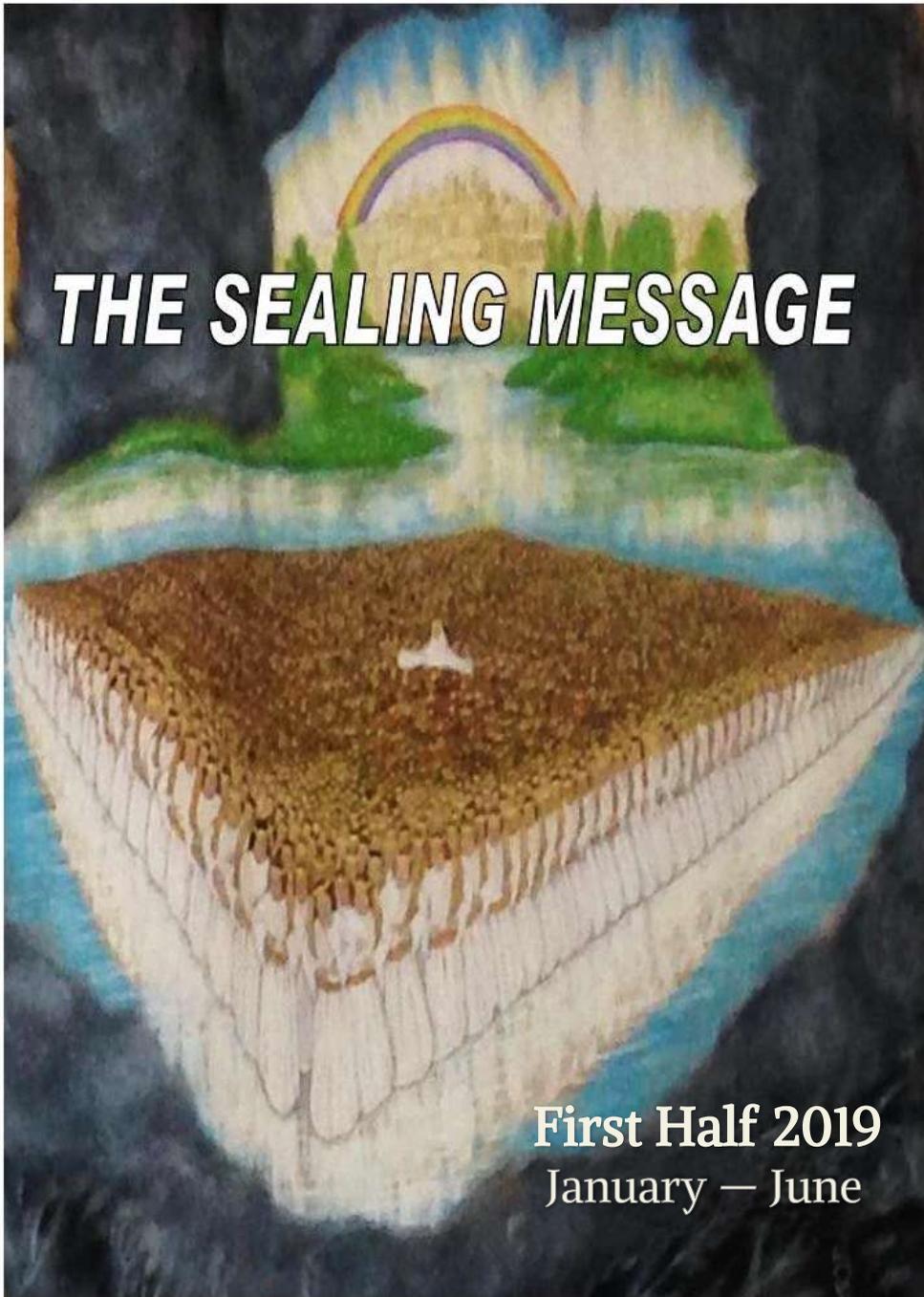


# SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS



## **THE SEALING MESSAGE**

**First Half 2019**  
January — June

— ADVENT PILGRIMS FELLOWSHIP —



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LESSONS**



**THE SEALING  
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SECTION 1

**TIME OF THE  
SEALING**



# Introduction

**E**VER since 1848, at the commencement of the message of the third angel of Revelation fourteen, God's designated people were being sealed by this angel. The Spirit of Prophecy identifies this in *Early Writings*, p. 118:

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

May it be that, as we study this awful mission for the next six months, our whole mind and attention will be engrossed and continue so until we are securely bound among the 144,000.

In this first section, we will research the evidences that will clearly verify the time period of the sealing and the associated events and experiences included in this time. We will also explore the word of God to understand that this sealing time is none other than the sealing of the 144,000 who will arise out of the entirety of the period of the sealing.

Let our prayers arise to God for His eyesalve so that we will see as He sees and submit our preconceived ideas to His correction.



# Christ's Parable Of The Harvest

*The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.  
Matthew 13:39*

## OBJECTIVES

- To research Christ's parable of the wheat and tares.
- To seek an understanding of the time of the harvest.
- To find Christ's meaning of the end of the world.

## THE PARABLE

### **1. How does Jesus describe His work in establishing the kingdom of heaven upon earth? Matthew 13:24, 37, 38**

““The sower soweth the word.” Christ came to sow the world with truth. Ever since the fall of man, Satan has been sowing the seeds of error. It was by a lie that he first gained control over men, and thus he still works to overthrow God's kingdom in the earth and to bring men under his power. A sower from a higher world, Christ came to sow the seeds of truth. He who had stood in the councils of God, who had dwelt in the innermost sanctuary of the Eternal, could bring to men the pure principles of truth. Ever since the fall of man, Christ had been the Revealer of truth to the world. By Him the incorruptible seed, "the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever," is communicated to men. 1 Peter 1:23. In that first promise spoken to our fallen race in Eden, Christ was sowing the gospel seed. But it is to His personal ministry among men and to the

work which He thus established that the parable of the sower especially applies.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 37.

**2. In which way does the good seed of the word equate with good seed being the children of the kingdom? Matthew 13:38; Mark 4:14; 1 Peter 1:23**

““He that sowed the good seed is the Son of man. . . . The good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.” The good seed represents those who are born of the word of God, the truth. The tares represent a class who are the fruit or embodiment of error, of false principles. “The enemy that sowed them is the devil.” Neither God nor His angels ever sowed a seed that would produce a tare. The tares are always sown by Satan, the enemy of God and man.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 70.

**3. What did Jesus mean with the tares remaining together with the wheat in the field of the world until the harvest? Matthew 13:38, 39 i.e. verses 28-30**

““The field,” Christ said, “is the world.” But we must understand this as signifying the church of Christ in the world. The parable is a description of that which pertains to the kingdom of God, His work of salvation of men; and this work is accomplished through the church. True, the Holy Spirit has gone out into all the world; everywhere it is moving upon the hearts of men; but it is in the church that we are to grow and ripen for the garner of God.”

“Christ’s servants are grieved as they see true and false believers mingled in the church. They long to do something to cleanse the church. Like the servants of the householder, they are ready to uproot the tares. But Christ says to them, "Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest."

“Christ has plainly taught that those who persist in open sin must be separated from the church, but He has not committed to us the work of judging character and motive. He knows our nature too well to entrust this work to us. Should we try to uproot from the church those whom we suppose to be spurious Christians, we should be sure to make mistakes. Often we regard as hopeless subjects the very ones whom Christ is drawing to Himself. Were we to deal with these souls according to our imperfect judgment, it would perhaps extinguish their last hope. Many who think themselves Christians will at last be found wanting. Many will be in heaven who their neighbors supposed would never enter there. Man judges from appearance, but God judges the heart. The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 70, 71.

## **TIME OF THE HARVEST**

### **4. As the sowing of the pure, incorruptible word produces wheat, what is it that produces tares? Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

“False doctrine is one of the satanic influences that work in the church, and brings into it those who are unconverted in heart.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 47.

“The world’s Redeemer warned His disciples against the false teaching which was, and would continue to be, the greatest obstacle to the progress of the truth. "There shall arise false christs, and false prophets," He said, "and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before." And Peter writes, "There were false prophets also among the

people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction, and many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." The leaven of false doctrine will be accepted in preference to the truth. "Beware," writes Paul, "lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."” —*The Bible Echo*, February 1, 1897.

## **5. How are the tares and the wheat to be separated? 2 Timothy 4:2**

“Do not cherish a spirit of controversy. Little good is accomplished by denunciatory speeches. The surest way to destroy false doctrine is to preach the truth. Keep to the affirmative. Let the precious truths of the gospel kill the force of evil. Show a tender, pitiful spirit toward the erring. Come close to hearts.”

“When in your discourses, you denounce with bitter sarcasm that which you wish to condemn, you sometimes offend your hearers, and their ears are turned from hearing you further. Carefully avoid any severity of speech that might give offense to those you desire to save from error; for it will be difficult to overcome the feelings of antagonism thus aroused.”

“If you will weed out the tares from your discourses, your influence for good will be increased.”

“Satan is fruitful in bringing up devices to evade the truth. But I call upon you to believe the words I speak today.” —*Evangelism*, pp. 304, 305.

## **6. In which period of time will this kind of preaching effect such separation? Revelation 14:6-12; Matthew 13:30, 41**

“I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth in great power. It had effect. I saw those who had been bound; some wives had been

bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents. The honest who had been held or prevented from hearing the truth, now eagerly laid hold of it. All fear of their relatives was gone. The truth alone was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered: "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel." –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 182.

## **END OF THE WORLD**

### **7. To which time did Jesus apply the harvest? Matthew 13:39 (middle sentence); Revelation 7:1-3**

“The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 71.

“Already kingdom is rising against kingdom. There is not now a determined engagement. 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.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 968.

### **8. As in Christ’s day harvest represented an extended period of time, can it be shown that with the end of the world was also meant a period of time—the time of the end? Daniel 12:4, 9, 10**

“I see perplexities on every side. As character develops man and woman will take their position, for varied circumstances brought to bear upon them will cause them to reveal the spirit which prompts them to action. Every one will reveal the character of the bundle with which he is binding himself. The wheat is being bound up for the heavenly garner. The true people of God are now bound up for the heavenly garner. The true people of God are now pulling apart, and the tares are being bound in bundles ready to burn.” –*1888 Materials*, p. 995.

## **9. How does Scripture reveal that when probation closes the harvest is past? Jeremiah 8:20**

“So deceitful is the human heart, so skillfully do the cherished passions justify themselves, that many will pass on in deception, satisfied with counterfeit religion and fraudulent sanctification, until probation closes, and the harvest is past.” –*The Signs of the Times*, February 24, 1890.

### **NOTES**

# The Reapers Are The Angels

*The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity. Matthew 13:41*

## OBJECTIVES

- To re-emphasise that the harvest time is the period of preaching of the three angels' messages.
- To confirm that these angels are the reapers Christ referred to in His parable of the wheat and tares.
- To observe from Inspiration the separation of wheat from the tares.

## *EARTH'S HARVEST TIME*

**1. Having learned that the preaching of the truth is the agency by which the wheat and tares are separated, does Inspiration identify the ministry of this cleaving truth? Revelation 14:9-12**

“God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth—the messages of the first, second, and third angels—He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world.

“The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God’s messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 58.

**2. Do we correctly conclude that by the agency of the three angels the meaning of angels being reapers is fulfilled? Matthew 13:39, 41**

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention."” –*Early Writings*, p. 118.

**3. Of the three angels’ messages, the first angel announces the hour of God’s judgement; as this refers to the investigative judgement commencing in 1844, is this also indicative of the harvest time? Revelation 14:6, 7; Daniel 7:9, 10**

“The looker-on may discern no difference; but there is One who said that the tares were not to be plucked up by human hands lest the wheat be rooted up also. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then the Lord sends forth His reapers to gather out the tares and bind them in bundles to burn, while the wheat is gathered into the heavenly garner. The time of the judgment is a most solemn period, when the Lord gathers His own from among the tares. Those who have been members of the same family are separated. A mark is placed upon the righteous. "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Those who have been obedient to God’s commandments will unite with the company of the saints in light; they shall enter in through the gates into the city,

and have right to the tree of life. The one shall be taken. His name shall stand in the book of life, while those with whom he associated shall have the mark of eternal separation from God.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 234.

**4. Are there other scriptures that can cast light on the time of the harvest? Daniel 12:9, 10; Malachi 3:16-18**

“The tares are permitted to grow among the wheat, to have all the advantage of sun and shower; but in the time of harvest ye shall "return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." Malachi 3:18. Christ Himself will decide who are worthy to dwell with the family of heaven. He will judge every man according to his words and his works. Profession is as nothing in the scale. It is character that decides destiny.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 74.

**WHEAT AND TARES SEPARATION**

**5. As the first angel’s message proclaiming the everlasting gospel is immediately followed by the second angel proclaiming Babylon fallen, does this indicate a separation of wheat and tares? Revelation 14:6-8; Matthew 13:47-50**

“The casting of the net is the preaching of the gospel. This gathers both good and evil into the church. When the mission of the gospel is completed, the judgment will accomplish the work of separation.”

“Both the parable of the tares and that of the net plainly teach that there is no time when all the wicked will turn to God. The wheat and the tares

grow together until the harvest. The good and the bad fish are together drawn ashore for a final separation.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 122, 123.

**6. What other parable indicates this separation and distinction of the good and the bad affected by these messages? Matthew 25:1, 2, 6-10**

“Our hopes now centered on the coming of the Lord in 1844. This was also the time for the message of the second angel, who, flying through the midst of heaven, cried: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city." That message was first proclaimed by the servants of God in the summer of 1844. As a result, many left the fallen churches. In connection with this message the midnight cry [See Matthew 25:1-13.] was given: "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him." In every part of the land, light was given concerning this message, and the cry aroused thousands. It went from city to city, from village to village, and into the remote country regions. It reached the learned and talented, as well as the obscure and humble.”—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 53.

**7. When first proclaimed, many were separated; did this separating message intensify to the very close of probation? Revelation 18:1-4**

“This scripture [Revelation 18:1, 2, 4] points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With

every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood.”

“Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared: "Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Revelation 18:5. She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and "receive not of her plagues." Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: "Come out of her, My people." These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.”

—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 603, 604.

## **NOTES**

# The Sealing Angel

*And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. Revelation 7:2*

## OBJECTIVES

- To expand on the separating activity of the angels.
- To enlarge the mission of the third angel.
- To observe the events of church history over the harvest period of earth.

## LAST DAY SEPARATIONS

- 1. Does Jesus speak of any other separating activities parallel with the separating of the wheat and the tares? Matthew 24:45-49**

“Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. “If thou hadst known,” said Christ, “even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.”” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 409.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view

matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 608.

## **2. As the faithful ministers are removed, will faithful souls also be removed from the fallen majority? Isaiah 66:4, 5**

“The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ’s righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.”  
—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 81.

## **3. How far back from our present time was this removal first indicated? Malachi 3:16 - 18**

“It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate.”—*Christian Service*, p. 41 (written in 1893).

### **THE SEALING ANGEL'S WORK**

#### **4. Observing the connection between the harvest reapers and the three angels' messages, is there more detail to explore?**

**Revelation 7:1-4; Ezekiel 9:1-4**

“The angel with the writer's ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1161.

#### **5. Is the sealing angel clearly identified by Inspiration? Revelation 14:12**

“I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All

seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, "The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner.""

"I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention."” —*Early Writings*, pp. 88, 118.

**6. How does Inspiration illuminate the separating reality of the work of this angel? Ezekiel 9:5, 6**

“This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision. John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation. He saw the sea and the waves roaring, and men's hearts failing them for fear. He beheld the earth moved, and the mountains carried into the midst of the sea (which is literally taking place), the water thereof roaring and troubled, and the mountains shaking with the swelling thereof. He was shown plagues, pestilence, famine, and death performing their terrible mission.”

—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 445

**CHURCH EVENTS**

**7. Does Inspiration describe the scene of religious and secular events during the harvest time? Matthew 13:30; Song of Solomon 6:8, 9**

“Satan is busily at work in our crowded cities. His work is to be seen in the confusion, the strife and discord between labor and capital, and the hypocrisy that has come into the churches. . . . The lust of the flesh, the

pride of the eyes, the display of selfishness, the misuse of power, the cruelty and the force used to cause men to unite with confederacies and unions—binding themselves up in bundles for the burning of the great fires of the last days—all these are the working of satanic agencies.”

—*Last Day Events*, p. 116.

**8. As we are surrounded by a multiplicity of denominations and ministries all claiming to be God’s church, what is the counsel of God’s word? Isaiah 8:9-16, 20; Song of Solomon 1:7, 8**

“The wicked are being bound up in bundles, bound up in trusts, in unions, in confederacies.” —*Last Day Events*, p. 116.

“The very same Satan is at work to undermine the faith of the people of God at this time. There are persons ready to catch up every new idea. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are misinterpreted. These persons do not consider that the truth has been set forth at the appointed time by the very men whom God was leading to do this special work. These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on “their word” who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. These messages, received and acted upon, are doing their work to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God. If we search the Scriptures to confirm the truth God has given His servants for the world, we shall be found proclaiming the first, second, and third angels’ messages.” —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 111.

“The different parties of professed Advent believers have each a little truth, but God has given all these truths to His children who are being prepared for the day of God. He has also given them truths that none of these parties know, neither will they understand. Things which are sealed up to them, the Lord has opened to those who will see and are ready to

understand. If God has any new light to communicate, He will let His chosen and beloved understand it, without their going to have their minds enlightened by hearing those who are in darkness and error.

“I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men.” —*Early Writings*, p. 124.

## **NOTES**

# Timing Of The Third Angel

*For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Habakkuk 2:3*

## OBJECTIVES

- To reconfirm that the third angel of Revelation 14 is the sealing angel.
- To clarify that the angel represents human agencies proclaiming his message.
- To identify the time when his message commenced.

## ANGEL OF THE SEALING MESSAGE

### **1. How thoroughly does Inspiration show that the third angel of Revelation 14 is indeed the angel that seals the 144,000 in their forehead? Revelation 14:9-12**

“This is the message given by God to be sounded forth in the loud cry of the third angel. The sign or seal of God is the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, and the Lord’s memorial of his work of creation. “The Lord spake unto Moses saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Lord that doth sanctify you.” Here the Sabbath is clearly defined as a sign between God and his people.” –*Special Testimonies to Battle Creek Church*, p. 6.

## **2. What further connection shows the veracity of the third angel being the sealing angel? Ezekiel 9:1-4**

“The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God’s professed people. This is forcibly set forth by the prophet’s illustration of the last work under the figure of the men each having a slaughter weapon in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen, with a 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.”” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3*, p. 266.

“This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 445.

## **3. Can we identify the sealing angel distinctly? Revelation 7:1-3**

“John’s attention was called to another scene: "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God" (Revelation 7:2). Who is this? The Angel of the covenant. He comes from the sunrising. He is the Dayspring from on high. He is the Light of the world. "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). This is the One Isaiah describes: "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be

called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). He cried, as One who had superiority over the hosts of angels in heaven "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".

—*Manuscript Releases Vol. 15*, p. 221.

**4. Having seen that the third angel is the sealing angel and that it is none other than Jesus, is there a further identification to be found in Inspiration? Revelation 1:20; 14:6, 8, 9**

“During the past fifty years of my life, I have had precious opportunities to obtain an experience. I have had an experience in the first, second, and third angels’ messages. The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth’s history. No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.” —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 387.

“Who are proclaiming the message of the third angel, calling the world to make ready for the great day of God? The message we bear has the seal of the living God.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 166.

**TIME OF COMMENCEMENT**

**5. Is it possible to locate the time when the sealing angel commenced His work? Habakkuk 2:3**

**6. Knowing that at the end of the 2300 days/years–1844–was the commencement of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, what is the vision that identifies the commencement of the sealing? Revelataion 7:2, 3**

“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 with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, "Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.” –*Early Writings*, p. 38.

“In 1848 occurred one of the greatest upheavals in the national affairs of Europe that had been for many centuries. Decided changes were made in some of the leading nations. In a brief period of time, many of the crowned heads of Europe submitted themselves to the people. It looked as if universal war was inevitable. In the midst of the turmoil and strife, came a sudden calm. No man could assign any reason for it, but the student of prophecy knew that the angels were holding the winds until the servants of God could be sealed in their foreheads.” –Stephen. N. Haskell, *The Cross and Its Shadow*, p. 363.

**7. As a “universal war” had been held back by the angels back in 1848, what is the natural conclusion as to the beginning of the sealing message and work? Revelation 7:3, 4**

“Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God’s people from the present truth, and to cause them to waver. I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth, and was pure in heart, was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty. Satan knew this, and he was at work in mighty power to keep the minds of as many people as he possibly could wavering and unsettled on the truth. . . . I saw that Satan was at work . . . to distract, deceive, and draw away God’s people, just now in this sealing time. I saw some who were not standing stiffly for present truth. Their knees were trembling, and their feet sliding because they were not firmly planted on the truth.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 342.

**8. Is it also a natural conclusion that ever since 1848 the original Seventh-day Adventists were the active agencies through whom the sealing work was achieved? Daniel 12:9, 10, 3**

“At a meeting held in Dorchester, Massachusetts, November, 1848, I had been given a view of the proclamation of the sealing message, and of the duty of the brethren to publish the light that was shining upon our pathway.” –*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 128.

“Satan is now using every device in this sealing time, to keep the minds of God’s people from the present, sealing truth; and to cause them to waver. I saw a covering that God was drawing over his people, to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth, and was pure in heart, was to be covered with the covering of Almighty God.” –*The Present Truth*, August 1, 1849.

**NOTES**

# Revelation 7:1-4

*Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. Jeremiah 25:32*

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine the meaning of Revelation 7:1.
- To observe the events of political turmoil since 1848.
- To appreciate the prolonged vigilance of the angels as they hold back the violent passions of humanity while other angels are working to settle the saints into irreversible salvation.

## THE FOUR WINDS

- 1. In the expression of prophetic language, can we visualise the symbolism of windstorms? Daniel 7:2, 3; Jeremiah 25:32; Revelation 11:18 (first phrase)**

“We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven—events which it was declared should shortly precede the great day of God. 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.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 221.

**2. Considering the rise and fall of the empires of Daniel 7 by the winds of war, is there a windstorm of war that engulfs all of them at the end? Daniel 7:9-12; Jeremiah 25:27-29, 31-33**

“Every church member who has a knowledge of the truth is expected to work while the day lasts; for the night cometh, wherein no man can work. Erelong we shall understand what that night means. The Spirit of God is being grieved away from the earth. The nations are angry with one another. Widespread preparations are being made for war. The night is at hand. Let the church arouse and go forth to do her appointed work. Every believer, educated or uneducated, can bear the message.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9, p. 26.*

**ESCALATING POLITICAL STRIFE**

**3. As the angels restrained the political powers in 1848, are we able to observe war + strife erupting and waning ever since? Revelation 9:12; 11:18; Luke 21:25, 26**

“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land.”

“My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other

nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 268.

**4. In consideration of the First and Second World Wars, does prophecy describe a war of even greater and final magnitude? Revelation 16:13-16; Joel 3:9-13; Revelation 14:19, 20**

**5. What was the purpose of the sealing message for God's people in such a time, as also in the First and Second World Wars? Isaiah 26:20, 21; Zephaniah 2:1-3; Revelation 16:14-16**

“Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty.”

“Satan was trying his every art to hold them where they were, until the sealing was past, until the covering was drawn over God's people, and they left without a shelter from the burning wrath of God, in the seven last plagues. God has begun to draw this covering over His people, and it will soon be drawn over all who are to have a shelter in the day of slaughter. God will work in power for His people; and Satan will be permitted to work also.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 43, 44.

## **ANGELIC PROTECTIVE SEALING**

### **6. As it is the sealing message by which the saints are sealed and protected, does it take time for this message to achieve its purpose? Mark 4:26-29**

“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.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1161.

### **7. Do the angels therefore engage in a prolonged and tenuous work? James 5:7, 8**

“John writes, “I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne.” Angels were united in the work of Him who had broken the seals and taken the book. Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.

“Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God’s people shall be accomplished.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 967.*

## **8. How is all this summarised in Revelation? Revelation 7:1-4**

“John beheld four angels standing on the corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. These symbols are illustrative of the troubles that will come upon the earth, but that the angels of God have been mercifully holding back until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads.” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 3, p. 342.*

### **NOTES**

# Fifty Years Of Accumulating Truth

*Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them. Isaiah 34:16*

## OBJECTIVES

- To recognise the time factor in the sealing work.
- To observe the experience of the Advent people in their gathering of truth.
- To see the present need of embracing rapidly that which took the early Adventists a lifetime to gain.

## A SEALING EXPERIENCE

### **1. How did Jesus address the ongoing activity of truth in the work of salvation? Mark 4:26-29; John 8:31, 32**

“Day by day the sanctifying influence of the Spirit of God almost imperceptibly leads those who love the ways of truth toward the perfection of righteousness, till finally the soul is ripe for the harvest, the life-work is ended, God gathers in his grain. There is no period in the Christian life when there is no more to learn, no higher attainments to reach. Sanctification is the work of a life-time. First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear, then the ripening and the harvest; for

when the fruit is perfect, it is ready for the sickle.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 2*, p. 244.

## **2. In this development, do believers have a part to play, and what is their part? Isaiah 55:10, 11**

“The material world is under God’s control. The laws that govern all nature are obeyed by nature. Everything speaks and acts the will of the Creator. The clouds, the rain, the dew, the sunshine, the showers, the wind, the storm, all are under the supervision of God, and yield implicit obedience to him who employs them. The tiny spear of grass bursts its way through the earth, first the blade, then the ear, and then the full corn in the ear. The Lord uses these, His obedient servants, to do His will. The fruit is first seen in the bud, enclosing the future pear, peach, or apple, and the Lord develops these in their proper season, because they do not resist His working. They do not oppose the order of His arrangements. His works, as seen in the natural world, are not one half comprehended or appreciated. These silent preachers will teach human beings their lessons, if they will only be attentive hearers.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6*, p. 1067.

“The Word of God is the living seed, and as this seed is sown in the mind, the human agent must give it diligent care through the successive stages of its growth. How is this to be done?—After the Word has been carefully received, it is to be cherished and practiced in the daily life. It is to spring up and bear fruit, putting forth first the blade, then the ear, and then the full corn in the ear.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 7*, p. 226.

## **3. Does this principle also apply to the sealing message? 1 Corinthians 1:6-8; Revelation 12:17**

“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.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1161.

## **THOSE BEFORE US**

### **4. Having learned that the three angels’ messages are the avenue by which God’s people were to be sealed, how progressively were these messages unfolding to the early Seventh-day Adventists? Proverbs 4:18**

“He was well pleased when His law began to come up in strength, and the waste places began to be built up.----- Out of weakness it has become strong from searching His Word.----- The test upon it has been but a short time.... It’s the seal!----- It’s coming up! It arises, commencing from the rising of the sun. Like the sun, first cold, grows warmer and sends its rays.----- When that truth arose, there was but little light in it, but it has been increasing.----- O the power of these rays!” —Arthur L. White, *Ellen G. White: The Early Years: 1827-1862*, p. 150.

### **5. Does Inspiration enlarge on this progressive, accumulating truth? Hosea 6:3**

“...The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they [the three angels’ messages] are received.” I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform.” —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 53.

**6. How long did this platform of truth take to build? Isaiah 34:16; 28:9, 10**

“Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith,—the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work, by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for more than fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way, that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid; but this is a great deception. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid." [1 Corinthians 3:11.] In the past, many have undertaken to build a new faith, to establish new principles; but how long did their building stand? It soon fell; for it was not founded upon the Rock.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 307.

**OUR PRESENT NEED**

**7. Is there a call by God in His word on how to relate to the truth established by those who have gone before us? Deuteronomy 32:7; Jude 1:3**

“The true workers of Jesus Christ are to cooperate with their brethren who have had an experience in the work from the very rise of the third angel’s message. These followed on step by step, receiving light and truth as they advanced, bearing one test after another, lifting the cross that lay directly in their pathway, and pressing on to know the Lord, whose goings forth are prepared as the morning. You and other of our brethren must accept the truth as God has given it to His students of prophecy, as they have been led by genuine, living experience, advancing point by point, tested, proved, and tried, until the truth is to them a reality. From their voices and pens the truth in bright, warm rays has

gone to all parts of the world, and that which was to them testing truth, as brought by the Lord's delegated messengers, is testing truth to all to whom this message is proclaimed." –*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 102.

**8. In the present array of professed ministries with their presentations claimed as truth, do we have an assurance of where we can find the safety of pure truth by which we may be sealed?  
1 John 1:1, 3**

“During the past fifty years of my life, I have had precious opportunities to obtain an experience. I have had an experience in the first, second, and third angels' messages. The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth's history.

“I have acted a part in this solemn work. Nearly all my Christian experience is interwoven with it. There are those now living who have an experience similar to my own. They have recognized the truth unfolding for this time; they have kept in step with the great Leader, the Captain of the Lord's host.”

“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 place us in that company who have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits.” –*Selected Messages Book 2*, pp. 387, 388 (written in 1905).

“In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established. The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith.

Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?" –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 53 (written in 1905).

**NOTES**

# That Other Angel

*And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. Revelation 18:1*

## OBJECTIVES

- To discover another reaping angel sent to help the other reapers in the prolonged harvest.
- To learn when he came into action in Adventist history.
- To explore the detail of his preaching.

## *ANOTHER REAPING ANGEL*

- 1. Having established that the angels of Revelation 14 are the reapers in earth's harvest field, the third angel being the sealing angel, can the angel of Revelation 18 be another reaper? Revelation 18:1-3**

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." The message of the fall of

Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message." –*Early Writings*, p. 277.

## **2. What could be the reason for the need of a helping angel in the great final harvest time? Revelation 3:14-19**

"We are in danger of giving the third angel's message in so indefinite a manner that it does not impress the people. So many other interests are brought in that the very message which should be proclaimed with power becomes tame and voiceless." –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 60.

"It is a solemn and terrible truth that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel's message are now becoming listless and indifferent!" –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8*, p. 118.

### **WHEN THE ANGEL CAME**

## **3. Does Inspiration reveal where in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist church, that other angel was manifest? Revelation 3:20**

"The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth." –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 984 (written in 1892).

**4. What specifically was meant by the event of “the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer”? Jeremiah 33:15, 16**

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. [See appendix.] This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 91.

**THE ANGEL’S MESSAGE**

**5. As with the three angels of Revelation 14, does this angel also represent the people who have his message? Revelation 18:2 (first phrase)**

“Another angel unites his voice with the third angel, and the earth is lighted with its glory. The light increases, and it shines out to all the nations of the earth. It is to go forth as a light that burneth. It will be attended with great power, until its golden beams have fallen upon every tongue, every people, and every nation upon the face of the whole earth. Let me ask you, What you are doing to prepare for this work? Are you building for eternity? You must remember that this angel represents the

people that have this message to give to the world.” –*The Review and Herald*, August 18, 1885.

“The question of most vital importance for this time is, "Who is on the Lord's side? Who will unite with the angel in giving the message of truth to the world? Who will receive the light that is to fill the whole earth with its glory?"” –*The Review and Herald*, November 5, 1889.

**6. Explore the description of this angel's impact; what does it mean? Revelation 18:1;**

- 1. The power: Ephesians 1:18-20**
- 2. The light/glory: Habakkuk 2:14**

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth.” –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 415.

**7. Does the Bible bind the light and power of this angel inseparably to God's people? Isaiah 60:1, 2; Philippians 2:15**

“It is to the thirsting soul that the fountain of living waters is open. God declares: "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground." To souls that are earnestly seeking for light and that accept with gladness every ray of divine illumination from His holy word, to such alone light will be given. It is through these souls that God will

reveal that light and power which will lighten the whole earth with His glory.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 729.

**8. As this angel represents a people, is this therefore indicative of another movement in the history of Adventism? And does Revelation 18 indicate even another additional message? Revelation 18:5, 4**

“Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared: "Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Revelation 18:5. She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and "receive not of her plagues." Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: "Come out of her, My people." These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.”  
–*The Great Controversy*, p. 604.

## **NOTES**

# The Shaking Time

*For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. Amos 9:9*

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine the impact of the angels' messages on the experience of the Advent people.
- To research Inspiration on the subject of the shaking.
- To discover why only 144,000 will be found in the sealing time.

## THE ADVENTIST EXPERIENCE

### **1. What happened to the professed Christian world at the proclamation of the first and second angels' messages? Matthew 25:1, 2, 6-8; Revelation 14:8**

“All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel's message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most

holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place." *—The Story of Redemption, p. 387.*

## **2. Who was left to launch the third angel's message? Isaiah 1:9**

"After the great disappointment there were few who set themselves to seek the Word with all their heart. But some souls would not settle down in discouragement and deny that the Lord had led them. To these the truth was opened point by point, and entwined with their most hallowed recollections and sympathies. The searchers after truth felt that the identification of Christ with their nature and interest was complete. Truth was made to shine forth, beautiful in its simplicity, dignified with a power and invested with an assurance unknown before the disappointment. We could then proclaim the message in unity." *—Selected Messages Book 2, p. 109.*

## **3. How quickly did the growing company of Seventh-day Adventists enter into a deteriorated spiritual state? Revelation 3:14, 15; Galatians 1:6**

"As I have of late looked around to find the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, my mind has been much exercised. Many who profess to be looking for the speedy coming of Christ are becoming conformed to this world and seek more earnestly the applause of those around them than the approbation of God. They are cold and formal, like the nominal churches from which they but a short time since separated. The words addressed to the Laodicean church describe their present condition perfectly. (See Revelation 3:14-20.) They are "*neither cold nor hot*", but "*lukewarm*". And unless they heed the counsel of the "faithful and true Witness," and zealously repent and obtain "gold tried in the

fire," "white raiment," and "eye-salve," He will spew them out of His mouth." —*Early Writings*, p. 107 (written in 1852).

## **THE SHAKING**

### **4. During the growth of membership of the SDA people, is there anything written suggesting a shaking within its membership? Isaiah 17:5, 6**

“The mighty shaking has commenced, and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a hold and unyielding stand for the truth, and sacrifice for God and his cause. The angel said, "Think ye that any will be compelled to sacrifice. No. no. It must be a free-will offering. It will take all to buy the field."—I cried to God to spare his people, some of whom were fainting and dying.” —*The Present Truth*, April 1, 1850.

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.” —*Early Writings*, p. 270.

### **5. What percentage of membership was identified as faithful? Amos 5:3; Romans 9:27**

“It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving

God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate.” –*Christian Service*, p. 41.

“We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands.” –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 336.

## **6. Is there a description of an internal sorting out between the faithful and the careless? Amos 9:9**

“Nov. 20th, I was shown the people of God, and saw them mightily shaken. I saw some with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety which expressed their internal struggle. There was firmness and great earnestness expressed in their countenances, while large drops of perspiration rose upon their foreheads, and fell. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God’s approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look settled upon them.

“Evil angels crowded around them, pressing their darkness upon them, to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and they distrust God, and next murmur against him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels were having the charge over the people of God, and as the poisonous atmosphere from these evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the angels, which had the charge over them, were

continually wafting their wings over them, to scatter the thick darkness that surrounded them.

“Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left them, and went to the aid of those earnest, praying ones. I saw the angels of God hasten to the assistance of every one who were struggling with all their energies to resist those evil angels, and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But the angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.” —*The Review and Herald*, December 31, 1857.

## **A GENERATIONAL MINORITY**

**7. While in the note of the previous question a distinction between the faithful and the careless is cited, how very personally internal is this shaking? Acts 14:22 (last half); 1 Peter 4:12, 13**

“Some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, were pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness were expressed in their countenances, while large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God’s approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 179.

**8. In consideration of this lesson and our aversion to suffering, can we understand why only an 144,000 are sealed in the entire period of the sealing? Revelation 7:4, 13-14; Daniel 12:9, 10**

“The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character.

“As wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of Christ.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 287.

“Only those who receive the seal of the living God will have the passport through the gates of the Holy City. But there are many who take upon themselves responsibilities in connection with the work of God who are not wholehearted believers, and while they remain thus cannot receive the seal of the living God. They trust in their own righteousness, which the Lord accounts as foolishness.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 970.

### **MEDITATION**

“I have tried in the fear of God to set before His people their danger and their sins, and have endeavored, to the best of my feeble powers, to arouse them. I have stated startling things, which, if they had believed, would have caused them distress and terror, and led them to zeal in repenting of their sins and iniquities. I have stated before them that, from what was shown me, but a small number of those now professing to believe the truth would eventually be saved—not because they could not be saved, but because they would not be saved in God’s own appointed way. The way marked out by our divine Lord is too narrow and the gate too strait to admit them while grasping the world or while cherishing selfishness or sin of any kind. There is no room for these things; and yet there are but few who will consent to part with them, that they may pass the narrow way and enter the strait gate.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 445.

### **NOTES**

# Time Extended

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*

## OBJECTIVES

- To repeat evidence by which is revealed the beginning of the time of the sealing of the 144,000.
- To ponder over the fact of such a long period required.
- To let Inspiration reveal the reason for the prolonging of time.

## **BEGINNING OF THE SEALING**

- 1. How clearly does Inspiration identify the angel that seals the 144,000 in their forehead? Revelation 14:12, 13 i.e. verses 1-5**

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work, awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal or bind the wheat for the heavenly garner." These things should engage the whole mind, the whole attention. Again I was shown the necessity of those who believe we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily receiving or imbibing new error. I saw that neither young nor old should attend the assemblies of those who are in error and darkness. Said the angel, "Let the mind cease to dwell on things of no profit."” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 5, p. 425.*

**2. What have we learned regarding the beginnings of this angel's work? Revelation 7:1-3**

“In 1848 occurred one of the greatest upheavals in the national affairs of Europe that had been for many centuries. Decided changes were made in some of the leading nations. In a brief period of time, many of the crowned heads of Europe submitted themselves to the people. It looked as if universal war was inevitable. In the midst of the turmoil and strife, came a sudden calm. No man could assign any reason for it, but the student of prophecy knew that the angels were holding the winds until the servants of God could be sealed in their foreheads.” –Stephen. N. Haskell, *The Cross and Its Shadow*, p. 363.

**3. Considering that the sealing commenced in 1848, was the sealing work meant to extend to this our time? Romans 9:28**

“My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.” –*Early Writings*, p. 58.

**A PROLONGING OF THE SEALING**

**4. Does the answer to question three suggest a false declaration? Revelation 7:3; Habakkuk 2:3**

“The Lord God is a jealous God, yet He bears long with the sins and transgressions of His people in this generation. If the people of God had walked in His counsel, the work of God would have advanced, the messages of truth would have been borne to all people that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Had the people of God believed Him and been doers of His word, had they kept His commandments, the angel would not have come flying through heaven with the message to the four angels that were to let loose the winds that they should blow upon the earth crying, Hold, hold the four winds that they blow not upon the earth until I have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads. But because the people are disobedient, unthankful, unholy, as were ancient Israel, time is prolonged that all may hear the last message of mercy proclaimed with a loud voice. The Lord’s work has been hindered, the sealing time delayed. Many have not heard the truth. But the Lord will give them a chance to hear and be converted, and the great work of God will go forward.”

—*Manuscript Releases Vol. 15, p. 292.*

**5. Is it unusual for God to apparently alter His word due to the fault of the people to whom His word initially applied? Hebrews 8:6-9; 2 Peter 3:9**

**6. How does Inspiration connect the delaying of the sealing with the Hebrew wilderness journey to Canaan? Hebrews 3:17-19; 4:1**

“It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years. . . .

“We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ’s sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action.” —*Maranatha*, p. 19 (written in 1883).

- 7. Seeing God has extended the time of the sealing of the 144,000 to include us, is there a lesson to be taken from those before us so that we may ensure a place for us among this number?  
1 Corinthians 10:5, 6, 11**

“Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God’s wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God’s people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 136.

- 8. How does Inspiration admonish us in the light of the fact that time is still available for us to be sealed? 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6**

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 970.

**NOTES**

# Events During The Sealing

*So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Matthew 24:33*

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine God's word to find prophecies that describe the events taking place over the entire period of the sealing.
- To confirm that the sealing period stretches from 1848 to the close of probation, by recognising the prophesied events.
- To recognise the event that closes the sealing time.

## SEALING TIME EVENTS

- 1. What specific events constantly threaten by which we may know the sealing of the 144,000 is transpiring? Revelation 7:1-3; Luke 21:25, 26; Revelation 11:18 (first phrase)**

“John writes, “I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne.” Angels were united in the work of Him who had broken the seals and taken the book. Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great

deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 967.*

**2. As the four angels held back the nations eager for conflict, are there events by which it can be shown that these angels let some winds slip to arouse the people of God to respond? Psalm 46:6-11**

“My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men’s hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."

“The unbelieving world will soon have something to think of besides their dress and appearance; and as their minds are torn from these things by distress and perplexity, they will have nothing to turn to. They are not prisoners of hope, and therefore do not turn to the Stronghold. Their hearts will fail them for repining and fear. They have not made God their refuge, and He will not be their consolation then, but will laugh at their calamity, and mock when their fear cometh. They have despised and trampled upon the truths of God’s word. They have indulged in extravagant dress, and have spent their lives in hilarity and glee. They have sown to the wind; they must reap the whirlwind. In the time of distress and perplexity of nations there will be many who have not given themselves wholly to the corrupting influences of the world and the service of Satan, who will humble themselves before God and turn to Him with their whole heart and find acceptance and pardon.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1, p. 268.*

**3. Besides conflicts among nations, are there other events the angels can be observed holding in check, yet releasing spasmodically?  
Luke 21:25**

“We hear now of earthquakes in divers places, of fires, of tempests, of disasters by sea and land, of pestilence, of famine. What weight do these signs have upon you? This is only the beginning of what shall be. The description of the day of God is given through John by the Revelator. The cry of the terror-stricken myriads has fallen upon the ear of John. "The great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" The apostle himself was awed and overwhelmed.

“If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God’s people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God’s church.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 444.

**4. Can we at the present time see the angels releasing some of the elements, but holding back waiting for us? Job 38:8-11**

“The disasters of the past year in America have caused hearts to tremble, and similar disasters have fallen upon other countries. Already sprinklings from the vials of God’s wrath have been let fall upon land and sea, affecting the elements of the air. The causes of these unusual conditions are being searched for, but in vain.

“God has not restrained the powers of darkness from carrying forward their deadly work of vitiating the air, one of the sources of life and nutrition, with a deadly miasma. Not only is vegetable life affected, but

man suffers from pestilences. Cholera and unexplainable diseases have broken out. Diphtheria, raging to a limited extent, is gathering its harvest of precious little ones, and seems to be almost uncontrollable.” — *Manuscript Releases Vol. 3*, p. 312.

**5. How do the social events around us reveal the sealing restraints?  
2 Timothy 3:1-4, 13**

“At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution—all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France.

“Such are the influences to be met by the youth of today. To stand amidst such upheavals they are now to lay the foundations of character.” —*Education*, p. 228.

**RELIGIOUS EVENTS**

**6. Is there a positive indicator in the events of our faith during the sealing time? Joel 2:23, 28-32**

“I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth in great power. It had effect. I saw those who had been bound; some wives had been bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents. The honest who had been held or prevented from hearing the truth, now eagerly laid hold of the truth spoken. All fear of their relatives

was gone. The truth alone was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, It is the latter rain; the refreshing from the presence of the Lord; the loud cry of the third angel.” –*Spiritual Gifts Vol, 1*, p. 186.

“As the third angel’s message swells into a loud cry, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. The faces of God’s people will shine with the light of heaven.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7*, p. 17.

**7. While this accumulating swelling power covers the entire sealing period and climaxes just before probation closing, how are those who proclaim this power received and treated? Matthew 24:45-50**

“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.” –*Last Day Events*, p. 195.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren.” –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 336.

**CLOSING EVENT**

**8. What event marks the closing of the sealing time, the close of probation? Daniel 11:40 i.e. 45; 12:1**

**NOTES**

# Blessed Are The Dead In The Lord

*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. Revelation 14:13*

## OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate that due to the extended period of the sealing, believers sealed in the past will have died.
- To gather information from Inspiration as to certain ones to be counted among the 144,000 in the early days of Adventism.
- To learn how those who have died will be among the living when Jesus comes.

## THE SEALED DEAD

- 1. As the sealing commenced in 1848 under the work of the third angel, is here any indication by Inspiration of souls sealed since then? Revelation 14:13 (first part); Psalm 116:15**

“There are living upon our earth men who have passed the age of fourscore and ten. The natural results of old age are seen in their feebleness. But they believe God, and God loves them. The seal of God is upon them, and they will be among the number of whom the Lord has said, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.”” *—Last Day Events, p. 223.*

**2. How was Sr. White personally addressed in reference to her sealing? Revelation 17:14 (last part)**

“I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said, "You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God.”” —*Maranatha*, p. 368.

**WITHOUT SEEING DEATH**

**3. What did all who partook of the sealing message in Sr. White’s time expect in reference to their position at Christ’s coming? Hebrews 11:5, 6**

“Enoch formed a righteous character, and the result was that he was translated to heaven without seeing death. When the Lord shall come the second time, there will be some who will be translated without seeing death, and we want to know if we will be among that number. We want to know if we are wholly on the Lord’s side—partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust—not by trying to make a clear path for our feet where we shall have no trials or difficulties to meet, but by placing ourselves in right relation to God and letting Him take care of the consequences.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 42.

**4. How clearly does the Spirit of Prophecy express this expectation?**

“In the destruction of the inhabitants of the old world by the flood is clearly represented the [fate] of all those who continue to transgress the law of God. Enoch’s translation to Heaven represents the commandment-keeping people of God who will be alive upon the earth when Christ shall

come the second time, and who will be glorified in the sight of those who hated them because they would keep the commandments of God. These also will be translated to Heaven without seeing death, as Enoch and Elijah were.” –*The Review and Herald*, April 29, 1875.

“Jesus had told His disciples that there were some standing with Him who should not taste of death till they should see the kingdom of God come with power. At the transfiguration this promise was fulfilled. The countenance of Jesus was there changed and shone like the sun. His raiment was white and glistening. Moses was present to represent those who will be raised from the dead at the second appearing of Jesus. And Elijah, who was translated without seeing death, represented those who will be changed to immortality at Christ’s second coming and will be translated to heaven without seeing death. The disciples beheld with astonishment and fear the excellent majesty of Jesus and the cloud that overshadowed them, and heard the voice of God in terrible majesty, saying, “This is My beloved Son; hear Him.”” –*Early Writings*, p. 164.

## **5. Due to the period of the sealing being extended because the church went lukewarm, do many who were sealed taste death?**

“On Sabbath day, July 24, 1915, Mrs. White was laid to rest by the side of her husband, the late Elder James White, in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Mich., there to await the summons of the Life-giver.” –*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 462.

“I saw that she [Mrs. Hastings] was sealed and would come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; she would rest in the time of trouble.” –*Last Day Events*, p. 222.

## **A SPECIAL RESURRECTION**

## **6. As the faithful since 1848 have laboured under the sealing message and yet did taste death, do they forfeit their position with the 144,000? Revelation 14:13**

“Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people. But my strength is yet spared, and I hope to continue to do much useful work. I may live until the coming of the Lord; but if I should not, I trust it may be said of me, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."” –*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 251.

**7. As their works included settling into the truth so that they could not be moved, would they therefore be among the living at Christ’s coming? Daniel 12:1, 2; Revelation 16:17, 18**

“In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: "It is done."”

“Graves are opened, and "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. "They also which pierced Him" (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.

“Thick clouds still cover the sky; yet the sun now and then breaks through, appearing like the avenging eye of Jehovah. Fierce lightnings leap from the heavens, enveloping the earth in a sheet of flame. Above the terrific roar of thunder, voices, mysterious and awful, declare the

doom of the wicked. The words spoken are not comprehended by all; but they are distinctly understood by the false teachers. Those who a little before were so reckless, so boastful and defiant, so exultant in their cruelty to God's commandment-keeping people, are now overwhelmed with consternation and shuddering in fear. Their wails are heard above the sound of the elements. Demons acknowledge the deity of Christ and tremble before His power, while men are supplicating for mercy and groveling in abject terror." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 636, 637.

## **8. What did Uriah Smith express of this subject?**

“John is commanded by a voice from heaven to write, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth;" and the response of the Spirit is, "Yea, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." "From henceforth" must signify from some particular point of time. What point? - Evidently from the commencement of the message in connection with which this is spoken. But why are those who die after this point of time blessed? There must be some special reason for pronouncing this benediction upon them. Is it not because they escape the time of fearful peril which the saints are to encounter as they close their pilgrimage? And while they are thus blessed in common with all the righteous dead, they have an advantage over them in being, doubtless, that company spoken of in Dan. 12:2, who are raised to everlasting life at the standing up of Michael. Thus, escaping the perils through which the rest of 144,000 pass, they rise, and share with them in their final triumph here, and occupy with them their pre-eminent place in the kingdom. In this way, we understand, their works follow them: these works are held in remembrance to be rewarded at the judgment; and the persons receive the same recompense that they would have had, had they lived and faithfully endured all the perils of the time of trouble.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897), p. 677.

## **NOTES**

# Closing Probationary Time

*He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. Revelation 22:11*

## OBJECTIVES

- To seek to understand the meaning of probation.
- To comprehend the meaning of the close of probation.
- To realise that God never functions in an arbitrary manner.

## UNDERSTANDING PROBATION

- 1. When the human race under Adam fell into sin, how did God meet the crisis? Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:18, 19; John 3:16**

“God could not abolish His law to save the human race, for this would immortalize transgression and place the whole world under Satan’s control. But He “so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” In this wonderful gift is shown the depth of God’s goodness. He so loved sinful people that He gave Himself in His Son, that they might have another opportunity, another trial, another chance to show their obedience. He so loved men and women that in order to save them He gave His Son to the world, and in that gift He gave all heaven! This was the only provision

God could make. By this gift a way was provided for sinners to return to their loyalty.” –*Christ Triumphant*, p. 279.

## **2. Depending on the response of the individual to this provision, what in reality was provided for humanity? Deuteronomy 30:19**

“We can understand the value of the human soul only as we realize the greatness of the sacrifice made for its redemption. The word of God declares that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price. It is at an immense cost that we have been placed upon vantage ground, where we can find liberty from the bondage of sin wrought by the fall in Eden. Adam’s sin plunged the race into hopeless misery; but by the sacrifice of the Son of God, a second probation was granted to man. In the plan of redemption a way of escape is provided for all who will avail themselves of it. God knew that it was impossible for man to overcome in his own strength, and he has provided help for him. How thankful we should be that a way is open for us, by which we can have access to the Father; that the gates are left ajar, so that beams of light from the glory within may shine upon those who will receive them!” –*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 15.

## **3. How was this probation demonstrated? Hebrews 5:8, 9**

“Unless there is a possibility of yielding, temptation is no temptation. Temptation is resisted when man is powerfully influenced to do a wrong action and, knowing that he can do it, resists, by faith, with a firm hold upon divine power. This was the ordeal through which Christ passed. He could not have been tempted in all points as man is tempted, had there been no possibility of His failing. He was a free agent, placed on probation as was Adam, and as is every man. In His closing hours, while hanging upon the cross, He experienced to the fullest extent what man

must experience when striving against sin. He realized how bad a man may become by yielding to sin. He realized the terrible consequences of the transgression of God's law: for the iniquity of the whole world was upon Him." –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1082.

## **IT'S ON US**

### **4. While God has given us a second trial and provided the means to pass it, is it dependent on Him whether we benefit? Philippians 2:12-15**

"No one, not even God, can carry us to heaven unless we make the necessary effort on our part. We must put features of beauty into our lives. We must expel the unlovely natural traits that make us unlike Jesus. While God works in us to will and to do of His own good pleasure, we must work in harmony with Him." –*Heaven*, p. 95.

"So long as we are in the world, we shall meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If Christ dwells in us, we shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self, and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful, unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 487.

### **5. Does there come a time in an individual's experience when he comes to an irreversible position either for or against God? Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-29; Colossians 1:21-23**

“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...” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1161.

## **PROBATION CLOSED**

### **6. How does the Spirit of Prophecy describe the harvest time of the earth? Matthew 13:38-41**

“The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 71.

### **7. If the harvest is the period of the preaching of the three angels’ messages and the third angel is the bundling reaper, then is it correct to conclude that probation closes according to the acceptance or rejection of these messages? Revelation 14:8**

“I was shown in vision, and I still believe, that there was a shut door in 1844. All who saw the light of the first and second angels’ messages and rejected that light, were left in darkness. And those who accepted it and received the Holy Spirit which attended the proclamation of the message from heaven, and who afterward renounced their faith and pronounced their experience a delusion, thereby rejected the Spirit of God, and it no longer pleaded with them.

“Those who did not see the light, had not the guilt of its rejection. It was only the class who had despised the light from heaven that the Spirit of

God could not reach. And this class included, as I have stated, both those who refused to accept the message when it was presented to them, and also those who, having received it, afterward renounced their faith. These might have a form of godliness, and profess to be followers of Christ; but having no living connection with God, they would be taken captive by the delusions of Satan.” –*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 63.

**8. When the declaration of Revelation 22:11 is made, can we see that this is not God arbitrarily shutting souls out, but that He could find no one else to accept His messages? Revelation 22:11**

“It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors, and to lead them in safe paths; it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God’s word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul. Thus it had been with these Jewish leaders. They were convinced that a divine power attended Christ, but in order to resist the truth, they attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan. In doing this they deliberately chose deception; they yielded themselves to Satan, and henceforth they were controlled by his power.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 322.

**NOTES**

# The 144,000 And The Great Multitude

*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. Ephesians 1:13*

## OBJECTIVES

- To recognise that all who embrace the gospel of salvation are sealed.
- To differentiate between the seal of the Spirit of promise and the seal that seals the 144,000.
- To observe this differentiation in the contrast of the 144,000 and the great multitude.

## **THE SEAL OF SALVATION**

### **1. Does Scripture identify a sealing which applies to all believers in Jesus Christ? 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22**

“In giving the Holy Spirit, it was impossible for God to give more. To this gift nothing could be added. By it all needs are supplied. The Holy Spirit is the vital presence of God, and if appreciated will call forth praise and thanksgiving, and will ever be springing up unto everlasting life. The restoration of the Spirit is the covenant of grace. Yet how few appreciate this great gift, so costly, yet so free to all who will accept it? When faith takes hold of the blessing, there comes rich spiritual good. But too often

the blessing is not appreciated. We need an enlarged conception in order to comprehend its value.” —*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 284.

**2. What do we understand by the word “earnest”? Dictionary meaning: foretaste, pledge. Ephesians 1:13, 14**

“Growing in grace is an earnest working out of what God works in. It is an earnest of future glory, the working out here upon the earth of the spirit that is cherished in heaven.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 72.

**3. Is not every true believer ever since Adam and Eve a beneficiary of the sealing Spirit? Ephesians 4:30; John 16:13, 14**

“The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only-begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ. This union is represented by the union of the vine and the branches. Finite man is united to the manhood of Christ. Through faith human nature is assimilated with Christ’s nature. We are made one with God in Christ.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 251.

**THE SEAL OF THE ANGELS**

**4. While the Holy Spirit seals, or binds, the human agent to the divine-human nature of Christ, what does the sealing angel do? Revelation 7:3; Matthew 13:39**

“The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner.” —*Early Writings*, p. 88.

**5. Is there a literal number of saints which are so sealed? Revelation 7:4; 14:1**

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer’s inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed.” —*Early Writings*, p. 279.

**6. Having learned in this lesson that the sealing takes place by the proclamation of the messages of truth, and settling into it, does the Holy Spirit have anything to do with it? John 15:26; 16:13**

“The time has come when things must be called by their right names. The truth is to triumph gloriously, and those who have long been halting between two opinions must take their stand decidedly for or against the law of God. Some will take up with theories that misinterpret the Word of God, and undermine the foundation of the truth that has been firmly established, point by point, and sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 88.

**THE 144,000 VERSUS THE GREAT MULTITUDE**

**7. What is to be understood regarding the two companies of Revelation 7:4 and 7:9? Compare Revelation 7:13-15**

“And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, “Only the 144,000 enter this place,” and we shouted, “Alleluia.”

“This temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city.” –*Early Writings*, pp. 18, 19.

## **8. Who only is alive to see Jesus coming in the clouds, and when will the great multitude appear? Revelation 1:7**

“Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai.

“The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name. At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another’s feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet.

“Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man’s hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud.”

“Then Jesus’ silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, "Awake! awake! awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise." Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, "Alleluia!" as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 14-16.

## **NOTES**

## SECTION 2

# ACTIVITY OF THE SEALING



# Introduction

**H**AVING established from the word of God that the period of earth's harvest and the sealing events spanned from 1848 through to the close of probation, we now embark on a study of our engagement, our participation, in the sealing activity.

We are admonished as follows:

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 970.

To do this requires a settling into truth both intellectually and spiritually; it requires diligent study into the subjects relevant to the sealing experience. This is the purpose of this section of the Sabbath school lesson. We may know everything about the sealing according to the first section of this lesson, but, according to Inspiration, this is not enough.

“We may have a knowledge of the truth, but this is not enough. We must bring its living principles into our lives, and it must sanctify our characters and flow out to others.” —*The Review and Herald*, May 3, 1887.

Therefore as we launch into this section of the lesson, let us earnestly seek the aid of the Holy Spirit and submit to His inroads into our being, for we need Him to apply the word livingly within our soul.

May God help us to open our hearts to the word and thereby secure our place among the 144,000.

Amen.



# The Seal Of God

*Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Exodus 31:13*

## OBJECTIVES

- To clearly establish what the seal of God is in all reality.
- To see the connection of the Sabbath with the sealing/sanctifying activity of God.
- To submit ourselves to the application of God's seal.

## *IDENTIFYING THE SEAL*

- 1. Does Scripture give any indication as to what may be the seal of God by which His people should be sealed as His? Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:19, 20**

“The Israelites placed over their doors a signature of blood, to show that they were God's property. So the children of God in this age will bear the signature God has appointed. They will place themselves in harmony with God's holy law. A mark is placed upon every one of God's people just as verily as a mark was placed over the doors of the Hebrew dwellings, to preserve the people from the general ruin. God declares, "I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.” —*Maranatha*, p. 246.

## **2. Does the expression “sign” equate with the term “seal” ? Romans 4:11**

“The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation. "The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." Exodus 31:12, 13. Here the Sabbath is clearly designated as a sign between God and His people.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8, p. 117.*

## **3. How distinctly does Inspiration identify the Sabbath as the seal of the Lawmaker? Exodus 20:10, 11; Isaiah 8:16**

“The Lord commands by the same prophet: "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples." Isaiah 8:16. The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority.” –*The Great Controversy, p. 452.*

## **SABBATH AND SANCTIFICATION**

## **4. Is the sanctification of a believer intimately connected with our relationship with God? 1 Corinthians 1:30; John 17:19-22**

“It is fellowship with Christ, personal contact with a living Saviour, that enables the mind and heart and soul to triumph over the lower nature. Tell the wanderer of an almighty hand that will hold him up, of an infinite humanity in Christ that pities him. It is not enough for him to believe in law and force, things that have no pity, and never hear the cry for help. He needs to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. Keep his mind stayed upon the thought of a divine presence ever beside him, ever looking upon him with pitying love. Bid him think of a Father's heart that ever grieves over sin, of a Father's hand stretched out still, of a Father's voice saying, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me, and he shall make peace." Isaiah 27:5.” –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 388.

## **5. Has the Sabbath anything to do with an intimate relationship with God? Isaiah 58:13, 14**

“Nothing has been withheld from us that God could give. So ample was the gift poured out to man, that there was nothing more which God could bestow. He is our best friend, our benefactor. Shall we not give evidence of our gratitude to him, not only by thanksgiving and praise, but by offerings to extend to others the knowledge of his great gift? How do you expect sinners to be converted, unless you do your duty in giving them the light of truth? Can you pray in faith for God to enlighten them? while you are withholding the means he has placed in your hands for the accomplishment of this very work? You will seek in vain to convince others of the preciousness of Christ, while you yourselves show that you value his grace so lightly, and are so unwilling to deny yourselves for his dear sake.” –*The Review and Herald*, December 2, 1890.

**6. Can we discern the warmth associated with God’s saving intervention and His desire for human fellowship in the Sabbath? Deuteronomy 5:15; 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18**

“Family prayer receives too little interest and attention. In many cases, the morning and evening worship is little more than a mere form, a dull, monotonous repetition of set phrases in which the spirit of gratitude or the sense of need finds no expression. The Lord accepts not such service. But the petitions of a humble heart and contrite spirit he will not despise. The opening of our hearts to our Heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants, the homage of grateful love,—this is true prayer. When we come pleading the merits of Christ’s blood, and trusting with implicit faith his promises, we shall secure the blessing of the Lord.” —*The Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1882.

**SUBMITTING TO THE SEAL**

**7. Does the angel apply the seal without the approval of the recipient? Joshua 24:15; Isaiah 56:4-8**

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the

other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 605.

## **8. What is involved in receiving the seal of God? Proverbs 23:26**

“Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God, or be cut down by the destroying weapons.”

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God,—candidates for heaven. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.” —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, pp. 187, 191.

### **NOTES**

# The Sealing Agencies

*Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. Revelation 7:3*

## OBJECTIVES

- To learn of all the agencies that are active in the sealing work.
- To gain the understanding by which we can cooperate with them.
- To find the comfort gained by submission to these agencies.

## ACTIVE SEALING AGENTS

### **1. With what language does the sealing angel announce the sealing work which suggests multiple agencies in the process? Revelation 7:3 (last part)**

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfilment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory.”

“Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, “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.” This message seemed to be an addition to the third message, joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel’s message in 1844.” *—Early Writings, p. 277.*

**2. How are these angels represented in visible form on earth?  
Revelation 14:6, 8, 9; 18:1; Isaiah 60:1-3**

“The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Christ declares to His followers: "Ye are the light of the world." To every soul that accepts Jesus the cross of Calvary speaks: "Behold the worth of the soul: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'" Nothing is to be permitted to hinder this work. It is the all-important work for time; it is to be far-reaching as eternity. The love that Jesus manifested for the souls of men in the sacrifice which He made for their redemption, will actuate all His followers.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 455.

**3. Besides the angels of heaven, and human beings represented by them, is there yet another agency? Revelation 18:4; Ephesians 1:13 (last part)**

“No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.” –*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 387.

**UNDERSTANDING COOPERATION**

**4. What was the admonition given in reference to being sealed among the 144,000? Luke 13:24; 2 Timothy 2:5**

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 970.*

**5. In reference to this striving, does Inspiration link us with the angels? Psalm 91:10-12; Hebrews 1:14**

“Angels work harmoniously. Perfect order characterizes all their movements. The more closely we imitate the harmony and order of the angelic host, the more successful will be the efforts of these heavenly agents in our behalf. If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined, and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully. They turn away in grief, for they are not authorized to bless confusion, distraction, and disorganization. All who desire the co-operation of the heavenly messengers, must work in unison with them. Those who have the unction from on high, will in all their efforts encourage order, discipline, and union of action, and then the angels of God can co-operate with them. But never, never will these heavenly messengers place their endorsement upon irregularity, disorganization, and disorder. All these evils are the result of Satan's efforts to weaken our forces, to destroy our courage, and prevent successful action.” –*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White, p. 199.*

**6. As the Holy Spirit is also active in the sealing, are we called to cooperate with Him? Ephesians 4:30**

“Each member must co-operate with the Holy Spirit in his office work. Let no one feel that he must engage in a warfare at his own charges. To neglect a single means which God has provided, is to exclude the rays of

light that should shine forth to the world, and to rob the souls for whom Christ died, of the light of life. Human effort must be combined with divine power.” –*The Review and Herald*, January 27, 1891.

**7. Because human beings are also active in the application of the sealing, are we admonished to cooperate with them? Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ephesians 4:11-13**

“Christ's followers are to be more than a light in the midst of men. They are *the* light of the world. Jesus says to all who have named His name, You have given yourselves to Me, and I have given you to the world as My representatives. As the Father had sent Him into the world, so, He declares, "have I also sent them into the world." John 17:18. As Christ is the channel for the revelation of the Father, so we are to be the channel for the revelation of Christ. While our Saviour is the great source of illumination, forget not, O Christian, that He is revealed through humanity. God's blessings are bestowed through human instrumentality. Christ Himself came to the world as the Son of man. Humanity, united to the divine nature, must touch humanity. The church of Christ, every individual disciple of the Master, is heaven's appointed channel for the revelation of God to men. Angels of glory wait to communicate through you heaven's light and power to souls that are ready to perish. Shall the human agent fail of accomplishing his appointed work? Oh, then to that degree is the world robbed of the promised influence of the Holy Spirit!” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 40.

**BENEFIT OF SUBMISSION**

**8. If we submit ourselves to the various agencies, how do we benefit?  
2 Peter 1:2, 3, 11; 1 Corinthians 16:16-18; Hebrews 1:14**

“Angels are interested in the spiritual welfare of all who are seeking to restore God's moral image in man; and the earthly family are to connect with the heavenly family in binding up the wounds and bruises that sin has made. Angelic agencies, though invisible, are co-operating with visible human agencies, forming a relief association with men. The very angels who, when Satan was seeking the supremacy, fought the battle in the heavenly courts and triumphed on the side of God, the very angels who shouted for joy over the creation of our world and its sinless inhabitants, the angels who witnessed the fall of man and his expulsion from his Eden home—these very heavenly messengers are most intensely interested to work in union with the fallen, redeemed race for the salvation of human beings perishing in their sins.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 456.*

## **NOTES**

# Experiencing The Sealing

*And receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. James 1:21*

## OBJECTIVES

- To study the personal engagement with the sealing message.
- To realise the engrafting of the word.
- To understand the living ramifications of the sealing activity.

## A PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT

### **1. What have we learned is involved in receiving the seal of God? Hebrews 5:13, 14**

“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.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1161.*

“The Bible will never be superseded by miraculous manifestations. The truth must be studied, it must be searched for as hidden treasure. Wonderful illuminations will not be given aside from the Word or to take the place of it. Cling to the Word, receive the engrafted Word which will make men wise unto salvation.” —*Last Day Events, p. 170.*

## **2. Does Scripture describe the personal, diligent engagement called for in this? 2 Peter 1:5-11**

“These words are full of instruction and strike the keynote of victory. The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ’s ideal for us. Thus, He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 530.

## **3. Besides diligence in personal engagement, does the reception of the seal require another important exercise? James 1:21; Psalm 25:9**

“The most precious fruit of sanctification is the grace of meekness. When this grace presides in the soul, the disposition is moulded by its influence. There is a continual waiting upon God and a submission of the will to His. The understanding grasps every divine truth, and the will bows to every divine precept, without doubting or murmuring. True meekness softens and subdues the heart and gives the mind a fitness for the engrafted word. It brings the thoughts into obedience to Jesus Christ. It opens the heart to the word of God, as Lydia’s was opened. It places us with Mary, as learners at the feet of Jesus. “The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.”” —*The Sanctified Life*, p. 14.

## **REALISING THE SEALING**

### **4. If meekness is required, does Inspiration expand on this activity? Isaiah 8:16**

“Our individual work is to surrender our selves to God, that we may be purified, ennobled, and sanctified through the truth. We need to cultivate and strengthen that faith which works by love and purifies the soul. No one need to make a mistake.” —*The Signs of the Times*, January 10, 1895.

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mould and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth—these are receiving the heavenly mould and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 216.

### **5. How does Inspiration further magnify this in all reality? James 1:22-25; John 7:17**

“If we ever know the truth, it will be because we practice it. We must have a living experience in the things of God before we are able to understand His word. This experimental knowledge is what strengthens the intellect and builds us up into Christ our living Head.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 97.

“You may rise to the heights to which the Holy Spirit calls you. True religion means living the word in your practical life. Your profession is not of any value without the practical doing of the word.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 127.

**6. What is the experience of receiving the seal of God? Ezekiel 36:25-27, 31; Malachi 3:16-18**

**7. The Sabbath being the seal, will it be especially magnified during the sealing time? Isaiah 58:12-14; 56:6-8**

“I saw that we sensed and realized but little of the importance of the Sabbath, to what we yet should realize and know of its importance and glory. I saw we knew not what it was yet to ride upon the high places of the earth and to be fed with the heritage of Jacob. But when the refreshing and latter rain shall come from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power we shall know what it is to be fed with the heritage of Jacob and ride upon the high places of the earth. Then shall we see the Sabbath more in its importance and glory. But we shall not see it in all its glory and importance until the covenant of peace is made with us at the voice of God, and the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem are thrown open and swing back on their glittering hinges and the glad and joyful voice of the lovely Jesus is heard richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear bidding us enter. [I saw] that we had a perfect right in the city for we had kept the commandments of God, and heaven, sweet heaven is our home, for we have kept the commandments of God.” —*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 260.

**SEALING RAMIFICATION**

**8. How will those be treated who are being sealed and are giving the sealing message? Isaiah 66:2, 5**

“I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God's chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us. I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed.” —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 93.

“With pity and compassion, with tender yearning, the Lord is looking upon His tempted and tried people. For a time the oppressors will be permitted to triumph over those who know God's holy commandments. All are given the same opportunity that was granted to the first great rebel to demonstrate the spirit that moves them to action. It is God's purpose that everyone shall be tested and proved, to see whether he will be loyal or disloyal to the laws which govern the kingdom of heaven. To the last God permits Satan to reveal his character as a liar, an accuser, and a murderer. Thus the final triumph of His people is made more marked, more glorious, more full and complete.” —*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 414.

## **NOTES**

# Human Cooperation

*What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? Zechariah 4:12*

## OBJECTIVES

- To magnify the interaction between the divine agencies with the human in the sealing work.
- To show how God's plan for the diffusion of His saving grace includes the full participation of the human element.
- To realise that the failure of the human agent to cooperate results in prolonging the harvest sealing time and Christ's return.

## THE VISION OF ZECHARIAH FOUR

### **1. What have we already learned regarding the interrelationship between the angels and human beings under the three angels' messages?**

“God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Christ declares to His followers: "Ye are the light of the world." To every soul that accepts Jesus the cross of

Calvary speaks: "Behold the worth of the soul: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'" Nothing is to be permitted to hinder this work. It is the all-important work for time; it is to be far-reaching as eternity. The love that Jesus manifested for the souls of men in the sacrifice which He made for their redemption, will actuate all His followers." –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 455.*

## **2. How is this interrelationship described in the symbolism of Zechariah four? Zechariah 4:11-14**

“From the two olive trees the golden oil was emptied through the golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So from the holy ones that stand in God's presence His Spirit is imparted to the human instrumentalities who are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate to God's people that heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."” –*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 408.*

“These empty themselves into the golden bowls, which represent the hearts of the living messengers of God, who bear the Word of the Lord to the people in warnings and entreaties. The Word itself must be as represented, the golden oil, emptied from the two olive trees that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. This is the baptism by the Holy Spirit with fire. This will open the soul of unbelievers to conviction. The wants of the soul can be met only by the working of the Holy Spirit of God. Man can of himself do nothing to satisfy the longings and meet the aspirations of the heart.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1180.*

## **3. Where else in Scripture is this illustration cited? Revelation 1:12, 13, 20**

“Christ "loved the church and gave himself for it." It is the purchase of His blood. The divine Son of God is seen walking amid the seven golden candlesticks. Jesus Himself supplies the oil to these burning lamps. He it is that kindles the flame. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

“No candlestick, no church, shines of itself. From Christ emanates all its light. The church in heaven today is only the complement of the church on earth; but it is higher, grander—perfect. The same divine illumination is to continue through eternal ages. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the light thereof. No church can have light if it fails to diffuse the glory it receives from the throne of God.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6*, p. 1118.

#### **4. Does Scripture demonstrate that the Old and New Testament came to humanity via this form of interrelationship? 2 Peter 1:20; Revelation 11:3, 4**

“Concerning the two witnesses the prophet declares further: "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth." "Thy word," said the psalmist, "is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Revelation 11:4; Psalm 119:105. The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament. Both are important testimonies to the origin and perpetuity of the law of God. Both are witnesses also to the plan of salvation. The types, sacrifices, and prophecies of the Old Testament point forward to a Saviour to come. The Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament tell of a Saviour who has come in the exact manner foretold by type and prophecy.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 267.

## **PARTICIPATING HUMAN ELEMENT**

### **5. Is there another way in which Scripture portrays the flow on from heavenly inspiration to human agencies? Ecclesiastes 12:10, 11**

“Let every soul note the importance of having a supply of oil. Fill your lamps with holy oil from the two olive trees. This oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, which is poured into the minds of believers, that they may be co-workers with heavenly agencies. The wise virgins, the waiting ones, had their faith and love and patience nourished by the oil of the Spirit of God. Thus it must be with each one who is saved. It is by the Spirit, the gracious agency of heaven, that the lamp is kept from flickering.” –1888 *Materials*, p. 1761.

### **6. Is this all according to God’s plan in using human beings to reach humanity with God’s saving grace? Acts 13:46, 47 i.e. 9:15**

“As His representatives among men, God does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings, men of like passions with those they seek to save. Christ took humanity that He might reach humanity. A divine-human Saviour was needed to bring salvation to the world. And to men and women has been committed the sacred trust of making known "the unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 3:8.

“In His wisdom the Lord brings those who are seeking for truth into touch with fellow beings who know the truth. It is the plan of Heaven that those who have received light shall impart it to those in darkness. Humanity, drawing its efficiency from the great Source of wisdom, is made the instrumentality, the working agency, through which the gospel exercises its transforming power on mind and heart.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 134.

## **PROLONGING OF THE SEALING**

### **7. What did Inspiration reveal in regard to the time period of the sealing? Romans 9:28; Habbakuk 2:3**

“Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man.” –*Early Writings*, p. 58.

“Angels of God are weighing moral worth. The Lord is reviving the living, pointed testimony which will help develop character and purify the church. If you had suffered the truth to purify you, your labours would have been blessed to the church, but you chose your own course, to follow your own way, and you have not been baptized with the spirit of the third angel's message, and your labours cannot benefit the cause of God.” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 5*, p. 292.

### **8. Because God has made humanity an integral part of His work, is it possible that human failure will delay His work? Matthew 24:48, 49**

“The Lord Jesus has been present when they have been presenting that which was called sermons, but their words were destitute of the dew and rain of heaven. They evidenced that the anointed ones described by Zechariah (see chapter 4) had not ministered to them that they might minister to others. When the anointed ones empty themselves through the golden pipes, the golden oil flows out of themselves into the golden bowls, to flow forth into the lamps, the churches. This is the work of every true, devoted servant of the living God. The Lord God of heaven cannot approve much that is brought into the pulpit by those who are professedly speaking the word of the Lord. They do not inculcate ideas that will be a

blessing to those who hear. There is cheap, very cheap fodder placed before the people.” –*Evangelism*, p. 209.

“But because the people are disobedient, unthankful, unholy, as were ancient Israel, time is prolonged that all may hear the last message of mercy proclaimed with a loud voice. The Lord's work has been hindered, the sealing time delayed. Many have not heard the truth. But the Lord will give them a chance to hear and be converted, and the great work of God will go forward.” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 15*, p. 292.

**NOTE**

# A Cleansing From Sin

*And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. Revelation 14:5*

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine the spiritual condition of the 144,000.
- To learn how they came to such a condition.
- To appreciate the process of purification.

## THE PRODUCT OF THE SEALING

### **1. Having learned the necessity for the winds of strife to be held back, do we understand the reason why? Revelation 7:3 (last half)**

“I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads.” —*Early Writings*, p. 38.

## **2. What was the reason for Christ's pitying cry, "My blood!"? 1 John 1:7-9**

“By pledging His own life Christ has made Himself responsible for every man and woman on the earth. He stands in the presence of God, saying, "Father, I take upon Myself the guilt of that soul. It means death to him if he is left to bear it. If he repents he shall be forgiven. My blood shall cleanse him from all sin. I gave My life for the sins of the world.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 42.

“Oh that the vail could be parted for a moment, and you could see the interest that all heaven takes in the human race! God and heavenly angels are anxiously waiting to see if we will not cleanse ourselves from all sin.” —*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the SDAs*, p. 146.

## **3. Do we appreciate the true condition those will reach who respond to the application of Christ's blood? Revelation 14:5; Jude 1:24; James 1:3, 4**

“God had committed to His people a work to be accomplished on earth. The third angel's message was to be given, the minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement for His people. The Sabbath reform was to be carried forward. The breach in the law of God must be made up. The message must be proclaimed with a loud voice, that all the inhabitants of earth might receive the warning. The people of God must purify their souls through obedience to the truth, and be prepared to stand without fault before Him at His coming.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 67.

## WASHING IN THE BLOOD

- 4. To be among such a people, without fault like Jesus, does Scripture tell us what we must do? 1 John 3:2, 3; Revelation 7:13, 14**

“Precious, probationary time is given to be improved in washing our robes of character, and making them white in the blood of the Lamb.”—*Christian Education*, p. 237.

- 5. How does the prophet Daniel express the activity of such a people? Daniel 12:10, 3**

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world, are receiving the worldly mould, and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth,—these are receiving the heavenly mould, and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth, and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God, — candidates for heaven. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.”—*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 191.

**6. What is it that we are to understand if we would be counted among the wise? Hosea 14:9; Proverbs 15:31-33; Proverbs 3:11, 12**

**7. Is there a process of purification we need to apply our understanding to? Malachi 3:3, 4**

“[Malachi 3:3, 4 quoted.] Here is the process, the refining, purifying process, to be carried on by the Lord of hosts. The work is most trying to the soul, but it is only through this process that the rubbish and defiling impurities can be removed. Our trials are all necessary to bring us close to our heavenly Father, in obedience to His will, that we may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness. God has given each of us capabilities, talents to improve. We need a new and living experience in the divine life, in order to do the will of God. No amount of past experience will suffice for the present or will strengthen us to overcome the difficulties in our path. We must have new grace and fresh strength daily in order to be victorious.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1182.*

**8. What in all reality is meant with washing in the blood of the Lamb? Ephesians 5:26**

“The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb. Through its life-giving power it brings all there is of mind and soul and strength into harmony with the

divine life. Man with his human nature becomes a partaker of divinity. Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character. As these changes are effected, angels break forth in rapturous song, and God and Christ rejoice over souls fashioned after the divine similitude.” —*The Signs of the Times*, January 20, 1909.

## **NOTES**

# Engrafting The Law

*And receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. James 1:21*

## OBJECTIVES

- To understand the activity of applying the seal in order to participate in it.
- To realise that the sealing work is none other than the perfecting of the everlasting covenant in God's people.
- To comprehend our part in this engrafting work.

## A WORK OF ENGRAFTING

- 1. Having learned that to be sealed means settling into the truth intellectually and spiritually, is there a lesson from nature which illuminates our understanding? John 15:4, 5; Romans 11:23, 24**

“The dry, disconnected sapling can become one with the parent vine stock only by being made a partaker of the life and nourishment of the living vine, by being grafted into the vine, by being brought into the closest relationship possible. Fibre by fibre, vein by vein, the twig holds fast to the life-giving vine, until the life of the vine becomes the life of the branch, and it produces fruit like that of the vine.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1138.

- 2. How do we engage in fibre by fibre, vein by vein attachment to Christ? James 1:21**

“As the graft receives life when united to the vine, so the sinner partakes of the divine nature when connected with Christ. Finite man is united with the infinite God. When thus united, the words of Christ *abide* in us, and we are not actuated by a spasmodic feeling, but by a living, abiding principle. The words of Christ must be meditated upon and cherished and enshrined in the heart. They should not be repeated, parrot-like, finding no place in the memory and having no influence over the heart and life.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4*, p. 354.

**3. In which other way does Scripture convey the concept of implanting the principles of God’s word into the soul? Deuteronomy 32:1, 2; Isaiah 55:10, 11**

“As the leaven of the precious truth is introduced, it silently diffuses itself, imparting its own properties and tendencies, until the whole lump is leavened. Satan's evil leaven of unbelief will often be introduced to prevent the work of reformation [from] going on, but nevertheless the vital current of truth must constantly flow forth and impress minds.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 15*, p. 10.

**THE EVERLASTING COVENANT**

**4. Understanding that the seal of the Lawgiver is the Sabbath, what is included therefore in being sealed? Hebrews 10:16; Isaiah 8:16**

“Christ has promised to write in the heart of every repentant sinner His law, which is holy, just, and good. He promises to renovate the soul, through the medium of truth. He diffuses His own life through the entire being. Thus the sinner is born again, and henceforth, in a life of loving

service, he is to work out the grand, ennobling principles that he can take with him into the heavenly courts. There is placed upon him a new mould of character, which the world knows not, but which all must receive who obtain entrance into the courts above.” –*The Signs of the Times*, June 28, 1905.

**5. In harmony with the answer to question four, where does the sealing angel place the seal? Revelation 7:3 (last part); 14:1**

“What is the condition of those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus? If in families there are those who are refusing obedience to the Lord in keeping His Sabbath, then the seal cannot be placed upon them. The sealing is a pledge from God of perfect security to His chosen ones (Exodus 31:13-17). Sealing indicates you are God’s chosen. He has appropriated you to Himself. As the sealed of God we are Christ’s purchased possession, and no one shall pluck us out of His hands. The seal given in the forehead is God, New Jerusalem. "I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God."”

–*Manuscript Releases Vol. 15*, p. 225.

**6. Where in Scripture can we find this expression which simply means the engrafting of God’s law in the soul? Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10**

**PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT**

**7. Does God need human submission for the seal to be engrafted in the soul? Proverbs 23:26**

“Give to God the most precious offering that it is possible for you to make; give Him your heart. He speaks to you saying, "My son, My daughter, give

Me thine heart. Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow; for I will cleanse you with My own blood. I will make you members of My family—children of the heavenly King. Take My forgiveness, My peace which I freely give you. I will clothe you with My own righteousness, —the wedding garment, —and make you fit for the marriage supper of the Lamb. When clothed in My righteousness, through prayer, through watchfulness, through diligent study of My Word, you will be able to reach a high standard. You will understand the truth, and your character will be moulded by a divine influence.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 98.

**8. In giving God our heart, how is His work of implanting His law therein manifested? Exodus 31:13; Isaiah 58:12-14**

“This is the people that are repairing the breach in the law of God. They see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment has been supplanted by a spurious sabbath, a day that has no sanction in the Word of God. Amid great opposition they become loyal to their God and take their position under the standard of the third angel.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1152.

**NOTE**

# Change Of Garment

*And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. Zechariah 3:4*

## OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the symbolism of garments in gospel religion.
- To observe the frequency of the application of the term *garments* or *raiment* in reference to believers during the sealing time.
- To see that a change of garment is an integral part of the sealing.

## GARMENT SYMBOLISM

### **1. By what symbolism does Inspiration describe the spiritual condition of God's people? Isaiah 64:6; Revelation 19:7, 8**

"Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. "I counsel thee," He says, "to buy of Me . . . white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Revelation 3:18.

"This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 311.

**2. If our characters are represented by garments, what naturally follows to be done if we have a character of filthy garments?  
Mark 2:21**

“So it is with the religion of many. When the warp and woof of character will not stand the test of trial, the material of which it is composed is worthless. The efforts made to patch the old with a new piece do not better the condition of things; for the old, flimsy material breaks away from the new, leaving the rent much larger than before. Patching will not do. The only way is to discard the old garment altogether and procure one entirely new.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, p. 1101.*

**GARMENT PREFERENCES**

**3. Are those who live in the time of the sealing addressed regarding their garments of character? Revelation 3:17, 18; Matthew 22:10-12**

“It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God. All are examined according to the record of the books of heaven, and according to his deeds the destiny of each is forever fixed.

“By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess. To the church it is given "that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white," "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 5:27. The fine linen, says the Scripture, "is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 19:8. It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished

character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 310.

#### **4. When the sealing is over and the angels let go the winds of strife, is the state of character dress relevant? Revelation 16:13-16**

“Jesus says, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" [Revelation 16:15]. Here is the great burden to be carried away by every individual. Are my sins forgiven? Has Christ, the Burden-bearer, taken away my guilt? Have I a clean heart, the righteousness of Jesus Christ, by faith? Woe be to any soul who is not seeking a refuge in Christ, and conforming the character to the character of Christ. Woe be [to] all who shall in anywise divert the mind from this work, and cause any soul to be less vigilant now.” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 18*, p. 62.

“God has warned His people of the perils before them. John beholds the things which will be in the last days, and he sees a people working counter to God. Read Revelation 12:17; 14:10-13, and chapters 17 and 13. John sees the company who have been deceived. He says, "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" [Revelation 16:13-15].” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 17*, p. 18.

### **CHANGING OUR GARMENTS**

#### **5. Being incumbent on us to change our garment before that great day, does Scripture tell us how this is to happen? Isaiah 61:10**

“Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). There is fullness of grace in God, and we may have His spirit and power in large measure. Do not feed on the husks of self-righteousness, but go to the Lord. He has the best robe to put upon you, and His arms are open to receive. Christ will say, “Take away the filthy garments from him, and clothe him with a change of raiment.””

—*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 328.

## **6. Is there a reference to this work directly related to the period of the sealing? Zechariah 3:1-7**

“Zechariah's vision of Joshua and the Angel applies with peculiar force to the experience of God's people in the closing up of the great day of atonement. The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 472.

“Time is very short, and all that is to be done must be done quickly. The angels are holding the four winds, and Satan is taking advantage of everyone who is not fully established in the truth. Every soul is to be tested. Every defect in the character, unless it is overcome by the help of God's Spirit, will become a sure means of destruction. I feel as never before the necessity for our people to be energized by the spirit of the truth, for Satan's devices will ensnare every soul who has not made God his strength. The Lord has much work to be done; and if we do what He has appointed for us to do, He will work with our efforts.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 573.

## **7. What is our part to enable Christ to change our garments? Isaiah 52:1 (first half); Romans 13:12-14**

“Satan has a large confederacy, his church.”—*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 207.

“By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 113.

### **MEDITATION**

“This is what the transgressors of God's law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve's disobedience. They have sewed together fig leaves to cover the nakedness caused by transgression. They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins and make themselves acceptable with God.

“But this they can never do. Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence. No fig-leaf garment, no worldly citizen dress, can be worn by those who sit down with Christ and angels at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

“Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. “I counsel thee,” He says, “to buy of Me . . . white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear.”” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 311.

### **NOTES**

# Aquiescence With Christ

*He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. John 6:56*

## OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the reality of putting on Christ.
- To expand on the atonement experience.
- To realise that the sealing is simply the complete fulfillment of the atonement of Christ in the life of believers.

## **MORE THAN EXTERNAL**

- 1. Having established the need for a change of garment and the manner of putting it on, are there other scriptures that contribute to our understanding? Ephesians 4:21-24; Colossians 3:9, 10; Romans 13:14 (first part)**

“There will be no future probation in which to prepare for eternity. It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. This is our only opportunity to form characters for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 319.

**2. To avoid concluding that this is merely an external action of putting on, how does Inspiration help us? Matthew 23:25-28**

“As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life. No mere external change is sufficient to bring us into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting this or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 97.

**TO ACQUIESCE**

**3. Do we need to learn the meaning of putting on Christ? Is there a mystery here which needs explaining? Colossians 1:26-28**

“We need to understand what it means to put on Christ, what it means to have an experimental knowledge of the grace of Christ, and a continually increasing faith.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 291.

**4. If the mystery is Christ in you, does the word of God expand on this? Ephesians 2:13-15; John 6:56-58**

““Herein is My Father glorified,” said Jesus, “that ye bear much fruit.” God desires to manifest through you the holiness, the benevolence, the compassion, of His own character. Yet the Saviour does not bid the

disciples labor to bear fruit. He tells them to abide in Him. "If ye abide in Me," He says, "and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." It is through the word that Christ abides in His followers. This is the same vital union that is represented by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving them, you receive the life of the Vine. You live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 677.

## **5. How entirely did Christ become one with us to facilitate our intimacy with Him? Hebrews 2:11, 14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21**

“As one with us, He must bear the burden of our guilt and woe. The Sinless One must feel the shame of sin. The peace lover must dwell with strife, the truth must abide with falsehood, purity with vileness. Every sin, every discord, every defiling lust that transgression had brought, was torture to His spirit.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 111.

## **6. Did Jesus express this mysterious intimacy in His high priestly prayer? John 17:19-21**

“Christ is one with the Father, but Christ and God are two distinct personages. Read the prayer of Christ in the seventeenth chapter of John, and you will find this point clearly brought out. How earnestly the Saviour prayed that His disciples might be one with Him as He is one with the Father. But the unity that is to exist between Christ and His followers does not destroy the personality of either. They are to be one with Him as He is one with the Father.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1148.

## *A SEALING ACQUIESCENCE*

### **7. What condition will those who receive the sealing finally attain to by engaging with Jesus in His atonement? 1 John 3:2, 3**

“Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest. The Lord says, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.” Isaiah 26:3. Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And that character which expresses the glory—character—of Christ will be received into the Paradise of God. A renovated race shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 331.

### **8. Even before we reach that final attainment, can we bask in the rich benefit of Christ’s atonement with us now?**

“These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, and the burdened heart will be lightened and encouraged.

“Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. He will be to you as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. He will give you rest that the world can neither give nor take away. Come unto Me, He says, and your heart will be filled with the peace that passes all understanding.

“Nothing of the world can make sad those whom Jesus makes glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect peace. “Thou wilt keep

him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee." Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the keeping of the Master-worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory.

“As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, "Come, learn of Me," and in thus coming, we begin the life eternal.” —*The Signs of the Time*, July 6, 1904.

## **NOTES**

# Sabbath Keeping That Seals

*If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words. Isaiah 58:13*

## OBJECTIVES

- To firmly establish the Sabbath as the seal of God.
- To research how only it can be the seal in the forehead of believers.
- To magnify the true keeping of the Sabbath.

## THE SEAL OF GOD

**1. What constitutes the seal of a lawmaker? Esther 8:8**

**2. Where in God's law can be detected His seal? Exodus 20:10, 11**

“The Lord commands by the same prophet: "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples." Isaiah 8:16. The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath

was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 452.

### **SEAL IN THE FOREHEAD**

#### **3. To have the seal in the forehead, do we understand the activity in the forehead? Proverbs 23:7 (first part) Psalm 39:3**

““As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.” The thoughts and feelings cherished give direction to the conduct, and thus determine the character. A strong, well-balanced character is built up by faithfulness in all the smaller as well as the greater acts of life. A man is measured, not by the power put forth in some one great effort, but by the zeal and integrity which he brings to the daily round of cares and responsibilities.” –*The Signs of the Times*, June 30, 1881.

#### **4. Is the law of God and His Sabbath, material that can occupy our mind? Psalm 119:96, 97; Psalm 1:2**

“The mind that dwells much on the revealed will of God to man will become strong in the truth. Those who read and study with an earnest desire for divine light, whether they are ministers or not, will soon discover in the Scriptures a beauty and harmony which will captivate their attention, elevate their thoughts, and give them an inspiration and an energy of argument that will be powerful to convict and convert souls.” –*Lift Him Up*, p. 188.

#### **5. Does Scripture identify those whose thoughts dwell upon God as the faithful He gathers and seals? Malachi 3:16-18**

“Those who have been members of the same family are separated. A mark is placed upon the righteous. "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" [Malachi 3:17]. Those who have been obedient to God's commandments will unite with the company of the saints in light. They shall enter in through the gates into the city, and have right to the tree of life.” –*Last Days Events*, p. 216.

## **SABBATH KEEPING THAT SEALS**

### **6. How all-absorbing is the Sabbath to those that are going to be sealed? Isaiah 58:13**

“All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment. We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter. We are to understand its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life. All who regard the Sabbath as a sign between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, will represent the principles of His government. They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom. Daily it will be their prayer that the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them. Every day they will have the companionship of Christ and will exemplify the perfection of His character. Every day their light will shine forth to others in good works.”

–*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 353.

### **7. With what care do they keep the Sabbath? Exodus 20:8-10; Isaiah 66:2**

“When the Sabbath is thus remembered, the temporal will not be allowed to encroach upon the spiritual. No duty pertaining to the six working days will be left for the Sabbath. During the week our energies will not be so exhausted in temporal labour that on the day when the Lord rested and was refreshed we shall be too weary to engage in His service.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 354.

## **8. Is the Sabbath and the true keeping of it integrated in a special bond with God? Isaiah 56:3-7; Hebrews 4:4, 9, 10**

“Family prayer receives too little interest and attention. In many cases, the morning and evening worship is little more than a mere form, a dull, monotonous repetition of set phrases in which the spirit of gratitude or the sense of need finds no expression. The Lord accepts not such service. But the petitions of a humble heart and contrite spirit he will not despise. The opening of our hearts to our Heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants, the homage of grateful love,—this is true prayer. When we come pleading the merits of Christ’s blood, and trusting with implicit faith his promises, we shall secure the blessing of the Lord.” —*The Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1882.

### **NOTES**

# The Separation Experience

*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. Matthew 10:34*

## OBJECTIVES

- To understand what Jesus meant by the sword He came to send.
- To research the effect the sealing message has on our human relationships.
- To examine the process by which separation of families takes place.

## THE SWORD JESUS SENDS

### **1. Contrary to all expectations, does the gospel of Jesus Christ create separation? Matthew 10:34-36**

“Christ said of Himself, “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.” Matthew 10:34. The Prince of Peace, He was yet the cause of division. He who came to proclaim glad tidings and to create hope and joy in the hearts of the children of men, opened a controversy that burns deep and arouses intense passion in the human heart. And He warns His followers, “In the world ye shall have tribulation.” “They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake.” “Ye shall be betrayed both by

parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death."” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 84.

**2. How are we to understand this apparent contradiction when the gospel is declared to be the gospel of peace? Luke 2:14**

“When Isaiah foretold the birth of the Messiah, he ascribed to Him the title, "Prince of Peace." When angels announced to the shepherds that Christ was born, they sang above the plains of Bethlehem: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men'.” –*Reflecting Christ*, p. 38.

**3. Due to this sword did Jesus convey a comforting element to those who would remain loyal to Him while being separated from loved ones? Mark 10:28-30**

“Christ meant something when he said, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life." He intended to impress upon us the fact that we must make eternal things of first importance, and so relate ourselves to the cause and work of God that we shall not be hindered by things of a temporal nature. Everything of this character must come in secondary. The armour of God, once put on, is not to be laid off for slight excuses.” –*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the SDAs*, p. 128.

**SEPARATING SEALING MESSAGE**

**4. Remembering that the sealing angel is the third angel with his message, in connection with the other angels, do we see the content of a call to be separate? Revelation 14:6-12; 18:1-4**

“God has placed in our hands a banner upon which is inscribed, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12. This is a distinct, separating message,—a message that is to give no uncertain sound. It is to lead the people away from the broken cisterns that contain no water, to the unfailing Fountain of the water of life.” —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 11.

““But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God's dear, waiting saints.” —*Early Writings*, p. 33.

“Our warfare is aggressive. Tremendous issues are before us, yea, and right upon us. Let our prayers ascend to God that the four angels may still hold the four winds, that they may not blow to injure or destroy until the last warning has been given to the world. Then let us work in harmony with our prayers. Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 61.

## **5. Does this message also affect members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Isaiah 66:5**

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges but have not improved them will, under one pretext or another, go out from us.” —*Last Day Events*, p. 175.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 336.

**6. As this message swells to the loud cry, does it even effect separation of the family? Luke 12:52, 53**

“I heard those clothed with the armour speak forth the truth in great power. It had effect. I saw those who had been bound; some wives had been bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents. The honest who had been held or prevented from hearing the truth, now eagerly laid hold of it. All fear of their relatives was gone. The truth alone was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered: "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel."” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 182.

“Families must be divided in order that all who call upon the name of the Lord may be saved. All who refuse His infinite love will find Christianity a sword, a disturber of their peace.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 328.

**THE PROCESS OF SEPARATION**

**7. For those who love the message of Jesus and the three angels' messages, is there an inevitable development of separation from those who do not share the same love? Matthew 10:36-38**

“I regard this as the turning point in the destiny of each of you. Which will you choose, says Christ, Me or the world? God calls for an unconditional surrender of the heart and affections to Him. If you love friends, brothers or sisters, father or mother, houses or lands, more than Me, says Christ, you are not worthy of Me.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3, p. 45.*

## **8. How does Inspiration describe the events that lead to the very separation of the closest of human bonds? Micah 7:5, 6**

“It is impossible for any one to become a true follower of Jesus Christ, without distinguishing himself from the worldly mass of unbelievers. If the world would accept of Jesus, then there would be no sword of dissension; for all would be disciples of Christ and in fellowship one with another, and their unity would be unbroken. But this is not the case. Here and there an individual member of a family is true to the convictions of his conscience, and is compelled to stand alone in his family or in the church to which he belongs, and is finally compelled, because of the course of those with whom he associates, to separate himself from their companionship. The line of demarkation is made distinct. One stands upon the word of God, the others upon the traditions and sayings of men.” –*The Review and Herald, July 24, 1894.*

“The words that Christ addressed to His disciples, were addressed to us as well as to them. He presents before us the unwearied conflict that we must have on this earth as long as time shall last. We are to place no person before Christ in our affections. If a person who has been convicted by the Spirit of God smothers his convictions, and continues to trample under foot the commandments of the Lord, and reject the truth of God simply because he sees it will bring disunion into his family relations, he shows that he loves the peace that is not of Christ, but of the world. He prefers to be in harmony with the world rather than to be in unity with Christ. But in order to have the peace of Christ, it is necessary

to place Christ and His service first. Those who yield their convictions of truth to please father or mother, sister or brother, husband or wife or children, prove themselves unworthy of Christ. They do not discern His excellency, and therefore they shun the cross. But there is a cross to be lifted by every one who by faith accepts a crucified and risen Saviour.”

—*The Bible Echo*, March 19, 1894.

## **NOTES**

# Standing Alone

*I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me. Isaiah 63:3*

## OBJECTIVES

- To come to understand that in the sealing experience we will often feel alone.
- To learn from Christ the reality of being tested singly and alone.
- To gain assurance from the example of Elijah that there are others, although we know not of them.

## SINGLY AND ALONE

- 1. When in our love for the message we may be separated from our very nearest of kin, what sense will at times overcome us? 1 Kings 19:10**

“If, under trying circumstances, men of spiritual power, pressed beyond measure, become discouraged and desponding, if at times they see nothing desirable in life, that they should choose it, this is nothing strange or new. Let all such remember that one of the mightiest of the prophets fled for his life before the rage of an infuriated woman.... Those who, while spending their life energies in self-sacrificing labour, are tempted to give way to despondency and distrust, may gather courage from the experience of Elijah.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 216.

## **2. As the sealing message is one and the same as the Elijah message, does Inspiration verify the reality of being tested singly and alone?**

“Then in the day of fierce trial He will say, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." What are the chambers in which they are to hide?—They are the protection of Christ and holy angels. The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth; and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Everyone must stand the test for himself.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1143.

## **3. Did Jesus find himself in the sense of being forsaken and alone? Isaiah 63:3**

“Through childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus walked alone. In His purity and His faithfulness, He trod the winepress alone, and of the people there was none with Him. He carried the awful weight of responsibility for the salvation of men. He knew that unless there was a decided change in the principles and purposes of the human race, all would be lost. This was the burden of His soul, and none could appreciate the weight that rested upon Him.”

“Alone He must tread the path; alone He must bear the burden. Upon Him who had laid off His glory and accepted the weakness of humanity the redemption of the world must rest. He saw and felt it all, but His purpose remained steadfast. Upon His arm depended the salvation of the fallen race, and He reached out His hand to grasp the hand of Omnipotent love.

“The loneliness of Christ, separated from the heavenly courts, living the life of humanity, was never understood or appreciated by the disciples as it should have been. . . . When Jesus was no longer with them, . . . they began to see how they might have shown Him attentions that would have brought gladness to His heart.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 163.

#### **4. How do we know that He felt the test of aloneness keenly? Isaiah 63:5**

“The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. In the supreme agony of His soul He came to His disciples with a yearning desire to hear some words of comfort from those whom He had so often blessed and comforted, and shielded in sorrow and distress. The One who had always had words of sympathy for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and He longed to know that they were praying for Him and for themselves. How dark seemed the malignity of sin! Terrible was the temptation to let the human race bear the consequences of its own guilt, while He stood innocent before God. If He could only know that His disciples understood and appreciated this, He would be strengthened.

“Rising with painful effort, He staggered to the place where He had left His companions. But He "findeth them asleep." Had He found them praying, He would have been relieved. Had they been seeking refuge in God, that satanic agencies might not prevail over them, He would have been comforted by their steadfast faith.” —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 687, 688.

#### **5. Will we also need to meet and overcome this loneliness as did Christ? Revelation 3:20, 21**

“Those who are called to suffer for Christ's sake, who have to endure misapprehension and distrust, even in their own home, may find comfort in the thought that Jesus has endured the same. He is moved with compassion for them. He bids them find companionship in Him, and relief where He found it, in communion with the Father. Those who accept Christ as their personal Saviour are not left as orphans to bear the trials of life alone. He receives them as members of the heavenly family; He bids them call His

Father their Father. They are His "little ones," dear to the heart of God, bound to Him by the most tender and abiding ties. He has toward them an exceeding tenderness, as far surpassing what our father or mother has felt toward us in our helplessness as the divine is above the human." –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 145.

## **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ELIJAH**

### **6. As the time comes to all who are included among the 144,000 to feel alone, is the answer to Elijah also relevant to them? 1 Kings 19:18**

“As in the days of Elijah, God had seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal, so today He has in the world many who are walking in all the light they have received. A whole firmament of chosen ones has He in reserve, that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness. In places where there might be expected only briars and thorns, fruit-bearing trees of righteousness will appear. In such places as these there are those who will bloom more sweetly for the Lord than many who live in more favored places. All around them they will shed the fragrance of His grace as they bloom in most unpromising places.” –*This Day With God*, p. 67.

### **7. When overcome by the thought of being lost, and no better than the fallen churches, is there a comfort from the experience of Elijah? 1 Kings 19:4; 2 Kings 2:9-11**

“Through affliction God reveals to us the plague spots in our characters, that by His grace we may overcome our faults. Unknown chapters in regard to ourselves are opened to us, and the test comes, whether we will accept the reproof and the counsel of God. When brought into trial, we are

not to fret and worry. We should not rebel or worry ourselves out of the hand of Christ. We are to humble the soul before God.

“The ways of the Lord are obscure to him who desires to see things in a light pleasing to himself. They appear dark and joyless to our human nature. But God's ways are ways of mercy and the end is salvation.”

—*Reflecting Christ*, p. 349.

## **8. Who does Elijah represent? Malachi 4:5, 6; Matthew 17:1-3**

“Moses upon the mount of transfiguration was a witness to Christ's victory over sin and death. He represented those who shall come forth from the grave at the resurrection of the just. Elijah, who had been translated to heaven without seeing death, represented those who will be living upon the earth at Christ's second coming, and who will be "changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;" when "this mortal must put on immortality," and "this corruptible must put on incorruption." 1 Corinthians 15:51-53. Jesus was clothed with the light of heaven, as He will appear when He shall come "the second time without sin unto salvation." For He will come "in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." Hebrews 9:28; Mark 8:38. The Saviour's promise to the disciples was now fulfilled. Upon the mount the future kingdom of glory was represented in miniature,—Christ the King, Moses a representative of the risen saints, and Elijah of the translated ones.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 421.

### **NOTES**

# Latter Rain

*Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. Zechariah 10:1*

## OBJECTIVES

- To gain a clear understanding of the meaning of the latter rain.
- To understand the importance of the latter rain during the time of the sealing.
- To observe that only the 144,000 will recognise and receive the latter rain.

## SYMBOLIC RAIN

**1. What does the rain upon the crops of grain represent?  
Deuteronomy 32:1-4; Isaiah 55:10, 11**

**2. Is the answer to question one borne out in other scriptures? Joel  
2:23, 28**

“It is true that in the time of the end, when God's work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are to be accompanied by special tokens of

divine favour. Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in Eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God's church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 54.

**3. Does the figure of rain in preparation for harvest equate with the activities of the sealing message? Matthew 13:39**

“But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest "in the time of the latter rain." In response, "the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain." "He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain".” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 55.

**THE SEALING RAIN**

**4. Having learned that the messages of the three angels of Revelation 14 constitute the work of the sealing, are these messages accompanied with the outpouring of the latter rain? Joel 2:28-31**

“As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, "the time of Jacob's trouble," they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and

strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 984.*

**5. Knowing that we dwell in the sealing time and the time of the latter rain, what is the admonishment of Inspiration? Zechariah 10:1; Zephaniah 2:1-3**

“We must not wait for the latter rain. It is coming upon all who will recognize and appropriate the dew and showers of grace that fall upon us. When we gather up the fragments of light, when we appreciate the sure mercies of God, who loves to have us trust Him, then every promise will be fulfilled. [Isaiah 61:11 quoted.] The whole earth is to be filled with the glory of God.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 984.*

“Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God.” –*The Acts of the Apostles, p. 50.*

**RECOGNISING WHEN IT FALLS**

**6. Does it take a correct spiritual condition for us to receive the latter rain? Acts 2:1; John 14:16, 17**

“The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be labourers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ,

God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not labourers together with God.” –*Christian Service*, p. 253.

“I was shown that if God's people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting. The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 619.

**7. Is there a possibility that in the midst of the outpouring of the latter rain a great number will not recognise, let alone receive it?  
Acts 2:13**

“The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be labourers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not labourers together with God.

“There must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.” –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 333.

**8. For those who did receive the latter rain, does Inspiration throw light on their status in reference to the sealing?**

“I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them.

“They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus . . . throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, "*It is done.*"” —*Maranatha*, p. 242.

## **NOTES**

# Removal Of Earthliness

*Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried. Daniel 12:10*

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine the experience of the 144,000 after they are completely sealed and probation has closed.
- To expand on the time of Jacob's trouble.
- To observe that although their sins have been removed, their purification continues in other aspects.

## PROBATION CLOSED

- 1. What pronouncement describes the condition of the 144,000 at the close of probation? Revelation 22:11 (last half); Jeremiah 50:20; Revelation 14:5**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. How did they come to such a sinless state? Revelation 7:14; Daniel 12:10**

“Through trial and persecution, the glory—the character—of God is revealed in His chosen ones. The believers in Christ, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. On earth

they walk in narrow paths; they are purified in the furnace of affliction. They follow Christ through sore conflicts; they endure self-denial and experience bitter disappointments; but thus, they learn the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they can look beyond the gloom to the glory, saying, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 576.

### **JACOB'S TROUBLE**

#### **3. Although the sealed are holy and free from sin at the close of probation, do they meet a still more trying period thereafter? Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7**

“The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble. "Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”

“Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau (Genesis 32:24-30), represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 616.

#### **4. Does Inspiration describe the experience at this time? Jeremiah 30:5, 6**

“As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully

conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavours to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 618.

**5. Up to what point in the events after the close of probation will the sealed be in Jacob’s trouble and their faces gather paleness?  
Revelation 6:17**

“When it first appeared in the distance, this cloud looked very small. The angel said that it was the sign of the Son of man. As it drew nearer the earth, we could behold the excellent glory and majesty of Jesus as He rode forth to conquer.

“His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders; and upon his head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet. His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out, "Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless?" Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke: "Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you." At this our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sang again, while the cloud drew still nearer the earth.” –*Maranatha*, p. 289.

**EARTHLINESS**

**6. To what degree are we to be purified to survive those eyes of flame that search us through and through? Ephesians 5:25 (last part)-27**

“The refining furnace is to remove the dross. When the Refiner sees His image reflected in you perfectly, He will remove you from the furnace. You will not be left to be consumed or to endure the fiery ordeal any longer than is necessary for your purification. But it is necessary for you, in order to reflect the divine image, to submit to the process the Refiner chooses for you, that you may be cleansed, purified, and every spot and blemish removed—not even a wrinkle left in your Christian character.”

—*Our High Calling*, p. 312.

## **7. What is the final blemish to be removed during the time of Jacob’s trouble? James 1:4**

“Jacob's history is also an assurance that God will not cast off those who have been deceived and tempted and betrayed into sin, but who have returned unto Him with true repentance. While Satan seeks to destroy this class, God will send His angels to comfort and protect them in the time of peril. The assaults of Satan are fierce and determined, his delusions are terrible; but the Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 621.

## **8. How can we understand this earthliness in order to be prepared to be purified from it?**

“The windows of impulse, of feeling, must be opened up toward heaven, and the dust of selfishness and earthliness must be expelled. The grace of God must sweep through the chambers of the mind, the imagination must have heavenly themes for contemplation, and every element of the nature

must be purified and vitalized by the Spirit of God.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 940.*

““What would ye that I should do for you?” He questioned. "Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in Thy kingdom." Jesus read their hearts. He knew the depth of their attachment to Him. Their love, though defiled by the earthliness of its human channel, was an outflowing from the fountain of His own redeeming love.” –*From Heaven With Love, p. 364.*

## **NOTES**