

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!"

Noah's Time and Ours
Jamal Sankey

When many individuals think of prophecy, usually the first things that comes to mind are the books of Daniel and Revelation, and a lot of the times what fails to be remembered is that Christ himself gave particular points in prophecy. So what we will be dealing with this week is specifically to look at Matthew 24 & 25, in reality, Luke 21.

Turn with me to Matthew 24:36. This very well known verse of scripture has become the Scoffers' Text.

THE SCOFFERS TEXT

- Matthew 24:36: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

This particular verse of scripture was used as ammunition against the Millerite Movement, and this particular verse of scripture is used even today. I want to read a statement from Great Controversy pages 370-372.

"The proclamation of a definite time for Christ's coming called forth great opposition from many of all classes, from the minister in the pulpit down to the most reckless, Heaven-daring sinner. The words of prophecy were fulfilled: "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:3, 4. Many who professed to love the Saviour, declared that they had no opposition to the doctrine of the second advent; they merely objected to the definite time. But God's all-seeing eye read their hearts. They did not wish to hear of Christ's coming to judge the world in righteousness. They had been unfaithful servants, their works would not bear the inspection of the heart-searching God, and they feared to meet their Lord. Like the Jews at the time of Christ's first advent they were not

prepared to welcome Jesus. They not only refused to listen to the plain arguments from the Bible, but ridiculed those who were looking for the Lord. Satan and his angels exulted, and flung the taunt in the face of Christ and holy angels that His professed people had so little love for Him that they did not desire His appearing.

"No man knoweth the day nor the hour" was the argument most often brought forward by rejecters of the advent faith. The scripture is: "Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but My Father only." Matthew 24:36. *A clear and harmonious explanation of this text was given by those who were looking for the Lord, and the wrong use made of it by their opponents was clearly shown.*"

We'll continue to read, but let's stop there for a moment. Those who were truly looking for the Lord to come, had a clear understanding of that verse. But those who rejected the message of the Saviour's soon coming had twisted the verse to mean something different. How many times do people refer to this verse as just saying, "No man knoweth the day nor the hour"? But that's not what the verse means, and we're going to look at it in a very pointed way. It continues to say:

"The words were spoken by Christ in that memorable conversation with His disciples upon Olivet after He had for the last time departed from the temple. The disciples had asked the question: "What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus gave them signs, and said: "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." Verses 3, 33. One saying of the Saviour must not be made to destroy another. Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near. We are further taught that to disregard His warning, and refuse or neglect to know when His advent is near, will be as fatal for us as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the flood was coming. And the parable in the same chapter, contrasting the faithful and the unfaithful servant, and giving the doom of him who said in his heart, "My Lord delayeth His coming," shows in what light Christ will regard and reward those whom He finds watching, and teaching His coming, and those denying it. "Watch therefore," He says. "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing." Verses 42, 46. "If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Revelation 3:3.

"Paul speaks of a class to whom the Lord's appearing will come unawares. "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape." But he adds, to those who have given heed to the Saviour's warning: "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5.

"Thus it was shown that Scripture gives no warrant for men to remain in ignorance concerning the nearness of Christ's coming. But those who desired only an excuse to reject the truth closed their ears to this explanation, and the words "No man knoweth the day nor the hour" continued to be echoed by the bold scoffer and even by the professed minister of Christ. As the people were roused, and began to inquire the way of salvation, religious teachers stepped in between them

and the truth, seeking to quiet their fears by falsely interpreting the word of God. Unfaithful watchmen united in the work of the great deceiver, crying, Peace, peace, when God had not spoken peace. Like the Pharisees in Christ's day, many refused to enter the kingdom of heaven themselves, and those who were entering in they hindered. The blood of these souls will be required at their hand." {GC 370-372}

Brethren. This is the same argument—the argument has not changed, many continue to proclaim that no man knows the day nor the hour, and we take that particular thought in—but she said specifically that those who were really looking for the coming of Christ, had a clear understanding of that verse, while those who didn't desire His coming, used it and twisted it to suit their own ends. Now I am going to quote James White from his book "Bible Adventism" page 52-54. Notice he gives an understanding of what they thought that verse meant. He said:

THOSE WHO WERE LOOKING FOR THE LORD

"We solemnly believe that the day and hour, and even the year, of the second advent are purposely hidden. Some of the prophetic periods reach to the time of the end, while others extend still further down very near the end itself, to an event of which we shall speak hereafter, yet none of them reach to the coming of the Son of Man. The prophecies clearly point to the period of the second advent, but do not give the definite time of that event. But many suppose that the text proves that nothing may be known of the period of the second advent. In this they greatly err...

"Those who claim that the text proves that nothing may be known of the period of the second advent, make it prove too much for their own unbelief. As recorded by Mark, the declaration reads: "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." If the text proves that men will know nothing of the period of the second advent, it also proves that angels will know nothing of it, and also that the Son will know nothing of it, till the event takes place! This position proves too much, therefore proves nothing to the point. Christ will know of the period of his second advent to this world. The holy angels, who wait around the throne of Heaven to receive messages relative to the part they act in the salvation of men, will know of the time of this closing event of salvation. And so will the waiting, watching people of God understand.

"An old English version of the passage reads, "But that day and hour no man maketh known, neither the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." This is the correct reading, according to several of the ablest critics of the age. The word 'know' is used in the same sense here that it is by Paul in 1 Cor.2:2: "For I determined not to know [make known] anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." Men will not make known the day and hour, angels will not make it known, neither will the Son; but the Father will make it known." James White, Bible Adventism, 52-54

We recognize that before the second coming, just prior, that the Lord booms from heaven in very clear language the day and hour of the coming of Christ and the 144,000

hear it, while the rest of the world hears thunder. But the point that Christ is trying to make is not the day and the hour of His coming, it is based on our watching. I want to read something in Matthew 24:45. Christ's purpose was not to say that that day and hour would be unknown—that we won't know when it is near—that we just will have no understanding—that wasn't His point. His point was there would be no definite time, no, but His people would be watching and waiting and proclaiming the soon advent of Christ.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATCHING

- Matthew 24:45-51 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Now, what Sister White says about these particular verses, she says that the church described in these verses is the same church described in Matthew 25:1-13. She says the wise and foolish virgins are the same as the faithful and evil servant in Matthew 24. Let me read this statement to you, this is taken from Great Controversy 393:

“In Matthew 24, in answer to the question of His disciples concerning the sign of His coming and of the end of the world, Christ had pointed out some of the most important events in the history of the world and of the church from His first to His second advent; namely, the destruction of Jerusalem, the great tribulation of the church under the pagan and papal persecutions, the darkening of the sun and moon, and the falling of the stars. After this He spoke of His coming in His kingdom, and related the parable describing the two classes of servants who look for His appearing. Chapter 25 opens with the words: “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins.” *Here is brought to view the church living in the last days, the same that is pointed out in the close of chapter 24.*”
{GC 393}

Note: The servants in the parable of Matthew 24 were either blessed or evil depending upon their watching for their lord's coming. While the virgins in Matthew 25's parable were either wise or foolish depending upon their preparation. The Lord equates the two parables and their subjects as the same. The foolish virgins were not watching the signs of the times and so they were not ready. They did not prepare, so what does that mean to us? The Bible says:

- Mark 13:35-37 “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”

Now let's connect that verse with Revelation chapter 3, we're connecting these verses in the very same way that Sister White connects these verses:

- Revelation 3:3 "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

Note: The consequence of not watching is ignorance of the times. And when you go to our churches all over the world, and you ask the question, "what times are we living in?" you have so many different views. So many individuals have a different understanding. Some put things off way in the future. Some think that it won't happen at all. Ignorance of the times is the result of not watching.

Now the Bible tells us that there will be a group of people in the end who indeed will know the times. They will have an understanding of the events and it's brought to view in Daniel 12, these are very well known verses of scripture for those of us here. In these verses, Daniel asked a question and he got an answer that he really wasn't looking for, and so he asked again. Notice what the discourse was in verse 5-10 in Daniel chapter 12:

THE WISE SHALL UNDERSTAND

- Daniel 12:5-10 "Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?"

Now Daniel had just received his last vision. He had just received the vision of Daniel 10-12, he had just saw chapter 11:40-45 in vision and when he had seen this particular vision, he now sees this discourse between angelic beings. And the question was, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? Now Daniel specifically wondered the same thing. He was wondering when these things in verses 40-45 would take place. Now notice the answer that comes back:

- "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not:"

Now a question: What did Daniel not understand? Did Daniel not understand the 1260 year time prophecy? Was that what Daniel did not understand? He had been explained that time prophecy in previous chapters. What he did not understand was this discourse—this is what was transpiring. In his mind he was looking at the vision he had just received.

The angel asked, "How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" Daniel specifically thought he was referring to 40-45. The answer comes back 'time, times and a half a time'. Daniels says, 'I heard but I understood not', now when you look in the original, where that phrase, "I understood not", it's not so much that he didn't understand what they were talking about, but he did not know how to equate the two. He thought

one was asking something and the answer came back different—he couldn't put two and two together. Now notice what he says here in verse 8:

- “then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

What shall be the end of verses 40-45? How does it come to its end? How do the final events of Bible prophecy come to its end, and the Bible says in verse 9:

- “And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

What will they understand? The wise will understand the things Daniel wanted to understand, but were not explained to him. The wise understand when the end of the events of Daniel 11:40-45 come into play. The wise at the end of the world understand the final events but the wicked will not. Why? Why will the wicked not understand and take these things to heart—why? Because they weren't watching.

If you look in Matthew 25, there you have two classes of Adventists at the end of the world; you have the wise and the foolish.

In Matthew 24, which Ellen White said is the same church; you have two classes, the wicked or evil servant, and the servant that was blest. The servant that was blest was blest because he was watching. If they're the same church then the wicked would be equated to the evil servant, who was not watching.

The wicked (foolish virgins, evil servant) will not understand the events of the end that point to the second coming because they are not watching the signs of the times based upon the final events of Daniel 11, because they are not watching.

Are you following me? The wicked are not watching the signs of the times, they hear it—but they are not watching. They can't have others watch for them. Watching does not mean we go to church and hear the message proclaimed. Watching does not mean we come to a prophecy school. We can't have other's watch for us it must be an individual thing.

The wise and the blest servants are wise and blest because they prepare, based on the signs of the times—based on their watching. Notice Great Controversy 594:

“The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented.”

The events connected with the close of probation are clearly laid out in Daniel 11:40-45.

“But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed.”

Are these multitudes referred to, those in the world—or those in the church? Those in the world have no understanding of prophecy period—even if it has been revealed. But it's referring to multitudes in the church have no understanding than if it has never been revealed.

“Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.” {GC 594}

Every time it is proclaimed, Satan is there with ingenious ways to snatch that seed of truth. Brethren are we watching like Abraham was? When he laid his sacrifices down and split them in half. The Bible says that the birds were coming upon the sacrifice, but he was watching, because as the birds came, he batted them away. DO you remember the story?

Are we doing the same thing when the birds of Satan come to snatch the seeds of truth from our mind? Are we recognizing what Satan is doing, it says he looks for every impression to remove from us what would make us wise to salvation and wise to the times in which we are living. He tries to destroy our understanding of the times.

Now the Bible says in Matthew 24:37:

AS THE DAYS OF NOAH WERE

- Matthew 24:37 “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”
Jesus is trying to teach us a principle. Notice what it says in 2nd Peter, Jesus is teaching us a principle here and in 2nd Peter it is given a little clearer:
- 2 Peter 3:3-7 “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

The Bible tells us that as the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son of man be. What was it like in the days of Noah? You have an understanding here, that these individuals were willingly ignorant of the facts. It doesn't mean that God does not give evidence. But it means they were willingly ignorant of the evidence. God had laid out for them time and time again—every blow that was struck on the ark was a witness to the message of Noah. But it was disregarded—why was it disregarded?

What was the reason why William Miller rejected the Midnight Cry? It was because of the influence of men. When you look at what transpired in the days of Noah, when the animals got on board the ark, what did those who claimed to be righteous men do?

In ‘Patriarchs and Prophets’ Sister White says they went to the learned men, they went to the scientists of the day and asked them to explain the thing. And they explained it all away until it had only a momentary impression.

How many times is the Word of God clearly preached? It's clearly preached time and time again and yet individuals—instead of going like a faithful Berean to see if those things be so for themselves—go to the learned men. Brethren, the foolish virgins were lost because of a lack of preparation. They were equated to the wicked servant who said, “My Lord delayeth His coming”; and Christ equates that whole time period to the days of Noah. They were ignorant of the times because they were not watching and

those who even had a semblance of watching—the impression was taken away because of the influence of man. In Noah's day those who were lost, were lost because they disregarded the evidence.

Notice James White in 'Bible Adventism' 59, 60.

“By most people the evidences of the soon coming of Christ are considered insufficient to base faith upon. But mark: the testimony and acts of one man [Noah] condemned the people destroyed by the flood. The evidences then were sufficient, otherwise the world would not have been condemned. But evidences a hundred times more convincing come pouring in upon us, that the day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly. We follow down the numerous prophetic chains of Daniel, and of the Revelation, and we find ourselves in every instance standing just before the day of wrath. We see the signs spoken of by prophets, by Christ, and in the epistles, fulfilling, or fulfilled. And at the right time, and in the right manner, to fulfill certain prophecies, a solemn message arises in different parts of the world: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." Joel 2:1. Wherever we look, we see prophecy fulfilling. While the knowledge of God and the spirit of holiness are departing, spiritual wickedness, like a flood, covers the land.

“But these evidences are considered insufficient to rest faith upon. Well, what kind of evidence would the unbelieving have? "When the signs of the end," says the skeptic, "are fulfilled, they will be so plain that no one can doubt." But if the signs are of such a nature, and are fulfilled in such a manner as to compel all to believe in the coming of Christ, how can it be as it was in the days of Noah? Men were not then compelled to believe. But eight believing souls were saved, while all the world besides sank in their unbelief beneath the waters of the flood. God has never revealed his truth to man in a manner to compel him to believe. Those who have wished to doubt his word, have found a wide field in which to doubt, and a broad road to perdition. While those who have wished to believe, have ever found everlasting rock on which to rest their faith.” James White, Bible Adventism, 59-60

Don't think that the final messages in the Bible are to compel men to believe! The same way as it was in the days of Noah—just laid out by the words of the prophet—not compelling men, that is the same manner as the Bible gives us the messages in the last days. Nothing in the Bible will compel you to believe!

We need to understand something today—we need to realize—no one is going to force anyone to accept anything. The only way that we accept truth is by a 'thus saith the Lord', not from man but from Christ Himself. And you must see it for yourself.

You can't come in the last days when the ark's door is closed again, and say, "Well, Noah didn't make it eloquent enough. Noah did not compel me to believe, it wasn't as clear as Noah should have made it." We can't say that when the ark door is closed. Every blow on the ark was sufficient evidence that the flood was coming.

When the animals got on board the ark—that miraculous event—that in the mercy of God should have compelled men to believe—but they went to the 'learned'

men. They went to those who had gone to school. They went to those who had an 'M-div' and asked them to explain it. And because they were not behind the animals getting on board the ark—many did not believe and all were lost but 8 souls.

In Revelation 22:11, we read the very last words of Christ as He stands up in the heavenly sanctuary. The Bible says:

- Revelation 22:11, 12. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

The church at the end of the world are described as those who are either watching or not watching. The reward is for those who watch—those who are not watching receive a different reward, but the reward is for those who watch.

I just want to take some time to deal with the unjust. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still." Let's turn in our Bibles to Proverbs 29:27 and see what the Bible says about the Just and the Unjust, a few verses to show the contrast between the two:

- Proverbs 29:27; "An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked."

The unjust are equated with the wicked. the unjust are likened to the wicked while they are contrasted with the just. The just and the unjust—turn to Matthew 5:45. All we are doing right now is showing that the bible always contrasts the two.

- Matthew 5:45; "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Again the unjust are paralleled with the just but are equated as evil. Evil and wicked = unjust. Notice what the Bible says in the book of Acts 24:15.

- Acts 24:15 "And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."

Two classes of men at the end of the world; the just and the unjust. Who does the Bible say that the just are? What is the experience of the just? What keeps them just? Notice what the Bible says in Proverbs 4:18. We're talking about the just and the unjust and the difference between their experience, because Jesus, before He comes is going to say, "He that is unjust let him be unjust still".

- Proverbs 4:18 "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."
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The path of the just—they have light upon their path and it grows brighter and brighter. If you take that particular verse and equate it to the first vision of Ellen White—the light that was shining all along the path that was set up behind them was the light of what? The Midnight Cry. And it grew brighter and brighter—in other words, God gave

them more and more understanding of the light that they already had. These are the just—that's their path. The Bible says in 2nd Peter chapter 1:19:

- 2 Peter 1:19 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:”

The just, their path grows brighter and brighter unto the perfect day—the path grows bright because it is the sure light of prophecy. These individuals that are on the path of the just are those that heed the Word—not only do they heed the Word, but they have the experience that the day-star arises in their hearts—they can be saved. But the individual ones who deny the light or who try to get the light from others instead of Christ Himself—these individuals will be sifted away.

Brethren, we need to be watching the signs of the times! Turn to Matthew 7:21, there's a description of men at the end of the world and I want to equate to you that these are the same individuals found in Matthew 25. We're talking about those who are virgins.

- Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

And we always hear that this verse is applied to the other churches—we always hear that it's applied to them because to work iniquity is to work lawlessness—and because we have the law—that's not us. Brethren, who are the ones who come saying Lord, Lord? Who are the ones that Jesus says, 'I know you not?' Notice what it says in Matthew 25:6. The Bible gives us an understanding who the individuals are that Jesus is talking to saying in the last days they will come, they will knock on the door saying 'Lord, Lord, we PROPHESED in Your name. We cast out devils in Your name. We have done many wonderful works in Your name. Who are these individuals?

- Matthew 25:6-13 “And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. [we haven't prepared—we weren't watching] But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

There is going to be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. The virgins who are locked out are the virgins who weren't watching. The virgins who weren't watching were the ones who didn't prepare. They were the ones who had light and disregarded the light. These are the ones that Christ says, 'I know you not.' It's not talking about the oth-

ers—it's talking about us. Jesus wants us to be watching and we need to recognize what Jesus says about those who disregard the evidence—who disregard the light.

The just are those who follow the light of the prophetic word as it increases as the end draws near. While the unjust are those who have disregarded the evidence and are lost in the end. We're going to read a few things about the disregarding of light.

THOSE WHO DISREGARD EVIDENCE (LIGHT)

- John 16:7-13 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

The prophetic element—the prophetic understanding comes through the agency of the Holy Spirit, and God gives us a warning in Ephesians 4. We can't understand the signs of the times, we won't recognize them, we will not prepare because we won't be able to behold them and understand the manifestations of the Spirit—if we do this thing in Ephesians chapter 4:30.

- Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

How do we grieve the Spirit? We're going to see a few things and the sure-fire way to grieve the Spirit is to disregard the evidence. Light upon light shines upon our pathway and we question why God has led us out so far. Light comes on our pathway and we've had it so misconstrued from other pulpits, we've had it misconstrued from so many other tongues that we ourselves can't behold it.

We've gone the way of the antediluvians having it explained away by the learned men. But notice what Sister White in 'That I May Know Him' page 244.

“When the Lord presents evidence upon evidence and gives light upon light, why is it that souls hesitate to walk in the light? . . . By every hesitation and delay, we place ourselves where it is more and more difficult for us to accept the light of heaven, and at last it seems impossible to be impressed by admonitions and warnings. The sinner says, more and more easily, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). . . “

The reason why we don't see light at the end of the world is because we've rejected it all along and it becomes harder for us to recognize the light as God lays it out for the remnant.

“The person who is drawn again and again by his Redeemer, and who slights the warnings given, yields not to his convictions to repent, and heeds not

when he is exhorted to seek pardon and grace, is in a perilous position. Jesus is drawing him, the Spirit is exerting His power upon him, urging him to surrender his will to the will of God; and when this invitation is unheeded, the Spirit is grieved away. The sinner chooses to remain in sin and impenitence, although he has evidence to encourage his faith, and more evidence would do no good. . . . There is another drawing to which he is responding, and that is the drawing of Satan. He yields obedience to the powers of darkness. This course is fatal, and leaves the soul in obstinate impenitence. This is the blasphemy that is most general among men, and it works in a most subtle way, until the sinner feels no remorse of conscience, no repentance, and consequently has no pardon. . . .

“Those who resist the Spirit of God think that they will repent at some future day when they get ready to take a decided step toward reformation, but repentance will then be beyond their power. According to the light and privileges given will be the darkness of those who refuse to walk in the light while they have the light. . .

“Never, never, feel at liberty to trifle with the opportunities granted to you. Study the will of God; do not study how you can avoid keeping the commandments of God, but study rather how you may keep them in sincerity and truth and truly serve Him whose property you are.” {TMK 244}

“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If there were no light, there would be no shade. But while the shade comes by the sun, it is not created by it. It is some obstruction that causes the shadow. So darkness emanates not from God, but is the result of an intruding object between the soul and God... Disregard of the light that God has given brings the sure result. It creates a shadow, a darkness that is more dark because of the light which has been sent... If a man withdraws himself from light and evidence, and yields to Satan's seducing arts, he himself draws the curtain of unbelief about him, so that light cannot be distinguished from darkness. More light and evidence would only be misunderstood by him. The greater the evidence, the greater will be the indifference. This will lead the deceived soul to call darkness light and truth error.”

And that was how it was in the days of Noah—they had disregarded the evidence that had been preached for a hundred and twenty years, and no matter how much evidence God gave, no matter how much miracle it was to see animals, to see birds line up in perfect order and get on board the ark—animals obeying the words and commandments of God and men were indifferent because they had cut themselves off from light time and time again.

“Satan is constantly working to lead men to deny the light. It is but a step from the straightforward path to a diverging one, in which Satan leads the way, and where light is all darkness, and darkness light. ... It is a dangerous thing to open the heart to unbelief, for it drives the Spirit of God away from the heart, and Satan's suggestions come in. ... We must ... avoid the first admission of doubt and unbelief.

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7. God destroys no man. Every man who is destroyed will destroy himself. When a man

stifles the admonitions of conscience, he sows the seeds of unbelief and these produce a sure harvest....

"They would none of my counsel, they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Proverbs 1:30-33." {OHC 26}

"Some of the people professing to believe the truth for this time... will not understand the marvelous work of God by which God confirms His Word. [They will not understand and see the manifestations of His Holy Spirit] They will not perceive that the working of God's Spirit is wrought by His power, not because the evidence is not sufficient, but because the waywardness and the corruption of their own hearts will not suffer them honestly and candidly to weigh these evidences for the sins of the people have hardened their hearts and their conformity to the world has clouded their conceptions of divine things. . . . They are unwilling to be directed in the path of righteousness which would lead to the city of God. . . ." {TDG 361}

Those who believe the truth now, many will not see the manifestations of the Holy Spirit—not because there is no evidence; not because the evidence wasn't abundant; but because of disregard time and time again of light. Because of sins in their own life that block the way, that created a shadow between them and the Son of righteousness.

Brethren, we are in serious times and God calls upon us to be students not surface readers. Surface readers will be lost—and those are not my words. Let me give you some Bible for it:

Evidence upon evidence has been given—Christ points us to the very sign of His coming and we've slighted it. We don't understand it, and many are looking for different events. Jesus is telling us and showing us what will be the sign before His coming.

Turn with me to the book of 1 Corinthians 3:1. The Bible says that those who are the wicked, who are the evil servants, who are the foolish virgins, were not prepared because they were not watching. What does it equate with not watching? It does not mean that we are just to sit outside and look up towards the heavens, we are to be weighing the evidence that God is giving, we are to be studying deep in the Word. We are to be watching and praying, bringing our life right with that which God is showing us. But there is a group of people in the church that do not have the experience, an Paul talked about it here:

- 1 Corinthians 3:1 "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ."

Paul equated those who have the carnal mind to a babe in Christ. Now we're not talking and Paul is not talking about one who has just had the rebirth experience and is considered a babe in Christ and desires the sincere milk of the Word that he might grow thereby—he's talking about those who are content on being indifferent, are content on

being ignorant. He's talking about those who should have been teachers but need that someone teach them again. Notice what he says:

- 1 Corinthians 3:1 "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."

Now the carnal mind is equated to the babe in Christ. Notice what Paul says about the carnal mind in Romans chapter 8:6. Paul could not speak to those in the church—the Christian church of his day, he could not speak unto them as spiritual but as unto carnal—even as unto babes in Christ.

- Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Paul could not speak to those in the church—the Christian church of his day, he could not speak unto them as spiritual but as unto carnal—even as unto babes in Christ—they were content on being ignorant. They didn't study deep in the Word of God, they were surface readers, and he says the carnal mind is death. A surface reader will be lost. There is no way that we can give the final cry if we're not teachers.

I don't mean that we must be standing behind the pulpit to teach the message—but a teacher knows the message. We must understand the message and that's not something that man gives you—it's something that only the Holy Spirit can give. He's the One that teaches you and leads you into how much truth? All truth—you won't lack a thing if you allow God to lead you into truth.

Those who got on board the ark didn't get on board because of Noah, they didn't get on board because they saw the flood coming, they didn't get on board because of what the animals did, they got on board because they believed the Word and the Word was pressed home to their hearts by the Holy Spirit. Those who didn't get on board, they may have listened to the words of Noah. They may have at one time been aroused by the words of Noah, but when the manifestation came that verified Noah's message, they philosophized it all away. It wasn't the Holy Spirit that taught them then—it was man.

The Bible says:

- Romans 8:6-9 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh,"

That needs to be our desire. We need to come up out of the position of being babes still. We need to come up higher; we need to study the Word, because it is the Word that brings conversion. It's not the eloquence of a sermon; it's not how well the notes are laid down, it's the Word that converts—and if we're staying away from the Word, we're staying away from the agency that the Holy Spirit will use to bring us to the experience that will carry us through. The Bible says in Hebrews 5:12:

- Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, . .

Paul is saying in order to go on to the perfect man we must go deep—leaving these aside, we must go on to perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

- Hebrews 6:2, 3 “Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.”

If God permits us to have more time—we can maybe go back to the first principles, but now we're at the point where we must go deeper in the Word—deeper than we've ever gone before—because the time is at hand. We need to be watching and recognizing the times. Jesus indeed is about to come and those who will be watching, those who are preparing, are mentioned again in the book of Daniel 12:3.

- 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.”

Brethren, that term 'wise' there in your margin is 'teachers'; those who know the Word, those who are watching the signs of the times; those who have an experience not just a head-knowledge of it. Watching equates not just sitting down, but action. Those that have an experience in the Word. These are the ones that will shine bright as the firmament of heaven. Those will be the ones shining bright as the sun—Jesus calls them in Matthew chapter 13.

- Daniel 12:10 “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

Which side are we going to be on today? Which side are we going to say I want to be on? It's only one or the other. Either we are going to be watching the signs of the times for ourselves, learning these things for ourselves, coming together to study—iron sharpeneth iron, but that's what this prophecy school is for, it's to sharpen us for the battle, because everyone must be watching for themselves. Either we are in that camp—or we are indifferent. Which side will you be on today?

Let us kneel and pray:

Merciful Father in heaven; You have extended time for us so many times. You're looking for people who'll be watching. Your Son said that when He returns, would He find faith on the earth?

Father, we talked about the path of the just—the just are those who are watching. The just are those who are preparing based on the signs of the times. The just are not putting aside the light that is behind them but gathering the fragments of light that fall at the end of the world. But You also tell us that the just shall live by faith, and when You come, will you find the just upon the earth? Father, we want to be those, we want to be those who you can trust with Your name and character. We want to be the ones, dear Lord, who You contrast in the days of Noah, with the antediluvians; no we want to be those who are on the ark. And Father, You've given us so many opportunities and You give us an opportunity even now. Whatever sins, whatever hindrances, whatever doubts that we have that is keeping the Holy Spirit from doing the work that He has desired to do for years, Father, we pray dear lord, that You break those shackles and those chains. Father, we come before you this morning with yielded hearts, You tell us dear Lord, to come to You and buy—those who have no money, come and buy and eat—and dear Father, we have no money, but how can we buy? You tell us in your Word, 'My son, give Me your heart', that's the exchange.

We give you our hearts and we ask for Your righteousness. We ask for Your help as we grow in grace. We ask, dear Lord, that we can keep the sanctification of the Spirit, that we might be sealed by the Spirit and be a part of the 144,000. Help us dear Lord, every one can be a part, if we yield. Help us to be watching, is our prayer, in Jesus' name:

Amen.