

INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

3-5-17

1844 BEGINNING OF THE JUDGMENT

“And, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away.’ Daniel 7:13, 14. The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844. Attended by heavenly angels, **our great High Priest enters the holy of holies and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man--to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits.**” *The Great Controversy*, 479.

THE END OF THE JUDGMENT

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“Says the prophet: ‘Who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.’ Malachi 3:2, 3. Those who are living upon the earth **when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling.** Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. **While** the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, **while** the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, **there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin,** among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.

When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. ‘**Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.**’ Malachi 3:4. **Then** the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a ‘glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’ Ephesians 5:27. **Then** she will look ‘forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’ Song of Solomon 6:10.” *The Great Controversy*, 425.

“When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. **Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven.** Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:11, 12.” *The Great Controversy*, 490.

“When **the third angel's message closes**, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received ‘the latter rain,’ ‘the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,’ and **they are prepared for the trying hour before them.** Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received ‘**the seal of the living God.**’ Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, ‘**It is done;**’ and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’ Revelation 22:11. **Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins.** The number of His subjects is made up; ‘the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,’ is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. **In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor.** The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and **Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent.** God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. **The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation;** the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. **Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one.** Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon **Jerusalem of old.**

A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God commands, will be exercised by evil angels when He permits. There are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere.” *The Great Controversy*, 613, 614.

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

“Has God no living church? He has a church, but **it is the church militant, not the church triumphant.** We are sorry that **there are defective members, that there are tares amid the wheat.** Jesus said: ‘The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. . . . So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath

done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. **Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.**” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 45.

“The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant. In reviewing our past history, having travelled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment and with confidence in Christ our leader. **We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.**” Letters, 32, 1892.

MIDNIGHT & THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at **midnight**, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, **it was seen who had made preparation for the event.** Both parties were taken unawares; but **one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation.** So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. **The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.**” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 412.

“When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. **Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven.** Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:11, 12.

The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state--men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all **unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above.** Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God **shut him in and shut the ungodly out;** but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. ‘So,’ says the Saviour, ‘shall also the coming of the Son of man be.’ Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as **the midnight thief,** will come **the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny,** the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men.” *The Great Controversy*, 490, 491.

“I thank the Lord for a good night's rest. I slept until three o'clock. I did not sleep much the night after the Sabbath; for during the night a very impressive scene passed before me. There seemed to be great confusion and the conflict of armies. A messenger from the Lord stood before me, and said, ‘Call your household. I will lead you; follow me.’ He led me down a dark passage, through a forest, then through the clefts of mountains, and said, ‘Here you are safe.’ There were

others who had been led to this retreat. The heavenly messenger said, **‘The time of trouble has come as a thief in the night,** as the Lord warned you it would come.’

I awoke at twelve o’clock with such an impression on my mind as I shall never forget.” Messages, 153, 1905.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Christ is not going in, He is coming out.

THE PASSOVER

Exodus 11:4-7; 12:12,13

“The Passover was to be both commemorative and typical, not only pointing back to the deliverance from Egypt, but forward **to the greater deliverance which Christ was to accomplish in freeing His people from the bondage of sin.** The sacrificial lamb represents ‘the Lamb of God,’ in whom is our only hope of salvation. Says the apostle, ‘Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.’ 1 Corinthians 5:7. It was not enough that the paschal lamb be slain; its blood must be sprinkled upon the doorposts; **so the merits of Christ's blood must be applied to the soul.** We must believe, not only that He died for the world, but that He died for us individually. We must appropriate to ourselves the virtue of the atoning sacrifice.

The hyssop used in sprinkling the blood was the symbol of purification, being thus employed in the cleansing of the leper and of those defiled by contact with the dead. In the psalmist's prayer also its significance is seen: ‘Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.’ Psalm 51:7.

The lamb was to be prepared whole, not a bone of it being broken: so not a bone was to be broken of the Lamb of God, who was to die for us. John 19:36. **Thus was also represented the completeness of Christ's sacrifice.**

The flesh was to be eaten. **It is not enough even that we believe on Christ for the forgiveness of sin; we must by faith be constantly receiving spiritual strength and nourishment from Him through His word.** Said Christ, ‘Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life.’ John 6:53, 54. And to explain His meaning He said, ‘The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.’ Verse 63. Jesus accepted His Father's law, wrought out its principles in His life, manifested its spirit, and showed its beneficent power in the heart. Says John, ‘The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.’ John 1:14. The followers of Christ must be partakers of His experience. They must receive and assimilate the word of God so that it shall become the motive power of life and action. By the power of Christ they must be changed into His likeness, and reflect the divine attributes. They must eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, or there is no life in them. The spirit and work of Christ must become the spirit and work of His disciples.

The lamb was to be eaten with bitter herbs, as pointing back to the bitterness of the bondage in Egypt. **So when we feed upon Christ, it should be with contrition of heart, because of our sins.** The use of unleavened bread also was significant. It was expressly enjoined in the law of the Passover, and as strictly observed by the Jews in their practice, that no leaven should be found in their houses during the feast. **In like manner the leaven of sin must be put away from all who would receive life and nourishment from Christ.** So Paul writes to the

Corinthian church, 'Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump. . . . For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.' 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8.

Before obtaining freedom, the bondmen must show their faith in the great deliverance about to be accomplished. **The token of blood must be placed upon their houses**, and they must separate themselves and their families from the Egyptians, and gather within their own dwellings. Had the Israelites disregarded in any particular the directions given them, had they neglected to separate their children from the Egyptians, had they slain the lamb, but failed to strike the doorpost with blood, or **had any gone out of their houses**, they would not have been secure. They might have honestly believed that they had done all that was necessary, but their sincerity would not have saved them. All who failed to heed the Lord's directions would lose their first-born by the hand of the destroyer." *Patriarchs & Prophets*, 277, 278.

Isaiah 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into **thy chambers**, and **shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.**

Isaiah 26:21 For, behold, **the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity**: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

"Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today. More and more the world is setting at nought the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. **When this substitution becomes universal**, God will reveal Himself. **He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth.** He will come out of His **place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity**, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain." Testimonies, Volume 7, 141.

SEALING TIME – WHAT IS THE PASSOVER?

"Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but **a settling into the truth**, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--**just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking**, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming." *Bible Commentary*, Volume 4, 1161.

"Satan is now using every device in this **sealing time** to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. **I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble**; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty.

Some of these agents of Satan were affecting the bodies of some of the saints--those whom they could not deceive and draw away from the truth by a Satanic influence. Oh, that all could get a view of it as God revealed it to me, that they might know more of the wiles of Satan and be on their guard! I saw that Satan was at work in these ways to distract, deceive, and draw

away God's people, just now in this **sealing time**. I saw some who were not standing stiffly for present truth. Their knees were trembling, and their feet sliding, because they were not firmly planted on the truth, and **the covering of Almighty God could not be drawn over them while they were thus trembling.**

Satan was trying his every art to hold them where they were, **until the sealing was past, until the covering was drawn over God's people, and they left without a shelter from the burning wrath of God**, in the seven last plagues. **God has begun to draw this covering over His people**, and it will soon be drawn over all who are to have a shelter in the day of slaughter. God will work in power for His people; and **Satan will be permitted to work also.**" *Early Writings*, 43, 44.

THE DAY OF THE LORD'S PREPARATION

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. . . . Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

This is the day of the Lord's preparation. He says: '**Behold, I come as a thief.** Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.' The great work from which the mind should not be diverted, is the consideration of our safety in the sight of God. **The storm is coming**, relentless in its fury. **Are we prepared to meet it?** Are our feet on the Rock of Ages? Are we one with Christ, as he is one with the Father?" *The Review & Herald*, December 27, 1898.

"We would ask you what time have you set in which you have determined to give your heart to God without reserve? **What time have you set for seeking for perfection of character through faith in the righteousness of Christ?** Is it tomorrow? Tomorrow you may be cold in death. Is it next week? Next week your hands may be folded across your breast, and your eyes may be sealed in their last sleep, and it may be too late for you to perfect a character for heaven. I want to ask our ministers, What kind of character do you think the Lord will accept in his kingdom? Do you know God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent? Is the love of God abiding in your souls? Are you dwelling in Christ, and Christ in you? If you are, you are safe; but if you are not, there is no safety for you. Do not allow your minds to be diverted from the all-important theme of the righteousness of Christ by the study of theories. Do not imagine that the performance of ceremonies, the observance of outward forms, will make you an heir of heaven. We want to keep the mind steadfastly to the point for which we are working; **for it is now the day of the Lord's preparation, and we should yield our hearts to God, that they may be softened and subdued by the Holy Spirit.**" *1888 Materials*, 962.

The voice of the true watchman needs now to be heard all along the line, **‘The morning cometh, and also the night’** Isaiah 21:12. The trumpet must give a certain sound, **for we are in the great day of the Lord’s preparation.** All the struggles to carry our appeals to the highest authorities in our land, however earnest and strong and eloquent may be the pleas in our favor, will not bring about that which we desire, unless the Lord works by His Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who claim to believe the truth. We may struggle as a mighty man in swimming against the current of Niagara, but we shall fail unless the Lord pleads in our behalf. God will be honored among His people. They must be pure, they must be divested of self, steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. The Lord will elevate the humblest soul that trusts in Him. He will unite His power with human effort, if that man will honor Him as did Daniel. But as a people we need the beauty of righteousness, holiness, and truth. The most harmonious theory will not save us. The God that ruled in Babylon is the same God that rules now. There are many doctrines current in our world. There is many a religion current that numbers its thousands and tens of thousands, but there is but one that bears the superscription and the stamp of God. There is a religion of man and a religion of God. We must have our souls riveted to the eternal Rock. Everything in God’s world, both men and doctrines and nature itself, is fulfilling God’s sure word of prophecy and accomplishing His grand and closing work in this world’s history. Letters, 55, 1886.