

THE SEALING MESSAGES

**How Many Seals Since 1844?
Only One?**



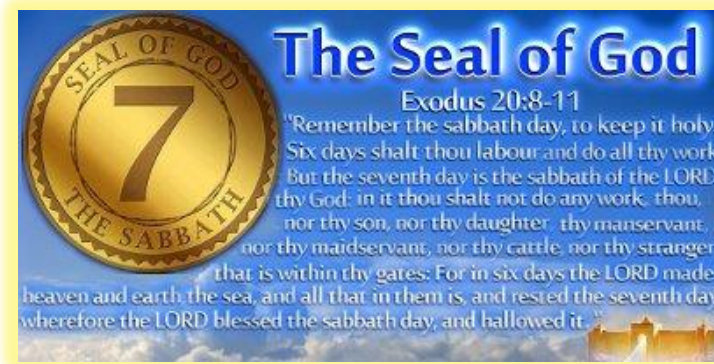
**“The 144,000 were SEALED and perfectly united.
On their foreheads was written **God, New Jerusalem,
and a glorious star containing Jesus’ New Name”**
Early Writings 15, Ellen G. White**

The sealing reference of Revelation 3:12, quoted by Ellen White
in Early Writings page 15 showing that the 144,000 have a THREE-FOLD seal

Three Sealing Truths – Revelation 3:12

Three Sealing Messages Since 1844

Part 1



Is the Heavenly Sanctuary truth, in connection with the Seventh Day Sabbath Truth of the Third Angel’s Message, Revelation 14:9, the ONLY Sealing Message for the Advent people?

"We are to throw aside our narrow, selfish plans, remembering that we have a work of the largest magnitude and highest importance. In doing this work, we are sounding the first, second, and third angel's messages, and are thus being prepared for the coming of that OTHER ANGEL from heaven who is to lighten the earth with his glory. 6T406. EGW

TO INVESTIGATE A MATTER IS A DUTY

Who, or what, is this “other angel” that Ellen White wrote about, in Revelation 14, after the Third Angel (of verse 9)? Are there “OTHER” (“another”) angel(s) in this chapter to be revealed in present day Adventist theology? Both Ellen White and James White thought so. Investigate for yourself. Do not permit the investigation of a matter, or the keeping of your soul, to another. It is every individual church member’s sacred duty. “Whoso answers a matter before hearing it; it is a folly and a shame to him” Proverbs 18:13 Beware of those who urge you to reject your duty, when they have a vested interest keeping the people ignorant, compliant and complacent. The warning to the Laodicean church (Rev. 3:14-18), to the seventh and last church, is clear and direct. Ellen White applied the warning to the seventh church, the last

church, to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, expressly and exclusively, to the church leaders in particular. See Testimonies, Vol. 3:252. Read the entire chapter.

More from the Pen of Inspiration:

“In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; **new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new.** When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began "at Moses and all the prophets" and "expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. **He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old.** For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form. {COL 127.4}

“There are those who profess to believe and to teach the truths of the Old Testament, while they reject the New. But in refusing to receive the teachings of Christ, they show that they do not believe that which patriarchs and prophets have spoken. "Had ye believed Moses," Christ said, "ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me." John 5:46. Hence there is no real power in their teaching of even the Old Testament. {COL 128.1}

“Many who claim to believe and to teach the gospel are in a similar error. They set aside the Old Testament Scriptures, of which Christ declared, "They are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. In rejecting the Old, they virtually reject the New; for both are parts of an inseparable whole. No man can rightly present the law of God without the gospel, or the gospel without the law. The law is the gospel embodied, and the gospel is the law unfolded. The law is the root, the gospel is the fragrant blossom and fruit which it bears. {COL 128.2}

“The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old. Each is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Both present truths that will continually reveal new depths of meaning to the earnest seeker. EGW. End Quote.

Key Questions:

Without a fundamental knowledge of a topic there can be no questions generated. Scripture tells us “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”. For the latter-day people called “Laodicea” (meaning “people declaring judgment”, or “a people judged”) this becomes very important. This is the heart of the Sanctuary in Heaven teaching as presented in the Book of Hebrews. Ellen White stated in GC 490 that someday the Judgment of the Dead, that began in 1844, October 22, would someday transition to the Judgment for the Living – “SOON”!

- What are the THREE-FOLD SEALING MESSAGES since 1844, based on Early Writings 15, quoting from Revelation 3:12? These are the THREE messages to the Seventh-day Adventist Church beginning in 1844. Where are such further new light messages found

in prophecy?

- Are there NEW LIGHT MESSAGES since 1844 that we are counseled to look for?
- If there are OTHER messages since 1844, WHEN did they ARRIVE, and who brought them?
- What did James White mean in his early publication, WLF:
“All classes of second advent believers agree, that the angel brought to view in the 6th and 7th verses of this chapter, represents the advent message to the church and world. If this is true, then ALL FIVE of the angels brought to view in this chapter, represents FIVE DISTINCT MESSAGES, prior to the advent, or we are left without a rule to interpret this chapter. ... The LAST TWO ANGELS ARE MESSAGES OF PRAYER. We shall, no doubt, better understand them at the time of their fulfillment.” “A Word to the Little Flock”, page 10-11, one of the two original and foundational publications of Adventism.

The Time for Answers

All Seventh-day Adventists believe that the Sabbath truth, in connection with the Sanctuary truth, constitutes the **only seal** and **only sealing message** to the church, and the world, which is the official doctrinal position of the SDA Church. Adventists are taught nothing else, nor taught to look for any other message(s). Is this a safe course? Is this position in harmony with the Testimonies and counsels to the church by Ellen White? True it is that the Sabbath and Sanctuary truths of 1844 and 1845 were indeed a unified sealing message, the FIRST sealing message to the church, the first seal for the 144,000, the literal Firstfruits in the Advent body, as presented in Revelation 14:1, and most of chapter 7. The First and Second Angels' messages were not sealing messages, but rather preparatory for the Third Angel. Only the Third Angel message has a SEAL connected to it, the first Seal of the Advent Movement, for the 144,000 Firstfruits.

This study is not specifically to address the topic of the 144,000, important as it is, but rather the SEALING and what it is, over the long history of the Advent Movement to this day. Nevertheless, the topic of the 144,000 was a key point of interest and discussion in the SDA Church up until about the 1920s, when the SDA Church membership reached 144,000 and beyond. Nothing happened when that number was reached, no dedication of Firstfruits, no spiritual harvest, no separation, no event that would suggest a fulfillment of Revelation 14:1, simply because it was not TIME for the Firstfruit harvest to begin, neither were there enough church members as candidates for the Firstfruit harvest to begin, a separation process as it is needful for the wheat to be separated from tares (Matt. 13:24-30) in the symbolic prophecy. Ellen White terms this separation process “a terrible ordeal” (2SM380) for the church, the “shaking” and “sifting” process for those who profess the Truth of the Third Angel. Ellen White

made some important comments on this in 2 Selected Messages about the 144,000. It is important to note that the official teaching of the SDA Church on the 144,000, of Revelation 7 and Revelation 14:1, is that the 144,000 are a “symbolic number”. This could not be true, since Ellen White made it clear that she saw “144,000 IN NUMBER” -- not in figure, not in symbol. She wrote this in Early Writings page 15: “The living saints, 144,000 IN NUMBER, knew and understood the voice...”

Looking at Revelation chapter 7, there is enumerated “seven thousand” from each of the Twelve Tribes of Israel in the latter days. The number “seven thousand”, repeated in four verses in this chapter, cannot be construed to be a symbolic number. If it were a “symbolic number” then what would such a symbolic number mean? What would it represent? What does a “symbolic number” look like? Are not “Firstfruits” HOLY to the LORD in the Old Testament typology, to be presented at the beginning of the spring harvest season, in the literal sense and literal application? The 120 Firstfruits, of the new church (Acts 2) believers on the Day of Pentecost 2000 years ago, were NOT a “symbolic number” but an actual number. The 120 are a numerical type of the 144,000 Firstfruits of the end time spiritual harvest today.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was brought forth nearing 200 years ago, for the express purpose of bringing forth a Firstfruit spiritual harvest for the end times, so that the greater harvest of the Loud Cry message would be even greater, exceedingly. Had this not been the case, the Hand of Inspiration would not have made this topic, the 144,000, the very first order of business to address in Ellen White’s writings, in Early Writings, page 15, at the very beginning of the Third Angel’s message. The reason for this is – the topic of “Firstfruits”-- is harvest law and Gospel order! Inspiration made this clear through the earliest publication of Ellen White and James White – “Word to the Little Flock”, which predated Early Writings, a compilation. This is all on the topic of the 144,000 for now, until the end of this study, or part 2.

Counsels on New Light

E.G. White:

Chap. 3 - The Holy Scriptures – Testimonies to Ministers 105 -

How Shall We Search the Scriptures? [GOSPEL WORKERS, 1893 EDITION, PAGES 125-131.]

How shall we search the Scriptures in order to understand what they teach? We should come to the investigation of God's word with a contrite heart, a teachable and prayerful spirit. We are not to think, as did the Jews, that our own ideas and opinions are infallible; nor with the papists, that certain individuals are the sole guardians of truth and knowledge, that men have no right to search the Scriptures for themselves, but must accept the explanations given by the fathers of the church. We should not study the Bible for the purpose of sustaining our preconceived opinions, but with the single object of learning what God has said. {TM 105.1}

Some have feared that if in even a single point they acknowledge themselves in error, other minds would be led to doubt the whole theory of truth. Therefore they have felt that investigation should not be permitted, that it would tend to dissension and disunion. But if such is to be the result of investigation, the sooner it comes the better. If there are those whose faith in God's word will not stand the test of an investigation of the Scriptures, the sooner they are revealed the better; for then the way will be opened to show them their error. We cannot hold that a position once taken, an idea once advocated, is not, under any circumstances, to be relinquished. There is but One who is infallible--He who is the way, the truth, and the life. {TM 105.2}

Those who allow prejudice to bar the mind against the reception of truth cannot receive the divine enlightenment. Yet, when a view of Scripture is presented, many do not ask, Is it true--in harmony with God's word? but, By whom is it advocated? and unless it comes through the very channel that pleases them, they do not accept it. So thoroughly satisfied are they with their own ideas that they will not examine the Scripture evidence with a desire to learn, but refuse to be interested, merely because of their prejudices. {TM 105.3}

The Lord often works where we least expect Him; He surprises us by revealing His power through instruments of His own choice, while He passes by the men to whom we have looked as those through whom light should come. God desires us to receive the truth upon its own merits--because it is truth. {TM 106.1}

The Bible must not be interpreted to suit the ideas of men, however long they may have held these ideas to be true. We are not to accept the opinion of commentators as the voice of God; they were erring mortals like ourselves. God has given reasoning powers to us as well as to them. We should make the Bible its own expositor. {TM 106.2}

Carefulness in Presenting New Views

All should be careful about presenting new views of Scripture before they have given these points thorough study, and are fully prepared to sustain them from the Bible. Introduce nothing that will cause dissension, without clear evidence that in it God is giving a special message for this time. {TM 106.3}

But beware of rejecting that which is truth. The great danger with our people has been that of depending upon men and making flesh their arm. Those who have not been in the habit of searching the Bible for themselves, or weighing evidence, have confidence in the leading men and accept the decisions they make; and thus many

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will reject the very messages God sends to His people, if these leading brethren do not accept them. {TM 106.4}

No one should claim that he has all the light there is for God's people. The Lord will not tolerate this. He has said, "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Even if all our leading men should refuse light and truth, that door will still remain open. The Lord will raise up men who will give the people the message for this time. {TM 107.1}

The Truth Will Stand

Truth is eternal, and conflict with error will only make manifest its strength. We should never refuse to examine the Scriptures with those who, we have reason to believe, desire to know what is truth. Suppose a brother held a view that differed from yours, and he should come to you, proposing that you sit down with him and make an investigation of that point in the Scriptures; should you rise up, filled with prejudice, and condemn his ideas, while refusing to give him a candid hearing? The only right way would be to sit down as Christians and investigate the position presented in the light of God's word, which will reveal truth and unmask error. To ridicule his ideas would not weaken his position in the least if it were false, or strengthen your position if it were true. If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that we knew it. There must be no spirit of Pharisaism cherished among us. {TM 107.2}

From Counsels on Sabbath School Work

The Spirit of Investigation Essential

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." {CSW 24.2}

There is yet much precious truth to be revealed to the people in this time of peril and darkness, but it is Satan's determined purpose to prevent the light of truth from shining into the hearts of men. If we would have the light that has been provided for us, we should show our desire for it by diligently searching the word of God. Precious truths that have long been in obscurity are to be revealed in a light that will make manifest their sacred worth; for God will glorify His word, that it may appear in a light in which we have never before beheld it. But those who profess to love the truth must put to the stretch their powers, that they may comprehend the deep things of the word, that God may be glorified and His people may be blessed and enlightened. With humble hearts, subdued by the grace of God, you should come to the task of searching the

Scriptures, prepared to accept every ray of divine light, and to walk in the way of holiness.
{CSW 25.1}

In the Attitude of a Learner

In searching the Scriptures you are not to endeavor to interpret their utterances so as to agree with your preconceived ideas, but come as a learner to understand the foundation principles of the faith of Christ. With eager interest, with fervent prayer, come to the word of God, that you may know what is truth, manifesting the same spirit as did Nathanael when he earnestly besought the Lord that he might know the truth. Light will come to every earnest seeker for truth, as it came to Nathanael. Jesus saw him as he bowed in prayer under the fig tree, and while he was still petitioning for light, the messenger came to call him, and to lead him to the Source of all light. {CSW 25.2}

"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Prejudice and unbelief sprang up in the heart of Nathanael, but Philip did not try to combat it. He said, "Come and see. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto Him, Whence knowest Thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel." {CSW 26.1}

How easily was Nathanael convinced! And with what pleasure Jesus looked upon his sincere, guileless faith! "Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. And He saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." God never honors unbelief and questioning and doubt. When He speaks, His word is to be recognized and carried out in the daily actions. And if the heart of man is in living connection with God, the voice that cometh from above will be recognized. {CSW 26.2}

Controversy to Be Avoided

While there is need of thorough investigation of the word of God, that precious truth may be discovered and brought to light, we should be guarded, that the spirit of controversy does not control in our discussions of the Sabbath school lesson. In bringing out points upon which there may be a difference of opinion, the grace of Christ should be manifested by those who are seeking for an understanding of the word of God. There should be liberty given for a frank investigation of truth, that each may know for himself what is the truth. Among the pupils of the Sabbath school there should be a spirit of investigation, that those who are old enough to

discern evidence may be encouraged to search for fresh rays of light, and to appreciate all that God may send to His people. The light which God will send to His people will never appear unless there is a diligent searching of the word of truth. {CSW 27.1}

The world is full of all manner of error of a misleading nature, and it is essential that both pupils and teachers know that they know what is truth. There is need that we reverence the word of God and recognize His voice in the living oracles, that we may practice its precepts and live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Those that do the will of God shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God, for no deception will cloud their minds. God calls every one, both old and young, to make a diligent search in His word, that they may discover the rich jewels of truth. Ministers and people, teachers and scholars, are all called to the work of studying the Bible. {CSW 27.2}

Precious light is to shine forth from the word of God, and let no one presume to dictate what shall or what shall not be brought before the people in the messages of enlightenment that He shall send, and so quench the Spirit of God. Whatever may be his position of authority, no one has a right to shut away the light from the people. When a message comes in the name of the Lord to His people, no one may excuse himself from an investigation of its claims. No one can afford to stand back in an attitude of indifference and self-confidence, and say: "I know what is truth. I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it cannot be truth." It is from pursuing this very course that the popular churches were left in partial darkness, and that is why the messages of heaven have not reached them. {CSW 28.1}

Cultivating a Teachable Spirit

God calls upon those who hold responsible positions in Sabbath school work to put away all egotism, all self-confidence, and pride of opinion; if a message comes that you do not understand, take pains that you may hear the reasons the messenger may give, comparing scripture with scripture, that you may know whether or not it is sustained by the word of God. If you believe that the positions taken have not the word of God for their foundation, if the position you hold on the subject cannot be controverted, then produce your strong reasons; for your position will not be shaken by coming in contact with error. There is no virtue or manliness in keeping up a continual warfare in the dark, closing your eyes lest you may see, closing your ears lest you may hear, hardening your heart in ignorance and unbelief lest you may have to humble yourselves and acknowledge that you have received light on some points of truth. {CSW 28.2}

To hold yourselves aloof from an investigation of truth is not the way to carry out the Saviour's injunction to "search the Scriptures." Is it digging for hidden treasures to call the results of

some one's labor a mass of rubbish, and make no critical examination to see whether or not there are precious jewels of truth in the collection of thought which you condemn? Will those who have almost everything to learn keep themselves away from every meeting where there is an opportunity to investigate the messages that come to the people, simply because they imagine the views held by the teachers of the truth may be out of harmony with what they have conceived as truth? Thus it was that the Jews did in the days of Christ, and we are warned not to do as they did, and be led to choose darkness rather than light, because there was in them an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God. No one of those who imagine that they know it all is too old or too intelligent to learn from the humblest of the messengers of the living God.--TSS 62-66. {CSW 29.1}

The Teacher to Be a Learner

"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes." Those who would become the educators of the youth and children must learn much, very much, both in precept and experience, in order that they may be successful laborers for God. They must grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, attaining unto the measure of the stature of Christ. Growth in grace is a testimony to the fact that you are abiding in Christ as the branch is abiding in the vine. If you abide in Him, you will have power to discern spiritual truth, for spiritual things are spiritually discerned. {CSW 30.1}

"I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." God calls upon the young men and young women to make the most of their entrusted ability. He would have you cultivate habits of industry, habits of study, that you may improve the talents He has given you. God will accept your service, and the improvement of your talents, but He cannot look with approval upon half-hearted, halfway work. Every branch of God's work calls for the exercise of the highest ability; it demands that you shall bring into requisition every available help, that you shall direct your noblest impulses to the propagation of the truth. The exalted, sacred character of the work requires the enlistment of the highest intellectual and spiritual powers, that it may be properly represented before those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. {CSW 30.2}

If you are called to be a teacher in any branch of the work of God, you are called also to be a learner in the school of Christ. If you take upon you the sacred responsibility of teaching others, you take upon you the duty of going to the bottom of every subject you seek to teach. If you present a subject from the word of God to your pupils in the Sabbath school, you should make the reasons for your faith so plain that your scholars shall be convinced of its truth. You should diligently search and compare the evidences of the word of God on messages that He sends to the church, that you may know what is truth, and be able to direct those who look to you into the way of righteousness. {CSW 31.1}

To Listen With Candor

When asked to hear the reasons of a doctrine that you do not understand, do not condemn the message until you have given it a thorough investigation, and know from the word of God that it is not tenable. If I had an opportunity, I would speak to the students of every Sabbath school in the land, lifting up my voice in earnest appeal that they go to the word of God, seeking for truth and light. God has precious light to come to His people at this very time, and you should strive earnestly in your investigations to aim at nothing less than a thorough knowledge of every point of truth, that you may not be found in the day of God among those who have not lived by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. {CSW 31.2}

The momentous issues at stake through neglect of the word of God should be carefully considered. The study of the Bible is worthy of the best mental effort, the most sanctified ability. When new light is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it. Refusing to hear because you are prejudiced against the message to the messenger will not make your case excusable before God. To condemn that which you have not heard and do not understand will not exalt your wisdom in the eyes of those who are candid in their investigations of truth. And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, is folly and madness. If our youth are seeking to educate themselves to be workers in His cause, they should learn the way of the Lord, and live by every word that proceedeth out of His mouth. They are not to make up their minds that the whole truth has been unfolded, and that the Infinite One has no more light for His people. If they entrench themselves in the belief that the whole truth has been revealed, they will be in danger of discarding precious jewels of truth that shall be discovered as men turn their attention to the searching of the rich mine of God's word. {CSW 32.1}

Individually Investigate

Those who have entered upon the work of teaching, or who have been called to any position of responsibility, should not be satisfied to take the product of the researches of other minds, but they should investigate truth for themselves. If they do not form the habit of investigating themes of truth for themselves, they will become superficial in their life and acquirements. The opinions of your associates may be of value to you, but you should not rely upon them and have no definite ideas of your own. You should examine the truths you have been led to believe, until you know that they are without a flaw. You lose much when you do not bring every point of faith you hold to the law and to the testimony, for you do not see or appreciate the truth as it is. Oh, that all our youth might appreciate the privilege that God has given! It is His will that you should go to the source of all light, and receive the enlightenment of His Spirit (for this will be given to every humble seeker for truth), and then you will know that the Spirit and the Word agree, and know that you know what is truth. What assurance this knowledge

gives! You can then speak with power, proclaiming what you have learned as truth, knowing that you have not followed cunningly devised fables.--TSS 58-61. {CSW 33.1}

A Promise of Increasing Light

New light will ever be revealed on the word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God. Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God. But light is not given simply to be a strength to the church, but to be shed upon those who are in darkness. The people of God are to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. Christ has said of His people, "Ye are the light of the world," and it is the mission of the light to shine out and illuminate the darkness. {CSW 34.1}

Oh, may teachers and pupils be what the Lord designed that they should be when He gave His life that they might be the sons and daughters of God, and win the crown of immortal glory!--TSS 53, 54. {CSW 34.2}

New Meaning in Familiar Texts

As soon as the seeker for truth opens the Bible to read the utterances of God with reverence, possessing an earnest desire to know "what saith the Lord," light and grace will be given him, and he will see wondrous things out of God's law. He will not regard the law of Jehovah as a yoke of bondage, but as the gracious commands of One who is all-wise and full of compassion. He will make haste to fulfill His requirements. Great truths which have been neglected and unappreciated for ages, will be revealed by the Spirit of God, and new meaning will flash out of familiar texts. Every page will be illuminated by the Spirit of truth. **The Bible is not sealed but unsealed. The most precious truths are revealed; the living oracles are heard by wondering ears, and the consciences of men are aroused into action.**--TSS 30. {CSW 34.3}

Footnote to Adventist History

In reviewing the Counsels on Sabbath School Work, by E.G. White, the needful spirit in the presentation and investigation of new ideas, we find that this counsel came to fruition in 1929, when a Sabbath school superintendent (Victor Houteff) at the Los Angeles University SDA Church, began to present new ideas, new truths, based on the central chapters in the Book of Isaiah, chapters in which Ellen White did not comment upon, significantly, if at all, yet were soon to come to pass. These chapters needed study and illumination by the Office of the Spirit of Prophecy for that time. The beginning of that message by Victor Houteff was the close of the 40 years spiritual wilderness of the SDA Church that Ellen White wrote about, beginning

from 1890, when the 1888 message was finally and fully rejected by the leading brethren of the General Conference in her time. A well-known SDA Pastor of the time wrote about this 40 year period, in TYPE and ANTITYPE, fulfilled in the SDA Church, just after 1888. The pastor's name was Taylor Bunch. He wrote a book on this topic in the mid 1920s. This general theme was understood by many church members at that time. Pastor Bunch's book was based upon Israel in the Wilderness, under Moses' leadership, according to type and antitype. His book is still available today, as well as his Signs of the Times article published in 1927, on the topic of the 144,000, the beginning of the end-time Gospel Harvest outlined in Revelation 7, exactly in the same understanding as Victor Houteff taught to Adventists for over 25 years.

Summary:

The Three Seals of Truth – Three Sealing Messages since 1844

Who are the 144,000? How are they identified, and gathered as Firstfruit harvest – Revelation 14:1?

"...the one hundred and forty-four thousand ... they feel most deeply the wrongs of God's professed people." EGW 3T266. ("...professed people" = SDA)

"Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the ...man in linen, are those that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done **in the church**... Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel." Id. 267, EGW. ("in the (SDA) church")

Pointed facts we must face:

1. 144,000 receive "pure mark of truth" because they lament sins in **the church**.
2. Those who do not 'sigh and cry' in the SDA Church, are unmarked--lost, shut out to "wail".
Read Vol. 5 of Testimonies, pages 207 to 216.

Of what does the "pure mark of truth" constitute?

"The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name." E.W. 15.

144,000 marked (sealed) and UNITED by 3 truths, 3 messages – Revelation 3:12, Ezekiel chapter 9 and Early Writings page 15:

1. **GOD** --- represents Third Angel's message, the Sabbath and Sanctuary Truths: -- **SEAL #1**
"The seal of God's law is found in the 4th commandment," G.C. 452:1.
2. **NEW JERUSALEM** – The message of Rev. 7:1-8, the Firstfruits of the Kingdom: -- **SEAL #2**.
The New Jerusalem is a capital city, indicating a territory has been identified and claimed. Yet unfulfilled and unconditional covenant promises to modern Israel (Advent Movement).

3. **JESUS' NEW NAME** -- represents the message of Rev. 18:1: -- **SEAL #3.**

Jesus' "New Name" means there has been a CHANGE in Ministration, from the Judgment of the Dead to the Judgment for the Living (GC490).

For needed clarification here, and as a revelation to Adventists, it should be noted:

- **THE FIRST SEALING MESSAGE of 1844** was comprised of THREE messages (1st Angel, 2nd Angel, 3rd Angel) with only the Third Angel as the ACTUAL sealing message, the Sabbath and Sanctuary truths together, nevertheless a 'package deal' sealing of the Three Angels' messages.
- **THE SECOND SEALING MESSAGE**, 1930 through 1955, is a single message, mainly about the 144,000 and the anticipated opening of the Judgment for the Living, based on TIME (Ezek. 4), the beginning of the REPEAT of the Three Angels' messages, repeat of the First Angel, very similar to William Miller's message of the soon approach of the opening of the Judgment in Heaven (for the dead - JOD, reviewing the books of Heaven), required knowledge of the prophecies of the judgment as a message and a testing truth. Further "unrolling of the scroll".
- **THE THIRD SEALING MESSAGE** comprises THREE messages also (1955, 1977, 1990), or Three Angels, the REPEAT of the Second Angel's message, based on TIME (Ezek. 4), revealing the actual date for the opening of the Judgment for the Living (GC490), the opening of the Seventh Seal (Rev. 8:1) with added required knowledge of the prophecies of the judgment work in the Heavenly Sanctuary and the separation judgment in modern Israel (SDA) during the Judgment of the Living (JOL). Then, the REPEAT of the Third Angel's message, the beginning of the "revelation of the Holy Spirit" (8T251) as Ellen White announced. Finally, the second repeat of the Second Angel, clearly indicated in Revelation 18:1-2, the "angel who JOINS the Third Angel" as Ellen White also foretold (EW 277; TM300). **THUS, totaling SEVEN ANGELS, accounting for all of the ANGELS (messages) in Revelation 14, six angels, count them, and Revelation 18:1-2, the Seventh Angel.**

The THIRD sealing message is also a 'package deal', all or none, for those who live through all three parts of the Third Seal message of the New Name of Jesus (Rev. 3:12; EW 15), those alive in the third section of Truth, the Third Seal. Those souls who die before the next message, or die before the next Angel arrives, in each of the three sealing sections of Advent Movement history, are judged for only what they knew (accepted or rejected) or what opportunities they were given to learn the greater light. The main point to consider and remember, since 1844, the first Three Angels' Messages were to inform and warn of the Judgment of the Dead, in the books of Heaven (Dan. 7:10). The SECOND Three Angels of Revelation 14, the REPEAT of the Three Angels, from 1955 forward, is to warn and inform the church of the Judgment for the

Living, thus, a prophetic symmetry of message for the Investigative Judgment of the Dead (JOD), and then, in the Investigative Judgment of the Living. The prophetic years of 1844, and 1955, fit hand to glove, as a complete judgment message, first to the church, then to the world.

Ellen White stated that the Three Angels would be REPEATED (TM 59 and EW 259), first to the church, then for the world --- not a general repetition of former truths as a “loud cry” message, but new light messages, one after the other, inclusive of the former truths, that explained and expanded the former Angels’ messages, in harmony with the Platform of truth from 1844. In the judgment for the church (Ezekiel 9), in the books of Heaven, there will be NO excuse for ignorance of these facts and historical truths, even just the opportunity to learn more, to ask questions or search for the missing ANGELS (messages) after 1844, and after the passing of Ellen White (1915), regardless of the ministerial efforts to keep further light from the church membership. Please read the chapter, “The Seal of God” in Volume 5 of the Testimonies, the warning given by Sister White to the church. If someone tells you that there are only “Three Angels” Messages (supposedly a complete end time message) then put on your reading glasses and read Revelation chapter 14, the whole chapter, and count how many “angels” (messages) there are, how many times “and ANOTHER Angel” is presented. SEVEN is complete; not THREE, not four, not five, not six, but SEVEN. Revelation 18:1 is the last Angel Message, number seven.

End – Part 1

T L Caldwell

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Three Sealing Truths – Revelation 3:12

Three Sealing Messages Since 1844

Part 2

**“The 144,000 were SEALED and perfectly united.
On their foreheads was written God, New Jerusalem,
and a glorious star containing Jesus’ New Name”
Early Writings 15, Ellen G. White**

The sealing reference of Revelation 3:12, quoted by Ellen White in Early Writings page 15 showing that the 144,000 have a THREE-FOLD seal.



THE SEALING AND THE 144,000

The Seal - EGW

“Passport to the Holy City.-- Only those who receive the seal of the living God will have the passport through the gates of the Holy City. But there are many who take upon themselves responsibilities in connection with the work of God who are not wholehearted believers, and while they remain thus cannot receive the seal of the living God. They trust in their own righteousness, which the Lord accounts as foolishness (Letter 164, 1909). {7BC 970.1}

“The Mark of Distinction.-- Those who would have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. This is what distinguishes them from the disloyal, who have accepted a man-made institution in the place of the true Sabbath. The observance of God's rest day is the mark of distinction between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not (MS 27, 1899). {7BC 970.2}

“Like Christ in Character.-- The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character (RH May 21, 1895). {7BC 970.3}

“Image of Christ on the Soul.-- As wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of Christ (ST July 18, 1911). {7BC 970.4}

“The Seal and the Commandments.-- Many will not receive the seal of God because they do not keep His commandments or bear the fruits of righteousness (Letter 76, 1900). {7BC 970.5}

“Bitter Disappointment in the Day of God.-- The great mass of professing Christians will meet with bitter disappointment in the day of God. They have not upon their foreheads the seal of the living God. Lukewarm and halfhearted, they dishonor God far more than the avowed unbeliever. They grope in darkness, when they might be walking in the noonday light of the Word, under the guidance of One who never errs (Letter 121, 1903). {7BC 970.6}

2-4. See EGW on ch. 14:1-14. {7BC 970.7}

“4-17 (ch. 14:1-4; 2 Corinthians 3:18). Strive to Be Among the 144,000.--[Revelation 7:9-17 quoted.] Those whom the Lamb shall lead by the fountains of living waters, and from whose eyes He shall wipe away all tears, will be those now receiving the knowledge and understanding revealed in the Bible, the Word of God. . . . {7BC 970.8}

“We are to copy no human being. There is no human being wise enough to be our criterion. We are to look to the man Christ Jesus, who is complete in the perfection of righteousness and holiness. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the pattern man. His experience is the measure of the experience that we are to gain. His character is our model. Let us, then, take our minds off the perplexities and the difficulties of this life, and fix them on Him, that by beholding we may be changed into His likeness. We may behold Christ to good purpose. We may safely look to Him; for He is all-wise. As we look to Him and think of Him, He will be formed within, the hope of glory. {7BC 970.9}

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand (RH March 9, 1905). E.G. White.

Thus, this topic, this calling, the sealing of the Firstfruits, is NOT to be ignored, not to be set aside or diverted by the words of any church leader or church member.

Ellen White counselled that we should not speculate as to who is, or who is not, to be among the 144,000, who are in the church, but we are counselled to “strive” to be among that number. It was a common topic in Ellen White’s time, but today, with the SDA Church membership around 18 million members world-wide, it is a perplexity as to how many church members will actually receive the mark of the sealing angel (Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 7:3), the seal of truth, among the living today. There will be many who stand with the 144,000 but will not be ONE OF them. Still, many SDA Church members will be “shaken out” of the church, by rejecting the other two sealing messages. Ellen White stated that in her time there was not “one in twenty” that was ready to meet their Lord, who were on the church books.

The Shaking

Church Membership No Guarantee of Salvation - EGW

“It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner.--ChS 41 (1893). {LDE 172.1}

“Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive of the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God.--19MR 176 (1898). {LDE 172.2}

The following Signs of the Times article was accepted SDA teaching in the 1920s, by Pastor Taylor Bunch. The 144,000 was not taught as a “symbolic number” of saints, but a literal number, in the Firstfruit harvest. Pastor Bunch’s teaching on the 144,000 was in harmony with Ellen White on this topic, with its rightful emphasis in prophecy based on Revelation chapter 7 and chapter 14:1. This is harvest law and Gospel order.

THE 144,000 THEIR TRIUMPHS AND REWARD STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

NUMBER TWENTY--ONE

TAYLOR G. BUNCH

In the vision of the four angels holding in check the symbolic winds of the earth till the sealing message has done its work, the prophet hears a voice giving the number sealed. "And I heard the number of them which were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Revelation 7:4. The following verses describe the sealing of twelve thousand out of each of the twelve tribes.

We must not forget that the sealing message is located between the breaking of the sixth and seventh seals, or just before the second advent of Christ. The prophecy under consideration, therefore, meets its fulfillment many generations after the dispersion of Israel, when the identity of the twelve tribes has long since become impossible. Even at the beginning of the Christian era, the tribes had so

completely lost their identity that they were indistinguishable because of generations of intermarriage, captivity, and persecution.

SPIRITUAL ISRAEL

The only conclusion possible is that our text applies to spiritual and not to literal Israel. While it is impossible for human beings to divide Christians into twelve divisions, according to their characteristics, Christ, the supreme Head of the church, knows where every member of His body belongs; and in the book of life, or family record, they are doubtless enrolled under the tribe or nation to which they belong.

The term "Israel" had its origin the night Jacob wrestled with the angel, when, because his character was changed, God changed his name from Jacob, the deceiver and supplanter, to Israel, a prince of God and overcomer--one who prevails with God and man. (See Genesis 32:24-28.)

The terms "Israel" and "Christian" are therefore synonymous, for all true Israelites are Christians and all true Christians are Israelites, or sons of God. Of course, all who claim to be Christian are not Christians; likewise, all who claim to be Israelites are not princes of God, as Paul declared: "They are not all Israel, which are of Israel," and "he is not a Jew, which is outwardly:...but he is a Jew which is one inwardly." Romans 9:6; 2:28,29.

In Romans 11:17-26, the true Israel of all ages is represented as a tame and fruitful olive tree, and the Gentiles as a wild olive tree. Some of the natural branches, or the descendants of Abraham, were broken off because of unbelief, and branches from the wild olive tree were grafted into their place; these, partaking "of the root and fatness" of the Israel stock, yield the fruit of the tame olive, "contrary to nature." The conclusion of Paul's argument is, "and so all Israel shall be saved."

THE TWELVE TRIBES

In his letter to the Galatian church, Paul declared: "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:29. He also stated that all who are now creatures in Christ Jesus are of "the Israel of God." Chapter 6:15,16.

That the church of Christ, even in its militant state, is divided in to twelve tribes, or nations, is evident from the opening statement of the epistle of James. "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are

scattered abroad, greetings." That the contents of this letter were intended for spiritual Israel and not for the Jews is evident even to the casual reader. The fifth chapter is essentially a last--day prophecy, and shows that the epistle was written for the special benefit of the church of the last generation, which would witness the return of Christ to establish His kingdom of glory.

The evidence is also conclusive that the church triumphant will retain this twelve-tribe division. In answer to Peter's question, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?" Jesus answered; "Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Matthew 19:27,28.

The celestial city, the New Jerusalem, through whose pearly gates will pass the redeemed of all ages (Revelation 22:14) regardless of their earthly nationality, rests upon twelve foundations on which are emblazoned the names of the twelve apostles who will reign as judges, or kings, over the twelve nations of overcomers in earth's warfare. (See Revelation 21,22.)

The saved of all ages are declared to be "so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable." Hebrews 11:12. On the other hand, the final sealing message gathers and seals 144,000, divided into twelve companies of 12,000 each. Who are they? and what is their relation to the twelve apostles and the twelve tribes?

OCCUPY HIGH POSITIONS

This special company became qualified to stand next to Christ because of the trying experience through which they have passed in their warfare with the hosts of evil in the final desperate charge against the remnant of the church militant. (See Revelation 12:17) In ruling themselves and conquering sin, they have demonstrated their ability to rule. They have gotten the victory over every known sin, and are "without fault before the throne of God." But few saints in the world's history have ever reached such a high standard of perfection of character and knowledge of His truth. Their loyalty to the principles of God's government has been tested to the utmost, and is above question. They can now be entrusted with responsibility in the kingdom of Christ and of the twelve nations of Israel.

The Christian church began its history under the leadership of twelve men, who, during the ten days of prayer, study and confession of sin in the upper room, reached a standard of perfection in harmony with their perfection of faith. They

had "the faith of Jesus." They were "of one accord" for the first time in their lives, and had gotten the victory over every know sin, so that they no longer grieved the Holy Spirit, who sealed them "unto the day of redemption." (See Ephesians 4:30) Since they were sealed for the kingdom, the Holy Spirit was given to them without measure, and Pentecost was the result. The early rain followed the upper-room experience that brought to them the seal of God's approval.

THE GREAT OUTPOURING

The early rain was but a local shower compared with the latter rain which is poured out on all flesh to ripen the gospel grain for the final harvest. The reaping message is to go to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." (See Revelation 14:6-14) As twelve men were sealed for leadership by the Spirit in the beginning of the gospel proclamation under the early rain, twelve groups of men, of 12,000 each, will be sealed by the Spirit for Leadership in giving the Loud cry during the latter rain. As the 144,000 reach the standard of perfection of character corresponding to their perfection of faith, "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," they are sealed for the kingdom, and go forth to give the loud cry that calls God's people out of spiritual Babylon and completes the gospel harvest. (Revelation 18:1-5.)

The 144,000 are declared to be "the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb." Revelation 14:4. In ancient Israel each farmer was required to bring the first sheaf of his crop to the sanctuary, and present it to the priest. This was called the "first fruits" of the harvest, and was dedicated to the sanctuary and the service of the priests, and was deposited "before the alter of the Lord." He was then privileged to put in the sickle for the final harvest. The "first fruits" was only a small part of the entire crop. (See Exodus 23:19; Leviticus 25:10; Deuteronomy 26:1-11.)

All the services of the Mosaic sanctuary were typical of the plan of salvation and the priestly service of Christ. The offering of the first fruits must have an antitype in the reaping of the final gospel harvest. "The harvest is the end of the world," declared Jesus. Just before the world-harvest is gathered and when it is "white already to harvest," a "first fruits" sheaf will be gathered and presented to the priest of the heavenly sanctuary to be dedicated to His service. The "first fruits" of the antitypical harvest are plainly declared to be the 144,000; this will be the first sheaf only of the entire gospel crop. In the type, the "first fruits" was not only the first in point of time but also in quality. The best of the harvest must be selected, or "the choice fruits." Thus the 144,000 are not only the first of the final harvest, but its choice fruits; for "they are without fault before the throne of God."

THE INNUMERABLE HOSTS

After describing the 144,000, the revelator continued; "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 Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." Revelation 7:9,10.

Here is described the remainder of the final harvest. Their knowledge, experience, and tests of loyalty are far less than the standard reached by the 144,000, who are qualified for a special work as "kings and priests" unto God and the Lamb.

Just before the reaping of the vast harvest of the earth, the 144,000 or the "first fruits," are presented to Christ, the great High Priest of the heavenly sanctuary, and dedicated to a special service before the throne of God. "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." Revelation 7:15.

This in accord with the promise Christ makes to those who accept the Laodicean message, and are purified by it. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

Surely the Lord holds out a glorious reward to those who accept the sealing message and reach the high standards required for enumeration in the special company who stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion, go with Him "whithersoever He goeth," and assist Him in the administration of the kingdom of glory. Is any sacrifice too great for such a priceless privilege?

Signs of the Times, May 3, 1927

In Conclusion

The 144,000 are the spiritual temple of the last days, built by Christ - The Branch (Zech. 6:12; GC415), a message of His New Name (Rev. 3:12) which was prepared for Him, to begin His final work of Atonement in the Heavenly Sanctuary, for the LIVING saints, or, the Judgment for the Living (JOL). There must be a Priestly name change, Jesus' New Name, to effect the Judgment for the Dead TO (transition) to the Judgment for the Living. The SEALING period always has a TEST of Truth, additional qualifications at each of the Three Steps of Truth, to see who is following the Lamb, and who is not, the same as the testing truths of 1843-1844, in the First, Second and Third Angels' messages. For the living church today, the New Name of Jesus is **our**

qualification for receiving the benefits of Christ's FINAL ministration for the Living saints, in the time of the Judgment for the Living (GC490).

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." Psalm 144:12

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God ...and I will write 'upon him the **name of my God**, and the **name of the city of my God** ,..and I **will write upon him my new name.**" Rev. 3:12.

The Firstfruit harvest (Rev. 14:1) and its full understanding, the THREE SEALS of Truth that begin the harvest, should be the focus and theme of our study and discussion in our church family.

Remember, "Firstfruits" (Rev. 14:1) are sealed and dedicated (identified) **at the BEGINNING of harvest, ... NOT at the END of harvest, NOT AFTER probationary time.** According to the "symbolic service", the tabernacle service, in the Book of Leviticus (ch. 23) the time of Firstfruits is early spring, when the first ripe fruits of grain are gathered and offered, at the beginning of the sacred year (spring equinox), not at the end of the harvest year, in the fall.

The Chaff Separated From the Wheat – EGW

Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest.--2SM 114 (1896). {LDE 172.3}

There will be a shaking of the sieve. The chaff must in time be separated from the wheat. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold. It is the very time when the genuine will be the strongest.--Letter 46, 1887. {LDE 173.1}

The history of the rebellion of Dathan and Abiram is being repeated, and will be repeated till the close of time. Who will be on the Lord's side? Who will be deceived, and in their turn become deceivers?--Letter 15, 1892. {LDE 173.2}

The Lord is soon to come. There must be a refining, winnowing process in every church, for there are among us wicked men who do not love the truth or honor God.--RH March 19, 1895. {LDE 173.3}

We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands.--6T 332 (1900). {LDE 173.4}

I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, "My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!" Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the

four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, "**Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.**" {EW 38.1}

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

May 12, 1904 Into Clearer Light

Mrs. E. G. White

Cornelius, the Roman centurion, was not even accounted a disciple of Christ; but he had faith in God, according to the light that he had, and he was reaching out for more light. The Lord saw this man would do honor to the church, and he brought him into connection with the apostle Peter. He sent a special message from heaven to him, and by another message directed Peter to visit him, and give him light. That is God's way of working. **Daily prayers for light and guidance will surely be answered.** {RH, May 12, 1904 par. 1}

In our world there are many such men as Cornelius, and for them the Lord desires his servants to make special efforts. The Lord showed Peter, the Jew, that there were Gentiles who were serving God as acceptably as he was. There are today many in the world who are nearer the kingdom of God than we suppose. They are walking in all the light they have, **and in the future they will be led into clearer and still clearer light.** {RH, May 12, 1904 par. 2}

In this dark world of sin the Lord has many precious jewels, to whom he will guide his messengers. God will use his believing ones as his instrumentalities, through them ministering to souls fainting for the bread of life. Words of hope and cheer falling from lips that have been touched by a live coal from God's altar, will revive and comfort those who are weary and distressed. {RH, May 12, 1904 par. 3}

Clearer Light

There is sadness in heaven over the spiritual blindness of many of our brethren. Our younger ministers, who fill less important positions, must make decided efforts to come to the light, to sink the shaft deeper and still deeper in the mine of truth. {GW 304.1}

The rebuke of the Lord will rest upon those who would bar the way, that clearer light shall not come to the people. A great work is to be done, and God sees that our leading men have need of more light, that they may unite with the messengers whom He sends to accomplish the work that He designs shall be done. The Lord has raised up messengers, and endued them with His Spirit, and has said, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." [Isaiah 58:1.] Let no one run the risk of interposing between the people and the message of Heaven. This message will go to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out. {GW 304.2}

I call upon every minister to seek the Lord, to put away pride and strife for supremacy, and to humble the heart before God. It is the coldness of heart, the unbelief of those who ought to have faith, that keeps the churches in feebleness. {GW 304.2}

In the Time of the 1888 Message, and After

Now, although there has been a determined effort to make of no effect the message God has sent, its fruits have been proving that it was from the source of light and truth. Those who have cherished unbelief and prejudice, who in the place of helping to do the work the Lord would have them do, have stood to bar the way against all evidence, cannot be supposed to have clearer spiritual eyesight for having so long closed their eyes to the very light God sent to the people. {16MR 106.3}

If we are to bear a part in this work to its close, we must recognize the fact that there are good things to come to the people of God in a way that we had not discerned; and that there will be resistance from the very ones we expected to engage in such a work. A man that is sincere in the wrong is not justified in the wrong, because he has opened his heart to a class of evidence leading him to condemn the right, and has closed his heart to a class of evidence which, if he would not cherish prejudice, would lead him to see and acknowledge what is truth. {16MR 106.4}

How long the Lord will have patience with men in their blindness, how long He will wait before leaving them to grope their way to final darkness, we cannot determine. {16MR 107.1}

Should the Lord's messengers, after standing manfully for the truth for a time, fall under temptation, and dishonor Him who has given them their work, will that be proof that the message is not true? No, because the Bible is true. "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Sin on the part of the messenger of God would cause Satan to rejoice, and those who have rejected the messenger and the message would triumph; but it would not at all clear the men who were guilty of rejecting the message of truth sent of God. {16MR 107.2}

One matter burdens my soul: The great lack of the love of God, which has been lost through continued resistance of light and truth, and the influence of those who have been engaged in active labor, who, in the face of evidence piled upon evidence, have exerted an influence to counteract the work of the message God has sent. I point them to the Jewish nation and ask, Must we leave our brethren to pass over the same path of blind resistance, till the very end of probation? If ever a people needed true and faithful watchmen, who will not hold their peace, who will cry day and night, sounding the warnings God has given, it is Seventh-day Adventists. Those who have had great light, blessed opportunities, who, like Capernaum, have been exalted to heaven in point of privilege, shall they by non-improvement be left to darkness corresponding to the greatness of the light given? {16MR 107.3}

I wish to plead with our brethren who shall assemble at the General Conference to heed the message given to the Laodiceans. What a condition of blindness is theirs! This subject has been brought to your notice again and again, but your dissatisfaction with your spiritual condition has not been deep and painful enough to work reform. "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." The guilt of self-deception is upon our churches. The religious life of many is a lie. {16MR 108.1}

“Get ready (1), Get ready (2), Get ready (3)” Ellen White, numerous statements.

Zephaniah 1:12 And it shall come to pass at that time, [that] I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

BE READY – TIME IS SHORT.

Study, Pray, Investigate.

Your brother in Christ, The Branch,

T L Caldwell

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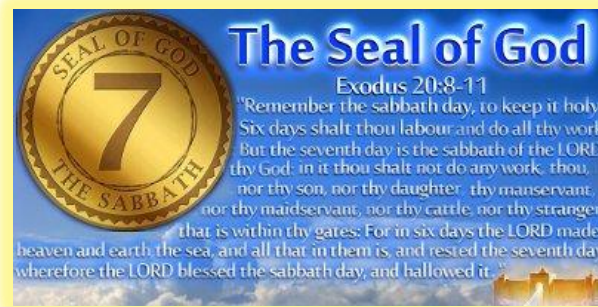
Three Sealing Truths – Revelation 3:12

Three Sealing Messages Since 1844

Part 3

**“The 144,000 were SEALED and perfectly united.
On their foreheads was written God, New Jerusalem,
and a glorious star containing Jesus’ New Name”
Early Writings 15, Ellen G. White**

The sealing reference of Revelation 3:12, quoted by Ellen White in Early Writings page 15 showing that the 144,000 have a THREE-FOLD seal.



THE SEAL OF GOD

Ellen G. White

Testimonies Vol. 5:207 Ch. 24

THE TESTIMONY OF EZEKIEL 9 IN THE CHURCH

"He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand." {5T 207.2}

And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; and the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house." {5T 207.3}

Jesus is about to leave the mercy seat of the heavenly sanctuary to put on garments of vengeance and pour out His wrath in judgments upon those who have not responded to the light God has given them. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Instead of being softened by the patience and long forbearance that the Lord has exercised toward them, those who fear not God and love not the truth strengthen their hearts in their evil course. But there are limits even to the forbearance of God, and many are exceeding these boundaries. They have overrun the limits of grace, and therefore God must interfere and vindicate His own honor. {5T 207.4}

Of the Amorites the Lord said: "In the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." Although this nation was conspicuous because of its idolatry and corruption, it had not yet filled up the cup of its iniquity, and God would not give command for its utter destruction. The people were to see the divine power manifested in a marked manner, that they might be left without excuse. The compassionate Creator was willing to bear with their iniquity until the fourth generation. Then, if no change was seen for the better, His judgments were to fall upon them. {5T 208.1}

With unerring accuracy the Infinite One still keeps an account with all nations. While His mercy is tendered with calls to repentance, this account will remain open; but when the figures reach a certain amount which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath commences. The account is closed. Divine patience ceases. There is no more pleading of mercy in their behalf. {5T 208.2}

The prophet, looking down the ages, had this time presented before his vision. The nations of this age have been the recipients of unprecedented mercies. The choicest of heaven's blessings have been given them, but increased pride, covetousness, idolatry, contempt of God, and base ingratitude are written against them. They are fast closing up their account with God. {5T 208.3}

But that which causes me to tremble is the fact that those who have had the greatest light and privileges have become contaminated by the prevailing iniquity. Influenced by the unrighteous around them, many, even of those who profess the truth, have grown cold and are borne down by the strong current of evil. The universal scorn thrown upon true piety and holiness leads those who do not connect closely with God to lose their reverence for His law. If they were following the light and obeying the truth from the heart, this holy law would seem even more precious to them when thus despised and set aside. As the disrespect for God's law becomes more manifest, the line of demarcation between its observers and the world becomes more distinct. Love for the divine precepts increases with one class according as contempt for them increases with another class. {5T 209.1}

The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. Although loath to punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily. Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will

shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." {5T 209.2}

The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world. {5T 209.3}

The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain. When the Lord comes forth as an avenger, He will also come as a protector of all those who have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world. It is at this time that God has promised to avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them. {5T 210.1}

The command is: "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had reproved, counseled, and entreated. Some who had been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him. But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel; although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking. {5T 210.2}

In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any. Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect. {5T 210.3}

The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: "Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house." {5T 211.1}

Here we see that the church--the Lord's sanctuary--was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus "Peace and safety" is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together. {5T 211.2}

The abominations for which the faithful ones were sighing and crying were all that could be discerned by finite eyes, but by far the worst sins, those which provoked the jealousy of the pure and holy God, were unrevealed. The great Searcher of hearts knoweth every sin committed in secret by the workers of iniquity. These persons come to feel secure in their deceptions and, because of His long-suffering, say that the Lord seeth not, and then act as though He had forsaken the earth. But He will detect their hypocrisy and will open before others those sins which they were so careful to hide. {5T 211.3}

No superiority of rank, dignity, or worldly wisdom, no position in sacred office, will preserve men from sacrificing principle when left to their own deceitful hearts. Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous prove to be ring-leaders in apostasy and examples in indifference and in the abuse of God's mercies. Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy. {5T 212.1}

It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws His presence from those who have been blessed with great light and who have felt the power of the word in ministering to others. They were once His faithful servants, favored with His presence and guidance; but they departed from Him and led others into error, and therefore are brought under the divine displeasure. {5T 212.2}

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." {5T 212.3}

Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God or be cut down by the destroying weapons. Already a few drops of God's wrath have fallen upon the earth; but when the seven last plagues shall be poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, then it will be forever too late to repent and find shelter. No atoning blood will then wash away the stains of sin. {5T 212.4}

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation

even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book." When this time of trouble comes, every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death. May God help His people now, for what can they then do in such a fearful conflict without His assistance! {5T 212.5}

Courage, fortitude, faith, and implicit trust in God's power to save do not come in a moment. These heavenly graces are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right the children of God were sealing their destiny. Beset with temptations without number, they knew they must resist firmly or be conquered. They felt that they had a great work to do, and at any hour they might be called to lay off their armor; and should they come to the close of life with their work undone, it would be an eternal loss. They eagerly accepted the light from heaven, as did the first disciples from the lips of Jesus. When those early Christians were exiled to mountains and deserts, when left in dungeons to die with hunger, cold, and torture, when martyrdom seemed the only way out of their distress, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ, who was crucified for them. Their worthy example will be a comfort and encouragement to the people of God who will be brought into the time of trouble such as never was. {5T 213.1}

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. They should have commanded their households after them, that by a well-ordered family they might present to the world the influence of the truth upon the human heart. {5T 213.2}

By their lack of devotion and piety, and their failure to reach a high religious standard, they make other souls contented with their position. Men of finite judgment cannot see that in patterning after these men who have so often opened to them the treasures of God's word, they will surely endanger their souls. Jesus is the only true pattern. 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. However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path. {5T 214.1}

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. {5T 214.2}

We are too easily satisfied with our attainments. We feel rich and increased with goods and know not that we are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Now is the time to heed the admonition of the True Witness: "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." {5T 214.3}

In this life we must meet fiery trials and make costly sacrifices, but the peace of Christ is the reward. There has been so little self-denial, so little suffering for Christ's sake, that the cross is almost entirely forgotten. We must be partakers with Christ of His sufferings if we would sit down in triumph with Him on His throne. So long as we choose the easy path of self-indulgence and are frightened at self-denial, our faith will never become firm, and we cannot know the peace of Jesus nor the joy that comes through conscious victory. The most exalted of the redeemed host that stand before the throne of God and the Lamb, clad in white, know the conflict of overcoming, for they have come up through great tribulation. Those who have yielded to circumstances rather than engage in this conflict will not know how to stand in that day when anguish will be upon every soul, when, though Noah, Job, and Daniel were in the land, they could save neither son nor daughter, for everyone must deliver his soul by his own righteousness. {5T 215.1}

No one need say that his case is hopeless, that he cannot live the life of a Christian. Ample provision is made by the death of Christ for every soul. Jesus is our ever-present help in time of need. Only call upon Him in faith, and He has promised to hear and answer your petitions. {5T 215.2}

Oh, for a living, active faith! We need it; we must have it, or we shall faint and fail in the day of trial. The darkness that will then rest upon our path must not discourage us or drive us to despair. It is the veil with which God covers His glory when He comes to impart rich blessings. We should know this by our past experience. In that day when God has a controversy with His people this experience will be a source of comfort and hope. {5T 215.3}

It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord's appearing. The world is in darkness. "But ye, brethren," says Paul, "are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." It is ever God's purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul. {5T 215.4}

What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity. {5T 216.1}

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} End quote.

Brother and sister SDA, are you “sighing and crying for the abominations in the church”?

Do you have the knowledge of the three sealing messages that have been given to The Advent Movement since 1844?

Are you “strive(ing) with all your God given power to be among the 144,000”? (EGW, R&H, March 9, 1905.

Are you searching for new light, and ready to receive it, if it is “to the Law and to the Testimony”; the message(s) that will transform you, SEAL you, for the Kingdom of Christ, ready for translation?

**“I REPEAT it, the Three Angels SYMBOLIZE the THREE PARTS
of the GENUINE MOVEMENT.”**

**“These angels illustrate the THREE GREAT DIVISIONS
of the genuine movement.”**

James White, Life Incidents, 306 & 307

End - Part 3

Revelation 3:12

¹² Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

Additional References from the Spirit of Prophecy

June 8, 1886 Faithfulness in Reproving Sin.

By Mrs. E. G. White.

The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand, who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God's professed people. This is forcibly set forth by the prophet's illustration of the last work, under the figure of the men, each having a slaughter weapon in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side. "And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."

Our Responsibilities

The Laodicean message is applicable to the church at this time. Do you believe this message? Have you hearts that feel? Or are you constantly saying, We are rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing? Is it in vain that the declaration of eternal truth has been given to this nation to be carried to all the nations of the world? God has chosen a people and made them the repositories of truth weighty with eternal results. To them has been given the light that must illuminate the world. Has God made a mistake? Are we indeed His chosen instrumentalities? Are we the men and women who are to bear to the world the messages of Revelation fourteen, to proclaim the message of salvation to those who are standing on the brink of ruin? Do we act as if we were? {1SM 92.1}

Chapter 27 - The Laodicean Church

The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time. {3T 252.1}

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." {3T 252.2}

The Lord here shows us that the message to be borne to His people by ministers whom He has called to warn the people is not a peace-and-safety message. It is not merely theoretical, but practical in every particular. The people of God are represented in the message to the Laodiceans as in a position of carnal security. They are at ease, believing themselves to be in an exalted condition of spiritual attainments. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." {3T 252.3}

What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct. {3T 252.4}

It is difficult for those who feel secure in their attainments, and who believe themselves to be rich in spiritual knowledge, to receive the message which declares that they are deceived and in need of every spiritual grace. The unsanctified heart is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." I was shown that many are flattering themselves that they are good Christians, who have not a ray of light from Jesus. They have not a living experience for themselves in the divine life. They need a deep and thorough work of self-abasement before God before they will feel their true need of earnest, persevering effort to secure the precious graces of the Spirit. {3T 253.1}

God leads His people on step by step. The Christian life is a constant battle and a march. There is no rest from the warfare. It is by constant, unceasing effort that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. As a people we are triumphing in the clearness and strength of the truth. We are fully sustained in our positions by an overwhelming amount of plain Scriptural testimony. But we are very much wanting in Bible humility, patience, faith, love, self-denial,

watchfulness, and the spirit of sacrifice. We need to cultivate Bible holiness. Sin prevails among the people of God. The plain message of rebuke to the Laodiceans is not received. Many cling to their doubts and their darling sins while they are in so great a deception as to talk and feel that they are in need of nothing. They think the testimony of the Spirit of God in reproof is uncalled for or that it does not mean them. Such are in the greatest need of the grace of God and spiritual discernment that they may discover their deficiency in spiritual knowledge. They lack almost every qualification necessary to perfect Christian character. They have not a practical knowledge of Bible truth, which leads to lowliness of life and a conformity of their will to the will of Christ. They are not living in obedience to all God's requirements. {3T 253.2}

It is not enough to merely profess to believe the truth. All the soldiers of the cross of Christ virtually obligate themselves to enter the crusade against the adversary of souls, to condemn wrong and sustain righteousness. But the message of the True Witness reveals the fact that a terrible deception is upon our people, which makes it necessary to come to them with warnings, to break their spiritual slumber, and arouse them to decided action. {3T 254.1}. End quote.

The phrase, "Rich and increased with goods", means "rich and increased" with 'spiritual goods', that is, with truth or messages - the Third Angel's Message. Yes, it is true, to possess the Third Angel's message one is "rich" in truth and "increased with goods", but the danger presented by Christ in the testimony to the Laodiceans is thinking the Third Angel's message is the last message, the end of the line in prophecy, with all that the Holy Spirit (Christ) wants to give to the church to prepare each member for the Firstfruit harvest. The attitude of the Laodicean church is that they need nothing more from Christ or the Holy Spirit. No more truth, no more messages, as it was in 1888. This attitude must change for those who will receive the TRIPLE SEAL offered to the church members, the 144,000, and those who will stand with them. The Loud Cry message and the future of the church belongs to those who cast off (repent of) the Laodicean attitude, which brings about spiritual death, the attitude of needing nothing more in the messages of Revelation 14, and Revelation 18:1, seven messages in all. What a glorious opportunity for all church members to come to the complete knowledge of the Three Seals and the repeat messages of the First, Second and Third Angels in the second half of Revelation 14, the greater light, that they comprise, to prepare a people to stand before the Heavenly Throne, girt for Holy service in the Loud Cry work.

E.G. White – Christ Object Lessons, Chap. 11 - Things New and Old (whole chapter)

While Christ was teaching the people, He was also educating His disciples for their future work. In all His instruction there were lessons for them. After giving the parable of the net, He asked them, "Have ye understood all these things?" They said unto Him, "Yea, Lord." Then in another parable He set before them their responsibility in regard to the truths they had received.

"Therefore," He said, "every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." {COL 124.1}

The treasure gained by the householder he does not hoard. He brings it forth to communicate to others. And by use the treasure increases. The householder has precious things both new and old. So Christ teaches that the truth committed to His disciples is to be communicated to the world. **And as the knowledge of truth is imparted, it will increase.** {COL 124.2}

All who receive the gospel message into the heart will long to proclaim it. The heaven-born love of Christ must find expression. Those who have put on Christ will relate their experience, tracing step by step the leadings of the Holy Spirit--their hungering and thirsting for the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, the results of their searching of the Scriptures, their prayers, their soul agony, and the words of Christ to them, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." It is unnatural for any to keep these things secret, and those who are filled with the love of Christ will not do so. In proportion as the Lord has made them the depositaries of sacred truth will be their desire that others shall receive the same blessing. And as they make known the rich treasures of God's grace, more and still more of the grace of Christ will be imparted to them. They will have the heart of a little child in its simplicity and unreserved obedience. Their souls will pant after holiness, and more and more of the treasures of truth and grace will be revealed to them to be given to the world. {COL 125.1}

The great storehouse of truth is the word of God-- the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God's dealing with human life. Here are the treasures from which Christ's workers are to draw. In the search after truth they are to depend upon God, not upon human intelligences, the great men whose wisdom is foolishness with God. Through His own appointed channels the Lord will impart a knowledge of Himself to every seeker. {COL 125.2}

If the follower of Christ will believe His word and practice it, there is no science in the natural world that he will not be able to grasp and appreciate. There is nothing but that will furnish him means for imparting the truth to others. Natural science is a treasure house of knowledge from which every student in the school of Christ may draw. As we contemplate the beauty of nature, as we study its lessons in the cultivation of the soil, in the growth of the trees, in all the wonders of earth and sea and sky, there will come to us a new perception of truth. And the mysteries connected with God's dealings with men, the depths of His wisdom and judgment as seen in human life--these are found to be a storehouse rich in treasure. {COL 125.3}

But it is in the written word that a knowledge of God is most clearly revealed to fallen man. This is the treasure house of the unsearchable riches of Christ. {COL 126.1}

The word of God includes the Scriptures of the Old Testament as well as of the New. One is not complete without the other. Christ declared that the truths of the Old Testament are as valuable as those of the New. Christ was as much man's Redeemer in the beginning of the world as He is today. Before He clothed His divinity with humanity and came to our world, the gospel message was given by Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah. Abraham in Canaan and Lot in Sodom bore the message, and from generation to generation faithful messengers proclaimed the Coming One. **The rites of the Jewish economy were instituted by Christ**

Himself. He was the foundation of their system of sacrificial offerings, the great antitype of all their religious service. The blood shed as the sacrifices were offered pointed to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. All the typical offerings were fulfilled in Him. {COL 126.2}

Christ as manifested to the patriarchs, as symbolized in the sacrificial service, as portrayed in the law, and as revealed by the prophets, is the riches of the Old Testament. Christ in His life, His death, and His resurrection, Christ as He is manifested by the Holy Spirit, is the treasure of the New Testament. Our Savior, the outshining of the Father's glory, is both the Old and the New. {COL 126.3}

Of Christ's life and death and intercession, which prophets had foretold, the apostles were to go forth as witnesses. Christ in His humiliation, in His purity and holiness, in His matchless love, was to be their theme. And in order to preach the gospel in its fullness, they must present the Savior not only as revealed in His life and teachings, but as foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament and as symbolized by the sacrificial service. {COL 127.1}

Christ in His teaching presented old truths of which He Himself was the originator, truths which He had spoken through patriarchs and prophets; but He now shed upon them a new light. How different appeared their meaning! A flood of light and spirituality was brought in by His explanation. **And He promised that the Holy Spirit should enlighten the disciples, that the word of God should be ever unfolding to them.** They would be able to present its truths in new beauty. {COL 127.2}

Ever since the first promise of redemption was spoken in Eden, the life, the character, and the mediatorial work of Christ have been **Yet every mind through whom the Holy Spirit has worked has presented these themes in a light that is fresh and new. The truths of redemption are capable of constant development and expansion. Though old, they are ever new, constantly revealing to the seeker for truth a greater glory and a mightier power.** {COL 127.3}

In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began "at Moses and all the prophets" and "expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form. {COL 127.4}

There are those who profess to believe and to teach the truths of the Old Testament, while they reject the New. But in refusing to receive the teachings of Christ, they show that they do not believe that which patriarchs and prophets have spoken. "Had ye believed Moses," Christ said, "ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me." John 5:46. Hence there is no real power in their teaching of even the Old Testament. {COL 128.1}

Many who claim to believe and to teach the gospel are in a similar error. They set aside the Old Testament Scriptures, of which Christ declared, "They are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. In rejecting the Old, they virtually reject the New; for both are parts of an inseparable whole. No man can rightly present the law of God without the gospel, or the gospel without the law. The law is the gospel embodied, and the gospel is the law unfolded. The law is the root, the gospel is the fragrant blossom and fruit which it bears. {COL 128.2}

The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old. Each is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Both present truths that will continually reveal new depths of meaning to the earnest seeker. {COL 128.3}

Truth in Christ and through Christ is measureless. The student of Scripture looks, as it were, into a fountain that deepens and broadens as he gazes into its depths. Not in this life shall we comprehend the mystery of God's love in giving His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. The work of our Redeemer on this earth is and ever will be a subject that will put to the stretch our highest imagination. Man may tax every mental power in the endeavor to fathom this mystery, but his mind will become faint and weary. The most diligent searcher will see before him a boundless, shoreless sea. {COL 128.4}

The truth as it is in Jesus can be experienced, but never explained. Its height and breadth and depth pass our knowledge. We may task our imagination to the utmost, and then we shall see only dimly the outlines of a love that is unexplainable, that is as high as heaven, but that stooped to the earth to stamp the image of God on all mankind. {COL 129.1}

Yet it is possible for us to see all that we can bear of the divine compassion. This is unfolded to the humble, contrite soul. We shall understand God's compassion just in proportion as we appreciate His sacrifice for us. As we search the word of God in humility of heart, the grand theme of redemption will open to our research. It will increase in brightness as we behold it, and as we aspire to grasp it, its height and depth will ever increase. {COL 129.2}

Our life is to be bound up with the life of Christ; we are to draw constantly from Him, partaking of Him, the living Bread that came down from heaven, drawing from a fountain ever fresh, ever giving forth its abundant treasures. If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him. {COL 129.3}

In those who possess it, the religion of Christ will reveal itself as a vitalizing, pervading principle, a living, working, spiritual energy. There will be manifest the freshness and power and joyousness of perpetual youth. The heart that receives the word of God is not as a pool that

evaporates, not like a broken cistern that loses its treasure. It is like the mountain stream fed by unfailing springs, whose cool, sparkling waters leap from rock to rock, refreshing the weary, the thirsty, the heavy laden. {COL 130.1}

This experience gives every teacher of truth the very qualifications that will make him a representative of Christ. The spirit of Christ's teaching will give a force and directness to his communications and to his prayers. His witness to Christ will not be a narrow, lifeless testimony. The minister will not preach over and over the same set discourses. His mind will be open to the constant illumination of the Holy Spirit. {COL 130.2}

Christ said, "Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life. . . . As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me. . . . It is the Spirit that quickeneth; . . . the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:54-63. {COL 130.3}

When we eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood, the element of eternal life will be found in the ministry. There will not be a fund of stale, oft-repeated ideas. The tame, dull sermonizing will cease. The old truths will be presented, but they will be seen in a new light. There will be a new perception of truth, a clearness and a power that all will discern. Those who have the privilege of sitting under such a ministry will, if susceptible to the Holy Spirit's influence, feel the energizing power of a new life. The fire of God's love will be kindled within them. Their perceptive faculties will be quickened to discern the beauty and majesty of truth. {COL 130.4}

The faithful householder represents what every teacher of the children and youth should be. If he makes the word of God his treasure, he will continually bring forth new beauty and new truth. When the teacher will rely upon God in prayer, the Spirit of Christ will come upon him, and God will work through him by the Holy Spirit upon the minds of others. The Spirit fills the mind and heart with sweet hope and courage and Bible imagery, and all this will be communicated to the youth under his instruction. {COL 131.1}

The springs of heavenly peace and joy, unsealed in the soul of the teacher by the words of Inspiration, will become a mighty river of influence to bless all who connect with him. The Bible will not become a tiresome book to the student. Under a wise instructor the word will become more and more desirable. It will be as the bread of life, and will never grow old. Its freshness and beauty will attract and charm the children and youth. It is like the sun shining upon the earth, perpetually imparting brightness and warmth, yet never exhausted. {COL 132.1}

God's holy, educating Spirit is in His word. A light, a new and precious light, shines forth from every page. Truth is there revealed, and words and sentences are made bright and appropriate for the occasion, as the voice of God speaking to the soul. {COL 132.2}

The Holy Spirit loves to address the youth, and to discover to them the treasures and beauties of God's word. The promises spoken by the great Teacher will captivate the senses and animate

the soul with spiritual power that is divine. There will grow in the fruitful mind a familiarity with divine things that will be as a barricade against temptation. {COL 132.3}

The words of truth will grow in importance, and assume a breadth and fullness of meaning of which we have never dreamed. The beauty and riches of the word have a transforming influence on mind and character. The light of heavenly love will fall upon the heart as an inspiration. {COL 132.4}

The appreciation of the Bible grows with its study. Whichever way the student may turn, he will find displayed the infinite wisdom and love of God. {COL 132.5}

The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give. {COL 133.1}

As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days, and He says, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein." Revelation 1:3. {COL 133.2}

"This is life eternal," Christ said, "that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3. Why is it that we do not realize the value of this knowledge? Why are not these glorious truths glowing in our hearts, trembling upon our lips, and pervading our whole being? {COL 133.3}

In giving us His word, God has put us in possession of every truth essential for our salvation. Thousands have drawn water from these wells of life, yet there is no diminishing of the supply. Thousands have set the Lord before them, and by beholding have been changed into the same image. Their spirit burns within them as they speak of His character, telling what Christ is to them, and what they are to Christ. But these searchers have not exhausted these grand and holy themes. Thousands more may engage in the work of searching out the mysteries of salvation. As the life of Christ and the character of His mission are dwelt upon, rays of light will shine forth more distinctly at every attempt to discover truth. Each fresh search will reveal something more deeply interesting than has yet been unfolded. The subject is inexhaustible. The study of the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice and mediatorial work, will employ

the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last; and looking to heaven with its unnumbered years he will exclaim, "Great is the mystery of godliness." {COL 133.4}

In eternity we shall learn that which, had we received the enlightenment it was possible to obtain here, would have opened our understanding. The themes of redemption will employ the hearts and minds and tongues of the redeemed through the everlasting ages. They will understand the truths which Christ longed to open to His disciples, but which they did not have faith to grasp. Forever and forever new views of the perfection and glory of Christ will appear. **Through endless ages will the faithful Householder bring forth from His treasure things new and old.** {COL 134.1} End of chapter.

"The work of Christ as man's intercessor is presented in that beautiful prophecy of Zechariah concerning Him "whose name is the Branch." Says the prophet: "He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory; and shall sit and rule upon His [the Father's] throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of Peace shall be between Them both." Zechariah 6:12, 13." Ellen White, GC 415.



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