

HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF READY



Dr. Elliot Douglin

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HERSELF
READY

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INTRODUCTION

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience that, after ye have the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Heb 10: 35-37

The “tarrying time” will end when His bride will have made herself ready. After such a long delay let us fulfill 2 Peter 3: 12 and not only look for but hasten unto the coming of the day of God. Let us heed the following counsels from the Spirit of Prophecy:

“It makes me very sad to think of how many will fall short of the Bible standard. If we knew that in just one year from now, the Lord would come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, what a feeling of solemnity would rest upon us! How earnestly we should strive to prepare for His coming, that, clothed in the wedding garment, we might go in unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.”—**Manuscript 12, 1904. CW 109.4**

“In both the Old and the New Testament, the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people. To the mind of Jesus, the gladness of the wedding festivities pointed forward to the rejoicing of that day when He shall bring home His bride to the

Father's house, and the redeemed with the Redeemer shall sit down to the marriage supper of the Lamb. He says, 'As the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.' 'Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken;... but thou shalt be called My Delight;... for the Lord delighteth in thee.' 'He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love; He will joy over thee with singing.' Isaiah 62:5, 4, margin; Zephaniah 3:17. When the vision of heavenly things was granted to John the apostle, he wrote: 'I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.**' 'Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. Revelation 19:6" DA 151

"The terrible condition of the world would seem to indicate that the death of Christ has been almost in vain, and that Satan has triumphed.... But we have not been deceived. Notwithstanding the apparent triumph of Satan, Christ is carrying forward His work in the heavenly sanctuary and on the earth.... The solemn, sacred message of warning must be proclaimed in the most difficult fields and in the most sinful cities, in every place where the light of the great threefold gospel message has not yet dawned. **Every one is to hear the last call to the marriage supper of the lamb. From town to town, from city to city, from country to country, the message of present truth is to be proclaimed, not with outward display, but in the power of the Spirit."** AG 27

“We are not in the place where our fathers were. Advanced light is shining upon us in these last days. We cannot be accepted of God; we cannot honor him by rendering the same service, doing the same work that our fathers did. In order to be accounted guiltless before God, we must be as faithful in our time in following and obeying our light, as they were faithful in following and obeying the light that shone upon them. Of every individual member of his church, our heavenly Father requires faith and fruits according to the grace and light given. God cannot accept less. Every soul should place himself where the light will shine upon him. He should treasure every ray, that he may brighten and bless the souls of others with the heaven-sent radiance.” **RH April 25 1893.**

In this book we will be studying the **gospel** in the principles of *Divine-human Marriage*, and learning how the Lamb’s wife can make herself ready in this *generation of Restoration!*

CHAPTER ONE

WHO IS THE BRIDE OR WIFE OF CHRIST?

The Bible gives two answers to this question. This reminds us of the principle of double application and additionally it introduces the principle of the application of squares. For example double 12 = 24, but the square of 12 = 144. The numbers 12, 24, and 144 are significant in the book of Revelation.

FIRST ANSWER

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Eph 5: 23

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³²

This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Eph5:30-32

For thy Maker [is] thine husband; the LORD of hosts [is] his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. Isa 54: 5

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

In Ephesians 5 Paul compares human physical marriage to the divine spiritual marriage of Christ and the church, and emphatically declares that the church is the wife of Christ!

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Eph.5: 31, 32

Paul calls it a **great** mystery! And in verse 27 he explains that Christ's ultimate goal is to:

Present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph. 5: 27

“Christ honored the marriage relation by making it also a symbol of the union between Him and His redeemed ones. He Himself is the bridegroom, and the bride is the church, of which as His chosen one, He says, ‘Thou art all fair, My love; there is no spot in thee’ Song of Solomon 4: 7” **MH 356.2**

“The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Christ, as His bride, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the heavenly courts, the world above” **1 SM 305.3,**

SECOND ANSWER

In the Revelation, the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, is called the bride, the lamb's wife.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Rev.21: 2

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Rev 21: 9, 10

DOUBLE APPLICATION

We have one set of scriptures saying that *the church is the bride or wife of Christ*, and another set of scriptures saying that *the Holy City, the New Jerusalem is the bride or wife of Christ*.

Furthermore Revelation 19: 9 pictures the people of God as *guests* at the marriage supper or wedding feast of the *Lamb*.

In summary then, Revelation gives a picture of the New Jerusalem as the wife or bride of Christ and the redeemed people of God as the guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

In the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 there is described the coming of the bridegroom and the wise virgins went in with him to the marriage.

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. Matt 25: 10

Here again the people of God are pictured as guests.

WAITING FOR THE LORD

Let your loins be girded about, and [your] lights burning; ³⁶ And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. ³⁷ Blessed [are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. ³⁸ And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find [them] so, blessed are those servants. Luke 12: 35 - 38

Here again the people of God are to wait for their Lord, when He will return *from the wedding* and the promise is He will make them sit down to meat and will come forth and serve them. In other words they will be guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE MARRIAGE?

By comparing the following scriptures with each other we can conclude that the marriage *represents the reception by Christ of His Kingdom.*

And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. ¹⁵ And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these

things, he said unto him, Blessed [is] he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. Luke 14: 14,15

And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; ³⁰ That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Luke 22: 29, 30

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7 :13, 14

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. ¹⁶ And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Rev.11: 15, 16.

The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom is called the bride, the Lamb's wife.

DIVINE-HUMAN MARRIAGE

Divine-human marriage is central to the plan of salvation. In later chapters we shall show that there are four distinct but inseparable unions in Divine-human Marriage.

Both the marriage to the New Jerusalem and the marriage to the church are phases of the same **Divine-human** Marriage. The splendor, beauty and glory of the New Jerusalem symbolize the character perfection of the church. The square of 12 = 144. The sealed remnant are called 144,000 in Revelation 7 and the thickness of the wall of the New Jerusalem is described as 144 cubits, symbolizing the perfect strength and depth of the character perfection of the remnant against all the forces of evil which Satan's kingdom of darkness will throw at them in the final crisis.

The end-time remnant church must and will fully reflect the glorious character of Christ. When the remnant attain to that harvest ripe experience the wife would have made herself ready. Until this happens Christ cannot receive the kingdom.

A SOLEMN WORK

Says the prophet: "Who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:2, 3. Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of

purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.

“When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. ‘Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.’ Malachi 3:4. Then the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a “glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.” Ephesians 5:27. Then she will look “forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.” Song of Solomon 6:10.” **GC 425.2**

APPEAL

“The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife. She should keep herself pure, sanctified, holy. Never should she indulge in any foolishness ; for she is the bride of a King. Yet she does not realize her exalted position. If she understood this, she would be all glorious within” **7 BC 986.1**

CHAPTER TWO

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Only the Bible can answer this question. The answer is so deep that only the Spirit of God by the word of God can teach us the truth of what **The Church** is. We already know that Paul calls it a great mystery, not just a mystery but a *great* mystery! (Ephesians 5: 32). We must begin with the basics and then plunge deeper.

What does the Bible say **The Church** is?

1. THE BODY OF CHRIST

And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church,²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Eph 1: 22, 23;

So we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Rom 12: 5;

1 Corinthians 12: 13, 27;

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence. Col 1: 18

“As soon as the human agent becomes United with Christ in heart, soul, and spirit, the Father loves that soul as a part of Christ, as a member of the body of Christ, He Himself being the glorious Head” **FE 466.2**

“The church is the bride, the Lamb’s wife. She should keep herself pure, sanctified, holy. Never should she indulge in any foolishness; for she is bride of a King. Yet she does not realize her exalted position. If she understood this, she would be all glorious within” **7 BC 986.1 (Letter 177, 1901)**

2. THE FULLNESS OF HIM

In Ephesians 1: 22 and 23 Paul states that “The Church is the fullness of Him that filleth all in all”.

Commenting on this passage AT Jones wrote:

“Who is He that filleth all in all? Only God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. What is the extent of this Fullness? (See Jeremiah 23:24; Psalm 139: 7 to 10). He fills heaven and earth. The Church is the Fullness of Him, therefore The Church –The Church of the Bible, The Church of God.....fills heaven and earth. That conclusion and truth is simply inescapable “A T Jones: What Is The Church, page 8

3. THE RECONCILED

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have

the preeminence. ¹⁹For it pleased [the Father] that in him should all fulness dwell; ²⁰And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven. Col 1: 18-20

“Whoever in the earth is reconciled to God by the blood of the Cross, is a member of The Church, and whosoever in heaven is reconciled to the same God by the same blood of the same Cross, is a member of The same Church. One sublime arm of the Cross of Christ embraces heaven, the other embraces the earth; and thus by the Cross of Calvary both heaven and earth are embraced in One Heart of Love and are reconciled to God. And this reconciled Universe is The Church of God which is the fullness of Him” A T Jones: What Is The Church, page 9

4. THE UNIFIED

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him: Eph 1: 9, 10

“This scripture tells, then, that in Christ God is unifying with Himself the universe of intelligences: all things that are in heaven and that are in earth.”

“And that unified universe is The Church.”

“In all the wide universe, whosoever is unified with God in Christ by the Holy Spirit, whether he be seraph, cherub, angel

or man, he is a member of The Church. And that is The Church; and nothing else is” **AT Jones: What Is The Church, page 9**

5. THE HOUSEHOLD

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Eph 2: 12, 13

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; Eph 2: 19, 20

That holy Temple, that Habitation, that Household of God is The Church!

6. THE WHOLE FAMILY

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, Eph 3: 14, 15

“All in heaven and in earth who are partakers of God’s promise and purpose in Christ compose just one family: - the whole family in family in heaven and earth. And this Family is The Church which is the fullness of Him Who fills heaven and earth, and from whom the whole Family in heaven and earth is named.” **AT Jones: What Is the Church, page 11**

7. WRITTEN IN HEAVEN

For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, Heb 12: 18

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,²³To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, Heb 12: 22, 23

Verse 23 tells us several facts concerning The Church. It is called:

The General Assembly

Church of the firstborn

Members are written in heaven

SUMMARY

The Church that is being discussed here is the *universal* church made up of the church of redeemed sinners on earth and the church of unfallen beings above.

CLOSING GEM

“I would that every soul who sees the evidences of truth, would accept of Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. Those who thus accept of Christ are looked upon by God, not as they are in Adam, but as they are in Jesus Christ, as the sons and daughters of God. The Lord will no more cast off the humblest, lowliest believer in Jesus than he will demolish his throne. We

are accepted in the Beloved. We are members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.”

“The church of God upon the earth is one with the church of God above. Believers on the earth, and those who have never fallen in heaven, are one church. Every heavenly intelligence is interested in the assemblies of the saints who on earth meet to worship God in spirit and truth and in the beauty of holiness. In the inner court of heaven they listen to the testimonies of the witnesses for Christ in the outer court on earth, and the praise and thanksgiving that come from the church below are taken up in the heavenly anthem, and praise and rejoicing resound through the heavenly court because Christ has not died in vain for the fallen sons of Adam. While angels drink from the fountain head, the saints on earth drink of the pure stream flowing from the throne of God, making glad the city of God. O that we could all realize the nearness of heaven to earth! When the earth-born children know it not, they have the angels of light as their companions; for the heavenly messengers are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. A silent witness guards every soul that lives, seeking to win and draw him to Christ.”

“The angels never leave the tempted ones a prey to the enemy, who would destroy the souls of men if permitted to do so. As long as there is hope, until they resist the Holy Spirit to their eternal ruin, men are guarded by heavenly intelligences. Let us all bear in mind that in every assembly of the saints below are

the angels of God, listening to the thanksgiving, the praise, the supplication that is offered by the people of God in testimonies, songs, and prayers. Let them remember that their praises are supplemented by the choirs of the angelic host above.” **ST June 6, 1895.**

CHAPTER THREE

THE CHURCH ON EARTH

In Chapter Two we learnt that “The church of God upon the earth is *one* with the church of God above. Believers on earth, and those who have never fallen in heaven, are *one* Church” ST June 6, 1895. Or as the Apostle Paul puts it in Ephesians 3: 15: “*Of whom the whole Family in heaven and earth is named*”

But it is The Church on earth that has the more critically important role of the two subdivisions. The members of the Church on earth are in the Kingdom of Grace being prepared for the Kingdom of Glory, while the unfallen intelligences are in the Kingdom of Glory already. Yet it is the revealing of God’s Spirit of Love in the plan of Redemption for fallen humanity, which opened and continues to open the eyes and understanding of the unfallen intelligences to enable them to forever more clearly and analytically discern Satan’s lies and false charges against The Father and His Son and to confirm in their minds that Satan is a liar and murderer (John 8: 44) from the outset of his rebellion while God is the God of infinite Love, justice, freedom and benevolence!

In fact, the church on earth has the crucial responsibility of revealing to the church above the ‘manifold’ Wisdom of God.

“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God” Eph 3: 10 (KJV)

“God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places”. Eph 3: 10 (NLT).

EKKLESIA

The Greek word *Ekklesia* (translated *church*) literally means *a gathering or assembly*. So, when Paul wrote to *a gathering or assembly (ekklesia) of God in a house*, the 1611 translators translated it *“the church of God in that house”*. (In Paul’s day believers met in small groups rather than in large numbers.)

Jesus is the Head and Foundation or chief corner stone of the church which He loved and bought with His own blood and sanctifies it with the washing of water by the word that He might present it a glorious church without spot or wrinkle. (1 Cor.3:11; Ephesians 2: 19-22; Ephesians 5: 25 – 27).

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR THE EKKLESIA OF GOD. (TRANSLATED CHURCH OF GOD)

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous

light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to “the principalities and powers in heavenly places,” the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10.” AA 9.1

When this *final and full display of the love of God* shall be eventually manifested through remnant of the woman’s seed, His *wife would have made herself ready!* Rev.19:7,8

GOD’S FORTRESS

“The church is God’s fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people.” **AA 11.2**

“During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders.”**AA 12.1**

1 Timothy 3:15, TEV: “If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, *a pillar and buttress of the truth*”

“Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.” **AA 12.1**

THE KINGDOM OF GRACE

“Whereunto,’ asked Christ, ‘shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?’ Mark 4:30. He could not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ’s kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion, is banished. This kingdom is to uplift and ennoble humanity. God’s church is the court of holy life, filled with varied gifts and endowed with the Holy Spirit. The members are to find their happiness in the happiness of those whom they help and bless.” **AA 12.2**

VINE AND BRANCH (JOHN 15)

“As the branch derives its nourishment from the vine, so all who are truly converted draw spiritual vitality from Christ. ‘Verily, verily, I say unto you,’ he declared, ‘Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the

living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever... (John 6: 53 to 58)

“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. ***From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.***” John 6: 66 - 69

“Thus Christ presents the false union with himself in contrast with the true. Those who have not a living connection with Christ may to outward appearance be in fellowship with him. Their ***names may be enrolled on the church books, but they are not members of his body.*** They do not bear fruit to the glory of God. ‘Ye shall know them by their fruits,’ Christ said. ‘Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth

evil fruit. A good tree can not bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

“Christ has provided means whereby our whole life may be an unbroken communion with himself; but the sense of Christ’s abiding presence can come only through living faith. There must be a personal consecration to him. Self must be hid with Christ in God; then the grace received will be constantly imparted as a grateful offering to God. In this union Christ identifies himself with man before God and the heavenly universe. ‘But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.’ Our sins are reckoned to Christ. His righteousness is imputed to us, and we are made the righteousness of God in him. (John 1: 11, 12; 2Cor. 5:18 to 21). Because of his atoning sacrifice, our prayers go up to the Father, laden with the fragrance of Christ’s character, and, one with Christ, we are accepted in the Beloved.”

APPEAL

“Christ’s connection with his believing people is illustrated by this parable as by no other. We should study the lesson, that we may know what the parent stock is to the branch, and in what light the Lord regards those who believe and abide in Christ. Let all contemplate the completeness it is their privilege to have, and ask themselves the question, Is my will submerged in Christ’s will? Is the fullness and richness of the Living Vine—his goodness, his mercy, his compassion and love—seen in my life and character?” **RH September 18, 1900.**

CHAPTER 4

DIVINE-HUMAN MARRIAGE: A GREAT MYSTERY. PART ONE THE PRIMARY UNION:

ITS FIRST TWO DIMENSIONS

In Ephesians 5: 32, we are told that the marriage between Christ and the church is a great mystery, even though the Apostle Paul compares it with human marriage in order to enable us to get, at least, a beginner's insight into the mystery. So deep is this mystery that even though we are merely, as it were, 'scratching' the surface we need to study it stage by stage, step by step.

There are 4 levels of union in Spiritual marriage in the Plan of Redemption: 1. The Primary Union between the Divine Nature and fallen human nature in the incarnate Son of God; 2. The Secondary Union between Christ and the individual believer; 3. The tertiary union between Christ and His Church; and 4. The quaternary union between Christ and His Kingdom.

First, we must study the **Primary Union** between the Divine Nature and fallen human nature in the incarnate Son of God. **This Primary Union was/is *three-dimensional*.**

In Matthew 22 is recorded the **parable of the marriage feast**, which we shall study in a later chapter, but pay attention to two foundational facts in this parable found in **Christ's Object Lessons**.

“By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding.” **COL 307:1**

THE INCARNATION

The Incarnation is the term used for the Son of God becoming flesh. It is an incomprehensible mystery John 1: 1- 3 and verse 14.

“That God should thus be manifested in the flesh is indeed a mystery: and without the help of the Holy Spirit, we cannot hope to comprehend this subject. The most humbling lesson that man has to learn is the nothingness of human wisdom, and the folly of trying, by His own unaided efforts, to find out God”. **ISM 249:1**

THE FIRST DIMENSION OF THE PRIMARY UNION

By taking upon Himself our corporate fallen human flesh He became *one* flesh with us. Hebrews 2: 14 to 18; Rom.1:3; Rom.8:3

THE SECOND DIMENSION OF THE PRIMARY UNION

His purpose in becoming *one flesh* with fallen humanity was to make fallen humanity *one spirit* with Him! “But he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit” **1Cor.6: 17**

“Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one Spirit with Him” **DA 388**

We have so far studied the two basic dimensions in the *primary union* between the Divine Nature and fallen human nature **in the incarnate Son of God.** (The Third Dimension will be an even more amazing study)

“Divinity and humanity were mysteriously combined, and man and God became one. It is in this union that we find the hope of our fallen race. Looking upon Christ in humanity, we look upon God, and see in him the brightness of his glory, the express image of his person.” **YI July 30, 1896**

“But although Christ’s divine glory was for a time veiled and eclipsed by His assuming humanity, yet He did not cease to be God when He became man. The human did not take the place of the divine, nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of godliness. The two expressions ‘human’ and ‘divine’ were in Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a distinct individuality. Though Christ humbled Himself to become man, the Godhead was still His own. His deity could not be lost while He stood faithful and true to His loyalty.” **5 SDA BC,1129 (ST May 10, 1899).**

TWO NATURES, ONE PERSON

The incarnate Son of God possessed *two natures*. He was fully God and fully human, yet the Divine Personality fused with and functioned only through the human personality, so that He was and ever will remain One person. (Read John 1:14; Colossians 2: 9). This mystery we accept by faith though it is beyond our comprehension.

TWO FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES OF THE INCARNATION OR PRIMARY DIVINE-HUMAN UNION

Firstly: To break Satan's deceptive power by the full revelation of God's character of Agape Love through our human nature which the Son of God took on, in order that a world darkened through misapprehension of God might be brought back to God, not by force but by the demonstration of God's incomprehensible *Love*. John 1:14 to 18; John 8: 12 (See DA 22). The incarnate Son of God, in His sufferings and death for our human guilt, fully revealed God's Agape Love.

Secondly: To redeem humanity by submitting our human nature, (which He took on), to the **will of God**, (**straight through to the agonies of suffering the *separation from the Father***), **thereby perfecting human character, in fact, thereby creating a new human character as a victorious reflection of the Divine character**. In taking upon Himself our human will and nature and submitting both to the **Will of God**, the man Christ Jesus, as our Substitute and Surety had to learn obedience by the things He suffered in order to make fallen humanity one in spirit with Him.

“While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered” Heb 5: 7 - 9 NLT

AT Jones put it beautifully in Lecture 11 of his 1895 Lectures when he wrote, (commenting on Ephesians 2:15):

“God makes one new man out of God and a man. And in Christ God and man met so they can be one”

“Justice demands that sin be not merely pardoned, but the death penalty must be executed. God, in the gift of His only-begotten Son, met both these requirements. By dying in man’s stead, Christ exhausted the penalty and provided a pardon. ISM 340.1

“Man through sin has been severed from the life of God. His soul is palsied through the machinations of Satan, the author of sin. Of himself he is incapable of sensing sin, incapable of appreciating and appropriating the divine nature. Were it brought within his reach there is nothing in it that his natural heart would desire it. The bewitching power of Satan is upon him. All the ingenious subterfuges the devil can suggest are presented to his mind to prevent every good impulse. Every faculty and power given him of God has been used as a weapon against the divine Benefactor. So, although He loves him, God cannot safely impart to him the gifts and blessings He desires to bestow.” **ISM 340.2**

“But God will not be defeated by Satan. He sent His Son into the world, that through His taking the human form and nature, humanity and divinity combined in Him would elevate man in the scale of moral value with God.” ISM 340.3

AN IMPORTANT POINT

The first Adam with sinless, unfallen flesh, in a perfect environment, *chose* to disobey God; the second Adam with sinful, fallen flesh, in a corrupt and hostile world, chose to obey God. Therefore by virtue of the plan of salvation, disobedience (sin) or obedience (righteousness) is

determined *not by one's flesh but by one's choice to reject or accept Christ's salvation, under the convicting work of the Holy Spirit!*

“By His obedience to all the commandments of God, Christ wrought out a redemption for men. This was not done by going out of Himself to another, but by taking humanity into Himself. Thus Christ gave to humanity an existence out of Himself. To bring humanity into Christ, to bring the fallen race into oneness with divinity, is the work of redemption. Christ took human nature that men might be one with Him as He is one with the Father, that God may love man as He loves His only-begotten Son, that men may be partakers of the divine nature, and be complete in Him. **ISM 250.3**

“The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only-begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ. This union is represented by the union of the vine and the branches. Finite man is united to the manhood of Christ. Through faith human nature is assimilated with Christ's nature. We are made one with God in Christ.” **ISM 251.1**

The victorious completion of these *two dimensions* paved the way for the **Third Dimension** of the **Primary Union** of Divinity and humanity in Christ, we shall have a look at this Third Dimension next chapter.

“By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His Divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey” **DA 24.**

CHAPTER 5

DIVINE-HUMAN MARRIAGE: A GREAT MYSTERY: PART TWO THE PRIMARY UNION:

THE THIRD DIMENSION OF THE PRIMARY UNION

There are *three* dimensions in *the primary union* of spiritual marriage in the God-man Jesus Christ. We looked at the first *two* in chapter 4.

But before we study the third dimension of the primary union, we need to recount the amazing achievements of Christ's victory.

Jesus developed a mature, perfect, victorious human character in our fallen flesh. This perfection included the perfect faith-love relationship with His Father, perfect surrender to His Father, perfect obedience to His Father's will and to His Father's law of Love. In the temptations in the wilderness, and all through His life on earth, Satan attacked Him relentlessly trying to force or deceive Him into departure from the path of unselfish, self-sacrificing Agape Love into the path of manifesting human *self-will* or *own-wayness* (*which is the root of all law transgression*).

All the hereditary tendencies to sin that are in our fallen flesh were in His flesh because He took on our fallen flesh; but He kept those tendencies from ever entering His character by being emptied of self through constant surrender to His Father. And He had to keep out those tendencies from spoiling His character *while carrying the full load of our guilt as the sin-bearer*. That victory was accomplished by His free choice of absolute surrender to His Father Who filled Him with the Holy Spirit and kept Him, and our humanity in Him, from ever committing any sin!

In the final Gethsemane/ Calvary battle, while Christ was carrying in His soul the horrible load of our collective human sin and guilt, Satan attacked Christ's mind (spirit and soul) with the utmost pressure. But in that unimaginably severe agony of suffering the separation from His Father (because of our sins), He remained completely loyal in full surrender to His Father and, by faith, He completely and comprehensively conquered and vanquished Satan and the Satanic government of sin. He *exhausted the penalty*, paid the debt **in full** for our guilt of law transgression and *fully satisfied* Divine justice for our collective human guilt. He thereby acquitted humanity from the Adamic or first condemnation and gave all mankind *corporate legal (charizomai) pardon or justification of life*, (Romans 5: 18); *which means a probationary physical life-time in which to decide to accept or reject Christ and the free gift of salvation!*

All through His ordeal at Calvary He suffered the indescribable torture of spirit and soul as His Father withdrew His beams of light and glory. Jesus was in fact experiencing the mechanism or process of separation from God (called the wrath of God) that would normally annihilate the sinner. He was, in fact, while alive and fully conscious, tasting the *sufferings* of the eternal death that was incurred by Adam's fall and

our collective human guilt. When the allotted period of separation ended, He cried out “*It is finished*”, but He was *not* annihilated because not *only* had He remained *innocent* but *He* had *overcome the full Satanic onslaught by victorious faith in His Father*. This is the faith of Jesus. He then bowed His head and died the physical death. Matthew 27:46,50; John 19: 30; 2 Tim.1: 10.

In other words, He did *not* succumb to the *annihilating* end-point of the process of separation from God which would normally lead to the eternal death that hung over the race on account of the Adamic condemnation. He *suffered* its agonies and *conquered* or abolished it and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Those *sufferings* were the price He paid for our corporate legal redemption, and that *conquest* was the utter defeat of Satan’s government. He “*spoiled principalities and powers and made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it*” Colossians 2:15. Yes, indeed: “*All men have been bought with this infinite price.*” COL 326

“He redeemed Adam’s disgraceful failure and fall, and was conqueror, thus testifying to all the unfallen worlds and to fallen humanity that man could keep the commandments of God through the divine power granted to him of heaven.” **3SM 136.3**

This means that those who reject Him will *not* be condemned by Adam’s fall but *will be condemned by* their own rejection of Christ and will be consumed by the second eternal death. John 12: 44 – 47.

Before we proceed further, consider these SOP Quotations:

“Then who can approach to a conception of what Christ endured when standing as surety for His church, in the solemn hour of atonement, when He yielded up His life as a sacrificial offering? Never, never can it be said that God will again so

manifest His holiness, His spotless purityHis utter hatred of sin, His solemn purpose to punish it, and that in the only One who could bear the strokes in behalf of the sinner and, because of His innocence, would not be consumed.” **HM Nov.1, 1897 (para.5) (HM= Home Missionary)**

“When He closed His eyes in death upon the cross, the soul of Christ did not did not go at once to heaven, as many believe, or else how could His words be true: ‘I am not yet ascended to my Father’? The spirit of Jesus slept in the tomb with His body, and did not wing its way to heaven, there to maintain a separate existence, and to look down upon the mourning disciples embalming the body from which it had taken flight. All that comprised the life and intelligence of Jesus remained with His body in the sepulcher; and when He came forth it was as a whole being. He did not have to summon His spirit from Heaven. He had power to lay down His life and He had power to take it up again” **5 BC 1150.6**

WHICH NATURE DIED? WHICH NATURE WAS LAID DOWN?

When Jesus died on the cross His fallen physical human nature died, His Divine Nature *did not die* because His Divine Nature *could not die*. As a *person* He died and therefore His Divine Nature with the Divine Life was *laid down*.

“When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible”
5 BC 1113.2

DEATH SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY

In His resurrection, the mechanism stated by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 25:8 first part) and quoted by the Apostle Paul (1Cor. 15: 54 last part) was triumphantly fulfilled. The dead physical flesh was swallowed up in Christ's victory and *ceased to exist*. Simultaneously the Divine Nature and Life gave birth to Christ's new glorified human body which therefore possesses, and lives by, the Divine Nature and Life of the Son of God!

This glorified humanity in Christ became the *prototype* of the new *unique Divine - human* family, a new and unique species in the universe which, as we shall see, will elevate redeemed humans to the Throne of Christ!

“When the voice of the angel was heard saying, “Thy Father calls thee,” He who had said, “I lay down my life, that I might take it again,’ ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,’ came forth from the grave to life that was in Himself. Deity did not die. Humanity died, but Christ now proclaims over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, ‘I am the resurrection, and the life.’ In His divinity Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death. He declares that He had life in Himself to quicken whom He will. **5BC 1113.4**

“I am the resurrection, and the life.” This language can be used only by the Deity. All created things live by the will and power of God. They are dependent recipients of the life of the Son of God. However able and talented, however large their capabilities, they are replenished with life from the Source of all life. Only He who alone hath immortality, dwelling in light and life, could say, ‘I have power to lay down again.’ All the human

beings in our world take their life from Him. He is the spring, the fountain of life (**Manuscript 131, 1897**). **5BC 1113.5**

“Christ was invested with the right to give immortality. The life which He had laid down in humanity, He again took up and gave to humanity. ‘I am come,’ He says, ‘that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly’ (**The Youth’s Instructor, August 4, 1898**). **5BC 1113.8**

IN SUMMARY

We have seen then that there were *three* dimensions to the *primary union* of the marriage of Divinity and humanity in Christ.

Firstly: The Son of God became one flesh with fallen humanity and was victorious over that fallen flesh, the world and the devil.

Secondly: Humanity in Him became one spirit with Him. This means that the character of humanity was perfected in righteousness in Him; in Him the human will was sanctified and emptied of self.

Thirdly: Having borne our corporate guilt and having endured the infinite agony of our separation from His Father for us, as us, He triumphantly conquered and abolished the eternal death that was incurred by the Adamic condemnation. He then died the physical death and, in the resurrection, His Divine Nature and immortal Life became the *life* of the new glorified human body; redemptive birth of the new, unique divine-human family had been completed.

“The gift of God to man is beyond all computation. Nothing was withheld. God would not permit it to be said that He could have done more or revealed a greater measure of love. In the gift of Christ He gave all heaven” **AG 53.3**

“This is a great mystery, a mystery that will not be fully, completely understood in all its greatness until the translation of the redeemed shall take place. Then the power and greatness and efficacy of the gift of God to man will be understood. But the enemy is determined that this gift shall be so mystified that it will become as nothingness” **(Letter 280, 1904). 5BC 1113.3**

CHAPTER 6

DIVINE-HUMAN MARRIAGE: A GREAT MYSTERY: PART THREE

THE SECONDARY UNION

We have studied the three dimensions of the *primary union* of Divine – human marriage **in Christ**. We now need to study the *secondary union*.

This is the union between Christ and the *individual* believer, in this union the believer becomes a partaker of the Divine Nature by being *justified by faith and being* born again thereby becoming a new creation in Christ. So long as the believer finishes the Christian race victoriously, he/she will be glorified and be an eternal member of the divine-human family.

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

“The moment the sinner believes in Christ, he stands in the sight of God uncondemned; for the righteousness of Christ is his: Christ’s perfect obedience is imputed to him. But he must co-operate with divine power, and put forth his human effort to subdue sin, and stand complete in Christ.” **FE 429.3**

“Christ made satisfaction for the guilt of the whole world, and all who will come to God in faith, will receive the righteousness of Christ, ‘who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed’ (1 Peter 2:24). **Our sin has been expiated, put away, cast into the depths of the sea. Through repentance and faith we are rid of sin, and look unto the Lord our righteousness. Jesus suffered, the just for the unjust.” 1SM 392.3**

“We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. **Christ’s character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned. SC 62.2**

THE NEW BIRTH

More than this, Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith. You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. So, you may say, “The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17. **SC 57.1**

“A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. Christ said to Nicodemus, ‘The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.’ John 3:8. Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, begets a new life in the soul; it creates a new being in the image of God. While the work of the Spirit is silent and imperceptible, its effects are manifest. If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact. While we cannot do anything to change our hearts or to bring ourselves into harmony with God; while we must not trust at all to ourselves or our good works, our lives will reveal whether the grace of God is dwelling within us. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits. The contrast will be clear and decided between what they have been and what they are. The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts.” **SC 57.2**

“The change of heart by which we become children of God is in the Bible spoken of as birth. Again, it is compared to the germination of the good seed sown by the husbandman. In like manner those who are just converted to Christ are, ‘as new-born babes,’ to ‘grow up’ to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. 1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:15. Or like the good seed sown in the field, they are to grow up and bring forth fruit. Isaiah says

that they shall 'be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.' Isaiah 61:3. So from natural life, illustrations are drawn, to help us better to understand the mysterious truths of spiritual life." **SC 75**

UNION WITH CHRIST (JOHN 15)

"I am the Vine, ye are the branches,' Christ said to His disciples. Though He was about to be removed from them, their spiritual union with Him was to be unchanged. The connection of the branch with the vine, He said, represents the relation you are to sustain to Me. The scion is grafted into the living vine, and fiber by fiber, vein by vein, it grows into the vine stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved. **DA 675.3**

"This union with Christ, once formed, must be maintained. Christ said, 'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me.' This is no casual touch, no off-and-on connection. The branch becomes a part of the living vine. The communication of life, strength, and fruitfulness from the root to the branches is unobstructed and constant. Separated from

the vine, the branch cannot live. No more, said Jesus, can you live apart from Me. The life you have received from Me can be preserved only by continual communion. Without Me you cannot overcome one sin, or resist one temptation.” **DA 676.1**

“‘Abide in Me, and I in you.’ Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character.” **DA 676.2**

“The root sends its nourishment through the branch to the outermost twig. So Christ communicates the current of spiritual strength to every believer. So long as the soul is united to Christ, there is no danger that it will wither or decay. **DA 676.3**

This union is characterized by a progressively deepening *prayer-life, remember prayer is the breath of the soul.*

“The life of the vine will be manifest in fragrant fruit on the branches. ‘He that abideth in Me,’ said Jesus, ‘and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.’ When we live by faith on the Son of God, the fruits of the Spirit will be seen in our lives; not one will be missing” **676.4**

“All who would receive Christ by faith were united to Him by a tie closer than that of human kinship. They would become one with Him, as He was one with the Father.” **DA325**

“By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan’s

purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken.” **DA 25**

The scriptures clearly show that this union of the believer with Christ reproduces the victorious character of Christ in the believer. Yet that is not all! Justification and sanctification will end in glorification, also called redemption of the body, at the second coming of Christ.

GLORIFICATION

(Romans 8: 16 to 30; 1 John 3: 1 to 3; Philippians 3: 20, 21)

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life.’ Through the beloved John, who listened to these words, the Holy Spirit declared to the churches, ‘This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life.’ 1 John 5:11, 12. And Jesus said, ‘I will raise him up at the last day.’ Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. It by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave, —not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours. Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal.” **DA 388.1**

CONCLUSION

“When through repentance and faith we accept Christ as our Saviour, the Lord pardons our sins, and remits the penalty prescribed for the transgression of the law. The sinner then stands before God as a just person; he is taken into favor with Heaven, and through the Spirit has fellowship with the Father and the Son. Then there is yet another work to be accomplished, and this is of a progressive nature. The soul is to be sanctified through the truth. And this also is accomplished through faith. For it is only by the grace of Christ, which we receive through faith, that the character can be transformed.” **ST Nov. 3; 1890**

This permanent union of the individual believer with Christ makes the believer a partaker of the Divine Nature and a member of the Divine-human family!

CHAPTER 7

DIVINE-HUMAN MARRIAGE: A GREAT MYSTERY: PART FOUR

THE TERTIARY UNION

The *tertiary union* is the union between Christ and His earthly church of redeemed human individuals. Remember the *primary union* was the union of Divinity and humanity in the incarnate Son of God. The *secondary union* is the union between Christ and the *individual* born again believer, and now we are studying the *tertiary union*, the union between Christ and the church on earth.

You may ask what then is the difference between the *secondary union* and the *tertiary union*?

To answer this question, we need to examine again the *definition of the church of the redeemed*.

DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH

The Bible defines the church as the **Body of Christ**. (Eph.1:22, 23). This **Body** is made up of redeemed individual persons. The Apostle Paul speaks of **Christ** as the **singular** individual Person and also of

Christ as the *combination* of Head and body, Christ being the Head of the church which is His body.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being, many, are one body: so also, is Christ. 1 Cor 12: 12

This means that Christ and His body are one! We are beginning to get a glimpse of what Paul calls a great mystery!

Although the church on earth is made up of all redeemed human persons, the church is *more than any individual member and the church is more than all the members added together*; the reason being that the church is the body of Christ, the church is complete in Christ and the church and Christ are **one!**

For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the Head of all principality and power. Col 2: 9, 10

“In the Bible the sacred and enduring character of the relation that exists between Christ and His church is represented by the union of marriage. The Lord has joined His people to Himself by a solemn covenant, He promising to be their God, and they pledging themselves to be His and His alone. He declares: ‘I will betroth thee unto Me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies.’ Hosea 2:19. And, again: ‘I am married unto you.’ Jeremiah 3:14. And Paul employs the same figure in the New Testament when he says: ‘I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” **GC 381**

GOD'S BUILDING

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, [ye are] God's building. 1 Cor: 3: 9

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Eph 2: 19 -22

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that the church is **God's Building**. And he told the Ephesians that the church is **built** upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets with **Christ Himself** as the chief corner stone. Moreover, all the components of the **building** are carefully joined to each other and are all held together in Christ so that the building grows into a holy Temple and becomes a dwelling place of God through the Holy Spirit!

THE BUILDER

God had prophesied through the prophet Jeremiah that He would raise up unto David a righteous **Branch** whose name would be called **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**, (Jeremiah 23:5, 6). Through the prophet Zechariah the LORD declared that the man whose name is the **Branch** He would build the temple and bear the glory. (Zechariah 6: 12, 13). In Matthew 16: 18 Jesus declared that He would build His church upon the foundation or rock of the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, which Peter confessed (Matthew 16: 18).

ROYAL BIRTH

Through the new birth humans of Adam's lost stock become saved, genuine, bona-fide members of the Divine-human family, that is, they have *Royal birth!* The following scriptures declare the following facts concerning the redeemed. The redeemed are:

- (a) Actual spiritually-born sons of God. Read John 1:12,13; John 3: 3 – 8; 1 John 3:2
- (b) Partakers of the Divine Nature. 2 Peter 1: 4
- (c) Begotten by God. 1 John 5: 1, 18
- (d) Possessors of the Divine seed (Greek: sperma). 1 John 3: 9; 1 Peter 1: 3, 23
- (e) Possessors of the eternal Life of God. 1 John 5: 11,12; Romans 8: 2; 2 Cor. 4: 11
- (f) Joint- heirs with Christ. Romans 8: 12-17
- (g) Conformed to the image of the Son of God. Romans 8: 28- 30
- (h) A new Divine- human species which will outrank all other created intelligences in the universe. Rev.3:21; 1 Cor.6: 2,3;
- (i) Destined for glorification, and destined for the Throne. Colossians 3: 1 to 4; Philippians 3:21; 1 Cor.2: 9., Rev.3: 21

“Were it not for Christ’s atoning sacrifice, there would be nothing in us in which God could delight. All the natural goodness of man is worthless in God’s sight. He does not take pleasure in any man who retains his old nature, and is not so renewed in knowledge and grace that he is a new man in Christ. Our education, our talents, our means, are gifts entrusted to us by God, that He may test us. If we use them for self-glorification, God says, “I cannot delight in them; for Christ has died for them in vain”.... **AG 66.4**

“To adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour, we must have the mind that was in Christ. Our likes and dislikes, our desire to be first, to favor self to the disadvantage of others, must be overcome. The peace of God must rule in our hearts. Christ must be in us a living, working principle....” **AG 66.5**

“By your obedience to God, respect yourselves as the purchased possession of His dear Son. Seek to be uplifted in Christ. This work is as lasting as eternity.... Shall we, sons and daughters of God, forget our royal birth? Shall we not rather honor our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? Shall we not show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light?” **AG 66.6**

Satanic Opposition to The Builder and the Building of The Church

Satan has been relentless in his opposition against the Builder and the Building of the church.

Satan opposed and attacked the incarnate Son of God with all the cruelty and deceptiveness of hell, but the Builder defeated the devil not by force but by the principles of Agape Love. When Christ cried out on the cross “***It is finished***” Satan was defeated and knew that his kingdom was lost.

“The world that Satan has claimed and has ruled over with cruel tyranny, the Son of God has, by one vast achievement, encircled in His love and connected again with the throne of Jehovah. Cherubim and seraphim, and the unnumbered hosts of all the unfallen worlds, sang anthems of praise to God and the Lamb when this triumph was assured. They rejoiced that the way of salvation had been opened to the fallen race and that the earth would be redeemed from the curse of sin. How

much more should those rejoice who are the objects of such amazing love! How can we ever be in doubt and uncertainty, and feel that we are orphans?” **AG 72.4**

THE JEWISH CHURCH

The Jewish “church” rejected all of God’s attempts to build them into the holy nation He wanted them to be, until at last they rejected His Son and His salvation, and brought destruction upon themselves.

“The Jewish people cherished the idea that they were the favorites of heaven, and that they were always to be exalted as the church of God. They were the children of Abraham, they declared, and so firm did the foundation of their prosperity seem to them that they defied earth and heaven to dispossess them of their rights. But by lives of unfaithfulness they were preparing for the condemnation of heaven and for separation from God.” **COL 294**

“Christ would have averted the doom of the Jewish nation if the people had received Him. But envy and jealousy made them implacable. They determined that they would not receive Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. They rejected the Light of the world, and thenceforth their lives were surrounded with darkness as the darkness of midnight. The doom foretold came upon the Jewish nation. Their own fierce passions, uncontrolled, wrought their ruin. In their blind rage they destroyed one another. Their rebellious, stubborn pride brought upon them the wrath of their Roman conquerors. Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple laid in ruins, and its site plowed like a field. The children of Judah perished by the most horrible forms of death. Millions were sold, to serve as bondmen in heathen lands.” **COL 295.3**

“As a people the Jews had failed of fulfilling God’s purpose, and the vineyard was taken from them. The privileges they had abused, the work they had slighted, was entrusted to others.”

COL 296.1

REBUILDING

After the Jewish ‘building’ collapsed, the Man whose name is the Branch had to rebuild His church. In Acts 15 :16,17, James, as chairman of that famous conference, declared that Amos (in Amos 9:11) had prophesied the rebuilding of the church.

“After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the gentiles, upon whom my Name is called, saith the Lord that doeth these things” Acts 15: 16, 17

AT Jones wrote: “When at Pentecost The Branch began to ‘build again the tabernacle of David’, Satan renewed all his energy to hinder Him in building” What Is The Church, 89.

Satan, at first, used persecution, but he did not succeed. Then he engineered the falling away and a 1260 year apostasy that deceived almost the whole world, but He was resisted by the Protestant Reformation. Then he attacked the Reformation until it had only a name that it lived but was dead (Revelation 3:1)

REBUILDING IN THE END-TIME

Then the Builder built the First and Second Angels’ Movement, but Satan attacked and scattered them in the great disappointment. So, the Builder had to rebuild through the Third Angel’s Message and

Movement but again Satan attacked and induced *lukewarmness*. The Builder sent the message of *righteousness by faith* to reconstruct and repair the damage done by *lukewarmness* and behold Satan orchestrated rejection of the message thereby causing a more than *four generation* delay!

VICTORIOUS COMPLETION GUARANTIED

But in spite of all Satan's opposition and aggression, the building of the church will go on unto its *perfect finishing* because: ... "Christ *loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.* Eph.5: 25,26

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. John 17: 17

"That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph.5:27

GOD'S CHARACTER

"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself through His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own" COL 69

This shows the importance of the end- time message of the real truth of God's character. In order for the remnant to have the character of Christ perfectly reproduced in them, they must be freed from all of Satan's lies about God being a tyrant and a killer. This revelation God's character was fully given on earth by His incarnate Son.

"The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might

be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night, the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2." DA 22.1

At last, the word will be fulfilled...."His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine Linen is the righteousness of saints" Rev.19: 7, 8

Only when Christ shall have accomplished the perfection of His remnant church, only when His wife shall have made herself ready, will He be declared by the judgment to be qualified to have absolute dominion of the whole universe. (Daniel 7: 9 to 14; Philippians 2: 5 to 11). Only then will He enter the quaternary (fourth order level) marriage union.

CONCLUSION

The church is the body of Christ, the church and Christ are One, the church is a partaker of the Divine Nature and has the Life of Christ now in its character. Ultimately in the resurrection/ translation change at the Second Coming of Christ the church will be glorified by receiving the very Divine Life of the Son of God in the glorified bodies of each redeemed member.

“The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Him, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come.” **DA 787.2**

“Of His people God says, ‘They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!’ Zechariah 9:16, 17. The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God’s mercy. ‘In the ages to come,’ He will ‘show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.’ ‘To the intent that... unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known... the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Ephesians 2:7; 3:10, 11, R. V. **DA 26.1**

CHAPTER 8

THE CHURCH AND GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

We will begin this chapter by reading Ephesians 3: 8 to 11; Romans 16: 25,26 and Romans 8: 28.

PURPOSED FROM ETERNITY

“From eternal ages it was God’s purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple.” **DA 161**

AT Jones expressed it this way in his 1895 Lecture 18:

“Sinners are separated from God, and God wants to come back to the very place from which sin has driven Him in human flesh, He could not come to us, in ourselves, for we could not bear His presence. Therefore, Christ came in our flesh, and the Father dwelt with Him. He could bear the presence of God in its fullness, and so God could dwell with Him in His fullness, and this could bring the fullness of God to us in our flesh..... Christ came in that sinful flesh, but did not do anything of Himself against the temptation and power of sin in the flesh. He emptied Himself, and the Father worked in human flesh against the power of sin, and kept Jesus from sinning. the mind of Christ puts our wicked selves beneath, and keeps ourselves back.... empties us of our sinful selves....in order that God the Father ...may keep us from sinning” AT Jones 1895 Lecture 18 (Paraphrased)

REESTABLISHED FOR HUMANITY ONLY BY THE INCARNATION

It should be clearly seen, then, that *only by the incarnation of the Son of God* could God’s eternal purpose for humanity be *reestablished* after Satan caused the Fall of Adam. Moreover, as we saw in chapters 5 and 6, *more will be accomplished* than merely reestablishment of the original purpose!

THE REPAIR WOULD OUTDO THE ORIGINAL

“By His life and death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought by sin. It was Satan’s purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely connected to God than if we had never fallen” DA 25.3_

CHOSEN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. EPHESIANS 1: 4 - 9

“The great plan of redemption was laid before the foundation of the world. And Christ, our Substitute and Surety, did not stand alone in the wondrous undertaking of the ransom of man. In the plan to save a lost world, the counsel was between them both; the covenant of peace was between the Father and the Son. ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ The Majesty of heaven, the King of glory, would become a servant. The only-begotten Son, in whom the Father delighted, was given for the ransom of a fallen race.” **ST Dec. 23, 1897**

THE MYSTERY OF THE COUNSEL

Remember also these statements from *Patriarchs & Prophets*, firstly PP 34: “**Christ, the Word, the only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father--- one in nature, in character, in purpose,--- the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God**”

Secondly PP36: “**Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will**”

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY

“God is love.’ 1 John 4:16. His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. “The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity,” whose “ways are everlasting,” changeth not. With

Him “is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” Isaiah 57:15; Habakkuk 3:6; James 1:17. **PP 33.1**

“Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love.” **PP 33.1**

“The history of the great conflict between good and evil, from the time it first began in heaven to the final overthrow of rebellion and the total eradication of sin, is also a demonstration of God’s unchanging love.” **PP 33.4**

ANALYSIS OF THE PASSAGE

God is Love. Self-sacrificing Agape Love is the foundation of God’s government. Whatever God does He does it in Love; His Power and Wisdom are deployed **only by the counsel of His infinite Love**. Therefore, the only basis of the Counsel between Father and Son must be Their *Eternal Infinite Agape Love* which is the very essence of Their Spirit. And Their Spirit is One. The Unity of the Father and His Son is the unity of the Spirit. But it is this Spirit of God that *searches all things indeed also the deep things of God*. Read 1Cor. 2: 9 to 12. *In the Godhead, infinite Love, ensures that infinite Power functions only through infinite Wisdom for the infinitely best outcome for the Universe!*

The inescapable conclusion is that the eternal counsel or eternal covenant of peace between Father and Son is the *counsel or Covenant of Infinite, Eternal Love* in the Holy Spirit!

“And the counsel of peace shall be between Them both.’ The love of the Father, no less than of the Son, is the fountain of salvation for the lost race. Said Jesus to His disciples before He went away: “I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for

you: for the Father Himself loveth you.” John 16:26, 27. God was “in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.” 2 Corinthians 5:19. And in the ministration in the sanctuary above, ‘the counsel of peace shall be between Them both.’ “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. **GC 416.4**

Lucifer wanted to enter into all the counsels and secret chambers of God, but that was *impossible* because he was merely a creature with *no* structural relation (no kinship) with God. Created unfallen intelligences have the Divine Nature in the Holy Spirit indwelling the spirit of their minds (in direct proportion to their capacities to receive the Spirit) but not in the structure of their bodies, whether spirit bodies or flesh bodies.

The only begotten Son possesses by *eternal* inheritance the infinite fullness of the Divine Nature and is One with His Father in the unity of the Spirit. So only the *eternal* Son could enter into the *eternal* fullness of God’s love in God’s Spirit. Remember: “**Only He Who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known**”
DA22

*But wonder of wonders! In the Plan of Redemption for humanity, by the incarnation of the Son of God, redeemed humanity receives the Divine Nature, the very life of God, not only in the spirit of the mind but in the very infrastructure of the new glorified body. And in Christ the church is therefore elevated to His Throne! All this is revealed by Jesus’ prayer in St John 17: 21 to 24! Let us read it. What a union is this! **In Christ the redeemed are a ROYAL priesthood! Only royalty can sit on the Throne!***

THE UNFOLDING OF ETERNAL LOVE

“The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of ‘the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal.’ Romans 16:25, R. V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God’s throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.” **DA 22.2**

A PURPOSE GROUNDED IN GOD’S CHARACTER

“Those who represent God the Father as unloving, ready to break forth on his sinful creatures in vindictive wrath, do not speak the truth. In his prayer to his Father, Christ said, ‘O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee.’ The world has measured God by their own finite measurement. They have misjudged and misinterpreted his truth and righteousness. But Christ could say, ‘I have known thee, for I have been in the secret chambers of the Most High.’ If the world had been admitted into the counsels of God, they would have one and only one testimony to bear, and that is, ‘God is love.’ **ST Dec.23, 1897**

Paul informs us that Christ offered Himself *through the eternal Spirit* (Hebrews 9:14). And we know that God so loved the world that He

gave His only Begotten Son (John 3:16), so the Son was offered *through eternal Love!*

This functional identity of Christ's Spirit and His Love is also seen in this statement:

“When Christ abides in the heart, the whole nature is transformed. Christ's Spirit, His love, softens the heart, subdues the soul and raises the thoughts and desires toward God and heaven” **SC 73**

“The Father gave himself to the world in the gift of his Son. It was the love of the Father for fallen man that devised in union with the Son the plan of redemption. And in this great gift the character of God is exemplified to all who shall receive the world's Redeemer by faith, as a God of holiness and a God of love. In the crucifixion of his dear Son upon the cross of Calvary, he gives to all the sons and daughters of Adam an expression of his justice and his love. This offering made manifest the immutability of the holiness of his law. In the cross of Calvary justice and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”

“The Lord God omnipotent is the God of his people. He is also a tender, loving Father, ready to hear their prayers; for God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. God sent forth his Son to be the propitiation for them through faith in his atoning blood.” **ST Dec.23, 1897**

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE DEMONSTRATED IN JESUS

In Romans 6: 6- 13, Paul informs us that as believers we must identify with, and claim as ours, all that Christ endured and accomplished for us; verse 6: our old man is crucified with Him, dead and buried, in order that we should experience freedom from the law of sin and death which is in our fallen flesh, and in the world, (Romans 8: 1-4). We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin. We are to reckon ourselves resurrected with Him to newness of life; that is to holiness of living by the indwelling Holy Spirit of Agape Love which fulfills the law in our daily living! But there is more yet! We are to reckon our new selves to be risen with Christ and seated with Him at God's right- hand in heavenly places, Colossians 3: 1 to 4.!

The Righteousness by faith messenger A T Jones expressed it this way in one of his 1895 sermons.

"I will say again that the Lord, in order to show mankind what He has prepared for us, what His purpose is concerning each man, has set before us an example, so that everyone in the world can see God's purpose concerning himself, and can see it fully worked out. God's Purpose concerning us in this world is to keep us from sinning in spite of all the power of sin and Satan. His purpose concerning Himself and us in this world is that God shall be manifested in sinful flesh. That is, in His power He Himself shall be manifested *instead of ourselves*. It is, therefore, that our wicked self shall be crucified, shall be dead and buried, and we shall be raised from that deadness in sin and un-circumcision of the flesh to newness of life in Christ and in God, and seated at His right hand, glorified. That is the Lord's purpose concerning you and me. Romans 8: 28

says: ‘*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose*’ What purpose? –Why, his eternal purpose concerning all creatures, man with the rest, which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. That purpose from eternity is purposed in Jesus Christ; and when we are in Jesus Christ, that purpose embraces us. When we yield to Christ, sinking ourselves in Him, we become a part of that eternal purpose; and then, just as certainly as God’s purpose is to succeed, we shall be all right; for we are a part of His purpose. Then just as certainly as Satan can do nothing against God’s purpose, so certainly he can do nothing against us; for we are in that purpose. Just as certainly then that all that Satan and the enemies of God’s truth may try to do against God and His eternal purpose and against God’s remnant – be assured that they cannot defeat or cripple that eternal purpose nor can they defeat or cripple us so long as we are fixed in that eternal purpose in Christ! O! It is all in Christ and God has created us anew in Christ!”

“God’s eternal purpose prepared beforehand for every one of us, for you, for me, is that we shall be like Jesus Christ as He is, glorified, and at God’s right hand. In Christ God has demonstrated this! In Christ, from birth to the Heavenly Throne, He has shown us that this is His purpose concerning every man. Thus He has demonstrated before the universe that such is His great purpose for human beings!.....God’s ideal of a man is God and the man joined in that new man that is made in Christ Jesus by the destruction of the enmity. That new man that is made of the union of God and man is God’s ideal man.But yet take that man as He stands in this world in, in the perfect

symmetry of human perfection, and unite God with Him so that only God is manifested in him, that is not yet God's full ideal of a man; for the man is still in this world. The ideal of God concerning that man is never met until that man stands at God's right hand in heaven glorified!" **A T Jones 1895 Third Angel's Message Sermon Number 19 (Paraphrased)**

Consider these two quotations from **Mount of Blessing** and **Christ Object Lessons**:

"Jesus said, Be perfect as *your Father* is perfect. If you are the children of God, you are partakers of His nature, and you cannot but be like Him. Every child lives by the life of his father. If you are God's children, begotten by His Spirit, you live by the life of God. In Christ dwells "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9); and the life of Jesus is made manifest 'in our mortal flesh' (2 Corinthians 4:11). That life in you will produce the same character and manifest the same works as it did in Him. Thus you will be in harmony with every precept of His law; for "the law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.' Psalm 19:7, margin. Through love 'the righteousness of the law' will be 'fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Romans 8:4." **MB 77.4**

"The work of redemption involves consequences of which it is difficult for man to have any conception. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.' 1 Corinthians 2:9. As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation. A new heart is given him. He becomes a

new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require. God Himself is ‘the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.’ Romans 3:26. And ‘whom He justified, them He also glorified.’ Romans 8:30. Great as is the shame and degradation through sin, even greater will be the honor and exaltation through redeeming love. To human beings striving for conformity to the divine image there is imparted an outlay of heaven’s treasure, an excellency of power, that will place them higher than even the angels who have never fallen.” **COL 162.4**

We close by reading 1John 3: 1 to 3 from the JB Phillips translation:

“Consider the incredible love that the Father has shown us in allowing us to be called ‘children of God’ – and that is not just what we are called, but what we are. Our heredity on the Godward side is no mere figure of speech – which explains why the world will no more recognise us than it recognised Christ. O, dear children of mine, have you realized it? Here and now, we are God’s children. We don’t know what we shall become in the future. We only know that, if reality were to break through, we should reflect His likeness, for we should see Him as He really is! Everyone who has at heart a hope like that keeps himself pure, for he knows how pure Jesus is”

CHAPTER 9

THE QUATERNARY UNION

Remember the levels of union in Divine- human marriage.

The Primary Union was the union of Divinity and humanity *in the incarnate Son of God*. The Secondary union is the union of Christ and the individual believer. The tertiary union is the union of Christ and His church.

So, what is the *quaternary* (fourth level) *union*?

The number 4 is the number of judgement. As the result of the victorious Primary, Secondary and Tertiary unions Christ will judicially win the *right* to receive the Universal Kingdom. The *reception of the Kingdom* is the quaternary union. This *fourth level* or Quaternary Union will occur in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. Daniel 7: 22,27; Rev.11: 15.

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

“In the summer and autumn of 1844, the proclamation, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,’ was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed—one class who looked with joy to the Lord’s appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of the grace of God. In the parable, when the bridegroom came, ‘they that were ready went in with him to the marriage.’ The coming of the bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage. The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called ‘the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ Said the angel to John: ‘Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ ‘He carried me away in the spirit,’ says the prophet, ‘and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.’ Revelation 21:9, 10. Clearly, then, the bride represents the Holy City, and the virgins that go out to meet the bridegroom are a symbol of the church. In the Revelation the people of God are said to be the guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19:9. If guests, they

cannot be represented also as the *bride*. Christ, as stated by the prophet Daniel, will receive from the Ancient of Days in heaven, ‘dominion, and glory, and a kingdom;’ He will receive the New Jerusalem, the capital of His kingdom, ‘prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.’ Daniel 7:14; Revelation 21:2. Having received the kingdom, He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are to ‘sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob,’ at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8:11; Luke 22:30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.” **GC 4426.2**

REVIEW OF IMPORTANT HISTORY

“The proclamation, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,’ in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. At the appointed time the Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom. “They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” They were not to be present in person at the marriage; for it takes place in heaven, while they are upon the earth. The followers of Christ are to ‘wait for their Lord, when He will *return from the wedding*.’ Luke 12:36. But they are to understand His work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage.” **GC 427.1**

“In the parable it was those that had oil in their vessels with their lamps that went in to the marriage. Those who, with a knowledge of the truth from the Scriptures, had also the Spirit and grace of God, and who, in the night of their bitter trial, had

patiently waited, searching the Bible for clearer light—these saw the truth concerning the sanctuary in heaven and the Saviour’s change in ministration, and by faith they followed Him in His work in the sanctuary above. And all who through the testimony of the Scriptures accept the same truths, following Christ by faith as He enters in before God to perform the last work of mediation, and at its close to receive His kingdom—all these are represented as going in to the marriage.” **GC 427.2**

THE END OF THE 2300 YEARS

At the end of the 2300 years, October 22, 1844, our High Priest entered the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary to (i) continue His mediatorial intercessory ministry for all mankind and His church, (ii) perfect the character of His remnant church and (iii) perform the work of the investigative judgment and blotting out of sins therein recorded. Believers in the Three Angels Messages are to understand His work, follow Him by faith and cooperate with Him in the work of Christian character perfection in the abiding relationship of knowing and experiencing the true gospel. This is called *‘going into the marriage’ by faith while ‘waiting for our Lord’s return from the wedding’; His return from the wedding means the general closure of probation by which time the sealing of the 144,000 will be complete.*

THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

The Investigative Judgment must be completed before the **quaternary marriage union** can occur, that is before Christ can receive His Kingdom. The Judgment vindicates God The Father and His Son, The Plan of Redemption, the Divine Government and His redeemed

humans. These will have become partakers of the God's Divine Nature and Life in spirit and soul, for victorious Christian character perfection and victory over the image, mark, and number of the Beast. At the resurrection/ translation event at Christ's second coming they will receive the Divine Nature and eternal Life in their glorified bodies. Oh, praise the Lord!!

“In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage. Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14. He who is found wanting is cast out, but all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne. This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is that of the investigative judgment, the closing of work in the sanctuary above. **GC 428.1**

“When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut. Thus in the one short sentence, ‘They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut,’ we are carried down through the Saviour's final ministration, to the time when the great work for man's salvation shall be completed.” **GC 428.2**

HARMONIZING THE DEFINITIONS

We can now complete and synchronize the definitions of the four unions of spiritual marriage.

The Primary Union was the union of the **Divine Nature** and fallen human nature in Christ. All three dimensions of that primary union were victoriously completed in Our Saviour *on earth*. (*Dimension 1*): He became one flesh with humanity; in order that (*Dimension 2*): humanity became *one spirit with Him*, and in His death and resurrection our sinful flesh, which He took on, was swallowed up and (*Dimension 3*):replaced by the glorified body possessing the eternal life of the Divine Nature in the new body.

The Secondary Union is the union between the glorified Divine-human Christ in *heaven* and the individual believer on *earth* by the Holy Spirit Who is *omnipresent*.

The Tertiary union is the union between Christ in *heaven* and His Church on *earth* also by the Holy Spirit Who is *omnipresent*.

The Quaternary Union is Christ's *reception* of His Kingdom which takes in the **Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary upon the completion of the character perfection of the end-time remnant on earth** which is what is meant by '*His wife hath made herself*'. At His Second Coming Christ will resurrect the dead in Christ and translate the victorious living remnant and all the glorified saints will be guests at the marriage feast in Heaven.

PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

(1John 4: 16 to 19; Hebrews 4: 14 to 16; Hebrews 7: 25; Ephesians 3: 12)

Christ's Most Holy Place ministry and the investigative judgment have traditionally evoked fearful forebodings in the minds of believers. But John assures us that the true gospel gives us such an appreciation of God's Agape Love, which was revealed and demonstrated in the earthly life and sacrifice of His Son, that we need not fear the judgment. The Judgment is *for* us not against us!

“Many who are sincerely seeking for holiness of heart and purity of life seem perplexed and discouraged.... Darkness and discouragement will sometimes come upon the soul and threaten to overwhelm us, but we should not cast away our confidence. We must keep the eye fixed on Jesus, feeling or no feeling. We should seek to faithfully perform every known duty, and then calmly rest in the promises of God.” **AG 84.2**

“At times a deep sense of our unworthiness will send a thrill of terror through the soul, but this is no evidence that God has changed toward us, or we toward God. No effort should be made to rein the mind up to a certain intensity of emotion. We may not feel today the peace and joy which we felt yesterday; but we should by faith grasp the hand of Christ, and trust Him as fully in the darkness as in the light.” **AG 84.3**

“Satan may whisper, “You are too great a sinner for Christ to save.” While you acknowledge that you are indeed sinful and unworthy, you may meet the tempter with the cry, “By virtue of the atonement, I claim Christ as my Saviour. I trust not to my own merits, but to the precious blood of Jesus, which cleanses me. This moment I hang my helpless soul on Christ”.... **AG 84.4**

“Be not discouraged because your heart seems hard. Every obstacle, every internal foe, only increases your need of Christ. He came to take away the heart of stone, and give you a heart of flesh. Look to Him for special grace to overcome your peculiar faults. When assailed by temptation, steadfastly resist the evil promptings.... Cry to the dear Saviour for help to sacrifice every idol and to put away every darling sin. Let the eye of faith see Jesus standing before the Father’s throne, presenting His wounded hands as He pleads for you. Believe that strength comes to you through your precious Saviour....”**AG 84.5**

“If we would permit our minds to dwell more upon Christ and the heavenly world, we should find a powerful stimulus and support in fighting the battles of the Lord.... Beside the loveliness of Christ, all earthly attractions will seem of little worth.”**AG 84.6**

CHAPTER 10

THE WEDDING GARMENT

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine Linen is the righteousness of saints. Rev.19: 7, 8

This wonderful and joyous event has been long delayed but we believe it will soon occur, and we should eagerly desire to hasten its arrival by getting ready with urgency.

Jesus actually taught the truth of the wedding feast in the form of two parables found in Luke 14: 16 to 24, and Matthew 22: 1 - 14. The parable of Matthew 22: 1 to 14 is the one in which He teaches us about the Wedding Garment.

“The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding.” **COL 307.1**

“In this parable, as in that of the great supper, are illustrated the gospel invitation, its rejection by the Jewish people, and the call of mercy to the Gentiles. But on the part of those who reject the invitation, this parable brings to view a deeper insult and a more dreadful punishment. The call to the feast is a king’s invitation. It proceeds from one who is vested with power to command. It confers high honor. Yet the honor is unappreciated. The king’s authority is despised. While the householder’s invitation was regarded with indifference, the king’s is met with insult and murder. They treated his servants with scorn, despitefully using them and slaying them. **COL 307.2**

“The householder, on seeing his invitation slighted, declared that none of the men who are bidden should taste of his supper. But for those who had done despite to the king, more than exclusion from his presence and his table is decreed. ‘He sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.’” **COL 307.3**

“In both parables the feast is provided with guests, but the second (Matt. 22) shows that there is a preparation to be made by all who attend the feast. Those who neglect this preparation are cast out. ‘The king came in to see the guests,’ and ‘saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment; and he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” **COL 308.1**

TWO CALLS TO THE JEWISH NATION

FIRST CALL

“The call to the feast had been given by Christ’s disciples. Our Lord had sent out the twelve and afterward the seventy, proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand, and calling upon men to repent and believe the gospel. But the call was not heeded. Those who are bidden to the feast did not come.”

SECOND CALL

“The servants were sent out later to say, ‘Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.’ This was the message borne to the Jewish nation after the crucifixion of Christ; but the nation that claimed to be God’s peculiar people rejected the gospel brought to them in the power of the Holy Spirit. Many did this in the most scornful manner. Others were so exasperated by the offer of salvation, the offer of pardon for rejecting the Lord of glory, that they turned upon the bearers of the message. There was ‘a great persecution.’ Acts 8:1. Many both of men and women were thrust into prison, and some of the Lord’s messengers, as Stephen and James, were put to death.” **COL 308.2**

CLOSURE OF JEWISH NATIONAL PROBATION

“Thus the Jewish people sealed their rejection of God’s mercy. The result was foretold by Christ in the parable. The king ‘sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.’ The judgment pronounced came upon the Jews in the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the nation.” **COL 308.3**

INVITATION TO THE GENTILES

“The third call to the feast represents the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles. The king said, ‘The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.’ **COL 309.1**

“The king’s servants who went out into the highways ‘gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good.’ It was a mixed company. Some of them had no more real regard for the giver of the feast than had the ones who rejected the call. The class first bidden could not afford, they thought, to sacrifice any worldly advantage for the sake of attending the king’s banquet. And of those who accepted the invitation, there were some who thought only of benefiting themselves. They came to share the provisions of the feast, but had no desire to honor the king. **COL 309.2**

“When the king came in to view the guests, the real character of all was revealed. For every guest at the feast there had been provided a wedding garment. This garment was a gift from the king. By wearing it the guests showed their respect for the giver of the feast. But one man was clothed in his common citizen dress. He had refused to make the preparation required by the king. The garment provided for him at great cost he disdained to wear. Thus he insulted his lord. To the king’s demand, ‘How camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?’ he could answer nothing. He was self-condemned. Then the king said, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness.’ **COL 309.3**

INTRODUCING THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

“By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:12. Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.” **COL 310.1**

“It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God. All are examined according to the record of the books of heaven, and according to his deeds the destiny of each is forever fixed.” **COL 310.2**

WHAT IS THE WEDDING GARMENT ?

“By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ’s true followers will possess. To the church it is given ‘that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white,’ ‘not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’ Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 5:27. The fine linen, says the Scripture, ‘is the righteousness of saints.’ Revelation 19:8. It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character,

that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” **COL 310.3**

THE FIRST ADAM’S ROBE OF INNOCENCE LOST BY HIS FALL

“The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. They lived in perfect conformity to the will of God. All the strength of their affections was given to their heavenly Father. A beautiful soft light, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair. This robe of light was a symbol of their spiritual garments of heavenly innocence. Had they remained true to God it would ever have continued to enshroud them. But when sin entered, they severed their connection with God, and the light that had encircled them departed. Naked and ashamed, they tried to supply the place of the heavenly garments by sewing together fig leaves for a covering.” **COL 310.4**

“This is what the transgressors of God’s law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve’s disobedience. They have sewed together fig leaves to cover the nakedness caused by transgression. They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins, and make themselves acceptable with God.” **COL 311.1**

“But this they can never do. Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence. No fig-leaf garment, no worldly citizen dress, can be worn by those who sit down with Christ and angels at the marriage supper of the Lamb.” **COL 311.2**

THE SECOND ADAM'S ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

“Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God’s presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. “I counsel thee,” He says, “to buy of Me... white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear.” Revelation 3:18. **COL 311.3**

“This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. ‘All our righteousness are as filthy rags.’ Isaiah 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God ‘was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.’ Sin is defined to be the transgression of the law.’ 1 John 3: 4. But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, ‘I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.’ Psalm 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, ‘I have kept My Father’s commandments.’ John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments.”

HOW TO BE CLOTHED WITH THE WEDDING GARMENT

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.” **COL 311.4**

BACK TO THE JUDGMENT

The pre-advent judgment investigates to determine whether or not a professed believer has closed his/her probation having the *wedding garment on or off*.

“The guests at the marriage feast were inspected by the king. Only those were accepted who had obeyed his requirements and put on the wedding garment. So it is with the guests at the gospel feast. All must pass the scrutiny of the great King, and only those are received who have put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness. **COL 312.1**

OBEDIENCE IS THE EVIDENCE OF HAVING ON THE ROBE

“Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine.” **COL 312.2**

“It is not enough for us to believe that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. ‘He that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.’ ‘Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.’ 1 John 3:24; 1 John 2:3. This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness.” **COL 312.3**

PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

“The truth is to be planted in the heart. It is to control the mind and regulate the affections. The whole character must be stamped with the divine utterances. Every jot and tittle of the word of God is to be brought into the daily practice.” **COL 314.1**

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE WEDDING SIGN, SEAL OR ‘RING’

INTRODUCTION

The dictionary gives a number of meanings for the word *seal*. One functional meaning is that a seal is :*a tight and perfect closure to prevent what is inside from leaking out, and what is outside from leaking in.*

Another meaning : A seal is a mark or stamp or device *which is applied to verify, ratify, solemnize or authenticate a transaction or ownership.*

The Greek word is *sphragis* meaning *signet* : Here are some Bible verses using this word: 2 Tim. 2: 19 ; Eph.4:30; Rev 5: 1; Rev.7: 2.

THE REVELATION 7 APOCALYPTIC SEAL

“What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption. The intelligent mind has seen the sign of the

cross of Calvary in the Lord's adopted sons and daughters. The sin of the transgression of the law of God is taken away. They have on the wedding garment, and are obedient and faithful to all God's commands" (**Letter 126, 1898**). **7BC 968.13**

Here we see that the *wedding garment*, the Rev.7 *seal* and *faithful obedience* are inseparably connected when *applied to the end-time remnant*.

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

We like to own our own homes and to live in our own homes. How would you feel if you built a house, then someone stole the title deeds and forged a signature change, and in order for you to get back your house you had to buy it back, from the one who stole it, at a price way beyond the original cost? And if the swindler still wanted to claim it, the case would have to go to court for a just settlement of the matter. Where does God want to live? He inhabits eternity but He also wants live in us! Read Isaiah 57:15.

"From eternal ages it was God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator." **DA 161**

The Creator made humanity in the first Adam and, by His Spirit, He indwelt Adam. However Adam sold out humanity to Satan and to eternal death. In order to buy back (redeem) humanity, God had to pay an infinite price. Let us read 1 Corinthians 6: 20: 1 Peter 1: 18,19,20.

"Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of

the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple.” **DA161**

“ If a man love me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him *and make our abode with him*” John 14: 23 KJV

The Father and Son own us twice, by creation and by redemption, and They want to live in us, to make Their home in us, what an amazingly mysterious truth! What Love! And they dwell in us by the Holy Spirit!

“In this speck of a world the whole heavenly universe manifests the greatest interest, for Christ has paid an infinite price for the souls of its inhabitants” **COL 176.1**

“He declares that an infinite price has been paid for man’s redemption. Provision has been made for him to share the throne of God” **AA 494**

“The emancipation papers of the race have been signed by the blood of the Son of God” **YI June 28, 1900.**

“Those who are saved will be saved because Jesus paid the full debt and man can do nothing, absolutely nothing, to merit salvation” **ST Nov.10, 1890**

“Every soul in our world is the Lord’s property, by creation and by redemption. Each individual soul is on trial for his life. Has he given to God that which belongs to Him? Has he surrendered to God all that is His as His purchased possession? All who cherish the Lord as their portion in this life will be under His control, and will receive the sign, the mark of God, which shows them to be

God's special possession. Christ's righteousness will go before them, and the glory of the Lord will be their reward. The Lord protects every human being who bears His sign. [Exodus 31:12-17 quoted.]” **7BC 969.1**

THREE TEMPLES OR SANCTUARIES (EARTHLY, HEAVENLY, BODY)

In Hebrews chapters 8 and 9 the Apostle Paul gives a summary of the services of the earthly sanctuary as a figure of the services of the heavenly sanctuary.

The earthly (or Mosaic) temple or sanctuary, with its sacrificial services and yearly Sabbaths, was a type or shadow of Christ's redemptive work on earth and His high priestly work in the heavenly temple or sanctuary. But the earthly sanctuary was not merely a type of the heavenly, it was intended also teach us about our body temple or sanctuary. In other words it was also a type of our body temple

“God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul. But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit.” **DA 161**

There you have it! Let us now read 1 Corinthians 3: 16, 17 and 6: 19,20. Therefore the **heavenly sanctuary** must also be a **continual witness** to the high destiny open to every soul; and not only a continual witness **but also the High Priestly mediatorial process by which, through the sacrifice of Christ, that high destiny will be accomplished.** The demonstration of that high destiny in character perfection will be given by the remnant church during the Final Crisis and especially in time

of Jacob's Trouble. And the demonstration of that high destiny in **glorification** will be given at the Second Coming of Christ! Then will follow the welcome before the Throne in Heaven and the marriage feast of the Lamb.

THE SANCTUARY AND THE HUMAN BODY TEMPLE

“ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” 1 Cor. 3: 16

The earthly sanctuary had 3 subdivisions : the outer court, the first apartment or Holy Place and the second apartment or Most Holy Place. Similarly, the heavenly sanctuary has 3 subdivisions: the outer court which is our world, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Since 1844 October, The Father and Son have been in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary to accomplish **final experiential at-one-ment between the remnant** Church and God's *character*. The perfect and complete atonement accomplished at the Cross reveals such Agape Love that, notwithstanding the long delay, the **end-time remnant** will be driven by the Love of God to fully experience, while living in sinful flesh and in a wicked world, **the ultimate degree of spiritual intimacy with their Saviour and thereby have His character fully reproduced in them by the Holy Spirit by the time they are sealed, and then fully reflected to the world and the on-looking universe during the time of trouble such as never was.**

In the Most Holy Place is the *ark of the Testament* containing the God's Law of Love as expressed in the Ten Commandments.

In the same way that the Sanctuary has 3 subdivisions, the human being has three subdivisions as well. Let us read 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, 24. These subdivisions are **spirit, soul, and body**. The Holy Spirit must dwell in the human spirit (John 14:17) in order to control

the soul by God’s love and Christ’s victory and to be the Source of the soul’s behaviour, while the body must be presented as a living sacrifice and self reckoned dead, crucified with Christ. Galatians 2: 20 ; Romans 6:11.

HEAVENLY SANCTUARY	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	HUMAN BEING	ACTIVITIES	TEXTS
Most Holy Place	Heaven	Judgment & Final Atonement since 1844 Oct.22 (Completion Delayed)	Human Spirit	Indwelt by the Holy Spirit Who writes God’s Law in our hearts in the New Covenant	Romans 8: 9 Eph.4: 23,24 John 17:23 Hebrews 10:16
Holy Place	Heaven	Intercessory 31 AD to 1844 Oct22	Human soul	Character Transformation	Romans 12:2
Outer Court	Earth	Christ’s Sacrifice 31 AD	Human Body	Present your bodies a living sacrifice	Romans 12:1; 6:11

Jesus, our High Priest, is in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary performing the work of blotting out of the record of sins for those who have died in Christ, and doing the work of the final atonement. The living remnant must co-operate with Him and allow the Holy Spirit to blot sin out of our spirit and soul, while we perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. (2Corinthians 7:1). This is of critical importance, for just as the earthly sanctuary no longer functions, the time will come when the ministration of the heavenly sanctuary will cease because its purpose of restoring and perfecting the human body sanctuary will have been victoriously accomplished. The first evidence of this accomplishment will be when the remnant will endure the Time of Jacob's Trouble without the Mediator in the Sanctuary! *The mystery of God will be finished.* Rev. 10: 7.

The people of God will be sealed with the Rev 7 seal of the living God! This *seal* will be the full reproduction of God's *character* in the living saints. The Holy Spirit does the work of sealing and employs the *sealing angel and the sealing message through and in God's people to accomplish the sealing work.*(Ephesians 4:30; 1 Cor. 1: 21, 22; Ephesians 1:13 ; Rev.7: 1 to 3)

“The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character” (The Review and Herald, May 21, 1895). **7BC 970.3**

This means the sealing in of the truth of God's Character and the sealing out of Satan's lies about God's Character! This will result in settling into the truth intellectually and experientially such that the remnant believer cannot be made to move by force, or by fear or by deception.

“As wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of Christ” (The Signs of the Times, July 18, 1911). **7BC 970.4**

THE SIGN OR SIGNET OF OWNERSHIP

(John 14:21, 23; Isaiah 8:16; Gen 2:1-3; Exodus 20: 8- 11; Rev.12:17)

The free gift of Christ's righteousness is manifested by obedience to God's Law. God's Signet or Seal of ownership is in His Law in the fourth commandment. The same Creation Seventh- Day Sabbath which the Creator established as the signet of His Ownership and memorial of the finished creation (Genesis 2: 1 to 3) *is the seal of His Law*. It contains His Name, His Office as Creator, His Dominion. This Law with the true Sabbath will be written in the hearts of the sealed end-time remnant and be fixed in their character by the *Latter Rain*.

“Those who would have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. This is what distinguishes them from the disloyal, who have accepted a man-made institution in the place of the true Sabbath. The observance of God's rest day is the mark of distinction between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not” (Manuscript 27, 1899). **7BC 970.2**

“Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God's people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the Spirit of God” TSM III

SEALED IN GOD'S REST

Hebrews 4: 3(KJV) (first part) we are told : “*For we which have believed do enter into rest*”. But before verse 3, we are told in verses 1 and 2 reading from the NLT translation: “*God's promise of entering His rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it. For this good news – that God has prepared this rest- has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they did not combine what they heard with faith* (footnote).

In the TEV translation verse 2 and verse 3 first part read thus:

Verse 2 : *For we have heard the Good News, just as they did. They heard the message, but it did them no good, because when they heard it, they did not accept it with faith.* Verse 3 (first part): *We who believe, then, do receive that rest which God promised.*

Our Lord Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:28 (TEV Translation):

Verse 28: *Come unto me, all of you who are tired and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.* Verse 29: *Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit ; and you will find rest.*

Entering God's rest means accepting Jesus as one's personal Saviour and Lord; and surrendering oneself completely (past, present and future) to Him to be filled with and controlled by His Spirit. It means ceasing the attempt to save one's self by one's own efforts and one's apparent goodness; and, instead, accepting the free gift of righteousness; in fact acknowledging and receiving Christ as our righteousness and therefore being justified by the faith of Jesus and experiencing the new birth. *Therefore it is absolute truth that we can only have and experience God's rest by being in Christ by faith!*

Righteousness and *Rest* are *gifts* which are received only by receiving Christ as Saviour. *We enter God's rest by believing and experiencing the true gospel.*

Having clearly and incontrovertibly shown that we can only enter God's rest by faith, the Apostle Paul emphatically declares in Hebrews 4: 9

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God”

The Greek word translated *rest* in this verse is '*sabbatismos*' which literally means 'Sabbath rest' or the "keeping of the Sabbath".

But Paul doesn't stop there, he goes on to say in verse 10:

“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from His”

And in verse 4 Paul states that : “.....*God did rest the seventh day from all His works*”.

This brings us to another inescapable conclusion, and it is this: *entering into God's rest by faith can only be correctly celebrated by the observance of the creation seventh day Sabbath!*

It should be absolutely clear then that seventh-day Sabbath-keeping is not legalism as many religionists say, rather it is the celebration of *entering into Christ's gospel rest by faith!* The TEV translation renders Hebrews 4: 9, 10 this way:

(9): “*As it is, however, there still remains for God's people a rest like God's resting on the seventh day*” (10): “*For whosoever receives that rest which God promised will rest from his own work, just as God rested from His.*”

This means that the outward manifestation of the *inner Rest* of the gospel is *keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy!* (See Appendix A on Colossians 2: 16, 17)

LEARNING OF CHRIST

In Matthew 11: 29, Jesus invites us to learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart: and we shall find rest to our souls. This wonderful humility of the Son of God was manifested in His submission to His Father for the creation of the universe. The Father created all creation through or by His Son. Col.1: 16, John 1: 1 – 3; Our planet earth with its Solar System was created after the Satanic rebellion in heaven.

“Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father’s will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God’s plan, but would exalt the Father’s glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love.” **PP 36.2**

THE SON OF GOD MADE THE SABBATH

(Mark 2: 27,28; John 1: 1 – 3, Genesis 2: 1-3)

Jesus informs us that the creation Sabbath was made for man. Since all things that were made were made by the Son of God, this means *that the Son of God made the seventh-day creation Sabbath. And He is therefore Lord of the Sabbath. John 1: 1- 3; Mark 2:27, 28; Genesis 2: 1-3.*

Before the entrance of sin into our world, the creation on earth was in perfect harmony with its Creator and there was perfect *rest*. After the Fall, mankind lost *righteousness* and *rest* which could only be restored through the plan of Redemption centered in Christ. And, as we have shown from Hebrews 4, the believer enters into God’s **Rest** by faith in Jesus Who is **Lord of the Sabbath!**

SABBATH REST PRINCIPLES

Entering into God’s Rest means acceptance of, and surrender to Jesus as our Burden Bearer, Problem Solver, Plan Maker.

“Tenderly He bade the toiling people, “Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Matthew 11:29. **MH 71.2**

“With these words, Christ was speaking to every human being. Whether they know it or not, all are weary and heavy-laden. All are weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin. If we were left to bear this burden, it would crush us. But the Sinless One has taken our place. “The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6. **MH 71.3**

“He has borne the burden of our guilt. He will take the load from our weary shoulders. He will give us rest. The burden of care and sorrow also He will bear. He invites us to cast all our care upon Him; for He carries us upon His heart”. MH 71.4

“The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was ‘in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.’ Hebrews 4:15. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. The Lord ‘telleteth the number of the stars;’ and yet ‘He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.’ Psalm 147:4, 3. **MH 71.5**

“Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be open for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment

and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon your Burden Bearer.” MH 72.1

THY MAKER IS THY HUSBAND

“For Thy Maker is thy husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall He be called” Isaiah 54:5

Christ is the Maker and Husband of His church, which is His body, His wife. Christ and His church are one. The church enters God’s Rest by faith in Christ Who is the *Lord of the Sabbath*. Therefore the seventh-day Sabbath can be the only true Lord’s day for His church. The seventh-day Sabbath is the *sign or seal or wedding ‘ring’* which shows that the remnant church is married to its Maker, Redeemer and Sanctifier the Lord Jesus Christ. The church must have on the *wedding garment* and show the *seal, sign or ‘wedding ring’* of her marriage to Christ.

“Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them” Ezek 20:12

“And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God” Ezek 20: 20

SPIRITUAL INTIMACY IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE

“To be living Christians, we must have a vital connection with Christ. The true believer can say, ‘I know that my Redeemer

liveth.' This intimate communion with our Saviour will take away the desire for earthly and sensual gratifications. All our powers of body, soul, and spirit should be devoted to God. When the affections are sanctified, our obligations to God are made primary, everything else secondary. To have a steady and ever-growing love for God, and a clear perception of his character and attributes, we must keep the eye of faith fixed constantly on him. Christ is the life of the soul. We must be in Him and He in us, else we are sapless branches."

"God must be ever in our thoughts. We must hold converse with Him while we walk by the way, and while our hands are engaged in labor. In all the purposes and pursuits of life, we must inquire, What will the Lord have me to do? How shall I please Him who has given his life a ransom for me? Thus may we walk with God, as did Enoch of old; and ours may be the testimony which he received, that he pleased God."

"To comprehend and enjoy God, is the highest exercise of the powers of man. This may be attained only when our affections are sanctified and ennobled by the grace of Christ: "No man knoweth the Father but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him." In Christ was "God manifested in the flesh, reconciling the world unto himself." In Christ was the brightness of his Father's glory, the express image of his person. Said our Saviour, "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father." In Christ is the life of the soul. In the outgoings of our hearts to him, in our earnest, affectionate yearnings for his excellence, in our eager searching into his glory, we find life. In communion with him we eat the bread of life."

“When we allow objects of minor importance to absorb our attention, to the forgetfulness of Christ, turning away from him to accept other companionship, we set out feet in a path which leads away from God and from Heaven. Christ must be the central object of our affections, and then we shall live in him, then we shall have his spirit, and follow his example.”

“If we would walk in the light, we must follow Jesus, the light of life. What constitutes the brightness of Heaven? In what will consist the happiness of the redeemed? Christ is all in all. They will gaze with rapture unutterable upon the Lamb of God. They will pour out their songs of grateful praise and adoration to Him whom they loved and worshiped here. That song they learned and began to sing on earth. They learned to put their trust in Jesus while they were forming characters for Heaven. Their hearts were attuned to his will here. Their joy in Christ will be proportioned to the love and trust which they learned to repose in him here.”

“A living Christian will cultivate gratitude of heart. He will seriously, earnestly recount the blessings of his life and the precious results of all his afflictions. He will recall every occasion upon which the hand of Christ has lifted up a standard for him against the enemy. The great love of Jesus, the infinite sacrifice made for man’s redemption, will be an unfailing theme for grateful, humble praise.”

“Those who are learning at the feet of Jesus will surely exemplify by their deportment and conversation the character of Christ. Their spiritual life is sustained in the closet, by secret communion with God. Their experience is marked less with

bustle and excitement, than with a subdued and reverent joy. Their love for Christ is a quiet, peaceful, yet all-controlling power. The light and love of an indwelling Saviour are revealed in every word and every act. Outward troubles cannot reach that life which we live by faith on the Son of God. Its richest, purest joys are felt when Christ is the theme of thought and conversation.” **RH May 30, 1882**

CHAPTER 12

COUNTERFEIT BRIDE: MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS

The Church is the bride of Christ. The true end-time remnant of her seed must have on the wedding garment of His righteousness, fully reflect His character in obedience to all His commandments and be sealed by the Holy Spirit with the Seventh-Day Creation Sabbath seal in order to be ready for ‘the time of trouble such as never was’ Daniel 12:1.

Satan’s plan has ever been to try to counterfeit everything pertaining to Christ and in so doing he has produced a counterfeit bride and developed a counterfeit day of worship as his wedding ring or mark. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians and informed them of the Satanic counterfeit which had been foretold long ago by the prophet Daniel. 2 Thessalonians 2: 3, 4. Daniel 7: 8, 24,25.

Christ is the Builder and chief cornerstone (foundation) of the true church, He works by His Holy Spirit and the holy scriptures through

angels and human instrumentalities to accomplish the building of His church, which is to be the Habitation of God through the Spirit for revealing God's character for the salvation of mankind. Read Ephesians 2: 19 to 22.

In contrast, Satan is the builder of his counterfeit 'church' and he works through the deceptive mixture truth and error by clever misinterpretation of scripture by carnal-minded human instrumentalities to accomplish the building of his counterfeit church which is to be the habitation of Satan for warfare against the true church of Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2: 7 to 12.

GREAT CONTROVERSY CHAPTER 3

"The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should not come, 'except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.' And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that 'the mystery of iniquity doth already work.' 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7. Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy. **"GC 49.1**

"Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, 'the mystery of iniquity' carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The

spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.” **GC 49.2**

“This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of ‘the man of sin’ foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.” **GC 50.1**

“Satan once endeavored to form a compromise with Christ. He came to the Son of God in the wilderness of temptation, and showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, offered to give all into His hands if He would but acknowledge the supremacy of the prince of darkness. Christ rebuked the presumptuous tempter and forced him to depart. But Satan meets with greater success in presenting the same temptations to man. To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led

to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth; and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to the representative of Satan—the bishop of Rome.” **GC 50.2**

“It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has been given the very titles of Deity. He has been styled ‘Lord God the Pope’, and has been declared infallible. He demands the homage of all men. The same claim urged by Satan in the wilderness of temptation is still urged by him through the Church of Rome, and vast numbers are ready to yield him homage.” **GC 50.3**

“But those who fear and reverence God meet this heaven-daring assumption as Christ met the solicitations of the wily foe: ‘Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.’ Luke 4:8. God has never given a hint in His word that He has appointed any man to be the head of the church. The doctrine of papal supremacy is directly opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures. The pope can have no power over Christ’s church except by usurpation.” **GC 51.1**

“Romanists have persisted in bringing against Protestants the charge of heresy and willful separation from the true church. But these accusations apply rather to themselves. They are the ones who laid down the banner of Christ and departed from “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” **Jude 3. GC 51.2**

“Satan well knew that the Holy Scriptures would enable men to discern his deceptions and withstand his power. It was by

the word that even the Saviour of the world had resisted his attacks. At every assault, Christ presented the shield of eternal truth, saying, 'It is written.' To every suggestion of the adversary, He opposed the wisdom and power of the word. In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God and place finite men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church. For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over church and state." **GC 51.3**

"The detector of error having been removed, Satan worked according to his will. Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to 'think to change times and laws.' Daniel 7:25. This work it was not slow to attempt. To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship. The decree of a general council finally established this system of idolatry. To complete the sacrilegious work, Rome presumed to expunge from the law of God the second commandment, forbidding image worship, and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number." **GC 51.4**

“The spirit of concession to paganism opened the way for a still further disregard of Heaven’s authority. Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified (Genesis 2:2, 3), and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as ‘the venerable day of the sun.’ This change was not at first attempted openly. In the first centuries the true Sabbath had been kept by all Christians. They were jealous for the honor of God, and, believing that His law is immutable, they zealously guarded the sacredness of its precepts. But with great subtlety Satan worked through his agents to bring about his object. That the attention of the people might be called to the Sunday, it was made a festival in honor of the resurrection of Christ. Religious services were held upon it; yet it was regarded as a day of recreation, the Sabbath being still sacredly observed.” **GC 52.1**

“To prepare the way for the work which he designed to accomplish, Satan had led the Jews, before the advent of Christ, to load down the Sabbath with the most rigorous exactions making its observance a burden. Now, taking advantage of the false light in which he had thus caused it to be regarded, he cast contempt upon it as a Jewish institution. While Christians generally continued to observe the Sunday as a joyous festival, he led them, in order to show their hatred of Judaism, to make the Sabbath a fast, a day of sadness and gloom.” **GC 52.2**

“In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan

subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment." **GC 53.1**

"The archdeceiver had not completed his work. He was resolved to gather the Christian world under his banner and to exercise his power through his vicegerent, the proud pontiff who claimed to be the representative of Christ. Through half-converted pagans, ambitious prelates, and world-loving churchmen he accomplished his purpose. Vast councils were held from time to time, in which the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world. In nearly every council the Sabbath which God had instituted was pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly exalted. Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honored as a divine institution, while the Bible Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism, and its observers were declared to be accursed." **GC 53.2**

"The great apostate had succeeded in exalting himself 'above all that is called God, or that is worshiped.' 2 Thessalonians 2:4. He had dared to change the only precept of the divine law that unmistakably points all mankind to the true and living God. In the fourth commandment, God is revealed as the Creator of

the heavens and the earth, and is thereby distinguished from all false gods. It was as a memorial of the work of creation that the seventh day was sanctified as a rest day for man. It was designed to keep the living God ever before the minds of men as the source of being and the object of reverence and worship. Satan strives to turn men from their allegiance to God, and from rendering obedience to His law; therefore he directs his efforts especially against that commandment which points to God as the Creator. **GC 53.3**

“Protestants now urge that the resurrection of Christ on Sunday made it the Christian Sabbath. But Scripture evidence is lacking. No such honor was given to the day by Christ or His apostles. The observance of Sunday as a Christian institution had its origin in that “mystery of lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2:7, R.V.) which, even in Paul’s day, had begun its work. Where and when did the Lord adopt this child of the papacy? What valid reason can be given for a change which the Scriptures do not sanction?” **GC 54.1**

THE DARK AGES

By 538 AD the papacy became head over the entire church with headquarters in the city of Rome. Paganism had given place to the papacy (Rev13:2) and the 1260-year reign of papal oppression, called the Dark Ages, began (Daniel 7:25; Rev13: 5 -7). Persecution burst forth upon true Christians. The true church was forced to find refuge in seclusion and obscurity (Revelation 12:6), while the *mother harlot*, described in Rev.17, controlled Europe and Europe’s colonies. Papal errors multiplied exponentially and the darkness deepened.

THE LIST OF ERRORS

1. Papal infallibility
2. Church- state union with church dogma enforced by civil law, the compulsion of the conscience, with disobedience to papal doctrines punishable by the state
3. Sunday sacredness and the abolishing of God's true Seventh Day Sabbath
4. Immortality of the soul and man's consciousness in death
5. Eternal torment of the unsaved and the doctrine of *purgatory*
6. The mediation of priests and dead saints and the virgin Mary, replacing Christ as the *only Mediator* between man and God
7. The absurdity of *indulgences; buying forgiveness even before committing the willful sin.*
8. The idolatrous doctrine of the *mass, where priests by their senseless mummery pretended to convert the bread and wine into the actual body and blood of Christ.*
9. The persecutory engine of the Inquisition.
10. The claim that the Roman Church is the one and only true church.

(Remember that three of these errors: Sunday sacredness, immortality of the creature soul, and church- state enforcement of Sunday rest and worship will be held and promoted by apostate Protestantism in the end-time 'image and mark of the beast' crisis.)

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

God raised up reformers who searched for and found at least the basics of the true gospel and, from the word of God, exposed many of the papal errors. The darkness was so dense they couldn't find all the truth all at once. It would take time. The **Protestant Reformation 1517 to 1773**, declared liberty of conscience in matters of faith and worship to be an inalienable human right. The Reformation proclaimed salvation by grace through faith and not by works and that the scriptures, not tradition, must be basis of all doctrine. From 1628 onwards Protestants sailed across the Atlantic and reached America seeking a church without a pope and a country without a king. After a long struggle at the peril of their lives Protestants lobbied for religious liberty until eventually the USA Constitution was written with liberty of conscience enshrined as a God-given fundamental and inalienable human right.

However, the Protestant denominational churches eventually ceased to push forward the Reformation. They settled down into the worldly ease and prosperity of the rapidly growing American economy. They also continued their adherence to several papal errors such as Sunday sacredness, immortality of the soul, the souls of the righteous going to heaven at death, the souls of the wicked, at death, going straight to eternal torment in hell. They thus became daughters of the mother harlot: the Babylon of apostate Protestantism centered in the USA.

REVELATION 12

Revelation chapter 12 symbolizes the true bride of Christ as a holy woman and her children or seed. In the end-time (post 1844) only a remnant, called out by the *three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14: 6 – 12*, exists.

The *woman* of Revelation 12 symbolizes **the true Christianity** from the days of the Apostles right through to end of time.

THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES (REVELATION CHAPTERS 2 AND 3)

The 7 letters to the churches in **Revelation chapters 2 and 3** cover the history of the true Christianity from AD 31 to the second Advent of Christ.

In the period AD 31 to AD 313 (Ephesus, Smyrna) Satan used Pagan Rome as the persecutory agent to wage war against the bride of Christ. But persecution could not halt the spiritual growth of the early church, so Satan changed tactics and induced a further departure from their first love coupled with insidiously progressive compromises with Roman paganism

In the period 313 AD to 538 AD (Pergamos) there occurred the falling away that led to the development and institutionalization of the false or counterfeit church symbolized in Revelation 17 by the great harlot and her children. The mother harlot waged war against the true Christianity during the 1260-year (Thyratira) period (Revelation 12:6)

The Protestant Reformation during the period 1517 to 1773, (Sardis), saw the commencement of the rebuilding of the true Christianity, but rather than complete the Reformation, Sardis became spiritually dead by the year (1780) when ‘The Dark Day’ (May 19, 1780), the first of the signs of the Second Advent, occurred. [See GC 308 – 309]. Sardis became the daughters of Babylon.

FIRST AND SECOND ANGELS MESSAGES

The Builder of the church, through the *First Angel's Message* of Revelation 14: 6, 7, in the period 1831 to 1844, recommenced the Reformation. But the daughters of Babylon rejected the preaching of the First Angel's Message in the form of the urgent nearness of Christ Second Coming and received the *condemnation that Babylon, the Sardis churches, had undergone a spiritual* fall. (Rev 14:8)

THE MIDNIGHT CRY AND GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT

In the Autumn of 1844, the Holy Spirit through *The Midnight Cry* carried the church into the Philadelphian period. Then came the great disappointment of October 22, 1844, the ending date for the 2300 day/ year Prophecy of Daniel 8: 14. This disappointment was forewritten in Revelation 10.

Thereafter *The Third Angel's Message* accomplished the establishing of core doctrines such as the Sanctuary truth and Christ our High Priest as the only Mediator between God and man, the investigative judgment; the perpetuity and immutability of the moral law and the Seventh-Day Creation Sabbath; the non- immortality of the creature soul; man's condition in death; the Second Coming of Christ; the first resurrection ; the millennial reign of the saints in Heaven; the post-millennial return of Christ; the descent of the New Jerusalem; the second resurrection ; the **Great White Throne Judgment**; the final destruction of the unsaved along with Satan and his fallen angels; the **New Heavens and the New Earth**. In addition, there was the **manifestation of the prophetic gift in the writings of Ellen G. White and deeper insights into the Character of God as revealed in the issues at stake in the Satanic rebellion and God's dealing with that rebellion**, commonly called the great controversy.

LAODICEAN LUKEWARMNESS

But by 1858/59 the Third Angel's Movement was labelled *lukewarm* having lost genuine gospel experience. In 1888, the Message of the Covenants and righteousness by faith and the true gospel was sent and not accepted. That message emphasized the doctrine of the two Adams and the important truth that in the incarnation the Son of God took on our corporate sinful, fallen flesh but lived a *sinless* character guaranteeing that the remnant can and will overcome as Christ overcame by receiving His victory. That was the beginning of the *loud-cry light*, its rejection led to the terrible compromises of the 1950's and the book: "SDA's Answer Questions on Doctrine" which was an official statement of apostasy. Since then, the advancing gospel light and the wonderful message of God's Character have also not been accepted by church officialdom

APPEAL.

We are almost at a 180 year or four and a half generational delay since 1844 and Jesus is still waiting for His **Bride to make herself ready!** The true remnant must, at least, be at the growth stage of the *ear* (Mark 4: 26 to 29) for the 4 angels of Revelation 7 to loosen enough to allow the setting up of the image and mark of the beast first in the USA. In the end-time it will be the daughters of the Revelation 17 harlot that will initiate final war against the remnant of the seed of the Revelation 12 true bride of Christ. (Revelation 12:17). The hour very late, the Bride must speedily make herself ready.

CHAPTER 13

THE BRIDEGROOM IS STILL WAITING

RECAPPING THE HISTORY OF EARLIER DELAYS

The commencement of Christ's High Priestly ministry in the First Apartment of the heavenly sanctuary after His ascension in AD 31, was heralded by the outpouring of the early rain of the Holy Spirit upon His waiting disciples on the Day of Pentecost. According to the *harvest principle*, written in Mark 4:26 – 29, the 'new born' church was to grow from 'blade' to 'ear' under Christ's First Apartment High Priestly Ministry which would have been early rain Holy Spirit growth. Then upon approaching the growth stage called the 'ear', the High Priest would have transitioned into the Second Apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, called the Most Holy Place, for the outpouring of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit, to ripen the church for the harvest and the Second Coming of Christ. The respective time periods which would

have been required for each of those growth stages, had the church remained faithful and had she never departed from her first love, we do not know because they are not revealed in scripture. What we do know is that the believers in the Ephesus Era certainly hoped for the speedy return of Christ in their generation.

However, the Holy Spirit, through the prophecies of Daniel, had revealed to the Apostle Paul that there would have been a falling away. God had foreseen it all and had inspired Daniel to write it down. We already studied this in Chapter 12. Whatever would have been the time required for the growth of the church from ‘blade’ to ‘ear’, the falling away produced a 1260-year apostasy which caused severe growth retardation and greatly delayed the entrance of our High Priest into the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. As we also saw in the previous chapter, it took the tremendous work of the Protestant Reformation to rebuild and restore the church from the papal ruins of the Dark Ages. The delays caused by recurrent Jewish backsliding and the falling away of the church in the Christian Era caused the 2300-year Prophecy to be as long as it was!

THE CULMINATION OF THE 2300 YEARS

October 22, 1844 marked the end of the 2300 day-year Prophecy and the commencement of the Most Holy Place phase of Christ’s High Priestly Ministry, which includes (1) continuation of His intercessory mediatorial Ministration for all mankind; (2) the investigative or pre-advent judgment and (3) the character perfection of the end-time remnant whereby Christ will *reaffirm* the vindication of God’s character and the *defeat* of Satan (which were *accomplished* and *affirmed* at Calvary), by fully reproducing His character in His remnant church.

This work was to be accomplished in a relatively short period of time, in fact within the first generation after 1844.

THE GENERATION CONCEPT.

Paul in Hebrews 3: 8 to 10,17,18 informs us of the concept of 40 years being a functional generation: it is the time period in which the people of God fix their choice one way or the other concerning His plan for them in that time frame. Moreover, each generation is made up of *four decades* parallel to the four watches of the night in ancient times. Each decade is *watch*. (Luke 12: 35 – 40; 2 T192, 193). Writing in 1868 which was near the middle of the *third decade of the first generation* the Servant of the Lord wrote “They were encouraging one another by repeating these words: “The first and second watches are past. We are in the third watch, waiting and watching for the Master’s return” 2T 192.

THE FIRST GENERATION IN THE THIRD ANGEL MOVEMENT (1844- 1884)

The first generation after Oct.22, 1844 would have ended in Oct. 1884. Let us now read this Spirit of Prophecy quotation which indicated that the people of God could have been harvest-ripened well before 1884.

HISTORY OF MODERN DELAYS

“Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have

been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward. But in the period of doubt and uncertainty that followed the disappointment, many of the advent believers yielded their faith.... Thus the work was hindered, and the world was left in darkness. Had the whole Adventist body united upon the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, how widely different would have been our history!” **Ev 695.3**

“It was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be thus delayed. God did not design that His people, Israel, should wander forty years in the wilderness. He promised to lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there a holy, healthy, happy people. But those to whom it was first preached, went not in ‘because of unbelief.’ Their hearts were filled with murmuring, rebellion, and hatred, and He could not fulfill His covenant with them.” **Ev 696.1**

“For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.” —**Manuscript 4, 1883. Ev 696.2**

GENERATION ONE LUKEWARMNESS

By 1858 in Testimonies Volume 1 the spiritual diagnosis of Laodicean *lukewarmness* was applied to the *Third Angel* Movement.

“I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God’s people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts” 1 T 186.

The first SDA generation 1844 – 1884 ended with the spiritual malady of lukewarmness entrenched endemically. The Second Generation (1884 – 1924) began. God had to do something very special. And He did!!

THE SECOND GENERATION (1884- 1924)

THE 1888 MESSAGE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

In November 1888, four years into the second generation, God sent the true Gospel to the church as the spiritual *cure* for lukewarmness.

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.” **TM 91.2**

“The uplifted Saviour is to appear in His efficacious work as the Lamb slain, sitting upon the throne, to dispense the priceless covenant blessings, the benefits He died to purchase for every soul who should believe on Him. John could not express that love in words; it was too deep, too broad; he calls upon the human family to behold it. Christ is pleading for the church in the heavenly courts above, pleading for those for whom He paid the redemption price of His own lifeblood. Centuries, ages, can never diminish the efficacy of this atoning sacrifice. The message of the gospel of His grace was to be given to the church in clear and distinct lines, that the world should no longer say that Seventh-day Adventists talk the law, the law, but do not teach or believe Christ.” **TM 92.1**

“The efficacy of the blood of Christ was to be presented to the people with freshness and power, that their faith might lay hold upon its merits. As the high priest sprinkled the warm blood upon the mercy seat, while the fragrant cloud of incense ascended before God, so while we confess our sins and plead the efficacy of Christ’s atoning blood, our prayers are to ascend to heaven, fragrant with the merits of our Saviour’s character.” **TM 92.2**

MESSAGE NOT ACCEPTED

“An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord’s message through Brethren Waggoner and Jones. By exciting that opposition, Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit

that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world.” **EGW1888 Materials,1575**

“... Although there has been a determined effort to make of no effect the message God has sent, its fruits have been proving that it was from the source of light and truth. Those who have cherished unbelief and prejudice, who in the place of helping to do the work the Lord would have them do, have stood to bar the way against all evidence, cannot be supposed to have clearer spiritual eyesight for having so long closed their eyes to the very light God sent to the people.” **1888 1024.3**

“God will withdraw His Spirit unless His truth is accepted” **EGW 1888 Materials 124**

The Message was kept before the church during the period 1888 to 1895 by the messengers but still there was no official acceptance or endorsement. Even at the 1901 General Conference Session all Heaven was waiting for special repentance and acceptance of the light but to no avail. That second generation (1884 – 1924) also passed into history.

THIRD GENERATION 1924- 1964

God had given a warning to the church back in 1901:

“We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel;

but for Christ's sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action."—Letter 184, 1901. Ev 696.3

APOSTASY IN THE 1950'S

The history of the discussions between Protestant Theologians Martin and Barnhouse with SDA scholars and officialdom, was well documented, but was not well known by the worldwide membership. Even now most SDA members remain in the dark concerning not only that piece of history, but also the history of the 1888 Message and its rejection. The 1950's apostasy led to changes in the church's position the kind of human flesh the Son of God took on in His incarnation. The erroneous teaching that He took on Adam's *Pre-fall* human flesh had its roots right there. The book *SDAs Answer Questions on Doctrine* was published in 1957 and threw the doctrinal positions of the church on *Christology*, *Final Atonement* and *Final generation character perfection* into a tailspin.

The third SDA generation (1924-1964) ended with the church *no more ready for the Final Crisis or the Second Coming of Christ than when she was officially labelled lukewarm in the first generation!!*

Generation Four (1964- 2004)

The discovery and circulation of the Jones/ Waggoner 1888 - 1895 materials and EGW1888 Materials and the publication 1888 *Re-examined* by Pastors Wieland & Short, led to discussion and agitation. General Conference denial of the rejection of the 1888 message, paradoxically coupled with no official statement on Christ's human flesh, inflamed the agitation. This led to the springing up of independent SDA movements seeking to walk in the 1888 righteousness-by-faith light. In the late 1970's and early 1980's the light on *God's true*

character and the resultant clearer understanding of the issues at stake in the Great Controversy and the Investigative Judgment began to be understood and to be disseminated in spite of hostile opposition.

The fourth generation ended (in Oct.2004) with conferences trying to devise methods to finish the work by various evangelistic techniques and strategies while doctrinal disarray and stubborn rejection of light continued. Those four generations of spiritual decline are described in Joel 1:3, 4.

FIFTH GENERATION OR NEW FIRST GENERATION

Since four generations = 1 complete cycle of *sowing and reaping*, (Exodus 20:), the *fifth generation must really be a new first generation in a new cycle*. (Review our 2018 Camp Work Book). This generation has the time frame 2004 to 2044. The true people of God can and will make this the *generation of restoration* according to Joel 2: 25- 27.

The *watches* in this *generation of restoration* are: First Watch: 2004-2014 and that has already passed. The Second Watch: 2014- 2024. This is the *watch* we are now in at the time of writing this book. This second watch will end on October 22, 2024. The end of the second watch marks the half way point in a generation and is called a *mid-night* point. The words of Jesus in Luke 12: 38 are significant, these words indicate that the *second, and the third watch* are special times when God's people can accelerate their spiritual growth to reach at least the growth stage called the 'ear', the stage at which they are qualified to receive the *latter rain baptismal outpouring to carry forward the final explosive evangelistic, loud-cry gospel proclamation to all the world, which will bring the final generation of living humans to final decision*.

AT LAST HIS WIFE WILL MAKE HERSELF READY

Under the latter rain ripening, both now in the advancing light and especially during the *loud cry* the true remnant church will ripen from ‘*ear*’ to full ‘*grain in the ear*’ and having made herself ready, will be sealed with the *seal of the Living God!* Let us repent of the long delay and quickly fulfill this final quotation as we approach the end of the second watch in this new first generation.

FINAL QUOTATION

“It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.”—**Testimonies For The Church 8:22, 23 (1904). Ev 696.5**

CHAPTER 14

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND GETTING READY

We begin this chapter by reading **Mark 4: 26 - 29** and **James 5: 7, 8**.

Jesus in Mark 4: 26 – 29 teaches the *harvest principle* and highlights 4 critical stages of growth: the *blade*, the *ear*, the *full corn (grain) in the ear*, and *harvest ready fruit* or *grain*.

The Apostle James in James 5: 7, 8 gives the important roles of the *early* and *latter rains of the Holy Spirit* for the ripening of the harvest for Christ's second coming.

Early spiritual growth from *blade* to *ear* is accomplished by the *early rain* of the Holy Spirit. *Ripening growth* from *ear* to *full grain in the ear* is accomplished by the *latter rain* of the Holy Spirit. The *blade* means *initial conversion*, the *ear* is the stage at which the *latter rain* '*fills out the ears*' and '*ripens the grain*.' *The ear*, then, is the growth stage which *must be reached to qualify for the reception of the latter rain*, but the *ear* is *not* yet the stage of harvest- ready perfection.

The ripening process from *ear* to *full corn in the ear* represents the *completion* of the work of God's grace in the soul.

“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” **RH March 2, 1897**

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

“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.” **RH March 2, 1897**

EARLY RAIN GROWTH

The early rain of the Holy Spirit lays down the solid foundation of convicting us of sin and convincing us of our need of the Saviour; giving us repentance and confession; enabling us to surrender, and imparting the faith of Jesus, and creating appreciation of God's

Agape Love, culminating in the radical change of the new birth and then spiritual growth, through prayer and studying the truth. *This foundation deepens and solidifies as growth continues, and includes daily conversions.* The early rain will bring the believer to the growth stage called the *ear*, at which stage: character defects will have been remedied, the soul cleansed of every defilement and a close spiritual intimacy maintained with Christ.

“May the Lord help His people to cleanse the soul temple from every defilement, and to maintain such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out” RH July 20,1886

TOP PRIORITY

Our number one priority, our overwhelming desire, our main aim must be to allow the Holy Spirit to complete our early rain experience and bring us to the stage of the *ear* in order to qualify for receiving the latter rain out-pouring. Only when the true end-time remnant reaches that growth stage will the Sunday law (image and mark of the beast) be called for, and enforced, first in the USA and thereafter globally. Our protracted growth retardation and failure to reach the *ear* is the *reason* for the **delay**. God is *not* waiting for pandemics or earthquakes or changes in climate, (things will get worse and the world more complex, the longer God’s people delay), but He is waiting for *His wife to make herself ready!* And reaching the stage of the *ear* will be the *turning point* that will allow *the advanced ripening of the remnant* and the passing of the Sunday law followed by the final movements in the religious and political world, which movements will be rapid ones!

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

The question is usually asked: What *more* could be needed after reaching the stage of the *ear*? Let us reason together: Adam was sinless, yet He had to be tested in order to demonstrate loyalty. He failed. The sinless angels in heaven failed when tested by Satan's sophistry. Jesus, sinless in character, had to learn obedience by the things He suffered and He grew in grace until He too faced His final crisis and what a struggle that was! He even asked if it was possible for the cup to be removed (Matthew 26: 39) then He made up His mind to save man at any cost to Himself!

Similarly, the end-time remnant after reaching the stage called the *ear* will be tested by the persecutory pressure of the *Image and Mark of the Beast* (Rev.13: 11- 17) *over which they must be victorious in order to reach the full corn in the ear, pass the investigative judgment of the living* and be *sealed* with the Rev 7 seal of the Living God.

“This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast” **(Letter 11, 1890). 7BC 976.3**

“In Revelation 14 John beholds another scene. He sees a people whose fidelity and loyalty to the laws of God's kingdom, grow with the emergency. The contempt placed upon the law of God only makes them reveal more decidedly their love for that law. It increases with the contempt that is placed upon it” **(Manuscript 163, 1897). 7BC 981.9**

Then after the closure of probation they will be further tested and ripened by the *'hot sun'* of the *Time of Jacob's Trouble* and, after being cleansed of all earthiness, be at last *harvest ready!!!*

GROWTH FAILURE

In the parable of the Sower in Matthew 13: 1- 23 (KJV) Jesus describes the spiritual disorders (soil-types = mind-sets) that prevent us from reaching the growth stage called the *ear*. **Way-side** soil describes an inattentive mind-set devoid of initial conversion. **Stony-ground** soil describes an initial conversion (or a superficial conversion) but there is no deepening of the conversion experience, no progressive dying to self, therefore spiritual death occurs quite early, while the professed believer thinks he is rich and increased with goods, not realizing his need of reconversion and entire dependence on Christ. **Thorny- ground** is a mind-set that allows the deceitfulness of riches, the stresses, trials and cares of daily living to distract and to disrupt the abiding relationship. **Good-soil** is the mind-set that experiences initial and daily conversions, progressively experiences daily dying to self and advancement in knowledge of the truth while depending entirely on Christ and His righteousness. Whatever *soil type* we start out with, it can be changed to *good soil* by the Holy Spirit, but we *must* want, and choose, to have the good-soil *mind-set!*

SPIRITUAL GARDENING

“The garden of the heart must be cultivated. The soil must be broken up by deep repentance for sin. Poisonous, Satanic plants must be uprooted. The soil once overgrown by thorns can be reclaimed only by diligent labor. So, the evil tendencies of the natural heart can be overcome only by earnest effort

in the name and strength of Jesus. The Lord bids us by His prophet, ‘Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.’ ‘Sow to yourselves in righteousness; reap in mercy.’ Jeremiah 4:3; Hosea 10:12. This work He desires to accomplish for us, and He asks us to co-operate with Him.” **CSA 23.5**

LAODICEAN LUKEWARMNESS

This spiritual disease, with its cure, is described in Revelation 3: 14- 22. One fundamental spiritual pathology contributing to this condition is the unconscious shift from initially hot, new-covenant spiritual growth to an old-covenant, self-dependent, self- satisfied condition that loses the conversion experience and needs reconversion.

The stony-ground condition is another significant contributor to lukewarmness.

DELIVERANCE FROM LUKEWARMNESS

The growth stage called the *ear* cannot be reached unless the soul is *completely* cured of Lukewarmness. This requires reconversion and daily conversion through acceptance of the Testimony of the True and Faithful Witness in Rev.3:14 to 22, and includes intellectual and experiential acceptance of the true gospel, the true doctrine of the Covenants and the true knowledge of God’s character. Such deliverance calls for a significant improvement in the believer’s prayer-life and study- life. We are told that only those who engage in agonizing prayer, deep searching of the word and deep soul searching, will obtain the victory over lukewarmness and qualify to receive the latter rain of the Holy Spirit!

“The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and

agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks.” EW 270

CHURCH NOW MILITANT

Now the church is Militant. There are many difficulties, differences of opinion, strife and divisions. But the greatest battle is the battle against *self*, against the Satanic principle of selfishness, self-exaltation, self-centeredness, pride and strife for the supremacy. True unity can only be achieved by receiving and experiencing the meekness and *humility* of the *mind* of Christ brought to us by His Spirit in the completion of our early rain growth experience.

“The Church militant is not the Church triumphant. Unless the people of God wage a valiant warfare against every species of sin, they will never pass through the portals of the holy city. And we shall have no second trial. Now is the accepted time, the time in which we are to obtain the education that will enable us to live in the heavenly courts. The whole heavenly universe is watching with the deepest interest to see who in this primary school is practicing the lessons of Christ.”

“What does the Scripture say? —‘Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?’”

“This is the great day of atonement. How much better it is for us to afflict our souls than to be engaged in strife for the highest place, causing heart-burning and discord. Never think or speak evil. When tempted to do this, go by yourself, and ask God to help you to overcome this hateful sin. Humble yourselves in the sight of God, and He will lift you up. Let us praise God that when we humble ourselves, His merciful hand lifts us up”. **RH Dec. 31, 1901**

“I have been especially instructed in regard to the danger of drawing apart, and of evil speaking and contention. We need to bow before God in repentance because of our lack of love for one another, and for him who died for us. The gold of love and faith is not abundant among us. Many are holding on to the truth with but the tips of their fingers. The precious time that should be spent in speaking of the Saviour’s power to save, is being spent by many in carrying evil reports. Unless they make a decided change, they will be found wanting. Unless they have an entire transformation of character, they will never enter heaven. A deep, thorough work needs to be done in the hearts of those who profess to be children of God. Until they reveal the faith that works by love and purifies the soul, very little genuine work for God will be done in the world.” **RH Nov.24, 1904**

CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

In May 1889, at a Camp Meeting in Ottawa, Kansas, where there was heavy resistance to the message of righteousness by faith, the Servant of the Lord wrote:(eventually published in July of that year):

“We thank the Lord with all the heart that we have precious light to present before the people, and we rejoice that we have

a message for this time which is present truth. The tidings that Christ is our righteousness has brought relief to many, many souls, and God says to his people, ‘Go forward.’” **RH July 23,1889**

“The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for He knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken” **GW 161**

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

“...if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” 1 John 1:7

*“Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is the truth”
John 17:17*

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent” John 17: 3

SEARCH DILIGENTLY FOR TRUTH

“There are many who have not taxed their mental powers, and who have no experience in putting to the stretch their utmost ability to find out what is truth. It is not possible that the Holy Spirit shall fall upon you unless you feel your need, and are more desirous for its descent than you now are. You should realize that you are living upon the very borders of the eternal world, that Christ is coming very soon, and that all heaven is interested in the work that is in progress in fitting up a people for his coming. If ever there was a people that needed to heed the counsel of

the True Witness to the Laodicean church to be zealous and to repent before God, it is the people who have had opened up before them the stupendous truths for this time, and who have not lived up to their high privileges and responsibilities. We have lost much in not living up to the light of the solemn truths which we profess to believe” **RH June 4, 1889**

OUR MINDS MUST BE FORTIFIED WITH THE TRUTH

“Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.” **GC 593**

“If you would stand through the time of trouble, you must know Christ, and appropriate the gift of his righteousness, which he imputes to the repentant sinner” **RH Nov.22, 1892**

THE HEALTH REFORM MESSAGE

The Health Message has been given to facilitate the advanced sanctification that the end-time remnant must have in order to be victorious in the final crisis and to be prepared for translation.

“December 10, 1871, I was again shown that the health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord. It is as closely connected with the third angel’s message as the hand is with the body.” **CD 69.1**

“Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it.” **CD 380.4**

PRAY FOR THE LATTER RAIN

“The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of Man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

“There is to be ‘first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.’ There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.” **RH March 2, 1897**

CLIMBING PETER’S LADDER

(2 Peter 1: 1 – 11) (Review 2016 Camp Book)

“These words are full of instruction, and strike the key-note of victory. The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian perfection, every step of which represents continual advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity (agape Love) are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ’s ideal for us. Thus, he is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

“God has called his people to glory and virtue, and these will be manifest in the lives of all who are truly connected with him. Having become partakers of the heavenly gift, they are to go on to perfection, being “kept by the power of God through faith.” It is the glory of God to give his virtue to his children. He desires to see men and women reaching the highest standard; and when by faith they lay hold of the power of Christ, when they plead his unfailing promises, and claim them as their own, when with an importunity that will not be denied they seek for the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be made complete in Him” RH Sept.19, 1912

EARLY AND LATTER RAINS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“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.” **RH March 2, 1897**

THE LATTER RAIN FILLS OUT THE EARS AND RIPENS THE GRAIN

“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.”

“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain.’ Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall. Ask for it. The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with husbandman. God alone can ripen the harvest. But man’s co-operation is required. God’s work for us demands the action of our mind, the exercise of our faith. We must seek his favors with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us.” **RH March 2, 1897**

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST’S PRAYER-LIFE

“Daily He (Jesus) received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that He might impart to others.” **COL 139**

Remember that: “Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciples that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character.” **RH May 19, 1904**

PLACING OURSELVES IN THE CHANNEL OF BLESSING

“We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. Christ has said, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst.’ The convocations of the church, as in camp-meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God’s appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.” **RH March 2, 1897**

ATTEND, FOCUS, AND PRAY

“But let none think that in attending these gatherings, their duty is done. A mere attendance upon all the meetings that are held will not in itself bring a blessing to the soul. It is not an immutable law that all who attend general gatherings or local meetings shall receive large supplies from heaven. The circumstances may seem to be favorable for a rich outpouring of the showers of grace. But God himself must command the rain to fall. Therefore, we should not be remiss in supplication. We are not to trust to the ordinary working of providence. We must pray that God will unseal the fountain of the water of life. And we must ourselves receive of the living water. Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the time of the latter rain, the showers of grace may fall upon us. At every meeting we attend, our prayers should ascend that at this very time, God will impart warmth and moisture to our souls. As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.” **RH March 2, 1897**

SPIRITUAL INTIMACY WITH GOD

“Let your heart break for the longing it has for God, for the living God. The life of Christ has shown what humanity can do by being partaker of the divine nature. All that Christ received from God we too may have. Then ask and receive. With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, claim for yourself all that God has promised.” **COL 149.2**

“Let the glorious conceptions of God possess your mind. Let your life be knit by hidden links to the life of Jesus. He who commanded the light to shine out of darkness is willing to shine in your heart, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will take the things of God and show them unto you, conveying them as a living power into the obedient heart. Christ will lead you to the threshold of the Infinite. You may behold the glory beyond the veil, and reveal to men the sufficiency of Him who ever liveth to make intercession for us.” **COL 149.3**

HALLELUJAH!!!

CHAPTER 15

BRUISING SATAN'S HEAD

A remarkable declaration by the Apostle Paul is recorded in Romans 16: 20: “*And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly*” Romans 16: 20 KJV. “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” Romans 16: 20 NLT.

The announcement that Satan's head would be “bruised” or “crushed” was first given by God right after the Fall of Adam. It is written down in Genesis 3: 15: God made this announcement to Satan in the hearing of Adam and Eve: “**And I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise His heel**” Gen.3:15 KJV. The NIV puts it this way: “**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel**” Gen.3: 15 NIV. This text mentions two kinds of seed: the woman's seed and Satan's seed.

THE WOMAN'S SEED

The woman in Genesis 3: 15 refers primarily to Eve the mother of all humans; her seed primarily refers to Jesus the incarnate Son of God. In Galatians 3: 16 the Apostle Paul plainly states that Christ is the Seed. In Revelation 12:1-5 the woman symbolizes the church and she is pictured as giving birth to the Messiah, so here again Jesus, the Christ, is the Seed. It is clear then that Genesis 3:15 foretold the crushing defeat of Satan by Jesus at Calvary, when He paid the debt in full for all human transgressions and, by revealing God's character, fully exposed Satan to be a liar and murderer from the outset set of his rebellion in heaven, He simultaneously opened the eyes of the angels and unfallen worlds to see, to a certain extent, the nature of sin and Satan's malignant government in contrast to God's unselfish Agape Love and benign Government.

THE WOMAN'S CHILDREN

But Revelation 12: 17 mentions the *remnant of the woman's seed* against whom Satan will wage final war.

“Under the symbols of a great red dragon, a leopard-like beast, and a beast with lamblike horns, the earthly governments which would especially engage in trampling upon God's law and persecuting His people, were presented to John. The war is carried on till the close of time. The people of God, symbolized by a holy woman and her children, were represented as greatly in the minority. In the last days only, a remnant still existed. Of these John speaks as they ‘which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’” **ST Nov.1 1899**

“...They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the Promise are counted for the seed” Rom 9:8

The born-again people of God are the *children or seed* of the Revelation 12 woman! In the end-time only a remnant still exists and Satan will wage war against this remnant *because they keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus* but the God of peace *will crush Satan under the feet of the remnant*

SATAN’S SEED

In the same way that Revelation 12 symbolizes Christ’s church and the remnant of her seed, Revelation 17 symbolizes the *harlot and her daughters: Satan’s antichrist system.*

The term ‘Satan’s seed’ is explained by Jesus in John 8: 44 when He told the Pharisees: *“Ye are of your Father the devil”*. Those who reject Christ are Satan’s seed in terms of character. In the end-time Satan’s seed will be those *who reject the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

THE ENMITY

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” Rom 8: 7

The Satanic principle of selfishness is the *enmity* against God’s principle of *unselfish, self-sacrificing Agape Love*. There can be no agreement, no harmony, no union, no collaboration, between God and Satan because the respective principles of each character and government are irreconcilably, diametrically opposite.

“All who follow Christ will wear the crown of sacrifice. They will surely be misunderstood by selfish men, and will be made a mark for the fierce assaults of Satan. It is this principle of self-sacrifice that his (Satan’s) kingdom is established to destroy, and he will war against it wherever manifested.” DA 223.4

GOD’S METHOD OF BRUISING CONTRASTED WITH SATAN’S

“The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government” DA22

“Rebellion was not to be overcome by force” DA 759

“Compelling power is found only under Satan’s government” DA 759

God overcomes evil with good by the principle of *Self-sacrificing selfless Agape Love*. Satan bruised Christ “heel” using force, violence, cruelty, falsehood, deception and murder.

“God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan’s government. The Lord’s principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God’s government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.” DA 759.1

God is Love, and God is the God of liberty. (1John 4: 8; 2 Corinthians 3: 17). God rests His case on *right* rather than *might* and is therefore open to self-sacrificial suffering. From all eternity past God foresaw that the path to victory would involve and include an infinite cost and

infinite suffering, but there was no other way by which Love could be victorious.

“Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God’s government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian’s character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation.” **COL 49.1**

“And love will be revealed in sacrifice. The plan of redemption was laid in sacrifice—a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. Christ gave all for us, and those who receive Christ will be ready to sacrifice all for the sake of their Redeemer. The thought of His honor and glory will come before anything else.” **COL 49.2**

HOW SATAN BRUISED CHRIST’S ‘HEEL’

“When Jesus came into the world, Satan’s power was turned against Him. From the time when He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem, the usurper worked to bring about His destruction. In every possible way he sought to prevent Jesus from developing a perfect childhood, a faultless manhood, a holy ministry, and an unblemished sacrifice. But he was defeated. He could not lead Jesus into sin. He could not discourage Him, or drive Him from a work He had come on earth to do. From the desert to Calvary, the storm of Satan’s wrath beat upon Him, but the more mercilessly it fell, the more firmly did the Son of God cling to the hand of His Father, and press on in the bloodstained path. All the efforts of Satan to oppress and overcome Him only brought out in a purer light His spotless character. **DA 759.4**

“All heaven and the unfallen worlds had been witnesses to the controversy. With what intense interest did they follow the closing scenes of the conflict. They beheld the Saviour enter the garden of Gethsemane, His soul bowed down with the horror of a great darkness. They heard His bitter cry, ‘Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.’ Matthew 26:39. As the Father’s presence was withdrawn, they saw Him sorrowful with a bitterness of sorrow exceeding that of the last great struggle with death. The bloody sweat was forced from His pores, and fell in drops upon the ground. Thrice the prayer for deliverance was wrung from His lips. Heaven could no longer endure the sight, and a messenger of comfort was sent to the Son of God.” **DA 759.5**

“Heaven beheld the Victim betrayed into the hands of the murderous mob, and with mockery and violence hurried from one tribunal to another. It heard the sneers of His persecutors because of His lowly birth. It heard the denial with cursing and swearing by one of His best-loved disciples. It saw the frenzied work of Satan, and his power over the hearts of men. Oh, fearful scene! the Saviour seized at midnight in Gethsemane, dragged to and fro from palace to judgment hall, arraigned twice before the priests, twice before the Sanhedrin, twice before Pilate, and once before Herod, mocked, scourged, condemned, and led out to be crucified, bearing the heavy burden of the cross, amid the wailing of the daughters of Jerusalem and the jeering of the rabble.” **DA 760.1**

“Heaven viewed with grief and amazement Christ hanging upon the cross, blood flowing from His wounded temples, and sweat tinged with blood standing upon His brow. From

His hands and feet the blood fell, drop by drop, upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross. The wounds made by the nails gaped as the weight of His body dragged upon His hands. His labored breath grew quick and deep, as His soul panted under the burden of the sins of the world. All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering, —‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’ Luke 23:34. Yet there stood men, formed in the image of God, joining to crush out the life of His only-begotten Son. What a sight for the heavenly universe!” **DA 760.2**

“The principalities and powers of darkness were assembled around the cross, casting the hellish shadow of unbelief into the hearts of men. When the Lord created these beings to stand before His throne, they were beautiful and glorious. Their loveliness and holiness were in accordance with their exalted station. They were enriched with the wisdom of God, and girded with the panoply of heaven. They were Jehovah’s ministers. But who could recognize in the fallen angels the glorious seraphim that once ministered in the heavenly courts?” **DA 760.3**

“Satanic agencies confederated with evil men in leading the people to believe Christ the chief of sinners, and to make Him the object of detestation. Those who mocked Christ as He hung upon the cross were imbued with the spirit of the first great rebel. He filled them with vile and loathsome speeches. He inspired their taunts. But by all this he gained nothing.” **DA 760.4**

“Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. Christ bowed

His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.” Revelation 12:10. **DA 761.1**

HOW CHRIST BRUISED SATAN’S HEAD

“Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, ‘It is finished.’ John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and his holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour’s victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost.” **DA 758.1**

Paul told the Colossians that Christ “spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it” Col.2: 13 KJV.

“...He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them openly by His victory over them on the cross” Col.2 :13 NLT

SATAN’S DISGUISE TORN OFF

“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was

restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken." **DA 761.2**

BUT MORE YET

"Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve." **DA 761**

A WORK FOR THE CHURCH TO DO

So, we see then that though Satan was defeated (his head bruised) by Christ at Calvary and the eyes of the unfallen angels were, to a certain extent opened, there was still more to be revealed and more for them to understand. Man, and angels must have *further* clarity on the principles and issues at stake. The Apostle Paul informs us that this would be accomplished *through the church*.

Christ, by His victory at Calvary, has done His *individual* work of bruising Satan's head while at the same time Satan bruised of His "heel" (Hebrews 2: 10; 5: 8). The church also has to do its work of bruising Satan's head while Satan bruises the church's heel.

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be made known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord". Ephesians 3: 10.

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly” Romans 16:20

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Rev.12: 17.

SHARERS IN THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST

Remember that the church is the Body of Christ and therefore Christ and His church are *one*. Union with Christ in His sufferings is the prerequisite to union with Christ in His glory. As Satan attacked Christ the Head of the Church, so he attacks the Church which is the body of Christ. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 3: 12: *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”*. This persecutory pressure will increase in intensity in Satan’s final war against the remnant (Rev.12:17) and reach its peak in the *“time of trouble such as never was” foretold* in Daniel 12: 1.

In that final battle the *remnant’s heel will* be terribly bruised by Satan, but Satan’s *head will be crushed* by the remnant!

FILLING UP WHAT IS BEHIND

In Colossians 1: 24 Paul wrote a mysterious statement. He seems to be saying that the victorious completion of the great controversy will require a certain quantity of suffering called the *afflictions of Christ* in the KJV. Christ by His sufferings paid, in full, the redemption price and suffered the full wrath of God for all human transgression.

The Church, His body, has to share in the sufferings of Christ for the purpose of overcoming *self and having the character of Christ fully*

reproduced in the Body. This will make up the total amount of what Paul calls *the afflictions of Christ.* Paul was glad to make his contribution. Whatever is lacking must be made up by the final remnant in the final crisis. They will need to have the faith of Jesus *fully developed in their souls so that they will be able to endure weariness, hunger, and delay, torture, persecution, and the death decree.*

Concerning John, the Baptist we are told in DA 223;

“To many minds a deep mystery surrounds the fate of John the Baptist. They question why he should have been left to languish and die in prison. The mystery of this dark providence our human vision cannot penetrate; but it can never shake our confidence in God when we remember that John was but a sharer in the sufferings of Christ”

ADVERSITY HELPS BUILD CHARACTER

(Romans 5: 1 - 5 ; 1 Peter 4: 1, 2)

“Life is disciplinary. While in the world, the Christian will meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If injuries and insults are meekly borne, if insulting words are responded to by gentle answers, and oppressive acts by kindness, this is evidence that the Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart, that sap from the living Vine is flowing to the branches. We are in the school of Christ in this life, where we are to learn to be meek and lowly of heart; and in the day of final accounts we shall see that all the obstacles we meet, all the hardships and annoyances that we are called to bear, are practical lessons in the application of principles of Christian life. If well endured, they develop the Christlife in the character and distinguish the Christian from the worldling.” **5T 344.2**

“There is a high standard to which we are to attain if we would be children of God, noble, pure, holy, and undefiled; and a pruning process is necessary if we would reach this standard. How would this pruning be accomplished if there were no difficulties to meet, no obstacles to surmount, nothing to call out patience and endurance? These trials are not the smallest blessings in our experience. They are designed to nerve us to determination to succeed. We are to use them as God’s means to gain decided victories over self instead of allowing them to hinder, oppress, and destroy us.” **5T 344.3**

“Character will be tested. Christ will be revealed in us if we are indeed branches of the living Vine. We shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without continual help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Each must win his own way through struggles and discouragements. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory. No one, not even God, can carry us to heaven unless we make the necessary effort on our part. We must put features of beauty into our lives. We must expel the unlovely natural traits that make us unlike Jesus. While God works in us to will and to do of His own good pleasure, we must work in harmony with Him. 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” **5T 344**

CHRIST'S VICTORY IS OURS TO CLAIM (1 COR. 15: 57)

“The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate. **DA 490.2**

“Beyond the cross of Calvary, with its agony and shame, Jesus looked forward to the great final day, when the prince of the power of the air will meet his destruction in the earth so long marred by his rebellion. Jesus beheld the work of evil forever ended, and the peace of God filling heaven and earth. **DA 490.3**

“Henceforward Christ’s followers were to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own. ‘Behold,’ He said, ‘I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.’ **DA 490.4**

“The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. Not one that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy’s power. The Saviour is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. When temptations and trials come, do not wait to adjust all the difficulties, but look to Jesus, your helper. **DA 490.5**

“There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?” **DA 493.1**

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TO ADVERSITY

“When trials arise that seem unexplainable, we should not allow our peace to be spoiled. However unjustly we may be treated, let not passion arise. By indulging a spirit of retaliation, we injure ourselves. We destroy our own confidence in God, and grieve the Holy Spirit. There is by our side a witness, a heavenly messenger, who will lift up for us a standard against the enemy. He will shut us in with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. Beyond this Satan cannot penetrate. He cannot pass this shield of holy light.” **COL 171.3**

DIFFICULTIES WILL INCREASE

“While the world is progressing in wickedness, none of us need flatter ourselves that we shall have no difficulties. But it is these very difficulties that bring us into the audience chamber of the Most High. We may seek counsel of One who is infinite in wisdom.” **COL 172.1**

“The Lord says, ‘Call upon Me in the day of trouble.’ Psalm 50:15. He invites us to present to Him our perplexities and

necessities, and our need of divine help. He bids us be instant in prayer. As soon as difficulties arise, we are to offer to Him our sincere, earnest petitions. By our importunate prayers we give evidence of our strong confidence in God. The sense of our need leads us to pray earnestly, and our heavenly Father is moved by our supplications.” **COL 172.2**

DO NOT GIVE IN TO DESPAIR

“Often those who suffer reproach or persecution for their faith are tempted to think themselves forsaken by God. In the eyes of men they are in the minority. To all appearance their enemies triumph over them. But let them not violate their conscience. He who has suffered in their behalf, and has borne their sorrows and afflictions, has not forsaken them.” **COL 172.3**

“The children of God are not left alone and defenseless. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence.” **COL 172.4**

“The rainbow of promise encircling the throne on high is an everlasting testimony that ‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16. It testifies to the universe that God will never forsake His people in their struggle with evil. It is an assurance to us of strength and protection as long as the throne itself shall endure.” **DA 493.2**

CHAPTER 16

FROM CHURCH MILITANT TO CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

THE END IS AT HAND

1 Peter 4: 7,8: *“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent love among yourselves; for love shall cover the multitude of sins”*

“The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant..... We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history”

RH October 19, 1905

The year 1905, when the above was written, was early in the *third* watch of the *second* generation after 1844. That *watch* and that

entire *second* generation (1884 - 1924) passed. In the same way the *third* generation (1924-1964) (*in that third generation there was a forgetting of God's teaching in our past history*) and the *fourth* (1964-2004) all passed making a ***four-generation*** delay. Four generations = 1 complete cycle of sowing and reaping. October 22, 2004 started a fifth generation which is really the ***first*** generation in a new cycle. We believe this to be the ***generation*** of restoration with a time frame 2004 to 2044. The first *watch* (2004 to 2014) has passed, we are in the second *watch* which will end October 22, 2024. Then the *third* watch will commence.

Let us remember a lesson from the first generation after 1844 as the first two watches of that generation passed and the third started; *the application to us at this time is solemnly striking!*

“I saw that watch after watch was in the past. Because of this, should there be a lack of vigilance? Oh, no! There is the greater necessity of unceasing watchfulness, for now the moments are fewer than before the passing of the first watch. Now the period of waiting is necessarily shorter than at first. If we watched with unabated vigilance then, how much more need of double watchfulness in the second watch. The passing of the second watch has brought us to the third, and now it is inexcusable to abate our watchfulness. The third watch calls for threefold earnestness. To become impatient now would be to lose all our earnest, persevering watching heretofore. The long night of gloom is trying; but the morning is deferred in mercy, because if the Master should come, so many would be found unready. God's unwillingness to have His people perish has been the reason for so long delay. But the coming of the morning to the faithful, and of the night to the unfaithful, is

right upon us. By waiting and watching, God's people are to manifest their peculiar character, their separation from the world. By our watching position we are to show that we are truly strangers and pilgrims upon the earth. The difference between those who love the world and those who love Christ is so plain as to be unmistakable. While worldlings are all earnestness and ambition to secure earthly treasure, God's people are not conformed to the world, but show by their earnest, watching, waiting position that they are transformed; that their home is not in this world, but that they are seeking a better country, even a heavenly." **2T 193.3(1868)**

"I hope, my dear brethren and sisters, that you will not pass your eye over these words without thoroughly considering their import." **2 T 193.4**

NO MORE DELAY

In that first generation 1844-1884, the spiritual malady of lukewarmness led to their losing all their earnest persevering watchfulness. In this *new first generation* as we approach the *third watch let us not repeat their mistake or the mistakes of the second, third or fourth generations*. To even think of prolonging the delay any further is too horrible to contemplate. We must now, by agonizing prayer and complete surrender, allow the Holy Spirit to accelerate our spiritual growth to the stage of the ear in order to receive the *latter rain out-pouring*.

THE TWO FINAL SHAKINGS (HEBREWS 12: 25 - 29)

The Laodicean Shaking (Rev. 3: 14- 22)

The first of these *Shakings* is caused by the Testimony of the True and Faithful Witness to the Laodicean church (Rev. 3:14-22), it started in the first *generation* (in 1859) but has not yet accomplished its purpose. All who heed this Testimony will be victorious over lukewarmness.

This Testimony includes the advancing light of the *true* gospel (including the Covenants), the true message of God's Character, and perfection of the last generation of believers (called the *remnant* in Rev.12:17).

Remember the 1888 Message (which was the beginning of the light that was to lighten the world) was sent to cure lukewarmness, therefore believing the true gospel is critically vital.

To be victorious in this shaking requires perseveringly agonizing prayer, fortifying the mind with the truth and the cleansing of the soul of all defilement and overcoming lukewarmness, all by the faith of Jesus and His righteousness. Victory in this Laodicean shaking is a prerequisite for reaching the growth stage called the *ear* and the reception of the *latter rain loud-cry outpouring*.

“I saw that we are now in the shaking time. Satan is working with all his power to wrest souls from the hand of Christ and cause them to trample underfoot the Son of God. An angel slowly and emphatically repeated these words: ‘Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?’ Character is

being developed. Angels of God are weighing moral worth. God is testing and proving His people. These words were presented to me by the angel: ‘Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the *beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.*’” **IT 429.1**

“I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God’s approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.” **EW 269.1**

“Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.” **EW 269.2**

“As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in

this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.” **EW 270.1**

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.” **EW 270.2**

“I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.” **EW 270.3**

Those who are victorious in the Laodicean shaking will receive the *latter rain* and commence the Revelation 18:1- 4 final warning called the *Loud Cry*. Those who refuse the victory in the Laodicean Shaking may tag along with the *Loud Cry* messengers but will be *shaken out* of the *Truth* by the progressive persecutory pressure of the *Image & Mark of the Beast System*.

THE SECOND OR MARK OF THE BEAST SHAKING (REV. 13: 12 - 17)

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” **GC 608.2**

A SMALL PROPORTION

“I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved. Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead. The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world.” **IT 608.3**

“Soon God’s people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers.” **1 T 136**

“The conflict that is right upon us will be the most terrible ever witnessed “**6T 407**

“A storm is arising that will wrench and test the spiritual foundation of every one to the utmost” **5 T 129**

DIVISION AND UNITY IN THE FINAL SHAKING.

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us” **6T 400**

AGAPE LOVE WILL PRODUCE UNITY

“Look at the cross of Calvary. It is a standing pledge of the boundless love, the measureless mercy, of the heavenly Father. O that all might repent and do their first works. When the churches do this, they will love God supremely and their neighbors as themselves. Ephraim will not envy Judah, and Judah will not vex Ephraim. Divisions will then be healed; the harsh sounds of strife will no more be heard in the borders of Israel. Through the grace freely given them of God, all will seek to answer the prayer of Christ, that His disciples should be one, even as He and the Father are one. (John 17:20-23). Peace, love, mercy, and benevolence will be the abiding principles of the soul. The love of Christ will be the theme of every tongue, and it will no more be said by the True Witness, ‘I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love’ (Revelation

2:4). The people of God will be abiding in Christ, the love of Jesus will be revealed, and one Spirit will animate all hearts, regenerating and renewing all in the image of Christ, fashioning all hearts alike. As living branches of the True Vine, all will be united to Christ, the living head. Christ will abide in every heart, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, and presenting to the world the unity of the followers of Jesus, thus bearing testimony that the heavenly credentials are supplied to the remnant church. In the oneness of Christ's church it will be proved that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world." **ISM 385.1**

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE (EPHESIANS 4:3)

"When God's people are one in the unity of the Spirit, all of Phariseeism, all of self-righteousness, which was the sin of the Jewish nation, will be expelled from all hearts. The mold of Christ will be upon each individual member of His body, and His people will be new bottles into which He can pour His new wine, and the new wine will not break the bottles. God will make known the mystery which hath been hidden for ages. He will make known what are the 'riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory'" (Colossians 1:27) [verses 28, 29 also quoted]. **ISM 386.1**

"Jesus came to impart to the human soul the Holy Spirit, by which the love of God is shed abroad in the heart; but it is impossible to endow men with the Holy Spirit, who are set in their ideas, whose doctrines are all stereotyped and unchangeable, who are walking after the traditions and commandments of men, as were the Jews in the time of Christ. They were very punctilious in the observances of the church, very rigorous in following

their forms, but they were destitute of vitality and religious devotion. They were represented by Christ as like the dry skins which were then used as bottles. The gospel of Christ could not be placed in their hearts; for there was no room to contain it. They could not be the new bottles into which He could pour His new wine” **ISM 385, 386**

JOHN 10: 16 WILL BE FULFILLED

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one-fold and one Shepherd”

So we see that while a large class who are not sanctified by the truth will be abandoning the true faith and joining the ranks of the opposition, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd’s voice. Many who strayed from the fold will return and many of God’s true people in Babylon will heed the Revelation 18: 4 call “*to come out of her, my people, that ye receive not of her plagues.*”

FROM EAR TO FULL GRAIN IN THE EAR

In the period of time between the passing of the Sunday law and the *closure of General Probation*, the two dimensions of the *mark-of-the-Beast* shaking (many shaken out to join Babylon, many coming out of Babylon to join the *true remnant*) will progress to completion. The true remnant will be giving the *final warning of Rev 18: 1- 4* while being severely tested by *bribes, arrests and fines before the law courts, imprisonment, the decree banning them from buying or selling, ridicule and scorn and also the attachment of the death penalty to the mark of the beast legislation.*

During this time period they will be ripened by the latter rain by overcoming the severe testing through the victory Christ gives them. The attributes of the character of Christ will be expanded to fill every dimension of motive, thought, word and action (filling out the *ears*), thereby maturing their character and fixing them in their loyalty to the point at which they will be immovable from the truth and from their loyalty to God through Christ by the indwelling Holy Spirit, (but they will not be conscious of this immovability or sealing). This ripening, then, will bring them to the point at which they will be sealed with the ***Revelation 7 Seal of the living GOD***. This means that they will be vindicated by the investigative judgment, their record of sins blotted out and their names retained in the ***Book of Life*** (*but they will not know that these things have been accomplished*).

Jesus finishes His work as High Priest and says with a loud voice “**It is done**”. This will indicate ***the general closure of Probation***, the time of which will be ***unknown*** to all.

“When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received “the latter rain,” “the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,” and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received “the seal of the living God.” Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, “It is done;” and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him

be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,” is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.” **GC 613.2**

“When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God’s long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law.” **GC 613, 614**

The *Latter Rain* would have prepared them for the *great time of trouble* (the time of the seven last plagues), which will stretch from the *closure of General Probation* to the *Second Coming of Christ*. The *time of Jacob’s Trouble* will stretch from *the second plague* to the *seventh plague*.

The fifth, sixth and seventh plagues will occur in rapid succession

Under the seventh plague, God’s voice will declare “*It is done*” the *unmingled wrath of God* (= *His withdrawal of His protective grace from the world that would have rejected His Son, His Salvation and His Sabbath Rest*) will result in *Armageddon*, (*the battle of the great day of God Almighty*) and the *deliverance of the living remnant elect!!*

GOD'S PEOPLE DELIVERED

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: “It is done.” Revelation 16:17. **GC 636.2**

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

palaces, upon which the world's great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and God's people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free." **GC 636.3**

"Graves are opened, and "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth... awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. "They also which pierced Him" (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient." **GC 637.1**

"Thick clouds still cover the sky; yet the sun now and then breaks through, appearing like the avenging eye of Jehovah. Fierce lightnings leap from the heavens, enveloping the earth in a sheet of flame. Above the terrific roar of thunder, voices, mysterious and awful, declare the doom of the wicked. The words spoken are not comprehended by all; but they are distinctly understood by the false teachers. Those who a little before were so reckless, so boastful and defiant, so exultant in their cruelty to God's commandment-keeping people, are now overwhelmed with consternation and shuddering in fear. Their wails are heard above the sound of the elements. Demons acknowledge the deity of Christ and tremble before His power, while men are supplicating for mercy and groveling in abject terror." **GC 637.2**

THE JOY OF DELIVERANCE

“A marvelous change has come over those who have held fast their integrity in the very face of death. They have been suddenly delivered from the dark and terrible tyranny of men transformed to demons. Their faces, so lately pale, anxious, and haggard, are now aglow with wonder, faith, and love. Their voices rise in triumphant song: ‘God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.’” Psalm 46:1-3. **GC 638- 639**

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Thereafter the events associated with Christ’s Second Coming occur in rapid succession. The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Christ’s Coming and delivering the everlasting covenant to His remnant people. A small black cloud appears in the east indicated the approach of Jesus, as it approaches the earth it becomes progressively more glorious. The King of Kings descends in blazing glory with the angelic host. The events of Psalm 50:3,4 and Rev. 6: 14 to 17 are fulfilled. Amid the reeling of the earth, the lightning and thunder, the voice of Jesus calls forth the sleeping saints and changes the living saints in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. 1Thess.4: 16 – 18; 1 Corinthians 15: 52 – 55. The saints all ascend with Christ and the angels in a living chariot to the City of God. The 1000-year reign of Rev 20 begins with their arrival in Heaven.

ARRIVAL IN HEAVEN

Before entering the City Christ gives the saints emblems of victory and their royal insignia. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates and all the redeemed host enter into the New Jerusalem and are welcomed with unutterable love! Matthew 25: 34; John 17:24; Jude 24. There follows the joyous meeting of the two Adams.

THE 144,000 ON THE ‘SEA OF GLASS’

“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire, -- so resplendent is it with the glory of God, -- are gathered the company that have ‘gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark and over the number of his name” **GC 648**. Rev.14:1- 5 and 15: 2, 3 and 7: 14- 17 are fulfilled!

ALL THE REDEEMED BEFORE THE THRONE

“They stand before throne clad in richer robes than the most honored of the earth have ever worn. They are crowned with diadems more glorious than were ever placed upon the brow of earthly monarchs.” **GC 650**. Rev. 7: 9 – 12 is fulfilled. With all the glorified saints in the New Jerusalem, that city will literally be arrayed or adorned with the righteousness of the saints, the fine Linen clean and white!

THE SHOUT OF HALLELUJAH. REV. 19:7, 8.

The voice of the great multitude as the voice of many waters shout Hallelujah and then announce the marriage supper of the Lamb. Rev.19: 7- 9 which we believe will take place in heaven before the saints start their work of the judgement of the unsaved.

What a joy it will be to be there. Let us not miss the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.

APPENDIX A

Does Colossians 2: 16, 17 Abolish the Creation Sabbath?

Verse 16: Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink or in respect of a holy day or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days. Verse 17: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

This passage from Colossians is difficult to interpret and is the passage most frequently used by those who teach that seventh-day Sabbath-keeping is abolished. The first 3 questions to ask and answer about this passage are these: *What was the Apostle Paul really writing about, what issues was he seeking to clarify, what was his primary context?* Because if we assume that he was writing about matters *that he was not writing about, then, our conclusions will be dead wrong.* Furthermore our answers to these questions must be answers found in the scriptures.

ANSWERING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

The epistles of Paul reveal that he frequently had to deal with specific problems : some Jewish converts to Christianity were teaching that gentile converts had to be circumcised, had to perform sacrificial offerings on the various Sabbaths (plural), new moons, and appointed feast days, and even that they could only be justified by their own

efforts to keep the law (ceremonial or moral) either apart from or in addition to faith in Christ. Paul addressed these issues in many of his writings; for example his epistles to the Galatians and to the Hebrews; and as we shall see also in this passage in Colossians.

Eight Old Testament passages mention *feasts*, *new moon*, *Sabbaths* and also *meat* (= food), and *drink offerings*. Numbers 28: 1 – 29 & 29:1- 40, which are foundational passages ; 1 Chron..23: 31 ; 2 Chron. 2: 4 ; 8:12, 13 ; 31:3 ; Nehemiah 10: 33; Ezekiel 45: 17 ; Hosea 2: 11. For example Ezekiel 45:17 mentions : “burnt offerings and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths....”

It should be clear then that Paul’s writings in Colossians 2: 16, 17 were in reference to these Old Testament passages which used the identical terminology. Any believer in Paul’s day would have understood the connection between Colossians 2: 16,17 and those passages in the Hebrew scriptures.

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

This is further confirmed by reading Hebrews chapters 9 and 10, where Paul was discussing the earthly sanctuary and its services. Notice in Hebrews 9: 9, 10 where Paul said that the earthly sanctuary with its services (also called the ritual or ceremonial law) was a figure for that time and he mentioned the gifts and sacrifices which were offered and he explained that these gifts and sacrifices stood only in (or comprised of) meats and drinks, and divers washings, and cardinal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Paul therefore made it clear that when he wrote of ‘ meats and drinks’ he was referring to the *sacrificial earthly sanctuary services in which*

animals, grain, flour, drink, and oil were offered. Paul was *not* speaking about the dietary laws of Leviticus or Deuteronomy. He was *not* abolishing those dietary laws, *he was not dealing with that at all*, he was writing about the sacrifices of the ceremonial sanctuary services. (Isaiah 66:15 – 17 states God’s judgment on end-time rejectors of His dietary health laws)

In Colossians 2: 16 Paul also mentioned holydays, new moons, and sabbath days (plural) and then in verse 17 he stated that this whole set of things were “ *a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ*”.

DEFINITION OF ‘A SHADOW’

A shadow was anything instituted *after, and because of* the Fall of Adam, and the entrance of sin into the world. They *foreshadowed* the sacrifice and High priestly work of the Messiah Who was to come to earth and make the Supreme Sacrifice for all the sins of mankind. The earthly sanctuary services with their meat and drink sacrifices and various feast days, and yearly Sabbaths were all shadows. But Christ’s sacrifice and High Priestly ministry was the absolute reality to which all the shadows pointed forward.

CREATION SABBATH NOT A SHADOW

The creation seventh-day Sabbath was not made or instituted *after* Adam’s Fall. Therefore it could not be a ‘shadow’. It *is* the *memorial* of the Creator’s Rest after His perfect work of creation was completed. (Moreover after His perfect work of Redemption Jesus also rested in the tomb on the seventh day sabbath). The weekly seventh day or creation Sabbath is clearly distinguished from the yearly sabbaths of the earthly sanctuary in Leviticus 23 where all the ceremonial

Sabbaths are listed. Leviticus 23:37 calls them feasts of the Lord, holy convocation for offering meat and drink offerings. Then verse 38 adds : “*Beside the Sabbaths of the LORD...*”

It clear then that in Colossians 2: 16, 17, Paul was neither abolishing God’s dietary instructions nor His creation seventh day Sabbath. He was simply explaining that the sacrificial system foreshadowed Christ Who was the real sacrifice for all sin once and for all, and meat and drink offerings were no longer required. Hebrews 10: 12 to 17.

EVIDENCE FROM ACTS 15

The dispute between the Jewish Christian converts and Gentile converts reached a crescendo and necessitated a meeting of representatives of the various congregations scattered over the Euro-Asian geographical area where the gospel had raised up churches. According to Acts 15:1 the primary point of contention was that of circumcision. Moreover, according to verse 5, certain Pharisees who ‘believed’ the gospel stated that in addition to being circumcised Gentile converts should be commanded to keep ‘the law of Moses’ in order to be saved.

The Apostles clearly showed that the Gentiles were justified by the faith of Jesus and not by works of law, and having been saved by faith they were born again and created in Christ Jesus to the good works of obedience to the moral law as the manifestation of the gift of Christ’s righteousness.

It is important to realize that some Gentile Christians had already been converts to Judaism. Some Gentiles had been familiar with the Jewish faith though not Jewish converts,(Acts 15: 21). But most Gentiles Christians came directly from heathenism/ paganism with a

strong cultural background of idolatry, eating the blood of animals, and licentiousness. The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostles to instruct them to avoid idolatry and sexual immorality and abstain from eating flesh of strangled animals and to abstain from eating blood. This was a dietary principle commanded by the Holy Spirit in harmony with the Hebrew scriptures. *It should be clear therefore that the Holy Spirit could not then inspire Paul to abolish the dietary laws of the Torah in Colossians 2: 16 after affirming them in Acts 15: 20. This is additional and conclusive evidence that in Colossians 2:16 Paul was not dealing with what people should or should not eat, but with the sacrificial offerings of the ceremonial law.*

THE CREATION SABBATH NOT ABOLISHED

It should also be obvious too that the seventh-day Sabbath *was* not a point of contention, otherwise it would have been hotly disputed. The idea that since the fourth commandment was not included in the directives given to the Gentiles is an indication that it was abolished cannot be true because many of the other commandments were also not mentioned, the reason being that there was no dispute over them. Colossians 2: 16,17 does *not* abolish any of the Ten Commandments. In the new covenant God's moral law is written in the believer's heart and fulfilled in the believer's character by *Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*. Hebrews 10:16 ; Romans 8: 1 to 4.

CONCLUSION

The First Angel's Message of Rev.14: 6,7 includes the call to worship the Creator as part of the final gospel invitation to the world in the end-time. The true worship of the Creator must include remembering His Creation seventh-day Sabbath to keep it holy as enjoined in the

fourth commandment of the immutable moral law!

Eternally clothed with the wedding garment of Christ's Righteousness, the redeemed will eternally keep the seventh-day Sabbath as the marriage seal (wedding ring) of the Divine-human Marriage that accomplished their eternal salvation!

APPENDIX B

The Mysteries of Pauline Covenant Allegories: Galatians 4: 21 to 31;
Hebrews 12: 18 to 29

Read Galatians 4 : 21 to 31 carefully. The Apostle Paul makes the following allegorical equations:

OLD COVENANT EQUATIONS

Hagar (& son Ishmael)=the Old Covenant= the Sinaiatic Covenant=Earthly Jerusalem = her children in bondage : law written on stone, Saviour rejected, devoid of the Holy Spirit, out of Christ: salvation by human promises and works.

NEW COVENANT EQUATIONS

Sarah (& son Isaac) (Christ is Abraham's Seed) = New Covenant = New Jerusalem = Gospel Freedom, her children free in Christ: Saviour accepted, law written in the heart, salvation by grace through faith: filled with the Holy Spirit, abiding in Christ : genuine obedience is the fruit of faith working by Love.

The New Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all (Gal.4: 26) And in Revelation 21:9,10, the New Jerusalem is said to be the bride the Lamb's wife. Therefore the Lamb has to be seen as the Husband of New Jerusalem and Father of the New Jerusalem's children in the allegorical analysis. Yet God the Father, Who is the Father of His only Begotten Son, is called our Father Who art in

Heaven because He is the Source of all being.

The end-time church-state enforcement of Sunday sacredness (Image & Mark of the Beast) in order to save the world will be the ultimate development of the old covenant and will persecute God's end-time new covenant Sabbath Rest remnant.

THE MARRIAGE FEAST IS ALL PREPARED

Composed for "Church Hymns with Tunes", S.P.C.K., 1874.


Lyrics by Dr. E.O. Douglin

The musical score is written for piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has 8 measures, the second 8 measures, the third 8 measures, and the fourth 8 measures. The final measure of the fourth system is marked 'Amen.' The music features a steady accompaniment in the bass and a more melodic line in the treble.

Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Marriage feast is all prepared
Christ is coming, Christ is coming,
Let the midnight cry be heard!
The Bridegroom has waited long
For His bride to dress
He has suffered for our wrong,
This we must confess!
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Marriage feast is all prepared!
Christ is coming, Christ is coming!
Let the midnight cry be heard!

Give God praise, rejoice, be happy!
Church below and church above,
For His wife at last is ready
Free from sinning by His Love
All arrayed in glorious light
Linen clean and white!
All are clad in garments bright
Glorious in His sight!
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Marriage feast is all prepared!
Christ is coming, Christ is coming!
Let the midnight cry be heard!

Blest are they who are invited
To the supper of the Lamb
By the judgement vindicated
Saved by God's victorious plan
Christ is coming! Saints rejoice!
With the angels' train
Hear the seventh trumpet's voice;
Ever He shall reign!
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Marriage feast is all prepared!
Christ is coming, Christ is coming!
Let the midnight cry be heard!



Human power did not establish the work of God, neither can human power destroy it. To those who carry forward His work in face of difficulty and opposition, God will give the constant guidance and guardianship of His holy angels. His work on earth will never cease. The building of His spiritual temple will be carried forward until it shall stand complete, and the headstone shall be brought forth with shoutings: "Grace, grace unto it."

Christ has given to the church a sacred charge. Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that the Saviour desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and His character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love....

The church is God's agency for the proclamation of truth, empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to Him, obedient to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellency of divine grace. If she will be true to her allegiance, if she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her.

Christ desires by the fullness of His power so to strengthen His people that through them the whole world shall be encircled with an atmosphere of grace. When His people shall make a whole-hearted surrender of themselves to God, this purpose will be accomplished.... Christ will abide in humanity, and humanity will abide in Christ. In all the work will appear, not the character of finite man, but the character of the infinite God....

The goodly fabric of character wrought out through divine power will receive light and glory from heaven, and will stand before the world as a witness pointing to the throne of the living God. Then the work will move forward with solidity and redoubled strength. AG 128.