

3. THE LAW OF MOSES; AN HOLY CONVOCATION

Anciently the Lord instructed His people to assemble three times a year for His worship. To these **holy convocations** the children of Israel came, bringing to the house of God their tithes, their sin offerings, and their offerings of gratitude. They met to recount God's mercies, to make known His wonderful works, and to offer praise and thanksgiving to His name. And they were to unite in the sacrificial service which pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Thus they were to be preserved from the corrupting power of worldliness and idolatry. Faith and love and gratitude were to be kept alive in their hearts, and through their association together in this sacred service they were to be bound closer to God and to one another. 6T39

Notice the key words in her 6T statement that refer to or back to **"holy convocations"**. She even refers to holy convocations as "the light"! These are **holy convocations** because the Holy Spirit visits these special meetings.

▼ If the **children of Israel** needed the benefit of these **holy convocations** in their time, how much more do we need them in these last days of peril and conflict! And if the people of the world then needed the light which God had committed to His church, how much more do they need **it now!** 6T 40

Dear Sr. Brown and Household, We sincerely hope that you will not lose this opportunity of attending the meeting brought so near your own door. Come, mother and children, and Sister Lounge. We want to enjoy **this holy convocation** with you. Bring all the children you can spare from the home place, for this meeting is that which you all need to strengthen and confirm your faith, and you want to hear the message which God has for you. Come and let us meet with God on this encampment. We are amid the perils of the last days, and you need to understand, every one, what you must do to be saved. {11MR 12.3}

Our **annual camp-meetings** are of great importance, and all who possibly can should attend them. They should feel that the Lord requires this of them. If God's people neglect the privileges which he has provided for them to become strong in him, they will grow weaker and weaker and have less and less desire to consecrate all to him'. The object of **these holy convocation meetings** is that the brethren may be separated from business cares and burdens, and devote a few days exclusively to seeking the Lord. But some of these meetings are far from being what the Lord designed they should be. The people come unprepared for the visitation of God's Holy Spirit. Generally the sisters devote considerable time before the meeting to the preparation of garments for the outward adorning, while they entirely forget the inward adorning which is in the sight of God of great price. There is also much time spent in needless cooking, in the preparation of rich pies and cakes and other articles of food that do positive injury to those who partake of them. Should our sisters provide good bread and some other healthful kinds of food, both they and their families would be better prepared to appreciate the words of life, and far more susceptible to the influence of the Holy Spirit. {RH August 15, 1882 par. 1}

During the loud cry...the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere...the Word declares....'I will put Mv Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes. This is the descent of the Holy Spirit, sent from God to do its office work... As men, women, and children proclaim the gospel, the Lord will open the eyes of the blind to see His statutes, and will write upon the hearts of the truly penitent His law." Ellen White, The Review & Herald, "The Closing Work." October 13, 1904

Ezekiel 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

EXODUS The phrase, **"an holy convocation"** is only found in the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers and are related to **feasts**

12:16 And in the first day [there shall be] **an holy convocation**, and in the seventh day there shall be **an holy convocation** to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save [that] which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

Mal 4:4, 5 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

LEVITICUS The phrase, **"an holy convocation"** is only found in the books of Ex, Lev and Num and are related to **feasts**

23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be **holy convocations**, even these are my feasts.

23:3 Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day [is] the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work [therein]: it [is] the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. (*Seventh-day Sabbath is a feast/ appointed time & is the 4th commandment*)

23:4 These are the feasts of the LORD, even **holy convocations**, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. (*referencing Passover, vs 5*)

Ecclesiasticus 33:8 By the knowledge of the Lord they were distinguished: and he altered seasons and feasts.

Gen 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Baruch (Epistle of Jeremiah) 6:60 For sun, moon, and stars, being bright and sent to do their offices, are obedient. (See Neh 13:14)

1 Sam 2:36 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

Ecclesiasticus 43:7 From the moon is the sign of feasts, a light that decreaseth in her perfection.

Ps 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

Ex 18:26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

Wisdom of Sol 7:17 The beginning, ending, and midst of the times: the alterations of the turning of the sun, and the change of seasons:

Wisdom of Sol 8:8 If a man desire much experience, she knoweth things of old, and conjectureth aright what is to come: she knoweth the subtilties of speeches, and can expound dark sentences: she foreseeth signs and wonders, and the events of seasons and times.

The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath," Jesus said. The institutions that God has established are for the benefit of mankind. "All things are for your sakes." "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." 2 Corinthians 4:15; 1 Corinthians 3:22, 23. The law of Ten Commandments, of which the Sabbath forms a part, God gave to His people as a blessing. "The Lord commanded us," said Moses, "to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive." Deuteronomy 6:24. Thus Christ sought to teach the disciples the truth that in God's kingdom there are no territorial lines, no caste, no aristocracy; that they must go to all nations, bearing to them the message of a Saviour's love. But not until later did they realize in all its fullness that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us. Acts 17:26, 27. {AA 20.1}

1 Thess 5:1-4 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child;

23:7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. (Referencing feast of unleavened bread, vs.6)

23:8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day [is] an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work [therein]. (verse 9, first fruits)

23:21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, [that] it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work [therein: it shall be] a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. (verse 16, Pentecost)

23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first [day] of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

23:27 Also on the tenth [day] of this seventh month [there shall be] a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

23:35 On the first day [shall be] an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work [therein]. (vs 34 feast of tabernacles)

23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it [is] a solemn assembly; [and] ye shall do no servile work [therein].

23:37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

NUMBERS The phrase, "an holy convocation" is only found in the books of Ex, Lev and Num and are related to feasts

28:18 In the first day [shall be] an holy convocation: ye shall do no manner of servile work [therein]:

28:25 And on the seventh day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work.

28:26 Also in the day of the firstfruits, when ye bring a new meat offering unto the LORD, after your weeks [be out], ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work:

29:1 And in the seventh month, on the first [day] of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.

29:7 And ye shall have on the tenth [day] of this seventh month an holy convocation; and ye shall afflict your souls: ye shall not do any work [therein]:

29:12 And on the fifteenth day of the seventh month ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work, and ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days:

Mal 4:4, 5 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

I saw that these brethren could benefit the cause of God by attending, as often as practicable, convocation meetings at a distance from their place of labor. The work committed to them is important, and they need healthy nerves and brains; but it is impossible for their minds to be enlivened and invigorated as God would have them, while they are incessantly confined at the office. I was shown that it would be a benefit to the cause at large for these men, standing at the head of the work at Battle Creek, to become acquainted with their brethren abroad by associating with them in meeting. It will give the brethren abroad confidence in those who are bearing the responsibilities of the work, and will relieve these brethren of the taxation upon the brain, and will make them better acquainted with the progress of the work and the wants of the cause. It will enliven their hope, renew their faith, and increase their courage. Time thus taken will not be lost, but will be spent to the very best advantage. These brethren have qualities which render them in the highest degree capable of enjoying social life. They would enjoy their stay at the homes of brethren abroad, and would benefit and be benefited by interchange of thought and views. {1T 516.1}

God Speaks

This day the Lord thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments; thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. Thou hast avouched the Lord this day to be thy God, and to walk in His ways, and to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, and to hearken unto His voice.” This is not the voice of man; it is the voice of Christ from the unfolding pillar of cloud. Read carefully all of Deuteronomy 26, also chapters 27 and 28; for here are stated plainly the blessings of obedience. {RH December 25, 1900, par. 6}

Deut 8:3... ;that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every [word] that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

If we are not obedient to God in this life, keeping his commandments, how can we expect to have a right to eternal life? God will not take into his kingdom and give eternal life to those who will not come under his laws and statutes in this life. {ST September 8, 1887, par. 4}

God has given us probationary time in order that it may be made manifest whether we will be loyal, obedient children, rendering obedience to his commandments, his statutes, and his laws, or whether we will persist in following a course of disobedience, and prove ourselves unworthy of eternal life. Those who will be doers of the words of Christ will have their names written in the Lamb’s book of life; but those who will not obey God’s law after light has come to them from the holy Scriptures, will be written among those whose fate is to perish. For those who choose to follow the traditions of men, and are willing to be turned from the truth of God unto fables, and who train themselves to walk away from the path of God’s commandments, and will not listen to the law of God, but take up with the vain excuses devised by man to continue in disobedience, would not listen to the voice of God in the heavenly courts, and would bring rebellion a second time into heaven. When the Father speaks, they hear him not; but their ears are open to hear the suggestions of the enemy of God and man. {RH October 9, 1894, par. 9}

Deut 24:3 And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

24:4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Moses wrote these judgments and statutes from the mouth of God while he was with him in the mount. If the people of God had obeyed the principles of the ten commandments, there would have been no need of the specific directions given to Moses, which he wrote in a book, relative to their duty to God and to one another. The definite directions which the Lord gave to Moses in regard to the duty of his people to one another, and to the stranger, are the principles of the ten commandments simplified and given in a definite manner, that they need not err. {1SP 265.1} {3SG 299.3}

Did Sister White declare in her writings the Seventh-day Sabbath, to be a holy convocation, a feast? Sister White identifies the Seventh-day Sabbath of Leviticus 23 as a feast of which we are to “consider”.

Ex 20:8-11 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Will my Sister Wellman consult her Bible, and she will know “What saith the Lord?” “And it came to pass on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath of the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe: and that which remaineth over lay up for you to keep until tomorrow.” “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Consider the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done; but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.” {Ms21-1897.8}

Lev 23:1-3 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, [Concerning] the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim [to be] holy convocations, [even] these [are] my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day [is] the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work [therein]: it [is] the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

All who will consult their Bibles will know, “What saith the Lord?” “And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man; and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.” “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.” “And 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. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.” {RH June 1, 1897, par. 6}

If the Israelites had obeyed God’s requirements, they would have been practical Christians. They would have been happy, for they would have been keeping God’s ways and not following the inclinations of their own natural hearts. Moses did not leave them to misconstrue the words of the Lord or to misapply His requirements. He wrote all the words of the Lord in a book, that they might be referred to afterward. In the mount he had written them as Christ Himself dictated them. {Ms126-1901.55}

Ps 89:34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Mal 4:4, 5 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Does Sister White tie **a holy convocation** to the feasts? YES! She also calls them **yearly assemblies** (plural). She also refers to them as our **yearly meetings** (plural):

The **Passover** was followed by the **seven day's feast of unleavened bread**. The first and the seventh day were days of **holy convocation**, when **no servile work was to be performed**. On the second day of the feast, the first fruits of the year's harvest were presented before God. Barley was the earliest grain in Palestine, and at the opening of the feast it was beginning to ripen. A sheaf of this grain was waved by the priest before the altar of God, as an acknowledgment that all was His. Not until this ceremony had been performed was the harvest to be gathered. {PP 539.6}

The first day was **a holy convocation**, and to the seven days **of the feast** an eighth day was added, which was observed in like manner. {PP 540.5}

At **these yearly assemblies** the hearts of old and young would be encouraged in the service of God, while the association of the people from the different quarters of the land would **strengthen the ties that bound them to God and to one another**. **Well would it be for the people of God at the present time to have a Feast of Tabernacles—a joyous commemoration of the blessings of God to them**. As the children of Israel celebrated the deliverance that God had wrought for their fathers, and His miraculous preservation of them during their journeyings from Egypt, so should we gratefully call to mind the various ways **He has devised for bringing us out from the world, and from the darkness of error, into the precious light of His grace and truth**. {PP 540.6}

We have our **convocation meetings yearly**, and all who possibly can attend them **should feel under obligation to do so**. **If they neglect to improve the opportunities to obtain a better knowledge of the truth, and to become more thoroughly in earnest in their efforts to perfect Christian character, they will be held responsible for the light, and privileges, and blessings which they might have had**. Their case is nearly as bad in the sight of God as that of those who attend the meetings but fail to improve by the light and blessings there received. {RH July 10, 1879, par. 14}

I plead with our brethren and sisters to make the most of their God-given opportunities. Christ, when weeping over Jerusalem, exclaimed, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." Jerusalem's sin was in **abusing past blessings and privileges, and she was sealing her doom in rejecting present mercies and warnings**. The weak faith of our people today shows that **past warnings and reproofs have not been heeded**, and hardness of heart, and indifference, and **unbelief** are the result. {RH July 10, 1879, par. 15}

Again **the people were reminded of the sacred obligation of the Sabbath**. **Yearly feasts** were appointed, at which all the men of the nation were to assemble before the Lord, bringing to Him their offerings of gratitude and the first fruits of His bounties. **The object of all these regulations was stated: they proceeded from no exercise of mere arbitrary sovereignty; all were given for the good of Israel**. {PP 311.2}

On the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a **day of atonement**: it shall be **an holy convocation** unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord. Leviticus 23:27. {LHU 330.1} **We are now living in the great day of atonement**. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, **all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people**. **In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance**. **There must be deep, faithful searching of heart**. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The **work of preparation** is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. {LHU 330.2}

The closing words of **Malachi** are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done **preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ**: This prophecy is introduced with the admonition, "**Remember ye the law of Moses** my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the **statutes and judgments**." {SW March 27, 1905, par. 7}

Hos 4:6-7 My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children: As they were increased, so they sinned against me: [therefore] will I change their glory into shame:**

FORGOTTEN HOLY CONVOCATIONS CONTAINED IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW

Nearly a century before, during the first Passover celebrated by Hezekiah, provision had been made for the daily public reading of the book of the law to the people by teaching priests. It was the observance of the statutes recorded by Moses, especially those given in the book of the covenant, which forms a part of Deuteronomy that had made the reign of Hezekiah so prosperous. But Manasseh had dared set aside these statutes; and during his reign the temple copy of the book of the law, through careless neglect, had become lost. Thus for many years the people generally were deprived of its instruction. {PK 392.2}

Note under 2 Chronicles, Chapter 34:21 in the EGW Study Bible regarding Josiah in reference to finding the book of the law:
21 (2Kings 22:13), **Word of the Lord Still Binding.**

[2 Kings 22:13 quoted.] Josiah did not say, "I knew nothing about this book. These are ancient precepts, and times have changed." He appointed men to investigate the matter, and these men went to Huldah, the prophetess.

[2Kings 22:15-20 quoted]

In Josiah's day the Word of the Lord was as binding, and should have been as strictly enforced, as at the time it was spoken. And today it is as binding as it was then. God is always true to His Word. What should we do, we who have had great light? The law has been kept constantly before us. Time and again we have heard it preached. The Lord's anger is kindled against His people because of their disregard of His Word. Conviction of soul should send us in penitence to the foot of the cross, thereto pray with the whole heart, saying, "What shall we do to be saved? Wherewithal shall we come before the Lord?" My brethren, inquire quickly, before it is too late. {GCB April 1, 1903, Art. A, par. 13}

22 (2Kings 22:14). Huldah Visited by Most Honored of the Kingdom,--- Josiah sent as messengers to the prophetess, the highest and most honored of the people. He sent the first men of his kingdom,—men who occupied high positions of trust in the nation. **Thus he conferred honor upon the oracles of God** {GCB April 1, 1903, Art. A. par. 14}

Impact of Leaders Not to Be Underestimated.—The king [Josiah] must leave with God the events of the future; he could not alter the eternal decrees of Jehovah. But in announcing the retributive judgments of Heaven, the Lord had not withdrawn opportunity for repentance and reformation; and Josiah, discerning in this a willingness on the part of God to temper His judgments with mercy, determined to do all in his power to bring about decided reforms. He arranged at once for a great convocation, to which were invited the elders and magistrates in Jerusalem and Judah, together with the common people. These, with the priests and Levites, met the king in the court of the temple. {MTC 13.4} {PK 400.1}

Matt 5:17, 18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The gospel is given in precept in Leviticus. Implicit obedience is required now, as then. How essential it is that we understand the importance of this word! 6T p. 392.2

Brethren, have any of you lost the book of the law? Have not many of us lost sight of the precepts that are in the holy Book? General Conference Bulletin April 1, 1903, Ellen White Admonishes the General Conference Men.

The closing words of Malachi are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ. This prophecy is introduced with the admonition, "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments." {SW March 21, 1905, par. 1}

Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments.

In these last days there is a call from Heaven inviting you to keep the statutes and ordinances of the Lord. The world has set at naught the law of Jehovah; but God will not be left without a witness to his righteousness, or without a people in the earth to proclaim his truth. {ST February 3, 1888, par. 5}

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them.

Ex 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

In consequence of continual transgression, the moral law was repeated in awful grandeur from Sinai. Christ gave to Moses religious precepts which were to govern the everyday life. These statutes were explicitly given to guard the ten commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon man in every age as long as time should last. These commands were enforced by the power of the moral law, and they clearly and definitely explained that law. {RH May 6, 1875, par. 10}

Moses was commanded to write, as God should bid him, judgments and laws giving minute instruction as to what was required. These directions relating to the duty of the people to God, to one another, and to the stranger were only the principles of the Ten Commandments amplified and given in a specific manner, that none need err. They were designed to guard the sacredness of the ten precepts engraved on the tables of stone. PP 364.1}

On Saturday night, March 28, Ellen White was shown in vision what she should bring to the session. This led her to request the privilege of addressing the delegates on Monday afternoon. In place of the regular business meeting **she presented a sermon on Josiah's reign.** * She spoke of the investigation that was made by the king and of the punishment for apostasy. She declared: {WV 425.7}

Today God is watching His people. We should seek to find out what He means when He sweeps away our sanitarium and our publishing house. **Let us not move along as if there were nothing wrong.** King **Josiah rent his robe and rent his heart. He wept and mourned because he had not had the book of the law, and knew not of the punishments that it threatened.** {WV 426.1}

In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired. God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that **the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation,** a constant reminder of the power of God. In clear, distinct lines they are to present **the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue.** Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him in **building up the waste places.** They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in. See verse 12. {PK 678.2}

Isa 58:12-14 And [they that shall be] of thee **shall build the old waste places:** thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, **The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.** 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: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father:
for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken [it].

God has given us his **holy precepts,** because he loves mankind. To shield us from the results of transgression, he reveals the **principles of righteousness. The law is an expression of the thought of God;** when received in Christ, it becomes our thought. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin. God desires us to be happy, and he gave us **the precepts of the law** that in obeying them we might have joy. When at Jesus' birth the angels sang— "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men." **they were declaring the principles of the law which he had come to magnify and make honorable.** {SW August 11, 1908, par. 2}

Christ became sin for the fallen race, in taking upon himself the condemnation resting upon the sinner for his transgression of the law of God. Christ stood at the head of the human family as their representative. He had taken upon himself the sins of the world. In the likeness of sinful flesh he condemned sin in the flesh. **He recognized the claims of the Jewish law until his death, when type met antitype.** In the miracle he performed for the leper, he bade him go to the priests with an offering **in accordance with the law of Moses. Thus he sanctioned the law requiring offerings.** {RH May 6, 1875, par. 11}

Fathers and mothers who claim to be Christians, and who have not been doers of the words of Christ, who have not educated and trained their children in correct habits, have not brought them up to love and fear God, as God has directed them to. **The words of Moses to Israel, concerning the statutes and judgments of the Lord, are also the word of God to us; he says: "Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children."** {ST March 21, 1895, par. 1}

"Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. **Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.**" {ST March 21, 1895, par. 2}

Ezekiel 36:26-27 **A new heart** also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and **will give you an heart of flesh.** And I will put **my spirit** within you, and **cause you to walk in my statutes,** and **ye shall keep my judgments,** and do them.

During the loud cry... the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere... the Word declares....'I will put **My Spirit** within you, and **cause you to walk in My statutes.** **This is the descent of the Holy Spirit, sent from God to do its office work...** As men, women, and children the gospel, the Lord **will open the eyes of the blind to see His statutes, and will write upon the hearts** of the truly penitent **His law.**" Ellen White, The Review & Herald, "The Closing Work." October 13, 1904

In these last days there is a call from Heaven inviting you to keep the statutes and ordinances of the Lord. The world has set at naught the law of Jehovah; but **God will not be left without a witness to his righteousness,** or without a people in the earth to proclaim his truth. {ST Feb 3, 1888, par. 5}