

REVELATION 7

Chapter 7

Revelation 7:1-3 takes place after sealing starts (EW 42.44) and after Rev 9 (Aug 11, 1840). Sealing started in 1848-50. "The seventh chapter of the book of Revelation continues the description of events taking place under the sixth seal." SNH SSP 127

This chapter chronologically belongs between the 13th and 14th verses of Revelation Chapter 6.

7:1 And after these things *[after the occurrence of the signs mentioned in Rev 6:12, 13]* I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth *[entire world]*, holding **the four winds** *[Islam; EW 38; political strife/ war Dan 7:2; Jer 25:32]* of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God *[settling into the truth, including the Sabbath: Gen 17:11; Rom 4:11; Rev 7:3; Eze 9:4]*: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels *[Turks]*, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed *[4SP 505]* the servants of our God in their foreheads. *[Rev 9:4]*

7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

7:5 Of the tribe of Juda [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7:6 Of the tribe of Aser [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7:9 *[Saints in white robes]* After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Sealing of God's Servants

144,000

VERSE 1

Angels are holding the **four winds, <which are> represented as an angry (Islam) horse seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path.** {Lt138-1897.23} {See also 20MR 216.6}

The **four winds of heaven** striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power. {GC 439.3-440.0}

After these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds of the earth**, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. Rev. 7:1 **Four mighty angels** are still holding the **four winds of the earth**. Terrible **destruction** is forbidden to come in full. The ... **winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat**, while the angels hold the **four winds**, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. {Mar 175.1}

"I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the earth. . . . And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God; and he cried . . . saying, Hurt not the earth . . . till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." These angels now hold **the winds of strife**, waiting for the church of God to prepare for his coming. **The sealing angel goes through Jerusalem (the church) to place the seal of the living God on the foreheads of the faithful, and while this work goes forward, Turkey stands as a national guidepost to the world, that men may know what is going on in the sanctuary above.** {1901 SNH, SDP 248.1}

In 1848 the Angel from the East called to the **four angels to hold the winds of war** until the servants of God were sealed in their foreheads. **Since 1848**, in the quiet which has prevailed among nations, **light upon the Sabbath of Jehovah's law, has been going to every nation of the earth.** It began gently as the rising sun; it shines to-day with the clearness of the noonday rays. Thousands, in all quarters of the globe testify to the saving health in the Sabbath observance. {1905 SNH, SSP 136.1}

I saw that the four angels would hold the **four winds (Islam) until** Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, **then the seven last plagues** will be poured out. These **plagues** enraged the wicked against the righteous, and they thought that we had brought the **plagues** down upon them, and if they could rid the earth of us, then the **plagues** would be stayed. {Ms2-1849.2}

Verses 2 and 3: see Rev 18:1-3

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7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

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

7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.



FOUR ANGELS HOLDING BACK FOUR WINDS



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 in 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.”** {LS 118.3}

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. {1MR 145.3}

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FOUR ANGELS- Under the 6th trumpet, looking back in history:

"These **four angels** were the four Turkish clans on the head waters of the Euphrates..." {1842 CF, WHT 9.2}

"loose the **four angels** which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed. {1841 JoL, APEC 116.1}

The **four angels**" are the four principal nations of which the Ottoman empire is composed, located in the neighborhood of the Euphrates..." {1841 JoL, APEC 116.2}

"and the **four angels** were loosed...the **four angels** denote **ministers of judgment**. They refer to the four nations of the Seljukian Turks of which the Ottoman Empire was composed, located near the river Euphrates, at Aleppo, Iconium, Damascus and Bagdad..." {1838 JoL, PSC 155.1}

"...loose the four messengers who are bound near the great river Euphrates. And the four messengers were loosed, who were prepared for **an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year...**" {1849 JB, SLG 7.2}

...according to history these **four messengers** were **four principal tribes or hords of people living near or by the river Euphrates, viz: Arabs, Turks, Tartars, and Saraceans...**" {1849 JB, SLG 7.3}

"the **four angels, we may reasonably conclude, are a representation of the four nations that had embraced the Mahometan religion**, and were now under the control of the Ottoman, viz., Turks, Tartars, Arabs, and Saracens..." {1842 WiM, MWV2 121.1}

Four angels = Seljukian Turkish clans/ nations of Ottoman Empire that embraced the Mahometan religion: Arabs, Turks, Tartars, Saracens (tribes/ hords of people living near or by river Euphrates, at Aleppo, Iconium, Damascus and Bagdad) that were loosed "an hour, a day, a month, and a year". History Repeats:

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FOUR ANGELS- Under the 7th trumpet, in the near future:

Four mighty angels are still **holding the four winds** of the earth. Terrible destruction is forbidden to come in full. The accidents by land and by sea; the loss of life, steadily increasing, by storm, by tempest, by railroad disaster, by conflagration; the terrible floods, the earthquakes, and **the winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat**, while the angels hold the **four winds**, forbidding the terrible **power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads**. Get ready, get ready, I beseech you, get ready before it shall be forever too late! **The ministers of vengeance** will pour all the terrible judgments upon a God-forsaken people. **The way of obedience is the only path of life**. May the Lord help you to see it in time to open your ears, that you may hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. {RH June 7, 1887, par. 13}

FOUR ANGELS REPRESENT AN ANGRY HORSE WITH SEVEN LAST PLAGUES (see Rev Chapter 9):

Angels are holding the four winds, which are represented as an angry horse [Islam] seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path. Shall we sleep on the very verge of the eternal world? Shall we be dull and cold and dead? O that we might have in our churches the Spirit and breath of God breathed into His people [Eze 37:9-10 language], that **they might stand upon their feet** and live. We need to see that the way is narrow, and the gate strait. But as we pass through the strait gate, its wideness is without limit. {Lt138-1897.24}

I saw that the four angels would hold the **four winds** (Islam) until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, **then the seven last plagues** will be poured out. These **plagues** enraged the wicked against the righteous, and they thought that we had brought the **plagues** down upon them, and if they could rid the earth of us, then the **plagues** would be stayed. {Ms2-1849.2}

Soon He will say to the angels who are holding the **four winds**, "Let the **plagues loose**; let darkness, **destruction**, and death come upon the transgressors of my law." Will He be obliged to say to those who have had

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great light and knowledge, as He said to the Jews, "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"? {RH October 8, 1901, par. 15}

HASKELL CONNECTS ISLAM TO THE FOUR WINDS OF ISLAM:

"I saw **four angels** standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the earth. . . . And I saw another angel ascending from the **east**, having the seal of the living God; and he cried . . . saying, Hurt not the earth . . . till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." **These angels** now hold **the winds of strife**, waiting for the church of God to prepare for his coming. The sealing angel goes through Jerusalem (the church) to place the seal of the living God on the foreheads of the faithful, and while this work goes forward, **Turkey stands as a national guidepost to the world, that men may know what is going on in the sanctuary above.** {1901 SNH, SDP 248.1} **God's eye is upon his people, and he never leaves himself without a witness in the world. No man knows when Turkey will take its departure from Europe, but when that move is made, earth's history will be short.** Then it will be said, "He that is unjust let him be unjust still, and he that is righteous let him be righteous still." **To-day is "the day of preparation."** The fate of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome is recorded for the edification of the nations of to-day, and the lessons taught by all center in the events just before us. **While the world watches Turkey, let the servant of God watch the movements of his great High Priest, whose ministry for sin is almost over.** {1901 SNH, SDP 248.2}

WATCH

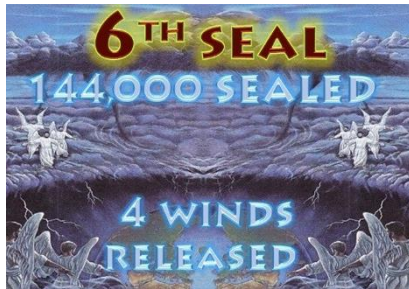
Jesus has left us word: **"Watch (when Turkey invades and occupies Jerusalem) ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly (close of probation) He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."** (Mark 13:34-36) **We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master,** who is to bring the morning, lest **coming suddenly** He find us sleeping. **What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven (2nd Coming) to find a people asleep. No; but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, (Dan 12:1- close of probation) and when the mandate goes forth: "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."** (Rev 22:11) {2T 190.1}

NATURAL DISASTERS

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. **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. The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrising). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the **seal** of the living God, or of 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 444.3}

The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. **Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause.** Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the **four winds** that they shall not blow until the servants of God are **sealed**; but when God shall bid His angels loose the **winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.** {6T 408.1}

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REVELATION 7: *The Sixth Seal Continues*

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

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

5



This flag is used often by Muslims to represent their Islamic identity. This is why, Muslim League also choose this flag to show themselves as the sole spokesman of Indian Muslims.



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The sixth chapter closed with the events of the sixth seal, and the seventh seal is not mentioned until we reach the beginning of Revelation 8. The purpose of Revelation 7 is to provide additional details concerning the sixth seal, some of which will apply before the opening of the seventh. Thus the phrase “after these things” refers to events associated with the closing of the sixth and before the opening of the seventh seal. Thus, with careful consideration, *we can follow the chronology of Revelation*. The apparent movements of time, forward into the future, back in the past, to the very time in which the Seer of Patmos wrote Revelation is consistent when properly understood. The times of which it speaks are between the 13th and 14th verses of Revelation chapter 6. The 13th verse speaks of a great falling of the stars, the 14th about the heavens being rolled as a scroll at the time when Jesus is to return. God has appointed four angels to hold back the winds of strife until the time comes for them to blow. Winds in the Bible symbolize political commotion, strife, and war, Daniel 7:2. The four winds are the four quarters of the earth and denote all the elements of strife and commotion that exist in the world. When they are loosed and all blow together, it will constitute a great whirlwind of trouble for this planet.

6

The Seal of God

Another angel, introduced in verse 2, has a specific work to do in the last stages of the sixth seal, but before the seventh seal is opened. Instead of the words “ascending from the east”, some translations read “ascending from the sun rising”, which is a more literal translation. The expression refers to angels coming, rather than from the east. As the sun begins to rise its rays are weak. Gradually it increases in strength until it shines in all its power and moves onward work of this angel and closes influence, and closes When his work is complete, the saints are “sealed” with the seal of the creator, the living God. At this point we are right on the edge of the seventh seal being opened.



A “seal” is a mark, badge, token and/or pledge, which is to make sure; to set a seal or mark upon anything in token of its being genuine or approved. This is not a literal seal that one can see or touch, it is rendered to the saints as a sign to the heavenly host that these saints shall forever belong to God. The children of Israel, just prior to leaving the slavery of Egypt, were to mark their doorposts with the blood of a lamb; symbolizing the future death of the Messiah, Exodus 12. This was a sign or seal between them and God, that they might be spared the coming destruction.

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4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

5 Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.



The number sealed is here stated to be one hundred forty-four thousand. The twelve tribes that will make up this number are not from the literal tribes of Israel. Consider the Epistle of James on this point, chapter one, verse 1; "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations," etc. James here addresses Christians, for they are his brethren. These are not the converts to Christianity from the Jews, the twelve tribes of his own day, for he addresses them in view of the coming of the Lord. He is addressing the last generation of Christians, the Christians of our own day, and he calls them the twelve tribes scattered abroad. Some were converts from paganism and others were Jews, yet they are all included in the twelve tribes.

How can this be? Paul explains in Rom.11:17-24. In the striking figure of grafting which he there introduces, the tame olive tree represents Israel. Some of the branches, the natural descendants of Abraham, were broken off because of unbelief in Christ. Through faith in Christ the wild olive scions, the Gentiles, are grafted into the tame olive stock, and thus the twelve tribes are perpetuated. And here we find an explanation of the language of the same apostle: "They are not all Israel which are of Israel", and "He is not a Jew which is one outwardly . . . but he is a Jew which is one inwardly", Romans 9:6-8.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

After the sealing is accomplished, John beholds a countless multitude worshipping God in rapture before His throne. This vast throng is undoubtedly the saved out of every nation, kindred, tribe, and tongue raised from the dead at the Second Coming of Christ. This shows that the work of the sealing of the people of God is for those who will be alive at the time of His return and then are prepared to live through the seven last plagues.

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13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?

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

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Within this great multitude, John sees a special group, whom he does not recognize. One of the Elders says, "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?" John answers, "Sir, thou knowest", implying that John did not know. He had seen them before, on earth, but now in the heavenly throng, he did not recognize them because of their great change. The group here brought to view is the company spoken of in the first part of the chapter, the 144,000. To this company, the following specifications seem to be especially applicable.

They came out of great tribulation. While it is true of all Christians that they "must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God", Acts 14:22, it is true of the 144,000 in a very special sense. They have passed through a great time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, the seven last plagues, Daniel 12:1. They experience the mental anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble, Jeremiah 30:4-7. They are to stand without a mediator through the terrible scenes of the seven last plagues, those exhibitions of God's unmingled wrath in the earth as we shall see in Revelation 15 and 16. They pass through the most severe time of trouble the world has ever known, although they shall finally triumph and are delivered.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. To the last generation, the counsel is very emphatic on the subject of obtaining the white raiment, Revelation 3:5, 18. The 144,000 refuse to violate the commandments of God, Revelation 14:1, 12. It will be seen that they have placed their hope of life on the merits of Christ, not their own, making Him their source of righteousness.

Verse 15 describes the post of honor they occupy in the kingdom and their nearness to God. In another place, they are called "the first fruits unto God and the Lamb", Revelation 14:4. In verse 16 it is said, "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more". This shows that they have once suffered hunger and thirst. To what can this refer? As it doubtless has reference to some special experience, it must refer to their trials in the time of trouble, more especially during the seven last plagues. In this time the righteous will be reduced to bread and water, and that "will be sure", Isaiah 33:16, enough for sustenance. Yet it may not be enough for even that when the pastures, with all fruits and vegetation, are dried up, Joel 1:18-20 and the rivers and fountains are turned to blood Revelation 16:4-7. To reduce their connection with the earth and earthly things to the lowest limit, the saints who pass through that time will be brought occasionally to extreme degrees of hunger and thirst. But once they have gained the kingdom, "they shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore."

The prophet continues: "Neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat". The 144,000 live through the time when power is given unto the sun "to scorch men with fire", Revelation 16:8-9. Though they are shielded from the deadly effect which it has upon the wicked around them, we cannot suppose that their sensibilities will be so deadened that they will feel no unpleasant sensations from the terrific heat. No, as they enter the fields of the heavenly Canaan, they will be prepared to appreciate the divine assurance that the sun shall not injure them. Another testimony concerning the same company, and applying at the same time, says, "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth", Revelation 14:4. Both expressions denote the state of intimate and divine companionship to which the blessed Redeemer admits them.

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When the saints in the last days of this earth's history receive the seal of God, they are here after especially protected, from injury, from death, and from sin. The seal serves as a "mark of distinction" between the worshipers of God and those who are not His servants *though many profess to follow Him*. Their actions, not their words, reveal the true nature of their heart.

The seal of God is found in His law, that part of His law which contains His name, or descriptive title, showing who He is, the extent of His dominion and His right to rule. The law of God is the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments. We have, then, but to examine these commandments to see which one it is that constitutes the seal of the law and makes known to us the true God, the lawmaking power.

The fourth commandment stands alone in providing a title and identity for it contains the declaration, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is," we see at once that we are reading the requirements of Him who created all things. The sun then is not the God of the Decalogue. The true God is He who made the sun. The

God of this law, the fourth of ten, is the one who made all created things. Now we have a weapon against idolatry. Now this law can no longer be applied to false gods, who "have not made the heavens and the earth", Jeremiah 10:11.

The Author of this law has declared who He is, the extent of His dominion and His right to rule. He who is the Creator of all has a right to demand obedience from all. Thus, the fourth commandment of the Decalogue, the only document among men which God ever wrote with His own finger, has a signature. It has that which renders it intelligible and authentic, it has a seal. But without the fourth commandment, the law is incomplete and lacks authority. It follows then that seal of God is the fourth commandment. The angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God, is a divine messenger in charge of a work of reform to be carried on among men involving the Sabbath of the fourth commandment.

We are unable to understand or explain the ebb and flow of these currents of war and peace on any other basis than the revelation of Jesus Christ given through the prophet John and recorded in the verses before us. When it suits the plans and purposes of God to permit the winds of strife to blow, then human nature untouched by the grace of God is seen in the unbridled display. But when He says, "It is enough", the angel cries, "Hold, Hold, Hold, Hold", and the strife ceases for a short time that the work of God may proceed and even be finished. Thus it will be until the great consummation of the plan of salvation.

9



EXODUS 20:8-11



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Revelation—Chapter 7 Part 1 God’s Love Letter— The Sealing Of God’s People

Revelation 6:14

Stephan N. Haskell, 1905, The Story of The Seer of Patmos pg. 127

THE seventh chapter of the book of Revelation continues the description of events taking place under the sixth seal. ... The seventh chapter of Revelation is introduced, it places that chapter, when considered chronologically, between the thirteenth and fourteenth verses of the sixth chapter of Revelation.

Revelation 7:1-4

Ellen White, Sermons and Talks, Vol. 1 pg. 72

When the world sees that we have an intensity of desire, some object that is out of sight, which by faith is to us a living reality, then it puts an incentive to investigate, and they see that there is certainly something worth having, for they see that this faith has made a wonderful change in our life and character.

Matthew 24:14

Ellen White, Sermons and Talks, Vol. 1 pg. 72

A transformation has taken place, and you are a different man. You are not the same passionate man that you used to be. You are not the same worldly man that you were. You are not the man that was giving way to lust and evil passions, evil surmisings and evil speakings. You are not this man at all, because a transformation has taken place. What is it? The image of Christ reflected in you. Then you are bearing in view that there is a company to stand by and by on Mount Zion, and you want to be one of that company, and you are determined that you will form a part of that company. Let me read: [Revelation 14:1-3, quoted.]

10

Why were they [the 144,000] so specially singled out? Because they had to stand with a wonderful truth right before the whole world, and receive their opposition, and while receiving this opposition they were to remember that they were sons and daughters of God, that they must have Christ formed within them the hope of glory. They were ever keeping in view the great and blessed hope that is before them. What is it? It is an eternal weight of glory. Nothing could surpass it.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 436

Angels are ever-present agents in the affairs of the earth; and why may not these be four of those heavenly beings into whose hands God has committed the work here described; namely, holding the winds while it is God’s purpose that they should not blow, and hurting the earth with them when the time comes that they should be loosed? For it will be noticed (verse 3) that the “hurting” is a work committed to their hands equally with the “holding;” so that they do not merely let the winds go when they are to blow, but they cause them to blow; they impel forward the work of destruction with their own supernatural energy. But the hurting process here brought to view does not include the seven last plagues. That work is given into the hands of seven special angels; this, into the hands of four. Or, it may be that when the time comes for the pouring out of the plagues, the seven angels who have specific charge of these judgments, unite with the four whose mission it is to cause the winds to blow, and all together bring on that pre-eminent exhibition of divine vengeance against a generation which is pre-eminent in guilt.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 436

An expression denoting the four quarters, or the four points of the compass, and signifying that these angels, in their particular sphere, had charge of the whole earth.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 436

Winds, in the Bible, symbolize political commotion, strife, and war. Daniel 7:2; Jeremiah 25:32. The four winds, held by four angels standing in the four quarters of the earth, must denote all the elements of strife and commotion that exist

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in the world; and when they are all loosed, and all blow together, it will constitute the great whirlwind just referred to in the prophecy of Jeremiah.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 436

Another literal angel, having charge of another specific work, is here introduced. Instead of the words "ascending from the east," some translations read, "Ascending from the sun rising," which is a more literal translation. The expression evidently refers to manner rather than locality; for as the sun arises with rays at first oblique and comparatively powerless, but increases in strength until it shines in all its meridian power and splendor, so the work of this angel commences in weakness, moves onward with ever-accumulating influence, and closes in strength and power.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 437

This is the distinguishing characteristic of the ascending angel; he bears with him the seal of the living God. From this fact, and the chronology of his work, we are to determine, if possible, what movement is symbolized by his mission. The nature of his work is evidently embraced in his having the seal of the living God; and to ascertain what his work is, the inquiry must be answered what this seal of the living God is, which he bears with him.

Stephan N. Haskell, 1905, The Story of The Seer of Patmos pg. 127

God's chosen people are always a peculiar people; they are called to be a nation of kings, a royal priesthood, who show forth the virtues of their Commander Jehovah looks not on the outward appearance, but weighs character; and places His seal on those whose hearts are right toward Him.

Ellen White, Manuscript 173, 1902, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1 pg. 249, 250

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.

11

Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5, pgs. 213, 214

Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. They had the light of truth, they knew their Master's will, they understood every point of our faith, but they had not corresponding works. These who were so familiar with prophecy and the treasures of divine wisdom should have acted their faith.

Ellen White, Early Writings, pg. 43

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.

Uriah Smith, 1897, The Study of the 144,000

The number, 144,000, must mean a definite number, composed of just so many individuals. It cannot stand for a larger but indefinite number, for in verse 9 another company is introduced which is indefinite in its proportions, and hence is spoken of as "a great multitude, which no man could number." If the 144,000 were designed to represent such an indefinite number, then John would have said, in verse 4, "And there were sealed a great multitude, which no man could number, out of all the tribes of the children of Israel." ...

The reason for this distinction is apparent if we take the innumerable multitude of verse 9 to be the whole host of the redeemed, who will have part in the first resurrection, and the 144,000 to be Christians who will be alive on the earth when Christ appears.

Numbers 26:52-56

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Uriah Smith, 1897, The Study of the 144,000

And lastly do the 144,000 represent only those who have never passed through death? — Not at all. The conditions of the prophecy make it necessary that many who are now in their grave should be included in the 144,000.

Revelation—Chapter 7 Part 2 God’s Love Letter— Sealed—Fully Persuaded

Ellen White, Signs of the Times, March 22, 1910

The Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. It points to God as the Creator, and is the sign of His rightful authority over the beings He has made. Those who obey this law will bear the seal of God, for He has set apart this day as a sign of loyalty between Himself and His people.

Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5 pgs. 213, 214

Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 439

The 144,000, who in the chapter before us are said to be sealed with the seal of God in their foreheads, are again brought to view in Revelation 14:1, where they are said to have the Father’s name written in their foreheads. ... The seal of God is found in connection with the law of God. The seal of God is that part of His law which contains His name, or descriptive title, showing who He is, the extent of His dominion, and His right to rule.

Ellen White, Manuscript 173, 1902, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1 pgs. 249, 250

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.

12

Ellen G White, Review & Herald, April 15, 1890

God made His law for all the universe. He created man, He gives the bounteous provisions of nature, holds our breath and life in His hand. He is to be recognized, His law honored, before all the great men and the highest earthly powers.

Exodus 20:2 , 8-11

Strong’s Concordance

zākar = zaw-kar'

A primitive root; properly to mark (so as to be recognized), that is, to remember; by implication to mention;

Exodus 23:12-13

1724, George Carlow, Defense of the Sabbath, pg. 110

“Christians should not take these abominable names in their mouths, lest they learn the ways and walk after the customs of the heathen and papists; which, being vain and abominable, are positively forbidden.”

Ezekiel 44:5

E.J. Waggoner, Present Truth UK; September 26, 1901

Now since God is Spirit, cannot get weary, and yet He rests, and He invites us to share His rest, it follows that the Sabbath is not for the purpose of resting the body. The night is given for rest, and nobody has any business to get so wearied by his daily toil that he cannot get rested over night, so as to be fresh in the morning. The night is given for physical rest, and the Sabbath for spiritual refreshment. If man needed no other rest than rest of body, there would be no need for the Sabbath; and whoever comes up to the Sabbath so jaded in body that he is obliged to devote all or a

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portion of it (the night, of course, excepted) to sleep and physical recreation, is not a keeper of it, but a Sabbath-breaker.

Ellen G White, Manuscript 162, 1903

We are to give to the world a manifestation of the pure, noble, holy principles that are to distinguish the people of God from the world. Instead of the people of God becoming less and less definitely distinguished from those who do not keep the seventh-day Sabbath, they are to make the observance of the Sabbath so prominent that the world cannot fail to recognize them as Seventh-day Adventist.—

Exodus 31:13-15

Ellen G White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 6 pg. 349

As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors.

Ellen G White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 5 pg. 84

The Sabbath was God's sign between Him and His people, and evidence of His kindness, mercy, and love, a token by which His people are distinguished from all false religionists of the world. And God has pledged Himself that He will bless them in their obedience, showing Himself that He is their God, and has taken them into covenant relation with Himself, and that He will fulfill His promise to all that are obedient.

Ellen G White, Desire of Ages, pg. 671

Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.

Exodus 31:13

Ellen G White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 21 pg. 293, 294

This is the only true sanctification in the Scriptures—that which comes from God because of obedience to His Commandments. Then we may know that the little companies assembled together to worship the Lord on the day which He has blessed and made holy have a right to claim the rich blessings of Jehovah. The sacred hours are to be employed in conversation that is holy. This is a day set apart for special service, to give earnest heed to the word of God, and to give expression to their exercises of mind, to relate their experience and to express in exhortation their solicitude for the saving of the souls of those who know not the truth. There is to be the greatest freedom in their conversation, speaking one to the other in reference to the truth, the labors and prayers in behalf of the souls ready to die. Tell the story of the interest that angels have in the salvation of the human souls for whom Christ has given His life; and if angels feel so great an interest in their salvation, should not these souls who are within the influence of the truth feel deep concern for their own souls? The atonement and the intercession of Christ in their behalf should inspire the human agent with zeal and earnestness to set forth the truth and the riches of Divine grace, and the quickening influence of the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit will avail to touch the heart and convert the soul. The Sabbath is holy unto the Lord. Affectionate, personal, private conversation in regard to religious experience will be blessed of the Lord.

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Revelation—Chapter 7 Part 3 God's Love Letter—The Sealing Of God's People

Isaiah 26:3 -4

Ellen White, Letter 80, 1898, Manuscript Releases Vol. 11 pg. 367

The Lord would teach man the lesson that, though united in church capacity, he is not saved until the seal of God is placed upon him, and he is made complete in Christ.

Ellen White, Manuscript 173, 1902, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1 pg. 249, 250

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.

Stephan Haskell, 1905, The Seer of Patmos, pg. 133

This seal comes not because of boasted pride, or self-supremacy, but by simple faith in the promises of God, as a child learns from its mother.

Ellen White, Review & Herald, June 7, 1887

The times of ignorance God winked at, but now, with the blazing light of truth shining all around us, with warnings, with reproofs, with increasing light if we will but open our eyes to see it, there is no excuse of any, even the weakest child of God, that they should not disperse light to the world

Ellen White, Review & Herald, June 7, 1887

The four angels are holding the four winds that a special work may be accomplished: the saints of God are to be sealed in their foreheads. Brethren, how long before you will be ready for the seal of God? Every step you advance upon the path which God forbids, toward your own pleasure and in sin, is a step nearer your destruction. Every act of disobedience to the word of the Lord is exposing you to irreparable loss. Every moment of ease, of self-indulgence, secured by you in neglecting the divine admonitions and call to duty in earnest work for the Master, is placing you under the power and control of the prince of darkness. Your candlestick may at any moment be moved out of its place.

Ellen White, Manuscript 1-1890, Sermons and Talks Vol. 2 pg. 64

I can tell you instance after instance that I know of, of men who have been warned and reprov'd, who have sat here in this house and listened to discourse after discourse, but in the place of being doers of the Word, in the place of receiving the Word of God into good and honest hearts, in the place of working with all their might in harmony with heaven, they have hugged their sins to themselves. And then what? The seal of God could not be upon them, and when calamities came, when placed in perilous positions, those very ones have gone down into the grave, and they will not come up in the first resurrection. They will not see the King in His beauty. They were lost simply because they took their own way. They broke away from the Spirit of God and kept venturing and venturing, and tasting and testing the wiles of the devil.

Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5 pg. 212

The day of God's vengeance is just upon us. The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land. Those who link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity. "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5 pg. 214

Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

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Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5 pg. 214

Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child, if he would know what the Lord requires of him.

Ellen White, 1864 Spiritual Gifts Volume 4b, pg. 13

I saw that there was a measuring yourselves among yourselves, and comparing your lives with the lives of others. This I saw should not be. No one is given us as an example but Christ; he is our true pattern, and each should strive to excel in imitating him. We are co-workers with Christ, or co-workers with the enemy. We either gather with Christ, or scatter abroad. We are decided, whole-hearted Christians, or none at all. ...

I saw that some hardly know yet what self-denial or sacrifice is, and what it is to suffer for the truth's sake. But I saw that none will enter Heaven without making a sacrifice. They should cherish a spirit of sacrifice and self-denial. Some have not sacrificed themselves, their own bodies, on the altar of God. They indulge in hasty, fitful temper, and gratify their appetites, and attend to their own self-interest, regardless of the cause of God. Those who are willing to make any sacrifice for eternal life, will have it. And it will be worth suffering for, worth crucifying self for, and sacrificing every idol for.

Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5 pg. 216

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.

Ellen White, 1886, Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists, pg. 217

If parents allow their children to receive an education with the world, and make the Sabbath a common day, then the seal of God cannot be placed upon them. They will be destroyed with the world; and will not their blood rest upon the parents?

But if we faithfully teach our children God's commandments, bring them into subjection to parental authority, and then by faith and prayer commit them to God, He will work with our efforts; for He has promised it. And when the overflowing scourge shall pass through the land, they with us may be hidden in the secret of the Lord's pavilion.

Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles, pg. 314

Paul feared lest, having preached to others, he himself should be a castaway. He realized that if he did not carry out in his life the principles he believed and preached, his labors in behalf of others would avail him nothing. His conversation, his influence, his refusal to yield to self-gratification, must show that his religion was not a profession merely, but a daily, living connection with God. One goal he kept ever before him, and strove earnestly to reach—"the righteousness which is of God by faith." Philippians 3:9.

Jeremiah 31:33

Ellen White, Review & Herald, June 21, 1898

So spiritual is the character of God's work upon the human heart that receives it, that it makes every one a new creature, without destroying or weakening any capability God has given to man. It purifies every attribute fit for connection with the divine nature. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit; and when man is born from above, a heavenly peace pervades the soul.

2Timothy 2:15-16

Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles, pg. 232

Wherever the truths of the gospel are proclaimed, those who honestly desire to do right are led to a diligent searching of the Scriptures. If, in the closing scenes of this earth's history, those to whom testing truths are proclaimed would follow the example of the Bereans, searching the Scriptures daily, and comparing with God's word the messages

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brought them, there would today be a large number loyal to the precepts of God's law, where now there are comparatively few. But when unpopular Bible truths are presented, many refuse to make this investigation.

Revelation—Chapter 7 Part 4 God's Love Letter— All Around God's Throne

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 438

A seal is used to render valid or authentic any enactments, or laws, which a person or power may promulgate.

Stephan N. Haskell, 1905, The Story of The Seer of Patmos pg. 134

The seal placed in the forehead by the angel, cannot be read by man; only God and heavenly beings can read it. For this reason, no civil law can enforce Sabbath keeping. Man may keep the form one day in seven, but only a knowledge of God can give the seal in the forehead.

Isaiah 5:4

Ellen White, Early Writings, pg. 71

I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully. I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God.

Ellen White, 1894, Christian Education, pg. 122

Let no one suppose that conversion is the beginning and end of the Christian life. ... The training and education of a lifetime must often be discarded that the Christian may become a learner in the school of Christ, and in him who would be a partaker of the divine nature, appetite and passion must be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit. There is to be no end to this warfare this side of eternity, but while there are constant battles to fight, there are also precious victories to gain, and the triumph over self and sin is of more value than the mind can estimate.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pgs. 443, 444

In Revelation 14 we find the same work again brought to view under the symbol of an angel flying in the midst of heaven with the most terrific warning that ever fell upon the ears of men. We shall speak of this more fully when we reach that chapter. We refer to it now, as it is the last work to be accomplished for the world before the coming of Christ, which is the next event in order in that prophecy, and hence must synchronize with the work here brought to view in

Revelation 7:1-3.

Revelation 7:9-12

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pgs. 448, 449

The sealing having been accomplished, John beholds a countless multitude worshipping God in rapture before His throne. This vast throng are undoubtedly the saved out of every nation, kindred, tribe, and tongue, raised from the dead at the second coming of Christ, showing that the sealing is the last work accomplished for the people of God prior to translation.

Revelation 7:13-14

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Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 449

John had indeed seen this company in their mortal state, as they were receiving the seal of the living God amid the troublous scenes of the last days; but as they here stand among the redeemed throng, the transition is so great, and the condition in which they now appear so different, that he does not recognize them as the special company which he saw sealed upon the earth.

Revelation 7:14b

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pgs. 449, 450

While it is true in some degree of all Christians that they must "through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God," it is true in a very emphatic sense of the 144,000. They pass through the great time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Daniel 12:1. They experience the mental anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble. Jeremiah 30:4-7. They stand without a mediator through the terrific scenes of the seven last plagues, those exhibitions of God's unmingled wrath in the earth. Revelation, chapters 15, 16.

Revelation 3:10-11

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 450

They pass through the severest time of trouble the world has ever known, although they are delivered out of it.

Stephan N. Haskell, 1905, The Story of The Seer of Patmos pg. 141

On earth they have felt the heat of the sun's rays, and although, after the restoration, the sunshine is sevenfold brighter than at present, yet the little company stand so near the throne, and are so enshrouded by the intense light of the Father and Son, that the sunlight is no longer noticeable. The appearance of one angel on earth dazzled the eyes of the centurion's guard at the Saviour's tomb, and they fell like dead men. Light is the result of an abundance of life. What must be the purity of those who partake of divinity to such a degree that they walk in the very presence of the Creator?

These are redeemed from among men. They come from the last generation,—that race which is almost extinct because of the prevalence of disease and sin. But the blood of the Lamb is all powerful, and places these next the throne: "Where sin abounded grace did much more. abound." The matchless love of Christ, who can understand!

Revelation 7:15-17

Ellen White, Desire of Ages, 1898, pgs, 121, 122

In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death.

Revelation 8:1

Stephan N. Haskell, 1905, The Story of The Seer of Patmos pg. 143

The opening of the seventh seal is the ushering in of eternity. "And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." God's dwelling place is the center of life and the scene of constant activity. Music ever echoes from the vaults of heaven, and choruses composed of ten thousand times ten thousand of angel voices, sing the praises of the Lamb and of Him who sitteth on the throne. When the little company on earth are prepared, the sealing angel speeds back to heaven with the message that the work is done.

Ezekiel 9:11

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Stephan N. Haskell, 1905, The Story of The Seer of Patmos pg. 143

Christ in the sanctuary above, lays aside His priestly robes, and the Lamb appears as the King of kings. Angel leaders marshal the hosts of heaven. The throne of Omnipotence is moved. God accompanies His Son to earth. Attended by myriads of angels, the Rulers of heaven and earth leave heaven empty, drawn earthward by the faithful ones whose hearts have become the abiding place of His eternal Spirit.

Titus 2:13

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pgs. 449, 450

Concerning the cause of this silence, only conjecture can be offered, — a conjecture, however, which is supported by the events of the sixth seal. That seal does not bring us to the second advent, although it embraces events that transpire in close connection therewith. It introduces the fearful commotions of the elements, described as the rolling of the heavens together as a scroll, caused by the voice of God, the breaking up of the surface of the earth, and the confession on the part of the wicked that the great day of God's wrath is come. They are doubtless in momentary expectation of seeing the King appear in, to them, unendurable glory. But the seal stops just short of that event. The personal appearing of Christ must therefore be allotted to the next seal. But when the Lord appears, He comes with all the holy angels with Him. Matthew 25:31. And when all the heavenly harpers leave the courts above to come down with their divine Lord, as He descends to gather the fruit of His redeeming work, will there not be silence in heaven? The length of this period of silence, if we consider it prophetic time, would be about seven days.

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THE SEALING

What is the Sealing in the forehead?

The work in Battle Creek is after the same order. The leaders in the sanitarium have mingled with unbelievers, admitting them to their councils, more or less; but it is like going to work with their eyes shut. They lack the discernment to see what is going to break upon us at any time. There is a spirit of desperation, of war and bloodshed, and that spirit will increase until the very close of time. **Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already;** the judgments of God are now upon the land to give us warning, that we may know what is coming. {Ms173-1902.25}

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.** Go forward, my brethren and sisters. I can only write briefly upon these points at this time, merely calling your attention to the necessity of preparation. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour. {5T 216.2}

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.” Revelation 3:12. {Ms59-1895.43}

19

The Lord is soon to finish up His work, and for this I am thankful. **The great thing for each of us now is to be prepared to close up our earthly history. If our life is hid with Christ in God, then when the seal of God is placed in the forehead, whatever may betide, or wherever we may be, we shall be safe.** If we now make our calling and election sure, we shall be protected in the coming storm. **Let those who have a knowledge of the truth live out the light they have received;** for it will not be long before the end comes. {Lt122-1910.3}

When Did the Sealing Work Begin?

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 worldly thoughts and cares from the mind.** 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 soon will be over. Now is the time to make our calling and election sure, while the four angels are holding the four winds.** {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 12}

Loughborough- “Questions on the Sealing Message” 1916:

Note: italics are in the original

THE SEALING MESSAGE

Such was the situation in **the summer of 1848**. This led the Seventh-day Adventists to earnest, prayerful study for light. The Lord led their minds to the holding of the winds (wars) and the sealing work, with a determination to find the meaning of the situation. They found, in their study of the Scriptures, that the Seventh-day Sabbath was **the sign of the living God**, and **the seal of His law**. This newly received light from the word of God gave still greater force to the

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Sabbath message, and doubly assured them that this, as the sealing message, must be proclaimed to the world before the actual coming of Christ. {1916 JNL, QSM 14.2}

Next came words that spoiled the claims of the first-day Adventists that "the angels were no longer holding the winds of war and strife, but were letting them blow." The words spoken in vision were: "**The angels are holding the winds.** It is God that restrains the powers. The angels have not let go, for the saints are not all sealed. The time of trouble has commenced. It has begun. The reason why the four winds are not let go, is because the saints are not sealed. It (the trouble) is on the increase more and more: that trouble will never end until the earth is rid of the wicked. Why, they (the winds) are just ready to blow. There is a check put on because the saints are not all sealed. Yes, **publish the things thou hast seen and heard**, and the blessing of God will attend." {1916 JNL, QSM 16.1}

WHEN DID THE SEALING WORK BEGIN?

THE testimonies already quoted as to the reception of the sealing message by the Seventh-day Adventists is also good proof as to the time when the sealing began. The four winds of war were about to blow when that commotion among the nations of Europe broke out. The four angels had their commission to hold those winds of war, that the work of sealing be not hindered. "A check was put on," so that the sealing might advance. {1916 JNL, QSM 19.1}

We will note other testimonies showing that the sealing work was going on at that time. In "Experience and Views," "Early Writings," old edition, page 35, speaking of what was then occurring, we read: "**Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth, and 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.**" {1916 JNL, QSM 19.2}

From the same testimony, page 36, we read: "**I saw that Satan was at work in these ways to distract, deceive, and draw away God's people, just now in this sealing time. . . . 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.**" {1916 JNL, QSM 20.1}

I will quote from a tract published in 1852, a vision given to Sister White, at the home of Brother Harris, at Centerport, New York, August 24, 1850: "**I saw that Satan will work now more powerfully than ever before, for he knows that his time is short, and that the sealing will soon be over. And he will now work in every insinuation to get the saints off their guard, and get them to sleep upon present truth, and doubting it, so as to prevent their being sealed with the seal of the living God.**" We read in "Early Writings," "Experience and Views," page 49, old edition: "**The sealing time is very short, and soon will be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.**" {1916 JNL, QSM 20.2}

It was because of these plain statements, that our people and ministers, down to 1894, believed and taught that the sealing work had been going on since 1848, and that the 144,000 were being sealed. I do not see how we could draw any other idea, from the testimonies we have quoted, than that the sealing work had begun in 1848-1850. {1916 JNL, QSM 21.1}

When the **third message closes (probation closes)**, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work; they **have** received the latter rain, or the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hurrying to and fro in Heaven. **An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done, that the seal of God [See Appendix, note 9.] has been placed upon his people. Then Jesus ceases his intercession in the sanctuary above.** He lifts his hands, and with a loud voice says, "It is done;" and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as he makes the solemn announcement: "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] **Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for his people, and blotted out their sins. The number of his subjects is**

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made up; “the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,” is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. {4SP 431.2} aka 84 GC

Note 9. Page 431.—The word ‘seal’ is used in the Scriptures in various senses, even as in common life. The definition given by Webster, the most comprehensive, is as follows: “That which confirms, ratifies, or makes stable; assurance; that which authenticates; that which secures, makes reliable, or stable.” The terms “**mark**” and “**sign**,” also given by him, are used in the Scriptures as synonymous with **seal**, as in Romans 4:11. {4SP 504.3}

In the covenant with Noah it is used in the sense of assurance, or evidence of stability. The bow in the cloud was given as a **sign** or **token** that God would not again destroy the earth by a flood. Genesis 9:13. In the covenant with Abraham, circumcision was the token or sign. This ratified, or made sure; for they who had not this **token** were cut off. Genesis 17:11, 14. This **sign** or **token** was an institution, a rite. Gesenius gives “a memorial” as one definition of the word found in the original of these texts. But a memorial, in the sense of a reminder, or a remembrance, is a **token** or **sign**. {4SP 504.4}

In Exodus 31:17 and Ezekiel 20:12, 20, the **Sabbath of the Lord is called a sign**. It is a memorial of the Creator’s work, and so a **sign** of his power and Godhead. Romans 1:20. This is also *an institution* as was circumcision; but there was this distinction: circumcision was a sign *in the flesh*, while the **Sabbath** was a **sign in the mind**. “Hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a **sign** between me and you, *that ye may know* that I am the Lord your God” Ezekiel 20:20. {4SP 504.5}

In Ezekiel 9:4 the word used in the original is translated mark. Genesis says, “**a mark, sign**.” The *Septuagint* gives the same word in this text that is given in the Greek of Romans 4:11, rendered “**sign**.” Thus the words **token, sign, mark,** and **seal** are applied to the same things, or used as of like signification, in the Scriptures. {4SP 505.1}

In Ezekiel 9:4 and Revelation 7:2, 3, the mark or sign is said to be placed in the foreheads of the servants of God. Both these scriptures refer to a time when utter destruction is coming on the ungodly. The seal is placed upon God’s people as a safeguard to preserve them from the evil impending. But “the **forehead**” is evidently used as a figure, to denote the intellect or mind, as “the heart” is used to denote the disposition or affections. **To mark or seal in the forehead is the same as to “write in the mind.”** Hebrews 10:16. {4SP 505.2}

The **Sabbath** is the **sign** of God; it is the **seal** of **his law**. Isaiah 8:16. It is the **token** of his authority and power. It is a **sign** whereby *we may know* that he is God, and therefore it is appropriately said to be placed *in the forehead*. The worshipers of the beast (Revelation 13) are said to receive his **mark in their foreheads** or in their hands. As the **forehead** represents the intellect, the hand represents power, as Psalm 89:48, “Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?” Compulsory worship is not acceptable to God; his servants are **sealed** only in their **foreheads**. But it is acceptable to wicked powers; it has always been craved by the Romish hierarchy. See Note 8 for proof on the nature of this mark. The **sign or seal** of God is his **Sabbath**, and **the seal or mark of the beast is in direct opposition to it; it is a counterfeit Sabbath on the “day of the sun.”** **In the message of the third angel (Revelation 14:9-12) they who do not receive the mark of the beast keep the commandments of God, and the Sabbath is in the fourth precept: they keep the Sabbath of the Lord; they have his sign or seal.** The importance of this **sign** is shown in this, that the fourth commandment is the only one in the law which distinguishes the Creator from false gods. Compare Jeremiah 10:10-12; Acts 17:23, 24; Revelation 14:6, 7; etc. and it is **that part of his law for keeping which his people will suffer persecution**. But when the wrath of God comes upon the persecutors who are found enforcing the sign or mark of the beast, then they will realize the importance of the Sabbath,—the **seal** of the living God. They who turn away from that which the Lord spoke when his voice shook the earth, will confess their fatal error when his voice shall shake the heavens and the earth. Hebrews 12:25, 26; Joel 3:9-16, and others. **See also page 457 of this book.** {4SP 505.3}

Sealing Report of E. G. White Utterances During Vision, November 19, 1848

J. Bates introduction:] A small company of brethren and sisters were assembled in meeting in Dorchester, near Boston, Mass. Before the meeting commenced, some of us were examining some of the points in the sealing message; some difference of opinion existed about the correctness of the view of the word ascending, &c., and whereas we had made the publishing of the message a subject of prayer at the Topsham Conference (Me.) a little previous, and the way to

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publish appeared not sufficiently clear, we therefore resolved unitedly to refer it all to God. After some time spent in earnest prayer for light and instruction, God gave Sister White the following in vision, viz: {Ms1-1848.8}

“Where did the light break out? Let thine angels teach us where the light broke out! It commenced from a little, then Thou didst give one light after another. The testimony and commandments are linked together, they cannot be separated; that comes first the ten commandments, by God.” {Ms1-1848.9}

“The commandments never would be struck against if it were not to get rid of the Sabbath commandment. That one that has relaxed it is very foolish. It was very small, and when it rose, though it rose in strength, it was weak back there, when it came up it increase, (or increased.) If they won't hear it they are as accountable as though they did hear it.” {Ms1-1848.10}

“He was well pleased when His law began to come up in strength, and the waste places began to be built up.” {Ms1-1848.11}

“Out of weakness it has become strong from searching His Word. The test upon it has been but a short time. All who are saved will be tried upon it in some way. That **truth** arises and is on the increase, stronger, and stronger. **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.” {Ms1-1848.12}

“When that truth arose there was but little light in it, but it has been increasing. O the power of these rays.” {Ms1-1848.13}

“It grows in strength, the greatest weight and light is on that truth for it lasts forever when the Bible is not needed. It arose there in the east, it began with a small light, but its beams are healing. O how mighty is that truth; it's the highest after they enter the goodly land, but it will increase till they are made immortal. It commenced from the rising of the sun, keeps on its course like the sun, but it never sets.” {Ms1-1848.14}

“**The angels are holding the four winds.**” {Ms1-1848.15}

“**It is God that restrains the powers.**” {Ms1-1848.16}

“The angels have not let go, for the saints are not all sealed.” {Ms1-1848.17}

“The time of trouble has commenced, it is begun. The reason why the four winds have not let go, is because the saints are not all sealed. It's on the increase, and will increase more and more; the trouble will never end until the earth is rid of the wicked.” {Ms1-1848.18}

“At that time neighbor will be against neighbor. That time has not yet come, when brother against brother and sister against sister; but will come when Michael stands up.” {Ms1-1848.19}

“When Michael stands up this trouble will be all over the earth.” {Ms1-1848.20}

“Why they are just ready to blow. There's a check put on because the saints are not sealed.” {Ms1-1848.21}

“Yea, publish the things thou hast seen and heard, and the blessing of God will attend. Look ye! that rising is in strength, and grows brighter and brighter. **That truth is the seal, that's why it comes last.** The shut door we **have** had. God has taught and taught, but **that experience is not the seal,** and that commandment that has been trodden under foot will be exalted. And when ye get that you will go through the time of trouble.” {Ms1-1848.22}

“Yea, all that thou art looking at, thou shalt not see just now. Be careful, let not light be set aside which comes from another way from which thou art looking for.” {Ms1-1848.23}

[Note by J. Bates:] The above was copied word for word as she spake in vision, therefore it's unadulterated; some sentences escaped us, and some which we have not copied here. This probably is sufficient to show the answer to our prayers. {Ms1-1848.24}

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January 31, 1849 To those who are receiving the seal of the living God.

"This is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants, and on my handmaidens, I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy." {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 1}

At the commencement of the Holy Sabbath, (Jan. 5,) we engaged in prayer with Bro. Belden's family at Rocky Hill, Ct., and the Holy Ghost fell upon us. I was taken off in Vision to the most holy place, where I saw Jesus still interceding for Israel. On the bottom of his garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. **Then I saw that Jesus would not leave the most holy place until every case was decided either for salvation or destruction: and that the wrath of God could not come until Jesus had finished his work in the most holy place**--laid off his priestly attire and clothed himself with the garments of vengeance. **Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and man, and God will keep silent no longer; but pour out his wrath on those who have rejected his truth.** I saw that the anger of the nations, the wrath of God, and the time to judge the dead, were separate events, one following the other. I saw that Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished his work in the Sanctuary, he will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out. I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus work was done in the Sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. **These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous, and they thought that we had brought them down upon them, and if they could rid the earth us, then the plagues would be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints**, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the Voice of God. Then the 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God. Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. **On their garments was written in large characters--thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting**. I asked who this company were. The angel said, "**these are they who have once kept the Sabbath and have given it up.**" I heard them cry with a loud voice--"we have believed in thy coming, and taught it with energy." And while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments and **see the writing**, and then they would wail aloud. I saw they had drunk of the deep waters, and fouled the residue with their feet--trodden the Sabbath underfoot, and that is why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting. Then my attending angel directed me to the city again, where I saw four angels winging their way to the gate of the city, and were just presenting the golden card to the angel at the gate. Then I saw another angel swiftly flying from the direction of the most excellent glory, and crying with a loud voice to the other angels, and waving something up and down in his hand. I asked my attending angel for an explanation of what I saw. He told me that I could see no more then, but he would shortly show me what those things that I then saw meant. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 2}

Sabbath afternoon one of our number was sick, and requested prayers that he might be healed. We all united in applying to the Physician who never lost a case, and while healing power came down, and the sick was healed, the Spirit fell upon me and I was taken off in vision. **I saw the state of some who stood on present truth, but disregarded the visions--the way God had chosen to teach in some cases, those who erred from Bible truth.** I saw that in striking against the visions they did not strike against the worm--the feeble instrument that God spake through; but against the Holy Ghost. I saw it was a small thing to speak against the instrument, but it was dangerous to slight the words of God. I saw if they were in error and God chose to show them their errors through visions, and they disregarded the teachings of God through visions, they would be left to take their own way, and run in the way of error, and think they were right, until they would find it out too late. Then in the time of trouble I heard them cry to God in agony--"Why didst thou not show us our wrong, that we might have got right and been ready for this time?" Then an angel pointed to them and said--"My Father taught, but you would not be taught.--He spoke through visions, but you disregarded his voice, and he gave you up to your own ways, to be filled with your own doings." Then 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 upward, 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! Hold! Hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.**"--I asked my accompanying angel the meaning

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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, and that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let the four winds go, and while they had started on their mission to let them go, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not all sealed, then he raised his hands to the Father and plead 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. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 3}

Dec. 16, 1848, the Lord gave me a view of the shaking of the powers of the heavens. I saw that when the Lord said "heaven" (in giving the signs recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke) he meant heaven, and when he said "earth" he meant earth. The powers of heaven are the Sun, Moon, and Stars: they rule in the heavens. The powers of earth are those who bear rule on the earth.--The powers of heaven will be shaken at the voice of God. Then the Sun, Moon and Stars will be moved out of their places. They will not pass away, but be shaken by the voice of God. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 4}

Dark, heavy clouds came up, and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back, then we could look up through the open space in **Orion**, from whence came the voice of God. The Holy City will come down through that open space. I saw that the powers of earth are now being shaken, and that events come in order. War, and rumors of war,--sword, famine and pestilence, are first to shake the powers of earth, then the voice of God will shake the Sun, Moon and Stars, and this earth also. I saw that the shaking of the powers in Europe is not (as some teach) the shaking of the powers of heaven, but it is the shaking of the angry nations. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 5}

I have seen the tender love that God has for his people, and it is very great. I saw an angel over every saint, with their wings spread about them: and if the saints wept through discouragement, or were in danger, the angel that ever attended them would fly quickly upward to carry the tidings, and the angels in the city would cease to sing. Then Jesus would commission another angel to descend to encourage, watch over and **try to keep them from going out of the narrow path**: but, if they did not take heed to the watchful care of these angels, and would not be comforted by them, and continued to go astray, the angels would look sad and weep. Then they would bear the tidings upward, and all the angels in the city would weep, and then with a loud voice say, Amen. But if the saints fixed their eyes on the prize before them, and glorified God by praising him, then the angels would bear the glad tidings to the city, and the angels in the city would touch their golden harps and sing with a loud voice--Alleluia! and the heavenly arches would ring with their lovely songs. I will here state, that there is perfect order and harmony in the holy city. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 6}

All the angels that are commissioned to visit the earth hold a **golden card**, which they present to the angels at the gates of the city as they pass in and out. Heaven is a good place. I long to be there, and behold my lovely Jesus, who gave his life for me, and be changed into his glorious image. Oh! for language to express the glory of the bright world to come. I thirst for the living streams that make glad the city of our God. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 7}

The Lord has given me a view of **other worlds**. Wings were given me, and an angel attended me from the city to a place that was bright and glorious. The grass of the place was living green, and the birds there warbled a sweet song. The **inhabitants of the place were of all sizes**, they were noble, majestic and lovely. They bore the express image of Jesus, and their countenances beamed with holy joy, expressive of the freedom and happiness of the place. I asked one of them why they were so much more lovely than those on the earth. The reply was--"we have lived in strict obedience to the commandments of God, and have not fallen by disobedience, like those on the earth." Then I saw two trees, one looked much like the tree of life in the city. The fruit of both looked beautiful; but of one they could not eat. They had power to eat of both, but were forbidden to eat of one. Then my attending angel said to me--"none in this place have tasted of the forbidden tree; but if they should eat they would fall." **Then I was taken to a world which had seven moons**. There I saw good old Enoch, who had been translated. On his right arm he bore a glorious palm, and on each leaf was written Victory. Around his head was a dazzling white wreath, and leaves on the wreath, and in the middle of each was written Purity; and around the leaf were stones of various colors, that shone brighter than the stars, and cast a reflection upon the letters, and magnified them. On the back part of his head was a bow that confined the wreath, and upon the bow was written Holiness. Above the wreath was a lovely crown that shone brighter than the sun. I asked him if this was the place he was taken to from the earth. He said, "It is not; but the city is my home, and I have come to visit this place." He moved about the place as if perfectly at home. 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

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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 handy work of God." {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 8}

For two years past, the Lord has shown me in vision, repeatedly, that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints have food laid up by them, or in the fields, in the time of trouble when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it will be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. **Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and he will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water would be sure at that time, and we should not lack, or suffer hunger.**--The Lord has shown me that some of his children would fear when they see the price of food rising, and they would buy food and lay it by for the **time of trouble**. Then in a time of need, I saw them go to their food and look at it, and it had bred worms, and was full of living creatures, and not fit for use. About one week since, the Lord showed me in vision, that **houses and lands would be of no use in the time of trouble, and in that time they could not be disposed of. I saw it was the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance--dispose of their houses and lands before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God by sacrifice.** I saw they would sell if they laid their property on the altar and earnestly inquired for duty. Then God will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in the time of trouble, and have no clogs to weigh them down. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 9}

I saw if they held on to their property, and did not inquire duty of the Lord, he would not make duty known, and they would be permitted to keep their property, and then in the time of trouble their property would come up before them like a mountain to crush them. Then they tried to get rid of it, but could not. I heard them mourn like this,--the cause was languishing--**God's people were suffering for truth**, and we made no effort to supply the lack, and now our property is useless. Oh! that we had let it go, and laid up treasure in heaven. **I saw a sacrifice did not increase, but decrease, and was consumed.** I also saw that God had not required all of his people to dispose of their property at the same time, but in a time of need he would teach them, if they desired to be taught, when to sell and how much to sell. I saw that some had been required to dispose of their property in past time to sustain the advent cause, while he permitted others to keep theirs until a time of need. Then as the cause needs it, their duty is to sell. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 10}

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Now is the time to lay up treasure in heaven, and to set our hearts in order, ready for the time of trouble. Those only who have clean hands and a pure heart will stand that trying time. **Now is the time for the law of God to be in our minds (foreheads), and written in our hearts.** The Lord has shown me the danger of letting our minds be filled with worldly thoughts and cares. I saw that some minds were led away from present truth and a love of the holy Bible, by reading other exciting books; and others were filled with perplexity and care for what they shall eat, drink and wear. I saw some, **looking too far off** for the coming of the Lord. **Time has continued on a few years longer than they expected, therefore they think it may continue a few years more, and in this way their minds are being led from present truth, out after the world. In these things I saw great danger: for if the mind is filled with other things, present truth is shut out, and there is no place in our foreheads for the seal of the living God.** This seal is the Sabbath. I saw that the time for Jesus to be in the most holy place was nearly finished, and that time can last but a very little longer; and **what leisure time we have should be spent in searching the Bible, which is to judge us in the last day.** {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 11}

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 worldly thoughts and cares from the mind.** 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 soon will be over. Now is the time to make our calling and election sure, while the four angels are holding the four winds.** {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 12}

If any among us are sick, let us not dishonor God by applying to earthly physicians, but apply to the God of Israel. If we follow his directions (James 5:14, 15) the sick will be healed. God's promise cannot fail. Have faith in God, and trust wholly in him, that when Christ who is our life shall appear we may appear with him in glory.

E.G. White

Topsham, Jan. 31, 1849. {Broadside2, January 31, 1849 par. 13}

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Ms 2, 1849 The Sealing

Topsham, Maine

January 17, 1849

Portions of this manuscript are published in [1Bio 157-158](#); [EW 36-39](#). See also [Annotations](#).

At the commencement of the holy Sabbath (Jan. 5) I was taken off in vision to the most holy place, where I saw Jesus still interceding for Israel. On the bottom of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Then I saw that Jesus would not leave the most holy place until every case was decided, either for salvation or destruction. I saw that the wrath of God could not come until Jesus had finished His work in the most holy place, laid off His priestly attire, and clothed Himself with the garments of vengeance. Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and man, and God will keep silent no longer, but pour out His wrath on those who have rejected His truth. I saw that the anger of the nations, the **wrath of God**, and the time to judge the dead, were separate events, one following the other. **I saw that Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced.** I saw that the nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, then He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then will the seven last plagues be poured out. {Ms2-1849.1}

I saw that **the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, then the seven last plagues will be poured out.** These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous, and they thought that we had brought the plagues down upon them, and if they could rid the earth of us, then the plagues would be stayed. {Ms2-1849.2}

A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. Then the 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God. Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters—thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting. I asked who this company were, and the angel said, these are they who have once kept the Sabbath, and have given it up. I heard them cry with a loud voice—we have believed in Thy coming and taught it with energy. And then while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments, and see the writing—thou are weighed in the balance and found wanting. Then they would wail aloud. I saw they had drunk of the deep waters, and fouled the residue with their feet—trodden the Sabbath underfoot, and that is why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting. {Ms2-1849.3}

Then my attending angel directed me to the City again where I saw four angels winging their way to the gate of the City, and were just presenting the golden card to the angel at the gate. Then I saw another angel swiftly flying from the direction of the most excellent glory; and crying with a loud voice to the other four angels and waving something up and down in his hand. I asked my attending angel for an explanation of what I saw. He told me that I could see no more then, but he would shortly show me what those things that I then saw meant. {Ms2-1849.4}

Sabbath afternoon one of our number was sick and requested prayers that he might be healed. We all united in applying to the Physician who never lost a case and while healing power came down, and the sick was healed, the power fell upon me and I was taken off in vision. {Ms2-1849.5}

I saw the state of some who stood on present truth, but disregarded the visions,—the way God had chosen to teach in some cases, those who erred from Bible truth. I saw that in striking against the visions they did not strike against the worm—the feeble instrument that God spake through; but against the Holy Ghost. I saw it was a small thing to speak against the instrument, but **it was dangerous to slight the words of God. I saw if they were in error and God chose to show them their errors through visions, and they disregarded the teachings of God through visions, they would be left to take their own way, and run in the way of error, and think they were right, until they would find it out too late.** Then **in the time of trouble** I heard them cry to God in agony—“Why didst thou not show us our wrong, that we might have got right and been ready for this time?” Then an angel pointed to them and said—“**My Father taught, but you would not be taught.—He spoke through visions, but you disregarded his voice, and he gave you up to your own ways, to be filled with your own doings.**” {Ms2-1849.6}

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Then I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. I saw Jesus clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant then raised His hands upward, and with a voice of deep pity cried—"My Blood, Father, My Blood, My Blood, My Blood." {Ms2-1849.7}

Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God who sat on the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. 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." [Revelation 7:3.] {Ms2-1849.8}

I asked my attending 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 (*Islam*), and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth, and that the **four angels had power from God to hold the four winds**, and that they were about to let them go, and while they had started to let the **four winds** go the merciful eye of **Jesus gazed on the remnant who were not all sealed, then He raised His hands to the Father, and plead 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 in their foreheads.** {Ms2-1849.9}

I saw that the nations had not power to hold themselves. I also saw that we were not to cry to God to hold the four winds, nor to the nations, but one angel was to cry to other angels equal in power, to hold until the servants of God were sealed in their foreheads. {Ms2-1849.10}

In hope of being one of the 144,000. {Ms2-1849.}

Ms 1, 1849 The Open and Shut Door

NP

March 24, 1849

27

See PT 08/1849; Lt 5, 1849. See also Annotations.

We had a sweet, interesting meeting with the brethren and sisters at Topsham, Me. The Spirit of God rested upon us, and I was taken off in the Spirit. {Ms1-1849.1}

I saw that the commandments of God and the shut door could not be separated. I saw that the time for the commandments of God to shine out to His people was when the door was opened in the inner apartment of the heavenly sanctuary where the ark is containing the commandments. This door was not opened until Jesus' mediation was finished in the outer apartment of the sanctuary in 1844. {Ms1-1849.2}

Then Jesus rose up and shut the door in the outer apartment and opened the holy; and the faith of Israel now reaches within the second veil where Jesus now stands by the ark. **I saw that Jesus had shut the door in the Holy Place, and no man can open it. And that He had opened the door in the Most Holy place, and no man can shut it. And that since Jesus has opened the door in the Most Holy place, the commandments have been shining out and God has been testing His people on the holy Sabbath.** {Ms1-1849.3}

I saw that the **test on the Sabbath** could not come until the mediation of Jesus in the Holy was finished, and He had passed within the second veil. Therefore Christians who died before the seventh month 1844, and had not kept the Sabbath, rest in hope; for there was no condemnation until the true light on the Sabbath came. I saw that Satan was tempting God's people on this point because so many good Christians had died in the hope, and had not kept the true Sabbath. {Ms1-1849.4}

I saw that our adversaries had been trying to open the door in the outer apartment and to close the door in the inner apartment where the ark is containing the two tablets of stone on which were written the ten commandments by God's own finger. I saw that Satan was using every device in this time to keep the minds of God's people from present truth and 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 was to be covered with this covering of Almighty God. Satan knew this and was also at work in mighty power. {Ms1-1849.5}

I saw that the mysterious knocking in N.Y. was the power of **Satan clothed in a religious garb** to lull the deceived to more security and **to draw the minds of God's people, if possible, to look at that and cause them to doubt the**

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teachings of God among His people. I saw that Satan was working through agents in a number of ways. He was at work through ministers who had rejected God's truth, and had been given over to **strong delusions to believe a lie** that they might be damned. While they are preaching or praying some would fall prostrate and helpless; not by the power of the Holy Ghost, no, no; but by the power of Satan breathed on these agents and through them to the people. {Ms1-1849.6}

I saw **some professed Adventists who had rejected present truth** while preaching, praying, or in private conversation used mesmerism to gain adherents; and the people would rejoice, thinking it was the power of God; and some that used it were so far in the darkness and deception of the devil that they thought it was the power of God given them to exercise. I saw that these men had made God altogether such an one as themselves and valued His power as a thing of naught. I saw that some of these agents of the devil were affecting the bodies of those that they could not deceive and draw from the **present truth**. Some of these were even trying to affect some of the saints unto death. Oh, that all could get a view of it as God revealed it unto me,—that they might know more of the wiles of Satan so as to be on their guard. {Ms1-1849.7}

I saw that Satan was at work in these ways to distract, draw away, and deceive God's people just now **in this sealing time**. I saw some who were not standing stiffly, their knees were trembling, their feet were sliding because they were **not planted on the present truth**, and **the covering of Almighty God could not be drawn over them while they were thus trembling**. **Satan was trying his every art to hold them where they were until the sealing was over**, and the covering drawn over God's people, and they were left without protection in the time of slaughter. **God has begun to draw the covering over His people**; therefore it will very soon be drawn over all those who are to have a shelter in the day of the Lord. {Ms1-1849.8}

I saw that as God worked in power for His people, Satan would also work, and that the mysterious knocking, and signs and wonders of Satan and false reformations would increase and spread. The reformations that were shown me were not reformations from error to truth; no, no; but from bad to worse, for those who professed a change of heart had only wrapped about them a religious garb which covered up the iniquity of a vile heart. **Some appeared to have been really converted so as to deceive God's people**. But if their hearts could be seen they would appear as black as ever. My accompanying angel bade me look for the travail of soul for sinners as used to be. I looked, but could not see it, for the time of their salvation is passed. {Ms1-1849.9}

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Sanctification Ladder

"3. Peter's progressive work system of sanctification is safe to embrace and follow, as it leads to all that faith and hope can grasp. It secures an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. {1865 JW, HHTL 6.3}

4. The apostle teaches the young Christian to progress by the simple rule of addition, with an all-persevering hand, all the way through to the kingdom. We may illustrate his system of sanctification by a ladder with eight rounds, reaching from earth to heaven, or from a state of sin to a condition of moral fitness for the kingdom of god. Here are the rounds of the ladder: "and besides this giving all diligence, add to your {1865 JW, HHTL 6.4}

Sanctification

"1. **Faith** (upon which the young disciple stands),

"2. Virtue; and to **virtue**,

"3. **Knowledge**; and to knowledge,

"4. Temperance; and to temperance,

"5. Patience; and to patience,

"6. Godliness; and to godliness,

"7. Brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness

"8. Charity," or love, the crowning Christian grace. {1865 JW, HHTL 7.1}

The order in which the apostle has given these progressive steps is worthy of especial notice. The young disciple, who has just embraced the faith of the gospel, must first add to his faith, virtue, and then to virtue, knowledge...some make a careless stride over the first round, and seek to add to their faith, knowledge. They neglect to cultivate virtue, and labor to store their minds with knowledge...such seldom turn men from error to truth; but frequently, from their lack of piety, disgust and prejudice those with whom they mingle. They may talk the truth, but it is poorly represented by them... who can but admire the order in which the apostle has given the victories in the Christian life? He continues, "and to knowledge, temperance: and to temperance, patience..." {1865 JW, HHTL 7.2-.3}

Virtue-

3. Moral goodness; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice, or a conformity of life and conversation to the moral law. In this sense, virtue may be, and in many instances must be, distinguished from religion. The practice of moral duties merely from motives of convenience, or from compulsion, or from regard to reputation, is virtue, as distinct from religion. The practice of moral duties from sincere love to God and his laws, is virtue and religion. In this sense it is true,

That virtue only makes our bliss below.

Virtue is nothing but voluntary obedience to truth.

4. A particular moral excellence; as the virtue of temperance, of chastity, of charity.

7. Excellence; or that which constitutes value and merit.

- Terence, who thought the sole grace and virtue of their fable, the sticking in of sentences.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

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Many who profess sanctification are entirely ignorant of the work of grace upon the heart. When proved and tested, they are found to be like the self-righteous Pharisee. They will bear no contradiction. They lay aside reason and judgment, and depend wholly upon their feelings, basing their claims to sanctification upon emotions which they have at some time experienced. **They are stubborn and perverse in urging their tenacious claims of holiness, giving many words, but bearing no precious fruit as proof.** These professedly sanctified persons are not only deluding their own souls by their pretensions, but are exerting an influence to lead astray many who earnestly desire to conform to the will of God. They may be heard to reiterate again and again, "God leads me! God teaches me! I am living without sin!" Many who come in contact with this spirit encounter a dark, mysterious something which they cannot comprehend. But it is that which is altogether unlike Christ, the only true pattern. {SL 9.2}

Bible sanctification does not consist in strong emotion. Here is where many are led into error. They make feelings their criterion. When they feel elated or happy, they claim that they are sanctified. **Happy feelings or the absence of joy is no evidence that a person is or is not sanctified.** There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. **True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last.** **Those who are battling with daily temptations, overcoming their own sinful tendencies, and seeking for holiness of heart and life, make no boastful claims of holiness.** They are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Sin appears to them exceedingly sinful. {SL 10.1}

There are those claiming sanctification who make a profession of the truth, like their brethren, and it may be difficult to make a distinction between them; but the difference exists, nevertheless. The testimony of **those claiming such an exalted experience will cause the sweet Spirit of Christ to withdraw from a meeting, and will leave a chilling influence upon those present,** while if they were truly living without sin, their very presence would bring holy angels into the assembly, and their words would indeed be "like apples of gold in pictures of silver" ([Proverbs 25:11](#)). {SL 10.2}

Sanctification and Holiness, False "just believe"

Beware of Doctrine "Just Believe"—We shall meet with false doctrines of every kind, and unless we are acquainted with what Christ has said, and are following His instruction, we shall be led astray. One of the most dangerous of these doctrines is that of false sanctification. There are those who claim to be holy, and yet are breaking God's commandments. Their assertion that they are sinless is false and should not be received.... {Ev 595.2}

Another doctrine that will be presented is that all that we have to do is to believe in Christ—to believe that He has forgiven our sins, and that after we are forgiven, it is impossible for us to sin. This is a snare of Satan. It is true that we must believe in Christ. He is our only hope of salvation. But it is also true that **we must work out our individual salvation daily in faith,** not boastingly but with fear and trembling. **We are to use every power of our being in His service, and after we have done our utmost, we are still to regard ourselves as unprofitable servants.** Divine power will unite with our efforts, and as we cling to God with the hand of faith, Christ will impart to us His wisdom and His righteousness. Thus, by His grace, we shall be enabled to build upon the sure foundation.—Manuscript 27, 1886. {Ev 595.3}

A Shallow Profession of Holiness—Those who would follow Christ must be grounded upon the principles of truth. **They need to understand what the Bible teaches in regard to faith, and sanctification through the truth.** They must be so established in this knowledge that they cannot be moved to take false positions on the doctrine of holiness, but will be able to illustrate in their lives the practical workings of this heaven-given principle. The people of God must be able to distinguish between the genuine and the spurious. {Ev 596.1}

There are those who profess holiness, who declare that they are wholly the Lord's, who claim a right to the promises of God, while **they do not render obedience to His commandments....** {Ev 596.2}

It is true that there are many who have never had the light of present truth, who, through the grace given them of Christ, are keeping the law as far as they understand it. **Those who are thus living up to the best light they have, are not of the class whom the apostle John condemns. His words apply to those who boast of believing in Jesus, who claim holiness, while they lightly regard the requirements of the law of God. While they talk of the love of Jesus, their love is not deep enough to lead to obedience.** The fruit they bear, shows the character of the tree. It proves that their faith is not genuine. Yet this class, though entitled to nothing, though they have no right to the promises of God, boldly claim all His blessings. While they give nothing, they claim everything. They close their ears to the truth, refuse to listen to the plain "Thus saith the Lord," but by professing holiness they deceive many, leading souls away by their pretentious faith that has no foundation.—Gospel Workers, 226, 227 (1892). {Ev 596.3}

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False Doctrine—It Makes No Difference What You Believe—There are many whose religion consists in theory. **To them a happy emotion is godliness.** They say, “Come to Jesus, and believe in Him. It makes no difference what you believe so long as you are honest in your belief.” **They do not seek to make the sinner understand the true character of sin....** {Ev 597.1}

Satan is willing that every transgressor of God’s law shall claim to be holy. This is what he himself is doing. **He is satisfied when men rest their faith on spurious doctrines and religious enthusiasm; for he can use such persons to good purpose in deceiving souls.** There are many professedly sanctified ones who are aiding Satan in his work. **They talk much of feeling; they speak of their love for God.** But God does not recognize their love; for it is a delusion of the enemy. **God has given these persons light, but they have refused to accept it.** With the father of lies, they will receive the reward of disobedience.—The Review and Herald, June 26, 1900. {Ev 597.2}

Another Error—Commandments Done Away—Christ warns His followers, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” **He exhorts us not to be deceived when false shepherds present their doctrines. These men tell us that the commandments of God were done away at the death of Christ.** Shall we believe them, these men who claim to be sanctified, while they refuse to obey God? They say the Lord has told them that they need not keep the Ten Commandments; but has the Lord told them this? No, God does not lie. {Ev 597.3}

Satan, who is the father of lies, deceived Adam in a similar way, telling him that he need not obey God, that he would not die if he transgressed the law. But Adam fell, and by his sin he opened the floodgates of woe upon our world. Again, Satan told Cain that he need not follow expressly the command of God in presenting the slain lamb as an offering. Cain obeyed the voice of the deceiver; and because God did not accept his offering, while He showed His approval of Abel’s offering, Cain rose up in anger and slew his brother. {Ev 598.1}

We need to know for ourselves what voice we are heeding, whether it is the voice of the true and living God or the voice of the great apostate.... {Ev 598.2}

When type met antitype in the death of Christ, the sacrificial offering ceased. The ceremonial law was done away. But by the crucifixion the law of Ten Commandments was established. The gospel has not abrogated the law, nor detracted one tittle from its claims. It still demands holiness in every part. It is the echo of God’s own voice, giving to every soul the invitation, Come up higher. Be holy, holier still.—The Review and Herald, June 26, 1900. {Ev 598.3}

A Timely Caution—We as a people have fallen into the opposite error. We acknowledge the claims of God’s law, and teach the people the duty of rendering obedience. **We believe in giving everything, but we do not see that we must take as well as give. We fail to have that trust, that faith, which keeps the soul abiding in Christ. We claim little, when we might claim much; for there is no limit to the promises of God.** {Ev 598.4}

Through a lack of faith, many who seek to obey the commandments of God have little peace and joy; **they do not correctly represent the sanctification that is to come through obedience to the truth.** They are not anchored in Christ. Many feel a lack in their experience; they desire something which they have not; and thus some are led to attend holiness meetings, and are charmed with the sentiments of those who break the law of God. {Ev 599.1}

It is our duty to preach faith, to present the love of Christ in connection with the claims of the law; for neither can be rightly understood without the other. In every discourse the love of God, as manifested in Christ, the sinner’s only hope, should be dwelt upon until the people realize something of its power and preciousness. If this is done as it should be, it will not be said of this people that they teach the law but do not believe in repentance, faith, and conversion. We want these subjects to be blended as God has blended them; then will the truth be presented in its completeness, not as a mere theory, but as a power that will transform the character. It will then be preached in demonstration of the Spirit and with power. Then those who have accepted the doctrines of the Bible will not be unfed; they will feel the vivifying influence of the Holy Spirit.—Gospel Workers, 227, 228 (1892). {Ev 599.2}

6BC Regarding Romans Chapter 3:

(1 John 2:4.) Faith Manifested by Works of Obedience—**God requires at this time just what He required of the holy pair in Eden, perfect obedience to His requirements. His law remains the same in all ages. The great standard of righteousness presented in the Old Testament is not lowered in the New. It is not the work of the gospel to weaken the claims of God’s holy law, but to bring men up where they can keep its precepts.** {6BC 1073.1}

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The faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many. "Believe, believe," is their cry; "only believe in Christ, and you will be saved. It is all you have to do." **While true faith trusts wholly in Christ for salvation, it will lead to perfect conformity to the law of God. Faith is manifested by works.** And the apostle John declares, "**He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar**" (The Review and Herald, October 5, 1886). {6BC1073.2}

Disconnect the Law and the Gospel?—The enemy has ever labored to disconnect the law and the gospel. They go hand in hand (Manuscript 11, 1893). {6BC 1073.3}

We honor both the Father and the Son when we talk about the law. **The Father gave us the law, and the Son died to magnify it and make it honorable** (Manuscript 5, 1885). {6BC 1073.4}

It is impossible for us to exalt the law of Jehovah unless we take hold of the righteousness of Jesus Christ (Manuscript 5, 1889). {6BC 1073.5}

The law of Jehovah is the tree, the gospel is the fragrant blossoms and fruit which it bears (Letter 119, 1897). {6BC 1073.6}

Jones misunderstood by the people

Portion of a letter to A. T. Jones, April 9, 1893, letter 44, 1893. Published in Selected Messages 1:377-379.

I was attending a meeting, and a large congregation were present. In my dream you were presenting the subject of faith and the imputed righteousness of Christ by faith. You repeated several times that works amounted to nothing, that there were no conditions. The matter was presented in that light that I knew minds would be confused and would not receive the correct impression in reference to faith and works, and I decided to write to you. You state this matter too strongly. There are conditions to our receiving justification and sanctification, and the righteousness of Christ. **I know your meaning**, but you leave a wrong impression upon many minds. **While good works will not save even one soul, yet it is impossible for even one soul to be saved without good works.** God saves us under a law, that we must ask if we would receive, seek if we would find, and knock if we would have the door opened unto us. {FW 111.1}

Christ offers Himself as willing to save unto the uttermost all who come unto Him. He invites all to come to Him. "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). You look in reality upon these subjects as I do, yet you make these subjects, through your expressions, confusing to minds. And after you have expressed your mind radically in regard to works, when questions are asked you upon this very subject, it is not lying out in so very clear lines in your own mind, and you cannot define the correct principles to other minds, and you are yourself unable to make your statements harmonize with your own principles and faith. {FW 111.2}

The young man came to Jesus with the question, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17). And Christ saith unto him, "Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." He said unto Him, "Which?" Jesus quoted several, and the young man said unto Him, "All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?" Jesus said unto him, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me." Here are conditions, and the Bible is full of conditions. "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Matthew 19:17, 20, 21, 22). {FW 112.1}

Then when you say there are no conditions, and some expressions are made quite broad, you burden the minds, and some cannot see consistency in your expressions. They cannot see how they can harmonize these expressions with the plain statements of the Word of God. Please guard these points. These strong assertions in regard to works never make our position any stronger. The expressions weaken our position, for there are many who will consider you an extremist and will lose the rich lessons you have for them upon the very subjects they need to know.... My brother, it is hard for the mind to comprehend this point, and do not confuse any mind with ideas that will not harmonize with the Word. Please consider that under the teaching of Christ many of the disciples were **lamentably ignorant**; but when the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised came upon them and made the vacillating Peter the champion of faith, what a transformation in his character! But do not lay one pebble, for a soul that is weak in the faith to stumble over, in overwrought presentations or expressions. Be ever consistent, calm, deep, and solid. Do not go to any extreme in anything, but keep your feet on solid rock. O precious, precious Saviour. "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him" (John 14:21). {FW 112.2}

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Law of God dwelt upon

The danger has been presented to me again and again of entertaining, as a people, false ideas of justification by faith. I have been shown for years that Satan would work in a special manner to confuse the mind on this point. The law of God has been largely dwelt upon and has been presented to congregations, almost as destitute of the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His relation to the law as was the offering of Cain. I have been shown that many have been kept from the faith **because of the mixed, confused ideas of salvation, because the ministers have worked in a wrong manner** to reach hearts. **The point that has been urged upon my mind for years is the imputed righteousness of Christ.** I have wondered that this matter was not made the subject of discourses in our churches throughout the land, when the matter has been kept so constantly urged upon me, and I have made it the subject of nearly every discourse and talk that I have given to the people. {FW 18.1}

In examining my writings fifteen and twenty years old [I find that they] present the matter in this same light— that those who enter upon the solemn, sacred work of the ministry should first be given a preparation in lessons upon the teachings of Christ and the apostles in living principles of practical godliness. They are to be educated in regard to what constitutes earnest, living faith. {FW 18.2}

“The husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.” James 5:7. So the Christian is to wait with patience for the fruition in his life of the word of God. **Often when we pray for the graces of the Spirit, God works to answer our prayers by placing us in circumstances to develop these fruits; but we do not understand His purpose, and wonder, and are dismayed.** Yet none can develop these graces except through the process of growth and fruit bearing. **Our part is to receive God’s word and to hold it fast, yielding ourselves fully to its control, and its purpose in us will be accomplished.** {COL 61.2}

The work of faith means more than we think. It means genuine reliance upon the naked word of God. By our actions we are to show that we believe that God will do just as He has said. The wheels of nature and of providence are not appointed to roll backward nor to stand still. **We must have an advancing, working faith, a faith that works by love and purifies the soul from every vestige of selfishness.** It is not self, but God, that we must depend upon. **We must not cherish unbelief. We must have that faith that takes God at His word.** {BTS June 1, 1915, par. 1}

“The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” We need to experience a resurrection on the subject of faith. **Without faith (a faith that will rely upon a plain statement of the word) it is impossible to please God.** A faith that is not sustained by works is worthless. Says the apostle, “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say, thou hast faith, and have not works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.” That faith if cherished in our hearts will necessarily draw after it the good works which justify and endorse the faith of the believer. Good works are indispensable as the fruit of faith, and are the sure evidence that we have passed from death unto life, because we love our believing brethren. This is not to say that our brethren are to step exactly in our footprints. True faith in God will lead us to understand that each is a worker. **God works upon human minds, and all who love God will love their brethren. They will be zealous of good works.** {BTS June 1, 1915, par. 2}

True faith consists in doing just what God has enjoined, not manufacturing things He has not enjoined. Justice, truth, and mercy, are the fruits of faith. We need to walk in the light of God’s law: then good works will be the fruit of our faith, the proceeds of a heart renewed every day. The tree must be made good before the fruit can be good. **We must be wholly consecrated to God. Our will must be made right before the fruit can be good.** We must have no fitful religion. “Whatsoever ye do.... do all to the glory of God.” {BTS June 1, 1915, par. 3}

Sanctification of soul, body, and spirit will surround us with the atmosphere of heaven. If God has chosen us from eternity, it is that we might be holy, our conscience purged from dead works to serve the living God. **We must not in any way make self our god.** God has given Himself to die for us, that He might purify us from all iniquity. **The Lord will carry on this work of perfection for us if we will allow ourselves to be controlled by Him.** He carries on this work for our good and His own name’s glory. {BTS June 1, 1915, par. 4}

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Our conscience must be purged from dead works to serve the living God. **Sanctification means perfect love, perfect obedience, entire conformity to the will of God. If our lives are conformed to the life of Christ through the sanctification of mind, soul, and body, our example will have a powerful influence on the world.** {UL 99.2}

At nine o'clock I attended a meeting of the students in the school chapel. About eighty were present, and the room was full. **An hour was occupied in reading, and in talking to them about the necessity of their understanding how to exercise faith. This is the science of the gospel.** The Scripture declares, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." The knowledge of what the Scripture means when urging upon us the **necessity of cultivating faith, is more essential than any other knowledge** that can be acquired. **We suffer much trouble and grief because of our unbelief, and our ignorance of how to exercise faith. We must break through the clouds of unbelief. We can not have a healthy Christian experience, we can not obey the gospel unto salvation, until the science of faith is better understood, and until more faith is exercised. There can be no perfection of Christian character without that faith that works by love, and purifies the soul.** {RH October 18, 1898, par. 7}

The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been.—just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents.—perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe and misery, to be immortalized. {SC 62.1}

It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and. **Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God.** But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now **He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness.** If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned. {SC 62.2}

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In His promises and warnings, Jesus means me. God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that I by believing in Him, might not perish, but have everlasting life. The experiences related in God's word are to be my experiences. Prayer and promise, precept and warning, are mine. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me, and gave Himself for me.**" Galatians 2:20. As faith thus receives and assimilates the principles of truth, they become a part of the being and the motive power of the life. The word of God, received into the soul, molds the thoughts, and enters into the development of character. {DA 390.5}

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.** {COL 311.4}

And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us. {DA 668.3}

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