

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!"

**The Separation of Classes
#09 in Time of Harvest Series
Jamal Sankey**

Let us kneel in prayer:

Father as we learn, as we see the importance that you place upon these themes I pray we will be inspired to search them out and to study them. Forgive us dear Father, if in any way we're looking for an excuse to get out from under the conviction that you've placed upon us already. Lord I pray that You guide us, purify us and keep us, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DIFFERENT METHODS SAME RESULTS

Last presentation we started off on this theme of Luke 21, and we saw that Jesus Christ was also teaching these important themes. The reason why it is important to see that Jesus taught them is because many of us are looking for an excuse—some kind of an excuse to say, "Well it's not important." Brethren, if it was not important, Jesus would not have taught them.

In this presentation we're going to go back through this theme but with a little different approach. Before we deal with 'the sign' that the disciples asked for as a sign of His coming and the end of the world, we're going to take a look back through each of those stories and histories. There is a common thread that is interwoven in all the stories. This thread is that when new light came to God's people, individuals by the way they reacted to the new light that was shed upon their pathway at that particular time develop into 2 classes. 2 classes of men were developed because of this new light. This is not a new approach; in fact God has been working upon this platform since the beginning.

Now there is another approach which has come in and this is the approach that Satan has taken. We're going to see in just a moment that Satan desires all the pre-

rogatives of Christ. As a matter of fact the Bible says that he wants to be just like God. Jesus works on the platform of truth to divide and Satan comes in with the exact opposite and works on the platform of error to divide. Notice what it says in Isaiah 14:12:

- Isaiah 14:12-14 “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

Everything that Christ does, I'm going to duplicate it. God has a day of worship, a sign, a seal, a mark—so I'll set up my counterfeit day of worship which would be my sign, seal, and mark. God has a church—I'll set up my church on the earth. He has a people—I'll set up my people. He uses the truth—I'll use error. The way that Satan comes in is mentioned by Christ Himself. The Bible says in John 8:44;

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

The very mode of operation of Satan is lies and error and he employs them in the same way that Jesus does. Satan's desires the very prerogatives of Christ and counterfeits His methods of labour. He uses the medium of lies and error. Notice Revelation 12:3, 4:

- Revelation 12:3, 4, “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Let us pause here for a moment, the Bible tells us in verses 7-9 who this dragon represents, who is it? Satan.

- 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

This dragon, the Bible says was Satan and he uses earthly governments to do his work. We know that Satan was going to use Pagan Rome under Herod to destroy Christ the man-child. But there is a truth here that we need to understand—with his tail—and we're not going to look at the aspect of Pagan Rome but we are going to look at Satan; with his tail he drew a third part of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. Now does Satan have a pitchfork, horns and a tail? That's the slant that he wants us to see, but the Bible employs prophetic language to show how he got the stars out of heaven. The stars were the angels and he cast a third out with him.

The Bible says that a tail represents lies—notice what it says in the book of Isaiah—Revelation says that with his tail he drew a third part of the stars of heaven—what does Isaiah 9:15 tell us about a tail:

- Isaiah 9:15 “The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail.”

Lucifer used lies and caused division in heaven and has employed this use of deception throughout his campaign against Christ and His people. But while truth and error are diametrically opposite to each other they are employed and work in the same manner, they are the medium of separation.

Christ does not use lies, He uses the truth. Notice Matthew 10:34, 35 where we are going to see how Jesus works:

- Matthew 10:34-36 “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.”

Jesus came not to send peace but a sword. So in the church today or in a family's home, when an individual is studying truths and these truths are leading his life in such a powerful way, then you start noticing the separation that begins to take place. Many people look at that and say “See! This is the devil's work. This is the devil's work because it's not bringing you together—it's causing division.” And they fail to recognize this is how Christ works.

Many think that the last truths in the end of time are going to cause such a unity in the earth—you need to understand—when you see the world unifying—that has nothing to do with truth. The Ecumenical movement is not based on truth! But the truth is sacrificed so that they can come together on points they can agree with. Going along with this the Bible says in Luke chapter 12:49;

- Luke 12:49-53 “I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! 51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: 52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. 53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Jesus said that the sword He came to bring is division. Satan used lies, Jesus uses the ‘sword’, the Bible tells us in the book of Hebrews is the Word of God—the truth. Now what does all this mean? I want to take these principles, the principles you've just learned is what is the everlasting gospel. The Bible says in Revelation 14:6:

- Revelation 14:6 “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth,

Now what is the ‘everlasting gospel’? If you go to the beginning of the book—the Bible tells you what the everlasting gospel is in a nutshell; Genesis 3:15—and when you

look at it carefully it's not mentioning togetherness, but a dividing of two classes of men in the earth.

- Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

Enmity is a godly hatred; it's a warfare; it's division. John picks up this language in 1 John 3 where he says in this is manifest the children of the devil and the children of God—two classes of men. Jesus came to divide the earth by truth, Satan uses error. Let's look at how Jesus divided His people beginning with the church of Ephesus.

The church of Ephesus is the beginning of the Christian church; the time period of Jesus and the disciples. When you look at this time period, it produced two classes of men. From our last presentation, what was the first event that Jesus spoke about in Luke 21? It was the destruction of Jerusalem.

We're going to look at a quote about the destruction of Jerusalem and then look back a little further and see why these events took place. Great Controversy pg. 30:

JERUSALEM - THE LIGHT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

“Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given His disciples warning, and all who believed His words watched for the promised sign. "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies," said Jesus, "then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out." Luke 21:20, 21. After the Romans under Cestius had surrounded the city, they unexpectedly abandoned the siege when everything seemed favorable for an immediate attack. The besieged, despairing of successful resistance, were on the point of surrender, when the Roman general withdrew his forces without the least apparent reason. But God's merciful providence was directing events for the good of His own people. The promised sign had been given to the waiting Christians, and now an opportunity was offered for all who would, to obey the Saviour's warning. Events were so overruled that neither Jews nor Romans should hinder the flight of the Christians. Upon the retreat of Cestius, the Jews, sallying from Jerusalem, pursued after his retiring army; and while both forces were thus fully engaged, the Christians had an opportunity to leave the city. At this time the country also had been cleared of enemies who might have endeavored to intercept them. At the time of the siege, the Jews were assembled at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and thus the Christians throughout the land were able to make their escape unmolested. Without delay they fled to a place of safety--the city of Pella, in the land of Perea, beyond Jordan.” {GC 30.2}

Now this is talking about in the city of Jerusalem, there were two classes—the Jews and the Christians. The Romans were outside. Within Jerusalem were two classes, but why were they designated as Christians and Jews? Why was there a separation here—why were they not just one class? There is a reason—something happened within Jerusalem that separated these men and women one from another and it goes back to the time period of John.

John the Baptist came, he was the voice in the wilderness, and he was preaching there on the Jordan. Many from all over came to hear John. But did everybody agree with John? Not everyone did—many believed John and they were prepared for Christ when He would come. But those who disagreed as John was presenting Present Truth—as John was beginning to lay out things that to them were new light—they couldn't understand what he was saying. Notice this statement in Early Writings pg. 259.

“I was pointed back to the proclamation of the first advent of Christ. John was sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of Jesus. Those who rejected the testimony of John were not benefited by the teachings of Jesus. Their opposition to the message that foretold His coming placed them where they could not readily receive the strongest evidence that He was the Messiah.”

They didn't accept John's message and so it placed them where the strongest evidence was rejected. What were some of the strongest evidences that Jesus was the Messiah? When He raised people from the dead; When He was transfigured; Divinity flashing through humanity as He cleansed the temple; healing the sick; casting out devils; all these manifestations of the Spirit were not powerful enough to turn their minds because they had already rejected the first test—John the Baptist.

“Satan led on those who rejected the message of John to go still farther, to reject and crucify Christ. In doing this they placed themselves where they could not receive the blessing on the day of Pentecost, which would have taught them the way into the heavenly sanctuary. The rending of the veil of the temple showed that the Jewish sacrifices and ordinances would no longer be received. The great Sacrifice had been offered and had been accepted, and the Holy Spirit which descended on the day of Pentecost carried the minds of the disciples from the earthly sanctuary to the heavenly, where Jesus had entered by His own blood, to shed upon His disciples the benefits of His atonement. But the Jews were left in total darkness. They lost all the light which they might have had upon the plan of salvation, and still trusted in their useless sacrifices and offerings. The heavenly sanctuary had taken the place of the earthly, yet they had no knowledge of the change. Therefore they could not be benefited by the mediation of Christ in the holy place.” {EW 259.1}

They rejected John's message; they crucified Christ; received no Holy Spirit when it fell and then they had no understanding of what Jesus was doing in the heavenly sanctuary. Their rejection of John the Baptist led them to reject and crucify Christ which ultimately ended up in their rejection as a nation, and the formation of the two classes. These are the two groups that we see identified during the time of Jerusalem's destruction.

Why were they left in darkness? They rejected the 'New Light' brought by John the Baptist; they crucified Christ; they received no Holy Spirit and had no understanding at all about what was really transpiring in the heavenly sanctuary. Very woeful thoughts about what transpired with the Jews.

Those who accepted John accepted Christ. They were not the ones that crucified Christ. They were the ones who received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and they had an understanding about what Christ was doing when He ascended.

The Jews and the Christians were separated on how they received 'New Light'. Truth had caused division.

Now let's move a little forward; Jesus was teaching and after Jesus took us from Jerusalem, He jumped forward in His teachings to 538 AD. We see the Papacy rising into power. What transpired from Jerusalem to the Papacy? The Christians that had now come out of Jerusalem had received this experience and began to move forward. The Christian Church began to flourish and even in the days of Paul, something was moving along right with it.

The Christians were separated based on how they accepted the message of John—New Light for that hour. They were separated based on how their life aligned with that truth. As the church was beginning to grow, something else was moving behind the scenes. Notice 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH - PAPACY AND 1798

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

You see there was an error in his day, many were teaching that Jesus was about to come. How was that an error in Paul's day? Paul understood prophecy and Paul began to say, listen, don't be alarmed as if someone wrote a letter from me, or someone said I preached it, that Jesus Christ was soon to come. He went on to say:

- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”

Paul was teaching that as the Christian was growing, Satan was also coming in with his divisions and as the Christian church began to flourish, compromise began to transpire between the Pagans and the Christians. This compromise developed into the man of sin, the Papacy.

“The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should not come, "except there come a falling away

first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that "the mystery of iniquity doth already work." 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7. Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.

"Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, "the mystery of iniquity" carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

"This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of "the man of sin" foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power--a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will. {GC 49-50}

The Papacy was developed—the sequence went from the development of 2 groups of men, the Jews and the Christians—then THROUGH COMPROMISE it was corrupted. So what does Jesus need to do now? Error came in and brought a compromise so Christ has to do something else: New Truths have to be brought in. Present Truth for the time had to come.

As the papacy grew in power she met with opposition from God's faithful. This opposition increased eventually leading into the "Reformation" which again widened the two classes as "new" truths were being uncovered.

What were these New Truths? See Great Controversy 230:

"The Reformation had presented to the world an open Bible, unsealing the precepts of the law of God and urging its claims upon the consciences of the people. Infinite Love had unfolded to men the statutes and principles of heaven. God had said: "Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." Deuteronomy 4:6." {GC 230.3}

The Reformation comes in, righteousness by faith and it brought a split from Roman Papists to Protestants. Again 2 classes of people are formed as New Light; Present Truth for the hour comes in and two classes of men diverge and begin to be developed.

But the reformation, unfortunately, was not complete. During this time increasing persecution occurred which finally ended up with the papacy receiving its "deadly wound in 1798." [See Revelation 12 and 13]. However the Protestant's reformatory movement was incomplete. They carried with them many of spiritual Babylon's doctrines, which in the order of God must be removed by the means of cleansing through separation.

"The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world's history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding.

"Luther and his co-laborers accomplished a noble work for God; but, coming as they did from the Roman Church, having themselves believed and advocated her doctrines, it was not to be expected that they would discern all these errors. It was their work to break the fetters of Rome and to give the Bible to the world; yet there were important truths which they failed to discover, and grave errors which they did not renounce. Most of them continued to observe the Sunday with other papal festivals. They did not, indeed, regard it as possessing divine authority, but believed that it should be observed as a generally accepted day of worship. There were some among them, however, who honored the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Among the reformers of the church an honorable place should be given to those who stood in vindication of a truth generally ignored, even by Protestants--those who maintained the validity of the fourth commandment and the obligation of the Bible Sabbath. When the Reformation swept back the darkness that had rested down on all Christendom, Sabbathkeepers were brought to light in many lands.

"Those who received the great blessings of the Reformation did not go forward in the path so nobly entered upon by Luther. A few faithful men arose from time to time to proclaim new truth and expose long-cherished error, but the majority, like the Jews in Christ's day, or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers believed, and to live as they lived. Therefore religion again degenerated into formalism; and errors and superstitions which would have been cast aside had the church continued to walk in the light of God's Word, were retained and cherished. Thus the spirit inspired by the Reformation gradually died out, until there was almost as great need of reform in the Protestant churches as in the Roman Church in the time of Luther. There was the same spiritual stupor, the same respect for the opinions of men, the same spirit of worldliness, the same substitution of human theories for the teachings of God's Word. Pride and extravagance were fostered under the guise of religion. The churches became corrupted by allying themselves with the world. Thus were degraded the great principles for which Luther and his fellow laborers had done and suffered so much.

“As Satan saw that he had failed to crush out the truth by persecution, he again resorted to the same plan of compromise which had led to the great apostasy and the formation of the church of Rome. He induced Christians to ally themselves, not now with pagans, but with those who, by their worship of the god of this world, as truly proved themselves idolaters.

“Satan could no longer keep the Bible from the people; it had been placed within the reach of all. But he led thousands to accept false interpretations and unsound theories, without searching the Scriptures to learn the truth for themselves. He had corrupted the doctrines of the Bible, and traditions which were to ruin millions were taking deep root. The church was upholding and defending these traditions, instead of contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. And while wholly unconscious of their condition and their peril, the church and the world were rapidly approaching the most solemn and momentous period of earth's history--the period of the revelation of the Son of man [Millerite period].” {SR 353-355}

These people came out of Rome, in part but they still carried with them in their hearts the doctrines of the Papacy—Sunday Sacredness; the immortality of the soul; baptism of infants and many other false doctrines were carried out of Rome.

God sought to completely divide the line but man didn't come all the way out. So what does God need to do? He needs to cause another separation. What transpired? Turn to Revelation 17:8. We look in verse 5 and it talks about Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth and we know that Mystery Babylon is the Roman Papacy. The daughters are the harlot women are the Protestant churches that never fully came out of Rome. Speaking about this beast power, this Roman Papal power, the Bible says:

- Revelation 17:8 “The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

When John was having this vision the Beast had received its deadly wound in 1798 but it would rise again. The Bible says that the Roman Papacy received a deadly wound—it's lost its power. So what is this 'yet is' period? It's gone—but it's there; what does this mean? Why is God bringing in these things for us?

The Papacy received its deadly wound and lost its civil power—it lost its teeth—its power of government, but continued as a church. It went underground. And as the Protestants left and went over to the New World, the United States of America, it established a government; it established Protestantism; it established freedom of religion; but all the while Rome was still on the throne! “It Yet Is!” It was there when America started from the beginning. The Bible says about this new power:

NEW WORLD - 1798 TO 1844

- Revelation 13:11 “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”

Even with the papal beast power wounded in 1798, her doctrines were still carried to the new world. As the lamb-like beast of America grew in power [See Revelation 13:11], within it were carried the false teachings of Rome. A message of separation was needed that would arouse God’s faithful to action and again furnish the Lord with a group that He could call His own.

This two-horned beast we have always known in Adventism to be the USA. The two horns, symbols of its power were Protestantism and Republicanism—Church and State separate. But these individuals in Protestantism, the Bible says Romanism was still there—it was still there in their doctrines. The Reformation was not complete—so God had to bring another message in of Present Truth—another message of New Light for the time to divide again and complete the Reformation. Notice Daniel 8:14—as Seventh-day Adventists we should know this by heart, but we should also know what it means:

- Daniel 8:14 “And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”

The 2300 day prophecy—this was the message; this was the platform that would start this reformation again. William Miller began studying these things. This Deist, this individual who didn’t believe the Bible was inspired; this individual who thought that the Bible was just a collection of man’s theories and thoughts on a God that really didn’t care about you, began sitting down and methodically going through the Word of God—and saw that there was no discrepancy.

Brethren, he went from Genesis 1:1 and he went verse by verse, and only went as fast as he could understand. If he came to a word or phrase he didn’t quite understand, he would take a concordance and he would look up how that word was used in other verses in the entire Bible. When he got the understanding, he applied it there and continued to move forward. Many of us don’t study like that anymore, but we are told that these were divine ways of study—that angels directed his thoughts. Brethren; he came up with a system of understanding that all those who teach the 3rd angel’s message will be using.

This man began studying the Word of God and he came to this verse—came to this understanding and began developing it and finally he began preaching it. He began preaching this judgment hour message; this 1st angel’s message and it began going and going.

As it developed, people began shutting him off like they did John the Baptist and those who cut John off—what happened? They didn’t receive Christ. They didn’t benefit from Jesus. They didn’t benefit from the manifestation of the Holy Spirit—didn’t recognize what was going on in the heavenly sanctuary. Here we have the time period of the Millerites and Early Writings 260 says this:

“Many look with horror at the course of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ; and as they read the history of His shameful abuse, they think they

love Him, and would not have denied Him as did Peter, or crucified Him as did the Jews. But God who reads the hearts of all, has brought to the test that love for Jesus which they professed to feel. All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel's message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. ***Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place.***

The Millerite time period was a repetition of the time period of Jesus. The Ephesus church laid a foundation for the Philadelphian church. The same test was brought and the same outcome transpired. Those who rejected the first weren't benefited by the second. They weren't benefited by the Midnight Cry which was to point them to the Heavenly sanctuary. By rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they could see no light in the third which was to show the way into the Most Holy Place.

“I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there. Like the Jews, who offered their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left; and Satan, pleased with the deception, assumes a religious character, and leads the minds of these professed Christians to himself, working with his power, his signs and lying wonders, to fasten them in his snare. Some he deceives in one way, and some in another. He has different delusions prepared to affect different minds. Some look with horror upon one deception, while they readily receive another.” {EW 260.1}

The paragraph right before was the one where she started laying the platform about John being rejected—not benefitting by Jesus—not receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and not having an understanding of the heavenly sanctuary; and then she takes it to the Millerite history and shows the same, exact platform. You look at it and say that's good history, but what does it have to do with me?

Turn with me to the book of Revelation chapter 10: we're going to read through it and I'll make comments as we go along. Later we're going to go deeper into Revelation 10. The Bible says:

- Revelation 10:1-10 “And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the

sea, and his left foot on the earth, 3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.”

Remember we talked about this 2nd woe period, just briefly, and we showed the 391 years and 15 days. We talked about how it began July 27, 1449. the pioneers began to divvy this thing out and take it point by point and there was a man by the name of Josiah Litch, who in the year 1838 published in public press his understanding of the second woe—the 6th trumpet. He put out there to the world saying that in 1840 in August that Turkish Islam would fall.

Everybody looked at these individuals laughingly, and didn't understand how they could be so presumptuous. Remember the distress of nations with Europe and Islam—it was such a gigantic power—how could it fall? But these men were looking at Bible prophecy and wrote it out and showed how it would come.

On August 1st, Josiah Litch said that as he looked over it again he was convinced it would happen on August 11th 1840; he pin-pointed the event. The date came, the Ottoman Empire fell and a mighty power came into the movement of Adventism.

This mighty power that came into the movement is designated as an angel coming down from heaven with a little book open—what was this little book? Notice Daniel 12:

- Daniel 12:4 “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”
- Daniel 12:9 “And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

Now between the verses from 5-9 it is describing an Angel clothed in linen, feet upon the earth and the sea, raising His hands toward heaven and swearing that it would be for a time, times and a dividing of time.

John has a vision, and he sees in Revelation 10, this exact same Angel. We know it's the exact same Angel because the descriptions are the same. He's clothed with linen; His feet are on the sea and on the earth; one hand is to heaven now because the other hand is holding a little book.

The book that was sealed is the portions of Daniel's prophecy that related to the last days. The portion of Daniel's prophecy relating specifically to the last days was sealed up. But on August 11, 1840 this Angel descends prophetically with this little book open, showing that the book of Daniel was unsealed and the book of Daniel is what gave power to Adventism in the beginning. Turn back to Revelation 10:

This Angel begins to speak and when He cried it was like a lion's roar and there is only one individual who has the voice of a lion in Revelation and that is Jesus Christ—He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Sister White tells us that the mighty Angel who instructed John was no less a personage than Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ descended prophetically to His people and empowered the movement using the book of Daniel and when He cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

- 4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered,

and write them not. 5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

The first time He swore he said it should be for a 'time, times and dividing of times—now He says time no longer; this is the same Angel.

- 7 “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. 8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.”

Now, let's drop back; what are these seven thunders?

“The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a delineation of events which would transpire under the first and second angels' messages. It was not best for the people to know these things, for their faith must necessarily be tested. In the order of God most wonderful and advanced truths would be proclaimed. The first and second angels' messages were to be proclaimed, but no further light was to be revealed before these messages had done their specific work.” {7BC 971.6}

The everlasting gospel or judgment hour message was heralded in America by the Millerites and was used by God to bring about the needed separation and development of the two classes.

Now the Spirit of Prophecy is clear that the first angel's message can be pinpointed. Specifically she shows August 11, 1840-1844 is the 1st and 2nd angel's messages because the third comes on October 22, 1844. So in this small period of time, these Seven Thunders took place.

What was the 'specific work' these messages were to do? The reformation was not completed and God sent a message to cause separation. These things were covered up to the Millerites because they were tested on these things. If it were revealed to them, for example, if they knew that Jesus would not come to earth on October 22, 1844, would they have had a disappointment? Would they have had a bitter experience? It was sealed to them. The specific work of the first and second angel's message is to create a division. Now what does this have to do with us today?

Turn back to Revelation 10; John was told to take this little book and eat it, and the Angel specifically told him that something would happen—that in his mouth it would be sweet! As they studied the prophecy they thought that Jesus would come—what sweeter experience can you have than to know the day and the hour? But then October 22nd came and was it bitter? Yes it was!

Let me ask a question—did the Millerites know they would have a bitter experience? No they did not. But we always say in Adventism that John here was representing the Millerites in having this sweet then bitter experience. This is partly true; but did John know that it was going to be sweet in the mouth and bitter in the belly? Yes he did. Did the Millerites know that? No.

John more than anything represents you and me at the end of the world. Why can I say that? Because the Seven Thunders; the time period from August 11, 1840-October 22, 1844, is to be repeated.

1st with John Baptist and Jesus, then was repeated again under the Millerites; remember Those who rejected John, were not benefitted by Jesus, received no Holy Spirit and did not understand what was going on in the heavenly sanctuary.

Those who rejected the 1st angel's message given by William Miller, didn't understand the 2nd angel's message—weren't benefitted by it; didn't receive the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the Midnight Cry; and had no understanding what was going on in the heavenly sanctuary. The same platform—but it is to be repeated again, and you and I are to know it and when we know it—it's sweet, but the experience is going to be bitter.

Notice what is says in Bible Commentary 7 pg 971:

After these seven thunders uttered their voices, the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book: "Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered." These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order. Daniel shall stand in his lot at the end of the days. John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel's prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels' messages to be given to the world. The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time. {7BC 971.4}

She first says these relate to the time period of the Millerites in the 1st and 2nd angel's messages and it was sealed up, it wasn't best for them to know these things; and then she says they also relate to future events that will be disclosed—or revealed in their order.

The book of Daniel was sealed up—but it was unsealed right before the probation closed on the foolish virgins. The only thing that is sealed up in the book of Revelation is the Seven Thunders, but prophecy say that before probation's close, something else would be unsealed. Notice Revelation 22:10; notice the Bible says that something was to be unsealed right before probation closes and there is only one other thing sealed and it's the Seven Thunders.

- Revelation 22:10 "And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 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. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

When Jesus gives those words, probation is done and closed for all mankind, but before it transpires—something else is unsealed. It's not sealed, before, it said seal it up and then He says, No, don't seal it—the time is at hand. God is revealing something to us today and it's based on the platform of the Gospel—Jesus' time period and the disci-

ples. It's based on the same platform of the Millerites—and that was the Gospel and you and I are to repeat it to the very, very letter. Great Controversy pg. 426.

“In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," was given.”

When God gave this distinctive Present Truth message to the Millerites, two groups were formed, and prophecy shows them clearly to be the wise and the foolish virgins. When were they designated wise and foolish? How could you tell who was wise and who was foolish? When would it transpire?

“In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed--one class who looked with joy to the Lord's appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of *the grace of God*. In the parable, when the bridegroom came, "they that were ready went in with him to the marriage." The coming of the bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage.”

The class known as the “wise virgins” developed into what is known today as the Seventh-day Adventist church. Yet prophecy foretells of a final cleansing within this church, based on “new light”, and the development of a special group known in prophecy as the 144,000.

In our last presentation we went through Daniel 7 and saw how Jesus Christ, the Son of man came before the Ancient of Days, and that this took place on October 22, 1844. We read the statement where she said that this was the marriage. This was when He was receiving the kingdom—so before that time two classes were already developed. It wasn't designated then, it was designated before.

Brethren, if these things repeat to the very letter—and they will—therefore before probation closes on the church at the Sunday Law—and it will, the two classes will already be designated. The Sunday law could happen tomorrow.

You and I are sitting here tonight and by our choices are designating whether we will be a wise or foolish virgin. You don't have until the Sunday Law to make that decision. The two classes are developing right now. They are developing on how you receive Present Truth.

Present Truth is not a good theory. It's not something that compliments the Gospel. It IS the Gospel! It is the Everlasting Gospel. It is the one that's to bring to culmination and fulfillment, so that Moses and Elijah and Daniel and everyone that perished then can receive the promise. It's to develop the people so that they can receive the promise.

Brethren, we need to make some decisions. These are not things that we can toy around with. I'm telling you, I know how the devil works—so many years some of you might have been hearing these things. For so many years God might have been trying to unfold these truths to you and conviction takes hold, but then you try to find a flaw with it because you don't want to follow it. You don't want to follow what you know is

true so you look for a flaw here and a flaw there and you pose questions that have no bearing whatsoever to this message. And because you're not satisfied with how this message is or how your question is answered, you say "well, I'm not satisfied with that one", and you feel you have a way out. You think that somehow God has a back door that you can mosey out.

Brethren this message is not built upon a message that has cracks in it. This message is built upon a platform that has been laid from generation to generation to generation. Jesus lived the platform. The Millerites lived the platform. Moses in the Exodus was the platform. It's the same exact history playing itself again and again, and because of that I know that this is not the devising of man! There is no human being in the world that could somehow conjure these themes—it's impossible! No human being, no computer on earth, no program, can put these things together in such a way.

Jesus is the Author of history. Jesus Christ has moved kings and taken down kings and set up kings to accomplish His purpose in you—why reject it? Why look upon it and say, well it may or may not be true? Maybe these brethren are correct. Maybe this false deviation from Daniel 11:40-45 is the right way to go.

Brethren; it's not! And I told you what the deviation was—and there are many—one is to say that the Glorious Land is the church and I don't care who preaches it; I don't care who teaches it—you can't substantiate it by the platform. When people step off the platform. . . Let me read a statement:

"I was shown three steps-- the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received. . . God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. " Early Writings 260

These three steps are the platform and if we step off the platform we jump ship! We make a shipwreck of faith. All the powerful preachers in the world can preach it; all the powerful ministries in the world can further it; they can set up churches here and churches there; they can have followers all over the world and it doesn't make it true! But a few—a few will stick on that strait and narrow road. While the many will be knocking on the closed door—"Lord I prophesied in your name! I was teaching these things!"

"No you weren't—I never knew you!"

Brethren, God has a message for us and the platform is laid throughout history. To make this message even more clear in the next presentation we will go over this separation of classes in yet a different way. Then we will look to the culmination of Jesus teaching in Luke 21—the Latter Rain; what is it? When is it? Why is it?

We need to have the experience of Paul—everywhere Paul went there was either a revival or a riot—there was no middle ground! May none of us step off the platform because of popularity or because the 'leading brethren' won't accept it. We each must bear the cross alone by the Grace of Christ!