

Leaves of Life



Tree of Life Ministries

Edition 25

The Last Reform-line

12th October 2019

“The great waymarks of truth, showing us our bearings in prophetic history, are to be carefully guarded, lest they be torn down and replaced with theories that would bring confusion rather than genuine light. I have been cited to the very erroneous theories that have been presented over and over again. Those who advocated these theories presented Scripture quotations, but they misapplied and misinterpreted them. The theories supposed to be correct were incorrect, and yet many thought them the very theories to be brought before the people. **The prophecies of Daniel and John are to be diligently studied.**

“There are those now living who in studying the prophecies of Daniel and John, received great light from God as they passed over the ground where special prophecies were in process of fulfillment in their order. They bore the message of time to the people. The truth shone out clearly as the sun at noonday. **Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and the prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events leading down to the close of this earth's history.** The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features revealed in this earth's history. **The people now have a special message to give to the world, the third angel's message.** Those who, in their experience, have passed over the ground and acted a part in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angel's messages, are not so liable to be led into false paths as are those who have not had an experimental knowledge of the people of God.” {*Manuscript Releases, Volume 17, P. 1, par. 6, 7*}

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 Sunday law crisis and to teach the everlasting gospel of the three angel's 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 aim to teach 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 can understand what "righteousness by faith" means and enter in to the true born-again experience.

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 brought forth the concluding points in regards to the judgment, that would take place at the end of the day of atonement. In that edition, we demonstrated, how the sins, that both Satan and his agents, thought to bring upon God's faithful people, during the chasm experience, return back upon their own heads.

In this edition, I would like for us to understand how the final events, that were prefigured by the seven thunders in history, are leading us down to the close of probation. We will show how the Lord, who does not change, brings things to pass in a set order, beginning with His church and thereafter with the gentiles. It is important for us to understand this, unless we find ourselves like Josiah, who started off well, yet died for doing a work that was opposing the Lord, instead of doing things according to His will.

God's Order

Let us begin by setting out the order of the gospel, which the Lord clearly sets out in His Word.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is **the power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth; **to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**” (Romans 1:16)

“Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, **of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile**; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, **to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:**” (Romans 2:9-10)

In the above verses it illustrates to us God's order. The gospel, which is the “power of God unto salvation,” goes to the Jew first, before going to the gentiles. According to scripture, a spiritual Jew, is someone who's heart has been circumcised, through the baptism of the Spirit. This is the only entrance card into heaven.

“Therefore **if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?** And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? **For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of**

the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.” (Romans 2:26-29)

The heart according to scripture is our mind.

“**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:...**” (Proverbs 23:7)

The heart of a man is a representation of who he is, for out of our hearts we express who we are.

“**A good man** out of the good treasure of **his heart bringeth forth that which is good**; and **an evil man** out of the evil treasure of **his heart bringeth forth that which is evil**: for of the abundance of **the heart his mouth speaketh.**” (Luke 6:45)

Therefore, salvation comes first, to those who are part of His covenant keeping church, who speak and do things according to God’s will. Hence Christ makes the following statement:

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: **for salvation is of the Jews.**” (John 4:22)

Christ was basically telling the Samaritan woman, that it is impossible for her to be worshipping the true God, unless she first joins herself to those who have been given the oracles of truth.

“**What advantage then hath the Jew?** or what profit is there of circumcision? **Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.**” (Romans 3:1-2)

God’s peculiar people have been committed the task of being a light unto the gentiles, it is through His people that the Lord has ordained that the gospel, which is the “**power of God** unto salvation,” is to go to the world.

“And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant **to raise up the tribes of Jacob**, and to restore the preserved of Israel: **I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.**” (Isaiah 49:6)

Notice in the above verse, it shows the same order, the light first goes to His church, followed by the gentiles. However, the point we must first understand, is how is that light coming to God's people, prior to it being given to the world?

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher?** And **how shall they preach, except they be sent?** as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. **For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?”** (Romans 10:14-16)

The apostle Paul explains to us about the unbelief of his own people, to whom the truth had been given to first. How did that truth come to them? By a preacher, which had been sent by God to deliver to them a message.

Elijah the Prophet

Let us remind ourselves of this principle, so that we will be able to make a correct application of this truth, for our time. In every reformation, the Lord always sends a preacher, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to prepare them to receive Christ.

“**Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me:** and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:1)

“**Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet** before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:” (Malachi 4:5)

Isaiah's message was given with the same spirit and power of Elijah.

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the LORD,** make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40:3)

This was the same message John gave to the Jews.

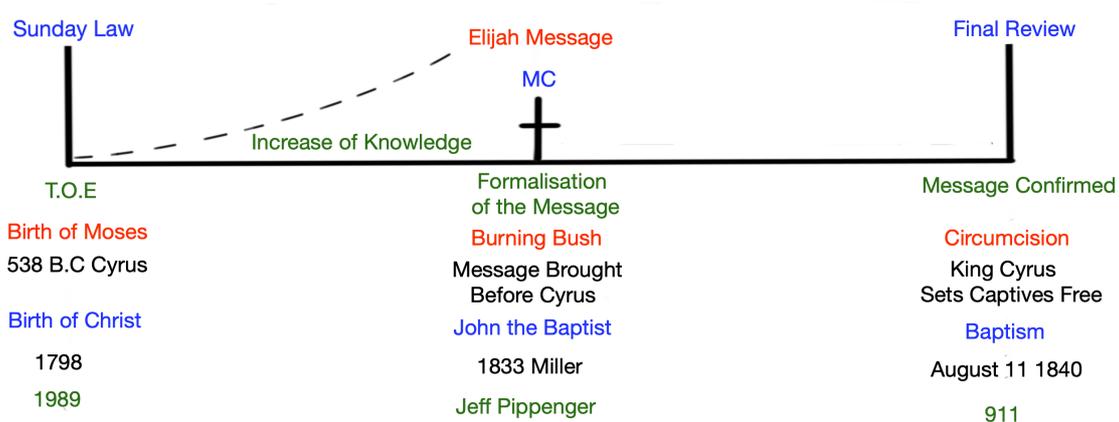
“And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **Who art thou?** And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, **What then? Art thou Elias?** And he saith, **I am not.** Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, **Who art thou?** that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? **He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.**” (John 1:19-23)

Although John did not claim himself to be Elijah, Christ tells us, that John was the one whom He had sent according to Malachi.

“And from the days of **John the Baptist** until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. **And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.**” (Matthew 11:12-14)

We, as students of prophecy, know that the Lord demonstrates this truth to us, line upon line, so that we can clearly identify this event, when He will send forth His messenger to give the gospel message, which is the “power unto salvation,” to everyone that believes, beginning with His church.

Therefore, let us place this upon our line, in order to see the repeating pattern.



We know that our God does not change, that His dealing with us is ever the same.

“For I am the LORD, I **change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6)

“**The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. The principles of God's dealing with men are ever the same.** The important movements of **the present have their parallel in those of the past**, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time.

“**No truth is more clearly taught in the Bible** than that God by His Holy Spirit especially directs His servants on earth in the great movements for the carrying forward of the work of salvation. **Men are instruments in the hand of God, employed by Him to accomplish His purposes of grace and mercy.** Each has his part to act; to each is granted a measure of light, **adapted to the necessities of his time**, and sufficient to enable him to perform the work which God has given him to do. **But no man, however honored of Heaven, has ever attained to a full understanding of the great plan of redemption**, or even to a perfect appreciation of the divine purpose in the work for his own time. Men do not fully understand what God would accomplish by the work which He gives them to do; they do not comprehend, in all its bearings, the message which they utter in His name.” {*Great Controversy, P. 343, par. 1, 2*}

As we can see, down through the history of mankind, the Lord has used human instrumentalities for His purposes. We can see how this has been illustrated for us, line upon line. In each history, a special message was given for that time, to fulfil the Lord's purposes. However, we are under the dispensation of all these messages. They were the type, we are the antitype.

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, **was ever prophesying the coming of the Lord.** This great event had been revealed to him in vision. Abel, though dead, is ever speaking of the blood of Christ which alone can make our offerings and gifts perfect. **The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.** There is **Moses** still speaking, teaching self-renunciation by wishing himself blotted from the Book of Life for his fellow men, that they might be saved. **David** is leading the intercession of the church for the salvation of souls to the ends of the earth. **The prophets** are still testifying of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. **There the whole accumulated truths are presented in** <http://treeoflife-ministries.org/>

force to us that we may profit by their teachings. We are under the influence of the whole. What manner of persons ought we to be to whom all this rich light of inheritance has been given. **Concentrating all the influence of the past with new and increased light of the present**, accrued power is given to all who will follow the light. Their faith will increase, and be brought into exercise at the present time, awakening an energy and an intensely increased earnestness, and through **dependence upon God for his power** to replenish the world and send the light of the Sun of Righteousness to the ends of the earth.” {*Selected Messages, Book 3, P. 339, par. 1*}

If God’s people, to whom have been given the oracles of God, are the chosen people to be a light to the gentiles, why must the message come to them first? Down through history, God’s chosen people have always been the special object of Satan’s attention. If he can usurp God’s means of bringing light unto the world, then the very people that the Lord had planned to use for His purposes, Satan will use them to do his will, to sow tares, instead of fine wheat.

In every age, Satan has managed to do this. Unconsecrated leaders, who began well, have been led to turn away from truth, to error, and because the Lord has used these people in a mighty way, people begin to put their trust in the human instrument, rather than keeping their eyes fixed upon Christ. Hence, the church, which is the apple of His eye, has needed to be rescued from the darkness first, in order for it to fulfill its intended mission.

In the time of Christ, as we have seen, the Lord raised up John the Baptist in the spirit and power of Elijah, to bring a message to His church. What happened? The leaders, who were meant to be the shepherds over the flock, were themselves in darkness and for this reason, were unable to receive the very message sent to them.

“If the leaders in Israel had received Christ, He would have honored them as His messengers to carry the gospel to the world. To them first was given the opportunity to become heralds of the kingdom and grace of God. But Israel knew not the time of her visitation. The jealousy and distrust of the Jewish leaders had ripened into open hatred, and the hearts of the people were turned away from Jesus.

“The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ's message and was bent upon His death; therefore Jesus departed from Jerusalem, from the priests, the temple, the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message, and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations.

As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ's withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth. In our day few of the professed followers of the Reformers are actuated by their spirit. Few are listening for the voice of God, and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience." *{The Desire of Ages, P. 231, 232}*

As we read, when the leaders turn from the truth the Lord bypasses them to raise up another class. In Millerite history, the Lord raised up William Miller in the spirit and power of Elijah, to bring a message to the then protestant churches.

"An upright, honest-hearted farmer, who had been led to doubt the divine authority of the Scriptures, yet who sincerely desired to know the truth, was the man specially chosen of God to lead out in the proclamation of Christ's second coming..." *{Great Controversy, P. 317, par. 1}*

"...God called him to leave his farm, as Elisha was called to leave his oxen and the field of his labor to follow Elijah. With trembling, William Miller began to unfold the mysteries of the kingdom of God to the people. He gained strength with every effort. He carried the people down through the prophecies to the second advent of Christ. As John the Baptist heralded the first advent of Jesus, and prepared the way for his coming, so also, Wm. Miller and those who joined him, proclaimed the second advent of the Son of God." *{Spiritual Gifts, Volume 1, P. 129, par. 1}*

Just like in the days of Christ, the leaders who claimed to be the shepherds over the flock refused to receive the message.

"Ministers who would not accept this saving message themselves hindered those who would have received it. The blood of souls is upon them. Preachers and people joined to oppose this message from heaven and to persecute William Miller and those who united

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with him in the work. Falsehoods were circulated to injure his influence; and at different times after he had plainly declared the counsel of God, applying cutting truths to the hearts of his hearers, great rage was kindled against him, and as he left the place of meeting, some waylaid him in order to take his life. **But angels of God were sent to protect him, and they led him safely away from the angry mob. His work was not yet finished.** {*Early Writings, P. 234, par.1*}

“**In June, 1842,** Mr. Miller gave his second course of lectures at the Casco Street church in Portland. I felt it a great privilege to attend these lectures; for I had fallen under discouragements, and did not feel prepared to meet my Saviour. This second course created much more excitement in the city than the first. **With few exceptions, the different denominations closed the doors of their churches against Mr. Miller.** Many discourses from the various pulpits sought to expose the alleged fanatical errors of the lecturer; but crowds of anxious listeners attended his meetings, and many were unable to enter the house. The congregations were unusually quiet and attentive.” {*Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 21, par. 3*}

When the leaders, who should have been the first to receive the truth, turn from the voice of God, sent to them to turn the church from its darkness, the Lord is left with no option, but to seek another class. Hence, in the time of Christ, He raised up the 12 disciples and in the time of Miller, He raised up a movement.

Another Class

Let us now shed our focus upon the peculiarities of the movement, which the Lord raises up instead of the leaders.

“With the calling of John and Andrew and Simon, of Philip and Nathanael, **began the foundation of the Christian church...**” {*Desire of Ages, P. 141, par. 2*}

As soon as the Lord raises up a movement, as what happened with the church, Satan will be at work to counter the Lord’s efforts, sowing his tares amongst the wheat.

“While Jesus was preparing the disciples for their ordination, **one who had not been summoned urged his presence among them. It was Judas Iscariot, a man who professed to be a follower of Christ.** He now came forward, soliciting a place in this inner circle of

disciples. With great earnestness and apparent sincerity he declared, “**Master, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest.**” Jesus neither repulsed nor welcomed him, but uttered only the mournful words: “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head.” Matthew 8:19, 20. **Judas believed Jesus to be the Messiah; and by joining the apostles, he hoped to secure a high position in the new kingdom.** This hope Jesus designed to cut off by the statement of His poverty.

“**The disciples were anxious that Judas should become one of their number. He was of commanding appearance, a man of keen discernment and executive ability, and they commended him to Jesus as one who would greatly assist Him in His work.** They were surprised that Jesus received him so coolly.” *{The Desire of Ages, P. 293, 294}*

“**There have been and always will be tares among the wheat, the foolish virgins with the wise,** those who have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. **There was a covetous Judas in the church Christ formed on earth, and there will be Judases in the church in every stage of her history.** But because there are such, it does not do away with the fact that **God has a church...**” *{Signs of the Times, October 23, 1879, Art. B, par. 10}*

The Lord instructs us clearly upon this matter, that we, like the disciples, should never trust in appearances. Satan is always at work, to lead astray the unwary follower, who trusts in the outward appearances, rather than a plain thus saith the Lord.

“...God seeth not as man sees. **He judges not from appearances, but he searches the heart, and judges righteously.**” *{Christian Education, P. 41, par. 1}*

“**God has a church upon the earth who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people.** The truth is a sanctifying power; **but the church militant is not the church triumphant. There are tares among the wheat.** “Wilt thou then that we ... gather them up?” was the question of the servant; but the master answered, ‘Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.’ The gospel net draws not only good fish, but bad ones as well, and **the Lord only knows who are His.**” *{Counsels for the Church, P. 240, par. 1}*

In the time of Christ, Judas was amongst the twelve and in the Millerite history, the foolish were amongst the wise. Two parallel histories, both showing the same truth, albeit through two different viewpoints. Therefore, the Lord had to bring about a test, that would

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sift out Judas (the foolish virgins), representing all those who did not have a love for the truth.

“We fully believe that God, in his wisdom, designed that his people should meet with a disappointment, which was well calculated to reveal hearts and develop the true characters of those who had professed to look for and rejoice in the coming of the Lord. Those who embraced the first angel's message (see Revelation 14:6, 7) through fear of the wrath of God's judgments, **not because they loved the truth and desired an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, now appeared in their true light. **They were among the first to ridicule the disappointed ones who sincerely longed for and loved the appearing of Jesus. This most searching test of God revealed the true characters** of those who would shirk responsibility and stigma by denying their faith in the hour of trial.” *{Life Sketches 1888, P. 186, par. 2}***

Without getting too deep into these histories, I am just trying to show us a pattern that we need to see and understand, for these histories demonstrate our history. If this is true, then we should see a messenger being raised up, to bring a message to the church, where the church rejects that message. This would be followed by the Lord bypassing the church leadership, in order to raise up a movement, which would contain tares, foolish virgins and Judas, that would need to be sifted out.

Sister White parallel's, both the history of Christ and the history of the Millerite movement.

“I was pointed back to the proclamation of the first advent of Christ. John was sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of Jesus. Those who rejected the testimony of John were not benefited by the teachings of Jesus. Their opposition to the message that foretold His coming placed them where they could not readily receive the strongest evidence that He was the Messiah. **Satan led on those who rejected the message of John to go still farther, to reject and crucify Christ. In doing this they placed themselves where **they could not receive the blessing on the day of Pentecost,** which would have taught them the way into the heavenly sanctuary. The rending of the veil of the temple showed that the Jewish sacrifices and ordinances would no longer be received. The great Sacrifice had been offered and had been accepted, and the Holy Spirit which descended on the day of Pentecost carried the minds of the disciples from the earthly sanctuary to the heavenly, where Jesus had entered by His own blood, to shed upon His disciples the**

benefits of His atonement. **But the Jews were left in total darkness. They lost all the light which they might have had upon the plan of salvation,** and still trusted in their useless sacrifices and offerings. **The heavenly sanctuary had taken the place of the earthly, yet they had no knowledge of the change. Therefore they could not be benefited by the mediation of Christ in the holy place.**

“Many look with horror at the course of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ; and as they read the history of His shameful abuse, they think they love Him, and would not have denied Him as did Peter, or crucified Him as did the Jews. **But God who reads the hearts of all, has brought to the test that love for Jesus which they professed to feel.** All heaven watched with the deepest interest **the reception of the first angel's message.** But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. **Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion.** They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. **Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second;** neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. **And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place.** I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and **they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there...**” {*Early Writings, P. 259, 261*}

She takes these two histories and compares the message of John, with the first angel's message and the message of Christ, with the second angel's message. She went on to explain, that if the first message was rejected, it would prevent them from receiving the second. Likewise, if the second was rejected, the result would be to crucify their Lord. In Christ's history, this was done by literally placing Him upon the cross and in Millerite history, by rejecting the truth, they spiritually crucified Christ. Therefore, both those histories are a representation of the first and second angel's messages, that lead to the third, which is the judgment.

The Seven Thunders

In order to tie together these two histories together more perfectly, we understand that the history of the Millerites was a delineation of events, leading down to a closed door. This history, was to prefigure the final reform line, which would consist of a

delineation of events, leading down to the close of this earth's history.

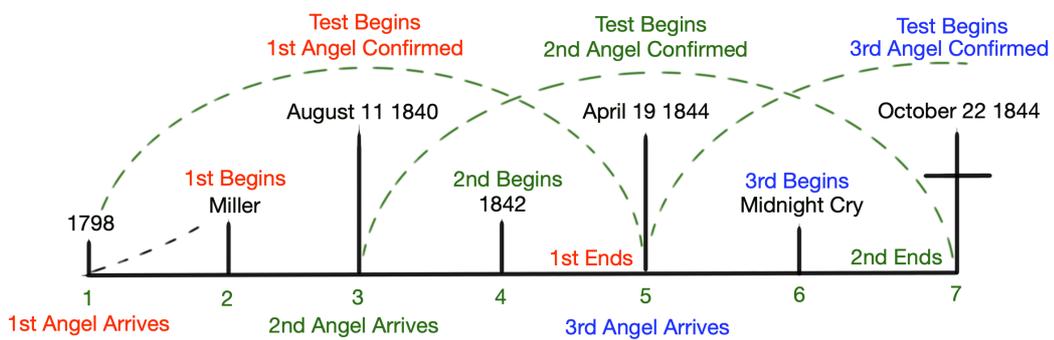
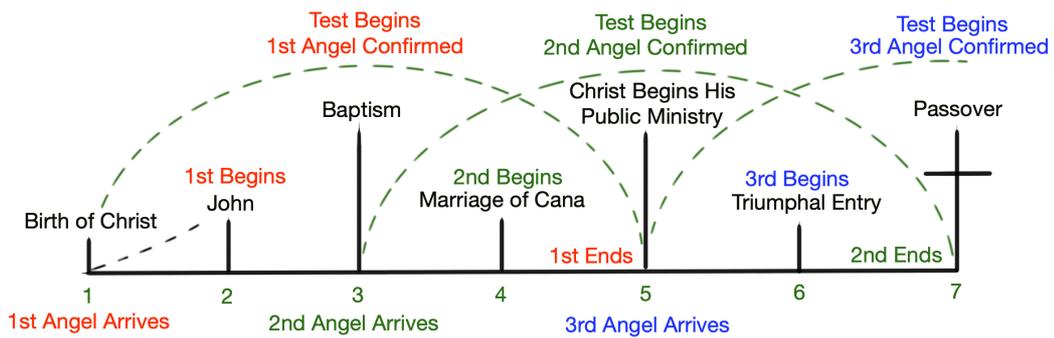
“The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a delineation of events which would transpire under the first and second angels’ messages. It was not best for the people to know these things, for their faith must necessarily be tested. In the order of God, most wonderful and advanced truths would be proclaimed. The first and second angels’ messages were to be proclaimed, but no further light was to be revealed before these messages had done their specific work. This is represented by the angel standing with one foot on the sea, proclaiming with a most solemn oath that time should be no longer.” *{Manuscript Releases, Volume 1, P. 99, par. 2}*

As we can read, the Millerite history, was based upon the test of the first and second messages, closing with the third on October 22 1844. We also know that this history, the history of the first and second messages, needed to be repeated in our time, before we could partake in the third.

“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.” *{Selected Messages, Book 2, P. 104, par. 3}*

As we can see, the history of the Millerites, which is the history of the first and second messages, that led down to the third, is to be repeated. It tells us that we are to repeat that history, showing the order of the messages that bring us to the third and that like the Millerites, we could not be tested upon the third, until the first and second messages have done their appointed work. Point to note, there can be no third message, unless the people have an experience in the first and second.

Let us compare now the history of Christ and Miller, with our line at the end of the world, where the first and second messages repeat, leading us down to the third. As we compare these three histories, we will see that all of them were governed by the “seven thunders,” or as we understand, seven waymarks, which are fulfilments of prophecy.



As we can see, all three of those histories, are representations of the tests of the first and second angels, which were governed by the seven thunders. The third test begins at the end, marking the beginning of the first test, for the next group of people. What I would like us to now demonstrate, is how the first and second angels repeat under the third, demonstrating to us the perfect fulfillment of the seven thunders and how they will test God’s church first, followed by the gentiles.

“There is a delay in the coming of the Bridegroom in order that all may have an opportunity to hear **the last message of mercy** to a fallen world. **The first and second angels' messages are all united and complete in the third:** ‘And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **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, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.’” {*Manuscript Releases, Volume 16, P. 269, par. 1*}

“**The third angel's message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels, is the message for this time.** We are to raise aloft the banner on which is inscribed, “The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” **The world is soon to meet the great Lawgiver over His broken law.** This is not the time to put out of sight the great issues before us. God calls upon His people to magnify the law and make it honorable.” {*Counsels on Health, P. 357, par. 2*}

“**The first and second angels' messages are bound up with the third angel's message. The power of the proclamation of **the first and second angels' messages is to be concentrated in the third.**” {*Voice Speech and Song, P. 329, par. 1*}**

This next quote explains to us, that the third angel's message is a delineation of events, that leads down to the close of probation.

“There are those now living who, in studying the prophecies of Daniel and John, received great light from God as they passed over the ground **where special prophecies were in process of fulfillment in their order. They bore the message of time to the people.** The truth shone out clearly as the sun at noonday. **Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and the prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events leading down to the close of this earth's history.** The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features plainly revealed in this earth's history. **The people now have a special message to give to the world, the third angel's message.** Those who, in their experience, have passed over the ground, and acted a part in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages, are not so liable to be led into false paths as are those who have not had an experimental knowledge of the people of God...” {*Selected Messages, Book 2, P. 102, par. 1*}

As we have already read, the seven thunders, which is a delineation of events that transpired under the first and second messages, are to be repeated under the third. We also read, that the first and second messages, are to likewise repeat under the third. Hence the third angel's message, is the seven thunders, that will delineate the last events, in their order, under the perfect fulfillment of the first and second messages.

We know that the perfect fulfillment of the second angel is given at the Sunday law crisis, when the gospel, which is "the power of God unto salvation," is given with power.

"The prophet says: 'I saw another angel come down from heaven, **having great power**; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And **he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...** And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. **For her sins have reached unto heaven**, and God hath remembered her iniquities.' **When do her sins reach unto heaven? When the law of God is finally made void by legislation.** Then the extremity of God's people is his opportunity to show who is the governor of heaven and earth. As a Satanic power is stirring up the elements from beneath, **God will send light and power to his people, that the message of truth may be proclaimed to all the world.**" *{Signs of the Times, June 12, 1893, par. 13}*

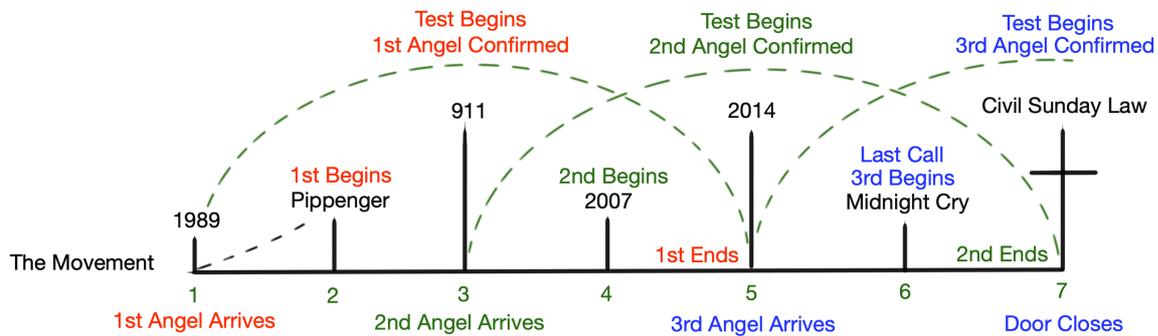
Therefore, let us now place these three messages upon our line, in their order, under the third. In doing so, we can show how these messages, lead down to the close of this earth's history, first for the church and then for the world.

As we saw in our last diagram, the third angel arrived in 2014. This is the last warning message for this movement, which will begin to sound very soon, at the midnight cry. This will be the last warning to this movement, before the door closes at the civil Sunday law. When this door closes, it will mark the point where the first angel has begun to test the mainstream church, which is repeating for them under the third. It is very important that we understand the order of the messages, a failure to understand this will cost us our salvation.

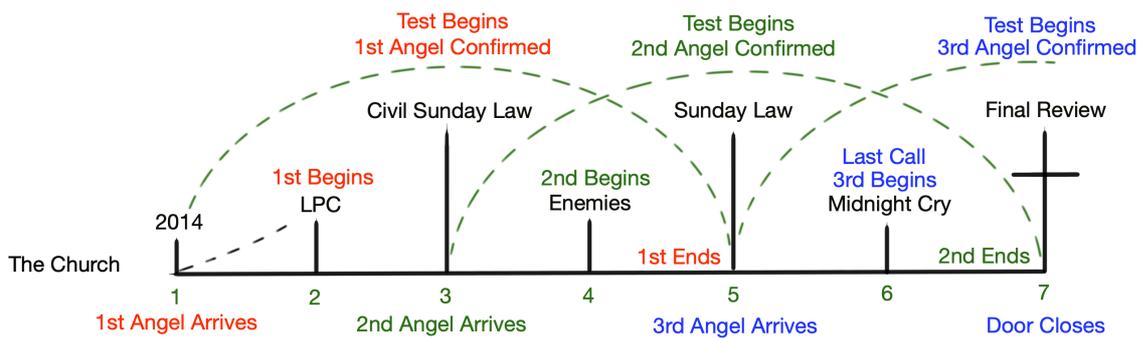
"I testify the things which I have seen, the things which I have heard, the things which my hands have handled of the Word of life. And this testimony I know to be of the Father and the Son. **We have seen and do testify that the power of the Holy Ghost has accompanied the presentation of the truth**, warning with pen and voice, and **giving the messages in their order.** To deny this work would be to deny the Holy Ghost, and would

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place us in that company who have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits.” {Notebook Leaflets, Volume 1, P. 61, par. 5}



As we already discussed, It is important to understand that 2014, is a different test for the movement, than for the church structure. For the movement, it is the beginning of their test under the second angel. Only those who pass this test, will qualify to go forward and take the message to the church.



Now that we have that established, let us look at the perfect line, fulfilling God’s purpose to the church first, followed by the world.



In the illustration above, we can see that the time of the end for the world, begins with the Sunday law for the church. In this sense, just like it was for the movement beforehand, this is their third and final test, which is preparing a small group of people from the church, to go forward and take the message to the world. This is what the seven thunders was typifying, the last delineation of events, that will lead down to the close of this earth's history, "to the Jew first and also unto the gentile." Under the third angel, all three messages will be fulfilled perfectly. Hence, as the third angel brings the final test for the church, it also begins to test the gentiles under the first, beginning the last line of the seven thunders, that will lead down to the close of this earth's history.

"The mighty angel who instructed John was no less a personage than Jesus Christ. Setting His right foot on the sea, and His left upon the dry land, shows the part which He is acting in the closing scenes of the great controversy with Satan. This position denotes His supreme power and authority over the whole earth. The controversy has waxed stronger and more determined from age to age, and will continue to do so, **to the concluding scenes when the masterly working of the powers of darkness shall reach their height.** Satan, united with evil men, will deceive the whole world and the churches who receive not the love of the truth. **But the mighty angel demands attention.** He cries with a loud voice. He is to show the power and authority of His voice to those who have united with Satan to oppose the truth. **After these seven thunders uttered their voices,** the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book: **"Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered"** (Revelation 10:4). These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order. Daniel shall stand in his lot at the end of the days. John sees the little book unsealed. **Then Daniel's prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels' messages to be given to the world.** The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time." {*Manuscript Releases, Volume 1, P. 99, par. 1*}

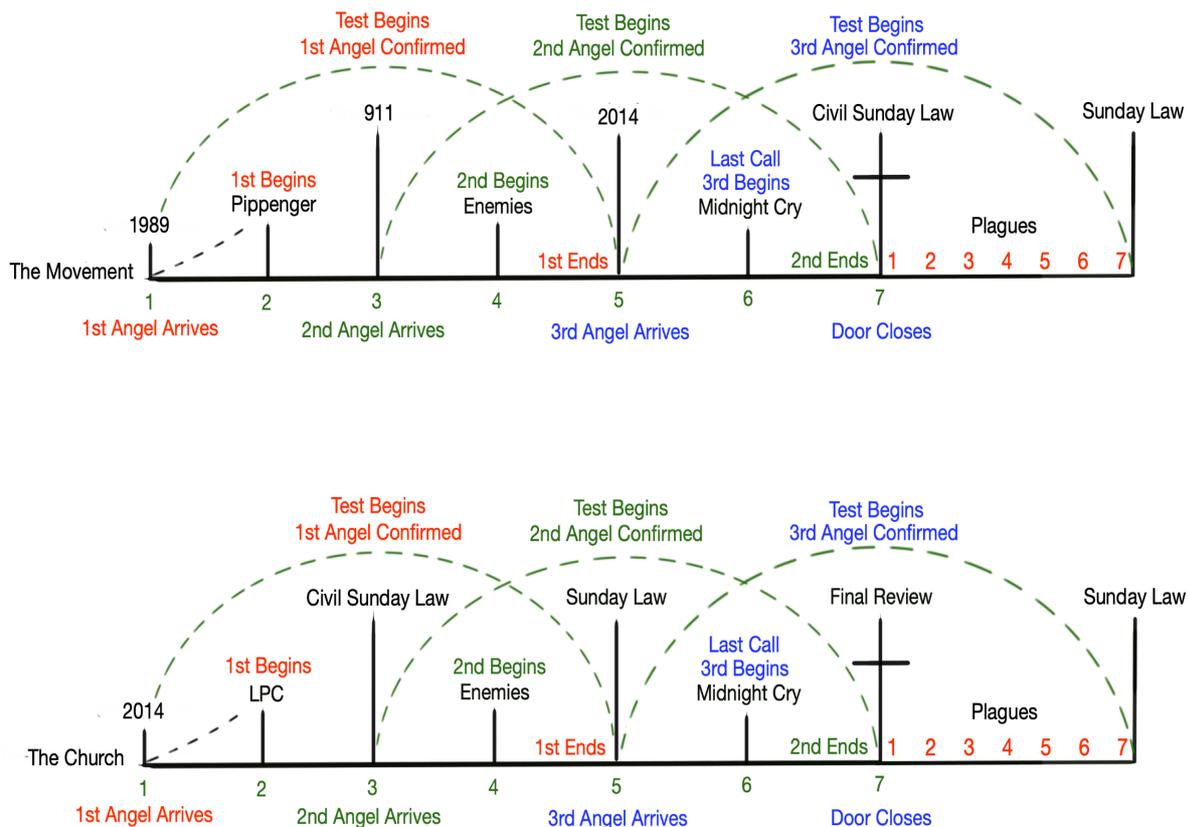
To conclude what we have discussed so far. The Lord begins by raising up a messenger, to take a message to His church. Due to the leaders of the church being unable to receive the message, the Lord bypasses them to form a movement from within His church. The movement however, comprises of both wheat and tares and needs to be put through the three steps of the everlasting gospel first, before it can be fitted up to take a message to the church. Once this has been completed, now the Lord has a group of people, who through their experience, are able to guide the church through the Sunday law crisis first. Likewise, after the church has been purged of all the tares, during the image of the beast test, the Lord now has a holy people, sealed for eternity and filled with the Holy

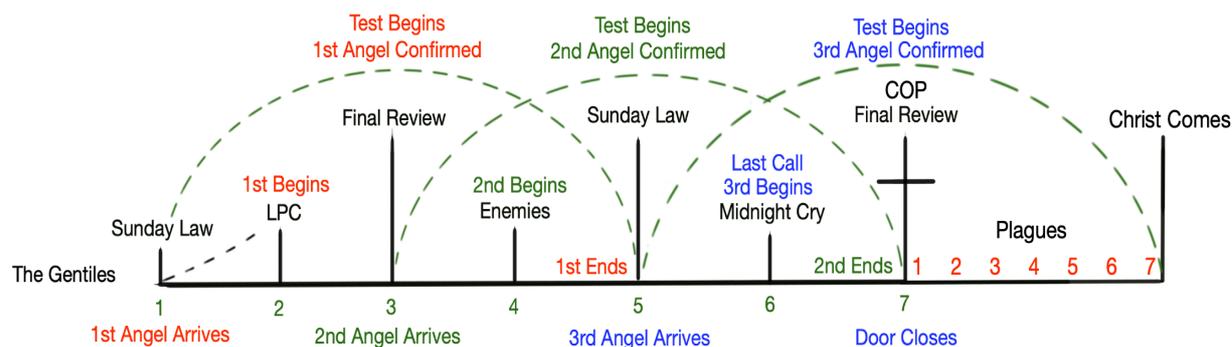
Spirit. These people represent His end-time church, who are now ready to take the message to a dying world, before the seven last plagues are poured out.

The Judgment

The last point that I would like for us to see, is the judgment of the third angel upon those in the movement, followed by those in the church. This comes upon all who reject the first and second angels and is a demonstration in type, of the seven last plagues that will come upon the impenitent, at the close of probation. It also typifies the third test that the righteous will endure, during the time that these judgments are being poured out. In this time, they will demonstrate their character, showing that God’s plan of salvation is perfect, typifying the time where they will stand without an intercessor, during the literal seven last plagues.

Let us place this upon our line.





As we can see in the diagrams above, all those who reject the warning of the third angel, given at the midnight cry, to come out of the fallen churches, will receive the seven last plagues, when the door closes. However, prior to Michael standing up at the close of human probation, the seven plagues are given in measure, typified by the work of Islam (The third woe) and natural disasters, that will destroy the cities. This is designed, not only to punish the impenitent, but to humble the nations.

“Said Christ, ‘As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man’ [Luke 17:26]. Let all read and understand the warnings given by the Saviour.

“‘And as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples saith unto Him, **Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!** And Jesus answering said unto him, **Seest thou these great buildings?** there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down’ [Mark 13:1, 2].

“**Men will continue to erect expensive buildings**, costing millions of money; special attention will be called to their architectural beauty and the firmness and solidity with which they are constructed; **but the Lord has instructed me that despite the unusual firmness and expensive display, these buildings will share the fate of the temple in Jerusalem.** That magnificent structure fell. **Angels of God were sent to do the work of destruction**, so that one stone was not left upon another that was not thrown down.

“‘And as He sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked Him privately, **Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?**’ [Mark 13:3-37, quoted].

“I am bidden to declare the message that **cities full of transgression, and sinful in the extreme, will be destroyed by earthquakes, by fire, by flood.** All the world will be warned that there is a God who will display His authority as God. **His unseen agencies will cause destruction, devastation, and death.**

“All the accumulated riches will be as nothingness. Notwithstanding the scientific care with which men safeguard buildings from destruction, **one touch of the great and rightful Ruler will bring to nothingness the idolatrous possessions that have been laid up in a sightly and magnificent display.** The devices of men will come to naught.

“The injustice in our world, the masterly power man has taken unto himself, the oppressive, man-made unions that bring confusion and violence and strife, and the manipulation of a power to rule men and to acquire means through underhand deceptions—these conditions God cannot pass by with silence. **Those who are under the influence and teaching of the great deceiver will find that although God has borne long with their deceptive acuteness, He has not been deceived, and He will reward every transgressor according to his works.** He keeps a strict account of every lie framed, and when He takes matters in His hand, He will deal in accordance with every man's secret and hidden devising.

“**Bible history is to be repeated. Calamities will come, calamities most awful, most unexpected; and these destructions will follow one after another.** If there will be a heeding of the warnings that God has given, and **if churches will repent, returning to their allegiance, then other cities may be spared for a time.** But if men who have been deceived continue in the same way in which they have been walking, **disregarding the law of God and presenting falsehoods before the people, God allows them to suffer calamity, that their senses may be awakened.**

“It is in the exercise of His long-sufferance that God gives men opportunity to come to their senses. **A time of probation is granted,** but if they go on making gold and silver their God, **erecting their expensive buildings** and accumulating iniquity by false dealings, they may expect nothing but an outbreak of the Lord's indignation to extinguish the sinner. And those who have been deceived by satanic agencies have often deceived others to their eternal ruin.

“**The Lord calls upon men everywhere to repent of their transgression of His law. Those who are so foolish as to trust in man, making flesh their arm, will be deceived and deluded, to their certain ruin.**” *{Manuscript Releases, Volume 21, P. 66, 67}*

It tells us that angels of God were sent to do the destruction, but God's word explains that at the end of the world, that work will be done by Satan, the destroyer (Revelation 9:11), who is only awaiting the divine command to destroy.

“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.**” {*Great Controversy, P. 614, par. 2*}

Summary

The Lord has a specific order, not only of the messages and events, but also to whom the message is to come. We as God’s people are required to know these events in their order, so that we are able to know what message to give, to whom and when, but also to understand the events as they happen and recognize them. This is how the Lord has ordained it. A failure to understand this will prove our eternal ruin. As we can see, the Lord will do everything to save not only His church, but also the gentiles. Let us therefore ensure that we are doing all we can to receive the oil necessary, to give this message, when the appointed event comes to pass.

“So, I saw, that **those who had no experience in the first and second angels’ messages must receive them from those who had an experience**, and followed down through the messages. **As Jesus was crucified, so I saw that these messages have been crucified.** And as the disciples declared that there was salvation in no other name under heaven, given among men; so, also, should the servants of God faithfully and fearlessly declare that those who embrace but a part of the truths connected with the third message **must gladly embrace the first, second and third messages as God has given them, or have no part nor lot in the matter.**” {*Spiritual Gifts, Volume 1, P. 75, par. 1*}

In our next edition, we will show how the structure of the binding off for the movement, is a type of this final reform-line. We will see why it is important to understand the parallels that are demonstrated and the lessons that they present.



Miscellaneous Reforms

Sins of the Flesh

As students of prophecy, we understand that God uses the natural things of life, to demonstrate spiritual lessons. In this short study, I would like for us to understand how sexual sins that affect us individually, both physically and spiritually, are also to teach us great prophetic lessons. Let us begin by looking these sins in their natural setting and see what the Lord instructs us upon these matters.

Adultery

The Lord never intended, that we as human beings, would indulge in anything of a sexual nature outside of marriage. Unfortunately, we, as the children of Satan, are born into sin and unless we are instructed in the ways of righteousness, according to God's word, from a very young age, we are most likely to indulge in this particular sin.

The Bible states:

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14)

From a surface reading, some might say that they are not guilty of such a crime, as was the case of the Jews of old. Because they only had a surface understanding of God's word, they failed

to comprehend the deeper meanings that this commandment required us to understand. However, Christ opened to the Jews, a deeper spiritual concept of what this commandment means.

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, **Thou shalt not commit adultery**: But I say unto you, That **whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery** with her already **in his heart**.” (Matthew 5:27-28)

If Christ’s words are not plain enough, the spirit of prophecy clarifies this thought.

“This commandment forbids **not only acts** of impurity, **but sensual thoughts and desires**, or any practice that tends to excite them. **Purity is demanded not only in the outward life but in the secret intents and emotions of the heart**. Christ, who taught the far-reaching obligation of the law of God, declared **the evil thought or look to be as truly sin as is the unlawful deed**.” {*Patriarchs and Prophets, P. 308, par. 7*}

Until I became a Christian and realized the far-reaching claims of God’s law upon me, I was guilty of this sin, a million times over. As a worldling, the mind is allowed to run freely on whatever the evil heart desires. It is by our words and actions that will demonstrate to others, what our minds have been filled with.

“O generation of vipers, **how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh**. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned**.” (Matthew 12:34-37)

Therefore, our words will demonstrate what we have been hiding in our hearts, nothing can, or will be his from God.

In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet was taken into vision, where he was shown the sins that were being practiced in the temple grounds. We know that this temple is a representation of us, the house which the Lord wishes to dwell in.

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, **I will dwell in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (2Corinthians 6:16)

In that vision the Lord was showing the prophet a representation of the hearts of His people.

“And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw; and **behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about**. And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel **do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery**? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.” (Ezekiel 8:9-12)

As well as the Bible explaining to us that our bodies are a temple where the Lord wishes to dwell, it also instructs us that it is our mind where He wishes to be seated.

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts**: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:” (Hebrews 8:10)

The spirit of prophecy uses the same language to help us understand that the chambers of imagery where these evil priests were worshipping their idols, was merely a symbol of our darkened and evil hearts.

“David declared: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” **When God has given us such a habitation, why should not every apartment be carefully examined? The chambers of the mind and heart are the most important**. Then, instead of living in the basement of the house, enjoying **sensual and debasing pleasures**, should we not open these beautiful **chambers** and invite the Lord Jesus to come in and dwell with us?” {*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, P. 375, par. 2*}

The Spirit of prophecy also helps us to understand that anything that is not according to God’s word is an idol.

“In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Law-giver. **It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone.** By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character. **With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah;** while the living God, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. **Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah.** The God of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists—the God of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions—is **little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.**” {*Great Controversy, P. 583, par. 1*}

Therefore, when we commit adultery, whether physically or mentally, it is also breaking the first and second commandments, where we are spiritually worshipping our idols and not the God of heaven.

“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;” (Exodus 20:2-5)

Self Abuse

This particular sin that is responsible for many of the sicknesses that are brought upon us, is one that is prevalent among even professed Christians. Sister White gives us some very important counsel upon this topic.

“**The practice of secret habits surely destroys the vital forces of the system.** All unnecessary vital action will be followed by corresponding depression. **Among the young the vital capital, the brain, is so severely taxed at an early age that there is a deficiency and great exhaustion, which leaves the system exposed to disease of various kinds.**

“If the practice is continued from the ages of fifteen and upward, nature will protest against the abuse she has suffered, and continues to suffer, and **will make them pay the penalty for the transgression of her laws,** especially from the ages of thirty to forty-five, **by numerous pains in**

the system and various diseases, such as affection of the liver and lungs, neuralgia, rheumatism, affection of the spine, diseased kidneys, and cancerous humors. Some of nature's fine machinery gives way, leaving a heavier task for the remaining to perform, which disorders nature's fine arrangement; and there is often a sudden breaking down of the constitution, and death is the result.

“Females possess less vital force than the other sex, and are deprived very much of the bracing, invigorating air by their indoor life. The results of self-abuse in them is seen in various diseases such as catarrh, dropsy, headache, loss of memory and sight, great weakness in the back and loins, affections of the spine, the head often decays inwardly. Cancerous tumor, which would lie dormant in the system their lifetime, is inflamed and commences its eating, destructive work. The mind is often utterly ruined, and insanity takes place.” *{Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce, P. 122, par. 1-3}*

The Bible is very clear, if we destroy our bodies, the Lord will destroy us.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” (1Corinthians 3:16-17)

Homosexuality

This particular sin is becoming very openly practiced, not only in the world, but also within the confines of groups who claim to worship the God of the Bible. Yet the Lord is very clear upon this topic, giving us the example of Sodom, as a warning for us at the end of the world.

“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.” (Leviticus 18:22)

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” (Jude 1:7)

Strange flesh, refers to men with men, or women with women. The apostle Paul spoke specifically upon this topic. I would like you to notice what brought them to do this particular sin.

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became **vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened**. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And **changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things**. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through **the lusts of their own hearts**, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men** working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind**, to do those things which are not convenient;” (Romans 1:21-28)

Notice in the above verses, that it was because of the false idols in their minds, that the Lord gave them over to commit this sin. For us at the end of the world, this is not only to be understood in its literal context, but even more so spiritually. So, what does this mean for us you might ask? In the story of Sodom, we understand that the two angels, that represent the two witnesses, that came to Sodom, is a representation of the investigative judgment of the living. In that story, the men of Sodom wanted to commit lewd acts with the two angels, teaching us that the foolish virgins, who rise up against the truth, will commit this sin spiritually against God’s messengers. It is no accident that those from this movement who have rejected the truth, are now in favour, of not only gender equality, but also of the LGBTQ movement. Therefore, although they may not commit the act of homosexuality itself, the very fact that they support such acts, means that their minds are in favour of those things and are therefore guilty, as if they had in fact committed those acts.

“Church members need to fast and pray, striving earnestly to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. **Not one particle of Sodomitish impurity will escape the wrath of God at the execution of the judgment**. Those who do not repent of and forsake all uncleanness will fall with the wicked. **Those who become members of the royal family and form God's kingdom in the earth made new, will be saints, not sinners**. Isaiah 30:1-3, 8-16.”
{Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce, P. 119, par. 3}

Conclusion

Whether physically, or spiritually, all sins of the flesh are clearly condemned by God's word. If we, as God's professing people, do not understand the necessity of avoiding, not only the physical acts, but also the impure thoughts of such acts, then we are as verily guilty of those acts, as if we had physically committed them. Therefore, as much as it is important to understand the natural laws, it is also very important that we are not deceived into committing these acts spiritually, in our minds, but through a correct understanding of prophecy, we will be protected from the seductive snares of Satan.