

Leaves of Life

Tree of Life Ministries

Edition 18

The Structure Part 7

The Sealing



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“He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to **draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand.**”

“And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; and the Lord said unto him, **Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry** for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, **Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.**”

“Jesus is about to leave the mercy seat of the heavenly sanctuary to put on garments of vengeance and pour out His wrath in judgments **upon those who have not responded to the light God has given them.** ‘Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.’ Instead of being softened by the patience and long forbearance that the Lord has exercised toward them, **those who fear not God and love not the truth strengthen their hearts in their evil course.** But there are limits even to the forbearance of God, and **many are exceeding these boundaries.** They have overrun the limits of grace, and therefore God must interfere and vindicate His own honor.

“Of the Amorites the Lord said: ‘**In the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.**’ Although this nation was conspicuous because of its idolatry and corruption, it had not yet filled up the cup of its iniquity, and God would not give command for its utter destruction. **The people were to see the divine power manifested in a marked manner, that they might be left without excuse.** The compassionate Creator was willing to bear with their iniquity until the fourth generation. **Then, if no change was seen for the better, His judgments were to fall upon them.**” {*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, P. 207, 208*}

Tree of Life Ministries

Tree of Life Ministries is a self-supporting, non-profit, Seventh-day Adventist ministry, which was officially registered in Germany in 2016. At present, the majority of its members are based in Austria.

Our mission is to prepare Seventh-day Adventists for the soon-coming crisis and to teach the everlasting gospel of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 through seminars, video productions and written publications. We believe that we are living in the last generation, for whom the entire Bible has been written. Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. The different stories in the Bible typify events that will take place at the end of the world. History will repeat itself. We must study the scriptures "line upon line" in light of their prophetic application to the final generation. This constitutes the "present truth" for this time, which is needed to prepare the church to receive the "latter rain." By understanding the spiritual application of these histories, we are to learn "righteousness by faith."

Leaves of Life is a present truth periodical, which is mainly compiled and edited by Mark Bruce.

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Introduction

In our last edition, we looked at the “New Birth” and how it is the process by which Christ imbues us with His Spirit, combining the human with the divine. We came to understand that although it is something Christ does for us at the beginning of our Christian experience, the process is far from finished. Christ, whom we know is the Alpha and Omega, teaches us that it is a process that leads down to our final test, where if we pass this test by faith, we can truly say that we have been “born again” for eternity.

In this edition I would like for us to look at the “sealing” and to understand, that it, like the “new birth,” is also a process that begins at the same point prophetically, where we have our first birth experience, at Midnight point B.

The Sealing Message

The event which began on the 21st February 1848, Sister White explains to us was a representation of the shaking of the angry nations, or the shaking of the earth as it is also known. According to Matthew 24, Luke 21 and Mark 13, this event typified the Sunday Law crisis, where the deadly wound will be healed.

“December 16, 1848, the Lord gave me a view of the shaking of the powers of the heavens. I saw that when the Lord said “heaven,” in giving the signs recorded by **Matthew, Mark, and Luke,** He meant heaven, and when He said “earth,” He meant earth. The powers of heaven are the sun, moon, and stars. They rule in the heavens. **The powers of earth are those that rule on the earth.** The powers of heaven will be shaken at the voice of God. Then the sun, moon, and stars will be moved out of their places. They will not pass away, but be shaken by the voice of God.

“Dark heavy clouds came up, and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back; then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God. The holy city will come down through that open space. **I saw that the powers of earth are now being shaken, and that events come in order. War, and rumors of war, sword, famine, and pestilence are first to shake the powers of earth,** then the voice of God will shake the sun, moon, and stars, and this earth also. I saw that the shaking of the powers in Europe is not, as some teach, the shaking of the powers of heaven, **but it is the shaking of the angry nations.**” {*Christian Experience and Teachings*, P. 111, par. 1, 2}

During this event, it was understood by Seventh Day Adventists that this was the time for the sealing message of Revelation 10 to be given, which we have understood parallels the baptism of Christ. Therefore, we already have another witness that agrees with our prophetic model, marking the baptism in line with the first temple cleansing, or the Sunday law crisis, at Midnight point B. However, the First Day Adventists thought it to be the final battle, marking the shaking of the heavens and the earth. Hence the quote

above was given to correct their error. J.N. Loughborough writes about this event in the following quote.

“Many of the Adventist ministers who had not as yet heard of the third angel’s message, saw this confusion, and supposed it must be the rallying of the nations for “the battle of the great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:13-15.

“Just at this time the Seventh-day Adventists were learning from the Scriptures that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment was the sign, or seal, of the living God, and that the time had arrived for the proclamation of the sealing message of Revelation 10:1-4, and they were devising ways and means of getting this message before the people. While the Seventh-day people were preparing for this work, the First-day Adventists were saying, ‘You are too late with your sealing message, for the battle of the great day and the Lord’s actual coming are right upon us.’” {*The Great Second Advent Movement, P. 272, par. 1, 2*}

In this next quote, also written by J.N. Loughborough, we read that those Seventh Day Adventists at that time, who were diligent students of prophecy, were also understanding that this sealing message of Revelation chapter 10, was also paralleled to Revelation chapter 7.

“It was not until the year 1848 that those advocating the third angel’s message had their attention especially called to the seventh chapter of Revelation-to the sealing work. As they prayerfully studied this subject, they saw a message to go forth bearing the sign (seal) of the living God to the world. Exodus 31:13, 17 Ezekiel 20:12, 20. This message was to prepare a people to stand when the great day of the Lord’s wrath should come. Just as this truth was clearly unfolding to their minds, and their hearts were becoming imbued with the spirit of it, the great confusion of 1848, among the principalities, kingdoms, and empires of Europe, broke out, beginning with the riot in Paris on February 22. About the same time the “spirit rappings” began in the state of New York. The time-setting Adventists thought then they surely had evidence that the Lord was immediately to come. Said they, “The battle of the great day is to be the end of the commotion.” What better proof could they have? Spirits of devils were to gather the nations to that final conflict, and here were the spirits already going forth. **The Seventh-day Adventists viewed the situation differently; “For,” said they, “a sealing message is to do its work in preparing a people to stand when the nations shall be angered, and God’s wrath at last comes.”**

“The first-day Adventists, who were continually setting the time for the Lord to come, made light of the Sabbath message and the small company who were to deliver it, and one of their leaders said to them, ‘It will take 144,000 years to accomplish the work you contemplate.’ However, the humble few were not disheartened. They were only reminded of the difficulties experienced by the Israelites, when, in their poverty and weakness, they were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. ‘If a fox,’ said their enemies, tauntingly, ‘go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.’ And, like them, they cried, ‘Hear, O our God; for we are despised.’ Nehemiah 4:3, 4. **The belief was strong that the third angel’s message and the sealing work was the truth of God, to be heralded to the**

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world; but the question was, How can it be done? With the thought of publishing in mind, without the means with which to do the work, Brethren Bates and White, Mrs. White, and a few others, met in Dorchester, Mass., Nov. 18, 1848, to engage in prayer for divine guidance-to inquire of One who knows the end from the beginning how to publish the truth. **The Lord graciously heard, and gave light.**

“It was a fact that the winds of war and strife were about to be loosened for the final conflict; but the Lord in mercy commissioned His angels to **‘hold the winds’** (keep back the battle of the great day) **until the sealing of God’s servants should be accomplished.** This Sabbath message, so small in its beginning, was to rise in strength and power, like the rising of the sun.

“The commission was given to publish the truth to the world, with the assurance that the blessing of God would attend the effort...” {*Last Day Tokens, P.198-200*}

In line with this event that prefigures the Sunday law crisis, I would also like us to notice as was mentioned in the quote above, that **“about the same time the “spirit rappings” began in the state of New York.”** Sister White clearly places the spirit rappings at the Sunday law crisis, when we bring these things together line upon line.

The Power of God

“August 24, 1850, I saw that the **‘mysterious rapping’** was the power of **Satan**; some of it was directly from him, and **some indirectly, through his agents, but it all proceeded from Satan.** It was his work that he accomplished in different ways; yet many in the churches and the world were so enveloped in gross darkness that **they thought and held forth that it was the power of God.** Said the angel, ‘Should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?’ Should the living go to the dead for knowledge? The dead know not anything. For the living God do ye go to the dead? They have departed from the living God to converse with the dead who know not anything. See Isaiah 8:19, 20.

“I saw that soon it would be considered blasphemy to speak against the rapping, and that it would spread more and more, that **Satan's power would increase,** and **some of his devoted followers would have power to work miracles, and even to bring down fire from heaven in the sight of men.** I was shown that by the rapping and mesmerism, **these modern magicians** would yet account for all the miracles wrought by our Lord Jesus Christ, and that many would believe that all the mighty works of the Son of God when on earth were accomplished by this same power. When this view was given, spiritualism had but just arisen and was small; there were but few mediums. Since that time it has spread all over the world, and counts its adherents by many millions. As a general thing, spiritualists have denied the Bible and derided Christianity. Individuals have, at different times, deplored this, and protested against it, but they were so few that no attention was paid to them. In later years spiritualists have changed their method, and **many call themselves ‘Christian Spiritualists,’** declaring that it will not answer to ignore religion, and affirming that they have the true Christian faith. Bearing in mind, also, that **many prominent clergymen are in sympathy with spiritualism,** we now see the way open for the complete fulfillment of this prediction, given in 1850. **I was pointed back to the time of Moses, and**

saw the signs and wonders which God wrought through him before Pharaoh, most of which were imitated by the magicians of Egypt; and that just before the final deliverance of the saints, God would work powerfully for His people, and **these modern magicians would be permitted to imitate the work of God.** {*Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 168. Par. 1, 2*}

The Bringing down of fire from heaven is marked in Revelation 13.

“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.** And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And **he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,** And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, **that they should make an image to the beast,** which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” (Revelation 13:11-14)

According to Christ, when the shaking of the earth begins, marking the Sunday law crisis, there will be many “false christ’s,” arising who will deceive many people with lying wonders. This was the same work that “Jannes” and “Jambres” (Pharaoh’s magicians) did, when Moses stood before Pharaoh, marking the same waymark prophetically upon our line.

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**” (Matthew 24:4-5)

“Now **as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth:** men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” (2 Timothy 3:8)

When Job had his first test, marking also the same waymark, it was likewise claimed by the people that it was the power of God, when in fact it was the power of Satan, which the Lord allowed.

“While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, **The fire of God is fallen from heaven,** and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.” (Job 1:16)

Therefore, at the same time the Deadly wound is healed, when the Sunday law decree will be put in place, it also marks the point where Satan’s agents, both internal and external, will manifest great power to deceive.

“For such are **false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers **also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness**; whose end shall be according to their works.” (2Co 11:13-15)

When these events begin to take place, which are the work of Satan, to counter the work of God, the Lord will hold back the winds of strife, to allow the sealing message to do its work.

Four Winds Held in Check

“The final overthrow of all earthly dominions is plainly foretold in the word of truth. In the prophecy uttered when sentence from God was pronounced upon the last king of Israel is given the message:

“Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: ... exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. **I will overturn, overturn, overturn**, it: and it shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’ Ezekiel 21:26, 27.

“The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome**. God says, ‘It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’

“**That time is at hand**. Today **the signs of the times** declare that **we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events**. Everything in our world is in agitation. **Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars... Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom’**: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.’ Matthew 24:6, 7.

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that **something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis**.

“**Angels are now restraining the winds of strife**, that they may not blow **until the world shall be warned of its coming doom**; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth; and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.

“The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. **Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world**, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men’s hearts to fail them for fear.” { *Education, P. 179, 180*}

As we read in the above quote, the time prophesied by Christ, marking the shaking of the Earth at Midnight point B, caused by the fact that a Sunday law has been made, which was typified in February 1848, also marks the point where the four winds are held to allow the sealing message to go forward.

“This view was given in 1847 when there were but very few of the Advent brethren observing the Sabbath, and of these but few supposed that its observance was of sufficient importance **to draw a line between the people of God and unbelievers.** Now the fulfillment of that view is beginning to be seen. ‘The commencement of that time of trouble,’ here mentioned does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. **At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check** so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. **At that time the ‘latter rain,’ or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel,** and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” {*Early Writings, P. 85, par. 3*}

As we have already shown in other editions, this is the perfect fulfilment of “the time of the end,” which marks the point where church and state unite.

“We are living in the time of the end, a time crowded with **events in process of fulfillment,** all working to bring about that great day when Christ shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. The last years of probation are fast closing. **The signs of the times—the wars and rumors of wars,** the strikes, murders, robberies, and accidents—**tell us that the end of all things is at hand.** Who can doubt the truth of the prophet's words. ‘**The wicked shall do wickedly:** and none of the wicked shall understand’? Many of the inhabitants of the world **have given themselves into Satan's control. They cooperate with him, helping him to carry out his plans against the government of God.** Under his guidance, men have lost their horror of bloodshed and murder.” {*Review and Herald, May 13, 1902, Art. A, par. 9*}

“We are living in the time of the end. Thrones and churches have united to oppose God's purposes. The association of man with man, which God designed should be a means of strengthening goodness and happiness, is used as **a means of strengthening evil and of developing tendencies to rebellion.** Men have assumed despotic power, and **human laws have been put in the place of the law of God.**” {*Review and Herald, December 15, 1904, par. 1*}

As we read, when these events take place, the four winds will be held to allow the third angel to go forward. This is what was prefigured in 1848, hence the pioneers of the SDA Church, understood and recognised the prophecy of Revelation 7 was being fulfilled.

“I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and **were on their way to accomplish it.** Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, **‘My blood, Father, My blood! My blood! My blood!’** Then I saw **an exceeding bright light** come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel fly with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do in the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, **‘Hold! hold!**

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hold! hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads." {*Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 102, par. 1*}

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, **having the seal of the living God**: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**" (Revelation 7:1-3)

"I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**' Revelation 7:2, 3.

"Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. **The nations are angry**, and great preparations for war are being made. **Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.** The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that **they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.**

As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation!" {*Maranatha, P. 243, par. 1-3*}

What are the Four Winds?

The four winds are a combination of several different things. This next quote that we will look at, explains to us that the four winds are a representation of different natural disasters.

"The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. **Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land**, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. **The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God**, are attributed to any other than the true cause. **Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds** that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, **there shall be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.**" {*Christian Service, P. 52, par. 1*}

Earlier, we read in another quote, that the four winds represents the angry nations being held.

"...At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and **the nations will be angry, yet held in check** so as not to prevent the work of the third angel..." {*Early Writings, P. 85, par. 3*}

However, it is this last quote that I would like for us to focus on; it explains to us that Islam being restrained is also a representation of the four winds being held.

“...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...” {*Manuscript Releases, Volume 20, P.216, par. 6*}

The Angry Horse

It is an established understanding, that Islam (The angry horse of Bible prophecy) is the power that has been raised up to punish Rome, represented by those who receive the mark of the Beast. It is the power that is symbolised by a horse that kills and destroys.

“And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men... And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.” (Revelation 9:7,11)

Rome, Babylon, Tyre, Assyria, Nineveh, Jericho, Sodom, the Philistines etc, depending upon context, are all symbols of the powers that comprise the threefold union at the end of the world. We must understand Satan’s battle plan, which is through this threefold union, to deceive as many people as possible into receiving the mark of the Beast. He will do this firstly by deception, or thereafter by force if necessary.

“Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. Force is the last resort of every false religion. At first it tries attraction, as the king of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. **If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. So it will be now.** The papacy has exercised her power to compel men to obey her, and she will continue to do so. We need the same spirit that was manifested by God's servants in the conflict with paganism (The Signs of the Times, May 6, 1897).” {*SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7, P. 976, par. 9*}

Either way, Satan hopes to ensnare the majority of the world’s population into worshipping him. It states very plainly and forcibly, that all those who receive the Mark of the Beast, will be “tormented with fire and brimstone,” that “their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever.” When we understand that this “fire and brimstone” that torments us, is a symbol for the punishment by Islam, then we can also understand that once Satan causes you to receive the mark of the Beast, he then has the God given right to destroy you.

“And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as

the heads of lions; and **out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone**. By these three was the third part of men killed, **by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.**" (Revelation 9:17-18)

This he will do according to his own necessity. The three-fold union and Islam, are both Satanic powers that are being used by him to achieve his goals, both have their part to play in his plan.

Let us understand that this has been chronicled in the prophetic testimony so that we can understand that the consequences of our sin, the seven last plagues, is being prefigured by the work of Islam.

The Consequences of Sin

Through Abraham the Lord had said He would bring forth the promised seed.

"And Abram said, **Behold, to me thou hast given no seed**: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, **This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.**" (Genesis 15:3-4)

However, after initially believing the promise, through time, Abraham gave way to doubt. The result of his doubt led Abraham to sin against God, where he listened to his wife (The Church) over and above the voice of God.

"And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. **And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.**" (Genesis 16:2)

The consequences of this sin resulted in the Birth of Ishmael.

"And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, **and shalt call his name Ishmael**; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. And **he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him**; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." (Genesis 16:11-12)

We can see the fulfilment of the promise given to Abraham, in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus, who represents the wise, received the promise, whereas the rich man, who was now unable to cross the Chasm, received his just rewards and was tormented.

"And it came to pass, that **the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom**: the rich man also died, and was buried; And **in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his

finger in water, and cool my tongue; **for I am tormented in this flame**. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: **but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented**. And beside all this, **between us and you there is a great gulf fixed**: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.” (Luke 16:22-26)

Therefore, it is imperative that we understand Satan’s intentions so that we will not be deceived and receive this terrible punishment.

Satan’s Battle Plan

“**D**uring the Christian dispensation, the great enemy of man's happiness has made the Sabbath of the fourth commandment an object of special attack. Satan says, ‘I will work at cross purposes with God. **I will empower my followers to set aside God's memorial, the seventh-day Sabbath**. Thus I will show the world that the day sanctified and blessed by God **has been changed**. That day shall not live in the minds of the people. I will obliterate the memory of it. **I will place in its stead a day that does not bear the credentials of God**, a day that cannot be a sign between God and His people. **I will lead those who accept this day to place upon it the sanctity that God placed upon the seventh day.**’

“**Through my vicegerent, I will exalt myself**. The first day will be extolled, and **the Protestant world will receive this spurious sabbath as genuine**. Through the non-observance of the Sabbath that God instituted, I will bring His law into contempt. The words, ‘A sign between Me and you throughout your generations,’ I will make to serve on the side of my sabbath.’

“**Thus the world will become mine. I will be the ruler of the earth**, the prince of the world. **I will so control the minds under my power that God's Sabbath shall be a special object of contempt**. A sign? I will make the observance of the seventh day a sign of disloyalty to the authorities of earth. **Human laws will be made so stringent that men and women will not dare to observe the seventh-day Sabbath**. For fear of wanting food and clothing, they will join with the world in transgressing God's law. **The earth will be wholly under my dominion.**” {*Prophets and Kings, P. 183, 184*}

Once Satan achieves this part of his plan, he is then free to exercise the next part of destroying those who have bowed down to worship him.

“When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. **In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor**. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and **Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent**. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and **trampled upon His law**. **The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation**; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, **they have no protection from the wicked one**. **Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble**. **As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion**, all the elements of strife

will be **let loose**. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.

“A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. **The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God commands, will be exercised by evil angels when He permits. There are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere.”** {*The Great Controversy, P. 614, par. 1, 2*}

The “great final trouble” spoken of above is referring to Jacob’s time of trouble, marking the point where the seven last plagues are poured out.

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. **A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble...”** {*Early Writings, P. 36, par. 2*}

The time of trouble mentioned above is also likened unto the “great tribulation” marked in Matthew 24:21 and Revelation 7:14.

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” (Matthew 24:21)

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14)

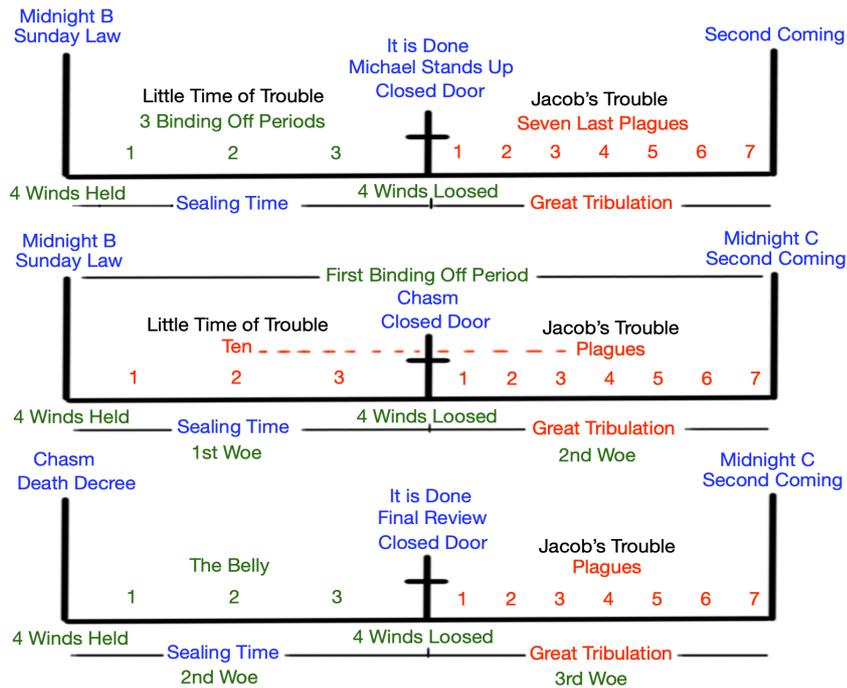
“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire,—so resplendent is it with the glory of God,—are gathered the company that have ‘gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.’ With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, ‘having the harps of God,’ they stand, **the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men;** and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, ‘the voice of harpers harping with their harps.’ And they sing ‘a new song’ before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a **song of deliverance.** None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for **it is the song of their experience**—an experience such as no other company have ever had. **‘These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.’** These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as **‘the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.’** Revelation 15:2, 3; 14:1-5. **‘These are they which came out of great tribulation;’ they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor **through the final****

outpouring of God's judgments. But they have been delivered, for they have ‘washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’ ‘In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault’ before God. ‘Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.’ They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst. But ‘they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.’ Revelation 7:14-17.” {*The Great Controversy, P. 648, par. 3*}

However, as we know, the Sunday law crisis prefigures this time period, marked by this 1260 years of Papal persecution, which was also historically this time period of “great tribulation.” Therefore, the Sunday law crisis is just a prefiguring of the time of Jacob’s trouble, where groups of people, at different times, will go through this experience in measure, beginning with those in Adventism who have had the greatest light. On a smaller scale to this time of trouble, you have the Chasm to point C, which is also represented by a period of 1260, the “great tribulation,” where God’s people, like Jacob, sigh and cry for deliverance. In our last edition we were demonstrating this using the illustration set forth by Mordecai and Joshua the high priest, who were both praying for deliverance. This led up to the point where in the book of Esther, the king holds out the golden sceptre and in the story of Joshua, his sins are blotted out, his filthy garments are removed and he is given the everlasting crown of glory. These points are important to understand, for as we will see, this marks the point where the “final review” takes place, when the faithful will be given their crowns, or cast out of the kingdom forever. The final review will be illustrated in a future edition.

“We must stand the temptation in this world if we are to stand in the grand review when the gates of the city of God are thrown open and the nations that have kept the truth shall enter in. Then a crown will be placed on the brow of those who have been overcomers, a harp will be placed in their hand, and their songs of praise and victory will resound through the heavenly courts. Then let us be overcomers here, **that the glory of God may be revealed in us, and that from our sanctified lips may roll forth the songs of the victor in the city of God.”** {*Manuscript Number 17-1911*}

Let us view these thoughts now as we place them upon our diagram. There are several things marked that we will discuss as we go through this study.



The Tormenting

As we read earlier, Islam is the power that Satan will use to destroy all those who receive the mark of the Beast. When we go into Revelation 9, it has been understood for several years now, that Islam is part of the punishment that typifies the seven last plagues, as represented by the second and third Woes in the above illustration.

At Midnight Point B, when the first Woe begins, the winds although loosed, are held to allow the sealing process to go ahead, which we will explain shortly. The first Woe is the power that torments, paralleling the two witnesses in Revelation 11, who torment the nations from Midnight B to the Chasm. This tormenting is a different tormenting than what will be received by those who receive the mark of the Beast. This tormenting is designed to bring people to repentance, whereas the tormenting that is received under the third Angel’s message is an everlasting torment that will bring no peace.

“And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; **because these two prophets tormented them** that dwelt on the earth.” (Revelation 11:10)

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And **he opened the bottomless pit**; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And **it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their**

foreheads. And to them **it was given that they should not kill them**, but that **they should be tormented** five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.” (Revelation 9:1-5)

I want to demonstrate now that when this Woe begins, where the nations begin to be tormented, it is marking the point where God’s people receive the Seal of Promise. We already placed the fact that the sealing message was the message typified by the Angel of Revelation 10, which parallels the Angel of Revelation 7. We read above, that when the first Woe begins, they are commanded: “that they should **not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree**; but **only** those men **which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**” Therefore, by default, if there are people who do not have the seal, then there must be people who do have the seal, otherwise no distinction could be made. Let us look again at the message in Revelation 7 and we will see similar language.

“And after these things **I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth**, that the wind should not blow **on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.** And I saw another angel ascending from the east, **having the seal of the living God**: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**” (Revelation 7:1-3)

The command here is given to “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**” This implies that there is a sealing taking place and until that sealing is complete they are to “hurt not.” The other command was to “not hurt” apart from “those men **which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**” However, if we read on in Revelation 9 that the men who they could hurt were only to be tormented. “And to them **it was given that they should not kill them**, but that **they should be tormented...**” How I understand this, is that during the Sunday Law from point B forward, Islam will torment those who do not hold to the Sabbath (The Seal), for persecuting God’s people, who do hold to the Sabbath, until the first part of the sealing process is finished.

Let us now read from the scriptures so that we can correctly understand this process.

The Seal of Promise

“In whom ye also trusted, **after that ye heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption** of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)

From the beginning of our study we understand that there is a sealing message that begins to seal people from Midnight B forward. From other studies we understand that the message of Revelation 18:1-3 is confirmed at this point, proving the prediction given from

Midnight A to B that there would be a Sunday law that would begin in the USA, that would force people to worship on that day. When that message comes true, those people who believed it and stood by it are sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit that comes upon them. This power is illustrated in Revelation 11 and Matthew 10.

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.” (Revelation 11:3)

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” (Matthew 10:1)

This power is a foretaste of what is to come if they are faithful unto the end. Those who prove unfaithful will fall away.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” (Hebrews 6:4-6)

Hence why it stated in Ephesians chapter 1:13, 14, that the Holy Spirit of promise was an earnest, or a pledge, until the redemption when the promise is fulfilled. At Midnight point B, the pledge is given through a foretaste of the “powers of the world to come,” if they remain faithful by keeping the Sabbath. In other words, it is the wedding garment that is given to you that you must keep spotless. Sister White comments upon this verse and states very clearly that it is a Mark in your forehead that the “destroying angel” must see.

(Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). A Mark Which Angels Read—[Ephesians 1:13 quoted.] What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for **the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption** (Letter 126, 1898). 4BC 1161.4

This seal, or power, is to counteract the power that Satan will manifest to try and deceive God’s people from walking the narrow way. All those who continue on this path by faith, will have sufficient oil in their lamps to stand when the final test comes at the Chasm.

The Shaking

The sealing process referenced above is to prepare God’s people for that final test, when the death decree is brought against them. At this time, many who were once faithful, will be shaken out.

“There is a spirit of desperation, of war and bloodshed, and that spirit will increase until the very close of time. **Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads,**—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, **but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved,**—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, **it will come.** Indeed, **it has begun already;** the judgments of God are now upon the land, **to give us warning, that we may know what is coming.”** {*Manuscript Release, Volume 1, P. 249, par. 2*}

As we have explained in other editions there are two shakings, the first marks the shaking of the Earth, the beginning of the Sunday law crisis at point B, the second marks the shaking of the Heavens and the Earth that begins at the Chasm, leading up to point C. Therefore, in the above quote where it states that the sealing is to prepare God's people for the shaking at the Chasm, it also informs us that it has already begun. This is referring to the shaking of the Earth at point B, where judgments begin to warn us what is coming. Therefore, the sealing process begins with a promise at point B, that if we walk in the light, doing the work set before us and collecting the oil, we will, when the crisis comes upon us, have on the wedding garment and demonstrate that we are the wise virgins. Thus, Christ can fulfil His promise and seal for eternity those who are faithful during this final test. There are no contradictions in God's word, hence why it states that we cannot be sealed until we have gone through the Image of the Beast test, where the Lord fulfils the promise that was given at point B.

“...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...**

“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 prove 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, P. 15, par. 3*}

Probation will close when Christ stands up and shuts the door upon all those who refused the last warning invitation to the marriage. However, for some, when the crisis arrives, they will immediately demonstrate that they have already reached that point, where for them, the door will immediately shut. Hence why it states in the next quote that the close of probation begins when the crisis arrives.

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, **it was seen who had made preparation for the event.** Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, **something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show** whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. **It will show** whether the soul is sustained by grace. **The**

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great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.” {Christ’s Object Lessons, P. 412, par. 1}

This point about the close of probation beginning at the Chasm when the crisis comes, will be explained further in a future edition. However, for now at least it explains why the seven last plagues are prefigured from the Chasm to point C, illustrating the punishment upon all those who have already filled their cup at that point, where the four winds will be released and Islam will be used to punish the impenitent.

The Second Woe

“**A**nd the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, **Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.** And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for **to slay the third part of men.** And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of **fire**, and of **jacinth**, and **brimstone**: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued **fire and smoke and brimstone.** **By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone,** which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And **the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not** of the works of their hands, that **they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood:** which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: **Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”** (Revelation 9:13-21)

In the line of Ezra, the waymark that parallels the Chasm is marked when the Jews were given the call to come out of Babylon.

“Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the LORD: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD. **Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon.”** (Zechariah 2:6-7)

When you look in the Strong’s concordance at the words “ho ho,” it is another way of saying “woe woe,” giving another witness for the second woe beginning at this point.

H1945 (Strong) hoh'ee

A prolonged form of H1930 (akin to H188); oh!: - ah, alas, **ho**, O, **woe**.

The curse is here brought upon all those who refused to keep their garments spotless from B to the Chasm. In Hebrews chapter 6, those who had experienced the

anointing at point B and received the seal of promise and fall away during the last crisis, we are told that it is impossible for them to return to the truth.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: **But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”** (Hebrews 6:4-8)

However, those who hold fast will receive the fulfilment of the promise they had been given, when they received the earnest of the seal at point B.

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, **ye might receive the promise**. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. **Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him**. But we are not of them **who draw back unto perdition**; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:35-39)

All those that draw back, or fall away unto perdition, represent Judas, the “son of perdition,” who will turn upon their former brethren and betray them to the authorities.

“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;**” (2Thessalonians 2:3)

Summary

The sealing as we have seen comes in two phases. First the promise is given to strengthen and enable God’s people to enter into the time of trial with an assurance that if they trust in their Saviour, the promise is theirs. All those who settle into the truth intellectually and spiritually so they cannot be moved, between point B and the Chasm, will demonstrate their faithfulness during the final test, when they come face to face with death and will receive the seal of God for eternity. All those who fail to prepare during the period from B to the Chasm, will likewise demonstrate so, by falling away unto perdition and receive the mark of the Beast.

In our next edition we will look closer at this “falling away,” to understand the importance of this issue and how the external is teaching us something about the internal.



Miscellaneous Reforms

Educating Children

In this edition, I would like to discuss the necessity of us as a people, understanding the accountability we have before God for the education and behaviour of our children. This is not written to judge anyone, but rather as my Brother's keeper, I am merely informing us of the consequences of our failure to uphold these principles.

The Greatest Witness

Sister White explains to us that the greatest witness that we as God's people can give to the world is a well-ordered and well-disciplined family.

“Fathers and mothers who make God first in their households, **who teach their children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**, glorify God before angels and before men **by presenting to the world a well-ordered, well-disciplined family**—a family that love and obey God **instead of rebelling against Him**. Christ is not a stranger in their homes; His name is a household name, revered and glorified. **Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator**. Such families can claim the promise, ‘Them that honour Me I will honour.’ As from such a home the father goes forth to his daily duties, it is with a spirit softened and subdued by converse with God.” {*Adventist Home*, P. 27, par. 3}

Living a Godly Life

We as a people do not know God, this is our failure. We have become more and more like the world and hence the world does not oppose us. Sister White explains that the reason why no persecution is upon us is because of this fact.

“There are many in the church who at heart belong to the world, but God calls upon those who claim to believe the advanced truth, to rise above the present attitude of the popular churches of today. Where is the self-denial, where is the cross-bearing that Christ has said should characterize his followers? The reason we have had so little influence upon unbelieving relatives and associates is that we have manifested little decided difference in our practices from those of the world. Parents need to awake, and purify their souls by practicing the truth in their home life. **When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, straight-laced extremists.** ‘We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.’” {*The Review and Herald, January 9, 1894, par. 10*}

However, when we reach this standard, it will be the greatest testimony for Christ and will bring forth persecution from both the Church and from the world.

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.**” (2Timothy 3:12)

“Brethren and sisters, have no fears that I shall become disheartened by the cruel attacks of my enemies. **I expect them in greater measure, and only wonder that they have not been more frequent.** Think of Jesus. How much was said against him. How he was despised and hated. See him laboring for a short time in one place, and then forced to hasten to another to save his life, that he might finish his work, and give to the world the light of a pure and noble example. We may strengthen our faith and quicken our love by going often to the foot of the cross, and there contemplating our Saviour's humiliation. Behold the Majesty of Heaven suffering as a transgressor! Spotless purity, untarnished righteousness, did not shield him from falsehood and reproach. He meekly bore the contradiction of sinners against himself, and yielded up his life, that we might be forgiven and live forevermore. **Are we willing to follow in his steps? The only reason why we do not now suffer greater persecution is, we do not in our lives more faithfully exemplify the life of Christ.** I assure you, brethren and sisters, if you walk as he walked, you will know what it is to be persecuted and reproached for his sake.

“If we hope to wear the crown, we must expect to bear the cross. Our greatest trials will come from those who profess godliness. It was so with the world's Redeemer; it will be so with his followers. **I should doubt whether I were a child of God, if the world, or even all professed Christians, spoke well of me.** Those who are in earnest to win the crown of eternal life need not be surprised or disheartened because at every step toward the heavenly Canaan they meet with obstacles and encounter trials. **The opposition which Christ received came from his own nation, who would have been greatly blessed had they accepted him. In like manner the remnant church receive opposition from those who profess to be their brethren.**” {*The Review and Herald, August 28, 1883, par. 12, 13*}

The reason we are not opposed as was Christ is because our personal standards are far too low, which therefore has an effect upon our Children. When we begin to realise the standard Christ requires of us and realise the consequences of not reaching that standard, only then are we able to bring our children up to the standard God requires.

Therefore, let us look at some of the counsel given so that we can have some food for thought on this subject.

Undisciplined Children

“Parents frequently pet and indulge their young children because it appears easier to manage them in that way. **It is smoother work to let them have their own way than to check the unruly inclinations that rise so strongly in their breasts. Yet this course is cowardly. It is a wicked thing thus to shirk responsibility**; for the time will come when these children, whose unchecked inclinations have strengthened into absolute vices, will bring reproach and disgrace upon themselves and their families. They go out into busy life unprepared for its temptations, not strong enough to endure perplexities and troubles; passionate, overbearing, **undisciplined, they seek to bend others to their will**, and, failing in this, consider themselves ill-used by the world, and turn against it.” {*Child Guidance, P. 178, par. 1*}

“I have been shown that very many of the parents who profess to believe the solemn message for this time have not trained their children for God. **They have not restrained themselves and have been irritated with anyone who attempted to restrain them.** They have not by living faith daily bound their children upon the altar of the Lord. **Many of these youth have been allowed to transgress the Fourth Commandment, by seeking their own pleasure upon God's holy day.** They have felt no compunctions of conscience in going about the streets on the Sabbath for their own amusement. **Many go where they please, and do what they please; and their parents are so fearful of displeasing them that, imitating the management of Eli, they lay no commands upon them.**” {*Child Guidance, P. 527, par. 1*}

“The house of God is often desecrated, and the Sabbath violated by Sabbath-believers' children. **In some cases they are even allowed to run about the house, play, talk, and manifest their evil tempers in the very meetings where the saints should worship God in the beauty of holiness.** And the place that should be holy, and where a holy stillness should reign, and where there should be perfect order, neatness, and humility, is made to be a perfect Babylon, “confusion.” **This is enough to bring God's displeasure and shut His presence from our assemblies.**” {*Child Guidance, P. 540, par. 4*}

“A woe rests upon parents who have not trained their children to be God-fearing, but have allowed them to grow to manhood and womanhood **undisciplined and uncontrolled.**” {*Child Guidance, P. 275, par. 1*}

“Oh, that the Eli's of today, who are everywhere to be found **pleading excuses for the waywardness of their children**, would promptly assert their own God-given authority **to restrain and correct them.** Let parents and guardians, who **overlook and excuse sin** in those under their care, remember that **they thus become accessory to these wrongs.** If, instead of unlimited indulgence, the chastening rod were oftener used, **not in passion, but with love and prayer**, we would see happier families and a better state of society.

“**The neglect of Eli is brought plainly before every father and mother in the land.** As the result of his unsanctified affection or his unwillingness to do a **disagreeable duty**, he reaped a harvest of iniquity in his perverse sons. **Both the parent who permitted the wickedness and the children who practiced it were guilty before God**, and He would accept no sacrifice or offering for their transgression.” {*Child Guidance, P. 276, par. 1, 2*}

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, **any of you should seem to come short of it.** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: **but the word preached did not profit them,** not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” (Hebrews 4:1-2)

We as a movement should be the people over and above all people within Adventism, who should be striving to live up to His high and holy principles, to demonstrate by our lives that the present truth message given to us is truly the last warning message for this time. This is one area where I have personally seen a lack of understanding amongst us. I do not want any of us to come up to that time and find the Lord holding us accountable for not knowing our responsibility in this matter. Not only that, but also for those who refused to believe this message to be the truth, because they experienced a lack of discipline, amongst us and our children. Remember, people that are looking for the truth, not only want to hear it, but also wish to see it in each one of us. I am also convicted that I have failed in this matter in my own personal life and want to encourage those to whom this affects to remember that our Lord is a longsuffering God and although He will not overlook our neglect, He promises He will forgive us and give us the help we need in every time of trouble. His promises are sure. Let us therefore go forward and show to the world by our lives and our children’s lives, that we truly are the wise and understanding people at the end of the world.

May the Lord be with you.

