

**The 3rd Angel's Message
and the Binding Off
(An Introduction)**

Seacroft, Victoria,
September 2016

The Binding Off – A Definition

{LS 422.2-3}

Following the [GENERAL] Conference session [of 1909], Mrs. White met twice with the members of the General Conference Committee... {LS 422.2}

In her interviews with the General Conference Committee, Mrs. White read manuscripts dealing with some of the problems that were perplexing the brethren. The call to do a much larger work in the cities... {LS 422.3}

{LS 422.2}

[FROM A MANUSCRIPT, PORTIONS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN "9T, pp.98, 99] {LS 424.2}

{GCB, May 31, 1909 par. 15}

Let us take into consideration the work that is to be done in binding off this, the closing work of the message for these last days. May God help us to come near to him, and follow him so closely that we shall know his goings forth are prepared as the morning. Let us study to know what his message to us is, and determine to obey it, that the grace of God may rest upon us.

{RH, November 25, 1909 par. 1-3}

Nov 25, 1909 Visits to Philadelphia, New York, and Newark

W. C. White

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, MRS. E. G. WHITE CLOSED HER WORK IN WASHINGTON, AND IN THE AFTERNOON WENT TO PHILADELPHIA, TO SPEND THE SABBATH. SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MISS SARA MCENTERFER AND THE WRITER. {RH, Nov 25, 1909 par. 1}

AT THE MEETING WITH CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SEMINARY BUILDING FRIDAY MORNING, MRS. WHITE MADE ANOTHER EARNEST APPEAL IN BEHALF OF THE WORK TO BE DONE IN THE LARGE CITIES. SHE SAID.-- {RH, Nov 25, 1909 par. 2}

In many of our large cities the first and second angels' messages were proclaimed during the 1844 movement. **To you, as God's servants, has been entrusted the third angel's message, the binding-off message, that is to prepare a people for the coming of our King.** {RH, Nov 25, 1909 par. 3}

In the Cities of the East

Instruction has been given me that the message should go again with power in the cities in the Eastern States. **In many of the large cities of the East the first and second angels' messages were proclaimed during the 1844 movement.**

To us, as God's servants, has been entrusted the third angel's message, the binding-off message,

that is to prepare a people for the coming of the King.

We are to make every effort to give a knowledge of the truth to all who will hear, and there are many who will listen. All through the large cities God has honest souls who are interested in what is truth. {9T 98.1}

Time is short; the Lord desires that everything connected with His cause shall be brought into order. He desires that the solemn message of warning and of invitation shall be proclaimed as widely as His messengers can carry it. Nothing that would hinder the advance of the message is to be allowed to come into our plans. **"Repeat the message, repeat the message,"** were the words spoken to me over and over again. **"Tell My people to repeat the message in the places where it was first preached,** and where church after church took their position for the truth, the power of God witnessing to the message in a remarkable manner." {9T 98.2}

For years the pioneers of our work struggled against poverty and manifold hardships in order **to place the cause of present truth on vantage ground.** With meager facilities, they labored untiringly, and the Lord blessed their humble efforts. The message went with power in the East and extended westward until centers of influence had been established in many places. The laborers of today may not have to endure all the hardships of those early days. The changed conditions, however, should not lead to any slackening of effort. **Now, when the Lord bids us proclaim the message once more with power in the East,** when He bids us enter the cities of the East and of the South and of the West and of the North, **shall we not respond** as one man and do His bidding? Shall we not plan to send our messengers all through these fields and support them liberally? Shall not the ministers of God go into these crowded centers and there lift up their voices in warning the multitudes? What are our conferences for, if not for the carrying forward of this very work? {9T 98.3}

A beginning has been made in proclaiming the third angel's message in the city of Washington and in other cities of the South and the East; but in order to meet the mind of the Lord, we shall have to plan for the carrying forward of a far-reaching and systematic work. We must enter into this work with a perseverance that will not allow of any slackening of our efforts until we shall see of the salvation of God. {9T 99.1}

In Portland, Maine; in Boston and the towns round about; in New York and the populous cities close by; in Philadelphia and Baltimore and Washington, **the Lord desires us to proclaim the third angel's message with power.** We cannot exercise this power ourselves, but we can choose men of capability and urge them to go into these avenues of opportunity and there proclaim the message in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must plan to place in these cities capable men who can present the third angel's message in a manner so forcible that it will strike

home to the heart. Men who can do this work we cannot afford to gather into one place to do a work that others might do. {9T 99.2}

As these workers talk the truth and live the truth, and pray for the advancement of the truth, God will move upon hearts. As they work with all the strength that God grants them, and in humility of heart put their entire trust in Him, their labors will not be without fruit. Their determined efforts to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth for this time will be seconded by holy angels, and many souls will be saved. {9T 100.1}

{5MR 128.1}

MR No. 291 - The Work in the Large Cities

The words were spoken to me: "Tell My people that time is short. Every effort is now to be made to exalt the truth. **In the cities, large and small, the message is to be proclaimed. The third angel's message** is to be united with the second angel's message, and is to be proclaimed with great power in our large cities. Thus will be given with a loud voice the message that is to prepare a people for the coming of the King." . . . {5MR 128.1}

The situation in all the large cities must be studied, that the truth may be given to all the people. In these large cities the Lord has many honest souls, who are becoming confused by the strange developments in the religious world. **There are many who have been waiting to hear the "certain sound" of the message that would meet the emergency.** All over our land the Lord has honest souls, who are standing in uncertainty. The words were spoken: "Repeat the messages in their order.

Tell My people to proclaim the message, the binding-off message, that is to proclaim [prepare] a people for the coming of the King.

Give the world a knowledge of the messages of the first, second and third angels. **Bind up the law among My disciples.** There are many who will listen because men will speak under the influence of the Holy Spirit. You are twenty years behind; but let the warning voice now be heard speaking with the voice of assurance." {5MR 128.2}

The message is to be proclaimed with sanctified ability. The word of the Lord has been spoken. God calls for sanctified hearts and lips. The messages of warning are to be given in the large cities, and also in the towns and villages. The men of God's appointment are to be zealously at work, disposing of our books, and disseminating light. The articles in our papers are not to present the truth in the style of a romance; for this weakens the impression that should be made by the most solemn truth ever committed to mortals. They are to contain a plain, "Thus saith the Lord." The message must be repeated, and Bible reasons given, not in the style of a romance, but in the style of the Bible. There are many who are watching for the evidence of true religion.--Letter 88, 1910. (To A. G. Daniells, September 30, 1910.)

Released Feb 17, 1972. {5MR 128.3}

Binding

{EW 118.1}

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."

Sealing:

{TM 444.3a}

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?...

[Isa 26:20]

...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. The angels of God do His bidding, **holding back the winds of the earth**, that the winds should not blow on **the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed** in their foreheads...

{TM 444.3b}

...The **mighty angel is seen ascending from the east**...

[Rev 7:2]

[Mal 4:2]

...**This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal** of the living God, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose.

{TM 445.2}

This sealing of the servants of God is **the same that was shown to Ezekiel** in vision...

[Eze 9:1-4]

...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**...

[Luk 21:25-26]

...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.

Islam held check 4 times before the COP:

{EW 38.1}

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.**"

A truth that you must settle into.

{4BC 1161.6} – Rev 7:2

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**.

{ST, Jan 17, 1884 par. 12}

Men in responsible positions... will point to calamities on land and sea--to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire--as judgments indicating God's displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed. These calamities will increase more and more, one disaster will follow close upon the heels of another; and those who make void the law of God will point to the few who are keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment as the ones who are bringing wrath upon the world. This falsehood is Satan's device that he may ensnare the unwary.

{GC 589.2}

Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows... It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But... the Lord will... remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law... Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard... and he will... lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

{GC 589.3}

While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5.

Wheat & Tares:

Mat 13:24-30

- 24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:
- 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.
- 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.
- 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?
- 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?
- 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.
- 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

2Th 2:9-11

- 9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
- 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
- 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Luk_21:21

Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

{COL 71.2}

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." [Mat 13:29-30]

{COL 71.3}

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.**

Hos 10:12

Sow to yourselves in righteousness,
 reap^{H7114}in^{H6310}mercy;
 (to cut short) – (words – spoken by the mouth) – (kindness)
 break up^{H5214} yourfallow ground:^{H5215}
 (plough) (your) – (tillable land)
 for *it is time to seek the LORD*, till he come and **rain righteousness** upon you.

Break up = cut up/off sin

| Jer 4:3 | Jer 4:4 |
|--|---|
| a) For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, | |
| b) Break up your fallow ground, and | a) Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and |
| c) sow not among thorns. | b) take away the foreskins of your heart, |
| a) For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, | c) ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: |
| | d) lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench <i>it</i> , because of the evil of your doings. |

| Col 2:13 | Act 7:51 |
|--|---|
| And you, | Ye |
| being dead in your sins and | stiffnecked and |
| the uncircumcision of your flesh, | uncircumcised in heart and ears, |
| hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; | ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers <i>did</i> , so <i>do</i> ye. |

| Amos 9:9-15 |
|--|
| <p>9 For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as <i>corn</i> is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.</p> <p>10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.</p> <p>11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:</p> |
| <p>Acts 15:16-17</p> <p>16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:</p> <p>17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.</p> |
| <p>12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.</p> <p>13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.</p> <p>14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit <i>them</i>; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.</p> <p>15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.</p> |

Wheat and Tares cont..

{COL 122.2}

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.

Christ saw how the existence of false brethren in the church would cause the way of truth to be evil spoken of. The world would revile the gospel because of the inconsistent lives of false professors. Even Christians would be caused to stumble as they saw that many who bore Christ's name were not controlled by His Spirit. Because these sinners were in the church, men would be in danger of thinking that God excused their sins. Therefore Christ lifts the veil from the future and bids all to behold that it is character, not position, which decides man's destiny.

{COL 123.1}

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.

{COL 123.2}

Again, these parables teach that there is to be no probation after the judgment. When the work of the gospel is completed, there immediately follows the separation between the good and the evil, and the destiny of each class is forever fixed.

Isa. 6 can be placed at 9/11 (Rev. 18), and Mid:

9/11 here:

{RH, Dec 22, 1896 par. 11}

The seraphim before the throne are so filled with reverential awe in beholding the glory of God that they do not for an instant look upon themselves with self-complacency, or in admiration of themselves or one another... As they see the future, when **the whole earth shall be filled with his glory [Rev 18:1]**, the triumphant song of praise is echoed from one to another in melodious chant, "**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts.**" [Isa 6:3] They are fully satisfied to glorify God; and in his presence, beneath his smile of approbation, they wish for nothing more. In bearing his image, in doing his service and worshiping him, their highest ambition is fully reached.

Mid here:

{RH, Dec 22, 1896 par. 12}

The vision given to Isaiah represents the condition of God's people in the last days. They are privileged to see by faith the work that is going forward in the heavenly sanctuary. "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament." [Rev 11:19] As they look by faith into the holy of holies, and see the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, they perceive that **they are a people of unclean lips, [Isa 6:5]** --a people whose lips have often spoken vanity, and whose talents have not been sanctified and employed to the glory of God. Well may they despair as they contrast their own weakness and unworthiness with the purity and loveliness of the glorious character of Christ. But **if they, like Isaiah,** will receive the impression the Lord designs shall be made upon the heart, if they will humble their souls before God, there is hope for them. The bow of promise is above the throne, and the work done for Isaiah will be performed in them. God will respond to the petitions coming from the contrite heart.

{RH, Dec 22, 1896 par. 13}

The object of this great and solemn work of God is to gather together the **sheaves**

for the heavenly garner;

for **the earth is to be filled with the glory of the Lord.**

[Rev 18:1]

Then let none be dismayed as they see the prevailing wickedness and hear the language coming from unclean lips. When the powers of darkness set themselves in array against the people of God; when Satan shall muster his forces for the last great conflict, and his power seems to be great and almost overwhelming, the clear view of the divine glory, the throne high and lifted up, arched with the bow of promise, will give comfort, assurance, and peace.

Sheaves = Wheat

{Ed 109.2}

In the harvest the seed is multiplied. **A single grain of wheat, increased by repeated sowings, would cover a whole land with golden sheaves.** So widespread may be the influence of a single life, of even a single act.

{GC 630.2}

The end will come more quickly than men expect. The **wheat will be gathered and bound in sheaves for the garner of God; the tares will be bound as fagots** for the fires of destruction.

{6BC 1092.5}

Christ was the first fruits of them that slept. This very scene, the resurrection of Christ from the dead, was observed in type by the Jews at one of their sacred feasts. . . . They came up to the Temple when the first fruits had been gathered in, and held a feast of thanksgiving. The first fruits of the harvest crop were sacredly dedicated to the Lord. That crop was not to be appropriated for the benefit of man. The first ripe fruit was dedicated as a thank offering to God. He was acknowledged as the Lord of the harvest. When the first heads of grain ripened in the field, they were carefully gathered, and when the people went up to Jerusalem, they were presented to the Lord, waving the ripened sheaf before Him as a thank offering. After this ceremony the sickle could be put to **the wheat, and it could be gathered into sheaves** (MS 115, 1897).

Sheaves = Wheat cont...

{GC 341.4}

To John were opened scenes of deep and thrilling interest in the experience of the church. He saw the position, dangers, conflicts, and final deliverance of the people of God. **He records the closing messages** which are to **ripen the harvest** of the earth, either

- as **sheaves** for the heavenly garner or
- as **fagots** for the fires of destruction.

Subjects of vast importance were revealed to him, especially for the last church, that those who should turn from error to truth might be instructed concerning the perils and conflicts before them. None need be in darkness in regard to what is coming upon the earth.

A Second Witness:

{RH, July 20, 1897 par. 6}

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

[Zec 4:12]

{RH, July 20, 1897 par. 7}

God is dishonored when we do not receive the communications which he sends us. Thus we refuse **the golden oil which he would pour into our souls to be communicated to those in darkness**. When the call shall come, "**Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,**" [Mat 25:6] those who have not received the holy oil, who have not cherished the grace of Christ in their hearts, will find, like the foolish virgins, that they are not ready to meet their Lord. They have not, in themselves, the power to obtain the oil, and their lives are wrecked. But if God's Holy Spirit is asked for, if we plead, as did Moses, "**Show me thy glory,**" [Ex 33:18] the love of God will be shed abroad in our hearts. Through the golden pipes, the golden oil will be communicated to us. "**Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.**" [Zech 4:6] By receiving the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, God's children shine as lights in the world.

{7BC 971.5}

The books of Daniel and the Revelation are one. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation; one a book sealed, the other a book opened...

{FLB 345.3}

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart...

{FLB 345.4}

When we... understand what this book [the book of Revelation] means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival.

{13MR 65.2}

The books of Daniel and Revelation are full of matter which concerns every one of us. We should study these books, and let the Lord God of Israel communicate truth to us, so that we may be able to communicate the truth to others who live in these last days...

{TM 112.1}

Daniel and Revelation must be studied, as well as the other prophecies of the Old and New Testaments. Let there be light, yes, light, in your dwellings... The Holy Spirit, shining upon the sacred page, will open our understanding, that we may know what is truth...

{TM 116.1}

Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God will bring from the books of Daniel and Revelation truth that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed.

Starting quote:

{EW 118.1}

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."

{RH, December 11, 1888 par. 14}

The peculiar work of **the third angel has not been seen in its importance**. God meant that his people should be far in advance of what they are today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the getting ready to do. When Satan made his advances, it was high time for the watchmen on the walls of Zion to arouse and counteract his efforts to obtain the advantage. **It is not in the order of God that light has been kept from our people**,--the very present truth which they needed for this time. **Not all of our ministers who are giving the third angel's message, really understand what constitutes that message**. The National Reform movement has been regarded by some as of so little importance that they have not thought it necessary to give much attention to it, and have even felt that in so doing, they would be giving time to questions distinct from the third angel's message. May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the very message for this time. **The third angel's message comprehends more than many suppose**.

What interpretation do they give to the passage which says an angel descended from heaven, and the earth was lightened with his glory?

[Rev 18:1]

This is not a time when we can be excused for inactivity. If this work, which was so essential, had been taken up by our ministers, there would be today a far different state of things in all our churches.

The Review and Herald, Nov. 22, 1892. {1SM 362.4}

{1888 1073.7}

The Beginning of the Loud Cry

Let every one who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming, search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living. Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, that he may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Search for the truth as for hidden treasures, and disappoint the enemy. **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**. For it is the work of every one to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him.

{17MR 19.1}

Prophecy has been fulfilling, **line upon line.**

The more firmly we stand **under the banner of the third angel's message,**

the more clearly shall we understand the prophecy of Daniel;

for the Revelation is the supplement of Daniel. The more fully we accept the light presented by the Holy Spirit through the consecrated servants of God, the deeper and surer, even as the eternal throne, will appear the truths of ancient prophecy; we shall be assured that men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Men must themselves be under the influence of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Spirit's utterances through the prophets. These messages were given, not for those that uttered the prophecies, but for us who are living amid the scenes of their fulfillment.

{RH, November 25, 1884 par. 23}

Those who are engaged in proclaiming the third angel's message are searching the Scriptures upon **the same plan that Father Miller adopted.**

In the little book entitled "Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology," Father Miller gives the following simple but intelligent and important rules for Bible study and interpretation:-

{ST, July 4, 1906 par. 4}

The book of Revelation must be opened to the people. Many have been taught that it is a sealed book, but it is sealed to those only who reject truth and light. The truths that it contains must be proclaimed, that people may have an opportunity to prepare for the events which are so soon to take place. **The Third Angel's Message must be presented as the only hope for the salvation of a perishing world.**

{ST, July 4, 1906 par. 5}

The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes that prophecy has revealed are soon to take place be left untouched. We are God's messengers, and we have no time to lose. Those who would be co-workers with our Lord Jesus Christ will show a deep interest in the truths found in this book. With pen and voice they will strive to make plain the wonderful things that Christ came from heaven to reveal.

{TM 299.2}

Unless those who can help in _ _ _ _ _ are aroused to a sense of their duty, **they will not recognize** the work of God when the **loud cry of the third angel** shall be heard.

When light goes forth to lighten the earth, **instead of coming up to the help** of the Lord, **they will want to bind about His work** to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of **the angel who joins the third angel** in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. Those who are accounted good workers will need to draw nigh to God, they will need the divine touch. They will need to drink more deeply and continuously at the fountain of living water, in order that they may discern God's work at every point. Workers may make mistakes, but you should give them a chance to correct their errors, give them an opportunity to learn caution, by leaving the work in their hands.

{5T 714.2}

The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of the position which they occupy today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the preparation to make. When the National Reformers began to urge measures to restrict religious liberty, our leading men should have been alive to the situation and should have labored earnestly to counteract these efforts. It is not in the order of God that **light has been kept from our people--the very present truth** which **they needed** for this time.

Not all our ministers who **are giving the third angel's message really understand what constitutes that message.**

The **National Reform movement** has been regarded by some as of so little importance that they have not thought it necessary to give much attention to it and have even felt that in so doing they would be giving time to questions distinct from the third angel's message. May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the very message for this time.

{5T 715.1}

The people need to be aroused in regard to the dangers of the present time. The watchmen are asleep. We are years behind. Let the chief watchmen feel the urgent necessity of taking heed to themselves, lest **they lose the opportunities given them to see the dangers.**

{5T 715.2}

If the leading men in our conferences do not now accept the message sent them by God, and fall into line for action, the churches will suffer great loss. When the watchman, seeing the sword coming, gives the trumpet a certain sound, the people along the line will echo the warning, and all will have opportunity to make ready for the conflict. But too often the leader has stood hesitating, seeming to say: "Let us not be in too great haste. There may be a mistake. We must be careful not to raise a false alarm." The very hesitancy and uncertainty on his part is crying: "'Peace and safety.' Do not get excited. Be not alarmed. There is a great deal more made of this religious amendment question than is demanded. This agitation will all die down." Thus he virtually denies the message sent from God, and **the warning** which was **designed to stir the churches** fails to do its work.

The trumpet of the watchman gives no certain sound, and the people do not prepare for the battle. Let the watchman beware lest, through his hesitancy and delay, souls shall be left to perish, and their blood shall be required at his hand.

{5T 716.2}

While **the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome**, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in **its true bearings**.

Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. **Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history**

and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.

{5T 211.1}

The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: "Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house."

{5T 211.2}

Here we see that the church--the Lord's sanctuary--was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and **the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days**.

{GC 611.1}

The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. **The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God;** the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.

Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good,

neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus "Peace and safety" is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.

{5T 211.3}

The abominations for which the faithful ones were sighing and crying were all that could be discerned by finite eyes, but by far the worst sins, those which provoked the jealousy of the pure and holy God, were unrevealed. The great Searcher of hearts knoweth **every sin committed in secret** by the workers of iniquity. These persons come to feel secure in their deceptions and, because of His long-suffering, say that the Lord seeth not, and then act as though He had forsaken the earth. But He will detect their hypocrisy and will open before others those sins which they were so careful to hide.

{5T 212.1}

No superiority of rank, dignity, or worldly wisdom, no position in sacred office, will preserve men from sacrificing principle when left to their own deceitful hearts. **Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous** prove to be **ring-leaders in apostasy**

and examples in indifference and in the abuse of God's mercies. Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy.

{5T 212.2}

It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws His presence from those who have been blessed with great light and who have felt the power of the word in ministering to others. They were once His faithful servants, favored with His presence and guidance; but they departed from Him and led others into error, and therefore are brought under the divine displeasure.

{RH, December 23, 1890 par. 17} [NOT READ]

The True Witness declares, "**I know thy works.**" "**Repent, and do the first works.**" This is the true test, the evidence that the Spirit of God is working in the heart to imbue you with his love. "**I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**" The church is like the unproductive tree which, receiving the dew and rain and sunshine, should have produced an abundance of fruit, but on which the divine search discovers nothing but leaves. Solemn thought for our churches! solemn, indeed, for every individual! Marvelous is the patience and forbearance of God; but "**except thou repent,**" it will be exhausted; the churches, our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, from cold formality to deadness, while they are saying, "**I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.**" The True Witness says, "**And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.**" Will they ever see clearly their condition?

{RH, December 23, 1890 par. 18}

There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations, they will oppose the work. "Why," they say, "should not we know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?"- -Because they did not respond to the warnings, the entreaties of the messages of God, but persistently said, "**I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.**" Talent, long experience, will not make men channels of light, unless they place themselves under the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and are called, and chosen, and prepared by the endowment of the Holy Spirit. When men who handle sacred things will humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, the Lord will lift them up. He will make them men of discernment--men rich in the grace of his Spirit. Their strong, selfish traits of character, their stubbornness, will be seen in the light shining from the Light of the world. "**I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**" If you seek the Lord with all your heart, he will be found of you.