching. There is an abundance of evidence in the news today that the world is about to fall apart. The last six verses of Daniel 11 will soon be found their complete fulfillment. Yet our church is asleep! We are in the Laodicean condition. But, God in His mercy has imparted the knowledge of prophecy to us, that we may know the time in which we live and awaken to our duty and warn the people who are in darkness. Why is prophecy so important? Because the love of God is so great, that He has forewarned us and given us the privilege to know where we are in prophetic history; that probation will soon close and Christ is coming again to take His people home. What greater evidence of His love can He bestow upon us? He desires that we warn our brethren. But we must remember that Solomon



enlightens us to the repetition of history. Just as Christ was rejected by His people at the time of His first advent, so will the message of His second advent be rejected. This is because Christ will not come in the way the people expect Him to come.

A FIRM PLATFORM

"I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. **I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels' messages.** Said my accompanying angel, 'Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. **The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance.** The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.' I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. **God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform.** I saw individuals approach the platform and examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the platform to examine it and declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him. They recounted the wonderful work of God, which had led them to the firm platform, and in union raised their eyes to heaven and with a loud voice glorified God. This affected some of those who had complained and left the platform, and they with humble look again stepped upon it."

Early Writings, 258.

"Many look with horror at the course of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ; and as they read the history of His shameful abuse, they think they love Him, and would not have denied Him as did Peter, or crucified Him as did the Jews. But God who reads the hearts of all, **has brought to the test that love for Jesus which they professed to feel.** All heaven watched with the deepest interest the **reception of the first angel's message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided**

the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches.

Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place. **I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there. Like the Jews, who offered their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left;** and Satan, pleased with the deception, assumes a religious character, and leads the minds of these professed Christians to himself, working with his power, his signs and lying wonders, to fasten them in his snare." *Early Writings*, 261.

The above passage is quite well known in the circle of present truth. It states that we as Adventist have a solid, perfect foundation: the first, second, and third angels' messages.

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

Christ is prophecy. He is our foundation. For you cannot separate Him from prophecy; they are one. Just as you cannot separate justification by faith from works, since true faith demonstrates itself through works. These are also one.

Those who rejected the first and second angels' message crucified Christ. We are now under the proclamation of the third angel, and again people are rejecting the foundation. They are rejecting the prophetic warning message, thereby crucifying Christ. We have no excuse for not accepting and assimilating the message of the hour. Denying prophecy and declaring that it is of little to no importance is to deny Christ himself.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF PROPHECY?

Prophecy reveals to us where we stand in history.

"The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, **tells us where we are today in the procession of the**

ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order. Is it important?

"The coming of Christ is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. The judgments of God are in the land. They speak in solemn warning, saying: 'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' Matthew 24:44.

"But there are many, many in our churches who know little of the real meaning of the truth for this time. I appeal to them not to disregard the fulfilling of the signs of the times, which says so plainly that the end is near. Oh, how many who have not sought their souls' salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation: 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved'!

"We are living in the closing scenes of this earth's history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time—not a moment—to lose. Let us not be found sleeping on guard. Let no one say in his heart or by his works: 'My Lord delayeth His coming.' **Let the message of Christ's soon return sound forth in earnest words of warning. Let us persuade men and women everywhere to repent and flee from the wrath to come. Let us arouse them to immediate preparation, for we little know what is before us.** Let ministers and lay members go forth into the ripening fields to tell the unconcerned and indifferent to seek the Lord while He may be found. **The workers will find their harvest wherever they proclaim the forgotten truths of the Bible.** They will find those who will accept the truth and will devote their lives to winning souls to Christ." *Counsels for the Church*, 356.

One purpose for prophecy is to show us as God's people where we are in the history of this earth—how near we are to its close. If we do not know where we stand in time, we will fail to understand how imminent the return of Christ is. However, if we do realize how near we are to the end, it is our solemn duty to sound the message of warning to God's people who are which are ignorant "of the real meaning of the truth for this time."

"The great waymarks of truth, **showing us our bearings in prophetic history,** are to be carefully guarded, **lest they be torn down, and replaced**

with theories that would bring confusion rather than genuine light."

Selected Messages, book 2, 101,102.

Satan has been heavily at work over the past 160 years. He replaced the once established truths, which were the foundation for the Millerites, with theories that brought confusion into the church. Doing so has thwarted God's people from recognizing their time of visitation and how near the close of their probation is. But, in mercy, the dirt brush man came in to sweep away all of the dirt and the false coins that we may see the jewels again and step back onto the foundation which we once adhered to.

PROPHECY SATISFIES OUR GREATEST NEED—A REVIVAL

"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."

Selected Messages, book 1, 121.

"When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience...One thing will certainly be understood from the study of Revelations- that the connection between God and His people is close and decided."

The Faith I Live By, 345.

"When we as a people understand what this book (Revelation) means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival."

Testimonies to Ministers, 113.

Sister White is clear that a revival is our greatest need, and that the study of prophecy will bring about a great revival. Adventists long and pray for the latter rain—to them, a mysterious power that revives and converts the church. But little do they know that the latter rain is a message—a prophetic warning message—that will produce a revival among God's people; not a mysterious power that will transform you from one moment to the next.

TRUTH A CONTINUAL TEST

"[Malachi 3:1-3 quoted.] **Everything in our character that cannot enter the city of God will be removed;** if we submit to the Lord's refining, all the dross and the tin will be consumed. **As the Lord's chosen ones will receive the light appropriate for this time, they will not be led to exalt themselves....**

Those who win the treasure of heaven will be those who have laid up their treasure above. God gives us light and opportunities to learn from Christ; that we may be like Him in spirit and character; but we are



not to conform to any human standard. **We are to receive the truth of God into the heart, that it may regulate the life and form the character.** ‘The Lord is looking upon men in the different spheres in which they move, and **the character is tested under the different circumstances in which they are placed. The truth, pure, refined, elevating, is a continual test, to measure the man. If truth controls the conscience and is an abiding principle in the heart, it becomes an active working agent, it works by love and purifies the soul. But if the knowledge of the truth produces no beauty in the soul, if it does not subdue, soften, and recreate the man after God’s own image, it is of no benefit to the receiver; it is as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.** The truth as it is in Jesus, planted in the heart by the Holy Spirit, always works from within outward; it will be revealed in our words and spirit and actions toward everyone with whom we are connected (Letter 20a, 1893).” *SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1181.

Truth is a test. What truth?—present truth. The present truth for our time is the message of Daniel 11:40-45. We are on the verge of the fulfillment of verse 41. Since 9/11, when the angel of Revelation 18 came down and proclaimed his message, Adventism has been tested on this truth. The test is to either return to the old paths and to separate and come out of Babylon, or to stay in Babylon and lose salvation. Was not the prophetic message always a test? Jeremiah predicted the fall of Jerusalem, but none would believe it. Was it not a test for the early Christians? When they see the sign given by Christ, they were leave everything behind and flee the city. Did Noah give a prophetic testing message? The rain was to come, yet only eight people heeded the warning. How can we think that the prophetic testing message of today is any different? This message is essential; it decides our salvation.

PROPHECY LEADS TO THE STUDY OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE AND AN INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE

“In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 585.

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.

Often we hear the argument that studying prophecy is simply studying the books of Daniel and Revelation. But, this is not so. Sister White tells us that all of the books of the Bible meet and end in Revelation. This means that

if we study Revelation, we are studying the entire Bible. Every third word of the Revelation is taken from the Old Testament. In order to understand this book, we need to find the explanations of its symbols in other parts of the Bible. Daniel calls this running “to and fro”. By using this method to study the Bible, Daniel says that knowledge will be increased. And indeed it does. Ever since God’s people have used this method of running to and fro, knowledge about His word has increased greatly.

THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WORKS TRANSFORMATION

“We must have a knowledge of the Scriptures, that we may trace down the lines of **prophecy**, and understand the specification given by the prophets, and by Christ and the apostles; **that we may not be ignorant; but be able to see that the day is approaching, so that with increased zeal and effort, we may exhort one another to faithfulness, piety, and holiness.”**

The Review and Herald, July 31, 1888.

“The religion of Christ transforms the heart. It makes the worldly-minded man heavenly-minded. Under its influence the selfish man becomes unselfish, because this is the character of Christ. The dishonest, scheming man becomes upright, so that it is second nature to him to do to others as he would have others do to him. The profligate is changed from impurity to purity. He forms correct habits; **for the gospel of Christ has become to him a savor of life unto life.”**

The Southern Watchman, February 7, 1905.

“A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. **Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganisation, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices.** Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. **Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.”**

The Review and Herald, February 25, 1902.

“The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. It is the knowledge that works transformation of character. This knowledge, received, will recreate the soul in the image of God. It will impart to

the whole being a spiritual power that is divine. ‘We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory.’ 2 Corinthians 3:18.”

The Ministry of Healing, 425.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7.

The prophetic message brings about a sanctified fear, which is the beginning of knowledge. But we are not to become complacent with merely head knowledge. The knowledge we obtain from our studies must transform our lives. To simply understand that there will be a Sunday Law will not save us. But, the knowledge of this Sunday Law should work a transformation within us to put our lives in order in preparation for the event, that we may obtain God’s seal of salvation. This is why Christ sends us His prophetic testing message. That we might change our lives through His power and be saved. But if we reject His warning message and neglect to see the nearness of the close of probation and the earnest need of preparation, we will not be ready to meet our Lord. The truth needs to change us. Some do not believe this message pertains to character development. But in reality, it has everything to do with character development. The ensign that is to be lifted up will be perfect in character. They do not obtain a new character in the blink of an eye. Rather, it was accomplished by treading a long path of trials and self-denial. This message always imparts the power to proceed on this rugged pathway, and with every step of advance, we will become more transformed into the likeness and character of Christ because by beholding, we become changed.

PROPHECY MAKES CHRIST TO DWELL IN US

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.

2 Peter 1:19.

When we cling to the sure word of prophecy, the day star will arise in our hearts. Who is this day star? (Or, as called in other places in the Bible, the morning star.)

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. Revelation 22:16.

Jesus is the day star. If we study prophecy, Christ will abide in our hearts. What better promise can we be given? When Christ dwells in us, there can be no sin in



us. Therefore, by studying prophecy and allowing it to transform your daily life, it will cause sin to cease. Then, Christ will dwell in our hearts. Little by little we will obtain the character of Christ until the day comes that we are perfectly sealed in Him.

THE BITTER EXPERIENCE

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. Revelation 10:9, 10.

This verse is very familiar to us in this movement. In this passage, John takes the book from the angel and eats it; just as the angel said, it became bitter. On our reform line, we mark this experience as a disappointment. I always asked myself the question, why did the little book turn bitter and not into a different flavor? Before I address this, let us examine the following passage.

“The Master sees wherein we need to be purified for His heavenly kingdom. He will not leave us in the furnace until we are wholly consumed. As a refiner and purifier of silver, He is beholding His children, watching the process of purification, until He shall discern His image reflected in us. **Although we often feel affliction’s flame kindling about us, and at times fear that we shall be utterly consumed, yet the loving-kindness of God is just as great toward us at these times as when we are free in spirit and triumphing in Him. The furnace is to purify and refine, but not to consume and destroy. God in His providence would try us, to purify us as the sons of Levi, that we may offer to Him an offering in righteousness.”**

The Southern Watchman, February 7, 1905.

Sister White informs us that we need to be purified, and purification comes through trials. From what exactly do we need to be purified of, that we are thrown into the furnace of fiery affliction? It is sin. We are in need of a cleansing from sin. This is the purpose of the trials and afflictions that we face.

John was given the little book, which we know is a prophetic message. As he eats it, it is sweet. Everyone enjoys something sweet to eat. Most of the time when we eat something sweet, we tend to want more. As John eats the message, it becomes part of him. You are what you eat. But, as he is digesting it, it turns bitter. Why? Let us see what bitterness does to our system. Bitters



cause the system to produce more digestive juices and they help create a healthy appetite, in addition to aiding in digesting fat. Now, it should make sense why the little book turns bitter, instead of some other flavor. Fat represents sin in the Bible.

And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat is taken away from off the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour unto the Lord; and the priest shall ake an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him. Leviticus 4:31.

For whosoever eateth the fat of the beast, of which men offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord, even the soul that eateth it shall be cut off from his people. Leviticus 7:25.

The priests were not permitted to eat the fat of the sacrificed animals. The prophetic message, as it becomes part of us, must to turn bitter because it causes sin to be removed from our body. The bitter experience, the disappointments, the trials, and the afflictions are there to cause sin to be removed from us. But what must we do first? We need to take the little book (the prophetic message), out of the hand of the angel and eat it. May all of us take heed of the sure word of prophecy, that the morning star may arise in us. Amen.



SOIL part 2

by SARAH BLASING

The previous article in this series covered the foundation of gardening—the soil. It should be every gardener’s goal to cultivate healthy soil in order to grow healthy, rich fruits and vegetables that we can then harvest and eat. This is why the soil deserves special attention.

Soil consists of four different components: rock material, organic material, air, and water. In the previous submission, we took a closer look at rock material and saw that different grain sizes can be found in the soil of our gardens (sand, silt, and clay particles). We also saw that the composition of the different grain sizes influences the quality of the soil in terms of water, air, and nutrient content.

In this submission, we will examine the living organic components of the soil in order to understand the interconnections within the soil.

The soil components that are of living origin are called organic material. All plant and animal organisms, whether alive or dead, are organic. Dead organisms are decomposed and modified by living organisms. This process produces what is called humus. Living organisms represent the soil life. Anything creeping and crawling is part of this, be it moles, snails, bugs, spiders, worms, woodlice, or barely visible creatures like nematodes, amoebae, or paramecia. Also bacteria, fungi, algae, and lichen are part of this soil life. The varieties of soil organisms is beyond imagination. In one handful of good soil, there are far more organisms than humans on earth.

All living creatures need energy to live. This, of course, goes for soil organisms as well. They take energy out of any plant matter (e.g. fallen leaves), waste products of other organisms, or even from dead organisms. Here is an example of the cycle in our soil: dead plant matter becomes food for bacteria and fungi. Bigger microbes like nematodes and protozoa then eat these. Plants that, in turn, become food for larger living beings absorb the excrements of these microbes.

At some point, every soil organism becomes food for another organism either by dying or by being eaten by a predator. In both cases, bacteria and fungi (micro-organisms) are involved. They either decompose the dead matter or process the waste of other organisms. This way, the microorganisms absorb nutrients and store them inside themselves. If the nutrients were not absorbed by the microorganisms, they would get washed away and leave the soil void of those important nutrients. The nutrients stored by the microorganisms are then made available to the plants through an impressive process: microorganisms are attracted to excretions at the root of the plant. Their excrements attract another microbes that eat the microorganisms. The nutrients the microbes do not use for themselves are being eliminated and are thus directly available at the root of the plant. Isn’t it amazing how perfectly God’s nature collaborates? We have of course simplified these processes and presented them in rudimentary terms, but we can guess how wonderfully complex this interaction is.

At this stage, we will jump ahead a bit and mention fertilization. Commercial mineral (chemical) fertilizers offer nutrients to the plant in a directly absorbable form. As opposed to organic fertilizer, the mineral variety does not require the soil life to modify it so that it becomes absorbable for the plants. However, plants actually absorb only a fraction of chemical fertilizer. Most of it gets drained through the soil and enters the groundwater. This does not happen when microorganisms digest organic material, bind nutrients, and make them available to the plants.

Soil life not only acts as a recycling agent for dead matter that is then made available to the plants in the form of nutrients, but it also makes an important contribution to the structure of the soil. Soil structure is the spatial arrangement of the mineral and organic components of the soil. It shows where hollow spaces appear that are filled with air and water. When solid soil components (rock and organic material) are lying loose next to each other, this is called ‘**single-grained-structure.**’ The individual particles are not glued together; when the soil is dry, it just crumbles between our fingers.

The so-called ‘crumb structure’ is the most suitable structure for plant development and soil life. Mineral and organic soil particles join in so-called aggregates of different sizes. These aggregates get glued together by the soil life. Bacteria and fungi produce mucilaginous metabolic substances that bind the soil particles into aggregates. Other soil organisms, especially earth worms, bind organic and mineral particles in their intestine and then eliminate them. The thus formed ‘clay-humus complexes’ are the basis of the crumb structure. Those mucilaginous metabolic substances, fungal hyphae, bacterial colonies, humus substances, and tiny root hairs of the plants ensure the stability of the soil crumbs. The crumbs are veined with small pores like a sponge and are thus able to retain water very well. Between the loosely arranged crumbs, there is room for air. The most beneficial composition for plant life consists of 50% solid matter, 30% water and 20% air. This composition is determined by the soil structure, which depends on the quality of the soil life.

To summarize the above:

- The soil life contributes substantially to the fertility of the soil. The organisms in the soil are able to bind nutrients from organic material and prevent it from being washed away. At the same time, they make the nutrients available to the plant life.
- Each individual organism in the soil makes its contribution to the soil structure, be it bacteria and fungi that bind soil particles with the help of their own mucilaginous metabolic substances or bigger organisms like worms, larvae, and moles that stir the soil, loosen it, and leave cavities which enable water and roots to move through the soil easily.
- At the same time, a good soil structure offers a habitat for billions of microorganisms and promotes soil life, which in turn, promotes a beneficial soil structure.

- The soil structure influences the water and air supply to the soil. It is a fact that soil with a good structure can retain twice as much water as soil with an unfavorable structure.
- Furthermore, the soil structure is responsible for the nutrient supply as well as its ability to host roots and its ease of tillage.
- A good soil structure is key to good growth conditions.

Another benefit of intact and healthy soil life is protection from disease. Not every organism in the soil is useful for vegetable and fruit cultivation. There are bacteria, nematodes, and fungi that can provoke disease. For a healthy soil life it is not only the quantity of organisms that counts but also the variety, as there are tens of thousands of different species. This great variety helps to keep harmful organisms at bay by competing for nutrients, air, water, and space. Through symbiosis the mycorrhiza fungus protects plants from pests like nematodes and it increases the plant’s nutrient absorption. Bacteria, too, can collaborate with fungi in order to protect leaf surfaces.

We have now seen the importance of healthy soil life. The questions that arise next are: “How do I recognize intact soil life?” and “How can I improve the soil life?”

An intact soil life can be recognized by its good soil structure. A simple way of testing the soil structure is to rub a bit of soil between your fingers. If it crumbles very easily or if it stays a solid lump, the structure is not ideal. Another indication is the processing speed. An active soil life processes organic material. We must not, however, compare green lush material with the decomposition of woody material, as the latter generally requires more time to decompose than green material. Another method to check how much life is present in the soil of your garden is to count earth worms and other bigger organisms. Through observation of the food cycle of the soil organisms it becomes clear that from the presence of bigger organisms like earth worms and beetles we can draw conclusions regarding smaller animals and micro-organisms in the soil.

Take a spade full of soil, approximately the width, breadth and depth of a spade, and put it on some foil or into a bucket. Then, go through the soil and count the earthworms and beetles you find. For the soil to be healthy, there should be about 10-30 earthworms in this amount of soil.

If the soil life is not as active as it should be, you need to consider the following: every type of garden work influences the soil life in one way or another, whether



positively or negatively. When we work the soil or add nutrients we also impact on the soil life. When we use commercial chemical fertilizers, we circumnavigate the role the soil life should play in the natural process. The plants have easy access to free nutrients from the commercial fertilizer, which eliminates the need for collaboration with the microorganisms. Consequently, microorganism population decreases because they are no longer able to draw sufficient food from organic material. The free plant nutrients from fertilizers do not feed the microorganisms. It is not only fertilizers that cause flight and dying of microorganisms, but the same is true for pesticides. These cause the dying off of harmful fungi on cultivated plants, but in turn, they also decimate the good fungi in the soil. When microorganisms flee the soil or die, (which has an impact on the bigger organisms like nematodes, insects, worms, etc.) eventually, this will lead to the collapse of the soil life and consequently to the destruction of the soil structure.

Chemical fertilizers and pesticides are not the only culprits, though. The way the soil is worked can also have a harmful effect on soil life. But this is a topic for another time. At this point, I would just like to mention the negative effects of a rototiller. Due to the fast rotating blades that work their way through the soil, the soil structure is being cut down and nearly pulverized. This machine also kills worms and insects very easily.

To recap, this is what can be done to promote soil life:

- Conscious tillage
- Use of organic fertilizers
- Look for alternatives for chemical pesticides

There will be more in-depth articles in the future that speak to each of these topics.

As we can see, soil life promotion plays a vital role in the improvement of the soil structure. The soil life is promoted by a good supply of organic material, like compost. In the upcoming articles, we will look at inanimate organic material, such as compost and humus.

In closing, here God's promise for the faithful worker of the land:

"If the land is cultivated, it will, with the blessing of God, supply our necessities. We are not to be discouraged about temporal things because of apparent failures, nor should we be disheartened by delay. We should work the soil cheerfully, hopefully, gratefully, believing that the earth holds in her bosom rich stores for the faithful worker to garner, stores richer than gold or silver. The niggardliness laid to her charge is false witness. With proper,

intelligent cultivation the earth will yield its treasures for the benefit of man. The mountains and hills are changing; the earth is waxing old like a garment; but the blessing of God, which spreads a table for His people in the wilderness, will never cease."

Country Living, 17.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Daniel 11:40

Answer by **GEORGE & ANDREA SEAMAN**

Question: How is Daniel 11:40-45 both the first and the third angels' messages?

Answer: The last six verses of Daniel 11 encompass the entire Bible. Perhaps you have heard this stated before in presentations or videos if you have been in this movement for any length of time. In these last verses, the great controversy reaches its climax and comes to a conclusion by Daniel 12:1 when Michael stands up and human probation closes.

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. Daniel 11:40.

In Daniel 11:40 part A, we see the Time of the End which has been thoroughly established in this movement to be the year 1798 when the 1260-year time prophecy came to an end. This corresponds to the reform line of the Millerites. Part B is dealing with the king of the north (the papacy) coming against "him" (the king of the south, who at this time is the USSR) at the Time of the End, corresponding to the reform line of the last generation or the 144,000. This would be the year 1989. An established truth within this movement is that darkness precedes the Time of the End in every reform line, whether it be that of Moses, Elijah, Christ, the Millerites, or our time. Once the Time of the End arrives in history, the first angel descends with the message that will test the people during that time. There is an increase of knowledge as light on the prophecies that pertain to that time are unsealed. In our history, we entered into a period of darkness in the year 1957 with the compromise committed by our forefathers with the book *Questions on Doctrine* and we remained in this condition until 1989. At that time, God began to unseal light from the books of Daniel and the

Revelation. Remember that we are to repeat the history of our forefathers. This is one of the key truths that the reform lines seek to teach us: that history repeats, there is no new thing under the sun, God declares the end from the beginning, and His dealings with men are ever the same. God has a people with whom He has entered into a covenant relationship with. But, by their carelessness and inattentiveness, they proceed into a backslidden condition that results in them losing sight of the purity and holiness of God and His claims upon them. They become ignorant and lose the valuable knowledge they once had of Him. Then, He raises up a reformer to point His people back to Him and awaken them out of their stupor. If they do not heed the warning, lose their lives after they fulfill their allotted time of probation, and God enters into a covenant with a different group of people that are more worthy of Him. The reform lines serve to warn us of these things and to cause us to be aware of the times in which we live. In short, they remove any excuse to claim ignorance, since they serve as a pattern (or blueprint) showing the dealings of God with men.

Thus, history repeats. Now, let's look back at the time of the Millerites. Were the messages of the first two angels proclaimed and fulfilled during their time?

"The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages has been located by the word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. The Old Testament is the gospel in figures and symbols. The New Testament is the substance. One is as essential as the other. The Old Testament presents lessons from the lips of Christ, and these lessons have not lost their force in any particular. The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel's message. There cannot be a third without the first and second. These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been, and the things that will be." *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 26.

In answer to the question, yes, they were. But, if history is to be repeated and we are the last generation to live upon this earth, thus reaching the climax of the great



controversy, then we too must have the messages of the three angels repeated. Sister White says in the above passage that "we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed". If we are under the third message, but all three are to be proclaimed, then we must have the first, second, and third angels' messages repeated once more. As mentioned earlier, the first angel arrived with a message in 1989. What is the message of the hour that tests the covenant people of God during this time?

At the end of the world we are to better understand the books of Daniel and the Revelation. These books inform us of things that have been and things are to come. They are the essence of the three angels' messages. Indeed, the message of the third angel does include the warning against receiving the mark of the beast:

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Revelation 14:9.

The books of Daniel and Revelation complement one another. That is, they complete or bring each other to perfection. You need both of them to understand either of them.

"After these seven thunders uttered their voices, the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book: 'Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered.' These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order. Daniel shall stand in his lot at the end of the days. John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel's prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels' messages to be given to the world. The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time.

"The books of Daniel and the Revelation are one. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation; one a book sealed, the other a book opened. John heard the mysteries which the thunders uttered, but he was commanded not to write them." *SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 971.

What is the mark of the beast? How does one avoid it?

I propose to you that not only does the book of Revelation provide these answers, but the book of Daniel does the same. The diligent Bible student must take the experience of the prophet Daniel and note that God has marked out his history and experience as a blueprint for what is to come upon this earth and upon the people of God (for example, Daniel 3 is a type of the history that surrounds the Sunday Law). Also, it is in Daniel 11 where we see the waymark of the Time of the End fleshed out for both the history of the Millerites and that of our own history. But prior to this, the angel Gabriel reveals a very startling and intricate history to Daniel. This history pertains more to us living now, since these things were written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come (1 Corinthians 10:11). The history demonstrated in Daniel 11:1-39 shows who the king of the north and the king of the south is by the time we reach verse 40. The way mark of the Time of the End in Daniel 11:40 part B (1989 specifically) has passed, for we are now in the year 2018 and we are at the precipice of Daniel 11:41 to be fulfilled. When was this information unsealed for us? It was unsealed during this history and it actually composes the message that was formalized in 1996 that is still to be given to God's covenant people, the Seventh-day Adventists. Since we are under the proclamation of the third angel's message, and we know that there cannot be a third message without the first and second messages, history is to be repeated. All three messages are to be proclaimed and the message for the hour is dealing with a judgment hour cry in which God's people are to be aroused from a stupid condition. This same message is interconnected with the light that has been unsealed in the prophecies for the hour, which are the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation for our time. They reveal that we are at the precipice of the Sunday Law, which is to be found most definitely in Daniel 11:41 (among other places throughout Scripture). Because of this, we can uphold the fact that the message of Daniel 11:40-45 (and the reform lines, which further emphasize the principle that history repeats) is the message of all three angels.

OUR PRESENT DANGERS

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"The Lord has faithful watchmen on the walls of Zion to cry aloud and spare not, to lift up their voice like a trumpet, and show his people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sins. The Lord has permitted the enemy of truth to make a determined efforts against the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. He designs by this means to awaken a decided interest in that question which is a test for the last days. This will open the way for the third angel's message to be proclaimed with power.

"Let not one who believes the truth be silent now. None should be careless now; let all urge their petitions at the throne of grace, pleading the promise, 'Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do.' It is a perilous time now. If this land of boasted liberty is preparing to sacrifice every principle which enters into her constitution, making decrees to suppress religious freedom, and for the enforcing of papal falsehood and delusion, then the people of God need to present their petitions in faith to the Most High. There is every encouragement, in the promises of God, for those who put their trust in him. The prospect of being brought into personal danger and distress, need not cause despondency, but should quicken the vigor and hopes of God's people; for the time of their peril is the season for God to grant them clearer manifestations of his power. We are not to sit in calm expectancy of oppression and tribulation, and fold our hands, doing nothing to avert the evil. Let our united cries be sent up to heaven. Pray and work, and work and pray. But let none act rashly. Learn as never before that you must be meek and lowly in heart. You must not bring a railing accusation against any, whether individuals or churches. Learn to deal with minds as Christ did. Sharp things must sometimes be spoken; but be sure that the Holy Spirit of God is abiding in your heart before you speak the clear-cut truth; then let it cut its way. *You* are not to do the cutting.

"There is to be no compromise with those who make void the law of God. It is not safe to rely upon them as counselors. Our testimony is not to be less decided now than formerly; our real position is not to be cloaked in order to please the world's great men. They may desire us to unite with them and accept their plans, and may make propositions in regard to our course of action which may give the enemy an advantage over us. 'Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy.' While we should not seek for controversy, and should not needlessly offend, we must present the truth clearly and decidedly, and stand firm to what God has taught us in his word. You are not to look to the world in order to learn what you shall write and publish or what you shall speak. Let all your words and works testify, 'We have not followed cunningly devised fables.' 'We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place.'"