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VISO VERUM



The Last Message to God's People

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Ellen G. White:

BC SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 1-7
CW Counsels to Writers and Editors
EV Evangelism
EW Early Writings
FE Fundamentals of Christian Education
GC88 The Great Controversy
KC The Kress Collection 1985
MR Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1-21
MS Manuscript

PM The Publishing Ministry
RH The Review and Herald
SM Selected Messages, Vol. 1-3
SP The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 1-4
T Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1-9
YI The Youth's Instructor

Other Authors:

KJV The Authorized King James Bible

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The Last Message to God's People

A Special Message for God's People

The last six verses of Daniel 11 are the present truth message for the Adventist church of today. This claim is easily proven from numerous references in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The individual verses cannot be covered in depth in this explanation; however, the understanding as a whole shall be proved.

Adventists know that in the end times we have a prophetic message to the world. But what most Adventists do not know is that there is a specific message that must be given to the Adventist church! From the prophetic statements in the Bible we learn, among other things, that God's people sleep in the end times. "Sleep" here is a metaphor which shows that we as Seventh-day Adventists do not study prophecy the way we should. Generally, we hardly even study prophecy at all. We need a message which will revive us Adventists – and this will come. However, it will not be just any message, because its parameters will be clearly marked out, and its sound very distinct. In this elaboration it shall be portrayed in a simple way which makes up this last message to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The last six verses of Daniel 11 begin with verse 40. There, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 is described, which came as a result of an alliance between the United States and the Vatican. Verse 41 describes the Sunday law in the USA, which is the next prophetic event. With the Sunday law, probation closes for Sev-

enth-day Adventists. We must be aware that probation closes first for Adventists, because judgement begins first at the house of God,¹ and then the world will be judged.

Furthermore Ellen White says: What we need the most is revival and reformation. She also says that if we would understand Daniel and Revelation the way we should, we would experience a great revival among us.² God has a very specific method by which the Adventist church in our time will be revived: The revival comes through the knowledge of verses 40 – 45 from Daniel 11.

Verse 40 informs us that prophetic events of the last days began with the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989, and that the Sunday Law follows thereafter, whereby probation for Seventh-day Adventists closes. If we would study the book of Daniel the way we should, and come under the conviction that the next prophetic event is the end of probation, then we would reconsider our lives and adjust accordingly. If every Seventh-day Adventist aligned his life with these things then we would experience a great revival.

That is the message of the hour! Seventh-day Adventists will be confronted with a message which will revive them. It simply says: Our probation is about to close.

The Sunday Law and the Close of Probation

“The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed.” *GC88*, 594.1

¹ “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” 1 Peter 4: 17

² “When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed in regard to the character all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart...” *18MR* 24.2

Prophecy has a two-fold effect:

- It describes the events related to the close of probation.
- It makes it clear through these events, that we must prepare ourselves for a time when there will be no more intercession for sinners.

The majority in God's church have no knowledge about these effects of prophecy any more.

When it comes to the close of probation for Seventh-day Adventists, many do not realize that it ends at the same time as the Sunday law predicted in the Bible. The next citation talks about the Sunday law:

“A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land. The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God's people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” *RH*, December 18, 1888 par. 6

Worldwide, many Sunday laws have already been passed and there will be more. However, the Sunday law presented in Bible prophecy has two characteristics:

- forced to keep Sunday
- persecuted for keeping seventh-day Sabbath

As soon as the Sunday law is passed in any country of the earth, then the Seventh-day Adventists in those different countries will reveal the characters they have developed, either for the seal of God or for the mark of the beast.

In the next two quotations it will be clearly explained that at the Sunday law one group receives the seal of God and the other the mark of the beast. Additionally it will be said, that the Sunday law will first be passed in the USA:

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the State, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.” GC88, 605.2

“As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example. Our people are not half awake to do all in their power, with the facilities within their reach, to extend the message of warning.” 6T, 18.2

The Sunday law mentioned in prophecy will first be passed in the USA, but one after another all the countries will follow its example. That would mean probation closes first for the Seventh-day Adventists in the USA, earlier than in Europe. However, we must not forget the fact that the last prophetic events will move quickly. Therefore, if the Sunday law were to be passed today in the USA, we should not assume that it will be passed elsewhere in the world one year later. The last events will be rapid.

The Preparation of Character

The next quotation from the *Testimonies* of Ellen White raises important points which we must have a closer look at:

“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

“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

None of us can receive the seal of God if sin is still in our lives, and the latter rain will be first outpoured after the sealing of God’s people. The latter rain comes before the Sunday law and at the Sunday law the church will be purified. The Lord will therefore purify his church before he pours out the Holy Spirit through the latter rain. Through the Sunday law he will purify the church but not before calling out the faithful. The Sunday law is related to the work in the most holy place: in the judgement of God it is the separating tool to divide the world into two groups. It is the tool through which the Lord passes judgement and purifies his church. It is the tool, through which the judgement will be brought to a conclusion. The Sunday law is the middle point in the biblical end time prophecy.

Notice the last sentence from the above quotation from the testimonies of Ellen White:

“When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.”

When this point will be reached, the probation for every Seventh-day Adventist will be closed. If we are still alive at the Sunday law, it will be revealed which character we have developed until that point. We will keep this character for all eternity.

We have already mentioned that judgement begins at the house of God (1 Peter 4: 17-18) and the latest point at which the judgement of the living begins is at the Sunday law. The decisions of human beings, which are then either for or against Christ, will remain fixed from this point on for all eternity. In this judgement process, first God’s church will be purified and the majority of God’s people will receive the mark of the beast (See Revelation 13 & 14) at the Sunday law. Only a minority will receive the seal of God, over whom the latter rain will be poured out. These sealed ones will then take the last warning message to God’s children outside the Adventist church.

The next quotation points in the same direction:

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. The world can only be warned by seeing those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth, acting upon high and holy principles, showing in a high, elevated sense, the line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God and those who trample them under their feet. **The sanctification of the Spirit** signalizes the difference between **those who have the seal of God** and those who keep a spurious rest day.” 7BC, 980.8

“When the test comes, it will be clearly shown **what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday.** Those who, after having

heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws.”
Letter 12, 1900; 7BC, 980.9

In the second sentence Ellen White says, “The world can only be warned by seeing those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth.” A few sentences later she explains that this sanctification is connected with the seal of God: “The sanctification of the Spirit signalizes the difference between those who have the seal of God and those who keep a spurious rest day.” One also notes, that the world can only be warned when it sees men and women having the seal of God. Through the prophetic statements, we know that we receive the seal of God at the Sunday law. At the Sunday law, therefore, the seal is stamped following which then the sealed will warn the world. Only in this way will the world be warned. The cleansing of God’s church is done through the Sunday law.

Note the next quote, which illuminates the same topic from another angle. We learn here that Seventh-day Adventists will be the first ones from whom the Holy Spirit will completely withdraw.

“I believe with all my heart that the Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the world, and those who have had great light and opportunities and have not improved them, will be the first to be left. They have grieved away the Spirit of God. The present activity of Satan in working upon hearts, and upon churches and nations should startle every student of prophecy.” *3SM, 154.1*

As one studies Ellen White’s books she often uses the phrase, “those who have had great light and opportunities.” By that she always means the Seventh-day Adventists. Therefore they will be left behind first. In other words, the Holy Spirit will first withdraw from the Seventh-day Adventists. Why? They are modern Israel, God’s people, to whom the judgment will be executed first, and they will receive the mark of the beast at the Sunday law. They have grieved and rejected the Holy Spirit. As a people, they are the

first to be left behind, while the Holy Spirit is poured out upon a minority who have not rejected the Holy Spirit, and instead have prepared for the seal of God. One can therefore say with certainty that for us, as Seventh-day Adventists, the time of probation closes at the Sunday law!

In the next quote, Ellen White says that the Word of God contains many precious truths, but the flock of God now needs “present truth.” It is worth thinking once more about what “present truth” means.

“There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is **‘present truth’ that the flock needs now**. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.” *EW*, 63.1

“But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell.” *EW*, 63.2

“The same trials have been experienced by men of God in ages past. Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Tyndale, Baxter, Wesley, urged that all doctrines be brought to the test of the Bible, and declared that they would renounce everything which it condemned. Against these men, persecution raged with relentless fury; yet they ceased not to declare the truth. Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God’s people at that time. **Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who**

were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands his servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty, and leave results with God." *GC88*, 609.1

For every emergency and every crisis situation, there is a certain present truth. The biggest crisis in world history lies right in front of us. All the prophets have spoken of this crisis. We are living in the time in which the world has to be given the last warning message! That's why we need present truth today. Will this message today be accepted or rejected? It will be rejected! God's people resist this message in different ways. Of course, a message is not correct simply because it is rejected, but the present truth will always encounter resistance.

Present Truth

The Spirit of Prophecy gives us abundant information about the question of what the present truth is at the time of the end. Conversely, one can infer from this information what the present truth is not. An example:

"There is a marked contrast between those who bear the seal of God and those who worship the beast and his image. The Lord's faithful servants will receive the bitterest persecution from false teachers, who will not hear the Word of God, and who prepare stumbling blocks to put in the way of those who would hear." *14MR*, 163.1

"The Lord has given each man his appointed work. But the special work called medical missionary work is absorbing so much

that the greater and far more essential and important work of giving the message of warning to the world has been hindered. This message is to be proclaimed at our camp meetings, and in a most earnest and decided manner. The trumpet is to give a certain sound.” *14MR*, 163.2

The health message therefore is not the present truth. It is important, it is an entering wedge, it supports the message of the present truth, but it is not the last warning message which we have to bring as Seventh-day Adventists to the world. This fact cannot be emphasized enough, because one has to understand that the last warning message is a very specific message, like a trumpet that gives a “certain sound”.

In the following section, Ellen White shows the real role of the medical missionary work, which is to open the doors for the “present-day truth”:

“Medical missionary work is the right hand of the gospel. It is necessary to the advancement of the cause of God. As through it men and women are led to see the importance of right habits of living, the saving power of the truth will be made known. Every city is to be entered by workers trained to do medical missionary work. As the right hand of the third angel’s message, God’s methods of treating disease will open doors for the entrance of present truth.” *7T*, 59.1

The next quote talks about a shaking among God’s people.

“There is to be a shaking among God’s people; but this is not the present truth to carry to the churches. It will be the result of refusing the truth presented.” *2SM*, 13.1

The shaking in God’s church as well is not the “present truth”. The shaking should not be made a prominent topic in the churches. It is the result of the rejection of the true message by our brethren in the churches.

There are Seventh-day Adventists that run independent ministries who make the point about the shaking their main message. They focus on questions such as: When did truth come to the church, when was it rejected? What errors were adopted by the church at what time? Regarding the rejection of the truth they refer to the book *Questions on Doctrine* in 1957, to 1888, 1901, or 1903. Clearly, they are better acquainted with the shaking within the church than with the “present truth”.

The inspired word keeps stressing that we will have a transformation of character if we look to Jesus Christ alone and make Him Lord of our lives. However, if we think that apostasy in the Adventist church is the message of the hour to be preached to the churches, then we will not serve Jesus and be transformed into His image, but into the image of the adversary.

The present truth, or the message of the hour, is quite simply: Probation is about to close! For each of us, this means that the work of character formation must come to an end before the crisis comes at the Sunday law. Otherwise we are lost.

As a church, but also each one of us, we belong to the church of Laodicea. We think that everything in our ranks is alright, when in truth nothing is. If we do not wake up and realize our condition, God will spew us out of His mouth. It is a difficult venture for the Holy Spirit to make us aware of our sins and character weaknesses, if we are constantly focusing on the failures of the Adventist Church.

Ellen White furthermore tells us, that the third angel’s message should be announced today:

“What is the message to be given at this time? It is the third angel’s message. But that light which is to fill the whole earth with its glory has been despised by some who claim to believe the present truth. Be careful how you treat it. Take off the shoes off your feet; for you are on holy ground. Beware how you indulge the attributes

of Satan, and pour contempt upon the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. I know not but some have even now gone too far to return and to repent.” *TM*, 89.2

It cannot be emphasized enough that the present truth for our time is as follows: Probation is about to close, prepare!

The first angel’s message announces God’s judgment. This means that the time of probation is coming to an end. Sin must ultimately be put away, and then the time of grace ends. The first angel’s message announces the end of the time of probation.

The second angel’s message calls to come out of Babylon, because probation is about to close! Therefore, the second angel’s message is also a message about the close of probation.

The third angel’s message is a warning to not accept the “mark of the beast” because then the probation will close.

The message we have to announce today is all about the close of probation. Sister White lets us know that today we have the same message to preach as was preached by Noah. His message was to show people that the time of God’s probation was coming to an end. She also says that today we have the same message as William Miller, for he also proclaimed in his day that the time of probation will come to an end and then judgment and the second coming of the Lord would be in 1844.

Perhaps it raises resistance in some readers when it is emphasized over and over again that we must preach about the close of probation. Adventists generally know that the third angel’s message is to be proclaimed, but even this message is about the close of probation:

“Our warfare is aggressive. Tremendous issues are before us, yea, and right upon us. Let our prayers ascend to God that the four angels may still hold the four winds, that they may not blow to in-

jure or destroy until the last warning has been given to the world. Then let us work in harmony with our prayers. Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth." 6T, 61.2

"Our message is a life-and-death message. ..."

Note: This message is about life and death because it separates the wheat from the chaff.

Quote continued: "... and we must let it appear as it is, the great power of God. We are to present it in all its telling force. Then the Lord will make it effectual. It is our privilege to expect large things, even the demonstration of the Spirit of God. This is the power that will convict and convert the soul." 6T, 61.3

"The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes which prophecy has revealed be left untouched. If our people were half awake. ..."

Note: Sister White is very clear here: "if we were only half-awake," she says! We are not even half awake. Our people are sleeping. But the present truth is a message that draws a dividing line, a life and death message. She writes further about those who are not even half awake:

Quote continued: "... if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message. We have no time to lose." 6T, 61.4

Are we aware that a reformation could take place among the ranks of the Adventist church?

Political Requirements for the Sunday Law in the USA

The *Christian Coalition*, an association of conservative Protestants in the United States, has set itself the goal of abolishing the constitutional separation of church and state in America. Their goals are as follows:

- Majority vote in Congress,
- Choosing of the American President,
- Judicial majority in the Supreme Court from their ranks.³

Already in 1995 they reached their first goal, in that they gained control of the Senate. Since then, they have emerged from each election only stronger. Since 1995, representatives of the Christian Coalition, along with the Catholic representatives, have enough votes in the US Congress to pass the Sunday law and even bring about a presidential veto. As said, that was in 1995, and time is not approaching midnight anymore- it's already past midnight.

In 2000, the *Christian Coalition* reached its second goal: With George Bush, one of them was elected President of the United States of America. Since then, they have sought their third goal, to choose the judges. Some of the Supreme Court judges would have to retire prematurely so that George Bush could appoint new judges according to his preferences, which already happened. The political conditions for the adoption of the Sunday law in the US have long been created, nothing is missing! God is waiting for His people, for you and me. However, when He releases the "winds" from Revelation 7, then the Sunday law will be passed.

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels,

³ Editor's note: All objectives were achieved with the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States in 2016.

to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” Revelation 7:1-3

The Sunday Law

The Spirit of Prophecy lets us know that the Sunday legislation will be driven forward in secret. We must not expect that at some point there will be big headlines on the front pages of the newspapers informing us that a Sunday law is being planned. It happens behind the scenes. Only when it is ready, will it come out in public.

There is obviously confusion among the ranks of Adventists about what the Sunday law really is. When Sunday regulations are discussed in the European Parliament, there are always e-mails from startled church members who seriously believe that the prophetically predicted Sunday law is about to pass.

Ellen White does not leave us in the dark as to what the Sunday law is and where it will be adopted first:

“A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land. The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God’s people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” *RH*, December 18, 1888.6; *7BC*, 977.2

Ellen White says the following things very clearly, that ...

- ... the rulers in the US introduce the Sunday law,
- ... one will be forced to sanctify Sunday,
- ... one will be oppressed, if one keeps the Sabbath as the day of rest,
- ... and the consequence will be the collapse of the nation.

“Already preparations are advancing, and movements are in progress, which will result in making an image to the beast. Events will be brought about in the earth’s history that will fulfill the predictions of prophecy for these last days.” *RH*, April 23, 1889.5; *7BC*, 976.1

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided ... (Revelation 13:11-17 quoted).“ *7BC*, 976.2

“This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.” *Letter 11*, 1890; *7BC*, 976.3

The preparations for the formation of the image of the beast (combination of church and state) are underway. The image of the beast is the great trial for God’s people, which determines eternal destiny (sealing).

Our Work

“This is our work. The light that we have upon the third angel’s message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world. The Lord’s command to His servants is: Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” A message that will arouse the churches is to be proclaimed. Every effort is to be made to give the light, not only to our people, but to the world. I have been instructed that the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should

be printed in small books, with the necessary explanations, and should be sent all over the world. **Our own people need to have the light placed before them in clearer lines.**" 87, 159.3

Most Adventists do not realize that Daniel 11:40-45 is the last warning message and announces the close of probation. When Michael stands up in Daniel 12:1, the time of probation for all humanity is closed. One can therefore logically assume that the preceding verses, Daniel 11:40-45, describe the time that lies before the end of human probation. As stated earlier, it is not the intent in this article to explain these verses in detail,⁴ but rather to show the reader that there is a message to God's people to awaken them from the Laodicean sleep. In any case, one can recognize from the above quote that a stirring message will come to the churches.

The Temple Cleansing

Sister White mentions in her writings in at least six places the two-fold temple cleansing during the life of Jesus. In the following section, we realize that temple cleansing did not only take place in the time of Jesus, but can also be prophetically applied. It represents the second angel's message of Revelation 14 and the other angel's message of Revelation 18:1-3:

"When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches. The second angel's message is, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' And in the loud cry of the third angel's message a voice is heard from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye

⁴ Editor's Note: For more detailed information, we recommend VISO VERUM Daniel 11, 40-45 or the magazine The Time of the End by Jeff Pippenger.

receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities' (Revelation 18:4-5)." *RH*, December 6, 1892.16; *2SM*, 118.2; *7BC*, 985.5

The second angel's message was proclaimed up until the great disappointment on October 22, 1844. As it reached its peak, 50,000 Adventists waiting for Jesus' return were reduced to only a small remnant of 50 believers the following day. One in a thousand remained. Christ had cleansed His temple. He will once again cleanse His temple, His church, through the message of Revelation 18:1-3.

This warning message, which Ellen White speaks of, will swell to a loud cry which will be proclaimed at the Sunday law. When the Sunday law arrives, the angel of Revelation 18 unites with the third, and together they are the messengers of the present truth.

At this time, Christ cleanses His temple again. However, the ratio will look even worse than in Miller's time. The first Advent movement in Miller's time was the church of Philadelphia. These were people who were on fire for their Lord. When they were cleansed, the ratio was 1: 1000. However, we live in the church of Laodicea and we can assume that the relationship between the faithful children of God and the unfaithful ones will be even worse.

Warnings for God's People

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." *Amos 3:7*

When the time for God's remnant people approaches, they proclaim the last warning message during the latter rain. This is the time when the second cleansing of the temple begins. We can be certain that the Lord will warn His people through prophecy that this event is about to come, for, "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." He will warn us through His prophecy that He wants to purify the

temple now, or in other words, that the probation for His people is coming to an end. The last verses of Daniel 11:40-45 contain this warning from God to us. However, because God has been revealing these verses for many years and they have been preached about worldwide, the Lord has already fulfilled His promise in that He has already proclaimed His last “mystery” through His prophets.

We live in the time of the end and only a few Adventists study Bible prophecies. We should, like the advent pioneers, take time to gain deep prophetic understanding and to investigate what our advent pioneers believed and taught. “We are to repeat the words of the pioneers in our work” and reprint their “articles in our periodicals”.

“Early Workers to Speak – God has given me light regarding our periodicals. What is it? – He has said that **the dead are to speak**. How? – Their works shall follow them. **We are to repeat the words of the pioneers in our work**, who knew what it cost to search for the truth as for hidden treasure, and who labored to lay the foundation of our work. They moved forward step by step under the influence of the Spirit of God. One by one these pioneers are passing away. The word given me is, **Let that which these men have written in the past be reproduced.**” *CW*, 28.1

“**Let the truths that are the foundation of our faith be kept before the people.** Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They talk science, and the enemy comes in and gives them an abundance of science; but it is not the science of salvation. It is not the science of humility, of consecration, or of the sanctification of the Spirit. We are now to understand what the pillars of our faith are, – the truths that have made us as a people what we are, leading us on step by step.” (*RH*, May 25, 1905.21-23); *CW*, 29.1

“Protest against Removing Landmarks – When men come in who would move one pin or pillar from the foundation which God has established by His Holy Spirit, **let the aged men who were pioneers in our work speak plainly, and let those who are dead speak also,**

by the reprinting of their articles in our periodicals. Gather up the rays of divine light that God has given as He has led His people on step by step in the way of truth. This truth will stand the test of time and trial.” *MS* 62, 1905, S. 6 (A Warning against False Theories, May 24, 1905); *MR*, 760 10.5; *IMR*, 55.1

If one were to consider the various prophecies that are fundamental to Seventh-day Adventists, such as Daniel 7 and 8 and Revelation 13 and 17, one realizes that in prophecy there is a section that has always been the subject of much discussion and debate. This is Daniel’s last vision in chapters 10 through 12. As Seventh-day Adventists, it is generally not difficult for us to give a Bible study on Daniel 2, 7, or 8. However on Daniel 11, the vast majority are clueless. This is Satan’s work. He has worked with various methods to ensure that Daniel’s last vision is not regarded, because there is where we find the last warning message to the people of God.

Three Tests for God’s People

“I was pointed back to the proclamation of the first advent of Christ. John was sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of Jesus. Those who rejected the testimony of John were not benefited by the teachings of Jesus. Their opposition to the message that foretold His coming placed them where they could not readily receive the strongest evidence that He was the Messiah. Satan led on those who rejected the message of John to go still farther, to reject and crucify Christ. In doing this they placed themselves where they could not receive the blessing on the day of Pentecost, which would have taught them the way into the heavenly sanctuary.” *EW*, 259.1

“All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel’s message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the

good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and **shut them out of the churches. Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second;** neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding **that they can see no light in the third angel's message,** which shows the way into the most holy place. I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there." *1SG, 171.1; EW, 260.1*

Adventists usually respond to the question of what the great test of God's people will be, with the Sabbath. That's right, but there are two more tests that are generally not mentioned or known. Ellen White speaks in the previous quote about three tests in the time of Jesus. Only those who passed the first test could pass the second, and only those who passed the second test could pass the third.

- The first test was John the Baptist. Those who did not accept the message of John the Baptist were not open to Jesus and His teachings.
- The second test was Jesus Himself. Those who rejected Him and His ministry had no share in Pentecost.
- The third test was Pentecost. Those who did not receive the Pentecost blessing could not enter the heavenly sanctuary.

Every test had to be passed and it was a life-and-death matter.

After Ellen White spoke in the previous quote about the time of Jesus, she comes to the Millerite movement. The Millerites also had three tests to pass.

- The first test was the message of William Miller. Those who did not want to accept it were not open in heart for the second angel's message that called them out of the churches.
- The second test was the refusal of organized churches to continue to provide their premises for the preaching of the Millerites. Those who renounced William Miller at this point did not pass the second test.
- The third test was the third angel's message showing the way to the most holy place. Those of the Advent believers who turned away from the truth on the 23rd of October, 1844, who incidentally were the majority, did not pass the tests.

For Seventh-day Adventists at the time of the end, in our time, there are also three tests. However, as Adventists, we only know the third test for God's people at the Sunday law. But there are two tests before (the Sunday law) which are to be passed. If we do not pass these, the third test will not matter for us. On what do we base this claim?

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25, also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people.” *GC88*, 393.1

It is clear that the parable of the ten virgins foreshadowed the Millerite movement. In other words, the events of the Miller movement were a fulfillment of the parable of the ten virgins. Their experience included three tests. In the next quotation, Ellen White shows us that the parable of the ten virgins was literally fulfilled, and that the parable will find another “literal” fulfillment:

“When the third angel's message is preached as it should be, power attends its proclamation, and it becomes an abiding influence. It must be attended with divine power, or it will accomplish nothing. I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. **This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the third angel's message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.” *RH*, August 19, 1890.3

“The state of the Church represented by the foolish virgins, is also spoken of as the Laodicean state.” *RH*, August 19, 1890.10

We also have three tests to pass today, but we find ourselves in a deep sleep. We know nothing about the first two tests but know only about the third one.

Please note in the next section that Sister White speaks of those who rejected the third angel’s message, the third test, during the Millerite movement. In the last days, the situation will be similar to that in the time of the Millerites:

“Many who went forth to meet the Bridegroom under the messages of the first and second angels, refused the third, the last testing message to be given to the world, and a similar position will be taken when the last call is made.” *RH*, October 31, 1899.12

“Every specification of this parable should be carefully studied. We are represented either by the wise or by the foolish virgins. ...” *RH*, October 31, 1899.13

Many Advent believers did not pass the third test during the Millerite movement. Just as it was then, there will be people today who will not pass the test at the Sunday law. In the Millerite movement, there was a present truth described as the midnight cry. From the 12th through the 17th of August 1844, a camp meeting was held, where the disappointed Adventists met. They saw no more light because the previously calculated return of Jesus, in the spring of 1844, did not occur. Then Samuel Snow came to the tent assembly and explained to them the error in the first calculation and showed them that Christ would come again on October 22, 1844. That was the midnight cry. New power came into the Advent movement and they announced the coming judgement loud and clear. The believers went out armed with the Bible and proclaimed, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!” Those who did not follow this call did not pass the test and were lost. These events will be repeated in our time.

“My mind was carried to the future, when the signal will be given. ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.’ But some will have delayed to obtain the oil for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will find **that character, which is represented by the oil, is not transferable.**” *RH*, February 11, 1896.3

In general, we understand the oil in the parable of the ten virgins to be a symbol of the Holy Spirit. In this quote from Ellen White, we are shown yet another meaning of the oil in the Bible. She says that the oil also means character. We live today in the time of the fulfillment of the parable of the ten virgins. We should pay close attention to the fact that in the parable there is a point where the door of mercy closed for the ten virgins. Participation in the wedding meal was no longer possible for those who had failed to prepare. The character of the five foolish was not prepared. We now know that the parable is repeated in our time. Have we prepared our character to be present at the wedding supper? We too will receive a message, like at the midnight cry, which should wake us up so that we realize that we are about to face the great last test and that our character needs to be prepared beforehand accordingly.

A True Story

During the Second World War, the best school for training spies was in England. Anyone who wanted to go to Germany as a spy not only learned the German language, but also the exact dialect spoken in a particular region. So if one was to go to Hamburg, they learned the history of Hamburg, how people dressed in Hamburg, what they liked to eat in Hamburg, etc. But then there was a final test, and whoever did not pass it, was disqualified. Nobody knew what this test would be.

The day before the final exam, one was awakened early and had to work hard into the night. Once that was done, one still had to go to school and receive a lesson on how to live as a good citizen of

Hamburg. At the back of everyone's mind, everyone was naturally concerned that on the next day the last test would take place. All went to bed very late. At about 3:00 am, when everyone was deep asleep, the supervisors came into the room, shaking the future spy awake while they shined a flashlight into his face and addressed him in German. Whoever at that moment did not answer accent-free in the best dialect failed.

Passing an exam when one does not know what it's about is almost impossible. How can one pass an exam that he does not even know exists? Many of us do not know that as Adventists we have two trials that take place before the Sunday law, and Sister White says of the second test that it will decide our eternal destiny:

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be **the great test for the people of God**, by which their eternal destiny will be decided. ... (Revelation 13:11-17 quoted).” *7BC*, 976.2

Additional Quotes from E.G. White

“Strict integrity should be cherished by every student. Every mind should turn with reverent attention to the revealed word of God. Light and grace will be given to those who thus obey God. They will behold wondrous things out of His law. Great truths that have lain unheeded and unseen since the day of Pentecost, are to shine from God's word in their native purity. To those who truly love God the Holy Spirit will reveal truths that have faded from the mind, and will also reveal truths that are entirely new. Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God will bring from the books of Daniel and Revelation truth that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed. The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men. The Lord has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, and the weak things of the world to confound the mighty.” *FE*, 473.2

“The more light you have, and the more Christ works through the Holy Spirit to win you from a course of guilt, the more responsible you will be for resisting his mercy and refusing his invitation. The Jewish nation rejected Christ, and the darkness that came upon them corresponded to the great light that had been given them. So it will be with you. The greater the light you have, the greater will be the darkness that will enshroud you. You will press closer to the enemy of Christ, and make it more manifest than before that it is your choice to be Satan’s slave rather than Christ’s free man. Not enlisting in the service of the Captain of our salvation, you show to the world that you have chosen another leader.” *YI*, August 8, 1895.1

“The theme of greatest importance is the third angel’s message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels. All should understand the truths contained in these messages and demonstrate them in daily life, for this is essential to salvation. We shall have to study earnestly, prayerfully, in order to understand these grand truths; and our power to learn and comprehend will be taxed to the utmost.” (*Letter 97*, 1902); *Ev*, 196.1

“Again and again I have been shown that the past experiences of God’s people are not to be counted as dead facts. We are not to treat the record of these experiences as we would treat a last year’s almanac. The record is to be kept in mind, for history will repeat itself.” *PM*, 175.3

“Men cannot with impunity reject the warnings which God in mercy sends them. A message was sent from Heaven to the world in Noah’s day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the flood. In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of Christ. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation, ‘Your house is left unto you desolate.’ [Matthew 23:38.] Looking down to the last

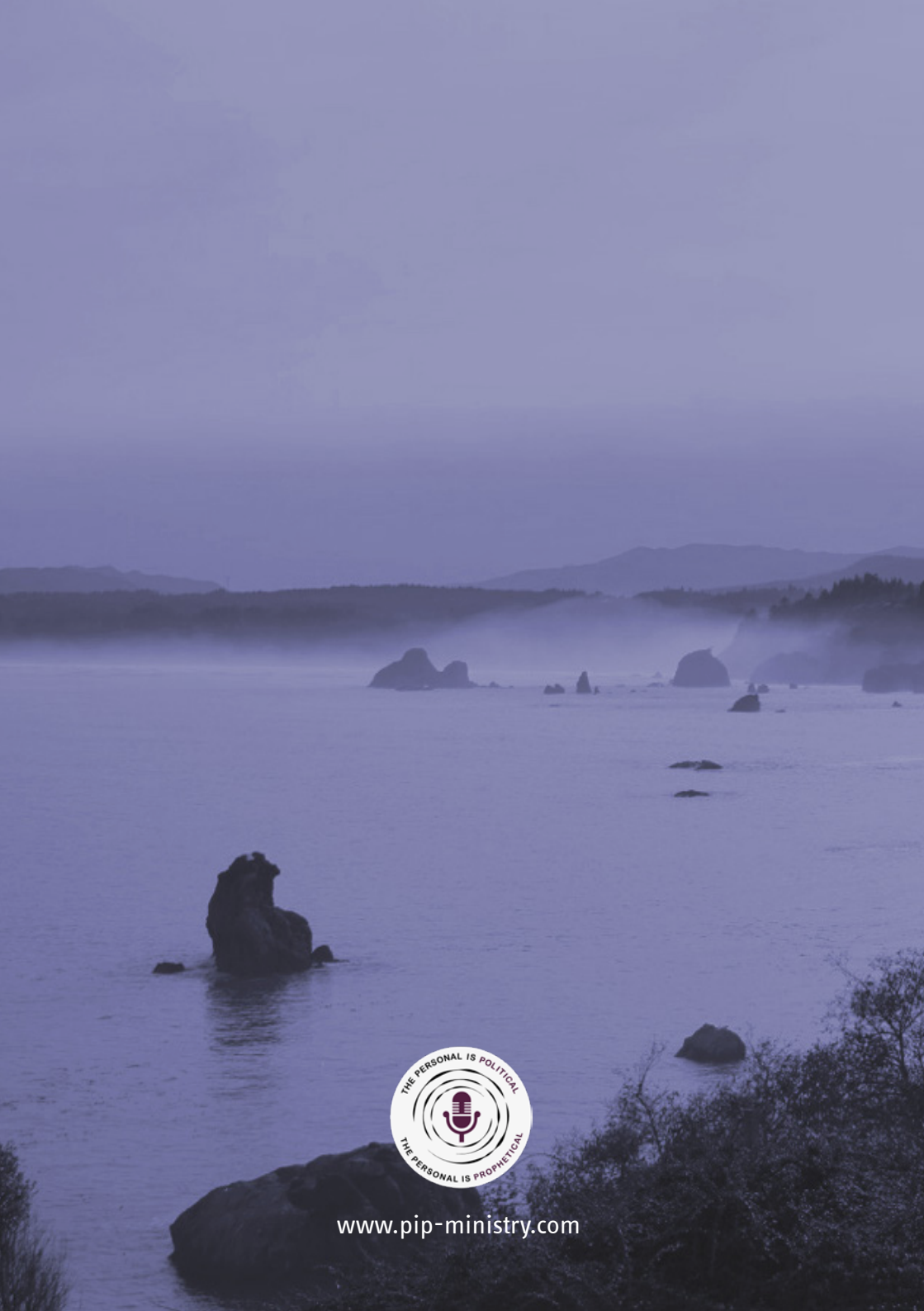
days, the same infinite power declares, concerning those who 'received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,' 'For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' [2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.] As they reject the teachings of his Word, God withdraws his Spirit, and leaves them to the deceptions which they love." GC88, 431.1

"We want to understand the time in which we live. We do not half understand it. We do not half take it in. My heart trembles in me when I think of what a foe we have to meet, and how poorly we are prepared to meet him. The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ – how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth." 1SM, 406.1

"God's love for his church is infinite. His care over his heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon the church but such as is essential for her purification, her present and eternal good. He will purify his church even as he purified the temple at the beginning and close of his ministry on earth." KC, 114.5

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