



PREPARING TO STAND

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“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3/21/1905

A Study on End Time Events and How Probation Closes for Adventists by Del Orser

(All Bible References from New King James Version)

Please take a moment to pray before reading this material.

I only wish to be a channel through which the Holy Spirit can speak to minds and hearts. As I have been studying God’s Word and the Spirit of Prophecy I have been impressed with some distinct concepts relating to the close of Probation for Adventists. I have been impressed to share these thoughts with you believing you are a Bible student. These thoughts may be unique to some Seventh-day Adventists but supported by the Spirit of Prophecy and Scripture. I would appreciate communicating any insights or thoughts you may have relating to this study by email: dborser@gmail.com.

Especially should this study be important to Adventists as we near the end of time and realize that the sealing is soon or possibly even now beginning to take place. Thinking men and women who are motivated to learn present truth for this end time recognize the serious conditions of the world and within the church. It seems we are at a breaking point in every sector of life. How can we be indifferent? It seems we are on the verge of a stupendous crisis. So how should we relate to these conditions? Surely now is the time that we be fortifying our minds with Bible truth and developing characters that will reveal God’s glory to a dark and dying world.

Especially does Revelation 7:1-3 speak to my heart as I realize the time in which we live.

1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the

sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

Revelation goes on to describe the forming of the 144,000. Take note that the sealing takes place prior to the releasing of the winds of strife. The purpose of this study is to: (a) make us aware that we are living in a very critical point in time, (b) help us understand the sealing process in our personal experience, (c) to help us understand the requirements that qualify us to receive the seal of God, and (d) to realize that in the very process of this preparation that judgment takes place for Adventists. In light of the purpose of this study consider the following quotations that give a true perspective of this subject:

Those who place themselves under God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place. Inspired with the Spirit... they will no longer stand still in impotency... they will go forth to the warfare willing to do and dare for God, knowing that His omnipotence will supply their need. (T7 14)

Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. ... although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads (RH Jan. 28, 1909/7BC 968)

What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption. The intelligent mind has seen the sign of the cross of Calvary in the Lord's adopted sons and daughters. The sin of the transgression of the law of God is taken away. They have on the wedding garment, and are obedient and faithful to all God's commands (Letter 126, 1898/7BC 968)

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)

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. (EW 38)

This grave warning, it seems few Adventists realize or understand. The Lord has impressed me of the seriousness of this message and to share it with those desiring to know present truth.

As we enter this subject we must realize that there is every wind of doctrine blowing within our ranks today. So one might ask, "How does one go about understanding truth for this end time?". The ideas or concepts I share herein are really not new truth but a uniting of basic principles helping us to understand how judgment is made in determining who will be among the 144,000. I would propose there are at least two basic essential requirements one must experience in order to grasp truth and distinguish truth from error.

First, one must experience a genuine conversion:

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

The truth for this time is precious; but those whose hearts have not been broken by falling on the rock Christ Jesus, will not see and understand what is truth. (LS 430)

So I would appeal to your own heart here and now. Have you, reader, personally experienced conversion in your own life? Only you can answer this question. Conversion demands a realization of your sinful condition and your need of a Savior. It requires a surrendered heart, independent from understanding all doctrine, ones IQ or intelligence, culture or status in life. This fact wonderfully equates all humanity. God has placed in every heart a conscience and if followed will lead to eternal life. Satan will do all he can to prevent you from understanding this basic fact!

Second, one must be willing to follow Christ's revealed will in order to understand truth and more light.

If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine. (John 7:17)

Men who have not a daily experience in the things of God. ... will fall into deceptions and delusions that Satan has prepared as concealed nets to entangle the feet of those who think they can walk in their human wisdom...

men will accept one delusion after another until their senses are perverted.
(Manuscript 16, 1890/Evangelism 594)

The perception and appreciation of truth, depends less upon the mind than upon the heart... Man's advantages for obtaining a knowledge of the truth, however great these may be, will prove of no benefit to him unless the heart is open to receive the truth, and there is a conscientious surrender of every habit and practice that is opposed to its principles... To those who thus yield themselves to God, having an honest desire to know and to do His will, the truth is revealed as the power of God for their salvation. The Pharisees had not put their will on the side of God's will. They were not seeking to know the truth, but to find some excuse for evading it; Christ showed that this was why they did not understand His teaching. (DA 455)

It is my prayer that we each will experience these two essential requirements so that we can understand present truth and prepare our minds and hearts to give the Loud Cry message to the world. No one convicted of truth can arrive at true obedience until the heart, the seat of our attitudes and motives, is in harmony with the mind.

On a recent mission trip we were placed in a position that challenged us on how to relate to the leadership when decisions and actions were clearly contrary to Bible Principle. We had to often encourage the Bible Workers to stay faithful as they struggled to understand how to relate to those in leadership. These experiences forced us to our knees in search of answers on how to deal with these problems. Perhaps you too, as a church member, have been faced with similar experiences. As we have personally gone through these experiences we have come to realize that our response is crucial in character development. Could it be that the church environment becomes the catalyst that prepares us for receiving the seal of God? Could it be that how we relate to others within our ranks tests our love as nothing else can and how we relate to our brothers and sisters forces us to make decisions that will have serious effects relating to our eternal destiny? Could it be that within the church body itself, is a character-developing environment that brings us face to face with the same issues Moses and Jesus experienced determining our qualification to be among the 144,000?

First, in developing an understanding of this subject it is essential that we understand that God's church has two distinct phases of existence and experience:

Has God no living church? He has a church, but it is the church militant, not the church triumphant. We are sorry that there are defective members. . . While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares. There are two opposing influences continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God. (FLB 305)

Every sincere member of the Adventist Church eventually comes to the realization that God's Remnant Church, in spite of generally teaching truth, has sadly failed in becoming what God would have us do and be. After all, Jesus taught, "by their fruits you shall know them." How sad many leave our ranks unwilling to accept Christ's teaching that the "wheat and tares must grow together until the harvest." Could it be that in the very process of dealing with these challenges in a Christ-like spirit we develop characters that qualify us to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. I believe that the disheartened members upon understanding this concept, may very well reaffirm their church loyalty and support the church as the Holy Spirit impresses.

I believe that in spite of the church's feeble condition God has been using her to distribute truth to the world. God requires its members to respect and love her in spite of her feeble and unfaithful condition. The genuine love God requires cannot be self-generated for it can only be Christ's love flowing from a truly converted heart, experienced only by those who totally surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit, realizing "it is not I who live but Christ who lives in me." This supernatural process of sanctification develops by partaking of Christ's divine nature as the old man dies with its natural traits of pride, lust and selfishness and is replaced with willing, loving service to God and others. This process may also be described and understood as entering into the New Covenant as the principles of God's holy law are written upon the mind and heart.

Jesus and Moses both demonstrated this love. Moses was willing to have his name removed from the Book of Life rather than see his people forsaken of God. I am proposing that God's last day Remnant Church must experience a similar test. This same loving spirit demonstrated by Christ and Moses is essential in order to receive the sealing prior to the shaking soon or even presently taking place within the Adventist community.

God's word teaches that we need to respect Church leadership. The life and experience of David, clearly demonstrates this principle, when notwithstanding his anointing David respected King Saul even when placed in a position when he could have slain him.

I believe that every sincere student of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, who is experiencing a meaningful relationship with Christ, will eventually be faced with a decision on how to relate to the church when one realizes its spiritual condition. We will sense the urgency of needful reform even in the leadership who reveal their rejection of the council given her by Christ, the True Witness to the Laodicean Church. How sad that Jesus is pictured outside, patiently knocking, longing to enter for fellowship.

At this point many things could be said about the church, its needs as well as failures but I wish to focus on what I believe is the process God will use to judge or determine who will make up the last day Remnant Church, —those who go forth empowered by the fourth angel to give the Loud Cry, "come out of her my people". This concept calls for an urgent action from those who have for so long heard and studied the Three Angel's Messages and realize our responsibility in proclaiming it to the world. It speaks to the hearts of those who understand the Sabbath truth and have experienced the true rest it gives to the soul. It awakens us to the urgency to be privately on our knees in serious prayer, pleading and agonizing that the Lord will give us genuine love for our brothers and sisters in the church. This love commanded by Christ Himself in the words "love one another as I have loved you" forces us to realize

our wretched condition, for we are utterly deficient of such love! We are forced to realize that this love is impossible to generate of ourselves for it can only be received by a humble, surrendered heart, open to receive it.

In understanding this study we realize that it is a unifying message answering Christ's greatest desire for His church recorded in John 17. That we become one as He and the Father God are One. This is the purpose of the Holy Spirit as we are led into truth.

We are ready now to carefully proceed studying the subject of what constitutes the unpardonable sin and how it relates to the Investigative Judgment in the Remnant Church. A correct understanding is essential in order to prepare our lives for an event that has been described by Ellen White as "an overwhelming surprise" and "something which will bring us face to face with death".

Understanding the Unpardonable Sin or Sin against the Holy Spirit

In order to understand how the Sealing, outpouring of the Latter Rain, The Loud Cry and the Judgment are related we need to understand what constitutes the unpardonable sin. In striving to understand accurately what constitutes the unpardonable sin we see Christ's remarks about this sin were made when He was alleged of being possessed by a demon in Matthew 12:22-32. It would be well to read this story in context of Christ's statement regarding the unpardonable sin in verses 31 and 32. Further Mark 3:28-30 reads:

"Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" —because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Consider carefully Ellen White's definition of the Sin against the Holy Spirit:

... He who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him. It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart; when men willfully reject the Spirit, and declare It to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul. (DA 321)

[The] Jewish leaders... were convinced that a divine power attended Christ, but in order to resist the truth, they attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan. In doing this they deliberately chose deception; they yielded themselves to Satan, and henceforth they were controlled by his power. (DA 323)

By denying the evidence which God has been pleased to give them, they shut out the light which had been shining in their hearts, and as the result they are left in darkness. Thus the words of Christ are verified: "If therefore

the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” For a time, persons who have committed this sin may appear to be children of God; but when circumstances arise to develop character and show what manner of spirit they are of, it will be found that they are on the enemy's ground, standing under his black banner. (5T 634)

The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit does not lie in any sudden word or deed; it is the firm, determined resistance of truth and evidence. (5BC 1092, 1093)

Thus we may conclude that when one clearly understands what God has revealed is truth and then consciously make a decision to reject it and call that manifestation to be that of Satan one enters into a state where the Holy Spirit can no longer impress the heart with its persuading influence that otherwise might bring repentance leading to salvation. We can conclude that this describes the unpardonable sin.

I propose that the same principle is true not only when one is convinced what is truth and then for whatever reason declares it to be false but likewise when one believes what is false and declares it to be truth. This is why Jesus warned us of the deception of antichrist (in place of Christ). When we are deceived to the point of accepting Satan's manifestations to be those of Christ (ie: those relating to Christ's coming, Matthew 24:23,26) we likewise “cut off the channel by which God can communicate with us” declaring what is false to be truth.

Now that we understand what constitutes the unpardonable sin we are ready to understand how judgment takes place in the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Manifestation of God's Control Under the Fourth Angel Brings Judgment

Read carefully Revelation 3:14-22; Ezekiel 8, 9; Matthew 25:1-13

Those who keep abreast of current world and government conditions recognize that something disastrous is about to take place. Last resorts or measures are being implemented to sustain status quo. Followers of Christ will soon be facing conditions that will test their characters to the core. During such impending conflicts it will be seen that God will clearly manifest and reveal His authority through the lives of those who are on their knees in agonizing prayer for themselves and a church deficient in genuine piety. I have been led to believe that in the very process of how we relate or regard this manifestation of God's power and authority, as He takes the “reins into his own hands” becomes the means or the very process that determines the qualification of receiving the seal as well as the judgment of God.

Very soon, if not already begun, those who have a burden for the revelation of God's true character and a desire for His vindication will be seen as even “crying and sighing” for those who would not responded to the Lord's pleading. The measure of their guilt has reached it's full. Even when the fourth angel comes with convicting light of truth the heart, that has for so long been rich and increased with goods, feels no deficiency. The cry of the church's serious condition is not heard from the pulpit but

rather in the solitude of the closet where the true worshiper is found on his knees in mediatorial prayer for his own soul and his church family. The “reader understands” (Matthew 24:15) there is a sin that causes God’s presence to be withdrawn and that there is a limit to God’s patience. Now is the time to trim our lamps and add the oil so that the light may shine brighter, lighting the difficult and challenging pathway through the darkness. It is the point in time when the angel with the inkhorn by his side places with unerring accuracy a mark or seal upon the foreheads of those who’s love for his church is like that of Moses and Jesus, who were willing to sacrifice their own lives for the church. Those who have not followed the clear light of truth are destined for death and eternal destruction. Oh how desperately we as God’s remnant need to awaken to the seriousness of this event!

Read the following quotation carefully:

There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. [typified by the experience by Israel on the Day of Atonement, see Leviticus 23:29] In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, [The fourth Angel, Rev. 18:1] they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations, they will oppose the work. “Why,” they say, “should not we know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?” —Because they did not respond to the warnings, the entreaties of the messages of God, but persistently said, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.” (RH, December 23, 1890, par. 18)

Read this quotation again. Herein we may conclude that a decision is made declaring that which is evident to be that of God to be that of Satan and the results will be a Church spewed from the mouth of God. cf Revelation 3:16.

Make note that in conclusion Ellen White is saying that the result of resisting the work of the fourth angel, they (in context, the majority classified as Laodicea) will be spewed from the mouth of God. In other words there will be those who have been in the church for many years who have formed an erroneous opinion of God, based upon His lack of obvious manifestations or indications of power and miracles. Because they have failed to intimately know God and do not have a relationship with Him, they do not recognize His voice (John 10:1-16), the birth of the Loud Cry message and are blind to His movements. He will soon take the “reins into His own hands” (see quotation below). When this happens there will be those who resist the manifestation and revelation of God through His people. Because they do not acknowledge this movement being from God they mistakenly attribute this movement to be of Satan. They accept and come to believe what is truth to be false. By resisting this evidence they commit the unpardonable sin. They are spewed from the mouth of God because they attribute the workings of God to be those of Satan. I propose that this is God’s Method of bringing judgment upon His last day church and it begins at the Household of God. (1 Peter 4:17)

When light goes forth to lighten the earth, [Fourth Angel] instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. (TM 300)

I am proposing that when the Loud Cry is heard, initiated by the fourth angel, we will have come to a point of accepting or rejecting it. Those whose faith and love are strong in Christ will be tender to the Holy Spirit's voice based upon previous experience. This encounter demands a spiritual decision causing eternal consequences, resulting in eternal life or eternal death. Thus Ellen White says we will be brought "face to face with death."

It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied. (COL 412)

This is not a physical confrontation as such but in reality a much more serious encounter that determines our eternal destiny. How will we respond? Either we will recognize the voice of our Lord, have the reserved oil and trim our lamps or we will fail to recognize the Lord's voice and call the manifestation that stimulates preparation to give the Loud cry to be that of Satan. Prophecy predicts that the majority will deny this manifestation to be that of God. The manifestations of God that have for so long been silent will then speak to those who have prepared their hearts for service. In the very act of responding to this voice judgment takes place. Either one will arise joining those who go forth to give the Loud Cry, understanding it to be from divine agencies or call the movement to be that of Satan. Thus in the process of responding to the cry "Behold the Bridegroom Cometh" judgment takes place. The wise virgins go forward with a warning message, a plea for God's people in other churches, to "Come out of her my people" while the door is closed to those "Adventists" who have for so long neglected to take serious the plea given by the True Witness for the Laodiceans. The wise virgins with their lamps trimmed, reflect God's glory (His character). This is all a part of the shaking

process of the church. For in this very process of determining which power is behind this movement, judgment takes place.

This judgment begins at the household of God, (1 Peter 4:17; Ez. 8, 9) and proceeds from the top in leadership, those who have had great light and are most responsible, then proceeding on down through the ranks of our organization. (GC > unions > conferences > churches > pastors > elders > deacons > members). The wise virgins are brought to their knees in urgent cries to God for first their own deficiency and second the condition of their brothers, sisters and leaders who have claimed to be a part of the remnant but have failed in allowing the truth to do it's work in their lives. All who profess to be part of God's last day remnant church must make a decision. The great question that will increasingly afflict the soul and proceed with convicting assurance and promise will be: "Is this movement a manifestation from God or Satan?"

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. (5T 211)

Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them. (EW 270)

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness [Jesus is the true Witness, Rev. 3:14] to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people. (EW 270)

I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy. (EW 270)

I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was

gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel." (EW 271)

Dear Friend,

I urgently implore you to understand that now is the time to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in our lives. We need to not only know what we believe and be able to support it from scripture but allow it to do its work in our lives. Soon we will be forced to make a decision about a movement that will demand our attention and decision. Our response is crucial to our eternal destiny for I believe we are to understand it is the means of judgment. If we do not recognize the voice of our Shepherd (John 10:1-16) we will be swept away by a flood of deception and misunderstanding into eternal loss. I pray earnestly that you will heed the Holy Spirit's prompting voice, pleading for a surrendered heart that will bring eternal peace in knowing Jesus as your personal Friend, and Redeemer.

It is an understanding of this concept that motivates Bonnie and me to return to India. We have come to realize that how we relate to our church family has a significant bearing upon our spiritual condition in preparation to receive the seal of God in preparation to receive the latter rain.

Oh that we might all respond positively in loving submission to the Holy Spirit's work of love upon our hearts is our prayer.

In Christian love, Del Orser (dborser@gmail.com)

"Preparing to Stand"

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