

## THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT

**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

“It was Gabriel, the angel next in rank to the Son of God, who came with the divine message to Daniel. It was Gabriel, ‘His angel,’ whom Christ sent to open the future to the beloved John; and a blessing is pronounced on those who read and hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things written therein. Revelation 1:3.

“‘The Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants and prophets.’ While ‘the secret things belong unto the Lord our God,’ ‘those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.’ Amos 3:7; Deuteronomy 29:29. God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures.

“As the message of Christ’s first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, ‘many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’ ‘The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.’ Daniel 12:4, 10. The Saviour Himself has given signs of His coming, and He says, ‘When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.’ ‘And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.’ ‘Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.’ Luke 21:31, 34, 36.

“We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, the visions of the prophets are unsealed, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord’s coming in glory as near at hand.

“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*, 234, 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.

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Vadim:

Where is the Glory of 9/11?

Answer:

Many of those gathered at the Jordan had been present at the baptism of Jesus; but the sign then given had been manifest to but few among them. During the preceding months of the Baptist's ministry, many had refused to heed the call to repentance. Thus they had hardened their hearts and darkened their understanding. When Heaven bore testimony to Jesus at His baptism, they perceived it not. Eyes that had never been turned in faith to Him that is invisible beheld not the revelation of the glory of God; ears that had never listened to His voice heard not the words of witness. So it is now. Often the presence of Christ and the ministering angels is manifest in the assemblies of the people, and yet there are many who know it not. They discern nothing unusual. But to some the Saviour's presence is revealed. Peace and joy animate their hearts. They are comforted, encouraged, and blessed. DA 136.1.

Mark:

Christ received a full outpouring at His Baptism. On Aug 11 1840 there was a glorious manifestation of the power of God. At 911 neither of these things happened, it was a type to point us forward to Midnight where the Baptism of Christ and Aug 11 1840 will be perfectly fulfilled. You cannot have a third without a first and second: "The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here brought to view. The Advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in this country 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 FAR EXCEEDED BY THE MIGHTY MOVEMENT UNDER THE LOUD CRY OF THE THIRD MESSAGE. THE WORK WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE DAY OF PENTECOST. Servants of God, WITH THEIR FACES LIGHTED UP and shining with holy consecration, hasten from place to place to proclaim the warning from Heaven. By THOUSANDS OF VOICES ALL OVER THE EARTH, the message will be given. MIRACLES ARE WROUGHT, the sick are healed, and SIGNS AND WONDERS FOLLOW THE BELIEVERS. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Thus the inhabitants of the earth are brought to take their stand. { 4SP 429.2 }

God bless

## 9/11

“**In the year 1840** another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of **Revelation 9**, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown . . . **on the 11th of August, 1840**, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case.’

“At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. **The event exactly fulfilled the prediction.** When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and **a wonderful impetus** was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and **from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.**” *The Great Controversy*, 334–335.

“Any question that Satan can arouse in the mind to create doubt in regard to the grand history of the past travels of the people of God will please his satanic majesty and is an offense to God. The tidings of the Lord’s soon coming in power and great glory to our world is truth, and in **1840 many voices** were raised in its proclamation.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 9, 134.

#### “NOT WITH OUTWARD SHOW

“Some of the Pharisees had come to Jesus demanding ‘when the kingdom of God should come.’ More than three years had passed since **John the Baptist gave the message that like a trumpet call had sounded through the land**, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Matthew 3:2. And as yet **these Pharisees saw no indication of the establishment of the kingdom**. Many of those who rejected John, and at every step had opposed Jesus, were **insinuating that His mission had failed**.

“Jesus answered, ‘The kingdom of God cometh not with outward show; [margin]: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.’ The kingdom of God begins in the heart. **Look not here or there for manifestations of earthly power to mark its coming**.

“‘The days will come,’ He said, turning to His disciples, ‘when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it.’ **Because it is not attended by worldly pomp, you are in danger of failing to discern the glory of My mission**. You do not realize how great is your present privilege in having among you, though veiled in humanity, Him who is the life and the light of men. The days will come when you will look back with longing upon the opportunities you now enjoy to walk and talk with the Son of God.

“Because of their selfishness and earthliness, **even the disciples of Jesus could not comprehend the spiritual glory which He sought to reveal unto them**. It was not until after Christ’s ascension to His Father, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the believers, that the disciples fully appreciated the Saviour’s character and mission. After they had received the baptism of the Spirit, they began to realize that they had been in **the very presence of the Lord of glory**. As the sayings of Christ were brought to their remembrance, their minds were opened to comprehend the prophecies, and to understand the miracles which He had wrought. The wonders of His life passed before them, and they were as men awakened from a dream. They realized that ‘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. Christ had actually come from God to a sinful world to save the fallen sons and daughters of Adam. The disciples now seemed, to themselves, of much less importance than before they realized this. They never wearied of rehearsing His words and works. His lessons, which they had but dimly understood, now came to them as a fresh revelation. The Scriptures became to them a new book.

**“As the disciples searched the prophecies that testified of Christ, they were brought into fellowship with the Deity, and learned of Him who had ascended to heaven to complete the work He had begun on earth.** They recognized the fact that in Him dwelt knowledge which no human being, unaided by divine agency, could comprehend. They needed the help of Him whom kings, prophets, and righteous men had foretold. With amazement they read and reread the prophetic delineations of His character and work. How dimly had they comprehended the prophetic scriptures! how slow they had been in taking in the great truths which testified of Christ! Looking upon Him in His humiliation, as He walked a man among men, they had not understood the mystery of His incarnation, the dual character of His nature. **Their eyes were holden, so that they did not fully recognize divinity in humanity.** But after they were illuminated by the Holy Spirit, how they longed to see Him again, and to place themselves at His feet! How they wished that they might come to Him, and have Him explain the scriptures which they could not comprehend! How attentively would they listen to His words! What had Christ meant when He said, ‘I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now’? John 16:12. How eager they were to know it all! They grieved that their faith had been so feeble, that their ideas had been so wide of the mark, that they had so failed of comprehending the reality.

“A herald had been sent from God to proclaim the coming of Christ, and to call the attention of the Jewish nation and of the world to His mission, that men might prepare for His reception. The wonderful personage whom John had announced had been among them for more than thirty years, and they had not really known Him as the One sent from God. Remorse took hold of the disciples because they had allowed the prevailing unbelief to leaven their opinions and becloud their understanding. **The Light of this dark world had been shining amid its gloom, and they had failed to comprehend whence were its beams.** They asked themselves why they had pursued a course that made it necessary for Christ to reprove them. They often repeated His conversations, and said, Why did we allow earthly considerations and the opposition of priests and rabbis to confuse our senses, so that we did not comprehend that a greater than Moses was among us, that One wiser than Solomon was instructing us? How dull were our ears! how feeble was our understanding!

“Thomas would not believe until he had thrust his finger into the wound made by the Roman soldiers. Peter had denied Him in His humiliation and rejection. These painful remembrances came before them in distinct lines. They had been with Him, but they had not known or appreciated Him. But how these things now stirred their hearts as they recognized their unbelief!

“As priests and rulers combined against them, and they were brought before councils and thrust into prison, the followers of Christ rejoiced ‘that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.’ Acts 5:41. They rejoiced to prove, before men and angels, that they recognized the glory of Christ, and chose to follow Him at the loss of all things.

**“It is as true now as in apostolic days, that without the illumination of the divine Spirit, humanity cannot discern the glory of Christ. The truth and the work of God are unappreciated by a world-loving and compromising Christianity.** Not in the ways of ease, of earthly honor or worldly conformity, are the followers of the Master found. They are far in advance, in the paths of toil, and humiliation, and reproach, in the front of the battle ‘against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.’ Ephesians 6:12, R. V. And now, as in Christ’s day, they are misunderstood and reproached and oppressed by the priests and Pharisees of their time.

**“The kingdom of God comes not with outward show.** The gospel of the grace of God, with its spirit of self-abnegation, can never be in harmony with the spirit of the world. The two principles are antagonistic. ‘The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.’ 1 Corinthians 2:14.” *The Desire of Ages*, 506–509.

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among **Seventh-day Adventists**, and that this reformation would consist in **giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization.** Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to **the remnant church**, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for **the last fifty years** would be accounted as error. **A new organization would be established.** Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. **Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.** The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their **dependence on human power**, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and **storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.**” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 205.