

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!"

144,00 and Two?
#22 in Time of Harvest Series
Jamal Sankey

Dear Father in heaven; Lord; I really believe that You are desiring Your people to not only come into a covenant relationship with You, but to wise up and wake up. Dear Lord, there are so many winds of doctrine that are floating through this church—that are floating through the world, and so many of us are so curious—we desire to know everything and don't realize that we're being changed.

Father; I ask You to forgive us for our stupidity! I ask You dear Father, to really forgive us for our unsanctified curiosity, and I pray that You help our people to really land on the straight and narrow path.

Dear Lord, it's when we begin to look at the easier way, or get off the path onto smoother meadows, that we find ourselves in terrible situations. Sometimes some of us never make it out. We have been given opportunities time and time again, and I pray that You will extend Your mercy towards us once again and that You will again give us an opportunity again to make a decision to be Your peculiar, covenant keeping, commandment keeping people. And that you will help us dear Lord to take this message to the lost sheep of the houses of Israel, and that you would help us dear Father, to bring light unto them, and that we would not be discouraged.

You have never in reality promised success, You just told us to go! And so Father I pray that we won't be 'let down', by the numbers of our church that will hear or not hear this message but instead help us to do our work faithfully as a good servant of Jesus Christ. Bless us now and guide us by Your Spirit as we look at Your Word—Amen.

Here we are going to take a practical look at the group of individuals that we've been pointing to that will give this message that certain sound. We want to take a practical look at the 144,000 and some of these principles we've looked at but I want to bring it to a complete whole and make it one complete message.

Turn to Matthew 13; we saw that it is the angels that bind the wheat and the tares; we saw that these angels are the messages but it is God's people that are represented by the angels that give the message to the world—first to the church and then to the world.

It says in verse 43 that after the wheat and tares are separated, after this separation takes place and God cleanses His church:

- Matthew 13:43 “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

God describes the condition of His church and he describes his church as being bright, being glorious, and we saw that Daniel was given the same description in Daniel 12:

- Daniel 12:3 “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

Jesus teaches a principle that those who are remaining in Zion, when God cleanses His people, are looked at as being bright as the sun. Then Daniel is given this same description and he's describing them now as the brightness of the firmament in heaven, but he offers another description, he says that they would turn many to righteousness.

The sad thing about this is that this is not referring to the church. Notice Isaiah 60, when Zion is glorified. I don't want and I don't really like the fact that the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy talk about a few—many were called but few would be chosen. It's not something that's easily preached, it's not something that I like to dwell upon, but there is a reason why God places it over and over again. It's because that we are in a condition that we really feel better off than we are and that's why we are Laodicea.

We really believe that we have enough spirituality to go out into Babylon and Babylon's confusion, and trust me, the Shepherd's Rods are part of Babylon—it's confusion. It's hard for us to realize that we don't have enough spirituality to be able to take those pamphlets, or those tapes, or those CDs and be able to sit down and listen to it and think we'll come off unharmed.

Brethren, let me tell you something—the people of God are in a terrible state. Daniel says these groups called the wise—the wise virgins, Jesus would call them, they would turn many to righteousness and the Bible says in Isaiah 60 talking about Zion when God's people are glorified; they've been cleansed of their filthiness; the tares in Zion are sifted out and Jesus and Daniel said that at this state they are as bright as the sun.

- Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the

people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. 4 Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. 5 Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.”

God is saying that when His people are glorified, when the sinners in Zion are sifted out as leaves blown in a might wind. When this transpires, those who have left our churches that Sister White calls companies—that companies would leave us, but tribes after tribes would take their places. Brethren, the people in the world who have not a knowledge of the truth desire a word.

Again God is not doing mighty works in the church to bring many unto Christ for a reason—because of the condition of our people. They’ll watch us; they’ll see us; they’ll hear about things that we shouldn’t do and groups that will come in unawares and do all these things but then they’ll see us taking their literature. And then they may think, maybe that is OK, and they’ll end up in a Bible study and they’ll end up lost.

So God doesn’t do it right now. He’s waiting for those who are unnaturally curious; those who worship a God that they really don’t know; who always desire to hear something new; He’s waiting for those to be sifted out before the abundance of the sea will be converted unto us.

The condition of the church is not there yet, and we know in Revelation 3 this Laodicea condition, and I’m going to show you a condition that Paul spoke of, and it’s the same condition but his words are a bit different; turn to Romans 13:

- Romans 13:11 “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

Now we read these verses and it sounds beautiful but Paul was looking upon a people that didn’t have the condition he is describing, because he says in verse 11 that it is high time to awake out of sleep. If the church wasn’t sleeping, Paul wouldn’t have had to say it. It’s time to awake out of sleep he says because Jesus is about to come.

Then he goes on to say in verse 12, the night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us therefore what? Cast off the works of darkness. Why would we have to cast something off if we didn’t have it on? He’s looking at the church, they’re sleeping, they’re covered with works of darkness, and he says, continuing on that they need to put on the armor of light. Now if we had on the armor of God, he

wouldn't need to tell us to put it on. He's looking at a church that's sleeping, that's naked, that's miserable, that's poor—he's looking at Laodicea.

He says in verse 13, 14 that we need to walk honestly, and he begins to run through all the problems that we have in the church. Paul is looking at this condition and he's looking down the stream of time and he sees the same thing John saw. He sees the same thing Jesus saw when He wept over Jerusalem. He wept over Jerusalem in a literal sense but His eye pierced through to the end of time when God's people again would have come to the same condition.

Brethren, the church needs to have some mighty transformation. The Bible describes that there will be a people that have the condition that is sought for and it describes them as the 144,000. We've heard about the number, we've talked about the number, but how do they become 144,000—how do we do it?

Notice what the Bible says in Revelation 7, and we are going to map out 8 characteristics of the 144,000.

- Revelation 7:1 “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

The first characteristic of the 144,000 is easy; they receive the Seal of God. The Seal of God is placed upon them, so that is characteristic number one. Now turn to Revelation 14 for the other 7. We're going to see something interesting about these characteristics, because these characteristics of the 144,000 are not singular to them. The 44,000 although specifically singled out in prophecy have a condition that all the redeemed must have. We have no excuse.

- Revelation 14:1 “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Characteristic number two is having their Father's name written in their forehead. That goes along with having the seal in the forehead, but you can also consider this as characteristic two.

The third characteristic is that they stand with Christ on Mount Zion.

- 2 “And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”

The fourth characteristic is that they sing a new song. A song in prophecy means the EXPERIENCE they go through—that experience is unique to the 144,000 and that is why no one else can learn the song. It says that no man can learn that song but the 144,000 that were redeemed from the earth, only they will have had this experience.

- 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

Characteristic number five is that they are not defiled with women for they are virgins.

Characteristic number six, they follow the Lamb where ever He goes.

Characteristic number seven, they are redeemed from the earth and are the firstfruits.

- 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Characteristic number eight, they are with out fault before the throne and have no guile in their mouths.

I made the statement that the characteristics of the 144,000 are not singular to them except for a few—you'll notice that only the 144,000 sing the new song because it is the song of their experience. Notice they stand with Christ on Mount Zion, again—that side of redemption literally; but spiritually to be redeemed we HAVE to be on the side of the Lamb—we HAVE to be standing with Him—100% with all that He stands for—and we sure need Him standing with us too. Then the last one that doesn't apply to us unless we are the 144,000 is that we wouldn't be the first fruits redeemed from the earth. But every other characteristic is not singular. Notice the statement:

“Those whom the Lamb shall lead by the fountains of living waters, and from whose eyes He shall wipe away all tears, will be those now receiving the knowledge and understanding revealed in the Bible, the Word of God. . . . Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.” (RH March 9, 1905). 7BC 970.

God is telling His remnant people that we must strive to be a part of that number. If we are not striving, we never will be one, and if we are not striving, we will never come into the other five characteristics necessary to make it to the kingdom. Each one of us should be pushing for perfection. That should be the top thing on our mind—pushing for perfection, as Paul said he reaches for the mark—not as though he had already obtained, but he presses forward. We need to have that experience.

Let's look at some of these characteristics, first the Seal, or the Name:

“The only hope of any man lies through Jesus Christ who brought the robe of his righteousness to put upon the sinner who would lay off his filthy garments. There are very many who cling to their filthy garments, which Christ stands ready to remove, choosing the spots and stains of sin rather than the pure robe of Christ's righteousness. The pure and holy garments are not prepared to be put on by any one after he has entered the gate of the city. [We have to have it on before—now.] All who enter will have on the robe of Christ's righteousness and the name of God will be seen in their foreheads. This name is the symbol which the apostle saw in vision, and signifies the yielding of the mind to intelligent and loyal obedience to all of God's commandments. There will be no covering up of sins and faults to hide the deformity of character; no robes will be half washed; but all will be pure and spotless.” YI, August 18, 1886 par. 4

The name of the Father in the forehead will be on all who enter into the city. That is not something singular. If we are not pressing to be among the 144,000, that name won't be there.

We must be virgins; we must not be defiled with women; turn to 1 Corinthians in regard to virgins. Paul is here laying down a literal principle and it teaches a spiritual principle.

- 1 Corinthians 7:34 “There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.”

So a virgin biblically is one who's mind is singular to God, nothing else is taking up the thoughts. We are looking at a principle; those who are caught up with women, or the defiled churches of the earth, they are married, not unto God as a husband, but unto the beast power. Their mind is for that, they care about things of the earth—their mind is not heavenward.

But a virgin's desire is strictly for God. God is saying that these 144,000 are virgins, their mind is sincere, their conscience undefiled—a good conscience; and their mind is strictly focused on God. We know also that virgins, of course, are those who are have the pure truth.

We need to understand that these individuals, a hundred and forty-four thousand in number, Sister White says for those who are wondering whether it is literal or spiritual, and when the Bible describes these characteristics, they have to come from the remnant church. We must strive to have this experience of having a mind singular to God and being about the pure truth.

- John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”

Those that have the pure truth are sanctified by the truth. Without a sanctified experience through the truth, no man shall see God.

- Hebrews 12:14 “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:”

We cannot see God without being sanctified and holy, and we can't become sanctified and holy without the truth. God's church has been given a message to bring about this experience—it's the message of the Third Angel; it's Daniel 11:40-45; it's the experience of the Millerites; it's the Seven Thunders; whatever phrase you want to put on it, it is the same truth time and time again. God has laid out a message for us that is so wonderful, so beautiful.

But many of us because of our curiosity, find something and say well this might be a little better because it suites us, gives us a little more time. We don't have time to play with anything that might be error. We have to stick to that which is truth. God has laid it out in his Word; He's laid it out in the Spirit of Prophecy, that's what we need! We need to be a virgin.

No man shall see the Lord without being holy, therefore every one of us—whether we are martyrs or whether we are 144,000 and translated, we will have the experience of holiness.

Finally, they'll follow the Lamb where ever He goes; that's not singular to them either.

“The Lord has a people on the earth, who follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. He has his thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Such will stand with him on Mount Zion. But they must stand on this earth, girded with the whole armor, ready to engage in the work of saving those who are ready to perish. Heavenly angels conduct this search, and spiritual activity is demanded of all who believe present truth, that they may join the angels in their work.

“We need not wait till we are translated to follow Christ. God's people may do this here below. We shall follow the Lamb of God in the courts above only if we follow him here. Following him in heaven depends on our keeping his commandments now. We are not to follow Christ fitfully or capriciously, only when it is for our advantage. We must choose to follow him. In daily life we must follow his example, as a flock trustfully follows its shepherd. We are to follow him by suffering for his sake, saying, at every step, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." His life practise must be our life practise. And as we thus seek to be like him, and to bring our wills into conformity to his will, we shall reveal him.” {RH, April 12, 1898 par. 19}

The way that we follow the Lamb where ever He goes, happens now, we follow Him because He has laid out a path for us and we are to follow His steps like the Bible says in Peter. We are to follow His steps now. If we are not pressing to have that experience, we never will have it there. It's an experience, not an understanding, the understanding brings experience. It must be coupled together or it profits nothing.

You could learn ever so much, but God doesn't care, and neither does the devil—if you are never sanctified by the truth. If you never come to the experience that Jesus came to by total submission, you will come to the experience that the antichrist had and receive the Mark of the Beast.

The individuals, the 144,000 in number, are said to be without fault before the throne; they have no guile in their mouth. This is the experience that you and I need to have here.

“We are looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ. We may not be living when Christ shall come in power and great glory, for all are subject to death at any time, but if we are righteous, in harmony with the law of God, we shall respond to the voice that will call the people of God from their graves, and shall come forth to receive immortality. It is only the blessed and holy who will be ready for the first resurrection; for when Christ comes, he will not change the character.” ST, February 9, 1891 par. 1

In Adventism, there is this false view, that somehow when Christ comes, he is somehow going to manipulate our mind and give us then a godly hatred for sin. It's taught all the time. You'll hear men make statements like 'you can't overcome sin.' You'll hear them teach that it is only for the 144,000 to be righteous and they'll teach many different false views.

“In the day of judgment, the course of the man who has retained the frailty and imperfection of humanity will not be vindicated. For him there will be no place in heaven. He could not enjoy the perfection of the saints in light. He who has not sufficient faith in Christ to believe that He can keep him from sinning, has not the faith that will give him an entrance into the kingdom of God.”-- Manuscript 161, 1897, pp. 8, 9.

So when men teach that you can't stop from sinning, or they tell it to me and I have talks with such individuals all the time, “There's no way I'll stop sinning before Jesus comes”. And I say, “You're right—you won't; you won't stop sinning until Jesus comes, because she says, if you don't have the faith to believe He can keep you from falling, you won't have the faith to enter the kingdom”.

Brethren, we have a Saviour that can keep us from falling and present us faultless before the throne and it's not just the 144,000 but every one of us can and must have the experience.

“But the Lord reproveth and corrects the people who profess to keep His law. He points out their sins and lays open their iniquity because He wishes to separate all sin and wickedness from them, that they may perfect holiness in His fear and be prepared to die in the Lord or to be translated to heaven. God rebukes, reproveth, and corrects them, that they

may be refined, sanctified, elevated, and finally exalted to His own throne.” 2T 452.

“Those who do not control their base passions cannot appreciate the atonement or place a right value upon the soul. Salvation is not experienced or understood by them. The gratification of animal passion is the highest ambition of their lives. God will accept nothing but purity and holiness; one spot, one wrinkle, one defect in the character, will forever debar them from heaven, with all its glories and treasures.” {2T 453.1}

How high is the standard that we must reach? We can't have one little wrinkle; we can't have one spot or wrinkle and expect to be saved. That standard is beyond us—but we serve a God who can keep you if you will surrender to Him. The 144,000 have this experience where they are just following the Lamb. God is looking for a people that will follow Him no matter what comes their way. When problems come, when trials come, when friends and family turn their back will you continue forward—that's the experience we must have.

Finally we saw about this guile in their mouth: guile means duplicity; and duplicity means double mindedness; and double mindedness means speaking one thing and doing another—hypocrites. A hypocrite will never see the kingdom of God. If we speak it, it must be done and that is why the Father's name is in our forehead. When God speaks—it is done! God is looking for a people that when they speak—it's done. They have the same character as God.

They say they are going to do something and they do it; they say that God can keep them and they follow through the promise. God is not looking for one who says this and then does the other. We can't have the character and seal of God in our foreheads if we are double minded. A double minded man, the Bible says, is unstable in all his ways.

Let's get a little practical, turn to the book of Hebrews 11:5. The Bible shows that there are 144,000 in number at the end of time who'll be translated. But the Bible also gives us an understanding that all who have ever been translated in number is 144,002. Two men, other than the 144,000, God has seen fit to take to heaven without seeing death.

God is not a partial God; He's not one that requires something from us that He didn't require from His people before. The Covenant is the same; the experience He tries to bring in is the same; events might change slightly, time is different, but the experience is the same for our generation as it was for theirs. Therefore, when we look at the individuals who were translated, their experience must be our experience. Their life must be our life. Their message must be our message.

- Hebrews 11:5 “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

Imagine God looking down upon earth and saying, “This man pleases Me. I can't even let him die—he has to come up.” That's the experience that we are

going to give Him again; He's going to look upon a people and be able to say, "These people here—they please Me". That's the experience God wants us to give Him and He deserves it doesn't He? God deserves us to give Him our all, so that He can look and say to the worlds that are unfallen and the unfallen angels and to the angels that have fallen and Lucifer their leader, "There is a people that can keep the commandments and these people can stand without fault, without a mediator;" Because that is what we are going to have to do—without God's intercession—keep pure. Now that is a very serious thing.

We know the other man in 2 Kings 2 was Elijah who was translated to heaven without seeing death.

- 2 Kings 2:11 "And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

Enoch and Elijah tell us a story about the 144,000—144,002 will be translated. How did Enoch do it? Turn to Genesis 5;

- Genesis 5:21 "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

Do you recognize the experience he had? It is difficult for us to walk with God for three minutes and Enoch did it for 300 years. Is our time period worse than it was for Enoch? Sister White tells us that God would never allow the world to get as bad again as it was before the flood.

"There never has been and never will be an age when the moral darkness will be so dense as when Enoch lived a life of irreproachable righteousness." (MS 43, 1900). {1BC 1088.1}

"Elijah had walked with God. His work had been painful and trying, for the Lord through him had reproved the sins of Israel. Elijah was a prophet of God; yet he was compelled to flee from place to place to save his life. His own nation hunted him like a wild beast that they might destroy him. But God translated Elijah. Angels bore him in glory and triumph to heaven." {EW 162.2}

Elijah and Enoch had the same experience of walking with God. What is this walking with God and how do we do it? What does it mean to walk with God? Notice what is required of us.

- Genesis 6:9 "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."

To walk with God you must be just and perfect in your generation.

- Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

Elijah, Enoch, these individuals were just and perfect in their generation and they agreed with God and God agreed with them. They had an experience where God could agree with what they were saying; He gave them a second witness—and this is the experience that we must have. How do we gain it?

“Pray in your closet, and as you go about your daily labor let your heart be often uplifted to God. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. Satan cannot overcome him whose heart is thus stayed upon God.” {SC 98.3}

When you and I have a prayer-life, and I am not just talking about praying before we eat, and praying before you drive, and praying when you go to bed. I’m talking about a life of prayer—a Christian’s life is just one long prayer. That is the experience of a prayer life that we must have.

In the story of Elijah, mentioning Mount Carmel, she says:

“God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favors He bestowed upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to realize our dependence upon Him, and our need of His help. {2BC 1034.7}

“Elijah humbled himself until he was in a condition where he would not take the glory to himself. This is the condition upon which the Lord hears prayer, for then we shall give the praise to Him. The custom of offering praise to men is one that results in great evil. One praises another, and thus men are led to feel that glory and honor belong to them. When you exalt man, you lay a snare for his soul, and do just as Satan would have you. You should praise God with all your heart, soul, might, mind, and strength; for God alone is worthy to be glorified.” (RH March 27, 1913). {2BC 1035.1}

Prayer and humility are needed to walk with God. We talked about the 2520 and the gathering of God’s people, in order for God to gather His people prayer and humility is a necessity. God is looking for a people again to establish the Covenant, the same Covenant that He established with His people before—the same Covenant that Elijah cherished; that Enoch cherished.

You might say that Enoch didn’t have the Covenant—the covenant was only established at Sinai. Let me ask you Adventists—was that when the Commandments were given? The commandments were in heaven; and Satan in heaven forsook the Covenant. The angels in heaven forsook the Covenant. And that holy war transpired and came to the earth—Adam and Eve forsook the Covenant.

Over and over again men have forsaken God, but only a few have ever followed Him wherever He went, and it is a sad story. That needs to be our experience. We can read about Elijah and his prayer and see that he didn't give up.

“Time is very short, deliverance is coming and Satan knows it and is working in great power. I can see the restraint is being taken off from the wicked, and very soon when Jesus steps out from between the Father and man it will be entirely gone. Now is the time we must watch on every hand, against the wiles of Satan and have steady, abiding faith in God, faith that will stand the trial, such faith as Elijah had when he prayed for rain. He prayed once and sent his servant to see if there was any sign of his prayer being answered, and although there was none, outward appearance was against him, yet he did not give up in discouragement but bid his servant to go again yet seven times. Elijah had faith that holds on and that would stand the trials seven times. At last the cloud appeared and the heavens gave rain.”

“Bless God, the prayer of faith will bring the dew of heaven and our souls will be watered by it. Hold on to faith, let your feelings be what they will. Oh, how my soul feels for the flock of God. I long to be out among them. I often awake myself crying to God's people to get ready, get ready that the cloak of Almighty God may be thrown around them and they be hid in the time of trouble.” 4MR 324.

“The servant watched while Elijah prayed. Six times he returned from the watch, saying, There is nothing, no cloud, no sign of rain. But the prophet did not give up in discouragement. He kept reviewing his life, to see where he had failed to honor God, he confessed his sins, and thus continued to afflict his soul before God, while watching for a token that his prayer was answered. As he searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less, both in his own estimation and in the sight of God. It seemed to him that he was nothing, and that God was everything; and when he reached the point of renouncing self, while he clung to the Saviour as his only strength and righteousness, the answer came. The servant appeared, and said, "Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.” RH, May 26, 1891

How many times do we give up so easily in our prayer life battling with sin? We pray to God and we ask Him to give us victory and it doesn't come and we cease to pray. We don't need to have that experience; victory is assured. But we read that the reason He doesn't answer our prayers immediately at times is so that we don't become big-headed and get the glory and think that these

blessings are mine just because I was able to influence God. No, you must humble yourself before the Lord.

“How few are aware that they have darling idols, that they have cherished sins! God sees these sins to which you may be blinded, and He works with His pruning knife to strike deep and separate these cherished sins from you. You all want to choose for yourselves the process of purification. How hard it is for you to submit to the crucifixion of self; but when the work is all submitted to God, to Him who knows our weakness and our sinfulness, He takes the very best way to bring about the desired results. It was through constant conflict and simple faith that Enoch walked with God.” 3T 543.

Enoch day by day for three hundred years had to crucify self. His experience is our experience; every moment self must be subdued. And if it's not that 'gadal' begins to rise, that self-exaltation begins to grow stronger and stronger and it will be impossible to walk with God when self is on the throne—and self—just keeps the seat warm for Satan. Self must die; renunciation of self.

“He [Enoch] did not make his abode with the wicked. He did not locate in Sodom, thinking to save Sodom. He placed himself and his family where the atmosphere would be as pure as possible. Then at times he went forth to the inhabitants of the world with his God-given message. Every visit he made to the world was painful to him. He saw and understood something of the leprosy of sin. After proclaiming his message, he always took back with him to his place of retirement some who had received the warning. Some of these became overcomers, and died before the Flood came. But some had lived so long in the corrupting influence of sin that they could not endure righteousness (MS 42, 1900). 1BC 1087.

Enoch and Elijah had the experience of country living—the 144,000 will be living in the country. If the 144,000 are country living, and we are supposed to strive to be 144,000, God's remnant people will be out of the cities. We need to come to grips with that. I know there are so many obstacles in our way, but we know that if we are waiting for the obstacles to be removed before we begin to work, they will never be removed and we will never go anywhere. You must pray and work and act to get to where God has been calling us to be for over a hundred sixty years.

God has been calling and we have been languid and stupid in answering the call. We need to make a move by God's grace. I want to tell you that He does miracles for people with no money at all. When you have a family and you look in the bank and it is at a deficit and the money that you get can only fill in the hole to bring you to zero. You know how that really doesn't settle right, especially with a man. You don't want to go and ask people for money and all these things.

Let me tell you something, when you put your trust in God, God will do miracles for you. God will put money in your hand that you wouldn't even know what to do with. That's real; God will get you out of the city if you pray for it. God will get you out and get you to where you need to be; if you pray and act and work and believe. If we start praying, Lord get us into the country and we start taking steps to do that, God will make the way, because He is not willing that any of His people should perish. Believe that.

“Of great importance to the church is the history of Elijah. Elijah was not called from a high station in life or from a city of renown to take his place in the work of God. He was born among the mountains of Gilead, on the other side of the Jordan, and came from among a nation that was overspread with the idolatry and the abominations of the Amorites.”
{RH, January 25, 1912

Elijah was a country liver and God's 144,000 must be as well. I want to show that not only were Elijah and Enoch country livers but they were health reformers and total vegetarian at that. Notice what the Bible says;

- 1 Kings 17:1 “And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. 2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. 4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. 5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. 6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.”

Elijah is first introduced in the Bible as a meat eater, he ate meat. But notice the experience before translation:

- 1 Kings 17:9 “Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat

many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

Elijah was given a diet of flesh eating and bread in the morning and in the evening; two meal a day plan for Elijah. Then he was moved to a vegetarian diet; bread and water. Now we recognize that at this particular time we are not supposed to just eat bread and water, so don't anybody become a fanatic and start eating just bread and water. Right now we are to be eating just the good things that God has given, the diet He gave to Adam and Eve.

- 1 Kings 19:4 "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. 5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. 6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7 And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. 8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God."

When you look at Elijah you find he stayed with that diet until the day of translation. Elijah never went back to eating meat. Enoch was also a vegetarian. Enoch followed the Word of the Lord, and God gave no permission to eat meat until after the flood, long after Enoch was translated to heaven. Enoch followed the Word of the Lord, he was a follower of the religion of Adam when Adam repented and came back to the Lord. He was a follower of the true religion of God and they were vegetarian.

There has never been and never will be a man, woman or child that will be translated that's a flesh eater. Believe that! God's people need to come up higher on the question of diet.

"If ever there was a time when the diet should be of the most simple kind, it is now. Meat should not be placed before our children. Its influence is to excite and strengthen the lower passions, and has a tendency to deaden the moral powers. Grains and fruits prepared free from grease, and in as natural a condition as possible, should be the food for the tables of all who claim to be preparing for translation to heaven." 2T 352

A simple diet is needed for those preparing to be translated. There is much you can go through with Elijah and Enoch. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy describe the life style of Elijah, the clothes that Elijah wore; you can bring every point of reform to the surface with the story of Elijah and Enoch. You can show that Enoch home schooled his children. Enoch had a message to give. Let's look at this point in Jude:

- Jude 1:14 “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Enoch had a special message to give and that message pointed him to the end of time. Elijah had a special message to give, and Elijah’s message pointed him to the end of time. And we have a special message to give, and our message points to the end of time. The experience that God wants us to have is coupled with that message.

Elijah and Enoch could not give the trumpet a certain sound if their lifestyle was not circumspect. They couldn’t proclaim the truth like they should, if their lifestyle wasn’t circumspect. They couldn’t understand the truth if their lifestyle was not circumspect. God is calling us today to be Elijah; to be an Enoch; to be part of the 144,000. And the 144,000 while they have the lifestyle, while they have the message, it gives them an experience and they walk with God.

The only way that we can seek the lost is if we are saved ourselves. How can we seek the lost when we are walking in darkness ourselves? God is calling us to come up on a higher plain and the message that He has ordained in Daniel 11:40-45 is the message that will take you higher.

If I could tell you what He has done for me. How literally, He snatched me from the gutter again—I was a dog that turned back to my vomit. God saw fit to snatch me out of the world and put me directly in a place I didn’t even really want to be. God started showing me these things and laying them on the table, and me being an analytical person I began to try and chop them up, like I said, and look for chinks and holes in this thing. It wasn’t there.

The experience that I had in November 2004 when God laid these things out before me for the first time, it shook me to the core. I remember running outside those meetings, and it was raining and mud was on the ground and I’m kneeling there crying like a baby, because I knew that He snatched me out of the gutter to bring me into this. I have no understanding why He would look upon me in the condition I was in and take me where I never thought that I would be before.

Brethren; God has a plan for every single individual. Nobody needs to worry about education—don’t think that you have to have a certain type of learning in order to proclaim the message of the hour. You can have a ghetto understanding, be brought from the slums—from the gutter—and God will change your speech. God will teach you how to speak clearly. God will give you wisdom and understanding, He’ll take the fried brain that you’ve had and clean it up.

God is looking for a people that would just be willing. Are you willing? If you are willing—don’t draw backwards. Do not draw back—go forward in this thing. God is calling you higher, will you go with Him. Don’t fall back into the same experience—keep pressing forward.