

## June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Sabbath Presentation

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“Whatever may be man’s intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no need of **thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light**. As a people **we are called individually** to be **students** of prophecy.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 708.

“It does not seem possible to us now that any should have to **stand alone**; but **if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come** when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for his name’s sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. We need, then, to study the word of God, **that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate**. We must **critically search** the living oracles of Jehovah.” *Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888.

“**The members of the church will individually be tested and proved**. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, **perhaps separately and alone**. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 463.

“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.

## Verses forty to forty-five

The beginning—the deadly wound

The ending—the final deadly wound

## 1989: Chapter 12—The Three Angels and the Other Angel

“The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages has been located by the Word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. The Old Testament is the gospel in figures and symbols. The New Testament is the substance. One is as essential as the other. The Old Testament presents lessons from the lips of Christ, and these lessons have not lost their force in any particular.

“The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel’s message. There cannot be a third without the first and second. These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been and the things that will be.

“The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but **that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days.** The Scripture says, ‘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 12:4). When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, ‘Time shall be no longer.’ (See Revelation 10:6.) The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. **By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.**

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters’ ( Revelation 14:6, 7).

“This message, if heeded, will call the attention of every nation and kindred and tongue and people to a close examination of the Word, and to the true light in regard to the power that has changed the seventh-day Sabbath to a spurious sabbath. The only true God has been forsaken, His law has been discarded, His sacred Sabbath institution has been trampled in the dust by the man of sin. The fourth commandment, so plain and explicit, has been ignored. The Sabbath memorial, declaring who the living God is, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, has been torn down, and a spurious sabbath has been given to the world in its place. Thus a breach has been made in the law of God. A false sabbath could not be a true standard.

“In the first angel’s message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have **paid homage to an institution of the Papacy**, making of **no effect the law of Jehovah**, but there is to be **an increase of knowledge on this subject.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 104–106.

## Prepared—post first disappointment

“The **believers in this message were oppressed in the churches**. For a time, those who would not receive the message were restrained by fear from acting out the sentiments of their hearts; but **the passing of the time** revealed their true feelings. They wished to silence the testimony which the waiting ones felt compelled to bear, **that the prophetic periods extended to 1844**. With clearness the believers explained their **mistake** and gave the reasons why they expected their Lord in 1844. Their opposers could bring no arguments against the powerful reasons offered. Yet the anger of the churches was kindled; **they were determined not to listen to evidence, and to shut the testimony out of the churches, so the others could not hear it**. Those who dared not withhold from others the light which God had given them, **were shut out of the churches**; but Jesus was with them, and they were joyful in the light of His countenance. They were **prepared** to receive the message of the second angel.” *Early Writings*, 237.

## The Same Work

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive **the former rain**. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by **the latter rain**. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the

human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that **the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now.** Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. **But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.**" *Testimonies to Ministers*, 507.

"The **refreshing** or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**" *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 33.

## Progressive

"**The purification of God's people cannot be accomplished without suffering.** God permits the fire of affliction to consume the dross, to separate the worthless from the valuable, in order that the pure metal may shine forth. **He passes us from one fire to another,** testing our true worth. True grace is willing to be tried. If we are loath to be searched by the Lord, our condition is one of peril. God is the refiner and purifier of souls. He places us in the heat of the furnace, that the dross may be forever separated from the true gold of Christian character. Jesus watches the test. He knows just what fire of temptation and trial is needed to purify the precious metal, in order that the radiance of divine love may be reflected.

"It is by close, **testing trials** that God brings his people near to himself; for in trial and temptation he discovers to them their weakness, and teaches them to lean upon him as their only help and safeguard. When this result is attained, his object is accomplished, and his tried servants are **prepared** to be used in every emergency, to fill important positions of trust, and to accomplish the grand purposes for which their powers were given them. God takes men upon trial, and he proves them upon the right hand and upon the left, until they are educated, trained, and disciplined for his use." *Review and Herald*, April 10, 1894.

"What is justification by faith? It is **the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.** When men see their

own nothingness, they are **prepared** to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. When they begin to praise and exalt God all the day long, then by beholding they are becoming changed into the same image. What is regeneration? It is revealing to man what is his own real nature, that in himself he is worthless.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 20, 117.

## Two Golden Pipes

“Just as long as those who profess the truth are serving Satan, his hellish shadow will cut off their views of God and heaven. They will be as those who have lost their first love. They cannot view eternal realities. **That which God has prepared for us is represented in Zechariah**, chapters 3 and 4, and 4:12–14: ‘And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my Lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.’

“The Lord is full of resources. He has no lack of facilities. It is because of our lack of faith, our earthliness, our cheap talk, our unbelief, manifested in our conversation, that dark shadows gather about us. Christ is not revealed in word or character as the One altogether lovely, and the chiefest among ten thousand. When the soul is content to lift itself up unto vanity, the Spirit of the Lord can do little for it. Our shortsighted vision beholds the shadow, but cannot see the glory beyond. **Angels are holding the four winds, represented as an angry horse seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path.**

“Shall we **sleep** on the very verge of the eternal world? Shall we be **dull and cold and dead? Oh, that we might have in our churches the Spirit and breath of God breathed into His people, that they might stand upon their feet and live.** We need to see that the way is narrow, and the gate strait. But as we pass through the strait gate, its wideness is without limit.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 20, 216, 217.

“The anointed ones standing by the Lord of the whole earth, have the position once given to Satan as covering cherub. By **the holy beings surrounding his throne**, the Lord keeps up a **constant communication** with the inhabitants of the earth. The golden oil represents the grace with which God keeps the lamps of believers supplied, that they shall not flicker and go out. Were it not that this holy oil is poured from heaven in **the messages of God’s Spirit**, the agencies of evil would have entire control over men.

“God is dishonored when we do not receive **the communications** which he sends us. **Thus we refuse the golden oil** which he would pour into our souls **to be communicated to those in darkness.** When the call shall come, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ those who have not received the holy oil, who have not cherished the grace of Christ in their hearts, will find, like the foolish virgins, that they are not ready to meet their Lord. They have

not, in themselves, the power to obtain the oil, and their lives are wrecked. But if God's Holy Spirit is asked for, if we plead, as did Moses, 'Show me thy glory,' the love of God will be shed abroad in our hearts. **Through the golden pipes, the golden oil will be communicated to us.** 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.' By receiving the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, God's children shine as lights in the world." *Review and Herald*, July 20, 1897.

**"The great issue near at hand** will weed out those whom God has not appointed and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry **prepared** for the latter rain." *Selected Messages*, book 3, 385.

"As God's people approach **the final crisis**, they must with increasing power proclaim the message He has given them. The warning must be given to the churches. God's requirements must be laid before those who are transgressing His law. They must be made to understand that this is a life and death question. God's remnant people are to fill the earth with the cry of the third angel." *Review and Herald*, July 16, 1901.

"God would have his people **prepared** for the soon-coming crisis. **Prepared or unprepared**, we must all meet it. Only those whose characters are thoroughly disciplined to meet the divine standard will be able to stand firm in that testing time. But **when** enemies shall be on every side, watching them for evil, the God of Heaven will be watching his precious jewels for good. **When** secular rulers unite with the ministers of religion to come between God and our conscience, **then** those who cherish the fear of God will be revealed. **When** the darkness is deepest, then the light of a noble, Godlike character will shine the brightest. **When** every other trust fails, **then** it will be seen who have an abiding trust in God." *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 252.

"VERSE 13. For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and much riches.'

The events predicted in this verse were to occur 'after certain years.' The peace concluded between Ptolemy Philopater and Antiochus lasted fourteen years. Meanwhile Ptolemy died from intemperance and debauchery, and was succeeded by his son, Ptolemy Epiphanes, a child then four or five years old. Antiochus, during the same time, having suppressed rebellion in his kingdom, and reduced and settled the eastern parts in their obedience, was at leisure for any enterprise when young Epiphanes came to the throne of Egypt; and thinking this too good an opportunity for enlarging his dominion to be let slip, he raised an immense army 'greater than the former' (for he had collected many forces and acquired great riches in his eastern expedition), and set out against Egypt, expecting to have an easy victory over the infant king. How he succeeded we shall presently see; for here new complications enter into the affairs of these kingdoms, and **new actors are introduced** upon the stage of history.

“‘VERSE 14. And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.’

“**Antiochus** was not the only one who rose up against the infant Ptolemy. **Agathocles**, his prime minister, having possession of the king's person, and conducting the affairs of the kingdom in his stead, was so dissolute and proud in the exercise of his power that the provinces which before were subject to Egypt rebelled; Egypt itself was disturbed by seditions; and the **Alexandrians**, rising up against Agathocles, caused him, his sister, his mother, and their associates, to be put to death. At the same time, **Philip, king of Macedon**, entered into a league with Antiochus to divide the dominions of Ptolemy between them, each proposing to take the parts which lay nearest and most convenient to him. Here was a rising up against the king of the south sufficient to fulfil the prophecy, and the very events, beyond doubt, which the prophecy intended.

“A new power is now introduced,—‘the robbers of thy people;’ literally, says Bishop Newton, ‘the breakers of thy people.’ Far away on the banks of the Tiber, a kingdom had been nourishing itself with ambitious projects and dark designs. Small and weak at first, it grew with marvelous rapidity in strength and vigor, reaching out cautiously here and there to try its prowess, and test the vigor of its warlike arm, till, conscious of its power, it boldly reared its head among the nations of the earth, and seized with invincible hand the helm of their affairs. Henceforth the name of Rome stands upon the historic page, destined for long ages to control the affairs of the world, and exert a mighty influence among the nations even to the end of time.”

“Rome spoke; and Syria and Macedonia soon found a change coming over the aspect of their dream. The Romans interfered in behalf of the young king of Egypt, determined that he should be protected from the ruin devised by Antiochus and Philip. This was B.C.200, and was one of the first important interferences of the Romans in the affairs of Syria and Egypt. Rollin furnishes the following succinct account of this matter.” Uriah Smith, *Daniel and the Revelation*, 255, 256.

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.

This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them**. Hebrews 10:16.

**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 **fleshy tables of the heart**. 2 Corinthians 3:2, 3.