

## CONQUERING, AND TO CONQUER

Revelation 6:1, 2; “the goodly horse in battle” Zechariah 10:1–3; “an army with banners” Song of Solomon 6:10; “threshing instrument” Isaiah 41:14–16; Habakkuk 3:12; Jeremiah 51:3; Micah 4:11–13; “a stone cut out of a mountain” Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45; “battle ax” Jeremiah 51:19–24; “latter rain” Zechariah 10:1–3; “times of refreshing” Acts 3:19–21; “blotted out sins” Isaiah 44:21–23; “purged by the spirit of burning” Isaiah 4:2–4; Malachi 3:1–4; “glorified” Isaiah 49:2, 3; “awake, awake” Isaiah 60:9; “just men made perfect” Hebrews 10:22–25; “eye to eye” Isaiah 52:6–11; “call a nation” Isaiah 55:5.

## THE ENSIGN AND THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

**“In the last days of this earth’s history, God’s covenant with his commandment-keeping people is to be renewed.”** *Review and Herald*, February 26, 1914.

(Gathering) Isaiah 56:8 (outcasts); Isaiah 11:10–12; Zechariah 9:16–10:3 (ensign)

Isaiah 59:19–62:7.

“I think of the meditation of Christ and the promise, ‘I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you’ (John 14:18). The agency of the Holy Spirit is to combine with human effort, and all heaven is engaged in the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days. The end is near, and we want to keep the future world in view. The burden of my prayer is that the churches may be aroused from their moral torpor and awakened to earnest, interested endeavor. Oh, that they could see and understand that in this last conflict the Captain of the Lord’s host is leading on the armies of heaven, and mingling in the ranks and fighting our battles for us. We shall have apostasies; we expect them. ‘They will go out from us, because they were not of us’ [cf: 1 John 2:19]. ‘Every plant, which My heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up’ (Matthew 15:13).

“The angel, **the mighty angel from heaven, is to lighten the earth with his glory**, while he cries mightily with a loud voice, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen’ (Revelation 18:2). Oh, how I wish the church to **arise and shine because the glory of the Lord has risen upon her**. What can we not do in God if every human agency is doing its very utmost! ‘Without Me ye can do nothing’ (John 15:5). We would lose faith and courage in the conflict if we were not sustained by the power of God. Every form of evil is to spring into intense activity. Evil angels unite their powers with evil men, and as they have been in constant conflict and attained an experience in the best modes of deception and battle, and have been strengthening for centuries, they will not yield the last great final contest without a desperate struggle. All the world will be on one side or the other of the question. The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide-awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps. What is this? Grace, Grace.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 14, 286.

## GATHERING

“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.

“**One saying of the Savior must not be made to destroy another**. Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near. We are further taught that to disregard His warning, and refuse or neglect to know when His advent is near, will be as fatal for us as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the flood was coming.” *The Great Controversy*, 370.

## IDENTICAL

“Oh, that men would revere the great Head of the Church, and would manufacture less human methods, bringing down spirituality to the very dust with human inventions. God has been left out, and the church is not prepared to advance to the conflict under the banner of Jesus Christ. It is not doing the work for suffering souls, which Christ owns as if done to himself. But the church, defective as it is, and enfeebled with so much chaff, is the only object on earth upon which He bestows His highest regard. **In His estimation, the church in heaven and the church on earth are identical.**” *Paulson Collection*, 400.

“The church is God’s fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. **From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen**, who have borne a faithful testimony to the **generation** in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses **into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven**. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people.

“**Through centuries of persecution, conflict, and darkness**, God has sustained His church.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 11.

“The church is God’s fortress, his city of refuge, which he holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of her sacred trust is treachery to him who has bought her with the precious blood of his only begotten Son. In the past, **faithful souls have constituted the church on earth**, and God has taken them into **covenant** relation with himself, uniting **the church on earth with the church in heaven**. He has sent forth his holy angels to minister to his church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against it.

**“Christ speaks of the church over which Satan presides as the synagogue of Satan.** Its members are the children of disobedience. They are those who choose to sin, who labor to make void the holy law of God. It is Satan’s work to mingle evil with good, and to **remove the distinction between good and evil**. Christ would have a church that **labors to separate the evil from the good, whose members will not willingly tolerate wrong-doing, but will expel it from the heart and life.**” *Review and Herald*, December 4, 1900.

### **CHOOSING ZION**

Psalms 132; 78:67–70; 1 Kings 11:36 (His name/covenant); 2 Kings 21:7; 23:27 (cast off); Zechariah 1:13–17 (choose Jerusalem again); 2 Chronicles 6:1–10 (David chosen, though dead); Zechariah 2:12; 3:1, 2.

### **JERUSALEM CHOSEN AGAIN IN THE CLOSING SCENES THE DAY OF ATONEMENT**

“Zechariah’s vision of Joshua and the Angel applies with peculiar force to the experience of God’s people in **the closing scenes of the great day of atonement**. The remnant church will **then** be brought into **great trial and distress**. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control even of many professing Christians. But here is a little company who are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. Men will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law.” *Prophets and Kings*, 587.

“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’ (Revelation 14:8). 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’ (Revelation 18:4, 5).” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 118.

#### **DIVINITY FLASHES THROUGH HUMANITY**

“Again the piercing look of Jesus swept over the desecrated court of the temple. All eyes were turned toward Him. Priest and ruler, Pharisee and Gentile, looked with astonishment and awe upon Him who stood before them with the majesty of heaven’s King. **Divinity flashed through humanity, investing Christ with a dignity and glory He had never manifested before.** Those standing nearest Him drew as far away as the crowd would permit. **Except for a few of His disciples, the Saviour stood alone.** Every sound was hushed. The deep silence seemed unbearable. Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest: ‘It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.’ **His voice sounded like a trumpet through the temple.** The displeasure of His countenance seemed like consuming fire. With authority He commanded, ‘Take these things hence.’ John 2:16.” *The Desire of Ages*, 590.

#### **MALACHI AND THE TWO TEMPLE CLEANSINGS**

“In the cleansing of the temple, **Jesus was announcing His mission** as the Messiah, and entering upon His work. That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an object lesson for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God’s purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul. But **the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride.** They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts.

“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.

#### **SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA & LAODICEA**

“Oh, what a description! How many there are in this fearful condition. **I earnestly entreat every minister to study diligently the third chapter of Revelation, for in it is portrayed the condition of things existing in the last days.** Study carefully every verse in this chapter, for through these words Jesus is speaking to you.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 18, 193.

“In all the land saith the Lord; TWO PARTS therein shall be cut off, and die; but the THIRD shall be left therein. God says he will bring the THIRD PART through the fire, and refine them. They shall call upon him, and he will hear them. He will say IT IS MY PEOPLE; and they shall say the LORD IS MY GOD.’ First part, SARDIS, the nominal church or Babylon. Second part, Laodicea, the nominal Adventist. Third part, Philadelphia, the only true church of God on earth, for they ask to be translated to the city of God. Revelation 3:12; Hebrews 12:22–24. In the name of Jesus, I exhort you again to flee from the Laodiceans, as from Sodom and Gomorrah. Their teachings are false and delusive; and lead to utter destruction. Death! DEATH!!\* eternal DEATH!!! is on their track. Remember Lot’s wife.” Joseph Bates, *Review and Herald*, volume 1, November 1850.

#### **NOTHING ELSE**

“The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy **the first place in the minds of God’s people. Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention.**” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 301.

“I was shown the interest which all heaven had taken in the work going on upon the earth. Jesus commissioned a mighty angel to descend and warn the inhabitants of the earth to prepare for His second appearing. As the angel left the presence of Jesus in heaven, an exceedingly bright and glorious light went before him. I was told that his mission was to lighten the earth with his glory and warn man of the coming wrath of God. Multitudes received the light. Some of these seemed to be very solemn, while others were joyful and enraptured. All who received the light turned their faces toward heaven and glorified God. Though it was shed upon all, some merely came under its influence, but did not heartily receive it. Many were filled with great wrath. Ministers and people united with the vile and stoutly resisted the light shed by the mighty angel. But all who received it withdrew from the world and were closely united with one another.

“Satan and his angels were busily engaged in seeking to attract the minds of as many as possible from the light. The company who rejected it were left in darkness. I saw the angel of God watching with the deepest interest His professed people, to record the character which they developed as the message of heavenly origin was presented to them. And as very many who professed love for Jesus turned from the heavenly message with scorn, derision, and hatred, an angel with a parchment in his hand made the shameful record. All heaven was filled with indignation that Jesus should be thus slighted by His professed followers.

“I saw the disappointment of the trusting ones, as they did not see their Lord at the expected time. It had been God’s purpose to conceal the future and to bring His people to a point of decision. Without the preaching of definite time for the coming of Christ, the work designed of God would not have been accomplished. Satan was leading very many to look far in the future for the great events connected with the judgment and the end of probation. It was necessary that the people be brought to seek earnestly for a present preparation.

“As the time passed, those who had not fully received the light of the angel united with those who had despised the message, and they turned upon the disappointed ones with ridicule. Angels marked the situation of Christ’s professed followers. The passing of the definite time had tested and proved them, and very many were weighed in the balance and found wanting. They loudly claimed to be Christians, yet in almost every particular failed to follow Christ. Satan exulted at the state of the professed followers of Jesus. He had them in his snare. He had led the majority to leave the straight path, and they were attempting to climb up to heaven some other way. Angels saw the pure and holy mixed up with sinners in Zion and with world-loving hypocrites. They had watched over the true disciples of Jesus; but the corrupt were affecting the holy. Those whose hearts burned with an intense desire to see Jesus were forbidden by their professed brethren to speak of His coming. Angels viewed the scene and sympathized with the remnant who loved the appearing of their Lord.

“Another mighty angel was commissioned to descend to earth. Jesus placed in his hand a writing, and as he came to the earth, he cried, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen.’ Then I saw the disappointed ones again raise their eyes to heaven, looking with faith and hope for their Lord’s appearing. But many seemed to remain in a stupid state, as if asleep; yet I could see the trace of deep sorrow upon their countenances. The disappointed ones saw from the Scriptures that they were in the tarrying time, and that they must patiently wait the fulfillment of the vision. The same evidence which led them to look for their Lord in 1843, led them to expect Him in 1844. Yet I saw that the majority did not possess that energy which marked their faith in 1843. Their disappointment had dampened their faith. . . .

“As the ministration of Jesus closed in the holy place, and He passed into the holiest, and stood before the ark containing the law of God, He sent another mighty angel with a third message to the world. A parchment was placed in the angel’s hand, and as he descended to the earth in power and majesty, he proclaimed a fearful warning, with the most terrible threatening ever borne to man. This message was designed to put the children of God upon their guard, by showing them the hour of temptation and anguish that was before them. Said the angel, ‘They will be brought into close combat with the beast and his image. Their only hope of eternal life is to remain steadfast. Although their lives are at stake, they must hold fast the truth.’ The third angel closes his message thus: ‘Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary. The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God. This atonement is made for the righteous dead as well as for the righteous living. It includes all who died trusting in Christ, but who, not having received the light upon God’s commandments, had sinned ignorantly in transgressing its precepts.

“After Jesus opened the door of the most holy, the light of the Sabbath was seen, and the people of God were tested, as the children of Israel were tested anciently, to see if they would keep God’s law. I saw the third angel pointing upward, showing the disappointed ones the way to the holiest of the heavenly sanctuary. As they by faith enter the most holy, they find Jesus, and hope and joy spring up anew. I saw them looking back, reviewing the past, from the proclamation of the second advent of Jesus, down through their experience to the passing of the time in 1844. They see their disappointment explained, and joy and certainty again animate them. The third angel has lighted up the past, the present, and the future, and they know that God has indeed led them by His mysterious providence.” *Early Writings*, 245–247, 254, 255.