

School of the Prophets 2004

- **The Purification of God's Church**
 - **Part two**

A False Revival

- “I saw that God has **honest children** among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and **before the loud cry** of the third angel is given, **he raises an excitement in these religious bodies**, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. **But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.**” *Early Writings*, 261.

A Counterfeit

- “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. **The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.**

- In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world." *The Great Controversy*, 464.
 - **Before the final judgments of God are poured out**
 - A revival of primitive godliness
 - The latter rain
 - The revival of the latter rain is preceded by a false revival

The Former Rain

- “Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. **They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When** the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

- **The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now.** Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. **Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.”** *Testimonies to Ministers*, 507.
 - Shall not recognize the latter rain
 - Shall not receive the latter rain

If God's People Make no Effort

- “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 “refreshing” is the power of God
 - It comes only upon those who have prepared
 - By perfecting holiness in the fear of God
 - And cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit

Today

- “The third angel’s message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that **at some future time** you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. **Today** you are to give yourselves to God, that he may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for his service. **Today** you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil-surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God.

- **Today** you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God **will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement**. It is our work **today** to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.” *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1892.
 - **The latter rain fills every soul that has purified themselves**
 - The latter rain is the “refreshing from the presence of the Lord”
 - The latter rain is “the baptism of the Holy Spirit”

The Refreshing

- “The refreshing is coming from the presence of the Lord. Let us set our hearts in order that **the truth of God** may live in us; that it **may purify us, ready to receive the latter rain.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8, 228.

The Blotting Out

- ““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, 611–612.
 - “sins” “blotted out,” at “the times of refreshing”
 - “sins” “blotted out” at “the latter rain”

NOW

- **“Now is the time when we are to confess and forsake our sins, that they may go beforehand to judgment and be blotted out. Now is the time to ‘cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.’ It is dangerous to delay this work. Satan is even now seeking by disasters upon sea and land to seal the fate of as many as possible. What is the defense of the people of God at this time?—It is a living connection with heaven. If we would dwell in safety from the noisome pestilence, if we would be preserved from dangers seen and unseen, we must hide in God; we must secure the protecting care of Jesus and holy angels. In these days of peril, the Lord would have us walk before him in humility.**

- “Instead of trying to cover our sins, he would have us confess them, as Joshua confessed the sins of ancient Israel. We profess to be the depositaries of God’s law. We profess to be building up ‘the old waste places,’ and to be raising up ‘the foundations of many generations.’ If this great and solemn work has indeed been committed to us, how important that we depart from all iniquity!
- “The third angel’s message is to lighten the earth with its glory; but only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it **when** it shall have swelled into the loud cry.” *Review and Herald*, November 19, 1908.
 - Third angel’s message swells to a loud cry at the Sunday law
 - Fourth angel’s message joins the third, at the Sunday law

The Signs of the End

- “The Lord calls upon those who believe in him to be workers together with him. While life shall last, they are not to feel that their work is done. **Shall we allow the signs of the end to be fulfilled without telling people of what is coming upon the earth? Shall we allow them to go down in darkness without having urged upon them the need of a preparation to meet their Lord? Unless we ourselves do our duty to those around us, the day of God will come upon us as a thief. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.”** *Review and Herald*, November 22, 1906.

This Subject

- “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*, 335–336.

The Torch of False Prophecy

- “**Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. ‘If thou hadst known,’ said Christ, ‘even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.’**” *The 1888 Materials*, 1646–1647.
- “In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 19.

The Speaking of a Nation

- And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. Revelation 13:11.
- “The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.” *The Great Controversy*, 442.
 - The actions of Congress
- “The ‘image to the beast’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. The ‘mark of the beast’ still remains to be defined.” *The Great Controversy*, 445.

The Enforcement of Sundaykeeping

- “The enforcement of Sundaykeeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sundaykeeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.”
The Great Controversy, 448–449.

The Image of the Beast

- “When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, **the religious power** must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.” *The Great Controversy*, 443.

Preparations, Movements & Events

- “Already **preparations** are advancing, and **movements** are in progress, which will result in making an image to the beast. **Events** will be brought about in the earth’s history that will fulfill the predictions of prophecy for these last days.
- “The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed **before** probation closes; for it is to be **the great test** for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.

- “This is the test that the people of God must have **before** they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 976.
 - This test comes before probation closes
 - This is the test by which our eternal destiny is decided
 - This is the test before we must pass before we are sealed
 - This is the test **before** the Sunday law test

Joining Hands

- “When our nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 712.
- “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos 3:3.

The Sequence

- “As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the Papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 18.
- “Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world.” *Ibid.*, 395.
 - First “America” and then “every” other “country on the globe”