

# IN THE TIME OF HARVEST

## The Everlasting Gospel in Prophecy

*Throughout the entire history of this old world since the fall of man, the Everlasting Gospel has been inseparably linked with Prophecy. Those who are trying to present a Gospel Message that is not woven through and through with the Golden Thread of Prophecy, will find their preaching degenerate into sentimental foolishness. God Himself states His claim to Godhood is based on the fact that He alone can tell the End from the Beginning. Here we wish to echo the very first words that Jesus preached when He began His ministry: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel!”*

**God’s Love for Man**  
**#1 in Time of Harvest Series**  
**Jamal Sankey**

The Lord has really impressed me that we need to have a born again experience, and that may sound very simplistic—yes, we need to be Born Again, that’s what the Bible says—but we need to understand that if we don’t have new bodies; new minds; new understanding; then the New Wine of God’s Word cannot be there.

Jesus Himself taught that New Wine must be put into New Bottles. You see if the light of the teachings for the End Time are placed in our old, corrupt mind—the Bible is clear that the bottles will burst. If we don’t have an experience with God now, then we don’t have the assurance that God desires that every Christian should have. All of us should have the assurance of Salvation.

Satan has a studied effort to keep God’s people ignorant of the Word of God. Many of us think that the things Satan, the god of this world, wants us to be ignorant of are the deep things of the Bible. Satan recognizes that if we are ignorant of the very simple things, then we won’t go deeper. So it is the simple things that he desires us to be ignorant of.

Here’s an example: how many of us have heard the teachings of the cross? How many of us have heard the stories of Gethsemane and Calvary? All of us have heard about Calvary. How many times when you hear about Calvary—do you weep? How many times when we hear about Gethsemane—do we weep?

We need to understand something, we are told that if we don’t weep at the scenes of Calvary—there’s something wrong with us. There’s a problem. It might just be that we are ignorant of what really transpired there. If we really

understood what was transpiring on Calvary—we could not help but have a clear understanding of the love that God has for us.

The theme we are going to stick on today is simply the story of the Cross, the story of the Gospels. Turn to John 8:44; I want you to walk with me in the Bible for a while.

- John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

Lies, error and deception began with Satan; Lucifer in heaven. Now, it is a very interesting thought that lies, error and deception would begin there. That somewhere where everything is perfect, somewhere everything is pure—all is truth—that lies, error and deception would come in.

We know the story, it's a very basic story, Lucifer got caught up in his beauty and he became proud and he desired the prerogatives that belonged to Christ alone. He began to cause dissention with the angels, he began to go and whisper to them and we are told that he allowed them to express their own feelings then he would gather those feelings up and when the opportunity came—he would just explain what the other angels had said at his instigation. He didn't have to open up his own thoughts—he got them to open up theirs. He began to use them to cause this great dissention in heaven.

There was a point in time where some of the angels that were on God's side came to the angels that were falling and they came to Lucifer and they said, “Listen, God is a loving God and if you would just go back to Him, He'd forgive you and all this stuff that is transpiring could be washed away.”

But Lucifer understood that if perfect beings understood the true nature and character of the Father—that is exactly what would happen—they would turn back. So what did he do? Lucifer came to them and said, “You've broken the Law, you can't turn back now. God is a stern judge and if you go back to God, He is just going to wait until you come, so He can blot you out. God doesn't desire to forgive—that's not who God is—you've broken His law—now there must be retribution.”

And they thought if they went to God they'd be destroyed, so they delayed in their coming—they parleyed in repentance—and were lost.

This studied effort of Satan worked on holy angels; did it not? Then on this earth as he used the medium of the serpent, he began to speak to Eve and to tell her, “God's character—the God that you talk to day after day—that's not the way He really is—He's withholding something good from you.” So again he lied about God's character and it worked on sinless Eve.

Sinless angels, sinless humanity, righteous beings were deceived and fell, because they misunderstood the character of God. You and I—are we righteous beings? You and I—have we fallen short of the mark? Far from the mark! What makes us think that if we don't understand Satan's studied efforts, that we will be OK? If it worked on sinless angels; if it worked on sinless humanity—what makes

us think that if we don't understand the nature and character of God that we'll be OK?

Yet when the story is laid out time and time again, we don't even weep anymore. A few years back we were having devotion in the home and we were going through the story of the cross. Some of our children were too young at that particular time, but two of them were at the age when they could really comprehend certain things, and we began going through it from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and tried to describe it in terms they could understand—I noticed their eyes welling up with tears. One of my daughters wanted to say something but she was just sort of trembling, and she was trying to hold back because she didn't see Daddy and Mommy crying like she was.

She didn't know what to do and they started coming down her face and I was looking at that and I thought, Wow, how long has it been since I've read that and that was my experience? How long has it been since just the story of the cross, broke me? I had begun to understand just as it was taught and I never went deep enough. But when I began to look deeper, and to penetrate into exactly what was transpiring there—that's what happened in me.

Brethren; God loves every one of us with an everlasting love. Let's go to the book of Jeremiah 31:3. You know it is very sad that in my case I had to fall away—I had to go into deep darkness—for God to really bring me out and give me an understanding of what He had already done—and loved me. He had to allow me to go through an experience for me to really understand the love that He has for me.

I remember when I was coming back to God—maybe for the first time, when I was really coming to God for the first time, this particular scripture was just wonderful to me.

- Jeremiah 31:3 “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

The reason we don't come to God, is because the love of God has been blinded from our eyes with studied efforts. If these things would be dispelled by the true Word of God, we would come. We're told that the cross is the means to move the world.

There are many of us even as parents and we look at our children and we see the route that they are taking and we wonder, 'what are we going to do to bring them to Christ?' first of all, we need to practice what we preach. There is to be no guile in the mouths of God's people—no hypocrisy, secondly, we need to remember a promise.

“The cross of Calvary challenges, and will finally vanquish every earthly and Hellish power. In the cross all influence centers, and from it all influence goes forth. It is the great center of attraction; for on it Christ gave up His life for the human race. This sacrifice was offered for the purpose of restoring man to his original perfection; yea, more. It was offered to give him an entire transformation of character, making him more than a conqueror. Those who in the strength of Christ overcome the

great enemy of God and man, will occupy a position in the heavenly courts above angels who have never fallen.”

Do you understand the gift God has for us? We're going to be placed in positions above angels that have never fallen.

“Christ declares, "I, if I be lifted up, . . . will draw all men unto me." If the cross does not find an influence in its favor, it creates an influence.”

Did you hear that? You see where our heart is so hardened; you look at individuals on the street, in the church, or in your home and you think there is no way they can be penetrated. “If the cross does not find an influence in its favor, it will create one.” Every individual whether lost or saved will have been influenced by the cross. But those who are lost will have turned away. It doesn't mean it won't come to them—they will have to make an intelligent decision and turn away from the truth. But if the cross does not find and influence—it creates one.

“Through generation succeeding generation, the truth for this time is revealed as present truth. Christ on the cross was the medium whereby mercy and truth met together, and righteousness and peace kissed each other. This is the means that is to move the world.” Manuscript 56, 1899.

In every discourse, in every teaching, we are to see Jesus and He is there. There are some portions of Scripture where we might think it's hard to see Him there, but it is the Gospel anyhow. We might look at prophecy and say what do beasts and dates and kingdoms and all these have to do with the gospel? Brethren; it is the Present Truth Gospel for the hour, and every portion of holy writ is connected with the cross.

But if we don't understand it, we turn away and say, ‘Oh, that's fanatical teaching.’ Or ‘Oh, this one over here he's from a different line—watch out for them.’ Every scripture is stamped with the cross, and those are the words of the prophet—every one.

“God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love. Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,--one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.”  
{SC 10.3}

If we are really honest—many of us have that view of God. Many of us, the only reason we go to God in repentance as we call it—is because we are afraid of hellfire. Many of us, the reason we want to be in heaven is not because we want really see God and be embraced by His character, but because we want the golden streets.

Be honest—many of us have the understanding that God is this way and Christ is somehow different. That's not new—even the Jews had the understanding about God that was imperfect, that is why when Jesus was there with them—notice what it says in John 1:1;

- John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

Why didn't they receive Him? Because He didn't come in the manner that they thought He was to come—they thought He would come differently. They had an understanding of God that was different than what really appeared. When we really consider that, the reason why they didn't receive Christ is because they didn't understand the things He was to do, and they didn't understand the prophecies that they preached every Sabbath day.

You and I are in the same condition as ancient Israel; things that are preached every Sabbath day, because we know Him not—we will fulfill those very prophecies that are preached—and not on the right side of the equation.

- 11 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And 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.”

What is Glory? Notice what it says in the book of Exodus; we are going to see what Glory means so we can really understand this verse. You see Satan in heaven destroyed the understanding of God's character and so Christ needed to come. And the Bible says we beheld the glory of the Word made flesh—and we know that was Christ and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father. But what is glory?

- Exodus 33:12 “And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou

hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. 14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. 17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.”

“Moses, this request that you have asked of Me, I’m going to do it. I am going to do this for you because I know thy name.”

- 18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

Then Moses responds back to God in verse 18, ‘Lord, you know my name—I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory.’ There are two terms in the Bible synonymous—Name and Glory.

- 19 “And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.”

Then God responded back to Moses and said—“I will make My goodness pass before thee and I will proclaim the Name of the Lord before thee.” Now turn over to Chapter 34:

- Exodus 34:5 “And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. 8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

Now when you think of what was said there, and you think of the request of Moses and the response of the Lord—did God tell him His name? Or did He give him attributes of His character? ‘The Lord, the Lord God, Merciful’ etc. that is not His *name*—those are attributes of who He is. That was His character. Name; Glory; and Character are synonymous.

So when we beheld Christ and we beheld His Glory, as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth—it’s saying that when we beheld Christ, we beheld the Father’s character. Jesus came to the earth to give us the understanding of God’s character.

Turn to John 14. Satan misapplied, misinterpreted, the character of God—holy beings were lost because of it. Now he comes to us at the end of the world and he's doing the same thing—he's misapplying the character of God. And he does it in so many different ways. Unholy beings—we think for some reason that we are above falling like they fell. But God wants us to understand the true nature of His character and even His disciples didn't understand it.

- John 14:7 “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”

“Lord show us the Father?” And He says, “Listen—I've been here all the time. I'm right here.” But they didn't understand it. They didn't understand that Jesus came to reflect the character of the Father and the reason why He came was to dispel the myth of God's faulty character. Let's go a little deeper. In the book of Romans chapter 1

- Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein [in the Gospel] is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

The Bible says that the Gospel is the Power of God. Now if someone was to ask you, ‘what is God's power and how is it manifested?’ You give them a Bible answer for it and the answer is the Power of God is the Gospel. That's what it said—the Power of God is the Gospel. Paul makes it clearer in 1 Corinthians 1:18. I want to show you the power of the Gospel; the Gospel contains in it such power. The only way a sinner's heart can be broken is by the power of the gospel, but it must have the Power.

You see many today in the churches have a form of godliness but deny the POWER thereof; and it's not talking about the other churches, because they don't know the Gospel. They haven't been given the true Gospel—it's talking about Seventh-day Adventists. In the church there are those that have a form of godliness but they deny the POWER of the Gospel.

- 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18. 17 “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”

You see so many times we hear eloquent discourses; they know how to preach real good; they know how to give it in just such a way that it excites the little nerve cells in our brain that cause emotion. But Paul said, ‘I came to give you the Gospel—not with the eloquence of words, lest the cross of Christ be made of none effect.

There is no way that man can adequately break down and delineate what really transpired, that's why John told us to behold the love of God. You have to see it.

- 18. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

The Gospel is the Power of God, correct? What is the Gospel? The preaching of the cross; you see how the Bible just begins to explain itself. The Gospel is the Power of God, the Power of God is the preaching of the cross, and therefore the Gospel is the preaching of the cross. Again, we are told that this power that the cross has in it, if it does not find an influence in its favor it creates one. So by the grace of God, let's create an influence.

*Father in heaven, we pray that Calvary, that Gethsemane would have new flavor. That we would see just what You allowed to happen on our behalf. And we pray that once we see it—that we would not let it go, but we would realize that You gave up everything for us. In Jesus' name we pray—Amen.*

I want to propose a few questions. These questions were asked to me. I was in a Bible study and we had gone through the doctrines, we had gone through the sanctuary and all the things that you take non-Adventists through and you go point by point. We were talking about the love of God and how the Father really loves us and all the things He has done for us, and the lady proposed a question that really caught my mind. I had never been asked this question before; never in my own mind did I even question this. It was a simple question and you might think the answer is simple but it is deeper than we really believe. The question simply was this: “If God the Father loved me so much, why didn't He die for me? Why did He send His son? Why did He do it that way—was there a reason for it?”

Yes there was, and we are going to answer that question.

But I want to propose a second question that goes along with it and these questions are not to cause doubt, but to get you to really start thinking. This is the question: was the gift of Christ really a sacrifice? The definition of a sacrifice we had learned in the study of the sanctuary was that a sacrifice consumes, it does not increase. According to the Bible, Jesus died that He might bring many sons and daughters to God. Was it really a sacrifice—God was giving up one to gain more, so was it a sacrifice.

For example, if you knew that all the money you had in your wallet—if you gave it up to me right now, that tomorrow I'd give you a million dollars—would that be a sacrifice? You'd give up something to gain more. Was the sacrifice of Christ really a sacrifice?

Let's go into the Bible. Now how much does God know? The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—how much do they know? They know all things. Turn to Revelation 13:8.

- Revelation 13:8 “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Before God created, the plan of Salvation was already laid. In other words, you can say that Jesus has always been under the shadow of the cross. If He knows all things; at what point in time did He know all things? Does God have a beginning? If you go as far as you can in your finite mind, back before Adam and Eve, back before the world was created, back before the universe—and when you get there—God was there and He has known all things for eternity. So how long did Jesus know He was going to the cross? He's always been under the shadow of the cross! Think about that for a moment.

When we talk about the Gospel, what really does the Gospel entail—it's more than the cross—Paul said it was the preaching of the cross but he also said something else. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:

- 1 Corinthians 15:1 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

What scriptures was Paul referring to? The Old Testament. How long has the plan of the Gospel been laid out? When Moses began writing the first five books the plan was there. The death; the burial; the resurrection; His life as a child; where He would be born; all these things were laid out—it was clear what Christ was going to suffer. It was clear all the things that were going to transpire.

God knows all things and in the Old Testament before Christ even came; all things that were to transpire in His live were laid out.

Whenever you go to lay a foundation, you lay everything out in blueprint—you have it all there. You know that this pipe goes there, you know how to lay this out, you know when to have the electrician come in; you know all these things because it is laid out in blueprint. The one who comes and reads the blueprint, he understands point by point, how the whole building progresses and how the process is to go.

But when it comes to building the home, when it comes to laying the foundation and all these things, you might be a master carpenter, you might be a master mason and know how to lay the brick just right, but you realize in this process that something might transpire and not necessarily change the plan, but it might pop up and give you a different perspective on things.

Now, let's go to Gethsemane. Notice Luke 22:39. Now when Jesus was twelve years old, when He was at the temple and He saw the lamb being slain by the priests, it was at that time when He realized His mission. He stayed behind when Mary and Joseph left, and it took three days of anxious search to find Him, they found Him talking with the doctors and it was in such a powerful way that the doctors were overwhelmed by His questions.

Then Mary came to Him in a mother's way, you know how mothers are; "Son, what are you doing? We've been three days looking for you." And He turns and says, "Didn't you know I must be about my Father's business." He wasn't talking about Joseph, He clearly let her know; "I know what I'm here for now."

Jesus understood that He was to be the Lamb that was slain; all the scriptures that Mary had taught Him came to His mind. He realized that He was to live, He was to die, He was to be buried, and He was to resurrect. Didn't He know these things? Didn't we say He knew all things? But notice what transpires:

- Luke 22:39 "And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. 40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. 41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,"

Now when you take the Gospels and you open up the book *Desire of Ages*, we have an understanding that Jesus didn't calmly walk to His place around that stone and there kneel down. We are told that when he began to enter into the garden, he began to stagger. He began to sway back and forth like a drunkard because of woe and anguish that had come upon Him.

The disciples had always gone with Christ to Gethsemane that was their place of prayer, but something was different tonight. They noticed something about Jesus, but they didn't quite understand it, so when He told them, "You pray here, I need to go over there and pray," and as He began to walk we're told that He fell to the ground, not just calmly knelt—He fell on his face and began to pray.

- Luke 22:42 "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Why would Jesus, who for eternity knew the plan and had an understanding of what He was to go through, all of a sudden come to the point where He says, "Father, if there is a plan B; if there's a plan B?" Why would He do it? Why would He with His knowledge and understanding come to the point where these promises of resurrection, these promises of all these things are now, in His mind, going out the window? What transpired to make Him say three times, "Father, if there is a plan B; nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done."

Now we need to understand and to experience that kind of submission; the kind of submission where; "Lord, I don't want to do this". Did you know that was what He was saying? He said nevertheless not My will—in other words, My will is that I won't do it! But He came and He said, "Father, not My will but Thine be done."

Christ didn't want to go through, because something that the disciples and something that you and I take for granted now began to transpire in Gethsemane.

"Could mortals view the amazement and sorrow of the angels as they watched in silent grief the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory, from His Son, they would better understand how offensive is

sin in His sight. As the Son of God in the Garden of Gethsemane bowed in the attitude of prayer, the agony of His Spirit forced from His pores sweat like great drops of blood. It was here that the horror of great darkness surrounded Him. The sins of the world were upon Him. He was suffering in man's stead, as a transgressor of His Father's law. Here was the scene of temptation. The divine light of God was receding from His vision, and He was passing into the hands of the powers of darkness. In the agony of His soul He lay prostrate on the cold earth. He was realizing His Father's frown."

God the Father and His Son have always been one; never had there come a point where they had been separated. But now He was realizing His Father's frown. Have you ever as a child, looked at your parents, and its not the frown of being angry because you disobeyed—not that frown—but you know that look, that look that makes you feel ashamed; that look where you know that you haven't done right in their eyes. That look! You know what it did to you as a child when your parents gave you That Look! And Jesus here was realizing His Father's frown.

“The cup of suffering Christ had taken from the lips of guilty man, and proposed to drink it Himself, and, in its place, give to man the cup of blessing. The wrath that would have fallen upon man, was now falling upon Christ (Sufferings of Christ, pp. 17, 18)". 5BC 1124.

What a transaction! I'm going to take from you your dirty laundry, your trash, your rubbish, and give you the kingdom. That's all I require of you. God is saying all He requires is our rubbish, for the kingdom—and yet we hold on so tight. What's wrong with our minds? What's wrong with us that we want to hold on to rubbish and He wants to give us everything?

“The cup of suffering Christ had taken from the lips of guilty man, and proposed to drink it Himself, and, in its place, give to man the cup of blessing. The wrath that would have fallen upon man, was now falling upon Christ (Sufferings of Christ, pp. 17, 18)". 5BC 1124.

This was in the garden, “Father, if there is a plan B; I have never experienced what I am experiencing now—from eternity past I knew it—but I didn't experience it”. How much does God know? Everything—but one thing—the Bible says He knew not sin. He knew what it did in heaven; He knew the Mystery of Iniquity, He was able to play it out, but experiencing for the first time what it would do—Christ was going through what we should be going through every time we sin! And yet we don't do it, because we don't recognize the sinfulness of sin.

The Father was withdrawing from Him. Notice what the Bible says in the book of Isaiah 59:1.

- Isaiah 59:1 “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Do you recognize what was transpiring in Gethsemane? Your sins, my sins, were being placed on Christ. They were being placed upon this innocent Lamb, and the effects of Isaiah 59:1 and 2 were now in transaction. God was turning His face and Jesus recognized it. The light of His love and His countenance and His glory and His mercy were withdrawing from Christ.

“Father—if there is a plan B! Nevertheless, not My will—because I don’t want to do it—but Thine be done.”

And we are told in Luke 22:

- Luke 22:42 “Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.”

We are told that Gabriel came down to strengthen Him to drink the cup—strengthened Him to take the cup of death for every man. What did he place before Him that strengthened Him to drink the cup? The book of Hebrews 12 gives us the understanding of what was placed before Him that strengthened Him to go forward to do something that He did not want to do.

- Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

It was the joy that was set before Him—the joy of what? The joy of seeing us saved, the joy of seeing every individual, every man and woman, boy and girl turn to Him—the joy of seeing that these individuals could have a chance. That’s what caused Him to go to the cross! And we are told that there were certain individuals that were taken to heaven based on the promise that He would die; we know Enoch was there; we know Moses was there; we know Elijah was there.

Imagine what the angel told Him, imagine if Gabriel said, “Jesus listen, Enoch has been there for a while now; Moses is there, we resurrected him three days later and You took him up; and Elijah is there—what would happen if you don’t die—they’ll have to leave now and they’ll have to die and Moses will have to die again! Lord, if anything, for these three!” But He looked down and He saw us, and He said I am going to go to the cross.

Again I want you to have in your mind, why didn’t the Father do it, and if He loved us so much why didn’t He die and was it really a sacrifice for Jesus?

He was strengthened to drink this cup now. And we know the story, how He went from Gethsemane to that mockery of a trial. He went before Caiaphas, and He was sent to Pilate; then He was sent to Herod; then He was sent to Pilate again. We know that between that time, He was spit upon, He was buffeted, He was slapped, His beard was torn out—all these different things—He was whipped, He was scourged, He was mocked—all these things.

Yes, all of these things transpired and that's the emphasis that's given to the Gospel. We have a Mel Gibson Gospel—you know what I am talking about—some of you went and saw the movie—some of you went and saw this Catholic picture! That's not the Gospel—the sufferings of Jesus were not because of bodily affliction. It was because of SIN! And we have this understanding of the Gospel that 'Oh Jesus, the death that He died—oh! He was beaten!' And that's what we think is the Gospel.

Brethren, that's why we don't weep any more; that's why we are not touched when it is talked about any more; because we don't have the Gospel, we have a form of godliness but not the POWER thereof.

It says in Matthew 27; He's on Calvary now—He's gone through all this suffering:

- Matthew 27:45 “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

What does it mean to forsake? You see if we understood what was implied in that statement, we would understand what was transpiring on Calvary. Let me read some Webster's 1828 dictionary definitions—the term 'forsake'.

It means to quit; to leave entirely; to desert; to abandon; to depart from; to renounce; to reject; to withdraw from; to fail.

“My God, My God, why hast Thou FAILED Me? Why have You quit Me? Why have You renounced Me? Why have You rejected Me? Why am I alone?” This was what was transpiring on Calvary!

Now we know the Father was there; we are told He was there, hidden behind a veil of pitch darkness; but Jesus couldn't see Him! Jesus could not see the Father's reconciling face. When you read in *Desire of Ages*, she says He looked down and one of the joys that He saw was His mother there—but do you know what was in His mother's heart?

When you read in *Desire of Ages*, it came to a point where as she sees her Son on the cross, she questions herself and says, 'Must I now loose faith that this was even the Messiah?' she was there, but she didn't really have a clue what was transpiring. And the angel told her before Jesus was born, and she had the mind-set of the rest of the disciples—they were waiting for Christ to set up earthly shop! They were waiting for Jesus to destroy the Romans. You see—God is harsh; God is exacting and when you break His Law—He destroys! That was the understanding, and that's why many rejected Christ. The disciples that were with Him were waiting for that day—and now He is dead!

The disappointment settled in because of a misunderstanding of God's character.

- Matthew 27:46 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? 47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. 48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with

vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. 49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. 50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;”

When Jesus was there on the cross, the Bible describes Him in a certain fashion; the Bible tells us He became something; notice what it says in Galatians 3:13:

- Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”

Jesus is there on the cross, and the Bible says that He became a what? A curse! You see that is the whole thing about the cross—you’re there suspended between heaven and earth; rejected by man and rejected by God. Earth doesn’t want you—God doesn’t want you either, you’re just THERE. He became a curse for us. Jesus became a curse for us—but more than that, He became something so offensive; something that forever God hates—He became SIN.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Again notice the transaction: Jesus was made sin for us—and we’re made the righteousness of God in Him. How much sin did Jesus know? No Sin! How much righteousness do we know? No righteousness! Yet Jesus became Sin so that we can become Righteous. The transaction is something that boggles the mind.

This transaction that transpired—Jesus was made sin and sin is so offensive to God that He turns away. I want to read something to you in *Desire of Ages* 753 to put into perspective that which was transpiring on Calvary.

“And now the Lord of glory was dying, a ransom for the race. In yielding up His precious life, Christ was not upheld by triumphant joy.”

What was He not held up by? Triumphant joy—it was gloomy on the cross! Yes the joy was laid before Him and He went through with it, He didn’t want to do it; but He did it anyway.

“All was oppressive gloom. It was not the dread of death that weighed upon Him. It was not the pain and ignominy of the cross that caused His inexpressible agony. Christ was the prince of sufferers; but His suffering was from a sense of the malignity of sin, a knowledge that through familiarity with evil, man had become blinded to its enormity. Christ saw how deep is the hold of sin upon the human heart, how few would be willing to break from its power. He knew that without help from God, humanity must perish, and He saw multitudes perishing within reach

of abundant help. “Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all.”

Now brethren—you know your own life and your own sins—imagine if God allowed the guilt of every sin that you have ever committed to rest upon you at one time. You would be crushed—you would have a nervous breakdown. But not only your sin; not only my sin; but everyone from Adam to the last baby born was laid on Jesus *at one time!*

“Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all.” He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing upon His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father's mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father's reconciling face.”

Imagine preaching your whole life about how much love the Father is—you showed them by your own example about how you forgive—He turns to the woman and says, “Where are thine accusers?” “None Lord.” “Neither do I condemn thee—go and sin no more.” He just lays it out point by point about how loving God is, but now—He can't see it. Sin was so offensive that all that was eclipsed.

“The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt. “Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb.”

What happened to the promises? What happened to the Old Testament Scriptures? What happened to the promise of resurrection? He knew it all, didn't He? But now He couldn't see how it would ever come to be. He couldn't understand how He could ever be resurrected because He became Sin. He couldn't see how the Father would ever turn back to Him in love again. And STILL He could have come down!

Do you understand this—Jesus still at that point, all He had to do was think a thought and myriads of angels would have come—they were waiting—they wanted to come. They had to be held back—Jesus had to go through with it and all He had to do was just cry out one time and they would have come and taken Him down off the cross.

But the joy was laid before Him—you see He was willing to die FOREVER that you might be saved. He was willing to give it all up so that you and I could take His place. THAT'S the love of the cross. Was it a sacrifice? It was the greatest sacrifice—Jesus gave up ALL for us! And He gave it up, not thinking that He would receive a return. That's a sacrifice!

“Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.” DA 753.

Willing to give it all up—not thinking that God would even accept His sacrifice—He still laid it down because MAYBE you can take His place. If there was just a hope that one person could be saved He was willing to give it all up. That's what He was thinking—and here He is the chief of sufferers and we don't even fathom what He really gave up for us.

Why didn't God die for us? Why didn't God the Father come? Why didn't God the Father take Jesus' place? Think of it this way—if London was to break off and float into the sea and nobody in London could swim. The water is cold and it's dark and it's gloomy and the waves are roaring—but me and my son we know how to swim. We have so much ability that either one of us could come and jump in the water and before anybody drowned—save everybody.

You know in Steps to Christ we're told that God *permitted* His Son—that means a lot—God permitted His Son to die—that mean Christ asked to do it.

Now my son turns to me and says, “Father, will you permit me to go in? Father can I go in? I can do it—I can jump in and save the people.”

And I say, “No! Because the water is cold and it's black and gloomy—you are subject to that water—you might drown yourself—I can't let you go in—let Me go in!”

That one who had always whispered in your ear that I didn't really love you, after all my years of telling you how much I love you—the one who had been whispering in your ears even after I had saved you. . .

Because I am the Father—I can do it still. If the Father died to save us—wouldn't we be saved? Yes we would. But the tempter's whisper would have come in and said—“See I told you so—I told you He didn't really love you as much as He said—because His Son wanted to go and He said no. He loves Him more than He loves you. He doesn't really love you as much as He says.”

But if my son turns and says, “Dad, can I go in?” and I allow Him to go in and all of you are now on dry land—the tempter's whisper could never come to say, see—I love him more, because I gave him up with the possibility of losing him forever that you can be saved.

Why didn't the Father die for me? Because He loved me so much He gave His only begotten Son. He did not give Him so He can take Him back again. He gave Him. God is not an Indian giver—He does not give and then take back when He wants it. He gave Jesus to mankind, and forever Jesus Christ will be one with humanity.

That's why He is able to go before God and plead in our behalf—and yet we still won't come. He gave up everything and He has not taken it back and yet we still won't come. Why did He waste it on us? Why do we not come when He gave it all up—when He gave everything?

Do you know how deep it goes? It goes deeper than we think. We are told that when He resurrected and Mary came to Him and recognized who He was—He said, "Don't touch Me—I have not yet ascended to My Father and your Father—but go tell my disciples and Peter"—go tell my disciples and the one who rejected Me three times.

He ascended then, we are told in Spirit of Prophecy volume 3, that as He was entering in through the gates of heaven, that the angels tried to break out in adoration and praise and He told them to be quiet. He went before the Father and He said, "Father—was it OK? Did I do what You asked me to do?"

And the Father said, "Yes." And the angels tried to break out again and He said to wait. "Father, I have one request—before the glory is back—before the crown is on—I want those who You have given Me to be with Me where I am."

Jesus would not accept the glory back until you and I were assured salvation. Jesus Christ would not take it back until you and I were assured a place! That's the gift. That is the sacrifice. He loved us so much that He gave up everything and wouldn't take one thing back until you and I had a place assured of God.

And then when the Father—and I can just picture God the Father smiling at His Son and the smile was of approval. "I sent you into the world to represent my character and now here You are and You won't even take glory back until these can be here with You and that's exactly what I wanted from the beginning."

Then the glory was back and the crown was on and the angels begin to praise God. And He wasn't finished; He thanked His Father and immediately went back down to talk to His brethren. He is our elder brother and He is praying for you today before the Father. Will you give Him your heart? That's all He wants—"Give me thine heart and let your eye observe My ways. Give Me your heart and then watch Me work."

Will you make the decision to allow the Power of the Gospel to work in your life today?