

MAY 18TH
Jeff Pippenger

THE MESSAGE

“While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, **let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time.** Let us **show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.**

“God calls upon us to **awake**, for the end is near. Every passing hour is one of activity in the heavenly courts to make ready a people upon the earth to act a part in the great scenes that are soon to open upon us. These passing moments, that seem of so little value to us, are weighty with eternal interests. They are molding the destiny of souls for everlasting life or eternal death. The words we utter today in the ears of the people, the works we are doing, the spirit of the message we are bearing, will be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

“My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, **depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us?** Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us of **preparing for the approaching crisis.**” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 714–716.

A TEST

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided. Your position is such a jumble of inconsistencies that but few will be deceived.

“In Revelation 13 this subject is plainly presented; [Revelation 13:11–17, quoted].

“This is **the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed.** All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 15, 15.

“Many who went forth to meet the Bridegroom under the messages of the **first and second** angels, refused the third, **the last testing message** to be given to the world, and a similar position will be taken when the last call is made.

“**Every specification of this parable should be carefully studied.** We are represented either by the wise or by the foolish virgins.” *Review and Herald*, October 31, 1899.

A CORRECT INTERPRETATION

“In contrast to those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus, the third angel points to another class, against whose errors **a solemn and fearful warning is uttered**: ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.’ Revelation 14:9, 10. **A correct interpretation of the symbols employed is necessary to an understanding of this message.** What is represented by the beast, the image, the mark?” *The Great Controversy*, 438.

THE PORTION OF DANIEL

“Let none think, because they cannot explain the meaning of every symbol in the Revelation, that it is useless for them to search this book in an effort to know the meaning of the truth it contains. The One who revealed these mysteries to John will give to the diligent searcher for truth a foretaste of heavenly things. Those whose hearts are open to the reception of truth **will be enabled to understand its teachings, and will be granted the blessing promised to those who ‘hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.**”

“In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the **complement** of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but **that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days.** The angel commanded, ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.’ Daniel 12:4.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 584, 585.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the Lord answered me, and said, **Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables**, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:1–4.

Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: **Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.** And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward. 2 Corinthians 3:2–4.

THE SEALING MESSAGE

“I then saw **the third angel.** Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat **from** the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.’” *Early Writings*, 119.

“The Lord is about to reveal the difference between the **righteous** and the **wicked**; for his **‘fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor**, and gather his wheat into his garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’” *Review and Herald*, November 8, 1892.

“‘Whose **fan** is in His hand, and He will throughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner.’ Matthew 3:12. This was one of the times of purging. **By the words of truth, the chaff was being separated from the wheat.** Because they were too vain and self-righteous to receive reproof, too world-loving to accept a life of humility, many turned away from Jesus. Many are still doing the same thing. **Souls are tested today as were those disciples in the synagogue at Capernaum.** When truth is brought home to the heart, they see that their lives are not in accordance with the will of God. They see the need of an entire change in themselves; but they are not willing to take up the self-denying work. Therefore they are angry when their sins are discovered. They go away offended, **even as** the disciples left Jesus, murmuring, ‘This is an hard saying; who can hear it?’” *The Desire of Ages*, 392.

TESTED BY THE WORD

“**Today** souls are being **tested and tried**, and many are passing over **the same ground trodden by those who forsook Christ.** When **tested by the Word**, they reject the divine Teacher. When rebuked because their lives are not in harmony with truth and righteousness, they turn from the Saviour; and **their decision**, like that of the offended disciples, **is never reversed.** They walk no more with Christ. **Thus are the words fulfilled**, ‘Whose fan is in His hand, and He will throughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner.’” *Signs of the Times*, May 15, 1901.

“**We are going to be greatly scattered before long, and what we do must be done quickly.**” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 535.

“**The time is coming when we shall be separated and scattered**, and each one of us will have to stand without the privilege of communion with those of like precious faith; and how can you stand unless God is by your side, and you know that he is leading and guiding you?” *Review and Herald*, March 25, 1890.

PAGAN ROME

Verses 16 through 31

PAPAL ROME

Verses 31 through 40

MODERN ROME

Verses 40 through 45