

FUTURE NEWS

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“SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH” JOHN 17:17

The Schools of the Prophets

The Great Problems of Duty and Destiny *Christian Education, 66*

"It is a law of the mind that it gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is trained to dwell. If occupied with commonplace matters only, it will become dwarfed and enfeebled. If never required to grapple with difficult problems, it will after a time almost lose the power of growth. As an educating power, the Bible is without a rival. In the word of God the mind finds subject for the deepest thought, the loftiest aspiration. The Bible is the most instructive history that men possess. It came fresh from the fountain of eternal truth, and a divine hand has preserved its purity through all the ages. It lights up the far-distant past, where human research seeks vainly to penetrate. In God's word we behold the power that laid the foundation of the earth and that stretched out the heavens. Here only can we find a history of our race, unsullied by human prejudice or human pride. Here are recorded the struggles, the defeats, and the victories of the greatest men this world has ever known. Here the great problems of duty and destiny are unfolded. The curtain that separates the visible from the invisible world is lifted, and we behold the conflict of the opposing forces of good and evil, from the first entrance of sin, to the final triumph of righteousness and truth; and all is but a revelation of the character of God.

"In the reverent contemplation of the truths presented in his word, the mind of the student is brought into communion with the infinite mind. Such a study will not only refine and ennoble the character, but it cannot fail to expand and invigorate the mental powers.

"The teaching of the Bible has a vital bearing upon man's prosperity in all the relations of this life. It unfolds the principles that are the corner-stone of a nation's prosperity,—principles with which is bound up the well-being of society, and which are the safeguard of the family,—principles without which no man can attain usefulness, happiness, and honor in this life, or can hope to secure the future, immortal life. There is no position in life, no phase of human experience, for which the teaching of the Bible is not an essential preparation. Studied and obeyed, the word of God would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect than will the closest application to all the subjects that human philosophy embraces. It would give men of strength and solidity of character, of keen perception and sound judgment,—men who would be an honor to God and a blessing to the world.

Future News is the monthly newsletter from **Future for America**.

We also coordinate the **School of the Prophets** for the education of this final generation.

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

Coupled with the prophetic message, **Future for America** emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. **Future for America** upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

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THINGS NEW & OLD

By G. Seaman

“Christ said, “Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life. . . . As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me. . . . It is the Spirit that quickeneth; . . . the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:54-63.

“When we eat Christ’s flesh and drink His blood, the element of eternal life will be found in the ministry. There will not be a fund of stale, oft-repeated ideas. The tame, dull sermonizing will cease. The old truths will be presented, but they will be seen in a new light. There will be a new perception of truth, a clearness and a power that all will discern. Those who have the privilege of sitting under such a ministry will, if susceptible to the Holy Spirit’s influence, feel the energizing power of a new life. The fire of God’s love will be kindled within them. Their perceptive faculties will be quickened to discern the beauty and majesty of truth.

“The faithful householder represents what every teacher of the children and youth should be. If he makes the word of God his treasure, he will continually bring forth new beauty and new truth. When the teacher will rely upon God in prayer, the Spirit of Christ will come upon him, and God will work through him by the Holy Spirit upon the minds of others. The Spirit fills the mind and heart with sweet hope and courage and Bible imagery, and all this will be communicated to the youth under his instruction.

“The springs of heavenly peace and joy, unsealed in the soul of the teacher by the words of Inspiration, will become a mighty river of influence to bless all who connect with him. The Bible will not become a tiresome book to the student. Under a wise

instructor the word will become more and more desirable. It will be as the bread of life, and will never grow old. Its freshness and beauty will attract and charm the children and youth. It is like the sun shining upon the earth, perpetually imparting brightness and warmth, yet never exhausted.

“God’s holy, educating Spirit is in His word. A light, a new and precious light, shines forth from every page. Truth is there revealed, and words and sentences are made bright and appropriate for the occasion, as the voice of God speaking to the soul.

“The Holy Spirit loves to address the youth, and to discover to them the treasures and beauties of God’s word. The promises spoken by the great Teacher will captivate the senses and animate the soul with spiritual power that is divine. There will grow in the fruitful mind a familiarity with divine things that will be as a barricade against temptation.

“The words of truth will grow in importance, and assume a breadth and fullness of meaning of which we have never dreamed. The beauty and riches of the word have a transforming influence on mind and character. The light of heavenly love will fall upon the heart as an inspiration.

“The appreciation of the Bible grows with its study. Whichever way the student may turn, he will find displayed the infinite wisdom and love of God.

“The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who



with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give.

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days, and He says, “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” Revelation 1:3.

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

“In giving us His word, God has put us in possession of every truth essential for our salvation. Thousands have drawn water from these wells of life, yet there is no diminishing of the supply. Thousands have set the Lord before them, and by beholding have been changed into the same image. Their spirit burns within them as they speak of His character, telling what Christ is to them, and what they are to Christ. But these searchers have not exhausted these grand and holy themes. Thousands more may engage in the work of searching out the mysteries of salvation. As the life of Christ and the character of His mission are dwelt upon, rays of light will shine forth more distinctly at every attempt to discover truth. Each fresh search will reveal something more deeply interesting than has yet been unfolded. The

subject is inexhaustible. The study of the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice and mediatorial work, will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last; and looking to heaven with its unnumbered years he will exclaim, “Great is the mystery of godliness.”

“In eternity we shall learn that which, had we received the enlightenment it was possible to obtain here, would have opened our understanding. The themes of redemption will employ the hearts and minds and tongues of the redeemed through the everlasting ages. They will understand the truths which Christ longed to open to His disciples, but which they did not have faith to grasp. Forever and forever new views of the perfection and glory of Christ will appear. Through endless ages will the faithful Householder bring forth from His treasure things new and old.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 134.

Eating & Drinking During Critical Moments of Sacred History

A Requirement of Righteousness Exposed by Prophetic Lines Prefiguring the Last Days

The Word of God presents the multi-faceted gospel story of the controversy between God and Satan. God’s Word presents this gospel from beginning to end in both of the following senses: in the Bible itself from Genesis to Revelation, and the entire history from the beginning of the controversy (the fall of Lucifer) to the ending of the controversy (the eradication of sin). It presents a multi-faceted story by introducing and thoroughly expounding upon the concepts, characteristics, and qualities associated with God’s plan of salvation for mankind. Thus, a work happens to be definitely cut out for Christians seeking to learn from God’s Word which naturally draws them to discover all the inestimably valuable truths pertaining to salvation or, in other words, ‘what must be done to be saved’. This study draws



out from the Bible's vast ocean of precious gospel truths only one concept for specific consideration: the concept of eating and drinking in correlation to the final moments of earth's history.

Eating and drinking prevails as an important consideration for Christians both literally and spiritually. Just as the manna sustained the Israelites in the wilderness during their day, God's Word (the true manna which was only prefigured by that of the Israelites in the wilderness) sustains Christians as they sojourn in a world of sin prior to entering upon the "promised land". Considering the apparent weariness of manna acquired by the Israelites during their day, there appears to be a necessity for Christians to carefully observe the requirements of eating and drinking set forth by God's Word lest they meet a similar end as that of the Israelites and close their probation while the "flesh is yet between their teeth". Just as what Adam and Eve chose to eat became the means by which sin entered into this world, that which Christians choose to eat and drink, in a spiritual sense to them, becomes an urgent matter of salvation.

Before proceeding with this study, two points need brief clarification: to whom this study refers in regard to "Christians", and the kind of eating and drinking under consideration.

To clarify the former point, a Christian is an "Israelite in spirit" who belongs to God's true church. An "Israelite in spirit" is a person who has no literal heritage with the lineage of Abraham, to whom the covenant was made, but who is yet grafted into this heritage by accepting and carrying out their individual part in God's plan of salvation. Consider the following Scriptures and allow God's Word to explain it better:

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

as for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. Genesis 17:1-9—**this is the covenant made with Abraham and to his lineage.**

Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? Genesis 18:18—**here we see that God blesses all nations through Abraham.**

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. Galatians 3:6-9—**this is the covenant with Abraham applied to all who are faithful to Jesus Christ.**

Next, consider the testimony of Jesus through His servant for an understanding of God's church:

"God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is



it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Where Christ is, even among the humble few, this is Christ’s church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church. Where two or three are present who love and obey the commandments of God, Jesus there presides, let it be in the desolate place of the earth, in the wilderness, in the city, [or] enclosed in prison walls.” Manuscript Releases, volume 17, 81, 82.

The prior two excerpts from the Bible and the testimonies accurately define the “Christians” of whom this study addresses. Note that Christians love God and keep His commandments. This requirement of keeping His commandments happens to be closely associated to eating and drinking and this becomes evident as the study ensues.

To clarify the latter point, this study only addresses eating and drinking in the spiritual aspect. To clarify this spiritual aspect, consider the manna eaten by the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness. With this consideration in mind, consider specifically the claims of Jesus in John chapter 6. Jesus claims He is that manna:

Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man shall live forever: will give is my flesh, the life of the world.

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eat of this bread, he and the bread that I which I will give for John 6:49-51.

This study discusses and drinking relative and drinking His undertaking especially living during the last who do not eat His blood have no life (see John 6:53).

the concept of eating to eating Christ’s flesh blood. This is a spiritual required for Christians day events. Christians flesh and drink His

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63.

The very beginning of human history presents a critical decision in regard to eating. God prefers His creation to worship Him in accordance with free will. To fairly offer this choice to Adam and Eve after their creation, God instructed Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit from all but one tree. God commanded them not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil and declared to them that they would surely die if they ate from that tree. Thus, from the very start of human history appears the matter of choice in regard to eating and drinking. As far as this choice seems to pertain to literal appetite, it actually happens to be a spiritual matter of critical importance. To reiterate: God presented the choice of the tree of knowledge of good and evil to fairly test the fidelity of humankind and not simply to restrict humankind’s diet. Fidelity to God happens to be a matter of intellect, so the choice presented by God fitly represents a spiritual matter—a test of obedience to Him. Considering the tree itself, further evidence confirms that the emphasis of this choice happens to be on allegiance to God instead of the literal matter of eating a fruit. The tree represents knowledge (and that of good and evil). Knowledge abides as a matter of intellect, so the

spiritual significance of the fruit becomes evident because eating fruit does not literally “make one wise”. The fruit itself emphasizes the spiritual aspect of the choice presented to Adam and Eve. God creates no sin and nothing harmful or unhealthy. Therefore the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was literally harmless and good for food (see Genesis 3:6). The whole problem with the tree of knowledge of good and evil, if Adam and Eve chose to eat from it, depended upon the creative power of God’s Word. God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from it lest they die and it was the creative force of God’s Word that made the danger of eating the fruit a reality. The deceiver’s role in this scenario also emphasizes the spiritual aspect of the matter; by misguiding Eve to the belief that eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil begets wisdom of god-like nature, the serpent was showing the direct correlation between obedience to God and wisdom and knowledge. Thus, the spiritual connotations of obedience to God in close association with wisdom and knowledge becomes apparent.

The unfortunate result of this test of allegiance happens to be that Adam and Eve chose to eat the wrong kind of food. The fruit of Eve’s endeavor to be “as god” and Adam’s prioritization of Eve over God (both directly linked to selfishness) was the entrance of sin into a yet unfallen world. So, the first matter of choice presented to Christians from the Bible happens to be a choice of eating. In the case of Adam and Eve, making the wrong choice in regard to appetite resulted in spiritual failure and worldwide devastation. Since this choice pertaining to fidelity to God in close association with the pursuit of knowledge appears at the beginning of sacred history, Christians have the guarantee that a close test of “eating” to remain faithful to God and possess a knowledge of truth or to “eat” unfaithfully and strive to obtain the vain knowledge of worldliness and sin appears at the end of sacred history. God is the “Alpha” and the “Omega” and His Word declares the end from the beginning.

The right kind of eating results in eternal life. Genesis 3:22 explains that eating from the tree of life enables eternal life. Before Christians may partake of this tree in the heavenly kingdom, they must first partake of the righteous kind of spiritual food: the bread from heaven defined by the Son of God to be His flesh and blood and His spoken word to be “spirit” and “life”. Partaking of this food while choosing to abstain from the spiritual food, which God’s Word commands not to touch, actuates a transformation of character within Christians. The ultimate transformation results in a perfect representation of God’s character. Eating the appropriate kind of spiritual food, therefore, empowers Christians to become Christ-like and fulfill God’s Word in Matthew 5:48 and 1 John 3:3. In this manner, Christians become fit to live in the heavenly, eternal kingdom governed by the love of God.

The next illustration of eating in close association with critical events appears in Genesis chapters 18 and 19. An examination of these two chapters reveals important considerations in regard to end-time events and the close of probation for humanity. Together, the scriptural accounts of events when the angels visited Abraham and when they visited Lot appear to portray critical, end-time events in two distinct phases: the angels first visit those with whom God enters into a covenant (Abraham). Then, the angels visit those outside of God’s covenanted people (Lot).

God visits Abraham first in Genesis chapter 18. In verses 4 and 5, the visitors agree to partake in foot-washing, rest under a tree, and eating at the request of Abraham:

Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. Genesis 18:4, 5.



Verse 8 shows that the visitors indeed ate under the tree:

And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat. Genesis 18:8

Verses 10 through 15 reveal the promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah. It becomes important to note that Sarah received this news with incredulity and God responded by saying:

Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Gen. 18:14

Interestingly, this matter of giving birth appears to be comparable to Isaiah chapter 66 verses 7 through 9 in regard to Jerusalem:

Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Isaiah 66:7-9

Next, verses 16 through 22 of Genesis chapter 18 show how God reveals His plans to investigate and execute judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. God remains speaking with Abraham while the two angels proceed toward Sodom.

Abraham begins to intercede on Sodom's behalf in the remaining verses of the chapter, requesting for Sodom to be spared if so many righteous people should be found therein. This intercession happens to be progressive, for the Scriptural record shows a progression of Abraham's intercession from 50 righteous souls, to 45, to 40, to 30, to 20, finally to 10 righteous souls. The intercession suddenly stops

at 10. Thus, it appears this work of intercession fitly represents the period of intercession Jesus Christ now performs in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary on behalf of those who enter into covenant with Him (for Genesis chapter 17 explains how Abraham entered into a covenant relationship with God). This work of intercession happens to be the blotting-out of sins during an investigative judgment that begins at God's chosen nation (see Ezekiel 9:6; 1Peter 4:17) in the perfect fulfillment of the Day of Atonement (the anti-typical Day of Atonement). So, just as Abraham's progressive work of intercession on behalf of the righteous people in Sodom eventually ceases, a time will arrive in present-day, sacred history when the intercession of Christ on behalf of those with whom He entered into covenant ceases resulting in the close of probation for God's chosen nation: whether the individuals comprising that nation are sealed by God or doomed with the mark of the beast.

Consider the following citations in regard to this time of visitation of God with Abraham:

"Abraham thought that in that populous city there must be other worshipers of the true God. And in view of this he pleaded, "That be far from Thee, to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: ... that be far from Thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Abraham asked not once merely, but many times. Waxing bolder as his requests were granted, he continued until he gained the assurance that if even ten righteous persons could be found in it, the city would be spared." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 140.

"There was a shut door in the days of Abraham. Mercy ceased to plead with the inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot, with his wife and two daughters, were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 63.

As we can see, the scriptural account of God's visitation with Abraham during a critical time of investigative judgment reveals the appropriate kind of eating and drinking during the present-day



investigative judgment leads to righteousness.

Moving on to the visitation with Lot; eating and drinking occurs yet again. This appears to be the second phase of God's work to investigate and close probation for mankind because God first visited Abraham and ceased a work of intercession during that time. Now God moves on to Lot, who happens to be the ancestor of Moab and the children of Ammon, and the Scriptural account explains how two angels performed a work in Sodom that enabled Lot to escape from Sodom's destruction. In Daniel chapter 11 verse 41, Lot's spiritual descendants also obtain provision for escape. The "eating" occurs in Genesis 19 verse 3:

And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. Genesis 19:3

In verses 4 through 11, wicked men attempt to destroy Lot but the two angels save Lot by smiting the wicked men and shutting the door. Note that these wicked men remained persistent in destroying Lot and his house even after they were smitten with blindness. Note also the occurrence of a "shut door" prior to the shutting of the door by the two angels, exhibiting a progression in the close of probation. It appears that after the two angels shut the door in this history, the wicked men ended their probation for the worst since their hearts were hardened:

"Had they not been visited with double blindness, being given up to hardness of heart, the stroke of God upon them would have caused them to fear, and to desist from their evil work. That last night was marked by no greater sins than many others before it; but mercy, so long slighted, had at last ceased its pleading. The inhabitants of Sodom had passed the limits of divine forbearance—"the hidden boundary between God's patience and His wrath." The fires of His vengeance were about to be kindled in the vale of Siddim." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 159.

The two angels in Sodom depict the work of the loud cry:

"I saw that the third message would close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry. Servants of God, endowed with power from on high, with their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration, went forth fulfilling their work, and proclaiming the message from heaven. Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction. God's people were fitted up and strengthened by the excellent glory which fell upon them in rich abundance, preparing them to endure the hour of temptation." *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 196.

Two angels carried out the work of rescuing Lot and providing an opportunity for Lot's escape by physically removing Lot from Sodom. This represents God finishing the work during the loud cry; it happens to be a work carried out without human hands by the power of the Holy Spirit. The human element involved in this work, the 144,000, undergoes a transformation into Christ's image prior to the loud cry (during the time of probation represented by Abraham's intercession). Due to this transformation, the Holy Spirit freely carries out the work of the loud cry while the human element remains transparent. God carries out and finishes this work for His name's sake (See Ezekiel 36:20-31). The visitation of Lot by two angels thus exhibits the results of eating and drinking righteously during a critical period of extended mercy prior to the close of probation for humanity.

TEN VIRGINS & TEN KINGS

By N. Nyoni

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meeting the bridegroom. Matthew 25:1



“The parable of the ten virgins illustrates the experience of the Adventist people” (see *The Great Controversy*, 393).

This parable was fulfilled in the time of the Millerites and is repeated in this final generation to the very letter (see *The Review and Herald*, August 19, 1890). This parable is one of the many portrayals of the everlasting gospel in the word of God. It brings to view important aspects concerning God’s method of producing two classes of worshippers—the wise and the foolish virgins. Satan is a diligent student of prophecy, and he is constantly counterfeiting the plans of God to sweep the majority onto his side:

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Isaiah 14:12-14.

“Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks **at every point** to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 16.

This article presents a personal analysis of the enemy’s “counterwork” of the parable of the ten virgins.

The Ten Virgins – The Kingdom of God

The “kingdom of heaven,” according to the parable, is likened unto ten virgins and the work which they perform. The transactions that take place in their experience identify how the kingdom of God is eventually to be established in righteousness. Satan seeks to counterfeit this experience in the setting up of his earthly kingdom upon iniquity:

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads **and ten horns**, and seven crowns upon

his heads. Revelation 12:9.

The dragon is a symbol of Satan (see Revelation 12:9), but in a secondary sense, it is a symbol of the civil governments that he employs to establish his kingdom.

“**Kings and rulers and governors** have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, **and are represented as the dragon** who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus. In their enmity against the people of God, they show themselves guilty also of the choice of Barabbas instead of Christ.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 38).

The dragon is the medium through which Satan rules on the earth. The number associated with the dragon power is the number ten, which is illustrated in several instances in the Bible. But, perhaps the premier reference would be the ten horns upon the dragon’s head. This medium is also represented by the scarlet colored beast of Revelation 17 which also has ten horns. These horns answer to kings or kingdoms which form a universal confederacy in the setting up of Satan’s monarchy at the end of the world:

And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. Revelation 17:12.

Therefore, as the kingdom of heaven is likened unto ten virgins which go forth to meet the bridegroom, so is the kingdom of Satan likened unto ten horns which pave the way for the coming of the antichrist—the false bridegroom. The virgins are to receive oil into their vessels from the messages of God’s Spirit in preparation for their solemn expectations, but the ten kings fill their vessels with the wine of Babylon (see Revelation 17:2)—the delusions of Satan—in preparation to receive and lift up the inauthentic christ.

Going Forth To Meet The Bridegroom –

Widespread Reformation

“The coming of Christ, as announced by **the first angel’s message**, was understood to be represented by the coming of the bridegroom. **The widespread reformation reformation under the proclamation of His soon coming, answered to the going forth of the virgins.**” *The Great Controversy*, 393.

The “coming of the bridegroom” represents the “coming of Christ.” In the Satanic counterfeit, this coming would represent the coming of the false christ in the final crisis. The “widespread reformation” under the proclamation of the prophetic testing message of the hour represents the going forth of the virgins. On the other hand, the working of the false prophet of Bible prophecy prepares the way for the coming of the antichrist. The first angel’s message produced the true reformation in the time of the Millerites. It arrived onto the scene of history at the time of the end in 1798:

“Daniel stood in his lot to bear his testimony which was sealed **until the time of the end**, when the first angel’s message should be proclaimed to our world.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 115.

This was also the time for the rise of the United States of America as the sixth kingdom of Bible prophecy. This nation’s rise was symbolized by the rise of the lamblike beast of Revelation 13:11.

“What nation of the New World was in **1798** rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? The application of the symbol admits of no question. One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America... ‘And he had two horns like a lamb.’ The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as **“coming up” in 1798.**” *The Great Controversy*, 440, 441.

This power having risen in apparent purity is

specifically connected to the time of the end, and it would eventually fulfill the role of the false prophet of Bible prophecy:

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh first come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, **And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast;** saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. Revelation 13:11-14.

And the beast was taken, and with him **the false prophet that wrought miracles before him**, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelation 19:20.

The lamblike beast which deceived them that receive the mark of the beast is also termed in Revelation as “the false prophet.” This is a fitting appellation for this beast, for it counterfeits the work of Elijah—the herald of the coming Lord. The work of Elijah was also performed by John the Baptist (the second Elijah) who prepared the way for the coming of Christ to the earth. His was the first message of reform to be given to the people of his generation, a typification of the first angel’s message which was given in Millerite history in the power and spirit of Elias:

“Thousands were led to embrace the truth preached by Wm. Miller, and servants of God were raised up **in the spirit and power of Elijah**



to proclaim the message. Those who preached this solemn message, like John the forerunner of Jesus, felt compelled to lay the axe at the root of the tree, and call upon men to bring forth fruits meet for repentance.” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 133.

Inspiration lines up the work of Miller and his associates in preaching the judgment hour of the first angel with the work of John the Baptist in warning men of his generation to flee from the wrath to come. John’s work therefore, was a type of the first angel’s message. In doing his work, John identified himself as the friend of the bridegroom, preparing the way for His coming:

“John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but **the friend of the bridegroom**, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:27-30.

Thus the work of John in giving the first message as the prophet of his time is woven into the fabric of the parable of the ten virgins. This application is made apparent when one understands that the first angel’s message was the testimony of the bridegroom’s friend, preparing the way for the marriage:

“He said, ‘A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice.’ John represented himself as the friend who acted as **messenger** between the betrothed parties, **preparing the way for the marriage**. When the bridegroom had received his bride, the mission of the friend was fulfilled. He rejoiced in the happiness of those whose union he had

promoted. So John had been called to direct the people to Jesus, and it was his joy to witness the success of the Saviour’s work. He said, “This is my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.” *The Desire of Ages*, 179.

In like manner, Miller and his associates prepared the way for the marriage in the announcement of the opening of the judgment. In this final generation, the first message is a warning identifying the close of the judgment, represented by the standing up of Michael. This message is contained in the last six verses of Daniel 11, a message which outlines the events that culminate in the momentous occurrence of the close of human probation. These verses became present truth in 1989 when the second part of the fortieth verse was fulfilled in the demise of Soviet Russia at the hands of the papacy (see Daniel 11:40b). This is the perfect fulfillment of the time of the end premised in that same passage. At that point, the first message (which was to test this generation) began to be unfolded by the Lion of the tribe of Judah. But, at that same time—the time of the end—we would expect the lamblike beast to once again appear on the scene of action. This was the case. The papacy was only able to bring down the USSR because it received the aid of the mightiest nation on the earth—the United States of America. It was up to the task; in 1989, the United States went forth as the false bridegroom’s friend.

The lamblike beast of Revelation 13 presents a work of a counterfeit nature to that of John the Baptist—the second Elijah. It prepared the way for the inauthentic bridegroom by creating an environment suitable for the marriage of the church with the world, a state of things which will clearly be made manifest at the Sunday Law. A widespread counter reformation has taken place in the nation of America. The unholy alliance with the papacy in 1989, the incorporation of Roman law into its judicial system through the passing of the Patriot Act in 2001, the false revivals that have flooded the Protestant churches, and have even leavened the churches of Adventism; all this and more have



made this feat more than just a mere possibility, but a sure reality. Thus, in both the civil and religious realms, the United States is paving the way for the coming of the counterfeit christ.

**IN THIS TIME OF WAITING,
THE MILLERITES SLUMBERED
UPON THE SUBJECT OF TIME;
FOR THE FIRST PUBLISHED
TIME HAD PASSED WITHOUT
THE CONSUMMATION OF
THEIR HOPES:**

“In this age antichrist will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God will be fully made void in the nations of our world. Rebellion against God’s holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God, and deify him. But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, ‘Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.’” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 62.

The Bridegroom Tarried – No Kingdom As Yet

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. Matthew 25:5.

In the parable, the bridegroom tarried, creating for the ten virgins an unexpected delay. As a result, the virgins fell under the spell of sleep. The tarrying of the bridegroom met a true and signal fulfillment in the first disappointment of Millerite Adventism’s history:

“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.” By the tarrying of the bridegroom is represented the passing of the time when the Lord was expected, the disappointment, and the seeming delay.... “They all slumbered and slept;” one class in unconcern and abandonment of their faith, the other class patiently waiting till clearer light should be given. Yet in the night of trial the latter seemed to lose, to some extent, their zeal and devotion. The halfhearted and superficial could no longer lean upon the faith of their brethren. Each must stand or fall for himself.” *The Great Controversy*, 394.

The time passed when the Millerites first expected the Savior. Thus, they experienced the first disappointment. This took place on April 19, 1844:

“They [the Millerites] consequently reckoned that the last day of the Jewish year “1843” would close with the sunset of April 18, 1844. Therefore the first day of the first month (Nisan) of “1844,” true Jewish time, would have as its civil equivalent **April 19**, though beginning actually with the sunset of April 18. Thus it should read April 18/19.” LeRoy Edwin Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of our Fathers*, volume 4, 797.

“At Midnight a cry was raised, the bridegroom is coming, go ye out to meet him. Then all the virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.” We have already shown that **tarrying time** for the bridegroom **the 19th April** by the prophetic periods was six months, down to 22nd October, 1844.” Joseph Bates, *Second Advent Way Marks and High Heaps*, 72.

This is also when the second angel was commissioned to descend and give his message on the earth:



“Another mighty angel was commissioned to descend to earth. Jesus placed in his hand a writing, and as he came to earth, he cried, Babylon is fallen! is fallen! Then I saw **the disappointed ones** again look cheerful, and raise their eyes to heaven, looking with faith and hope for their Lord’s appearing.” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 153.

In this time of waiting, the Millerites slumbered upon the subject of time; for the first published time had passed without the consummation of their hopes:

“It was the united testimony of the Second Advent lecturers and papers, when standing on “The Original Faith,” that the publication of the chart was a fulfillment of Habakkuk 2:2, 3. If the chart was a subject of prophecy, (and those who deny it leave the original faith,) then it follows that B.C. 457 was the year from which to date the 2300 days. It was necessary that 1843 should be the first published time in order that “the vision” should “tarry,” or that there should be a tarrying time, **in which the virgin band was to slumber and sleep on the great subject of time, just before they were to be aroused by the Midnight Cry.** James White, *The Advent Review*, December 1850.

This experience, as stated before, is to be repeated to the very letter in our history. The messages that sounded in the first fulfillment of the parable were the first and second angel’s messages. The present day fulfillment of the parable should also witness a proclamation of those messages.

“Many who heard the first and second angel’s messages thought they would live to see Christ coming in the clouds of heaven. Had all who claimed to believe the truth acted their part as wise virgins, the message would ere this have been proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people....A similar work will be accomplished when that other angel, represented in Revelation 18, gives his message. **The first, second, and third angel’s messages will need to be repeated.**”

Manuscript Releases, volume 16, 269-270.

The repeat of the first and second angel’s messages is seen in the testimony of Revelation 18. This angel was commissioned from Heaven to the earth on September 11, 2001, when the mighty touch of God Almighty brought down the great buildings of New York City (see *Life Sketches*, 411)—the twin towers. The arrival of the fourth angel marked the beginning of the tarrying time in our history, just as the arrival of the second angel marked the beginning of the tarrying time in Millerite history. At this point, the virgins fell asleep upon the subject of the mark of the beast and the image of the beast. In Millerite history, the first angel’s message was the proclamation of definite time, and the sleeping of the Millerites was upon the subject of time. The first message of this generation has been seen to be Daniel 11:40-45, which highlights the final working of the papacy and the Sunday Law. This is the third angel’s message; thus the advocates of this message have been sleeping upon the subject of the dynamics involved in the setting up of the image of the beast (the coming together of church and state) and the enforcement of the mark of the beast (the Sunday Law). The virgins have been tarrying, awaiting the awakening of midnight. The Midnight Cry empowers the sleeping virgins, and this truth is typified by many instances in the Bible. The history of Pentecost is one such classic example. Christ commanded His disciples to tarry and wait for eventual empowerment from on high.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.
Luke 24:49.

Thus, it was in the history of the Millerites. The sleeping virgins tarried until they were empowered by the cry at midnight “behold the bridegroom cometh.”

“The midnight cry was not so much carried by argument, though the Scripture proof was clear and conclusive. There went with it **an impelling**



power that moved the soul. There was no doubt, no questioning. Upon the occasion of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the people who were assembled from all parts of the land to keep the feast, flocked to the Mount of Olives, and as they joined the throng that were escorting Jesus, they caught the inspiration of the hour, and helped to swell the shout, 'Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!' [Matthew 21:9.] In like manner did unbelievers who flocked to the Adventist meetings—some from curiosity, some merely to ridicule—feel **the convincing power** attending the message, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!'" *The Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 250.

Thus it is in the repeat fulfillment at the end of the world; the Midnight Cry is repeated:

"**My mind was carried to the future**, when the signal will be given. 'Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.' But some will have delayed to obtain the oil for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will find that character, which is represented by the oil, is not transferable." *The Review and Herald*, February 11, 1896.

The tarrying time that commenced on September 11, 2001 is to be followed by a manifestation of the power of God in the repeat of the Midnight Cry. This is also counterfeited by Satan. On September 11, 2001, the east wind of Bible prophecy was reintroduced into the scene of history. This symbol identifies the prophetic role of Islam, and this had an effect on the ten kings of Satan's kingdom:

For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed together. They saw it, and so they marveled; **they were troubled, and hasted away**. Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail. **Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind**. Psalm 48:4-7.

In the first mention of Islam in the prophecy concerning their father Ishmael, he is identified as bringing the nations of the earth together (see Genesis 16:11, 12). Ishmael's posterity would play

a major role in the establishment of the one world government of the "ten kings." Thus empowered, the ten kings would give their power and strength unto the beast. But, though the kings of the earth assembled at 9/11 in hope of establishing the kingdom which would overthrow the people of God, they were to be surprised and disappointed. Instead of triumphing over God's elect, Christ their High Priest pleaded His blood on behalf of them (see *The Review and Herald*, August 1, 1849). He thus afforded His people more time, but also commenced to bring progressive judgments upon the kings of the earth by breaking the "ships of Tarshish"—the financial structures of the world. To this day, the ten kings have "received no kingdom as yet"—there has been an unexpected delay—therefore, they have been tarrying for power from beneath:

And the ten horns which though sawest are ten kings, **which have received no kingdom as yet**; but **receive power** as kings one hour with the beast. Revelation 17:12.

The ten kings are trying to "receive power as kings" just as the wise virgins are tarrying for the empowerment of the Midnight Cry. These ten kings rule one hour with the beast, and that "hour" represents the Sunday Law crisis at the end of the world. The wise virgins are also to receive power in the "hour" of the Sunday Law represented by the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit (see *Last Day Events*, 179). But, prior to the Sunday Law, the saints receive a great measure of power in the outpouring of the Midnight Cry, in which the Lord will put together His first fruit offering to be lifted up as an ensign at the Sunday Law. The rest of the heavenly harvest follows speedily afterwards. Similarly, the ten kings undergo a gradual empowerment for the "hour" through developments which first take place in the United States. As one of the ten kings, the United States in setting up the image of the beast and exalting Sunday at the Midnight Cry, will be presented as the first fruits of Satan's power. This power will spread speedily to the rest of the ten kings



as the enemy harvests the governments of this earth in the progressing crisis (see *Testimonies*, volume 6, 395). This will be Satan's last power struggle when the ten kings, having received power, will unite to lift up the eighth head—the beast—their counterfeit ensign (see Revelation 17:12; Psalm 83:1, 2). He will thus attempt to envelop the world by his black banner of rebellion.

At Midnight Their Was A Cry Made – Two Contending Images

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Matthew 25:6.

A sudden and unexpected cry awakens the virgins. This crisis demonstrates two classes of watchers with only one class prepared to enter with Christ into the marriage. The marriage, according to inspiration, represents the union of humanity with divinity:

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

This union symbolizes the image of Christ in his people; for when Christ came to earth, He clothed His divinity with humanity. This union, having been completed in his people, will be a reflection of His image.

“Our finite will must be brought into submission to the will of the Infinite; the human will must be blended with the divine. This will bring the Holy Spirit to our aid; and every conquest will tend to the recovery of God's purchased possession, to the restoration of His image in the soul.” *Messages to Young People*, 55.

The Midnight Cry demonstrates those who have their will “blended with the divine.” The image of God thus restored in them shines forth in clear, steady rays for all the world to see. In Millerite history, this was fulfilled in the living testimony given at the time of the seventh month movement.

“In every part of the land, light was given upon the second angel's message, and the cry was melting down thousands. It went from city to city, and from village to village, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. Many would not permit this message to enter the churches, and a large company who had the living testimony within them left the fallen churches. A mighty work was accomplished by the midnight cry.” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 141.

The wise virgins who sincerely loved the truth gave the “living testimony” and took their stand on the side of right. Thus, it is in the repeat of the Midnight Cry. The message is calculated to revive the living testimony:

“Pleasing fables are taught, and readily received. But, if the truth should be preached in its purity, it would soon shut out hypocrites and sinners. But there is no difference between the professed followers of Christ and the world. I saw that if the false covering could be torn off from the members of the churches, there would be revealed such iniquity, vileness and corruption, that the most diffident child of God would have no hesitancy in calling them by their right name, children of their father, the Devil; for his works they do. Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with disgust upon the scene; yet God had a message for the church that was sacred and important. If received, it would make a thorough reformation in the church, **revive the living testimony** that would purge out hypocrites and sinners, and bring the church again into favor with God.” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 127.

Revival signifies a resurrection of that which was dead. Therefore, the “living testimony” in those who perfectly reflect the image of Christ will be brought to life. This image is to be revealed in the union of divine character with human flesh. In the satanic counterfeit, a union will also take place at the same time. Church and state will come together in a union which is also styled in the word of inspiration as the image of the beast:

“In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.” *The Great Controversy*, 443.

“The image of the beast” represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. The “mark of the beast” still remains to be defined.” *The Great Controversy*, 445.

Apostate Protestantism is to “control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church” “for the enforcement of their dogmas.” At the time when the cry at Midnight is going forth to awaken the sleeping virgins, the churches of Protestantism in the United States gain control of the civil government and legislative bodies of the nation. And while the living testimony of the image of Christ is brought to life in the wise virgin band, the United States exercises its power to give life unto the image of the beast which in turn will awake to speak its satanic testimony through the passage of laws and religious enactments (see *The Great Controversy*, 442).

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both **speak**, and cause that as many would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. Revelation 13:15.

What profiteth the **graven image** that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and **teacher of lies**, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, **Awake**; to the dumb stone, **Arise, it shall teach!** Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, **and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.** Habakkuk 2:18, 19.

The image of the beast is formed with “no breath at all in the midst of it,” but in the satanic counterfeit

of the resurrection of Christ’s image in the saints at the Midnight Cry, the false prophet, “the teacher of lies,” will “give life unto the image of the beast.” The churches of the United States will so control the civil government, and its legislative bodies, that they will be enabled to pass into effect laws that will exalt Sunday observance. The testimony of the Midnight Cry is progressive, increasing rapidly as it swells into the Loud Cry. So will the manner of speaking of the image of the beast be progressive. Laws will begin to go into effect at the Midnight Cry, with each phase exalting Sunday to a greater height. These enactments will rapidly increase in severity until Sunday observance is strictly enforced—death being the penalty of disobedience. The laws will initially appeal to the public through means of inducements and attractions; but as the living testimony of the beast’s image progresses, these laws will escalate to the point of force:

“At the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God’s downtrodden law, Satan is astir. **The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it.** The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress **the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power**, and, in **bold and decided**, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, **and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements** to renounce their faith.” *The Great Controversy*, 607.

The living testimony of the Midnight Cry will be attached with divine power, insomuch that those who oppose it will be maddened by it. The truth will be irresistible, and the attention of the people will be fixed upon nothing else but the crisis which then will be facing Christendom. National apostasy leads to national ruin, and the more the United States will exalt Sunday sacredness, the more the judgments



of God will come upon the land (see *The Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888). The testimony of the faithful will be increasing in power, triggering “the discussion of these vital questions.” So will the testimony of the observance of Sunday increase in its power. And as the wise virgins clarify the issues concerning the crisis through the more sure word of prophecy, the “church appeals to the strong arm of civil power,” and the image of the beast will contest in the field of battle. The Sunday movement will not at this point be a secret matter, but rather “more bold and decided.” But, the greater the agitation of the question of Sunday observance, the greater the force of the third angel’s message will be (see *The Great Controversy*, 605). And as the people of God refuse to yield their faith, choosing rather to stand in defense of the Sabbath, they will be hedged in with difficulties and the progressive laws will tighten in an attempt to force obedience:

“False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image of Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious Sabbath. This is Satan’s plan to make of no account the day instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of creation.” *Signs of the Times*, May 6, 1897).

The setting up of the image in the plain of Dura typified the setting up of the idol sabbath—the first day of the week. Therefore, at the Midnight Cry, when the image of the beast is set up as the great test for the people of God, Sunday sacredness will simultaneously be set up and begin to be openly exalted. In the type, Babylon’s music and outward show were the first to be employed to move men to bow down to the image, so will attractions and worldly advantages lead the way in attempting to get men to accept the Sunday sabbath:

“Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false Sabbath. Force is the last resort of every religion. At first it tries attraction, as the king of

Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. So it will be now. The papacy has exercised her power to compel men to obey her, and she will continue to do so. We need the same spirit that was manifested by God’s servants in the conflict with paganism.” *Signs of the Times*, May 6, 1897.

Fines, imprisonments, attractions and inducements, “positions of influence” will be used to get men to worship the beast and his image. But, as this fails, the image of the beast will speak louder, escalating the intensity of Sunday enactments. The fires of persecution will be kindled upon the faithful, just as surely as the hungry flames of the furnace” received the bodies of the three Hebrew worthies. The Sunday Law will then be at its height, and the wise virgins will be persecuted for keeping Sabbath while also force to keep Sunday. But, they will not be singed by the persecutions of the enemy. They will be preserved as were the three Hebrews; for they as the faithful trio before them will maintain their fidelity to the God of Heaven. Thus, sustained by the Mighty One, they will go forth to do their appointed work, proclaiming the Loud Cry to God’s children who remain in Babylon.

The Midnight Cry – A Wonderful Manifestation of Power

The Midnight Cry in this generation as in the past fulfillment will be in demonstration of the Spirit and power. The movement will sweep through rapidly like a tidal wave; signs and wonders healing and miracles will follow the believers.

“Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, **will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven**. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, **and signs and wonders will follow the believers**. Satan also



works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.” *The Great Controversy*, 612.

But, as the quote states, Satan will present a corresponding counterfeit of the work of God by working with signs and “lying wonders.” He will, through his agents, cause supernatural manifestations to appear in order to deceive men, especially Seventh-day Adventists (see *Manuscript Releases*, volume 19, 358), to worship the beast and his image, and to receive the Sunday as sacred. A wonderful work will be done in the cities, and the Sabbath of the Bible will be lightly regarded. Therefore, while the saints participate in the wonderful manifestation of God’s power at the Midnight Cry to exalt the Sabbath of the Lord, the evil one will be producing satanic manifestations as a counter to lift up the spurious sabbath.

“We are coming right upon the time when Satan is to work with all manner of bewitching influences, and those who are charmed with them now, or give them the least countenance now, will be all ready to be swept right in to act a part with the devil then. Evil angels are working all the time upon the hearts of men. Satan is working with everyone who is not under the control of the Spirit of God. It is the lying wonders of the devil that will take the world captive, and he will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. He is to work miracles; and this wonderful, miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world. It is now just beginning.” *Selected Messages*, volume 2, 51).

Elijah brought fire down from Heaven on Mount Carmel, turning the attention of the people of God from Baal (the sun god) to the true God. So will the faithful turn the attention of God’s people at the Midnight Cry to the true God and the true Sabbath. But the false prophet will counter Elijah’s work by causing fire to come down from heaven during the same period. And thus the people will

be “brought to take their stand.” Some will take the side of the true Sabbath and receive the seal of God, while others, by rendering obedience to the laws of the state will receive the mark of the beast. And as the earth awaits the coming of the bridegroom, the latter will welcome the counterfeit (see *The Great Controversy*, 624), while the former will only acknowledge the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

“Go to God for yourselves; pray for divine enlightenment, that you may know that you do know what is truth, that when the wonderful miracle-working power shall be displayed, and the enemy shall come as an angel of light, you may distinguish between the genuine work of God and the imitative work or the power of darkness...” *Selected Messages*, volume 3, 389.

The crisis of the ages is drawing ever so closer, and the battle lines are being drawn. Each class will have to take their last stand for either of the two camps. In order to make the right decision, the students of prophecy must be able to trace the workings of the two contending principles in the winding up of this Great Controversy, that they may distinguish the genuine work of God from the counterfeit. Satan hopes to catch many unready; only the wise virgins will understand.

Readers Response

Dearest Brethren,

I have been so amazingly blessed by your line upon line studies of the Word! I was called into the church in 2008 and know the Holy Spirit was convicting me to live up to all the truth I then possessed and begin to practice what I professed or I would not be ready for the Sunday Law test. I immediately went to work in the church. I was the women's ministry lead for about one year and am now the clerk and secretary. My 88 year old mother, my sister, and my brother-in-law all followed me in and were baptized.

During all of this I began to notice that no one seemed to know anything about our Millerite

history or even seemed to see that the image of the beast was already formed. I would ask about the 144,000 and nobody knew. I was getting very discouraged with the mixed beliefs in the church and tried so hard to keep my Mom and family from confusion. It was because of this confusion that I searched for studies online to try and find someone, anyone, who studied the genuine truth. The Holy Spirit led me to your studies and I praise God for all of you and pray for wonderful Jesus to protect you and bless you with His strength. I have tried to share these truths with my church family, but I am a feeble servant and clumsy public speaker. I pray that one day the Lord will allow me to come to a camp meeting or prophecy school study, but until then my heart will go on singing, until then with joy I'll carry on. Please don't get discouraged and know that there are probably many others like me out here that are watching and learning. May our dear Lord Jesus bless you abundantly for your diligent study! —S.F.

Dear Jeff and Kathy,

I would like to thank you for all your hard work in presenting and giving us a life line to the Laodicean condition that has infiltrated us all. The message reveals to us our lack as a people and how much we need a Saviour. I am so pleased that there are men that God is using to wake up a dead people. I just pray and hope that God can use me to share this message to a perishing church and to remember the old paths that we may walk there in and find our Lord and Saviour. It is our privilege to support you. Thank you. Christian love and appreciation. —M.B.

Greetings Sister Peck,

It was a blessing to speak with you yesterday. We are indeed living in such a time as to parallel histories that have gone by, more specifically the Millerite period. With that comes the shaking as we have never experienced it before. I do believe the Lord has permitted us to go through this time testing, to see where our affections really are: whether upon the Lord and His Word or upon self.

The brethren in Northern India will have the *Time of the End* magazine in Hindi. We have negotiated with a local printer there to give us 10,000 books for \$3300. The Lord provided us these funds to the exact dollar amount, as our trust and faith were implicitly upon Him for our resources, as upon His leading upon all our work in stepping into that proverbial water. Various conferences in the northern part of India have already committed to help distribute these books. While 10,000 books might seem like a drop in the bucket, we are praying The Lord will allow none of His Words to return back void without accomplishing His purpose. The Adventist population across India is a little more than 2% (200,000) of the Christians in India. (Which is about 2% of the entire Indian population.) While most of the Adventist demographics are centered around the Southern Indian States, we do have a work in reaching and bringing a spiritual reviving to the sleeping energies of those brethren who have a tremendous work before them.

We have received several invitations from SDA seminaries. Spicer Adventist University, one of the major seminaries in India, is using some of our prophetic seminar syllabi as eschatological studies that students use to understand the prophetic books. I have a standing invitation to go back and teach our Adventist ministers in training. We are praying for an opportunity to go back to India and share these truths to our brethren who are eager to see and understand these marvelous truths.

Our approach has been to bring these truths as an opportunity for our brethren to understand true revival and reformation. These messages have been accepted as it lines up with our historical truths. Continue to keep our ministry in India in prayers, as we are seeking to cause our people that awakening. —M.R.