

Big Picture Bible Study

Lesson 09: The Tools of the Lord

THREE PARALLEL HISTORIES

As we study end time events and the Time of Trouble spoken of in **Daniel 12:1**, we must not be discouraged or fearful by focusing on the negative. The coming crisis will be tough, but we will not have to go through this as we now are—we will be given the incredible Holy Spirit!!

- **Joel 2:28** “²⁸And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”

The disciples had the Holy Spirit with them, impressing and guiding them, but it was not until Jesus went back to Heaven and they received the full power of the Holy Spirit. The **Early Rain** was given to empower the loyal disciples to spread the gospel message at the beginning of the Christian church. The **Latter Rain** will be given to empower the loyal to give the final message of warning at the ending of the church.

- **Acts 2:1-4** “¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

This awesome scene was a prefigure of end of the world when—just before the crisis begins—God will rain down His Spirit to give us power to boldly proclaim the Three Angels’ Messages to a world that has been degrading for 6,000 years. Ellen White gives incredible insight into this parallel, showing how God opened the history of the church with a glorious manifestation of God’s power, and He also opened the final chapter of earth’s history with a similar movement:

- **The Great Controversy p. 611** “The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel. The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the “former rain” was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the “latter rain” will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest.”

God is fair; at the end of the world, no one will be lost until the truth has been presented to them, understood by them, and finally rejected by conscience or actions. The message will be preached under the power of the Holy Spirit and everyone will have the chance to make his or her own decision. God uses the pattern of rains at the beginning and ending of the harvest to describe how the experience of the early church will be repeated.

- **Hosea 6:3** “³Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” (see also **Jeremiah 5:24** and **Joel 23:23**)

- **The Great Controversy p. 611-612** “The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are ‘the times of refreshing’ to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said [**Acts 3:19-20**].”

The Progressive Testing Process

As we studied last week, the church needs to be purified; not everyone claiming to be an Adventist will receive the Latter Rain. Just like Israel did not all automatically receive the Early Rain, but only those who accepted Christ. There will be a process of progressive testing that shakes out the disloyal and purifies the church to receive the Holy Spirit in power.

- **Early Writings p. 259-260** “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... But the Jews were left in total darkness. They lost all the light which they might have had upon the plan of salvation, and still trusted in their useless sacrifices and offerings. The heavenly sanctuary had taken the place of the earthly, yet they had no knowledge of the change. Therefore they could not be benefited by the mediation of Christ in the holy place.”
- **Early Writings p. 260-261** “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.”

**Those who reject the first message are not able to receive the second.
The church will be purified and ready to receive the Latter Rain.**

This process will result in two distinct groups as is seen from the parallel patterns of the story of the apostles in the Early Rain and the Millerites in the Midnight Cry.

Group 1: *Those that accept the message, are filled with the Holy Spirit, and preach the Loud Cry*

- **Acts 2:4** “⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Group 2: *Those that reject the message and so cannot grasp the sealed truth of the Loud Cry*

- **Isaiah 29:11** “¹¹The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, ‘Read this, please.’ And he says, ‘I cannot, for it is sealed.’ ”

Two classes of worshippers: those who believe the truth when it is presented to them are filled with the Holy Spirit; those who reject the truth are filled with the spirit of rebellion from the enemy.

THE LATTER RAIN AND THE SUNDAY LAW

Introduction to the Sunday Law

The Seventh-day Adventist church is the remnant of those loyal to God and His law. There are many good people in other churches who will believe the truth when the 3AM is proclaimed in power under the Latter Rain. According to Bible prophecy, the coming crisis will include forced worship contrary to God law: the Ten Commandments—especially the Sabbath commandment.

The decisive issue during the crisis will be WORSHIP (Revelation 13:15; Daniel 7:25).

Even with the understanding that the USA will be foremost in giving power back to the Papacy, it is hard to see how this could all happen in our current world. But imagine a situation where the entire world is threatened ecologically, economically, financially, militarily, and socially. In an effort to “get back to God” and to “return to the morals of temperance, peace, unity and godliness” there is a global effort to save the world with a mandated day of rest... *on Sunday, the wrong day!*

Many believe they will have time to “get their act together” when they see these things happening. They say, “*When I see the Sunday law enforced, then I’ll clean up and pray for the Latter Rain.*”

The Biblical Order of Events

First, must we wait on Satan to bring about the Sunday Law before we take the field to pray for the Latter Rain? Are we waiting for God to give Satan permission to pass the Sunday Law so that he can then pour out the Latter Rain and seal Satan’s fate? If God has given Satan permission, why is Satan stalling on the Sunday Law issue? If God has NOT given him permission, then why is God delaying this if He knows that this will spring His people into action to pray for the Latter Rain? If the Sunday Law is the way that Satan believes he can ultimately destroy the people of God, why wouldn’t he cause it to happen before God could pour out His Spirit to empower His people to warn the world? Why wouldn’t Satan have passed the Sunday Law in the past 172 years (1844–2016)?

Is God stalling, is Satan stalling, or are we stalling?

The Early Rain At The Day Of Pentecost: Six Examples

- **Acts 2:3-4** “³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- **Acts 4:31** “³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”
- **Acts 8:17** “⁷Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”
- **Acts 10:46-47** “⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, “⁴⁷Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit ***just as we have?***” ”
- **Acts 11:15** “¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, ***as upon us*** at the beginning.”
- **Acts 19:6** “⁶And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

The Early Rain was a season, not a day. The Latter Rain will be a season.

- **Gospel Workers, p. 383** “John says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue.”

The question is not as simple as “*Does the Latter Rain fall before or after the Sunday Law?*” because it will fall more than once. Everyone who is saved at the end must receive the Latter Rain. It is first poured out upon God’s people, empowering them to preach the 3AM. The Sunday Law is legislated in response to the successful preaching of God’s people. Those who come into the church from the preaching will *also* receive the Latter Rain.

The Latter Rain will fall both before and after the Sunday Law.

The Latter Rain

In the chronology of Daniel, **Dan. 12:1** is the Close of Probation. But before this happens, we can see from the ending of chapter 11 just what is the order of events. The “king of the North” is an image of the Papacy during the end of times. Notice what the power does:

- **Daniel 11:44-45** “⁴⁴But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.”

Right now, we are not making much trouble for the Papacy. All of our preaching and teaching is small in comparison to what will take place when the Latter Rain is poured out and we preach the Loud Cry. This **MUST** be the news that will trouble the Papacy. How cool is it that in Revelation we see an angel from the east and an angel from the north (Heaven). Notice their charge:

- **Revelation 7:2-4** “²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. ⁴And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

This angel places the Seal of God upon the purified people of His church: the 144,000.

- **Revelation 18:1-5** “¹And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. ⁴And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. ⁵For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”

This angel repeats the 3AM. This is an image of the Latter Rain: the central theme of the 1st Angel’s Message (1AM) is God’s glory and power seen in the cross and represented in the Sanctuary, the law, and therefore the Sabbath. It is the work of this 4th angel as the gospel message is empowered by the Latter Rain—the *Loud Cry*—that adds power to the 3AMs and troubles the Papacy. According to Daniel 11, the effective Loud comes *before* the enemy plants his tabernacle.

When God’s people pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and it falls in a worldwide manner, all of a sudden the **Roman Church State** will become infuriated because they will begin to lose their flock.

The Sunday Law will be instituted in direct retaliation to the Loud Cry message. For 172 years we have been preaching and it has not affected the Papacy, but when that 4th angel descends to add power (Latter Rain → Loud Cry), that is what will set off the Time of Trouble.

- **The Faith I Live By, p. 330** “The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it... The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers.”

In **Daniel 11:45** we see the passing of a **death decree by the enemy for the 144,000**. In the very next verse, **Daniel 12:1**, we see the passing of a **death decree by Jesus for the wicked**.

Follow The Biblical Pattern

All throughout the Bible, there are patterns that line up perfectly with what we know the Bible says about the time of the end. Distilled to the base elements, here is the big picture:

- The message goes forth with power (Latter Rain → Loud Cry).
- Brings about anger and therefore persecution (Sunday Law → Death Decree).
- Michael stands up (7 Last Plagues → Second Coming).

With the apostles, with Elijah, with Daniel, with Esther, and with many more stories, we can see this pattern confirmed. Let's look at the first 3 chapters of Daniel: in **Daniel 1** there are 10 days of prayer and fasting because they won't eat the king's food. Because they were loyal, they are given special power by God to understand dreams and visions. In **Daniel 2** they preach a message of truth (Nebuchadnezzar's dream's interpretation) to Babylon. In **Daniel 3**, an image is set up in reaction, in direct rebellion to the message they had given. The kingdom is forced to worship the abomination and any who do not are killed.

The Sunday Law is setup just like the image in Daniel, not as a byproduct, but in direct reaction to the preaching of the loyal.

So why hasn't any of this happened already? Why do we not see more persecution of God's loyal? The answer is a chilling pulse check on our spirituality and EGW gives a fantastic explanation:

- **Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4 p. 50** “There is another and more important question that should engage the attention of the churches of today. The apostle Paul declares that ‘all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (**II Timothy 3:12**).’ Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is, that the church has conformed to the world's standard, and therefore awakens no opposition. The religion current in our day is not of the pure and holy character which marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and his apostles. It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled.”

Our modern world at times seems to be unaffected by the spiritual realm. We live comfortably and are not forced to stand out. This will all change. Right now is the calm before the storm. Behind the scenes the enemy and all his human agents are steadily building a situation of chaos that will burst unannounced upon the scene. They he will swoop in with an already prepared solution. The entire world will follow after him unless they hear our message of truth. But preaching that message will bring persecution for sure.

THE 3AM COMBINED AND EMPOWERED

- **Maranatha, p. 173** “The three angels’ messages are to be combined, giving their threefold light to the world. In the Revelation, John says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ ...This represents the giving of the last and threefold message of warning to the world.”
- **Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 387** “No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.”

How grateful we ought to be for the writings of Ellen White!! She was given special instruction by God to share with us! The spirit of prophecy that was given to her blesses our study of the Bible. She is clear in this topic that WE are who will speak the sanctified truths! The 3rd AM cannot be preached without the 2nd AM going before it which cannot be preached unless the 1st AM goes before it.

The first message of the empowered 3AM in the Loud Cry is the 1st AM, the central theme of which is God’s glory and power seen in the cross and represented in the Sabbath. When Babylon rejects this light, it is then and only then that we hear power being added to the 2nd AM, declaring that Babylon has fallen and that their teachings are false. When Babylon rejects this light, it is then and only then that we hear power being added to the 3rd AM, warning the world not to get the Mark of the Beast and to seek the Seal of God found in keeping the moral law and having it be reflected in our characters.

The consummation of the 3AM is the final call to come out of Babylon!

This time will be characterized by an explosion of truth upon the world, similar to the time of the apostles when they preached the gospel of Jesus for the first time, similar to the time of the 1840s when prophecy was finally understood. The messages of those three angels will be preached like never before, empowered by God Himself—the Holy Spirit.

- **Great Controversy, p. 606-607** “Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from Heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord,” the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.”

These things will happen quickly. The decisions made will have near immediate consequences, good or bad. During the entire time, society will be in upheaval, the economy will be crippled, nature itself will seem to be in uncharacteristic turmoil. Each person will have the opportunity to accept or reject these truths. While the Sunday Law is going across the planet, probation is still open. The sound of the 1AM will be loud. As soon as it is rejected in the face of the blazing glory of the Latter Rain and Loud Cry, then the loyal will feel empowered to loudly proclaim the 2AM, “*Babylon has fallen.*” Finally, once this too is rejected, the 3AM, “*come out of her MY PEOPLE*” will be the last chance for anyone to make their decision.

THE STRAIGHT TESTIMONY, THE SHAKING, AND THE SEALING

There is an opening and a closing to the Latter Rain season. The opening gives power to preach and it shakes out any false believers and brings in the loyal who were deceived, effectively purifying the church. The closing prepares us to go through the Time of Trouble, sealing all of the loyal with the Seal of the God and all of the wicked with the Mark of the Beast.

There are two major outpourings of the Latter Rain: the opening to the season “The Shaking” and the closing to the season “The Sealing.”

In this passage from Ellen White, we see—perhaps better than in any other area—a clear picture of these events. Let’s take the time to go over this long passage and see the big picture!

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273** “I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God’s approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them. Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.”

Does this sound like God’s people are struggling with other people or with the society? No, this is not an external, social struggle – it is an internal, personal struggle.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless.”

During the Sunday Law and the Time of Trouble, God’s people will be all perplexed and worried. But this passage is clearly not yet that time. It is a time of relative peace. There is one group of people praying and agonizing and another group that says “*I don’t see a need to plead and agonize.*”

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “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. 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 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. I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.”

The Shaking has already begun, but many of those who are shaken out of the church spiritually are still in the church physically.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “Said the angel, “List ye!” Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, “Look ye!” My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. 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.”

The battle against the beast has not even begun; it is victory over self!

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them. I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power.”

It is after they have agonized, pleaded for victory over self, and have been clothed in the armor of holiness that they go forth to preach with great power.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “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.”*”

The message had effect and many heard and believed. It is only now that persecution begins, after the message has gone out. The Latter Rain and the Loud Cry are given to those who have received victory over self and agonized with God.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “Great power was with these chosen ones. Said the angel, “Look ye!” My attention was turned to the wicked, or unbelievers. They were all astir. The zeal and power with the people of God had aroused and enraged them. Confusion, confusion, was on every side. I saw measures taken against the company who had the light and power of God. Darkness thickened around them; yet they stood firm, approved of God, and trusting in Him. I saw them perplexed; next I heard them crying unto God earnestly. Day and night their cry ceased not: “Thy will, O God, be done! If it can glorify Thy name, make a way of escape for Thy people! Deliver us from the heathen around about us. They have appointed us unto death; but Thine arm can bring salvation.””

The “measures taken against them” is a reference to the Sunday Law and the entire strategy of the enemy to bring about an organized confusion. This is the first time we hear mention of other people persecuting the loyal and their prayers being turned to help from the society.

After the Sunday Law is passed, there is a Death Decree that follows.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “These are all the words which I can bring to mind. All seemed to have a deep sense of their unworthiness and manifested entire submission to the will of God; yet, like Jacob, every one, without an exception, was earnestly pleading and wrestling for deliverance.”

Now is the time when we have to be wrestling and pleading for victory. It is in the time of peace, instead of waiting for the crisis to hit, when we need the Oil that is the Holy Spirit of God.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “Soon after they had commenced their earnest cry, the angels, in sympathy, desired to go to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. He said, “*The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must be baptized with the baptism.*” Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth.”

The Death Decree has been legislated and planned; now comes the Close of Probation for all mankind (Rev. 22:11). There is no more preaching to be done, no more opportunity for conversion; everyone has made his or her own decision.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down on every side. I then heard a triumphant shout of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon the company, who, a short time before, were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them.”

This is the second major outpouring of the Latter Rain. It is the Sealing.

- **Early Writings, p. 269-273 (cont.)** “How beautiful they then looked! All marks of care and weariness were gone, and health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen around them, fell like dead men; they could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones. This light and glory remained upon them, until Jesus was seen in the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company were changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory. And the graves were opened, and the saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying, “Victory over death and the grave”; and together with the living saints they were caught up to meet their Lord in the air, while rich, musical shouts of glory and victory were upon every immortal tongue.”

Remember, there are many who are in the physical church but are not a part of the agonizing company. The Latter Rain will fall and they will not receive it. They will be foremost to say that the loyal are the ones bringing on the Time of Trouble. But when Babylon has had enough and the Sunday Law is setup, it will shake out those who have remained in the books of the church but have been taken out of the books in Heaven.

- **II Chronicles 7:14** “¹⁴If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

This is our warpath duty: pray in humility and seek the face of Jesus!

THE OIL CRISIS: THE HOLY SPIRIT (*WHAT WHEN WHO HOW WHERE WHY*)

The Parable Of The 10 Virgins

- **Matthew 25:1-13** “¹Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ²And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. ⁷Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. ⁹But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

What Is The Oil: The Holy Spirit

- **Exodus 27:20** “²⁰And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.”
- **Zechariah 4:2-6** “²And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: ³And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. ⁴So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? ⁵Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. ⁶Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”
- **John 4:23-24** “²³But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

The purpose of God giving us the Holy Spirit is for us to have a personal relationship with Yahweh, the I AM: with Jesus Christ.

When To Drill: How To Get The Oil

- **Isaiah 55:6** “⁶Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:”
 - Now is the time for us to get a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Desire of Ages, p. 636** “Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth... The crisis is stealing gradually upon us.”
- **Signs of the Times, October 31, 1900** “For all who desire to follow Him, His example is left on record. Prayer sanctified His ministry. Strength and vigor for daily duty are derived from worshiping God in the beauty of holiness. The lamp must be filled with holy oil before its light can shine amid the moral darkness.”
 - How do we get oil to fill our lamps? We must drill now while there is still time. Now is the time to get our “oil reserve supply” of the Holy Spirit.

***We must go back to the Sanctuary model – the oil is in the Holy Place:
STUDY • PRAY • SHARE – prayer is how we reconnect with Jesus.***

- **Gospel Workers 1915, p. 254-255** “Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Well-spring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God. The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigor. It is only at the altar of God that we can kindle our tapers with divine fire.”

The solution to the oil crisis is for us to drill and drill NOW.

- **I Corinthians 2:10** “¹⁰But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”
 - We are having a shallow religious experience and we must go deeper with God.
- **Heavenly Places, p. 347** “The commandment-keeping people of God are to prepare for this time of trial by obtaining a deeper experience in the things of God and a practical knowledge of the righteousness of Christ.”
 - The difference between the five wise and the five foolish virgins is that the five wise decided to drill of the Holy Spirit – the oil.

Golgotha Versus Gethsemane

- Jesus had the oil of the Holy Spirit before the crisis of His death experience hit.
 - Many of us are waiting for a major cataclysmic event (Sunday Law) before we try to get ready; that is exactly what the five foolish virgins did!

Before Jesus Christ stepped foot on the battlefield of Golgotha He won the victory in Gethsemane.

- **Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 203** “The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power.”
 - Seriously drilling is not absent-minded prayers during our day.



A Gethsemane Experience

- **Exodus 27:20** “²⁰And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.”
- **Isaiah 53:5** “⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”
 - Jesus was bruised just like the olive.
- **Luke 22:44** “⁴⁴And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”
 - The bruising began in Gethsemane.



- **Luke 22:39** “³⁹And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.”
 - Jesus was bruised on the mount of Olives.

We must drill for oil in Jesus, the true Olive that was bruised for us.

A True Prayer Experience

- **Youth Instructors 1873, p. 71** “The olive groves were his sanctuary for prayer. There, secluded from every human eye, he communed with his Heavenly Father. His moral powers were strengthened by his meditation and communion with God.”
 - If you want the oil then you’ve got to drill in Gethsemane.
 - You have got to have your own Gethsemane experience.
- **Hebrews 1:9** “⁹Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”
 - **Desire of Ages, p. 734** “The blood drops of agony that from His wounded temples flowed down His face and beard were the pledge of His anointing with ‘the oil of gladness’ (**Hebrews 1:9**) as our great high priest.”

The Five Wise Virgins

- **Philippians 2:5** “⁵Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”
 - Just like Jesus did in Gethsemane, we too are called to drill for the oil in prayer.
- **The Great Controversy, p. 621** “Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch.”
 - God is calling us to drill deeper in our prayer experience with Him.
- **Christ Object Lessons, p. 129** “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.”

We can know Jesus personally; the Holy Spirit can be with us.

The Five Foolish Virgins

- **Proverbs 20:4** “⁴The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.”
 - Those who refuse to plow or “drill” because they were lazy and did not want to have to agonize will beg when the crisis comes, but it will be too late.

Who To Drill: Even Lucifer Was Anointed With Oil

- **Ezekiel 28:14** “¹⁴Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”
- **Isaiah 14:14** “¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”
 - The cloud represents the place where we commune with God.
- **Exodus 24:18** “¹⁸And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.”
- **Leviticus 16:13** “¹³And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:”
 - The high priest must have a prayer connection with God.

- Lucifer was saying that he can be holy without being connected to God in prayer.

How many say that we do not need a deep prayer life to go to Heaven?

A Time When No More Oil Available

- **Matthew 25:9** “⁹But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.”
- **Revelation 13:17** “¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”
 - After probation closes, anyone who wants to buy or sell must receive the Mark.
- The Five Foolish go out to buy oil – a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Little do they realize that the only oil available is foreign. In the dark they cannot really see and a voice calls out, “*Lo, here is Christ.*” They will pray, “*Lord give us thy Spirit,*” and Satan will breathe upon them an unholy influence in which there is light and power but no love, joy, or peace.

Because they failed to get the oil before the crisis hit, SDAs who knew the Truth and yet waited for the crisis to hit will not be able to tell the difference between a counterfeit Spirit and Jesus Christ Himself.

How To Drill: Focus On Jesus

- **II Corinthians 3:18** “¹⁸But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
 - We can only behold the face of Jesus in the cloud: in our prayer time
 - The Devil does not want you to drill! He knows that if you pray, if your prayer life really goes where it should go, we will see Jesus face in the cloud and we will be changed!!
- **Isaiah 26:3** “³Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”
 - KJV Margin: “*mind*” = imagination.
 - Hollywood was designed to grip the imagination, because the Devil knows that if we allow our imaginations to focus on Godly things, great things are going to happen.
 - As we watch the life of Christ, the Holy Spirit begins to show us things that we would not have seen if we had not focused on drilling deeper.

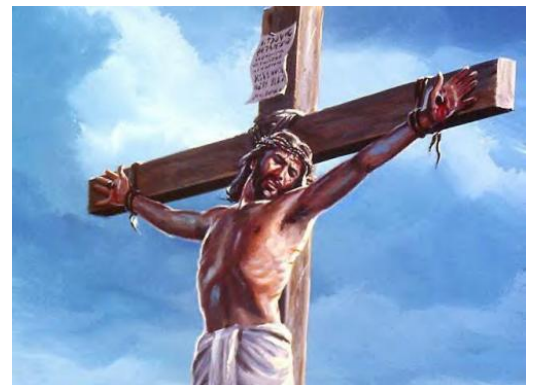
Instead of spending time in the world, take an hour to contemplate the life of Christ, from the manger to the cross, and see how beholding the image and character of Jesus will change you.

Where To Drill: At The Cross

- **Revelation 18:1** “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.”

The Glory And Power Of God

- When we make this decision, we drill at the cross.
- **I Corinthians 1:18** “¹⁸For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”



- The preaching of the cross IS the power of God.
- **Galatians 6:14** “¹⁴But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”
 - That is where the power and the glory of **Revelation 18:1** are: at the cross.

The cross is the center point where we need to drill.

- **Desire of Ages, p. 83** “It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit... Beholding the beauty of His character, we shall be ‘changed into the same image from glory to glory’ [**II Corinthians 3:18**].”
 - When we contemplate the cross and the sacrifice there made... we are drilling ☺.

Following The Example Of Jesus

- **Isaiah 53:5** “⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”
 - Who bruised Jesus? God the Father did.
- **Isaiah 53:10** “¹⁰Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.”
 - It was the Father that bruised the Son.
 - Satan also bruised Jesus, but it not his bruise that saves us; it is God’s bruise.
- **Philippians 2:5-8** “⁵Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
 - Jesus died because He was obedient to the Word – to the Sword of God.
 - Because God spoke it, Jesus said “*I will obey it, even if I die.*”
- **Matthew 26:54-55** “⁵³Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”
- **Revelation 2:10** “¹⁰Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
 - It is in our willingness to die to self, that we are healed, following Jesus’ example.
 - When we behold the character of Christ and we see Him being obedient unto death, that is kind of oil that we need to make it through the last days.
- **Hebrews 2:14-15** “¹⁴Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”
 - The only way to defeat the Devil is through death. We are to be slain by the Word.
- **Luke 9:23** “²³And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
 - We need to spiritually die to our selfish ways.

- **I Corinthians 15:31** “³¹I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”
- **I Peter 4:1** “¹Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;”
 - We are to suffer our flesh to die just as Christ suffered for us.

The Face Of God

- **II Chronicles 7:13-14** “¹³If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; ¹⁴If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”
 - The Latter Rain is dependent upon us ***being willing to seek the face of God.***
- **Exodus 33:20** “²⁰And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”
 - The only way to truly seek the face of God is to die to self. We must surrender our whole heart and look into the face of Jesus instead of having near-death experiences.
- **John 13:34** “³⁴A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”
 - If we can’t love one another like Jesus loved us then the Latter Rain cannot fall.
- **Matthew 27:46** “⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”



What Was He Feeling? What Was He Thinking?

- How many of us would miss out on Heaven for something?
 - Jesus thought that taking the sins of the world was so great that it would separate Him from God the Father forever.

The love of Jesus that we must have is to be willing to die the second death in the place of another: true Self-Sacrificing Love.

- **Exodus 32:32** “³¹And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. ³²Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”
 - Moses was saying “Take me out of the book of life, only spare them.”
 - He was reflecting the very character of Jesus Christ.

How many of us could say that we have that “second death love” for one another the way Jesus does for each of us?

Why Drill: Our Test in the End of Time

- **Early Writings, p. 272** “Soon after they had commenced their earnest cry, the angels, in sympathy, desired to go to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. He said, ‘The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must be baptized with the baptism.’”
- The Devil is going to say that we just serve God because we don’t want to go to hell. He will be given the power to put us through that very trial called the **Time of Jacob’s Trouble**.

- We must say, as Job did, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him” [Job 13:15]*.
- When the cup was presented to Jesus, He said *“Even if I am to be lost forever, I will still be faithful to God.”*
- We need a love that is not motivated by reward or fear.
- **Early Writings, p. 15** “Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man’s hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man.”

***Focus on Christ and seek His face so that His glory will change you
and fill you with the oil: the Holy Spirit.***