

THE UNIVERSE ON TIPTOE

THE UNIVERSE ON TIPTOE

Camp Meeting 2025
By Elder E. O. Douglin

Truth for the Final Generation
P.O. Box 725
Bridgetown, Barbados, W.I.
Tel/Fax (246) 421-7297

Visit us on the web at:
www.truthforthefinalgeneration1984.org

Email us:
teachingtruth14@yahoo.com
info@tffgbarbados.com
tffgbgi@gmail.com

No part of this book may be reproduced by any means without permission from the author except for the inclusion of quotations in presentations.

Printed in Barbados

Copyright © 2025
Truth For The Final Generation, all rights reserved

Printed in Barbados

Cover design and book design by Shamz Creative 1 246 2424616

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	
The Universe On Tiptoe.....	1
CHAPTER 2	
Looking For & Hasting Unto the Day of God.....	7
CHAPTER 3	
Chosen Before the Foundation of the World.....	12
CHAPTER 4	
The New Humanity Part 1.....	32
CHAPTER 5	
The New Humanity Part 2.....	26
CHAPTER 6	
The Price of Redemption.....	35
CHAPTER 7	
Angels On Tiptoe in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary.....	44
CHAPTER 8	
TheChurches'RelayRacesPart 1.....	58
CHAPTER 9	
The Churches' Relay Races The 7 Churches of the Apocalypse Part 2.....	67
CHAPTER 10	
Glorification.....	81

Chapter 1

THE UNIVERSE ON TIPTOE

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. Romans 8: 19 KJV

For the creation eagerly awaits the revealing of the sons of God. Romans 8: 19 Modern Language

The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. Romans 8: 19 JB Phillips

The Psalmist tells us that this eager awaiting had happened once before at the Ascension of Christ

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. PSALM 24: 7, 8

Who is this king of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle PSALM 24: 9, 10

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the king of glory shall come in. PSALM 24: 9, 10

Who is this king of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.

All heaven was waiting to welcome the Saviour to the celestial courts. As He ascended, He led the way, and the multitude of captives set free at His resurrection followed. The heavenly host, with shouts and acclamations of praise and celestial song, attended the joyous train.

As they drew near to the city of God, the challenge is given by the escorting angels, —

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates;

And be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;

And the King of glory shall come in.”

Joyfully the waiting sentinels respond, —

“Who is this King of glory?”

This they say, not because they know not who He is, but because they would hear the answer of exalted praise, —

“The Lord strong and mighty,

The Lord mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O ye gates;

Even lift them up, ye everlasting doors;

And the King of glory shall come in.”

Again is heard the challenge, "Who is this King of glory?" for the angels never weary of hearing His name exalted. The escorting angels make reply, —

"The Lord of hosts;

He is the King of glory." Psalm 24:7-10.

Then the portals of the city of God are opened wide, and the angelic throng sweep through the gates amid a burst of rapturous music. DA 833

The universe had been on tiptoe to welcome the victorious glorified resurrected Lord Jesus back to Heaven at His ascension

The next waiting on tiptoe will be for the sons of God, when they arrive with Jesus, after their resurrection/ translation at the Second Coming of Christ, and their ascension to Heaven.

In Hebrews 11 The Apostle Paul wrote down his long list of the heroes of faith, most of them asleep in their graves, still awaiting the promised reward of immortality.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: Hebrews 11: 39

WHY?

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. Hebrews 11: 40

This means that the end-time remnant church must be harvest ripened, in and by Christ's righteousness, in order that all the sons of God may receive their new glorified immortal bodies at Christ's second coming!

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the Cross of Christ:¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is their shame who mind earthly things²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. Philippians 3: 18- 21

¹Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure. 1 JOHN 3: 1-3

³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. [a] ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. Ephesians 1: 3-8 NLT

Our minds take the level of the things on which our thoughts dwell, and if we think upon earthly things, we shall fail to take the impress of that which is heavenly. We would be greatly benefited by contemplating the mercy, goodness, and love of God; but we sustain great loss by dwelling upon those things which are earthly and temporal. We allow sorrow and care and perplexity to attract our minds to earth, and we magnify a molehill into a mountain. In speaking of that which we are called upon to endure, Paul says: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look"—at our difficulties, while we magnify our trials, and think only of our hardships? No, but "while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Temporal things are not to engage our whole attention, or engross our minds until our thoughts are entirely of the earth and the earthly. We are to train, discipline, and educate the mind so that we may think in a heavenly channel, that we may dwell on things unseen and eternal, which will be discerned by spiritual vision. It is by seeing Him who is invisible that we may obtain strength of mind and vigor of spirit {ST January 9, 1893, par. 2}

The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster.

In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light which streams from the cross of Calvary, and in connection with the wondrous, central truth of the Saviour's atonement. Those who study the Redeemer's wonderful sacrifice grow in grace and knowledge.

I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption, the Son of God uplifted on the cross of Calvary. This is to be the theme of every discourse. OFC 33. 2

Chapter 2

LOOKING FOR & HASTING UNTO THE DAY OF GOD

Looking For And Hasting Unto The Day of God. 2 Peter 3:12

Let us read Romans 8: 18 to 23 again.

Romans 8:19

The Apostle Paul pictures the whole Universe anxiously awaiting one specific event.

The manifestation of the sons of God (KJV)

The revealing of the sons of God (Modern Language Version)

The sons of God coming into their own (JB Phillips Translation)

Also the four angels of Revelation 7 have been commanded to hold the four winds of strife until the end-time remnant be sealed in their foreheads Revelation 7: 1-4

"In this speck of a world the whole heavenly universe manifests the greatest interest, for Christ paid an infinite price for the souls of its inhabitants" COL 176

The universe is waiting on tiptoe to see the redeemed receive their glorified bodies.

How About Us?

We are to "look forward to the day of God and speed its coming..."
2Peter 3: 12 NIV

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2 Tim 4: 8

"The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour—more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning—will be numbered with those who are sealed."TM445

Let us read Mark 4: 26 to 29

The advanced stages that must be attained before glorification are:

1. **The ear:** to receive the Rev 18:1 latter rain baptism, coinciding with the passing of the Sunday-law.
2. **The full grain in the ear:** to be sealed (probation's closure) and to go through the great time of trouble
3. Harvest ripened at the end of Jacob's Time of trouble,
4. And therefore ready for translation at Christ's second coming.

"The Holy Spirit brings power that enables us to overcome. ...The Spirit illuminates our darkness, informs our ignorance and helps in our manifold necessities. But our minds must be constantly going out after God"RH, May 19, 1904

Do we really want Jesus to return?

Do we really love His appearing?

Are we steadfastly looking, waiting and watching for His second coming.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3: 18

Are we growing and ripening towards being harvest ready?

Are we daily exercising faith?

Faith is believing God's word, trusting God, submitting the will to Him, and loving Him with all our heart! In order to love His appearing, we must love Him. And we love Him because He first loved us.

Therefore we must know and appreciate and receive His Love.

And in order to really know and be captivated by His Love we must study and know and experience the Agape Love and true character of God as revealed in the true gospel of Jesus Christ!

"In this life we can only begin to understand the wonderful theme of redemption. With our finite comprehension we may consider most earnestly the shame and the glory, the life and the death, the justice and the mercy, that meet in the cross; yet with the utmost stretch of our mental powers we fail to grasp

its full significance. The length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of redeeming love are but dimly comprehended. The plan of redemption will not be fully understood, even when the ransomed see as they are seen and know as they are known; but through the eternal ages new truth will continually unfold to the wondering and delighted mind. Though the griefs and pains and temptations of earth are ended and the cause removed, the people of God will ever have a distinct, intelligent knowledge of what their salvation has cost.

“The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. In Christ glorified they will behold Christ crucified. Never will it be forgotten that He whose power created and upheld the unnumbered worlds through the vast realms of space, the Beloved of God, the Majesty of heaven, He whom cherub and shining seraph delighted to adore—humbled Himself to uplift fallen man; that He bore the guilt and shame of sin, and the hiding of His Father’s face, till the woes of a lost world broke His heart and crushed out His life on Calvary’s cross. That the Maker of all worlds, the Arbiter of all destinies, should lay aside His glory and humiliate Himself from love to man will ever excite the wonder and adoration of the universe. As the nations of the saved look upon their Redeemer and behold the eternal glory of the Father shining in His countenance; as they behold His throne, which is from everlasting to everlasting, and know that His kingdom is to have no end, they break forth in rapturous song: “Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His own most precious blood!”

“The mystery of the cross explains all other mysteries. In the light that streams from Calvary the attributes of God which had filled us with fear and awe appear beautiful and attractive. Mercy, tenderness, and parental love are seen to blend with

holiness, justice, and power. While we behold the majesty of His throne, high and lifted up, we see His character in its gracious manifestations, and comprehend, as never before, the significance of that endearing title, "Our Father."

"It will be seen that He who is infinite in wisdom could devise no plan for our salvation except the sacrifice of His Son. The compensation for this sacrifice is the joy of peopling the earth with ransomed beings, holy, happy, and immortal. The result of the Saviour's conflict with the powers of darkness is joy to the redeemed, redounding to the glory of God throughout eternity. And such is the value of the soul that the Father is satisfied with the price paid; and Christ Himself, beholding the fruits of His great sacrifice, is satisfied." {HF 394. 3 }

Chapter 3

CHOSEN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. Ephesians 1:3-6 NLT

This is what he wanted to do and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son

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}

Provision To Meet The Terrible Emergency

God foresaw and therefore fore-knew that in solving the sin problem by the eternal principle of self-sacrificing Agape Love, He would work out such astonishingly amazing accomplishments that the unfallen and redeemed intelligences would spend eternity studying how He worked it out, and the more they learn about it the greater will be their adoration of God and their happiness!

"And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise." {GC 678. 1}

Let us begin to scratch the surface of one of these amazing accomplishments!

“All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made “in the image of God, ” and it was the Creator’s design that they should populate the earth” (The Review and Herald, February 11, 1902). {IBC 1081. 3}

“Infinite love—how great it is! God made the world to enlarge heaven. He desires a larger family of created intelligences” (Manuscript 78, 1901). {IBC 1081. 2 }

“God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God’s purpose to repopulate heaven with the human family.”
—The S. D. A. Bible Commentary 1:1082. {TA 48. 7}

The “bad news” was the fall of humanity in the first Adam.

God needed a Second Adam to redeem the First Adam’s lost race. So the Good News is Christ!

The Eternal Son of God would descend from infinite Glory to become a member of the human family.

The WORD became flesh

Desire Of Ages Chapter One

“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. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us."God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word."Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder." God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the "Son of man" who shares the throne of the universe. It is the "Son of man" whose name shall be called, "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

"In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love." {DA 25. 3}

"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 is 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." {DA 388.1}

"It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The Word, who

was with God, and who was God, had this life. Physical life is something which each individual receives. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the Life-giver, takes it again. Man has no control over his life. But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him. "I lay it down of myself" (John 10:18), He said. In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ. He cannot earn it; it is given him as a free gift if he will believe in Christ as His personal Saviour." ST Feb. 13, 1912

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye appear with Him in glory" COLOSSIANS 3: 1 - 3

"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}

"By the power of His love, through obedience, fallen man, a worm of the dust, is to be transformed, fitted to be a member of the heavenly family, a companion through eternal ages of God and Christ and the holy angels. Heaven will triumph, for the vacancies made by the fall of Satan and his host will be filled by the redeemed of the Lord."—The Upward Look, 61. {TA 287. 1}

"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}

"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

Chapter 4

THE NEW HUMANITY

Therefore if any one is in Christ he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5: 17 ESV

But as it is written, 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. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2: 9, 10

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. Romans 8: 18 KJV

The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own” (JB Phillips Translation of Romans 8: 19)

“Grand and glorious things hath God prepared for those who love Him. Angels are looking forward with earnest expectation to the final triumph of the people of God, when seraphim and cherubim and the “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” shall swell the anthems of the blessed and celebrate the triumphs of the mediatorial achievements in the recovery of man.” OFC 58. 8

The Glory of God

The glory of God is used within two contexts in Scripture.

1. Glory means His Character, and
2. Glory means the majestic exuberance, or outshining of the infinite power of the Divine Nature

Glory as Character. Exodus 33:18, 19

And he (Moses) said, I beseech thee show me thy glory.

And He (God) said I will make all my goodness pass before thee

Glory as Outshining of The Divine Nature Revelation 1:13 – 16 ;
Mathew 13:43

Rev. 1:16 ...”and His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength”

*Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom.
Matt. 13:43*

In the plan of Redemption, God, in and through His Son, has given both to humanity. We must receive the glory of His character in our probationary existence now in order to receive the outshining, majestic glory at Christ’s second coming, when we shall receive glorified bodies.

The 144, 000 will experience the glory of Christ's character fully reproduced in, and reflected through them, in order for them, and all the dead in Christ, to receive their glorified bodies.

Provision To Meet The Terrible Emergency

The fall of humanity in the first Adam presented a most difficult and critical emergency to the Godhead.

The instant Adam sinned the Son of God had to stand in the gap of the separation caused by sin or else Adam and humanity (in him) would have been instantly annihilated (eternal death).

That first eternal death would be suffered by Christ 4000 years later at Calvary.

Therefore, on account of the plan of salvation, the death that was pronounced upon Adam in the Garden of Eden was not eternal death, but the physical death of soul sleep until resurrection.

On one hand God needed to find a way to preserve the human identity, personality, character- experience of warfare against sin and to make that experience victorious over sin. This would be the only way to produce eternal immunity against sin.

And on the other hand, God needed to make a new humanity because sin had "written off" the very infrastructure of sinful fallen flesh!

What a problem!! There was only one possible solution!!

God would solve the problem by the incarnation, earthly life, and infinite sacrifice and death and resurrection of His only-begotten Son.

And in the incarnation, the eternal Son of God, would condescend from infinite glory to become a human person and take upon Himself our fallen human flesh.

Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, possessed two natures: His Divine Nature and our fallen flesh; but He was one person.

“Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person—the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible. Christ, the sinless One, will save every son and daughter of Adam who accepts the salvation proffered them, consenting to become the children of God. The Saviour has purchased the fallen race with His own blood.” {5BC 1113. 2 }

Only One Solution & One Foundation

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

“It will be seen that He Who is infinite in wisdom could devise no plan for our salvation except the sacrifice of His Son.” GC 652

The only way God could have made humanity holy and new and still preserve the human personality, identify and form, would be by the spiritual marriage of Divinity and fallen humanity in the incarnate Son of God.

In the Divine-human marriage in Jesus, Divinity was the husband and humanity the wife. Since sin had ‘written off’ the human character, human flesh and human life, this meant that the character, nature, and life of the new humanity would have to be born of Divinity.

The only inheritance from fallen humanity to the new creation would be His human personality, identity, and victorious sinless life-experience, and also the human form!

And the new human creation would be born of (or be begotten from) this marriage by the infinite sacrifice and death and resurrection of Christ!

Our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, took two natures with their two lives to Calvary: His Divine Nature and Life, and our corporate fallen human nature (which He had taken on in the incarnation) with its physical life. At the cross, He, as the human person, (He had become), died. The human flesh and blood nature with its physical life died, whereas the Divine Nature with its eternal life did not die.

Yet all of Christ remained in the tomb. The Divine Nature and Life could not have functioned as a person because His human person had died. There was therefore a sundering of the personal communication between the Father and the Son which produced infinite pain to the Father's heart of Agape Love!

The life which died was the physical human life. The life which He laid down was His Divine Eternal Life.

"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.
5 SDA 1133

"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."

"Only He who alone hath immortality, dwelling in light and life, could say, "I have power to lay down my life, and I have power to take it again."...

"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

Isaiah 25: 8

"He will swallow up death in victory"

In His resurrection, the dead fallen physical flesh was swallowed up in victory and the Divine Nature and immortal life became the new substance and life of His glorified body, which now was given the glory He had with the Father before His incarnation.

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" John 17: 5

"He was God while upon earth, but He divested Himself of the form of God, and in its stead took the form and fashion of a man. He walked the earth as a man. For our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. He laid aside His glory and His majesty."5 SDA BC 1126

"He was God, but the glories of the form of God He for a while relinquished." 5SDA BC 1126

Note the difference: The glories of the form of God He for a while relinquished, but the form of God He forever relinquished!! He bears our human form before the Father's Throne forever!

"He endured the cross, despised the shame. He made it of small account in consideration of the results that He was working out in behalf of, not only the inhabitants of this speck of a world, but the whole universe, every world which God had created." 5BC 1127. 3

"In consideration of this, can men have one particle of exaltation? As they trace down the life and sufferings and humiliation of Christ, can they lift their proud heads as if they were to bear no trials, no shame, no humiliation?

"I say to the followers of Christ, Look to Calvary, and blush for shame at your self-important ideas."5 SDA BC 1127

"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 incarnation of Christ is the mystery of all mysteries.

Christ was one with the Father, yet... He was willing to step down from the exaltation of One who was equal with God.

“That He might accomplish His purpose of love for the fallen race, He became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.

“Divinity and humanity were mysteriously combined, and man and God became one”. OFC 66. 4

“Christ bowed down in unparalleled humility, that in His exaltation to the throne of God, He might also exalt those who believe in Him, to a seat with Him upon His throne.” OFC 65. 5

“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like him ; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure” 1 John 3: 1 - 3

Chapter 5

THE NEW HUMANITY

PART 2

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. John 12: 24

“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 67. 1}

In our last study we dealt with the Divine-human Marriage and birth illustration. In this study we want to learn from the illustration of the germination of the good seed.

"The germ in the seed grows by the unfolding of the life-principle which God has implanted. Its development depends upon no human power. So it is with the kingdom of Christ. It is a new creation." Christ's Object Lessons 77

"The seed dies to spring forth into new life, and in this we are taught the lesson of the resurrection" COL 86

"By the casting of the grain into the soil, Christ represents the sacrifice of Himself for our redemption." "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, " He says, "it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" John 12:24. So the death of Christ will result in fruit for the kingdom of God." COL 86

"In accordance with the law of the vegetable kingdom, life will be the result of His death." COL 86. 2

It is clear therefore that Christ had to become the good Seed and then die, in order to produce the new humanity!

In the natural order, a seed is composed of the (1) the inner germ, which contains the life principle, and (2) the outer perishable material.

In germination there is death of the outer material, while the seed-germ begets the new plant by the unfolding of the life-principle within it.

In the incarnation the eternal Son of God became a human person and took on our fallen mortal blood and flesh body, which was made from the earth, and "written off" by sin and therefore equivalent to the outer perishable material of the seed.

In His inner-nature there was the human "personality-identity-life

experience of His human spirit held in mysterious blend with the Divine Nature and Life, through which, the fulness of the Holy Spirit was imparted by the Father so that Jesus would learn obedience by the things He suffered and be made perfect in order to become the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him. Hebrews 5:7 to 9

This dual inner-nature composed of the Divine Nature/Eternal Life, and the human personality-identity -life experience in the human spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit, was therefore equivalent to the ‘germ’ of the seed with the life principle which produces the new plant.

When He suffered the wrath of God for us, as a human person, His sinless Divine-human inner-nature could not have been annihilated because His character was innocent, sinless and victorious over all of Satan’s assaults.

He therefore slept in death.

“Jesus said to Mary, “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father.” When He closed His eyes in death upon the cross, the soul of Christ did not go at once to heaven, as many believe, or 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 to take it up again” (The Spirit of Prophecy 3:203, 204). {5BC 1150. 6}

In the resurrection of Christ the life principle in the “Seed” issued forth the new human plant with a new glorified body filled with the very immortal eternal life of Deity.

In His inner nature Christ remained Divine-human, with His Divinity functioning through His human personality forever.

A T Jones: Consecrated Way Page 47

"He became man in order that He might redeem man. He came to man where man is, to bring man to Him where He was and is:-

"Man is flesh, and the WORD was made flesh John 1: 14"

"Man is under the law, Christ was made under the law. Gal 4:4"

"Man is under the curse. Christ was made a curse. Galatians 3:13"

"Man is laden with iniquity. And the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

"And in all this, Christ was made what, before, He was not, in order that man might be made now and forever what he is not

"Christ was the Son of God. He became the Son of man, that the sons of men might become the sons of God 1John 3:1; John 1: 12, 13.

Christ was Spirit 1 Cor. 15: 45. He became flesh in order that man, who is flesh, might become spirit. John 3: 6

"Christ Who was altogether of the Divine Nature, was made partaker of human nature, in order that we who are all together of human nature 'might be partakers of the Divine Nature' 2 Peter 1: 4"

"Christ, Who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us in order that we who knew no righteousness might be made the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5: 21" Consecrated Way 47

"It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and suffered and died. He became "a Man of Sorrows, " that we might be made partakers of everlasting joy."

"God permitted His beloved Son, full of grace and truth, to come from a world of indescribable glory, to a world marred and blighted with sin, darkened with the shadow of death and the curse."

"He permitted Him to leave the bosom of His love, the adoration of the angels, to suffer shame, insult, humiliation, hatred, and death."The chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."Isaiah 53:5.

"Behold Him in the wilderness, in Gethsemane, upon the cross! The spotless Son of God took upon Himself the burden of sin. He who had been one with God, felt in His soul the awful separation that sin makes between God and man. This wrung from His lips the anguished cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46. It was the burden of sin, the sense of its terrible enormity, of its separation of the soul from God—it was this that broke the heart of the Son of God."

"But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father's heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no!"God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world."God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption."

Jesus said, "Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again." John 10:17. That is, "My Father has so loved you that He even loves Me more for giving My life to redeem you. In becoming your Substitute and Surety, by surrendering My life, by taking your liabilities, your transgressions, I am endeared to My Father; for by My sacrifice, God can be just, and yet the Justifier of him who believeth in Jesus."

"None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity."

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." He gave Him not only to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is "not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:11); He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father's throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness."

"The price paid for our redemption, the infinite sacrifice of our heavenly Father in giving His Son to die for us, should give us exalted conceptions of what we may become through Christ. As the inspired apostle John beheld the height, the depth, the breadth of the Father's love toward the perishing race, he was

filled with adoration and reverence; and, failing to find suitable language in which to express the greatness and tenderness of this love, he called upon the world to behold it“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” 1 John 3:1. What a value this places upon man! Through transgression the sons of man become subjects of Satan. Through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ the sons of Adam may become the sons of God. By assuming human nature, Christ elevates humanity. Fallen men are placed where, through connection with Christ, they may indeed become worthy of the name“sons of God.”

“Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Precious promise! Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God. The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother’s yearning sympathy for her wayward child.” {SC 15. 2}

Sowing and Reaping. Gal. 6:7, 8

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

“Every seed sown produces a harvest of its kind. So it is in human life. We all need to sow the seeds of compassion, sympathy, and love; for we shall reap what we sow. Every characteristic of selfishness, self-love, self-esteem, every act of self-indulgence,

will bring forth a like harvest. He who lives for self is sowing to the flesh, and of the flesh he will reap corruption.”

“God destroys no man. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonitions of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief, and these will produce a sure harvest. By rejecting the first warning from God, Pharaoh of old sowed the seeds of obstinacy, and he reaped obstinacy. God did not compel him to disbelieve. The seed of unbelief which he sowed produced a harvest of its kind. Thus his resistance continued, until he looked upon his devastated land, upon the cold, dead form of his first-born, and the first-born of all in his house and of all the families in his kingdom, until the waters of the sea closed over his horses and his chariots and his men of war. His history is a fearful illustration of the truth of the words that “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7. Did men but realize this, they would be careful what seed they sow.” {COL 84. 4}

We have all sowed evil seed, for we have all sinned. If God had left us to reap what we sowed we would all have perished long ago.

But God sent His Son to reap the horrible consequences of the sins we sowed; so that we could reap the eternal salvation of the good He sowed.

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them 2 Cor. 5:19 NLT

When we accept Christ as our personal Saviour and stay in Him day by day, we are members of His new humanity, filled with His Spirit

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Rom 8:14 NLT

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person.
The old life is gone, the new life has begun 2 Cor. 5: 17 NLT*

“Christ bowed down in unparalleled humility, that in His exaltation to the throne of God, He might also exalt those who believe in Him, to a seat with Him upon His throne.”OFC 65. 5

Chapter 6

THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION

The cost required to make the new humanity was an infinite price.

God gave all to save mankind.

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Ephesians 3:8

The Unsearchable Riches of Christ!

This is another term used to describe the price He had to pay for the redemption of humanity which Adam had sold out to Satan and to eternal death.

For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 1 Peter 1: 18

But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot. Who verily was foreordained before the foundation the world, but was manifested in these last times for you. 1 Peter 3:19

"In order to fully realize the value of salvation, it is necessary to understand what it cost" 2 T 200

By Right And Not by Might

Since God is infinite in Power, if the great controversy had to be won by might or mere power, it would have been an easy and inexpensive undertaking.

But because it had to be won by right and not by might; by Love and not by compelling power or force, then the cost would have to be an infinite price. And the Godhead would have to pay it all.

"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}

"God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption." SC 13. 2

"The sins of men weighed heavily upon Christ, and the sense of God's wrath against sin was crushing out His life."

"Behold Him contemplating the price to be paid for the human soul. In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God." {DA 687. 2}

Testimonies Volume 2 (Chapter 29)

"As the Son of God bowed in the attitude of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the agony of His spirit forced from His pores sweat like great drops of blood. It was here that the horror of great darkness surrounded Him. The sins of the world were upon Him. He was suffering in man's stead as a transgressor of His Father's law. Here was the scene of temptation. The divine light of God was receding from His vision, and He was passing into the hands of the powers of darkness. In His soul anguish He lay prostrate on the cold earth. He was realizing His Father's frown. He had taken the cup of suffering from the lips of guilty man, and proposed to drink it Himself, and in its place give to man the cup of blessing. The wrath that would have fallen upon man was now falling upon Christ. It was here that the mysterious cup trembled in His hand." {2T 203. 2}

"Some have limited views of the atonement. They think that Christ suffered only a small portion of the penalty of the law of God; they suppose that, while the wrath of God was felt by His dear Son, he had, through all His painful sufferings, the evidence of His Father's love and acceptance; that the portals of the tomb before Him were illuminated with bright hope, and that He had the abiding evidence of His future glory. Here is a great mistake. Christ's keenest anguish was a sense of His Father's displeasure. His mental agony because of this was of such intensity that man can have but faint conception of it" {2T 213. 2}

“With many the story of the condescension, humiliation, and sacrifice of our divine Lord awakens no deeper interest, and stirs the soul and affects the life no more, than does the history of the death of the martyrs of Jesus. Many have suffered death by slow tortures; others have suffered death by crucifixion. In what does the death of God’s dear Son differ from these? It is true He died upon the cross a most cruel death; yet others, for His dear sake, have suffered equally, so far as bodily torture is concerned. Why, then, was the suffering of Christ more dreadful than that of other persons who have yielded their lives for His sake? If the sufferings of Christ consisted in physical pain alone, then His death was no more painful than that of some of the martyrs.” {2T 214. 1}

“But bodily pain was but a small part of the agony of God’s dear Son. The sins of the world were upon Him, also the sense of His Father’s wrath as He suffered the penalty of the law transgressed. It was these that crushed His divine soul. It was the hiding of His Father’s face—a sense that His own dear Father had forsaken Him—which brought despair. The separation that sin makes between God and man was fully realized and keenly felt by the innocent, suffering Man of Calvary. He was oppressed by the powers of darkness. He had not one ray of light to brighten the future. And He was struggling with the power of Satan, who was declaring that he had Christ in his power, that he was superior in strength to the Son of God, that the Father had disowned His Son, and that He was no longer in the favor of God any more than himself. If He was indeed still in favor with God, why need He die? God could save Him from death.” {2T 214. 2}

“Christ yielded not in the least degree to the torturing foe, even in His bitterest anguish. Legions of evil angels were all about

the Son of God, yet the holy angels were bidden not to break their ranks and engage in conflict with the taunting, reviling foe. Heavenly angels were not permitted to minister unto the anguished spirit of the Son of God. It was in this terrible hour of darkness, the face of His Father hidden, legions of evil angels enshrouding Him, the sins of the world upon Him, that the words were wrenched from His lips: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" {2T 214. 3}

"The death of the martyrs can bear no comparison with the agony endured by the Son of God. We should take broader and deeper views of the life, sufferings, and death of God's dear Son. When the atonement is viewed correctly, the salvation of souls will be felt to be of infinite value. In comparison with the enterprise of everlasting life, every other sinks into insignificance. But how have the counsels of this loving Saviour been despised! The heart has been devoted to the world, and selfish interests have closed the door against the Son of God. Hollow hypocrisy and pride, selfishness and gain, envy, malice, and passion, have so filled the hearts of many that Christ can have no room." {2T 215. 1}

"He was eternally rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. He was clothed with light and glory, and was surrounded with hosts of heavenly angels waiting to execute His commands. Yet He put on our nature and came to sojourn among sinful mortals. Here is love that no language can express. It passes knowledge. Great is the mystery of godliness. Our souls should be enlivened, elevated, and enraptured with the theme of the love of the Father and the Son to man. The followers of Christ should here learn to reflect in some degree that mysterious love preparatory to joining all the redeemed in ascribing "blessing, and honor, and glory, and power,... unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." {2T 215. 2}

“Christ has made reconciliation for sin, and has borne all its ignominy, reproach, and punishment; and yet while bearing sin, he has brought in everlasting righteousness, so that the believer is spotless before God. The time comes when it is asked, “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?” and the answer is, “It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again.” He who has the spotless robe of righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven, in which is not a thread that sinful humanity can claim, is at the right hand of God, to clothe his believing children in the perfect garment of his righteousness. Those who are saved in the kingdom of God will have nothing of which to boast in themselves; the praise and the glory will all flow back to God the giver of salvation.”

“But there are many who claim to be children of God who are resting their hopes upon other dependencies, rather than on the blood of Christ alone. When urged to rest their faith wholly upon Christ as a complete Saviour, many reveal the fact that they have faith in something that they think they can do. They say, “I have a great deal to do before I can be fit to come to Christ” Another says, “When I have done to the uttermost all that I can do, then the Lord Jesus will come to my help.” They imagine that they have a great deal to do themselves to save their own souls, and that Jesus will come in and piece out that part which is lacking, and give the finishing stroke to their salvation. These poor souls will not be strong in God until they accept Christ as a complete Saviour. They can add nothing to their salvation. The Israelites were required to sprinkle the door-posts with the blood of a slain lamb, in order that when the angel of death passed through the land, they might escape destruction. But if instead of doing this simple act of faith and obedience, they had barricaded the door, and taken every precaution to keep the

destroying angel out, their pains would have been in vain, and would have testified to their unbelief. When the blood was seen upon the door-post, it was enough. The salvation of the house was assured. So it is in the work of salvation; it is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanseth from all sin."

"It is not now the work of the sinner to make peace with God, but to accept Christ as his peace and righteousness. Thus man becomes one with Christ and one with God. There is no way by which the heart may be made holy, save through faith in Christ. Yet many think that repentance is a kind of preparation which men must originate themselves before they can come to Christ. They must take steps themselves in order to find Christ a mediator in their behalf. It is true that there must be repentance before there is pardon; but the sinner must come to Christ before he can find repentance. It is the virtue of Christ that strengthens and enlightens the soul, so, that repentance may be godly and acceptable. Peter has made this matter clear where he says of Christ, "Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."**Repentance is as certainly a gift of Jesus Christ as is forgiveness of sins. Repentance cannot be experienced without Christ; for it is the repentance of which he is the author that is the ground upon which we may apply for pardon.** It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that men are led to repentance. It is from Christ that the grace of contrition comes, as well as the gift of pardon, and repentance as well as forgiveness of sins is procured only through the atoning blood of Christ. Those whom God pardons he first makes penitent" {YI December 6, 1894, par. 3 }

Some other accomplishments of The Infinite price paid for redemption

1. All human beings have been bought back from being sold out by the first Adam! Jesus”restored the whole race of men to favor with God” 1SM 343. 2

“All men have been bought with this infinite price. By pouring the whole treasury of heaven into this world, by giving us in Christ all heaven, God has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, of every human being. Whether believers or unbelievers, all men are the Lord’s property.”COL326

2. This means that no one is born sold out, everyone is born bought back and given probationary time to fix his choice for or against Christ.

“He arose from the tomb enshrouded with a cloud of angels in wondrous power and glory—the Deity and humanity combined. He took in His grasp the world over which Satan claimed to preside as his lawful territory, and by His wonderful work in giving His life, He stored the whole race of men to favor with God.”... 1SM 343. 2

This means that the first or Adamic condemnation has been canceled. No one will be condemned to the second death because of Adam’s fall, but only by rejecting the Second Adam, Jesus.

3. Christ exhausted the penalty of the first condemnation.”He redeemed Adam’s disgraceful fall, and saved the world” YI June 2, 1898

“By dying in man’s stead, Christ exhausted the penalty and provided a pardon.” 1 SM 340

4. The fully paid price fully revealed God’s character.

"The God of justice did not spare His Son. In the secret place of the Most High a voice was heard:"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts." 18 MR 331. 3

"The whole debt for the transgressor of God's law was demanded from our Mediator. A full atonement was required. How appropriate are the words of Isaiah, "It pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief." His soul was made"an offering for sin.""He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities." 18MR 335. 2

"Christ came to this earth to reveal the Father, to place Him in a correct light before men. Satan had aroused the enmity and prejudice of the race against God. He had pointed to Him as exacting, overbearing, and condemnatory, the author of suffering, misery, and death. He charged upon God the attributes of his own character. Jesus came to declare the name of God, to reveal Him to the world as the God of love. 18 MR 335, 336

APPEAL

"If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image" DA 302

"May I never boast except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world". Galatians 6:14. NIV

Chapter 7

ANGELS ON TIPTOE IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE OF THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

Forty days after His resurrection JESUS ascended to the Heavenly Sanctuary. The official commencement of His High Priestly Ministry in apartment one was signaled on earth by the Early Rain Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to launch His early church into service

“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the Throne of the Majesty in the Heavens” Hebrews 8:1

“But Christ being come an High priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building” Hebrews 9: 11

“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us” Hebrews 9: 12

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” Hebrews 9: 14

First Apartment Intercessory Ministry

Christ’s intercession in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary was the anti type of the daily ministry of the Levitical priests in the first apartment of the earthly sanctuary. (Hebrews 9: 6)

Second Apartment High Priestly Ministry

But into the second apartment, the high priest alone went once a year (Hebrews 9:7). Bear in mind that Christ became a High Priest of the Melchisedek Order.

Transition To Second Apartment Ministry

At the end of the 2300 day- years of Daniel 8:14, October 22, 1844, Christ commenced His Ministry in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary (Second Apartment)

The announcement of this Most Holy Place Ministry is written down in Revelation 14:6, 7.

Its commencement was seen in vision by the prophet Daniel

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, his (its) wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him and ten thousands ministered unto Him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The Judgment was set and the books were opened. DANIEL 7: 9, 10

Millions upon millions of angels are in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary anxiously awaiting the outcome of the judgment (Hebrew word Dina means court in session)

They are on tiptoe awaiting not only the outcome for God's people on earth but especially the outcome for God Himself and His government.

What? God Is Being Judged?

In Romans 3:4, Paul quotes Psalm 51:4. Read Rom 3:4, in your KJV.

The Greek says "... that you may be justified in your words and prevail in being judged"

True some of them were unfaithful, but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the scriptures say about Him, 'You will be proved right in what you say and you will win your case in court!'" Romans 3: 3-4 NLT

The Universe's Supreme Court

The Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary may be considered to be the Supreme Court of the Universe. It is concerned with the final settlement of the charges and the counter charges between the two contending governments in the great controversy: God's and Satan's.

Court Personnel

In a court session there are judges, lawyers, witnesses, jury, the accused and of course the news media.

Satan's Charges Against God

In heaven and on earth, Satan laid the first charges against God and His Son. Let us consider the charges Satan first laid on earth

Genesis 3: 1- 4

God had told Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed Him they would surely die. Satan told Eve she would **not** surely die, but she would elevate herself to become like God if she disobeyed God.

Satan blatantly declared that God was a liar and was keeping them from advancing and the implication therefore was, that He was not a God of love or freedom.

Satan's other and more subtle (subliminal) message was this: departing from God's way couldn't and wouldn't cause death, so if they were to die God would have to kill them.

In other words, right there in the Garden of Eden, soon after the beginning of earth's history, Satan explicitly called God a liar and implicitly called Him a murderer!!

Other Charges

Other charges of Satan against God can be discerned in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25: 14 – 30. We are specifically interested in what the Servant with one talent said.

Then he which had received one talent came and said, Lord, I knew that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown and gathering where thou hast not strawed, and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth, lo there thou hast what is thine” Matthew 25: 24, 25

In this scripture we see that Satan laid the charge that God was a tyrant, was unfair, was arbitrary and His creatures should be afraid of Him.

Another very serious charge of Satan was that God's redeemed people cannot overcome sin or reach perfection of character.

Consequences of Satan's Lies

Satan's lies led the whole world, and all mankind to be sold out. The Son of God had to buy back (redeem) the world and mankind.

Satan's Double- dealing Charges

After accusing God and telling lies about God, and thereby inducing mankind to sin, Satan then turned around and accused mankind (in general and God's people in particular), as sinners before God.

In Revelation 12: 9 he is called

“...the devil and Satan which deceiveth the whole world”

And in Revelation 12:10 he is called...”the accuser of our brethren.... which accused them before our God day and night”

God's Counter- charges Against Satan

When the Jewish Authorities were planning to murder Jesus, listen to what Jesus said to them

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires, He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for He is a liar and the father of lies.”
John 8: 44 NIV

According to Jesus, Satan is the "Apex" liar, thief, killer, and destroyer:

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10 NIV

Satan: A Murderer From The Beginning?

YES! That is what Jesus said.

So the question may be asked: How has Satan managed to conceal his own murderous works and deceive people that God was the killer in Old Testament times?

Answer

"Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work."GC 35

But in Deuteronomy 31:17 God told the Israelites that disasters would come upon because of separation from Him

A Murderer in Hiding

Satan has been hiding, and still hides behind traditional misinterpretation of Bible language

"When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded and even hated! GC535, 536

When Confronting God, Satan and Demons Let Out The Truth

Satan and his demons deceived the Jewish authorities into not accepting Jesus as the Son of God, But when confronting Jesus they cried out the truth. Read Matthew 8: 29

“What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou, thou Son of God?”
Matthew 8:29

Satan knows the truth about God’s character, therefore he is a deliberate liar when he deceives humans, but when addressing God he makes no attempt to deceive God, for He knows it is pointless. Listen to this accusation he makes to God against God’s people:

Satan urges before God his accusations against them, declaring that they have by their sins forfeited the divine protection, and claiming the right to destroy them as transgressors. 5T 473

There you have it!! Satan knows that God is the Protector, and in this confrontation with God, Satan makes no attempt to hide the fact that he, Satan, is the destroyer.

“God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest. The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan.” {GC 36. 1}

“We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself... By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death” 1 SM 235

Perfect Love Casteth Out Fear

God also declares that He is Love and perfect love casts out all fear. So we are not to be afraid of God”God is Love” 1John 4:8

“There is no fear in love but perfect love casteth out all fear” 1 John 4: 18

NOT BY ARGUMENT BUT BY DEMONSTRATION

But the issues could not be settled merely by argument. God sent His Son into our fallen human flesh and into our world to fully reveal His character of unselfish self-sacrificing Agape Love.

“He that committed sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3: 8

How did Jesus destroy the works of the devil. He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, cast out demons, resurrected the dead, revealed pure love in His kindness to all, preached the Good News of the Kingdom of God, never hurt anyone.

Satan became hopping mad. If Jesus was allowed to reveal God’s true character of love, it would expose Satan’s true character of evil. So Satan developed a double strategy, he would try to prevent Jesus from revealing God’s true character or try to kill him or both. Satan made His first attempt to kill Jesus very early, when Jesus was a baby, he moved Herod to kill all the children under age 2 in that town, and God had to send Joseph and Mary with Jesus down to Egypt to hide.

Gethsemane and Calvary

All human guilt was laid on Jesus and He suffered the incomprehensible agony of separation from His Father who also suffered that agony.

In that infinite suffering Jesus was demonstrating the malignant nature of sin and the mechanism of what the Bible calls God's wrath.

All through the Gethsemane- Calvary ordeal, while Jesus was suffering God's wrath (=separation from God by sin), Satan drove the Jewish authorities, the Romans and the masses into a murderous frenzy to abuse, torture, and murder Jesus. Satan threw all the cruelty he could at Jesus to try to get Him to depart one iota from the law or principle of unselfish, self-sacrificing love. Satan also applied unimaginable pressure on Jesus' mind, telling Him that His Father had disowned Him.

But through it all Jesus remained fixed in His surrender to the Spirit of God. And when He cried out "it is finished" Satan knew his government was utterly vanquished!

The separation from God could not annihilate the Man, Christ Jesus, because the law of self-sacrificing love, which is the law of eternal life, had become fixed in His innocent and victorious soul and therefore that first eternal death that hung over Adam's lost race was reduced to the physical death of soul sleep, (a fact which dated back to the foundation of the world.)

And after spending the allotted time in the tomb, Christ arose with a glorified humanity.

When a dead Jesus was stronger than a living devil, it demonstrates that selfishness even when 'living' is dead, and unselfish Agape Love in the Holy Spirit fixed in the human spirit guarantees resurrection from the dead!

The True And Faithful Witness

Therefore in the Supreme Court of the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary, Jesus is the True and Faithful Witness (and also the supreme 'EXHIBIT A' evidence) as He is called in Revelation 3:14

The Defence Lawyer And Judge

And at the same time He is the defense Lawyer, and Judge.

He is the Star Witness, Incontrovertible Evidence, Defense Lawyer and Judge all in One!

WHY?

¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need Hebrews 4: 15, 16 KJV

“My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate(Lawyer) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” 1 John 2: 1 KJV

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to His Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. John 5: 22, 23 NIV

“Christ as high priest within the veil so immortalized Calvary that though He liveth unto God, He dies continually to sin, and thus if any man sin, he has an advocate with the Father.”ISM 343. 1

The Jury

The Jury is made up of the entire Universe including Satan. And the final verdict will be unanimous according to Philippians 2:9-11

God Wants All To Be Saved

“...God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” 2 Peter 3: 9.

God’s desire was always that all people should choose to leave Satan’s government and enter His Kingdom by accepting Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour by faith, to be justified by faith and be born again.

The Book of Life

The names of those who are initially born again are entered into the Book of Life, spiritual growth begins and continues so long as the believer remains in Christ. John 15: 1- 4

Those believers who abide in Christ, and have the Holy Spirit and die ‘in’ Christ, their names are retained in the Book of Life. Those who depart from Christ and die ‘out’ of Christ will have their names blotted out of the Book of Life

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father and before His angels. Rev. 3: 5

God Wants Witnesses

In addition to the True and Faithful Witness, God wants His people to be additional witnesses for Him against Satan’s government of sin. “You are my witnesses, declares The LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen ...”.. Isaiah 43: 10

Other Exhibit ‘A’ Witnesses

God wants to have an end time body of witnesses which body will also be Exhibit ‘A’. This end time remnant must be victorious over every dimension of Satan’s government by receiving Christ’s victory!

"The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is at stake in the perfection of the character of His people."DA 671. 3

They must not only experience growth and ripening to **sinless Christian character perfection** but must be intellectually and experientially free from all the lies which Satan has fabricated about God's character and must be **foolproof** against all the deception, fear, and compulsive cruelty which Satan will unleash upon them.

"All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life."

"The Lord declares, by the prophet Isaiah:"I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah 43:25.

Said Jesus:"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.""Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven.

"But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." Revelation 3:5;Matthew 10:32, 33. GC 483. 2

"The deepest interest manifested among men in the decisions of earthly tribunals but faintly represents the interest evinced in the heavenly courts when the names entered in the book of life come up in review before the Judge of all the earth.

"Satan in his efforts to deceive and tempt our race had thought to frustrate the divine plan in man's creation; but Christ now asks that this plan be carried into effect as if man had never fallen.

"He asks for His people not only pardon and justification, full and complete, but a share in His glory and a seat upon His throne."GC 483. 3

"While Jesus is pleading for the subjects of His grace, Satan accuses them before God as transgressors. The great deceiver has sought to lead them into skepticism, to cause them to lose confidence in God, to separate themselves from His love, and to break His law. Now he points to the record of their lives, to the defects of character, the unlikeness to Christ, which has dishonored their Redeemer, to all the sins that he has tempted them to commit, and because of these he claims them as his subjects.

"Jesus does not excuse their sins, but shows their penitence and faith, and, claiming for them forgiveness, He lifts His wounded hands before the Father and the holy angels, saying:

I know them by name. I have graven them on the palms of My hands."The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."Psalm 51:17.

And to the accuser of His people He declares:"The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"Zechariah 3:2.

Christ will clothe His faithful ones with His own righteousness, that He may present them to His Father"a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing."Ephesians 5:27.

Their names stand enrolled in the book of life, and concerning them it is written: "They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy." Revelation 3:4. GC 484. 2

The end-time remnant will have to be examined by the Investigative Judgment while alive and while going through the increasing persecutory pressure of the mark of the beast system before being sealed. Then Probation will close.

Now we have opportunity to prepare for the solemn scenes before us. We must make sure of initial and daily conversions and mature in Christ until...

Till we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:13

Chapter 8

THE CHURCHES' RELAY RACES PART 1

In any athletic race, the spectators begin to rise to their feet in the final stages, especially in a relay. The Apostle Paul drew many lessons from the Greek/ Roman races. Here are some:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us. And let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” Hebrews 12: 1 - 4

“I keep running hard toward the finish line to get the prize that is mine because God has called me through Christ Jesus to life up there in heaven.” Philippians 3:14 ERV

“Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever!” 1 Corinthians 9:24, 25 NIV

Hurdles-Relay Race To Victory Against All Odds

Revelation chapter 12 summarizes the race to victory, against all odds or hurdles, by the true Christianity. In the letters to the churches in Revelation chapters 2, and 3, the details of the hurdles are given.

“The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era. The number 7 indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world.” AA 585. 3

The Seven Churches of The Apocalypse

Part One

The First Four Churches A Brief Synopsis

Church #1(31-100AD). Rev. 2: 1-7.

The race began with the Apostolic Church called Ephesus. It was a wonderful and fast start under the outpouring of the Early Rain of the Holy Spirit.

“The hearts of those who had been converted under the labors of the apostles, were softened and united by Christian love. Despite former prejudices, all were in harmony with one another. Satan knew that so long as this union continued to exist, he would be powerless to check the progress of gospel truth; and

he sought to take advantage of former habits of thought, in the hope that thereby he might be able to introduce into the church elements of disunion.”

“Thus it came to pass that as disciples were multiplied, the enemy succeeded in arousing the suspicions of some who had formerly been in the habit of looking with jealousy on their brethren in the faith and of finding fault with their spiritual leaders, and so”there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews.” {AA 87. 4}

Thus Satan introduced the first attack that would mar the passing on of the gospel baton

It was the hurdle of self-love ‘eating’ away at their first love for Jesus and each other. But He asked them to repent. Jesus commended them for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitanes.

Church # 2(100-313AD). Rev. 2: 8-11

The Gospel baton was passed on to Smyrna. A ‘hurdle’ of severe persecution (including the 10 year onslaught by Diocletian, 303-313), kept Smyrna focused on Jesus, and kept them running fast. No rebuke from Jesus, only the commendation in verse 10.

“... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”

Church # 3(313-538AD)Pergamos Rev. 2: 12- 17

The gospel baton was passed on to Pergamos. Since the hurdle of persecution did not impede Smyrna, Satan switched from persecution to a two- edged hurdle of the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.

The Doctrine of Baalam

Baalam started out as a true prophet but covetousness for the wealth and fame offered by Balak the Midianite King led him to devise a plan to trap Israel in idolatry, licentiousness, and spiritual ruin (Numbers chapters 22 to 24)

“Which have forsaken the right way, and gone astray, following the way of Baalam the Son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity; the dumb ass speaking with a man’s voice forbade the madness of the prophet.”
2 Peter 2: 15, 16

The Doctrine of Baalam in Pergamos

As persecution ceased and pagan Rome became gradually Christianized, the idea was put forward by some churchmen that the church should seek the aid, support and wealth of the Roman Empire in order to spread Christianity.

In the early 300’s AD, Constantine wanted to have a state church with Christian clergy involved in government. But Bishop Miltiades refused his offers. After returning from war in 314 AD, Constantine found a ready ally in Bishop Sylvester who was the new Bishop of Rome. Sylvester was eager to have the church enlarge her borders using Roman roads, Roman law, Roman wealth, Roman power and Roman Military might.

The ‘conversion’ of Constantine and the election of Bishop Sylvester as the Bishop of the church in Rome led to the church receiving great wealth, luxury, pomp and power from Emperor.

Sylvester was given a beautiful palace and luxurious cathedral and the internal structure of the church took the form and practice and

pomp of Rome. The term Papa was introduced Sylvester. Bishop of Rome was, therefore, the first Roman Papa or Pope (elected 314AD). The union of Church and State(spiritual adultery) became firmly established as the result of the”doctrine of Baalam”.

Sylvester also commanded that the first day of the week should be called ‘The Lord’s Day’ and he later decreed that the seventh day Sabbath Rest should be transferred to the Sunday Lord’s day

First Sunday Law

Bishop Sylvester, Rome’s first Papa or Pope, therefore, laid the foundation for the first Sunday law by Emperor Constantine in 321AD.

The Doctrine of The Nicolaitanes

We can find out what this doctrine was by careful scriptural analysis.

The Apostle Paul’s emphatic doctrine of justification by the faith of Jesus and not by the works of law was and is indeed the Good News. Gal. 2:16

Also in Romans 5:20 Paul wrote:

“..... But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”

Peter’s Warning

“And remember, the Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him¹⁶ Speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something

quite different, just as they do with other parts of scripture. And this will result in their destruction” 2 Peter 3: 15, 16 NLT

Romans 3: 8 NLT

Paul wrote essentially the same thing in Romans 3:8:”And some people even slander us by claiming we say, “The more we sin, the better it is!’ Those who say such things deserve to be condemned”

We see therefore that there were some in the churches who were saying that God’s free grace renders obedience unnecessary, that is, grace gives license to sin

That is the reason Paul wrote in Romans 3: 31” Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law”. Read also Romans 6:1

The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes is the erroneous doctrine that grace abolishes the 10 commandment moral law or that the law can be changed.

Even before Pergamos, in fact in the Apostolic Ephesus period, there were some who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. We know this from Rev. 2: 6 and also from Paul’s 2nd Thessalonian letter.

2 Thessalonians 2: 7

“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...” KJV

“For this lawlessness is already at work secretly..... NLT

The Doctrine of Diotrephes

Another component of the mystery of iniquity which also began in the Ephesus period and became fully developed in the Pergamos period is mentioned in 3 John verses 9, 10

“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, received us not. ¹⁰Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church” 3 John verses 9, 10

The phrase “loveth to have the preeminence” is translated from the Greek word *philoproteuon*. Philo= love; proteuon= preeminence

This word *proteuon* (preeminence) is used in only one other passage in the NT, Colossians 1:18, in reference to Christ, Who holds the preeminence in all things.

Diotrephes was therefore not only seeking to exalt himself above the Apostles but above Christ! This was the spirit that would eventually develop into the Papacy!

Satan’s Seat

Jesus also mentioned that Pergamos was situated ‘where Satan’s seat is’. Historians have informed us that when Cyrus besieged and then conquered Babylon, many secret-order Babylonian high priests escaped and fled to Pergamos where eventually the Babylonian black magic and Sun worshipping idolatry was incorporated into Roman pagan mysticism and idolatry.

It should be clearly seen, then, that the doctrine of Baalam, the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes and the doctrine of Diotrephes all started in the Ephesus phase of the church. They were held in check by persecution during the Smyrna phase but rapidly developed in the Pergamos period. True Christians in Pergamos held firmly to the faith of Jesus, they rejected church-state union (spiritual fornication) and also rejected the paganization of Christianity (which was being falsely called the christianization of paganism). They also rejected the exaltation of the Bishop of Rome and his being called Papa.

The Waldenses separated from Apostate christianity during the Pergamos period. They did a very noble work for Christ for centuries under horrible Papal persecution.

The term Antipas was used to describe those faithful believers in Pergamos many of whom were martyred for rejecting the exaltation of the Bishop of Rome.

Church #4Thyratira Rev. 2:18-29;(Daniel 7:25.) 538- 1798

The Thyratira church was the church during the Dark Ages when the Papacy was in full ecclesiastical-political control of Europe. True believers were terribly persecuted and millions were martyred for not yielding to Papal falsehoods. Huss and Jerome were two notable examples.

Dangerous false doctrines were cemented in the psyche of the masses. False doctrines which are now called orthodox by the popular churches

1. Keeping Sunday as the Lord's Day and abolishing the seventh day sabbath
2. Natural immortality of the human soul
3. Immediate rewards at death and therefore no emphasis on the judgment or resurrection

Important lessons should be learned from the messages to, and the history of, the first four churches of Revelation.

“But if I tarry long, that thou mightest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and the ground of the truth” 1 Timothy 3: 15

“I therefore beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4: 1- 3

“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like- minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory ; but in lowliness of heart let each esteem the other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2: 2- 5

Chapter 9

THE CHURCHES' RELAY RACES

THE 7 CHURCHES OF THE APOCALYPSE

PART 2

The Last 3 Churches

Church # 5 SARDIS: Rev. 3: 1-5

Versel “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest and art dead”

In the book The Great Controversy Chapter 17, there is a description of the first 3 signs of the second coming of Christ “These signs were witnessed before the opening of the 19th century” GC 304

Signs of Christ's Second Coming Rev. 6: 12

1. The Lisbon Earthquake Nov1, 1755

2. The Dark Day May 19, 1780

3. That night the moon had the appearance of blood

The Condition of the Church in 1780

“The condition of the church at this time is pointed out in the Saviour’s words in the Revelation:” Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead”GC309

Rev. 3: 1 was a description of Sardis at the time of the third of the first 3 signs of the Second Coming of Christ. Sardis symbolizes the Protestant denominational churches.

When Did Sardis Begin?

Way back in the sixteenth century, in the period 1517 to 1565. The Protestant Reformation began as a living, vibrant Movement. Here is a comprehensive list of the key developments.

1. October 31, 1517: Martin Luther’s 95 theses against the Roman Catholic doctrine of Indulgences, at Wittenberg.
2. January 1521 Luther excommunicated.
3. May 1521 Luther condemned by the Holy Roman Empire.
4. 1529 The Protest of the Reformed Princes of Germany at the Diet of Spire, a declaration of liberty of conscience and the start of the defeat of the Papal stronghold of the control of the human conscience.

The teachings of Luther spread all through Europe, and through persecution, Protestantism flourished and grew.

5. 1565 Edict of Milan established Religious Tolerance.

Remember: Sola Scriptura; Sola Gratia; Sola Fide; Solo Christo and Liberty of Conscience; the basic tenets of Protestantism.

6. Over in England, the Church of England had broken away from Rome 1529-1536 over a dispute between King Henry VIII and the Pope concerning a matter of divorce and remarriage.

7. But in England there were those who held fast to true Protestantism. The Puritans were one notable sect. The Anglican church remained a State Church controlling the conscience.

8. In 1603 the new King James 1st declared persecutory war on the Puritans. They were hunted persecuted, imprisoned. Eventually a Puritan remnant fled to Holland as religious Exiles.

9. Eventually about 102 exiles decided, under the Spirit's conviction and the desire for liberty, to set sail for the New World. At last their ship the Mayflower, after turning back twice, set sail on September 6th, 1620 and arrived at Cape Cod on November 9th 1620, after a 66 day voyage. They were seeking a church without a Pope and a country without a King.

Protestantism had arrived in North America. Through tears, and sweat, disease and loss of life the Pilgrim Fathers pressed on. Roger Williams arrived in 1631. He had the clearest understanding of true liberty of conscience." He was the first person in Modern Christendom to establish civil government on the doctrine of liberty of conscience, the equality of opinions before the law" He declared that it was the duty of the civil magistrate to punish crime, but never to compel the

conscience. He founded Rhode Island in 1636 as the first fully free colony in America.

Over the next one hundred years America developed rapidly through hard work and the principles of protestantism. Many mistakes were made, but the plant of freedom grew into the establishment of the USA Constitution by 1787-1789. Protestantism flourished spiritually from 1620 to 1750.

Then, gradually, the opportunities for development of wealth and fame and power, coupled with worldliness insidiously infiltrating the church, caused a decline in spiritual growth and by 1780 when the 3rd sign of Christ's Second Coming occurred, Revelation 3:1 declared USA and European Protestantism to be spiritually dead.

Protestantism instead of carrying forward the sixteenth century Reformation to completion had stalled in the Christian race. They continued to hold on to traditional but false Papal doctrines.

The Protestant denominational churches urgently needed revival. In order to prepare His church for the Second Coming of Christ, God was about to send a special message. This message is written down in Revelation 14:6, 7

An Important Point

Before we go any further, it is important to note the historical overlapping between Sardis and Thyratira. We usually allot the historical time period 538- 1798 to Thyratira as the era of Papal 1260 year civil- ecclesiastical dominance in Europe. We also know that the Protestant Reformation started and developed in the early sixteenth century (early 1500's). Therefore it should be clear that Sardis did not start when the Papal 1260 year period ended, but rather started well before 1798, as we have shown.

A Special Message For Sardis

God called William Miller to study and preach the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation with special emphasis on the 2300 day/ year prophecy of Daniel 8:14:

“.....Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” Daniel 8:14 KJV

Miller and his co- labourers eventually settled on October 22nd 1844 as the exact date for the end of 2300years which commenced in 457 BC. But initially they had a March date in 1843 and 1844.

Miller also studied carefully the doctrine of the second coming of Christ and the resurrection. He had devoted two years to the study of the Bible, when, in 1818, he reached the solemn conviction that in about 25 years Christ would appear for the redemption of His people. Miller felt the strong conviction of the Holy Spirit to impart to others the light he had received, yet He waited and re-checked his findings to be sure he was correct.

In 1831 he, for the first time, publicly gave the reasons for his conclusions. In 1833 he received a license to preach from the Baptist church, and at first, the message was gladly accepted and many churches experienced revivals and saw many conversions.

In 1833, the fourth, or last of the signs appeared which Christ had given as tokens of His second advent: Matthew 24:29; Rev. 6:13

The meteoric shower of Nov. 13, 1833 was the most extensive and wonderful display of “falling stars” which has ever been recorded.

Opposition

The popular religious leaders began to oppose the Millerites (as they were called) and the opposition increased progressively until, in some churches, members who believed the message were disfellowshipped.

Prophetic Reckoning Correct

Miller's reckoning of the 2300 day/ year prophecy was correct. There was an initial incorrect ending date in March 21, 1844, but the ending date was finally correctly calculated to be October 22, 1844.

“Then Shall The Sanctuary Be Cleansed”

Miller believed that cleansing the Sanctuary meant purification of the earth by fire at Christ's second coming. The Millerites did not, at that time, understand the truth of the heavenly sanctuary.

S S Snow and Correction of the Date

S. S. Snow did a wonderful study of the typical feasts, called the Seventh Month Message, to arrive at the date Oct. 22 1844. (10th day of the 7th month). In August he published a paper on Matthew 25 called The True Midnight Cry.

The Midnight Cry

The preaching of the Oct 22, 1844 date for the Second Advent and the call to accept Christ reached a crescendo in the 7th month-Movement(10th Day of the 7th month) in Autumn of 1844.

The parable of Matthew 25 formed the basis of the new impetus. And verses 4, 5 were seen as an explanation of the tarrying time between the incorrect Spring date and the correct Autumn date.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Matthew 25: 5, 6

The message of Revelation 14:6, 7 was given within the context of the urgent necessity to be ready for Christ's return in the autumn of 1844. The leadership of the Protestant Organizations rejected the message.

By rejecting the First Angel's Message, Sardis suffered the fall of Rev. 14:8."And there followed another Angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen..."

By its failure to carry forward the sixteenth century Reformation, by clinging to certain Papal errors and by rejecting the First Angel's Message Sardis declared itself to be the daughters of the Mother Harlot and to be the False Protestant Babylon that will lead the world against the end-time true Christianity. When that shall happen in the near future, Sardis will suffer her second and final fall as Babylon!

CHURCH #6 Philadelphia Rev. 3:7-13

The Midnight Cry or Seventh-Month Movement advanced exponentially under Holy Spirit power. In the late Summer of 1844, more than 50 000 separated from the mainstream churches that had rejected the light.

Philadelphia was built on Christ and the momentum of the Second Advent First Angel's Message and prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation.

GOSPEL TSUNAMI

"Like a tidal wave the movement swept over the land. From city to city, from village to village, and into remote country places it went, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. Fanaticism disappeared before this proclamation like early frost before the rising sun. Believers saw their doubt and perplexity removed, and hope and courage animated their hearts. The work was free from those extremes which are ever manifested when there is human excitement without the controlling influence of the word and Spirit of God. It was similar in character to those seasons of humiliation and returning unto the Lord which among ancient Israel followed messages of reproof from His servants. It bore the characteristics that mark the work of God in every age. There was little ecstatic joy, but rather deep searching of heart, confession of sin, and forsaking of the world. A preparation to meet the Lord was the burden of agonizing spirits. There was persevering prayer and unreserved consecration to God. {GC 400. 2}

"Of all the great religious movements since the days of the apostles, none have been more free from human imperfection and the wiles of Satan than was that of the autumn of 1844." {GC 401. 1}

Carefully and solemnly those who received the message came up to the time when they hoped to meet their Lord. Every morning they felt that it was their first duty to secure the evidence of their acceptance with God. Their hearts were closely united, and they prayed much with and for one another...."But again they were destined to disappointment" GC 403

The Great Disappointment

Philadelphia experienced a heart-breaking disappointment. After a few days the unbelieving world began to heap scorn, and reproach upon them, with contemptuous laughter and ridicule. A large number renounced their faith, some felt like fleeing from the world.

The approaching winter of 1844 would be a very cold winter, and having sacrificed all, cold and hunger added to the already overwhelming distress.

However a small group of about 10, including James White, Hiram Edson, Owen RL Crosier, Dr. F. B Hahn were determined to pray and study to find out what really happened.

Revelation 10

Revelation 10:8-10 had foretold the sweetness of studying and sharing the message and "belly bitter" pain of the great disappointment.

Revelation 10:11 also foretold the rise of the Three Angels' Messages (Seventh Day Adventism). And verse 10 declared that the end of the 2300 years also indicated the end of prophetic time.

On October 23, 1844, Edson and Crosier were walking in a cornfield, when Edson had a striking revelation: that Jesus had entered the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. This led O. Crosier, H. Edson and Dr. F. B Hahn to begin deep, prayerful study into the Sanctuary doctrine and eventually to understand 'the cleansing of the Sanctuary'. This was the "open door" of Rev. 3:8

Meanwhile, to back track a bit, even before the Great Disappointment, in early Spring of 1844 a Millerite Methodist by the name of Frederick Wheeler met Seventh Day Baptist, Rachel Oakes, who admonished him about keeping the true sabbath. Around the same time TM Preble also accepted the sabbath truth and wrote a tract on the Sabbath.

But it was after the Disappointment that Captain Joseph Bates read and studied Preble's tract and began to share it with 15 year old Marion Stowell who shared it with the Edward Andrew's family including 17 year old John Nevin Andrews.

Eventually the Sabbath keeping group and the Sanctuary group met and studied together and two fundamental core doctrines were established from the Bible and Bible alone: Sanctuary and Sabbath

The Gift of Prophecy

In 1842 William Foy was given two visions but was reluctant to share.

Then Hazen Foss of Portland was given some visions and he also refused to share.

In December 1844, 17 year old frail, sickly Ellen Harmon from Maine was given a vision showing the journey of the Advent believers to the New Jerusalem, about a week later, in a second vision, God requested her to tell the vision. She was shy and reluctant but eventually spoke forth the visions.

James White believed that Ellen was given the prophetic gift and traveled with her purely as a gospel associate. But they grew to love each other and were married on August 30, 1846 by a Justice of Peace in Portland, Maine.

Later in 1846, Bates met Ellen White, he was skeptical of her visions, and she was skeptical of his 7th Day Sabbath doctrine. Eventually by prayer and study they became doctrinally reconciled.

Although James and Ellen White, Hiram Edson and Joseph Bates were the primary messengers engaged in propagating the new truths, there were scores of other Advent believers scattered throughout New England and New York who were studying and arriving at the

same doctrines. By 1848 these scattered believers felt the need to pull together and they decided to organize small conferences called 'Sabbath Conferences'. The first Sabbath Conference was held on April 20- 24, 1848 and was considered successful.

The second Sabbath Conference was very controversial, Ellen White advised them to stop majoring in minors and to focus on unity in the fundamental truths of the 3 Angels' Messages.

In all there were 26 such Conferences between 1848 and 1851.

Doctrines which were consolidated were:

1. The Second Coming of Christ.
2. Christ as High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary and cleansing the Sanctuary which began in 1844 in the Most Holy Place
3. The Seventh Day sabbath.
4. The Prophetic gift.
5. The non-immortality of the soul and the state of the dead.
6. The timing of the 7 last plagues.
7. The millennium and the final annihilation of the unsaved.
8. First Teachings of Pre -Advent Judgment.

In the 1852 to 1855 period J N Loughborough and Uriah Smith began teaching that a judgment had begun in Autumn of 1844 when Christ entered the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary.

In 1854 J N Andrews was the first Adventist Bible student to declare that the Rev. 13: 11 beast from the earth symbolized the USA. And in 1857 James White wrote in the Review and Herald that an”investigative judgment was taking place in Heaven, in which the lives of professed believers would pass in review before God. That was the first time the phrase investigative judgment was used!

However, during the years 1851 to 1858, as doctrines, prophecies, Sabbath and judgment were being worked out, there occurred, insidiously a shifting of focus from Jesus and His infinite sacrifice to preoccupation with self-righteousness and law-keeping in order to pass the judgment. Their experience degenerated from Philadelphian to a dangerous spiritual condition of the Old Covenant: lukewarmness.

Church #7: Laodicea. Rev. 3:14- 22

Laodicea signifies”the judging of the people”.

As early as Nov. 1855, Sis Ellen White declared that the Laodicean shaking had begun (1 T Chapter 32)

And by 1858 lukewarmness had become endemic. (1T186). This lukewarmness became the basic cause of the delay of Christ’s Second Coming. Jesus tells us to be zealous therefore and repent!

Lukewarmness must be overcome by the remnant people of God in order for them to experience the completion of early rain growth followed by latter rain ripening to sinless mature perfection to receive the Rev. 7 Seal of the living God.

Lukewarmness caused the delay of Christ’s Second Coming in the first generation after 1844. God sent the message of righteousness by faith in 1888, and right up to 1901, all heaven was waiting.

The 1888- 1895 Messages were the true gospel sent, according to Ellen White, to direct the focus of Adventists to Jesus and His matchless charms.

But alas, that Second generation (1884 -1924) also passed. Also the third (1924-1964) and the fourth (1964- 2004) and we are in the third decade of a fifth generation 2004- 2044.

The rejection of the 1888 message, was followed by doctrinal wobbling in the third generation, leading to the 1957 book: SDAs Answer Questions on Doctrine.

Also in the third generation discovery of 1888-1895 messages led to discussion and agitation and formation of independent groups. In addition the true light on the Character of God began to shine forth.

The true gospel, the character of God, the issues at stake in the great controversy all clarify the unique Adventist doctrine of the Investigative Judgment.

And yet these doctrines have not received official acceptance by the SDA Organization. Lukewarmness remains endemic.

“The gold that Jesus would have us buy of Him is gold tried in the fire; it is the gold of faith and love, that has no defiling substance mingled with it The white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the wedding garment which Christ alone can give. The eyesalve is the true spiritual discernment that is so wanting among us, for spiritual things must be spiritually discerned” (The Review and Herald, April 1, 1890). 7BC 965. 1

“Buy of me gold... that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear.”The white raiment is the righteousness of Christ

that may be wrought into the character. Purity of heart, purity of motive, will characterize every one who is washing his robe, and making it white in the blood of the Lamb" (The Review and Herald, July 24, 1888). 7BC 965. 3

A fifth generation can be considered a new first generation!

The baton has been passed on to the true remnant in this generation. And this is the third watch! Let there be no more delay!

Appeal Romans 13: 11, 12 NIV

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light

"Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh" Romans 13: 14 NIV

Chapter 10

GLORIFICATION

While we look forward to the resurrection or translation at the last day, we must not only "look for but hasten unto" the day of the Lord. 2 Peter 3:12

We must by faith count ourselves to be already risen with Christ and set our affections on the heavenly realm. And have a daily experience of Christ and His Divine Nature and Life in our minds and hearts.

Therefore before we proceed, let us read Colossians 3: 1-4.

The Importance of The Resurrection

The Apostle Paul informed the Romans that our Lord's resurrection was as essential to our salvation as was His death

"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised for our justification" Romans 4:25

The resurrection of the righteous dead unto glorious immortality is one of the most sublime and glorious doctrines of the Bible.

The resurrection of Christ on the third day after His crucifixion was the truth which propelled the early Christian church. When false teachers arose in the Corinthian church, denying the resurrection, the inspired Apostle Paul wrote his great treatise on the resurrection recorded in 1 Corinthians 15.

The Resurrection of The Righteous EIGHT FACTS

1. The Resurrection of Life(John 5:28, 29)
2. The First Resurrection (Rev. 20:6)
3. It will occur at the last day (John 6:40, 44), at Christ's second coming(1Thess. 4:16, 17)
4. The Redemption of the body(Romans 8:23)
5. Our vile bodies shall be changed(Phil. 3:21)
6. Immortality received(1Corinthians 15:51-54)
7. There can be no life after death without the resurrection(1Cor. 15:17-19)
8. The translation of the living righteous is the same change as the resurrection of the righteous but occurs while living.

In Romans 8:23 Paul calls the change which will occur at resurrection and translation "the redemption of the body". This means that the complete process of redemption of an individual believer begins with redemption of the human spirit at initial conversion, continues on with the redemption of the soul during sanctification and ends with redemption of the body at glorification. Romans 8:14-23

These facts are summarized in the following table, please study the details carefully.

Redemption of the human spirit(Eph.4:23; Rom.8:9, 16	Redemption of the human soul (Romans 8: 14)	Redemption of the human body (Romans 8:23)
Spiritual Resurrection (Eph.2:5;Col. 2:13)	Spiritual growth (2Cor. 3 : 18;2Peter1; 2Peter3:18)	Bodily Resurrection (1Cor.15:51-57)
Initial justification by faith Gal.2:16	Sanctification (1Thess.5: 23)	Glorification (Romans 8:30; Col.3:4
New Birth Commenced. (John 3: 3-5)	New Birth Developed (Eph.4:13)	New Birth Completed (Phil.3:20,21)

Types of Resurrection

In John 5:25 – 29 (KJV), Jesus spoke of two(2) types of general resurrection:

1. The resurrection of life
2. The resurrection of damnation

The resurrection of life is called the first resurrection in Revelation 20: 6. It is described in 1Thess. 4:14-17; and Corinthians 15:50-58.

The resurrection of damnation is described in Revelation 20:5(KJV) by the words:”But the rest of the dead live not again until the thousand years were finished”

The first general resurrection will occur at Christ’s Second Coming, and will be followed by the millennium (1000 year reign).

The resurrection of damnation, the second general resurrection will occur when the 1000 years will have finished.

“The Change”

The mysterious supernatural transformation that occurs in the resurrection of life, and the translation, is called the change. Let us read 1Cor. 15: 51; Phil. 3:20, 21 and Job 14: 14

John 3:6; 2Cor. 5: 4; 2Cor. 5:17

This change is the creation of the new body by redemptive birth whereby the old or natural fallen fleshly composition is replaced by the Divine Nature and immortal Divine Life of the Son of God!

Philippians 3:21

The change then is glorification.

“Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the power whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself! (Philippians 3:21)

“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 is 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

“The Life-giver will call up His purchased possession in the first resurrection, and until that triumphant hour, when the last trump shall sound and the vast army shall come forth to eternal victory, every sleeping saint will be kept in safety and will be guarded as a precious jewel, who is known to God by name. By the power of the Saviour that dwell in them while living and because they were partakers of the of the Divine Nature, they are brought forth from the dead”4 SDA BC 1143

(Isaiah26:14)

Let us now read 1 Cor. 15: 42- 58 and learn the contrasts between the natural and the spiritual body.

The Manifestation of The Sons of God

In Romans 8:23, Paul uses two other terms for glorification: the adoption; and the redemption of the body. It completes the new creation, the new birth, thereby making fully manifest the sons of God!

In the redemption of the character of the individual believer, the Holy Spirit imparts the Divine Nature and Life, the personal presence of Christ, into the human spirit as the believer abides in Christ. And in this abiding relationship progressive character transformation, spiritual growth, also called sanctification, occurs. The ultimate goal is Christian character perfection, Christ fully formed in the believer. Eph. 4:13

In redemption of the body God *“shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you”* Romans 8:11

The Sign of Sanctification

In Ezekiel 20:12, 20, God tells us that the Seventh-day Sabbath is both the sign that He sanctifies His people and also the sign that He, YAHWEH, is their God.

Memorial and Sign of God’s Creative Power

Genesis 2:1-3, and Exodus 20:8-11 declare that the Seventh-day Sabbath is the immutable memorial of the fact that God by His Son created our world in six days and rested, blessed and sanctified the seventh day.

Redemption is a new creation in Christ and the Seventh-day Sabbath is the sign and seal of the New humanity in Christ. 2 Cor 5:17

Rest From Sin's Bondage

In Matthew 11: 28-29 Jesus says that only in Him do we find rest from sin, and from labouring to save ourselves. When we learn of His meekness and humility, our 'mind of self' is dethroned and we receive His mind through the Holy Spirit.

In Mark 2:27, 28 we learn that the Sabbath was made for our good and that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. Therefore the Sabbath is the Lord's Day! In the New Covenant God in Christ by His Holy Spirit writes His law of Love in the believer's mind. Hebrews 10:16

The Universe is anxiously waiting, waiting on tiptoe, "to see the manifestation of the sons of God".

The Early And Latter Rains of The Holy Spirit (Mark4:26-29; James 5:7, 8.

The early rain produces growth from the "blade" to the "ear", the latter rain "fills out the ears and ripens the grain" which must occur in order to be Sealed.

RH March 2, 1897

"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."

There can be no ripening without testing and suffering, therefore the Latter Rain will use the persecutory pressure between the Sunday Law and the general closure of Probation for ripening.

Tested by the Image—The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.... [Revelation 13:11-17quoted.]... 7BC 976. 2

"This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed."7BC 976. 3

"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. (Letter 11, 1890). 7BC 976. 3

The Last Three Hurdles or Shakings

The end-time remnant living-elect must be victorious in (1) the Laodicean shaking; (2)the mark of the beast shaking before the closure of Probation by which time they will receive the Revelation 7 Seal of the living God, which is having His character of Love fully reproduced in them. The Seventh-day Sabbath will be sign and seal of that perfection in Christ

Then (3) they also must endure the horrific shaking in the time of Trouble, such as never was, called the time of Jacob's Trouble. The time of Jacob's Trouble will extend from the second plague to the time of deliverance by God's voice at the start of plague seven Rev. 16:17.

Harvest Ripe At Last

The harvest having fully ripened, Jesus will come to reap. He will resurrect 'the dead in Christ' and translate the victorious end-time remnant, the 144, 000.

At last the waiting universe will see the manifestation of the sons of God as all the saved receive their new, glorified, immortal bodies! And travel to the New Jerusalem in Heaven!

MARRIAGE FEAST IS ALL PREPARED

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!

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!

WHEN JESUS COMES IN GLORY

When Jesus comes in glory,
As Lord and King of kings,
O what a wondrous story
The blessed Bible brings:
His face will shine like sunlight,
His head be white as snow,
His eyes like flaming firelight,
His feet like brass aglow.

His voice like rushing waters
Will reach with mighty sound
Into the deepest quarters
Of all creation round;
And at this wondrous greeting
The dead in Christ shall rise,
Their Lord and Savior meeting
In glory in the skies.

And we who are believing
And His appearing love,
Shall know we are receiving
His glory from above;
His resurrection power
Will raise us to the place
Where we that wondrous hour
Shall see Him face to face.

O hasten Thine appearing,
Thou bright and Morning Star!
Lord, may we soon be hearing
The trumpet sound afar;
Thy people all are yearning
To be Thy raptured bride,
And at Thine own returning
Be caught up to Thy side.

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES