

## PREPARATION DAY

“This has been repeated to me so many times, **‘It is the day of God’s preparation to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord.’**” *Sermons and Talks*, volume 2, 90.

“I cannot express to you the intense desire of my soul that you should all seek the Lord most earnestly **while he may be found**. We are in **the day of God’s preparation**. Let nothing be regarded as of sufficient worth to draw your minds from **the work of preparing for the great Day of Judgment**. Get ready.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 592.

“The scenes of this earth’s history are rapidly passing, and **our probation** is soon to close. Many of us who profess to be Christians are unready, and have not the **preparation** required to meet **that fearful day**, when in Heaven it shall be said, ‘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.’ It is for us to bend all our energies to obtain the necessary **preparation** for that important time.” *Review and Herald*, March 29, 1870.

## THE TARRYING TIME

“**The third angel’s** message must go over the land, and **awaken** the people, and call their attention to the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. **Another angel** unites his voice with the third angel, and **the earth is lighted with its glory**. The light **increases**, and it shines out to all the nations of the earth. It is to go forth as a light that burneth. It will be attended with great power, until its golden beams have fallen upon every tongue, every people, and every nation upon the face of the whole earth. Let me ask you, What you are doing to **prepare** for this **work**? Are you building for eternity? You must remember that **this angel represents the people that have this message to give to the world. Are you among that people? Do you really believe that this work in which we are engaged is truly the third angel’s message? If so, then you understand that we have a mighty work to do, and that we ought to be about it.** We must **sanctify ourselves by a strict obedience to the truth, placing ourselves in right relation to God and his work.** As the truth goes forth, Satan intensifies his zeal to defeat its progress by **presenting pleasing delusions**. As we urge the truth, he urges his errors. He will stir up his agents, in view of the coming of the Lord, to go out and cry, ‘Lo! here is Christ, and lo! there is Christ.’ And here arises this superstition, and there arises that heresy. And tell me, what are we to do about it? I will tell you: we can become familiar, with the Bible, and read what saith the Lord. Not only the ministers but all who love and fear God are to do the Master’s work; and that is to let the light that he has given you shine before all. Here are **two companies**; one of them is being **bound in bundles to burn**, the other is being **bound by the cords of truth and love**. Satan is **binding** his followers with the work of iniquity; Christ is **binding** together his people in love and faith in the keeping of his commandments. And this work will increase more and more, and Satan will work to divide and separate God’s people one from the other. And while he is doing this kind of work, be careful that none of you are found helping him. We want to put away our cold-heartedness, and let love, tender compassion, true courtesy, and the spirit of tenderness come into our midst. Here **we are in the waiting time, in the day of God’s preparation**. Here in this world we are to fit up for these great trials that are soon coming upon us. And yet some of us act as though we had a whole millennium before us in which to accomplish the work. But, says the text, ‘Watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is.’ And what Christ said to his disciples, I say unto you, ‘Take ye heed, watch and pray,’ that when the Master comes to reckon with his servants, you may receive from him the crown of life laid up for the overcomer, and rejoice with him in his kingdom.” *Review and Herald*, August 18, 1885.

## SEAL OR BIND

“I then saw **the third angel**. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his word, awful is his mission. **He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal or bind the wheat for the heavenly garner.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 5, 425.

“This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 445.

“Let both tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. Then it is **the angels that do the work of separation.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 69.

“**All the way along in the history of the third angel’s message** there have been found among the believers men who have done much harm to God’s cause. These men are spots in our feasts of charity; **tares among the wheat; wolves** among the sheep, ready to bite and devour. Delighting to bear false witness, they cruelly injure the reputation of others. Every such one will be rewarded ‘according to his works.’ God ‘hath appointed **a day**, in the which he will **judge** the world.’ **Then** will be made **the separation between the wheat and the tares**. In that day **it will be clearly revealed** that those who seek to destroy the reputation of God’s servants are hypocrites. By their own lips will be borne the testimony that will clear from suspicion those against whom they have reported evil.” *Review and Herald*, May 12, 1903.

“**Christ’s servants are grieved** as they see **true and false believers mingled in the church**. They long to do something to cleanse the church. Like the servants of the householder, they are ready to uproot the **tares**. But Christ says to them, ‘Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest.’” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 71.

“The Lord will not write as **wise** those **who cannot distinguish between a tree that bears thorn-berries and a tree that bears olives.**” *Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897.

#### **THE MIDNIGHT THIEF**

“The Lord is coming speedily, yet, notwithstanding his professed people read the signs of the times,—of famines, of thousands being swept away by earthquakes and floods, by fire, by calamities by sea and land, by plague, by war and bloodshed,—the love of self so deadens the spiritual sense that **the day of the Lord will come upon them as a thief in the night**, and he declares, ‘They shall not escape.’ The Lord is to judge both quick and dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Will these stand in their pride and self-glorification before that tribunal, **when the judgment will sit, and the books will be opened**, and every man shall be judged according as his works have been?” *Pamphlets 157*, 6.

## 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.

## 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.

## “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. {DA 508.3}

“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.

“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.

“I have **no specific time** of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place—**when** the mighty angel will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; my message is that our only safety is in being ready for **the heavenly refreshing**, having **our lamps trimmed and burning**. Christ has told us to watch; ‘for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.’ ‘Watch and pray’ is the charge that is given us by our Redeemer. Day by day we are to seek the enlightenment of the Spirit of God, that it may do its office work upon the soul and character. O, how much time has been wasted through giving attention to trifling things. **Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.**” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 192.

“**The latter rain is to fall upon the people of God.** A mighty angel is to come down from heaven, and the whole earth is to be lighted with his glory.” *Review and Herald*, April 21, 1891.

“**Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God’s people is finished**, we shall receive **the outpouring of the Spirit of God**. Angels from heaven will be in our midst. The present is a fitting-up time for heaven when we must walk in full obedience to all the commands of God.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 111.

“I was shown that if God’s people make no efforts on their part, but wait for **the refreshing** to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting. **The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 33.

“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, **meaning with increasing power**, as we approach the great final test.” *The 1888 Materials*, 1710.

“I saw that many were neglecting the **preparation** so needful and were looking to the time of ‘**refreshing**’ and the ‘**latter rain**’ to **fit them to stand in the day of the Lord** and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected **the needful preparation**; therefore they could not receive the **refreshing** that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who **refuse to be hewed by the prophets** and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, ‘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.’ I saw that none could share the ‘**refreshing**’ unless they obtain the victory over **every** besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that **preparation** necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in **the day of the Lord**. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence.” *Early Writings*, 72.

“The anointed ones standing by the Lord of the whole earth, have the position once given to Satan as covering cherub. By **the holy beings surrounding his throne**, the Lord keeps up a **constant communication** with the inhabitants of the earth. The golden oil represents the grace with which God keeps the lamps of believers supplied, that they shall not flicker and go out. Were it not that this holy oil is poured from heaven in **the messages of God’s Spirit**, the agencies of evil would have entire control over men.

“God is dishonored when we do not receive **the communications** which he sends us. **Thus we refuse the golden oil** which he would pour into our souls **to be communicated to those in darkness**. When the call shall come, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ those who have not received the holy oil, who have not cherished the grace of Christ in their hearts, will find, like the foolish virgins, that they are not ready to meet their Lord. They have not, in themselves, the power to obtain the oil, and their lives are wrecked. But if God’s Holy Spirit is asked for, if we plead, as did Moses, ‘Show me thy glory,’ the love of God will be shed abroad in our hearts. **Through the golden pipes, the golden oil will be communicated to us**. ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.’ By receiving the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, God’s children shine as lights in the world.” *Review and Herald*, July 20, 1897.

### THE TIME TO PUT AWAY SIN

“Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin**.’ He feels that he is the purchase of the blood of Christ and bound by the most solemn vows to glorify God in his body and in his spirit, which are God’s. The love of sin and the love of self are subdued in him. He daily asks: ‘What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?’ ‘Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?’ The true Christian will never complain that the yoke of Christ is galling to the neck. He accounts the service of Jesus as the truest freedom. The law of God is his delight. Instead of seeking to bring down the divine commands, to accord with his deficiencies, he is constantly striving to rise to the level of their perfection.

**“Such an experience must be ours if we would be prepared to stand in the day of God. Now, while probation lingers, while mercy’s voice is still heard, is the time for us to put away our sins.** While moral darkness covers the earth like a funeral pall, the light of God’s standard-bearers must shine the more brightly, showing the contrast between heaven’s light and Satan’s darkness.

“God has made ample provision that we may stand perfect in His grace, wanting in nothing, waiting for the appearing of our Lord. Are you ready? Have you the wedding garment on? That garment will never cover deceit, impurity, corruption, or hypocrisy. The eye of God is upon you. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. We may conceal our sins from the eyes of men, but we can hide nothing from our Maker.

“God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him to death for our offenses and raised Him again for our justification. Through Christ we may present our petitions at the throne of grace. Through Him, unworthy as we are, we may obtain all spiritual blessings. Do we come to Him, that we may have life?

“How shall we know for ourselves God’s goodness and His love? The psalmist tells us— not, hear and know, read and know, or believe and know; but—’Taste and see that the Lord is good.’ Instead of relying upon the word of another, taste for yourself.

“Experience is knowledge derived from experiment. Experimental religion is what is needed now. ‘Taste and see that the Lord is good.’ Some—yes, a large number—have a theoretical knowledge of religious truth, but have never felt the renewing power of divine grace upon their own hearts. These persons are ever slow to heed the testimonies of warning, reproof, and instruction indited by the Holy Spirit. They believe in the wrath of God, but put forth no earnest efforts to escape it. They believe in heaven, but make no sacrifice to obtain it. They believe in the value of the soul and that ere long its redemption ceaseth forever. Yet they neglect the most precious opportunities to make their peace with God.

“They may read the Bible, but its threatenings do not alarm or its promises win them. They approve things that are excellent, yet they follow the way in which God has forbidden them to go. They know a refuge, but do not avail themselves of it. They know a remedy for sin, but do not use it. They know the right, but have no relish for it. All their knowledge will but increase their condemnation. They have never tasted and learned by experience that the Lord is good.

“To become a disciple of Christ is to deny self and follow Jesus through evil as well as good report. Few are doing this now. Many prophesy falsely, and the people love to have it so; but what will be done in the end thereof? What will be the decision when their work, with all its results, shall be brought in review before God?

“The Christian life is a warfare. The apostle Paul speaks of wrestling against principalities and powers as he fought the good fight of faith. Again, he declares: ‘Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.’ Ah, no. Today sin is cherished and excused. The sharp sword of the Spirit, the word of God, does not cut to the soul. Has religion changed? Has Satan’s enmity to God abated? A religious life once presented difficulties and demanded self-denial. All is made very easy now. And why is this? The professed people of God have compromised with the power of darkness.

“**There must be a revival of the strait testimony.** The path to heaven is no smoother now than in the days of our Saviour. All our sins must be put away. Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious life must be cut off. The right eye or the right hand must be sacrificed if it cause us to offend. Are we willing to renounce our own wisdom and to receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child? Are we willing to part with self-righteousness? Are we willing to give up our chosen worldly associates? Are we willing to sacrifice the approbation of men? The prize of eternal life is of infinite value. Will we put forth efforts and make sacrifices proportionate to the worth of the object to be attained?” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 220–222.