

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

“God’s love for his church is infinite. His care over his heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon the church but such as is essential for her purification, her present and eternal good. **He will purify his church even as he purified the temple at the beginning and close of his ministry on earth.**” *The Kress Collection*, 114.

OCTOBER 22, 1844

“**The coming** of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in **Daniel 8:14**; **the coming of the Son of man** to the Ancient of Days, as presented in **Daniel 7:13**; and **the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi**, are descriptions of **the same event**; and this is also represented by **the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage**, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of **Matthew 25.**” *The Great Controversy*, 427.

THE SECOND COMING

“In the days of the early Christians, **Christ came the second time**. His first advent was at Bethlehem, when He came as an infant. His **second advent** was at the Isle of Patmos, **when He revealed Himself in glory** to John the Revelator, who ‘fell at His feet as dead’ when he saw Him. But Christ strengthened him to endure the sight, and then gave him a message to write to the churches of Asia, the names of which are descriptive of the characteristics of every church.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 19, 40.

SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED

“This coming is foretold also by the prophet Malachi: ‘The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.’ The coming of the Lord to his temple was **sudden, unexpected, to his people**. They were not looking for him there. They expected him to come to the earth, ‘in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel.’” *Southern Watchman*, January 24, 1905.

“We are not to drift into worldly channels. **Consider the cleansing of the temple at the beginning of Christ’s ministry**. He found the Jews intent on gain. They had made the court of the temple a scene of sacrilegious traffic, and had turned the ancient and sacred institution of the passover into a means of vile profit. They bartered deeply, turning the service instituted by Christ himself into the worship of mammon. But **Christ came suddenly into the temple courts, divinity flashed through humanity**, and raising a whip of small cords in his hand, with a voice that they will hear again in the execution of the judgment, he said, ‘Take these things hence. It is written, My Father’s house shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.’ The priests and rulers saw as it were an avenging Angel, such as guarded the way to the tree of life.

“Today this sacrilegious work is being more than repeated. **There will be messages borne**, and those who have rejected the messages God has sent, will hear most startling declarations. The Holy Spirit will invest the announcement with a sanctity and solemnity which will appear terrible in the ears of those who would not hear the pleadings of Infinite Love, and who have not responded to the offers of pardon and forgiveness. Injured and insulted Deity will speak, **proclaiming the sins that have been hidden**. As the priests and rulers, full of indignation and terror, **sought refuge in flight at the cleansing of the temple, so will it be in the work for these last days**. The woes that will be pronounced upon those who had light from heaven, and did not heed it, they will feel, but they will have no power to act. **This is represented in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins**. They cannot obtain a character from the wise virgins, and **they have no oil of grace to discern the clear light, or to accept it**, that they may join the procession going into the marriage supper of the Lamb.” *The 1888 Materials*, 1490.

Daniel 10:7

“**Character is revealed by a crisis**. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ the sleeping virgins **roused** from their slumbers, and 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. **Character is revealed by circumstances**. Emergencies bring out the true metal of character. **Some sudden and unlooked-for calamity, bereavement, or crisis, some unexpected sickness or anguish, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will bring out the true inwardness of the character. It will be made manifest** whether or not there is any real faith in the promises of the word of God. **It will be made manifest** whether or not the soul is sustained by grace, whether there is oil in the vessel with the lamp.

“Testing times come to **all**. How do we conduct ourselves under the test and proving of God? Do our lamps go out? or do we still keep them burning? Are we prepared for every emergency by our connection with Him who is full of grace and truth? The five wise virgins could not impart their character to the five foolish virgins. Character must be formed by us as individuals.” *Review and Herald*, October 17, 1895.

THE LORD SHALL ARISE

Daniel 12:1; Isaiah 14:27, 28:21, 33:10; Zephaniah 3:8; Acts 7:55

“Now comes the word that I have declared that New York is to be swept away by a tidal wave? This I have never said. I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story, ‘What terrible scenes will take place **when the Lord shall arise** to shake terribly the earth! **Then the words of Revelation 18:1–3 will be fulfilled**.’ The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only that I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God’s power. From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. One word from the Lord, one touch of his mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine.” *Review and Herald*, July 5, 1906.

“Sabbath, March 24, 1849, we had a sweet and very interesting meeting with the brethren at Topsham, Maine. The Holy Ghost was poured out upon us, and I was taken off in the Spirit to the city of the living God. Then I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ relating to the shut door could not be separated, and that the time for the commandments of God to shine out with all their importance, and **for God’s people to be tried on the Sabbath truth, was when the door was opened in the most holy place** in the heavenly sanctuary, where the ark is, in which are contained the ten commandments. This door was not opened until the mediation of Jesus was finished in the holy place of the sanctuary in 1844. Then **Jesus rose up** and shut the door of the holy place, and opened the door into the most holy, and passed within the second veil, where He now stands by the ark, and where the faith of Israel now reaches.” *Early Writings*, 42.

Other Person:

Amen....The door of probation is still open when the Sabbath test comes...

Mark Bruce:

Amen Brother. It doesn't close until after your third test.

“There are lessons to be learned from the history of the past; and attention is called to these, that all may understand that God works on **the same lines** now that He ever has done. His hand is seen in His work and among the nations now, just the same as it has been ever since the gospel was first proclaimed to Adam in Eden.

“There are periods which are **turning points in the history of nations and of the church**. In the providence of God, when **these different crises arrive, the light for that time is given**. If it is received, there is spiritual progress; if it is rejected, spiritual declension and **shipwreck** follow. **The Lord in His word has opened up the aggressive work of the gospel as it has been carried on in the past, and will be in the future, even to the closing conflict, when Satanic agencies will make their last wonderful movement.**” *Bible Echo*, August 26, 1895.

SACRILEGIOUS PROFANATION

“The prophet says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils’ (Revelation 18:1, 2). This is the same message that was given by the second angel. Babylon is fallen, ‘because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’ (Revelation 14:8). What is that wine?—Her false doctrines. She has given to the world a false sabbath instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and has repeated the falsehood that Satan first told Eve in Eden—the natural immortality of the soul. Many kindred errors she has spread far and wide, ‘teaching for doctrines the commandments of men’ (Matthew 15:9).

“When Jesus began his public ministry, he cleansed the temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of his ministry was the second cleansing of the temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, **two distinct calls are made to the churches**. The second angel’s message is, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ And in the loud cry of the third angel’s message a voice is heard from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.’” *Review and Herald*, December 6, 1892.

THE FAN

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: **Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner;** but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Matthew 3:11–12.

“The Lord will work to purify His church. I tell you in truth, the Lord is about to turn and overturn **in** the institutions called by His name. Just how soon this refining process will begin I cannot say, but it will not be long deferred. **He whose fan is in His hand will cleanse His temple** of its moral defilement. He will thoroughly **purge His floor.**” *The Publishing Ministry*, 170.

THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT

Behold, I will send **my messenger**, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall **suddenly come to his temple**, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

But 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.

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 3:1–4.

AN OFFERING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

“In **cleansing the temple** from the world’s buyers and sellers, **Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,**—from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. **Malachi 3:1–3 quoted.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 161.

NOW

“Malachi 3:1–4 quoted.

“A refining, purifying process is going on among the people of God, and the Lord of hosts has set his hand to this work. This process is most trying to the soul, but it is necessary in order that **defilement may be removed.** Trials are essential in order that we may be brought close to our heavenly Father, in submission to his will, that we may offer unto the Lord **an offering in righteousness.** God’s work of refining and purifying the soul must go on until his servants are so humbled, so dead to self, that when called into active service, they may have an eye single to the glory of God.” *Review and Herald*, April 10, 1894.

AN ENSIGN

“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*, 427.

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of **sin**, of **righteousness** and of **judgment**. The **world can only be warned** by **seeing** those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth, acting upon high and holy principles, showing in a high, elevated sense, **the line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God, and those who trample them under their feet**. The sanctification of the Spirit signalizes the difference between **those who have the seal of God**, and those who keep a spurious rest-day. When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. Those who after having heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy, bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws.” *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1903.

BEFORE HIS COMING

“By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented **a work of judgment**. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those **whose names are written in the book of life**. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. **Before the final reward is given**, it must be **decided** who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be **made prior to the second coming** of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:12. **Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined**, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310.

DESTINY FIXED FOREVER

“But there is a day that God hath appointed for the close of this world’s history. ‘This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’ Prophecy is fast fulfilling. More, much more, should be said about these tremendously important subjects. **The day is at hand when the destiny of every soul will be fixed forever. This day of the Lord** hastens on apace. The false watchmen are raising the cry, ‘All is well’; but **the day of God** is rapidly approaching. Its footsteps are so muffled that it does not arouse the world from the deathlike slumber into which it has fallen. While the watchmen cry, ‘Peace and safety,’ ‘sudden destruction cometh upon them,’ ‘and they shall not escape’; ‘for as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.’ It overtakes the pleasure-lover and the sinful man as a thief in the night. When all is apparently secure, and men retire to contented rest, then the prowling, stealthy, **midnight thief** steals upon his prey. **When it is too late** to prevent the evil, it is discovered that some **door or window was not secured**. ‘Be ye also ready: for in an such hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.’ People are now settling to rest, imagining themselves secure under the popular churches; but let all beware, lest there is a place left open for the enemy to gain an entrance. Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that **the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly**. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. Let no one’s interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 335.

THE TIME OF VISITATION

“But those souls who are perverting their God-given capabilities by their words and works are scattering from the truth. They are not building up souls in the most holy faith. They are not making straight paths for their feet lest the lame be turned out of the way. They draw back from self-denial and self-sacrifice. They find fault with God and His Word in finding fault with those whom God has sent with His messages of mercy. What have these complainers, these accusers of the brethren, done to gather with Christ? What have they done to advance the work and cause of God in the earth? Have they not done only harm to the messengers and the message God has sent them? They are in the position of those who might have done good service for the Master, but who have missed opportunity after opportunity until their senses are blunted, their perceptions confused. They call **evil good, and good evil; light they call darkness and darkness light**, because, says Christ, **they knew not the time of their visitation**.

“Oh, how many opportunities have come and gone when they could have been a blessing had they but been converted! **But their minds are mixed with contradictory sentiments, and they have not perception to distinguish the wheat from the tares. May the Lord pity and forgive these unfaithful workers who dishonor God and do not love Jesus nor the truth.** Self and self-righteousness are as filthy rags, yet they cling to them and will not receive the garments of Christ’s righteousness. Christ says of these unfaithful stewards, ‘Ye have not honored Me in receiving My messengers; ye have not honored Me with your substance. Ye did it not unto Me. The opportunity has come and gone and thus stands your record in the great book of account. Thou gavest Me no water for My feet; thou gavest Me not the care and devotion of thy heart; My head with oil thou didst not anoint.’ Oh, my God, grant that these souls may not always be under the educating power of the arch deceiver!” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 21, 298.

27 TO 34

“The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and they knew not the time of their visitation. **The years of the ministry of Christ and His apostles**,—the precious last years of grace to the chosen people,—they spent in plotting the destruction of the Lord’s messengers. Earthly ambitions absorbed them, and the offer of the spiritual kingdom came to them in vain. So today the kingdom of this world absorbs men’s thoughts, and **they take no note of the rapidly fulfilling prophecies and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God.**

“‘But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that **that day should overtake you as a thief.** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.’ While we are not to know the hour of our Lord’s return, we may know when it is near. ‘Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:4–6.” *The Desire of Ages*, 235.

“**The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel’s message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory.** A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. **The advent movement of 1840–44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God;** the first angel’s message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.

“**The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost.** As the ‘former rain’ was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the ‘latter rain’ will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. ‘Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.’ Hosea 6:3. ‘Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.’ Joel 2:23. ‘In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.’ ‘And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ Acts 2:17, 21. The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. **The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are ‘the times of refreshing’** to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: ‘Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.’ Acts 3:19, 20.” *The Great Controversy*, 611.