

ADVENTISM'S VISITATION PART SIX

REVELATION EIGHTEEN

THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S POWER

“Isaiah had a wonderful view of God’s glory. He saw **the manifestation of God’s power**, and after beholding His majesty, a message came to him to go and do a certain work. He felt wholly unworthy for the work. What made him esteem himself unworthy? Did he think himself unworthy before he had a view of God’s glory?—No; he imagined himself in a righteous state before God; but when the glory of the Lord of hosts was revealed to him, when he beheld the inexpressible majesty of God, he said, ‘I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a living coal in his hands, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar, and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.’ **This is the work that as individuals we need to have done for us.** We want the living coal from off the altar placed upon our lips. We want to hear the word spoken, ‘Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged’” *Review and Herald*, June 4, 1889.

THE REFORM LINES

“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.

EZEKIEL

THE COMPLICATED PLAY OF HUMAN EVENTS

“While nations have rejected God’s principles, and in this rejection have wrought their own ruin, yet a divine, overruling purpose has manifestly been at work throughout the ages. It was this that the prophet Ezekiel saw in the wonderful representation given him during his exile in the land of the Chaldeans, when **before his astonished gaze were portrayed the symbols that revealed an overruling Power that has to do with the affairs of earthly rulers.**

“Upon the banks of the river Chebar, Ezekiel beheld a whirlwind seeming to come from the north, ‘a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber.’ A number of wheels intersecting one another were moved by four living beings. High above all these ‘was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.’ ‘And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man’s hand under their wings.’ Ezekiel 1:4, 26; 10:8. **The wheels were so complicated in arrangement that at first sight they appeared to be in confusion; yet they moved in perfect harmony.** Heavenly beings, sustained and guided by the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, were impelling those wheels; above them, upon the sapphire throne, was the Eternal One; and round about the throne was a rainbow, the emblem of divine mercy.

“**As the wheellike complications were under the guidance of the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, so the complicated play of human events is under divine control.** Amidst the strife and tumult of nations He that sitteth above the cherubim still guides the affairs of this earth.

“**The history of nations speaks to us today.** To every nation and to every individual God has assigned a place in His great plan. Today men and nations are being tested by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes.

“**The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages and what may be expected in the time to come.** All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.

“Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of **great and solemn events.** Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Savior’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.’ Matthew 24:6, 7.

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

“The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men’s hearts to fail them for fear.” *Prophets and Kings*, 535–537.

THE PROGRAM OF COMING EVENTS

“This vision was given to **Ezekiel** at a time when his mind was filled with gloomy forebodings. . . .

“**The wheellike complications that appeared to the prophet to be involved in such confusion were under the guidance of an infinite hand.** The Spirit of God, revealed to him as moving and directing these wheels, brought harmony out of confusion; so the whole world was under His control. Myriads of glorified beings were ready at His word to overrule the power and policy of evil men, and bring good to His faithful ones.

“**In like manner**, when God was about to open to the beloved **John** the history of the church for future ages, He gave him an assurance of the Saviour’s interest and care for His people by revealing to him ‘One like unto the Son of man,’ walking among the candlesticks, which symbolized the seven churches. While John was shown the last great struggles of the church with earthly powers, he was also permitted to behold the final victory and deliverance of the faithful. He saw the church brought into deadly conflict with the beast and his image, and the worship of that beast enforced on pain of death. But looking beyond the smoke and din of the battle, he beheld a company upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having, instead of the mark of the beast, the ‘Father’s name written in their foreheads.’ And again he saw ‘them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God’ and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

“**These lessons are for our benefit.** We need to stay our faith upon God, for there is just before us a time that will try men’s souls. Christ, upon the Mount of Olives, rehearsed the fearful judgments that were to precede His second coming: ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.’ ‘Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.’ While these prophecies received a partial fulfillment at the destruction of Jerusalem, they have a more direct application to the last days.

“We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The Lord is at the door. There is soon to open before us a period of overwhelming interest to all living. The controversies of the past are to be revived; new controversies will arise. The scenes to be enacted in our world are not yet even dreamed of. Satan is at work through human agencies. Those who are making an effort to change the Constitution and secure a law enforcing Sunday observance little realize what will be the result. A crisis is just upon us.

“But God’s servants are not to trust to themselves in this great emergency. **In the visions given to Isaiah, to Ezekiel, and to John we see how closely heaven is connected with the events taking place upon the earth and how great is the care of God for those who are loyal to Him.** The world is not without a ruler. **The program of coming events** is in the hands of the Lord. The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of His church, in His own charge.

“We permit ourselves to feel altogether too much care, trouble, and perplexity in the Lord’s work. Finite men are not left to carry the burden of responsibility. We need to trust in God, believe in Him, and go forward. The tireless vigilance of the heavenly messengers, and their unceasing employment in their ministry in connection with the beings of earth, show us how **God’s hand is guiding the wheel within a wheel.** The divine Instructor is saying to every actor in His work, as He said to Cyrus of old: ‘I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me.’

“In Ezekiel’s vision God had His hand beneath the wings of the cherubim. This is to teach His servants that it is divine power that gives them success. He will work with them if they will put away iniquity and become pure in heart and life.

“The bright light going among the living creatures with the swiftness of lightning represents **the speed with which this work will finally go forward to completion.** He who slumbers not, who is continually at work for the accomplishment of His designs, can carry forward His great work harmoniously. That which appears to finite minds entangled and complicated, the Lord’s hand can keep in perfect order.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 752–754.

MAREH AND MARAH

MAREH: H4758—a *view* (the act of seeing); also an *appearance* (the thing seen), whether (real) a *shape* (especially if handsome, *comeliness*; often plural the *looks*), or (mental) a *vision*: - X apparently, appearance (-reth), X as soon as beautiful (-ly), countenance, fair, favoured, form, goodly, to look (up) on (to), look [-eth], pattern, to see, seem, sight, visage, vision.

MARAH: H4759—Feminine of **H4758**; a *vision*; also (causatively) a *mirror*— **looking glass**, vision.

THE LOOKING GLASS

And he made the laver *of* brass, and the foot of it *of* brass, of the **lookingglasses** of *the women* assembling, which assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. Exodus 38:8.

CLEANSING

Exodus 30:17–21

THE WORD

James 1:21–25

LATTER RAIN

1 Corinthians 13:9–13; Numbers 11:24–29; 2 Corinthians 3:13–18; Luke 24:36, 44–45; John 20:19–22

“My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, Elder Edson, a man who was keen, noble, and true, and many others whose names I cannot now recall, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for truth. At our important meetings, these men would meet together and search for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly; for we felt that we must learn God’s truth. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light, and studying the Word. As we fasted and prayed, great power came upon us. But **I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend what we were studying.** Then the Spirit of God would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to the position we were to take regarding truth and duty. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was plainly marked out before me, and I gave my brethren and sisters the instruction that the Lord had given me. They knew that when not in vision I could not understand these matters, and they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given me. The leading points of our faith as we hold them today were firmly established. Point after point was clearly defined, and all the brethren came into harmony.

“The whole company of believers were united in the truth. There were those who came in with strange doctrines, but we were never afraid to meet them. Our experience was wonderfully established by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

“For **two or three years my mind continued to be locked to the Scriptures**. In 1846 I was married to Elder James White. It was some time after my second son was born that we were in great perplexity regarding certain points of doctrine. I was asking the Lord to unlock my mind that I might understand His Word. **Suddenly I seemed to be enshrouded in clear, beautiful light, and ever since, the Scriptures have been an open book to me.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 3, 413.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I *was* among the captives by the river of Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened, and I saw **visions** of God. Ezekiel 1:1.

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

And I Daniel alone saw the **vision**: for the men that were with me saw not the **vision**; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great **vision**, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. . . . And, behold, *one* like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the **vision** my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. Daniel 10:7–8, 16.

“None but God can subdue the pride of man’s heart. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot regenerate ourselves. In the heavenly courts there will be no song sung. To me that loved myself, and washed myself, redeemed myself, unto me be glory and honor, blessing and praise. But this is the key-note of the song that is sung by many here in this world. They do not know what it means to be meek and lowly in heart; and they do not mean to know this, if they can avoid it. The whole gospel is comprised in learning Christ, his meekness and lowliness.

“What is justification by faith?—It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. When they begin to praise and exalt God all the day long, then by beholding they are becoming changed into the same image. What is regeneration?—It is revealing to man what is his own real nature, that in himself he is worthless.” *Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers*, number 9, 62.

THE COVENANT

And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. And God spake unto Israel in the **visions** of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here *am* I. And he said, I *am* God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation. Genesis 46:1–3.

MEASURING THE TEMPLE

In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth *day* of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the Lord was upon me, and brought me thither. In the **visions** of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which *was* as the frame of a city on the south. And he brought me thither, and, behold, *there was* a man, whose **appearance** *was* like the **appearance** of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate. And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall show thee; for to the intent that I might show *them* unto thee *art* thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel. Ezekiel 40:1–4.

Afterward he brought me to the gate, *even* the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice *was* like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. And *it was* according to the **appearance** of the **vision** which I saw, *even* according to the **vision** that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the **visions** *were* like the **vision** that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect *is* toward the east. Ezekiel 43:1–4.

Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them forever. Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and **let them measure the pattern**. Ezekiel 43:9–10.

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months. Revelation 11:1–2.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard *it*. (Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.) And the Lord spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, *I* the Lord will make myself known unto him in a **vision**, *and* will speak unto him in a dream.

My servant Moses *is* not so, who *is* faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam *became* leprous, *white* as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, *she was* leprous.

And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. And the Lord said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in *again*. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in *again*. And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran. Numbers 12:1–16.

THE STRUCTURE REMOVED

And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel feared to show Eli the **vision**. 1 Samuel 3:15.

And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the **visions** of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where *was* the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy. Ezekiel 8:3.

THE CHAIN OF EVENTS

“The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages and what may be expected in the time to come.”

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CHAIN OF TRUTH

“God sent **His angel** to move upon the heart of a farmer who had not believed the Bible, to lead him to search the prophecies. Angels of God repeatedly visited that chosen one, to guide his mind and open to his understanding prophecies which had ever been dark to God's people. **The commencement of the chain of truth was given to him**, and he was led on to search for link after link, until he looked with wonder and admiration upon the Word of God. He saw there **a perfect chain of truth**. That Word which he had regarded as uninspired now opened before his vision in its beauty and glory. He saw that one portion of Scripture explains another, and when one passage was closed to his understanding, he found in another part of the Word that which explained it. He regarded the sacred Word of God with joy and with the deepest respect and awe.” *Early Writings, 229–232.*

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CHAIN OF TRUTH: 677BC, 457BC & 508

“From a farther study of the Scriptures, I concluded that the seven times of Gentile supremacy must **commence** when the Jews ceased to be an independent nation at the captivity of Manasseh, which the best chronologers assigned to B. C. **677**; that the 2300 days **commenced** with the seventy weeks, which the best chronologers dated from B. C. **457**; and that the 1335 days **commencing** with the taking away of the daily, and the setting up of the abomination that maketh desolate, [Daniel 12:11] were to be dated from the setting up of the Papal supremacy, after the taking away of Pagan abominations, and which, according to the best historians I could consult, should be dated from about A. D. **508**. **Reckoning all these prophetic periods from the several dates assigned by the best chronologers for the events from which they should evidently be reckoned**, they all would terminate together, about A. D. 1843. I was thus brought, in 1818, at the close of my two years study of the Scriptures, to the solemn conclusion, that in about twenty-five years from that time all the affairs of our present state would be wound up.”
Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, April 18, 1854.