

School of the Prophets 2004

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

Separation at The Sunday Law

- **Sealed and the Marked**
- **Gold and Dross**
- **Wise and Foolish Virgins**
- **Laodiceans and Philadelphians**
- **Wheat and Tares**
- **Sheep and Goats**
- **The wedding garment**
- **Ezekiel 8–12**
- **Daniel 3**
- **Isaiah 10–12**
- **Zephaniah 2**
- **The Church Militant becomes Triumphant**

The Seal & Mark

- “If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, *refusing to keep holy the Sabbath* which God calls ‘my holy day,’ you receive the mark of the beast. *When does this take place?*—When you obey the decree that commands you to *cease from labor on Sunday and worship God*, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working-day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, *and refuse the seal of God*. If we receive this mark in our foreheads or in our hands, the judgments pronounced against the disobedient must fall upon us. But the seal of the living God is placed upon those *who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord*.” *Review and Herald*, April 27, 1911.

The Gold and the Dross

- “I was pointed to the providence of God among His people and was shown that every trial made by the refining, purifying process upon professed Christians proves some to be dross. The fine gold does not always appear. **In every religious crisis** some fall under temptation. **The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves.** Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church. As a class, their spirits are not steadfast with God. They go out from us because they are not of us; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, many are offended.” *Testimonies*, volume 4, 89.

The Ten Virgins

- “The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people.” *The Great Controversy*, 393.
- “I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. **This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the third angel’s message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.” *Review and Herald*, August 9, 1890.

The Sunday law Crisis

- **“Let none follow the example of the foolish virgins, and think that it will be safe to wait until the crisis comes before gaining a preparation of character to stand in that time. It will be too late to seek for the righteousness of Christ when the guests are called in and examined. Now is the time to put on the righteousness of Christ,—the wedding garment that will fit you to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb. In the parable, the foolish virgins are represented as begging for oil, and failing to receive it at their request. This is symbolic of those who have not prepared themselves by developing a character to stand in a time of crisis. It is as if they should go to their neighbors and say, Give me your character, or I shall be lost.**

- “Those that were wise could not impart their oil to the flickering lamps of the foolish virgins. Character is not transferable. It is not to be bought or sold; it is to be acquired. The Lord has given to every individual an opportunity to obtain a righteous character **through the hours of probation**; but he has not provided a way by which one human agent may impart to another the character which he has developed by going through hard experiences, by learning lessons from the great Teacher, so that he can manifest patience under trial, and exercise faith so that he can remove mountains of impossibility. It is impossible to impart the fragrance of love,—to give to another gentleness, tact, and perseverance. It is impossible for one human heart to pour into another the love of God and humanity.

- “But **the day** is coming, and it is close upon us, when every phase of character will be revealed by special temptation. Those who remain true to principle, who exercise faith to the end, will be those who have proved true under test and trial during the previous hours of their **probation**, and have formed characters after the likeness of Christ. It will be those who have cultivated close acquaintance with Christ, who, through his wisdom and grace, are partakers of the divine nature. But no human being can give to another, heart-devotion and noble qualities of mind, and supply his deficiencies with moral power. We can each do much for each other by giving to men a Christlike example, thus influencing them to go to Christ for the righteousness without which they cannot stand in the judgment. Men should prayerfully consider the important matter of character-building, and frame their characters after the divine model.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, January 16, 1896.

It will be Made Manifest

- **“Character is revealed by a crisis.** When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ the sleeping virgins **roused** from their slumbers, and it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares, but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. **Character is revealed by circumstances.** Emergencies bring out the true metal of character. **Some sudden and unlooked-for calamity, bereavement, or crisis, some unexpected sickness or anguish, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will bring out the true inwardness of the character.** It will be made **manifest** whether or not there is any real faith in the promises of the word of God.

- “It will be made **manifest** whether or not the soul is sustained by grace, whether there is oil in the vessel with the lamp.
- “Testing times come to all. How do we conduct ourselves under the test and proving of God? Do our lamps go out? or do we still keep them burning? Are we prepared for every emergency by our connection with Him who is full of grace and truth? The five wise virgins could not impart their character to the five foolish virgins. Character must be formed by us as individuals.” *Review and Herald*, October 17, 1895.
- “That **oil** is the righteousness of Christ. It **represents character**, and character is not transferable. No man can secure it for another. Each must obtain for himself a character purified from every stain of sin.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 233.

Laodiceans & Philadelphians

- “The state of the Church represented by the foolish virgins, is also spoken of as the Laodicean state.” *Review and Herald*, August 19, 1890.
- **Laodiceans**: foolish virgins
- **Philadelphians**: wise virgins

The wheat and tares

- “The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 71.
- “The parable of the ten virgins was given by Christ Himself, and every specification should be carefully studied. A time will come when the door will be shut. We are represented either by the wise or the foolish virgins. We cannot now distinguish, nor have we authority to say, who are wise and who foolish. There are those who hold the truth in unrighteousness, and these appear outwardly like the wise.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 16, 271.

Sheep & Goats

- “There are two parties in the world,--the advocates of truth and purity as well as the advocates of error and corruption; and the earnest inquiry of each soul should be, What is truth? At the last we must all stand in one party or the other; and in which company do we wish to be found when Jesus shall come in the clouds of heaven? . . . And when Christ shall separate the righteous from the wicked, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left, we shall all want to be on the right hand. We shall not then esteem it an honor to be found with the multitudes in the paths of transgression.” *Review and Herald*, January 13, 1885.
- Judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel? 1 Peter 4:17.

The Wedding Garment

- “The days of our probation are fast closing. The end is near. To us the warning is given, ‘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.’ Luke 21:34. Beware lest it find you unready. Take heed lest you be found at the King’s feast without a wedding garment.
- “In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.’ ‘Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Matthew 24:44; Revelation 16:15.” *Christ’s Object Lesson, 319.*

Ezekiel 8-10

- “Study the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. **These words will be literally fulfilled.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 18, 236.
- And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, *were* about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and *their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.* Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, *yet* will I not hear them. Ezekiel 8:16-18.

The Ancient Men

- **“Here we see that the church—the Lord’s sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust.”**
Testimonies, volume 5, 211.

Fulfilled to the Letter

- “We are amid the perils of the last days, the time will soon come when **the prophecy of Ezekiel 9 will be fulfilled**; that prophecy should be carefully studied, for it **will be fulfilled to the very letter**. Study also the tenth chapter which represents the hand of God as at work to bring perfect method and harmonious working into all the operations of his prepared instrumentalities. The eleventh and twelfth chapters also should receive critical, thoughtful attention. Let these prophecies be studied on your knees before God; unless you take up the stumbling-blocks which by your own perverse spirit you have laid in the way of many who have been connected with you, God will turn His face utterly from you and your associates.” *The 1888 Materials*, 1303.

The Purification of God's Church

- **And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight. Ezekiel 10:2.**
- **“The live coal is symbolical of purification.” *Review and Herald, October 16, 1888.***

It Will be Now

- “Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. Force is the last resort of every false religion. At first it tries attraction, as the king of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. **So it will be now.**” *Signs of the Times*, May 6, 1897.

Daniel Three

- “**When** the law of God is being made void, **when** His name is dishonored, **when** it is considered disloyal to the laws of the land to keep the seventh day as the Sabbath, **when** wolves in sheep’s clothing, through blindness of mind and hardness of heart, are seeking to compel the conscience, shall we give up our loyalty to God? No, no. The wrongdoer is filled with a Satanic hatred against those who are loyal to the commandments of God, but the value of God’s law as a rule of conduct **must be made manifest**. The zeal of those who obey the Lord will be increased as [**when**] the world and the church unite in making void the law.

- They will say with the Psalmist, ‘I love thy commandments above gold; yea above fine gold’ [Psalm 119:127]. This is what will be sure to occur **when the law of God is made void by a national act. When Sunday is exalted and sustained by law, *then*** the principle that actuates the people of God will be made manifest, as the principle of the three Hebrews was made manifest **when Nebuchadnezzar commanded them to worship the golden image in the plain of Dura. We can see what our duty is when the truth is overborne by falsehood.”** *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 71.
 - Eight whens (and one implied), identify the “then”
 - When the law of God is made void, “then” the principles that actuate God’s people will be made **manifest!**

As Was the Image

- **“History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon.”** *Signs of the Times*, May 6, 1897.
- **“There are thousands upon thousands who bear aloft the standard of the world’s sabbath, exalting the image of the papacy created by the man of sin. The church worship the image of the beast, and receive his mark, even as the inhabitants of Babylon worshipped the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar set up in the Plain of Dura.”** *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, 178–179.
 - Daniel chapter three is the Sunday law test!

The Unrighteous Decree

Woe unto them that decree **unrighteous decrees**, and that write grievousness *which* they have prescribed. Isaiah 8:10.

“An **idol sabbath** has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura. And as Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence **the Sunday institution** will be punished with imprisonment and death. Thus the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled underfoot. But the Lord has declared, ‘Woe unto them that decree **unrighteous decrees**, and write grievousness which they have prescribed’ Isaiah 10:1.

“The great day of the Lord *is* near, *it is* near, and hasteth greatly, *even* the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; **Before the decree** bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord’s anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 14, 91.

Zephaniah's Decree

- Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; **Before the decree** bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. Zephaniah 2:2-4.

The Haughty Assyrian

- **The Rock of Oreb**
- O *Assyrian*, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. Wherefore it shall come to pass, *that* when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of *the king of Assyria*, and the glory of *his high looks*. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of *the Assyrian*: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. And the Lord of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to *the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb*: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt. Isaiah 10:5, 12, 24-26.

The Rock of Oreb

- And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan. Judges 7:25.
- Oreb: “raven”
- Zeeb: “jackel or wolf”

Psalm 83 & Zeeb

- They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For **they have consulted together with one consent**: they are confederate against thee:
- The tabernacles of **Edom-1**, and the **Ishmaelites-2**; of **Moab-3**, and the **Hagarenes-4**; **Gebal-5**, and **Ammon-6**, and **Amalek-7**; the **Philistines-8** with the inhabitants of **Tyre-9**; **Assur-10** also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot [**Moab-3 and Ammon-6**].
Selah.
- Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth.
- **Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb**:
- yea, all their princes as **Zebah, and as Zalmunna**: Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession. **Psalms 83.**

The Church Militant & Triumphant

- “Has God no living church? He has a church, but it is the church militant, not the church triumphant. We are sorry that there are defective members, that there are tares amid the wheat. Jesus said: ‘The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. . . . So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.’” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 45.

- **Sealed & the Marked**
- **Gold & Dross**
- **Wise & Foolish Virgins**
- **Laodiceans & Philadelphians**
- **Wheat & Tares**
- **Sheep & Goats**
- **The wedding garment**
- **Ezekiel 8–12**
- **Daniel 3**
- **Isaiah 10–12**
- **Zephaniah 2**
- **The Militant & Triumphant Churches**

Strong Delusion

- “Men cannot with impunity reject the warning which God in mercy sends them. A message was sent from heaven to the world in **Noah's** day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the Flood. In the time of **Abraham**, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of **Christ**. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation: ‘Your house is left unto you desolate.’ Matthew 23:38.

- “Looking down to the last days, the same Infinite Power declares, concerning those who ‘received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved’: ‘For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. As they reject the teachings of His word, God withdraws His Spirit and leaves them to the deceptions which they love.” *The Great Controversy*, 430–431.
 - The history of Noah, Abraham & Christ illustrate the Sunday law test!
 - Those who reject the truth receive strong delusion!
 - The history of Noah, Lot and Christ portray the close of probation for those who had great light and blessings—but rejected the truth
 - Probation closes for Seventh-day Adventist at the Sunday law

The Loud Cry

- “The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth. For it is the work of every one to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 363.

Another Angel Comes Down

- **“The last great conflict is before us; but help is to come to all who love God and obey his law, and the earth, the whole earth, is to be lighted with the glory of God. ‘Another angel’ is to come down from heaven. This angel represents the giving of the loud cry, which is to come from those who are preparing to cry mightily, with a strong voice, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’” *Review and Herald*, April 19, 1906.**

History Repeated

- “The power which stirred the people so mightily in the 1844 movement will again be revealed. The third angel’s message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice. During the loud cry, the church, aided by the providential interposition’s of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere.”
Evangelism, 693–694.

History Repeated

- “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.**” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 429–430.

Fire Comes Down from Heaven

- 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.
- And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And **he doeth great wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.
- Revelation 13:11–14.

The Marvelous Working of Satan

- “By the decree enforcing the institution of the Papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. **When** Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, **when** she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with Spiritualism, **when**, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, **then** we may know that the time has come for **the marvelous working of Satan** and that the end is near.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.

The Inhabitants of the Earth

- “Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.” *The Great Controversy*, 612.

A False Christ

- “When Jesus was on earth, Satan led the people to reject the Son of God, and to choose Barabbas, who in character represented Satan, the god of this world. The Lord Jesus Christ came to dispute the usurpation of Satan in the kingdoms of the world. The conflict is not yet ended; and as we draw near the close of time, the battle waxes more intense. As the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near, satanic agencies are moved from beneath. Satan will not only appear as a human being, but he will personate Jesus Christ; and the world that has rejected the truth will receive him as the Lord of lords and King of kings.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 5, 1105.

The Soul that has had Light

- “The soul that has had light in regard to the Lord’s Sabbath, His memorial of Creation, and to save himself from inconvenience and reproach has chosen to remain disloyal, has sold his Lord. He has dishonored the name of Christ. He has taken his stand with **the armies of antichrist.**” *Manuscript Releases*, number 12, 149.
- “Those who apostatize leave the true and faithful people of God, and fraternize with those who represent **Barabbas.** ‘By their fruits ye shall know them’ Matthew 7:20.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 395.
 - **Barabbas:** bar (son of) abba (father)
 - **Barabbas:** a false son of God

Only Two Classes

- “There can be only two classes. Each party is distinctly stamped, either with the seal of the living God, or with the mark of the beast or his image. Each son and daughter of Adam chooses either Christ or Barabbas as his general. And all who place themselves on the side of the disloyal are standing under Satan’s black banner, and are charged with rejecting and despitefully using Christ. They are charged with deliberately crucifying the Lord of life and glory.” *Review and Herald*, January 30, 1900.

Until the Close of Probation

- “We are warned that in the last days he will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders until the close of probation, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 50–51.

A Time of Mercy and Destruction

- “Many who have known the truth have corrupted their way before God and have departed from the faith. The broken ranks will be filled up by those represented by Christ as coming in at the eleventh hour. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. **The time of God’s destructive judgments is the time of mercy** for those who have no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, **while the door is closed to those who would not enter.** Large numbers will be admitted who in these last days hear the truth for the first time.” *This Day With God*, 163.

- “I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question, to unite the hearts of God’s dear waiting saints. And if one believed, and kept the Sabbath, and received the blessing attending it, and then gave it up, and broke the holy commandment, they would shut the gates of the Holy City against themselves, as sure as there was a God that rules in heaven above. I saw that God had **children**, who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They had not rejected the light on it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the church, and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time, **God’s chosen**, all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us.” *A Word to the Little Flock*, 18–19.

God's Other Sheep

- **“There are diligent students of the word of prophecy in all parts of the world, who are obtaining light and still greater light from searching the Scriptures. This is true of all nations, of all tribes, and all peoples. These will come from the grossest error, and will take the places of those who have had opportunities and privileges and have not prized them. These have worked out their own salvation with fear and trembling lest they become deficient in doing the ways and will of God, while those who have great light, have, through perversity of their own natural hearts, turned away from Christ because displeased with the requirements.**”

- **“But God will not be left without witness. The one-hour labourers will be brought in at the eleventh hour, and will consecrate ability and all their entrusted means to advance the work. These will receive the reward for their faithfulness, because they are true to principle and shun not their duty to declare the whole counsel of God. When those who have had abundance of light throw off the restraint which the Word of God imposes, and make void His law, others will come in to fill their place, and take their crown. . . .**
- **“Even those supposed to be heathen will choose the side of Christ, while those who become offended, as did the disciples, will go away and walk no more with Him. And others will come in and occupy the place they have left vacant. The time is very near when man shall have reached the prescribed limits. . . The record of their works in the books of heaven is ‘Weighed in the balances, and found wanting.’” *Testimonies to Southern Africa*, 50–51.**

The Great Time of Trouble

- **“Daniel twelve, verse one quoted. When this time of trouble comes, every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death. May God help His people now, for what can they then do in such a fearful conflict without His assistance!”** *Testimonies*, volume 5, 212–213.

The Seven Last Plagues

- “I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. **A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob’s trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The one hundred and forty-four thousand triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God.**

- “Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters. ‘Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting.’ I asked who this company were. The angel said, ‘These are they who have once kept the Sabbath, and have given it up.’ I heard them cry with a loud voice, ‘We have believed in Thy coming, and taught it with energy.’ And while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments and see the writing, and then they would wail aloud. I saw that they had drunk of the deep waters, and fouled the residue with their feet,—trodden the Sabbath underfoot,—and that was why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting.” *Life Sketches*, 117–118.

The Death Decree

- “The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. Though a **general decree has fixed the time when commandment-keepers may be put to death**, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and, before the time specified, will endeavor to take their lives. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some are assailed in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall as powerless as a straw. Others are defended by angels in the form of men of war.” *The Great Controversy*, 631.

Jacob's Trouble

- “**Jacob and Esau represent two classes:** Jacob, the righteous; and Esau, the wicked. Jacob's distress when he learned that Esau was marching against him with four hundred men, represents the trouble of the righteous as the decree goes forth to put them to death, just before the coming of the Lord. As the wicked gather about them, they will be filled with anguish; for, like Jacob, they can see no escape for their lives. The angel placed himself before Jacob, and he took hold of the angel, and held him, and wrestled with him all night. So also will the righteous, in their time of trouble and anguish, wrestle in prayer with God, as Jacob wrestled with the angel. Jacob in his distress prayed all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau. The righteous in their mental anguish will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the hand of the wicked who surround them.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 1, 121.

Broadside1, April 6, 1846

A Number of Days

- About four months since I had a vision of events all in the future. I saw the time of trouble, such as never was. Jesus told me it was the time of Jacob's trouble, and that we should be delivered out of it by the voice of God. Then I saw the four angels cease to hold the four winds. And I saw famine, pestilence and sword—nation rose against nation, and the whole world was in confusion. Then we cried to God day and night for deliverance, until we began to hear the bells on Jesus' garment. And I saw Jesus rise up in the Holiest, and as he came out we heard the tinkling of the bells and knew that our High Priest was coming out. Then we heard the voice of God which shook the heavens and the earth, and gave the 144,000 the day and hour of Jesus coming.

- “Then the saints were free, united, and full of the glory of God, for he has turned their captivity. And I saw a flaming cloud come where Jesus' stood. Then Jesus laid off his priestly garment and put on his Kingly robe, and took his place on the cloud which carried him to the East, where it first appeared to the saints on earth—a small black cloud which was the sign of the Son of Man. While the cloud was passing from the Holiest to the East, which took **a number of days**, the synagogue of Satan worshipped at the saint's feet.
- Ellen G. Harmon, Portland, Maine.