

Expectations

... and additional references
regarding



The TIMING

of the Other Angel
of Revelation 18

Considering Time, Place, and Circumstance



- “To everything there is a season, **a time** for every purpose under heaven” (Eccl 3:1).
- To both Bible & Spirit of Prophecy writings, the guideline applies: “**Time** and **place** must be considered. Nothing must be done untimely” (1SM 57c).
- Also, “**Circumstances** change the relation of things” (EGW @ school board meeting).

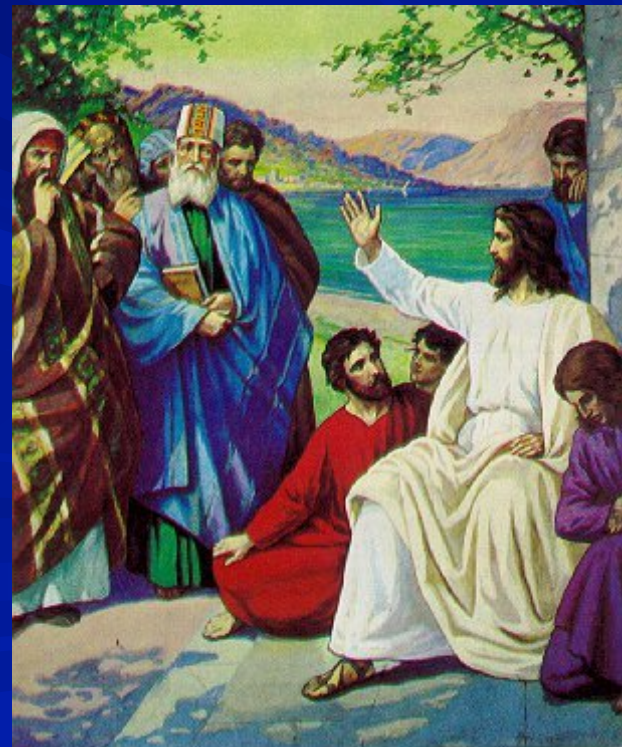


A classic – and tragic – example of being out of step with God’s “time & place” arrangement:

- The Jewish leaders knew that the Messiah was to be born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matth 2:4-6).
- But they did not figure on the infant Saviour being exiled to Egypt and later on growing up in Galilee in the proverbial city of Nazareth.
- Yet these circumstances were all a fulfillment of prophecy (Hos 11:1; Matth 2:13-15, 22-23; John 1:46; 7:27, 41-43, 52).

- Since Jesus had no rabbinical credentials, the Jewish leaders, from the start, dismissed Him with contempt.
- Yet, Christ initiated a movement that replaced Judaism and today encircles the Earth.
- But only small beginnings of that was seen at His time.
- His fledgling church was regarded as a mere sect, whose most visible adherent (Judas) defected and ended miserably.

**Jesus bitterly
disappointed the
expectations of
His contemporaries**





A main reason for the disappointment of the Jewish leaders:

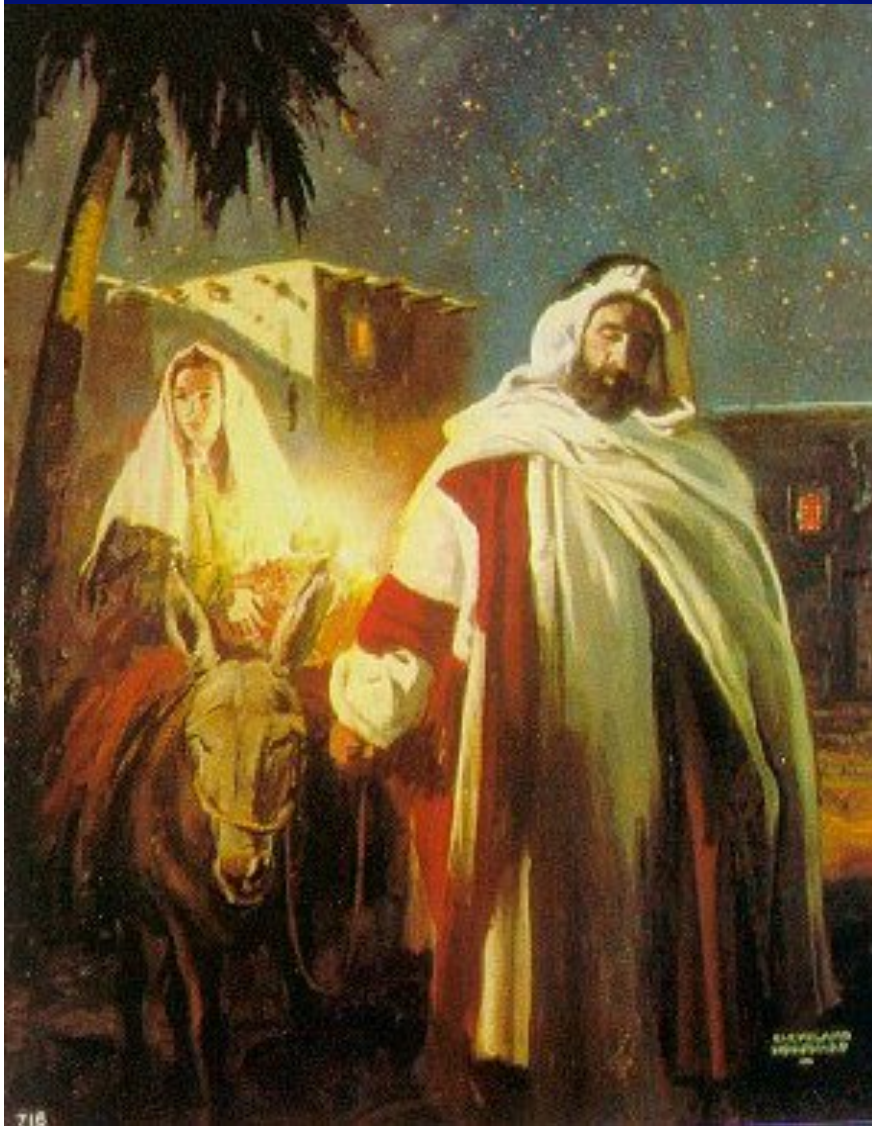
- The Jewish rabbis applied the prophecies referring to Jesus' 2nd and 3rd comings (after the millennium) *in glory* to His first coming in *condescension* and *humiliation* (See DA 471!).
- Jesus, if He was to be accepted as the Messiah, would have turned the *schemas* of the rabbis, priests, Pharisees, and Sadducees upside down.

Timing in reverse



- Today a general **expectation** is that at His return, Jesus will sympathize with sinners and give them another chance, etc.
- Thus prophecies that apply to His first coming are being applied to His Second Coming in glory!
- The biblical fact is that He will come only for those who have prepared to meet Him.
- Those who are not ready will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming.

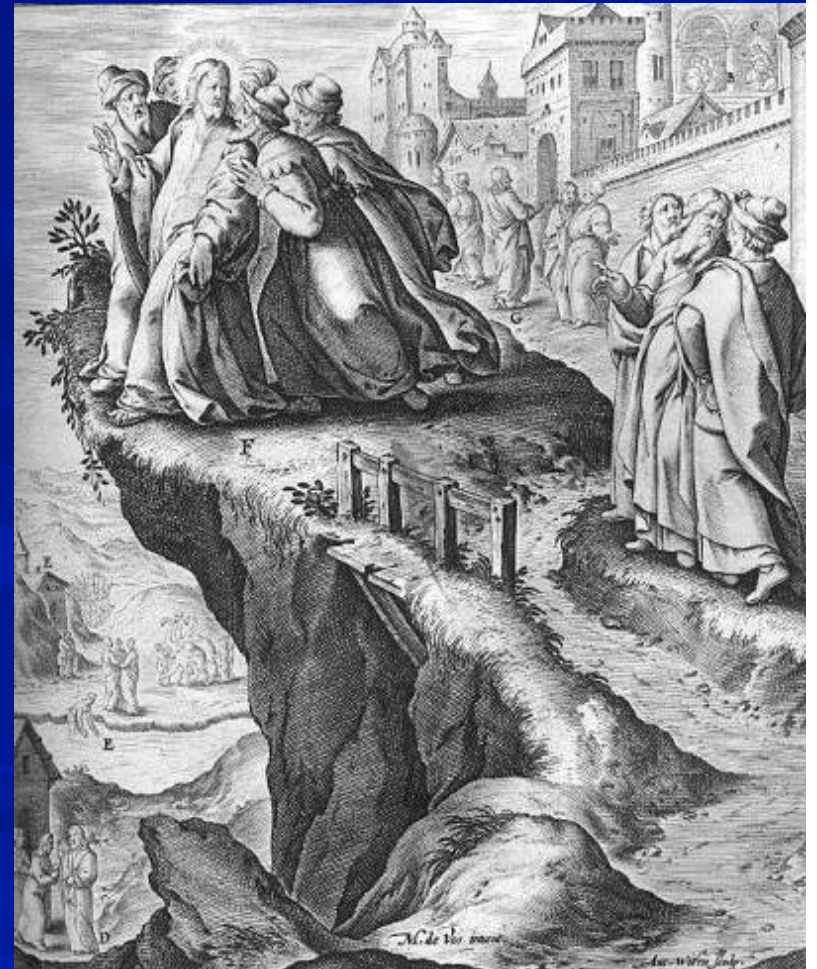
A comparison



- As we have seen, the Other Angel was “conceived” at Minneapolis, rather than at the Battle Creek headquarters.
- The Angel got a (mildly speaking!) cool reception and apparently disappeared.
- ***Where to?***

Jesus put a thing straight

- He said that Elijah got a reception with an apparently heathen widow **outside** the realm of God's professed people (Luk 4:16-26).
- Except for the interposition of heavenly angels, Jesus would have been killed for saying that (verses 28-30).
- This will help us answer the question: **Where to?**



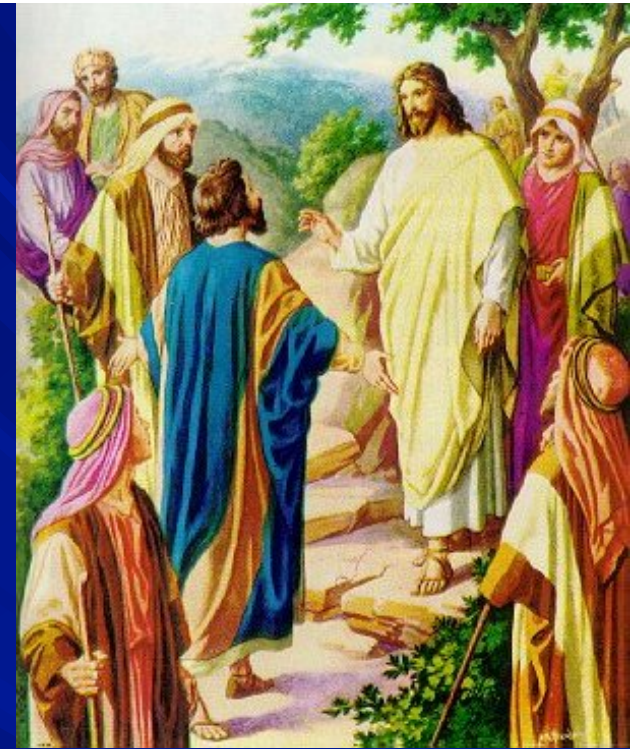


In 1888, at Minneapolis

- Ellen White said, “If the ministers will not receive the light, I want to give the people a chance; perhaps they may receive it” (Ms 8, 1888). So she traveled and spoke.
- But the people generally did not see beyond their leaders and treated the message “as though it were of no consequence” (RH 3/18-1890).
- Then she went public, writing books **to reach the world** with the message: *Steps to Christ* (1892), *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* (1896), *The Desire of Ages* (1898), *Christ's Object Lessons* (1900), etc. **(This answers our question.)**

Steps to Christ

- According to Br Severance of “Inspiration Books,” Phoenix, Arizona:
- This book was first published by Fleming H. Revel, Moody Press, which held the copyright for 16 years (1892-1908).
- No SDA had even heard of it until 1904.
- In 1908 the Review & Herald obtained the copyright.



Since then this book has become the 4th most sold book in the world, after 1) *the Bible*, 2) *Communist Manifesto*, by Karl Marx, and 3) *A Pilgrim's Progress*, by John Bunyan.

This is the modern parallel of Jesus' unrecognized stay in Egypt and Nazareth.

- And this accounts for the “silent” presence and work of the Other Angel in the years 1888 to 1914.
- It was carried forward by individuals* *IN* the “womb” of the mother church.

* Who had accepted the message, such as EGW.



- In 1914 the world was embroiled in the horrors of warfare.
- While 26 European nations fought, the church was crucially tested. She responded by excluding 2% of the membership, which declined participation in warfare. *But with them exited the Other Angel.*
- This faithful minority kept “the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Rev 14:12), thus maintaining orthodox Advent faith under persecution and at the peril of their lives.
- In this manner, and at the right time, the Third Angel acquired the prophesied support and **power** from the Other Angel (EW 277a, b), just as the church ship that hitherto had nominally carried the banner went down in the din of battle.

The prophesied
crisis engendered
a Remnant



Birth & separation



Solomon's judgment: Two mothers disputing over a child.

- This was the birth, not of a new movement but of a new church organization entrusted with carrying on the original tenets of faith.
- There was an immediate separation between mother and child after the birth, just as Jesus was ushered off to Egypt after His birth.

Ulterior considerations



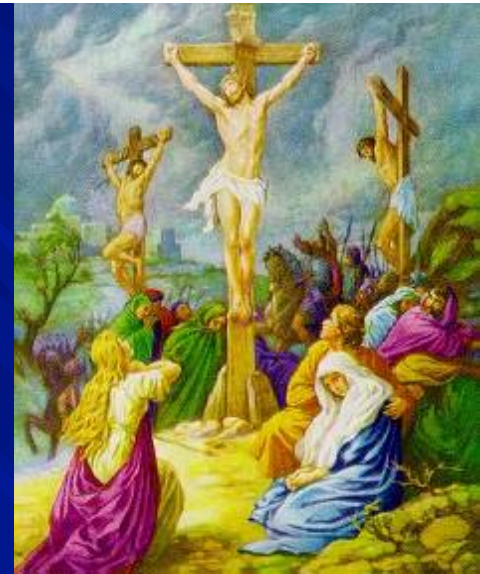
- In both cases, after the birth, the mother didn't want her child, and, rather, threw it out *as a threat* to her own existence:
- 1. to Herod + the religious leaders @ Jerusalem (& relations with Rome);
- 2. to good relations with the governments and to the worldly prospects of a falling church in time of war.



But how did Christ relate the circumstances of His birth?

- He addressed the Father: “But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother’s breasts. I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother’s womb You have been My God” (Ps 22:9, 10).
- David said: “When my father and my mother forsake me ... the Lord will take me up” (Ps 27:10).

How does the remnant relate to its organizational ancestry?



- Jesus said: “Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother” (Matth 12:50).
- “Jerusalem above is [our] mother” (Gal 4:26).
- “Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word: ‘Your brethren who hated you, who cast you out for My name’s sake, said, “Let the Lord be glorified, that we may see your joy.” But they shall be ashamed’” (Isa 66:5).

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”



Elder
L R Conradi

- The work of the Other Angel has been stigmatized as the “German Reform” by some (Germany being notorious for war).
- The label “American SDA Church” would be equally fitting, for it first organized in the USA. But the Advent Movement started internationally. So did the “Reform.”
- By departing from the faith, the “angel” (leadership) of the church brought about this shaking and separation in the various countries participating in the war.

1. An Appendix:



- But was not this departure just a “local” problem in Germany and Europe?
- No. The European division acted upon permission from the highest instance in the church, the General Conference. If anyone doubts that, let him consider that on the very date **today** the same GC **is** giving full individual “liberty of conscience” everywhere for church members to participate in war, with weapons.
- Check out the fact: It’s a universal phenomenon, not just local in time and place.

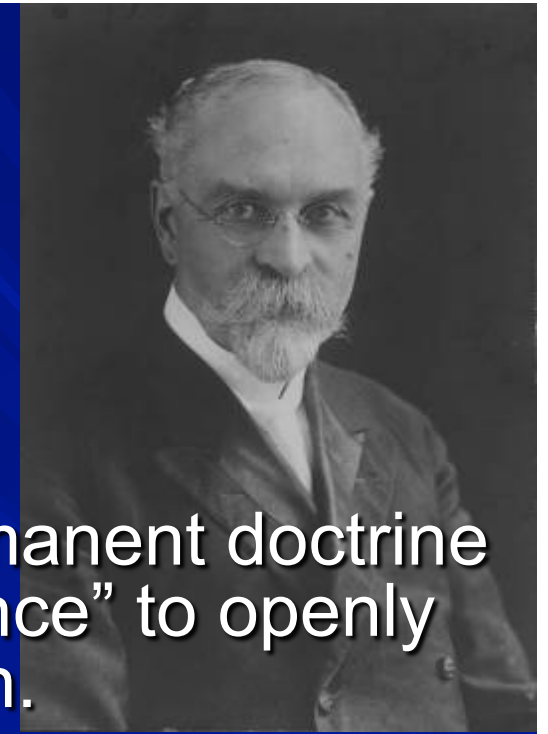
2. Another Appendix, and another question of timing:



- The “angel of Laodicea” (Rev 3:14), the GC leadership, is it the present head of God’s work on Earth?
- The True and Faithful Witness (Jesus) says: “*I will* spue thee out of My mouth” (Rev 3:16; 6T 408b).
- When the head of a church organization establishes transgression by law (Ps 94:20),
- it becomes *fixed* in rebellion and – obviously – no longer is “the voice of God.”

2. Appendix continuation:

- Is this future, present, or past?
- It is past.
- In 1923 the church established as permanent doctrine the granting of such “liberty of conscience” to openly transgress God’s Law within the church.
- This was one year after the San Francisco GC world delegate meeting (1922), at which GC president, Elder A G Daniells (photo) stated to the “reform” representatives: “We could never permit these questions [the European SDA participation in World War I] to come up before the whole delegation ...; that would cause the greatest disturbance we ever had.”
- Since then the “angel of Laodicea” has been spewed out = rejected as God’s representative (1 Sam 15:22-23).



But, may we enter a new organization?!

- “We cannot *now* step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot *now* enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth” (Manuscript 129, 1905 / 2SM 390b).
- First: The time will *never* come for God’s children to step off God’s foundation! (2 Tim 2:19)
- Then notice the italicized word “now,” and *when* this testimony was published. Then recall the “time-place-circumstances” rule.





Out of step with the Angel

- Back in 1893, an Adventist lay member, Stanton, published a pamphlet entitled “The Loud Cry of the Third Angel’s Message,” asserting that the SDA Church had become Babylon and urged Adventists to separate from her (see TM 23, 32-62 and appendices pages 521 and 524).
- Ellen White declared his message to be false and as constituting “a work of deception” (TM 32, 42, 46).
- Yet, under divine guidance, she herself declared that the church had become a “harlot” (Babylon), but that was in 1903, ten years later (8T 250c). But even then, while the church was inwardly being leavened by apostasy, it had not at that time fallen, that is, openly rebelled against the commandments. (This it did 11 years later.)
- This man ran ‘before he was sent’ (TM 41b). Diversion of means and disparagement of the ministry, etc. led to confusion and disunion in a church that God was still seeking to save.

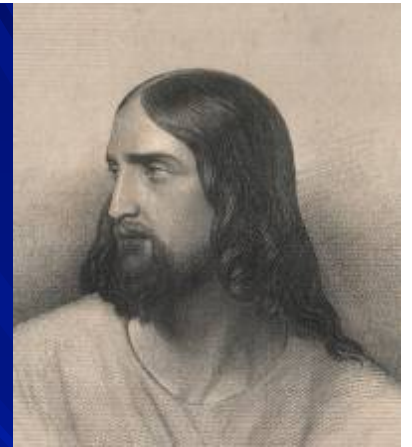
Wailing Wall @ Jerusalem



The Foundation

- Visibly to the whole world, the SDA Church stepped off God's foundation in 1914.
- The "faction" that defended God's Law in the time of crisis was disfellowshipped.
- This "faction" organized in 1925, 20 years after publication of the above testimony and after every effort at reunion on the original platform of Truth had failed.
- Which of the two organizations is God's church? Which is the "offshoot"? The one that apostatized, or the one that remained on God's foundation?

History Repeated



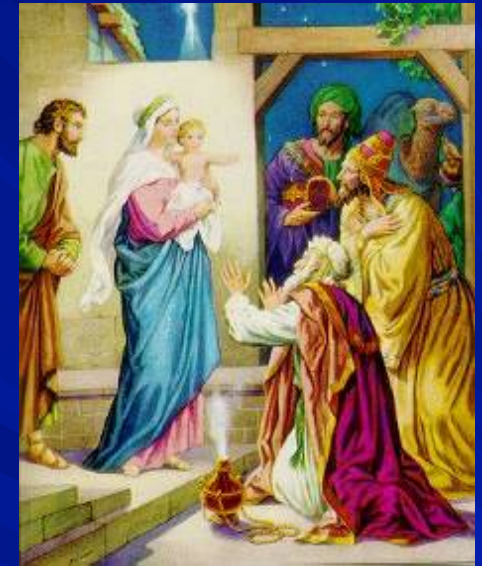
- The Jewish nation rejected their Messiah and chose Barabbas, the murderer.
- *“We are repeating the history of that people”* (5T 160c). Equally regrettable, the Other Angel has been offered the same treatment by modern day Israel.
- Nevertheless, God has always continued to carry His work forward, by means of a faithful remnant (Rom 9:5).





“Not by Outward Show”

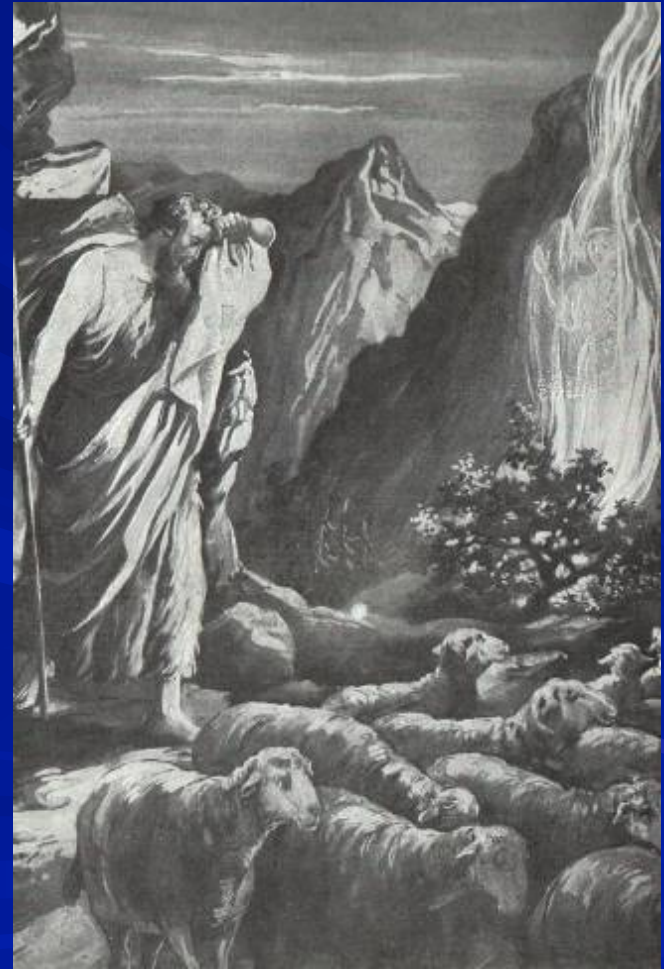
- Only a few humble shepherds and (wise) foreigners, with a couple of dedicated persons (Simeon and Anna) recognized the Saviour at His birth.
- As to Jerusalem, and even Bethlehem: “There was *no room* for [Jesus] in the inn” (Luke 2:7).
- The Lord asked: “Who [among the Jews] believed Our report?” (Isa 53:1).
- And: “Who [that is wise] has despised the day of small things?” (Zech 4:10).



Each new segment of God's work always appears insignificant.

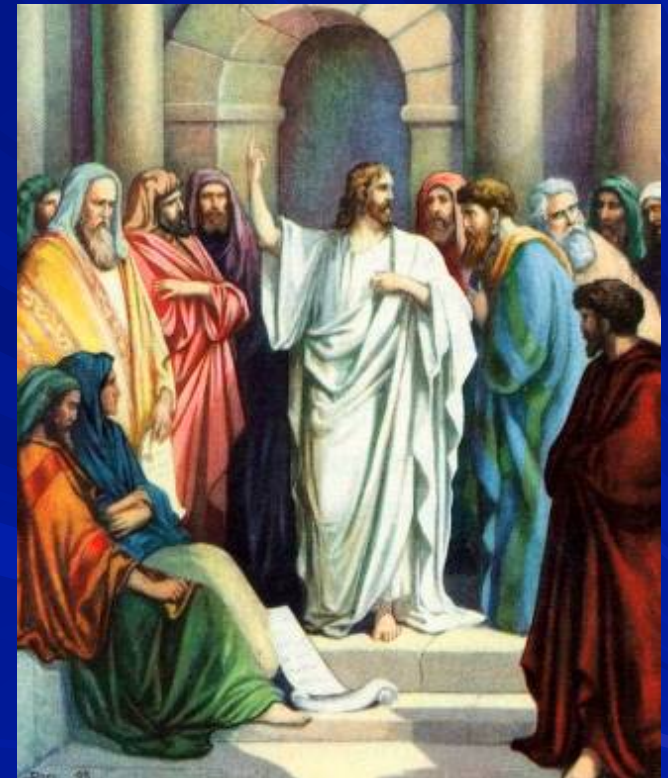
Discerning, Recognizing God's Work

- “Behold, I send an Angel before you ... Beware of Him ... for My name is in Him” (Ex 23:20-21).
- Miscalculations are made, disappointments are experienced, and experience is spoiled by:
 - 1. entertaining **false expectations**,
 - 2. guarding **untenable schemas**,
 - 3. **mixing** stages of development,
 - 4. being **out of step** with time.



The schemas of the Jews did not allow for the acceptance of Jesus

- To those who denied His divine sending, Jesus said: “Do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?... Therefore they sought again to seize Him” (John 10:36-39).
- God’s Spirit confirms that professed believers have crucified God’s present-day message(s) (see EW 260b-61a).



Jesus also said: “If you do not believe I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).

Many claim that the “Reform Movement” fails to meet the description

- “In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought” (9T 126b).
- Note: Justification through faith in Christ’s righteousness = conversion, the New Birth = reformation – returning to “the old paths” (Isa 58:12-14; Jer 6:16).



Reformation means heart conversion

- “(1) Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and (2) a spirit of genuine **conversion** was manifest” (9T 126b).
- These are (1) outward and (2) inward manifestations of God’s Spirit working with and through believers.



These manifestations were seen at the beginning of the Advent movement and will be increasingly seen as God’s work on Earth is brought to a climax and a close (3 stages).



Divine healing

“among God's people” – the angel of Rev 18 visited the SDA Church in 1888.

- “There seemed to be a **reformation** such as we witnessed in 1844” (9T 126b).
- In 1844 “the power of God was manifested among us, the sick were **healed**” (5T 534b).
- At each of the 3 stages, whenever Christ in His fullness and His word in its purity are presented, **divine power** is revealed to the restoration of the whole person. The gospel = healing (DA 821e-25b).

During the time of the work of the Other Angel, God has had “a church that has lived through persecution, conflict, and darkness” (TM 52c).



German warship firing

- Connected with the Rev 18 angel, “*other miracles* were wrought” (9T 126b).
- After World War I the “reformers” met and recounted their experiences:

- One had been confined in an underground dungeon, destined to die by starvation. But every morning a rat brought a slice of bread.
- Another faced the execution squad. The guns would not fire. The officer pulled his own revolver, pointed it at the head of the one to be executed. Repeatedly, the officer pulled the trigger, but no bullet came. Then the “reformer” was set free.

Whenever God so chooses, He brings physical deliverance.





But Signs and Miracles are not a test of God's approbation

- “God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18” (9T 16b).
- The great sign that God sent His Son into the world is a changed and sanctified life reflecting the likeness of the Saviour.



Especially at Third stage:

During the Latter Rain ...

- “On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth.
- “*The world* seemed to be *lightened* with the heavenly influence.
- “Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God” (5T 126b).




Looking to the future

- The Jews waited for Elijah. Jesus said he had **already come!** but that they themselves had killed him whom they waited for (Matth 17:10-12). (The Jews are still waiting for Elijah.)
- And today? “Satan was leading very many to look far in **the future** for the great events connected with the judgment and the end of probation” (EW 246c)



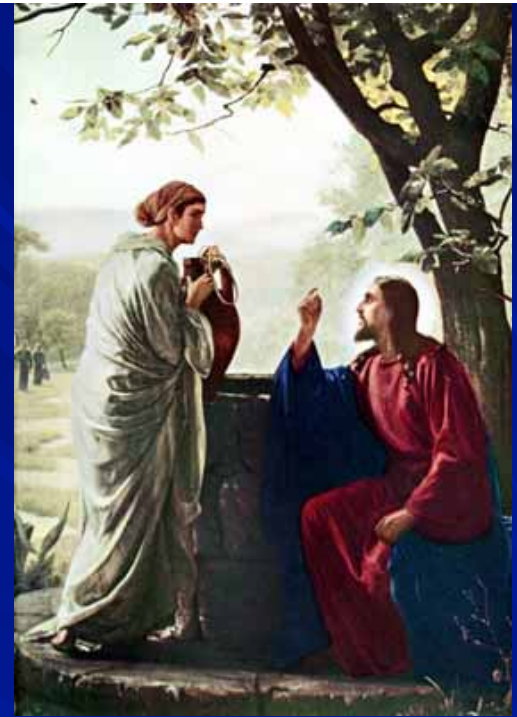
John the Baptist's head.



**Our Saviour Jesus Christ is
the Light whose glory is to
enlighten the whole Earth!**
(Rev 18:1).

- The disciple John testified of Jesus: He is “***the true Light*** that gives light to every man who comes into the world” (John 1:9).
- “Jesus Himself said, ‘***I am the light of the world***. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Jesus never pointed His contemporaries to the future for the fulfillment of their immediate needs!



- He stunned the Samaritan woman by saying: “I who am speaking to you am He” (John 4:26).
- Cherishing His light and experiencing the healing, restorative power of the Saviour’s love and Truth is a current, immediate and urgent need for every person on Earth!

In his time, John the beloved stated:

- “The darkness **is** passing away, and **the true Light is NOW** shining” (1 John 2:8).



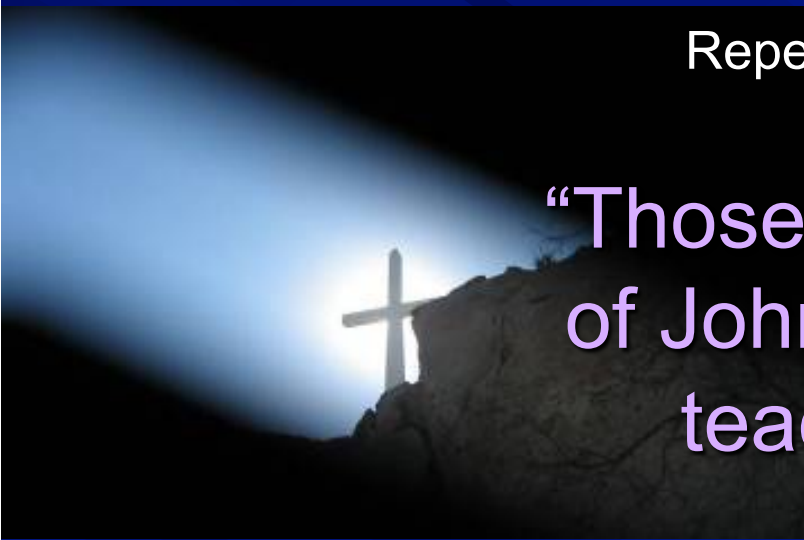
- This is equally true of his time and ours, now!



SDA Church teaching at the continental divide

- Before 1888: Christ was “made secondary” “by many” (1SM 383a). His righteousness was “lost sight of” (1SM 155b).
- After 1888: Christ’s righteousness was **eclipsed**, **obscured** and **neutralized*** by the introduction of the false teaching of “liberty of conscience” to transgress!
*as far as the Church is concerned, see TM 92a & SC 34b.
- “Christ has plainly taught that those who persist in open sin must be separated from the church” (COL 71d).

Repeating the history of the Jews ...



“Those who rejected the testimony of John were not benefited by the teachings of Jesus” (EW 259b).

- Adventist today are taught to look for **a great revival** and **a great reformatory movement**, **the shaking**, and **that other angel**
- – *all in the future* –
- while those who walk in the light know that these ***have already come*** (recognizing as well that there is a climactic fulfillment in the very closing days of probation).

Is the Loud Cry exclusively future?

- The SDA Church has long looked forward to it.
- 1892: “The third angel's message **IS** swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the **present** duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place” (RH 3/22-92 par 13).

Navigating in the light!



- Jesus said: “*Walk [in the light] while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going*” (John 12:35)
- – “they will *not recognize* the work of God [in] the loud cry of the third angel” (TM 300).



Schemas, expectations

- “In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, 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” (RH Extra, Dec. 23, 1890).

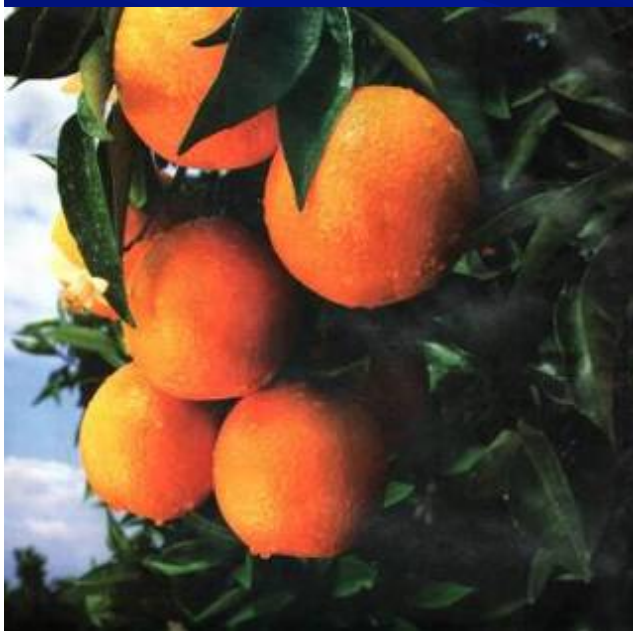
“Not by might
nor by power,
but by My Spirit,
saith the
Lord” (Zech 4:6).



Preparation!

- It is only as we, with God’s help, are humbly seeking to live up to the light of present truth,
- that we are “***being prepared*** for the coming of that other angel from heaven who is to lighten the earth with his glory” (6T 406e).

The Earth is ripe for harvest The Holy Spirit is awaiting our reception



- “The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the *future*;
- but it is the privilege of the church to have it *now*.
- ***Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it.*** We must have it, and
- ***Heaven is waiting*** to bestow it” (RH 3/19-**1895** / Ev 701c).

God's message to Pharaoh through Moses & Aaron meant life to those receiving it & death to those rejecting it; so with the Angel of Rev 18.

