

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Revelation 12:17 “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 19:10 “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

2a. Understanding the Prophets: Time Prophets

The test of God's people down through the ages has always been to accept the Spirit of Prophecy as it was being demonstrated in the Prophetic Message current for that day. There are different categories of prophets, some were raised up to meet a crisis of the hour and we hear no more of them. Others had the job of teaching the people, Elisha was one of these. One thing all prophets have in common, is that they speak, not their own concepts and ideas, but a message from God. God chooses to communicate His will through chosen instruments we know as prophets.

God has promised that He makes no interventions into history that he does not first reveal through His prophets.

Amos 3:7. “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth his secret unto His servants the prophets.”

There is a chain of communication that heaven uses in communicating with mankind; The Father gives the message through Jesus Christ, and it is passed to the human agent by angels, and from the human agent to the people the message is meant for. The Holy Spirit assists the Prophet and empowers the message to have impact with the people. To refuse the message of one of God's prophets is to refuse the entire Godhead, and can result in the sin against the Holy Spirit.

“It is the voice of Christ that speaks through patriarchs and prophets, from the days of Adam even to the closing scenes of time.” DA 799.

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue. But will they profit by His teachings? will they receive His reproofs and heed His warnings? God will accept of no partial obedience; He will sanction no compromise with self.” 5T 661

The Testimony of Jesus: 2—Understanding the Prophets

History tells us a sad fact; the majority of the people to whom a prophetic message is presented, always reject it! Over and over again in the Bible we see God gathering out only a remnant that accept the message, and carrying them forward into the next epoch of sacred history. So a prophet's message always brings about a sifting and dividing into two groups, those who receive the message and go forward in obedience to it, and those—always the majority—who reject and fall away.

Isaiah 10:22 “For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return:”

There are many types of prophets in the Bible, there are prophets who wrote parts of the Bible and those who did not; there are men prophets and women prophets; and there are prophets that are connected to time prophecies which have a relationship to God's people. The 2300 days, the 2520 days, the time that Israel spent in Egypt and the time they were in Babylon, are time prophecies directly connected with God's people. These prophecies have internal rules that always manifest themselves. On the testimony of two or three a thing is established. So if we see these internal rules two or three times then we can be certain that every time we see a similar manifestation of a time prophecy then we should see the same things happen.

In this kind of time prophecy, you always have **a prophet at the beginning that we call a ‘Proclaiming Prophet’**. They proclaim the prophecy. **When the time prophecy is fulfilled we find what we can call a ‘Gathering Prophet’**. We call them this because there is always a remnant of people that gather around the message at the close of the time period. It always has a Present Truth message when it comes into history. The prophet that is raised up has a ministry directly connected with that Present Truth message, and there is a remnant of people that recognize that message is Present Truth. This is always the case.

When it comes to a Gathering Prophet, their ministry is always Life or Death—always. Also both the proclaiming prophets and the gathering prophets, their name corresponds with their ministry.

ENOCH AND NOAH

The first Time Prophecy in the Bible is the 120 years that the Spirit would speak to the world before the flood. Enoch was the Prophet that first proclaimed the coming flood. His name meant ‘Teacher’. His name corresponded with his ministry.

“Enoch was a public teacher of the truth in the age in which he lived. He taught the truth; he lived the truth; and the character of the teacher who walked with God was in every way harmonious with the greatness and sacredness of his mission. Enoch was a prophet who spake as he was moved by the Holy Ghost.” UL 228.

Enoch proclaimed this warning through the name of his son, Methuselah, whose name indicated that the year he would die, would be the year the flood would come; this was a time prophecy in a person. The Bible shows that the very year that Methuselah died, the flood came.

Noah was the Gathering Prophet during the final 120 years of this prophecy and his name meant ‘comfort’. He was to be a comfort to God's people. Noah understood this 120 year time prophecy given to him by God, was the final part of Enoch's prophecy on his son; so the year Methuselah died you can be sure that attention was drawn to the fact that he was dead, and the flood was at hand.

There was a remnant of people who recognized the flood was Present Truth for their time. There were many who helped through the years, not just his family who did go onto the ark. Some were laid to rest before the flood and some turned away. There was a remnant raised up that believed the message of the coming flood was present truth.

Was Noah's message at that time a matter of life or death? Yes, indeed it was.

ABRAM'S TIME PROPHECY

The next time prophecy in the Bible is that given to Abram, regarding how long the Children of Israel were to be down in Egypt. His name, Abram, means 'the Father is exalted' and we find that where ever he moved, he built an altar and the people in the area came to know about the God of Heaven because of Abram's example and lifestyle. He exalted his Heavenly Father; his name corresponded to his ministry.

Later his name was changed to Abraham that means 'father of many nations'. He is the father of the Jews, Islam, and Christianity—his name corresponds to his ministry. He was given the prophecy about the 430 years that the children of Israel would be in Egypt and then they would come out.

At the end of that time prophecy the Lord raised up a Gathering Prophet and that was Moses. Moses' name meant 'saved out of the water' because as a baby he was saved out of the water. And Moses led the people through the waters of the Red Sea and if Moses had not struck the rock, he would have led Israel through the waters of the Jordan into Canaan. His name corresponded to his ministry.

What happened to the people who did not accept Moses' ministry? They died in the Wilderness. Moses' ministry was life or death. We see that the pattern of a time prophecy that has to do with God's people is always the same.

JEREMIAH AND DANIEL

The next time prophecy involving God's people is given by Jeremiah telling how long God's people were going to be in captivity in Babylon—70 years. Jeremiah's name means two things; Yahweh is exalted and Yahweh strikes. As we read Jeremiah and Lamentations we see Jeremiah was giving a message that was exalting God but also warning that God was about to strike the people in judgment. His name corresponded to his ministry.

There is one prophet in the Bible who is identified as understanding the fulfillment of that time prophecy of Jeremiah and that is Daniel. In Daniel 9 he talks about studying the scriptures and from the book of Jeremiah he recognizes that it is time for God's people to come out of Babylon. Daniel means 'God is my Judge'. We see several types of judgment in the story of Daniel. In the first verse we see Babylon bringing judgment against Jerusalem; the investigative judgment in Daniel 8:14; Belshazzar's kingdom is judged; Nebuchadnezzar being judged with seven times passing over him; the Beast power is judged, there are many judgments in the book of Daniel. His name corresponds with his ministry.

He was a gathering prophet for the time when the Jews were to return and rebuild Jerusalem. But we are told that when Ezra saw how few came out of Babylon, the number was disappointingly small. Very few people came out of Babylon, nothing in comparison with what should have come out. The majority of Israelites who remained in Babylon walked with God's people no more. Again we see the message was life or death. The pattern is always the same.

The Testimony of Jesus: 2—Understanding the Prophets

The difference with Daniel is that he was both a gathering prophet and a proclaiming prophet. He proclaimed the 2300 year time prophecy. It began in 457 BC and it talks about seven weeks, the streets and walls would be rebuilt. Then there are three prophecies in the week when Christ was proclaiming the covenant with many for the one week; Christ's anointing; the cross—when He would be cut off in the midst; and when the gospel would go to the Gentiles. Then at the end we have 1844, a judgment hour message.

The first period of this time prophecy is when Jerusalem is being rebuilt and two prophets were raised up at that time; Haggai and Zechariah. Haggai means 'one born on a feast day'. His emphasis was that it was time to rebuild the temple, streets and walls; he was always saying it is time. The feast days were symbolic of prophetic time, the feast days of the Old Testament were prophetic symbols of the whole gospel dispensation. So his name corresponded with his ministry because he was telling the people that it was time to finish the work of the Lord.

Zechariah means, 'Yahweh has remembered', and he talks about God's people being remembered by Him at the end of their time of captivity. His name also corresponds with his ministry.

Then a third was raised up; Nehemiah means, 'consolation; repentance of the Lord', and that fits in with the work he did and what was going on at that time.

What happened to the people who were doing the rebuilding of the walls and the streets if they refused the reforms that were brought by Haggai, Zechariah and Nehemiah? They were sent out to no longer walk with God's people. One reform was putting away their heathen wives; another was buying and selling on the Sabbath. All these reforms at that time were life and death. There was also a remnant of people at that time that recognized that there was a work to do in rebuilding and restoring Jerusalem.

Now as we look again at the two longest time prophecies, the 2300 day/year prophecy and the 2520, seven-times prophecy, For the 2300 the Proclaiming Prophet is Daniel; for the 2520, it is Moses, but there was no starting point at that time given to it. Later Isaiah announced its coming (Isaiah 7:8) with his son, Shearjashub, which means 'a remnant shall return', in his 65 year prophecy. The 2520 began in 723 BC for the 10 northern tribes and 677 BC for the 2 southern tribes. The '7 times' for the kingdom of Judah ends at the same time as the 2300 day/year prophecy of Daniel. But we will look here at the 2300 days as it has other time-prophecy waymarks contained within it.

The starting point of the 2300 years was 457 BC and the first part was 7 weeks or 49 years, during this time Jerusalem and the temple were rebuilt under the prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Nehemiah. Then 62 weeks bring us to the end of the 69 weeks where we are told to expect 'Messiah the Prince'. This time brings us to 27 AD. Was there a Gathering Prophet raised up to announce this time? (Daniel 9)

Yes, there is a prophet raised up when it was time for Christ to be baptized and this was John the Baptist. John means 'Yahweh is gracious'. His name reflects his ministry because we know him as the Baptist. There was also a remnant of people who believed in the ministry of John, his disciples, who helped with the baptizing of the people.

We are told that those who did not accept the preaching of John the Baptist could not be benefited by the teachings of Christ. If they could not be benefited by the teachings of Christ, it meant they were lost, so again we see it was a matter of life or death. He was a gathering prophet.

The Testimony of Jesus: 2—Understanding the Prophets

Then the time of the cross is pinpointed in this 2300 day/years as it speaks about the 70th week and says that in the 'midst of the week', Messiah would be 'cut of' but not for Himself. Was there a prophet present at the cross? Yes. The prophet that we see at the cross was John the Revelator. All through his writings he is revealing Christ to the people through his personal testimony. He knew Jesus Christ personally and his mission was to reveal Him to the world.

1 John 1:1-3 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

He was raised up as a gathering prophet at the cross, and the message of the cross is a message of life or death.

The next prophetic waymark was at AD 34, the end of the 70 week that had been allotted to the Jewish people in the 2300 day/year prophecy, when Israel was to be divorced from God. The gathering prophet there was Saul, whose name means 'selected or set forth'. He was told he was a chosen vessel unto Christ, to bear His name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. Then his name was changed to Paul which means 'little' as he said of himself:

1 Corinthians 15:9 "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

There was a remnant raised up at the cross who believed it was time to carry a message to the world, and also at AD 34 there was a remnant who knew it was time to carry the message to the Gentiles. The gospel to the Gentiles was certainly a life or death question.

In 1844, at the conclusion of the 2300 time prophecy we have been looking at, **we should expect to see a Gathering Prophet** whose ministry corresponds to the message of this time prophecy, Daniel 8:14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. **We should see a remnant of people raised up** that would understand this message as present truth, and **this gathering prophet's ministry is also a matter of life and death.** And **their name will correspond with their ministry.**

Ellen White is the prophet to Laodecia. In the message to Laodecia, we are counseled to get three things, gold tried in the fire; white raiment; and eyesalve. Re 3:18 "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

Eyesalve: means spiritual discernment which is the Word of God. We need the Holy Spirit to correctly understand the Word of God but it is by the Word that the spirits must be tried.

Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

The Testimony of Jesus: 2—Understanding the Prophets

It is not an accident that the word Ellen means 'a bright and shining light', or in some translations; 'Bright Eyes'. Gould is the old English word for Gold; and it is obvious what the meaning of White is. Ellen White is clearly the prophet to Laodecia and to reject the ministry of Ellen White is a matter of life or death. To reject the ministry of the Spirit of Prophecy is to reject the remedy for Laodecia.

The 'Eyesalve' that we need is a 'Bright and Shining Light' or 'Bright Eyes' that is Ellen.

The 'Faith that works by love and purifies the soul' symbolized by Gold, that is Gould.

The 'righteousness of Christ' which is symbolized by 'White Raiment' that is White.

Before Sister White was Ellen Gould White she was Ellen Gould Harmon. Harmon means 'a Christian Soldier.' That was the characteristic of Philadelphia which was the time she was in before she was married to James White. The Philadelphians were soldiers for the Lord, taking the message to the world, acting on faith, symbolized by the gold and they were following the Word of God—the bright and shining light. Ellen Gould Harmon White was the prophet to the Philadelphians and the Laodecians.

Also the 2520 years of Scattering ended also in 1844 and in her earliest writings you will find Sister Ellen talking about the Scattering and Gathering times.

So, not only does the Bible indicate that the 'Spirit of Prophecy' would be an identifying mark of God's true people in the last days and so there would be the prophetic message among them, but there had to be a Gathering Prophet raised up at the end of these two Greatest of the Time Prophecies to announce the fulfillment of the time and gather the 'remnant' that would believe and accept the message of God for the hour. These prophecies ended in 1844 and in that year Ellen Gould Harmon, later White, received her first vision.

Satan is a student of Prophecy; we are told he knows he has but a short time—how does he know it? He studies the prophecies. And Satan knew that a special prophet would have to be raised up by God right around the ending of the longest time prophecies in 1844. So we see him raising up several false prophets, both male and female, right on target, as well as some before and shortly after. Here are just a few for examples.

Joseph Smith arrived on the scene before that time and was actually imprisoned and shot in 1844 by an angry mob.

The Bahai religion of the Bab—started in 1844, and is a direct opposite to God's people in that it calls all religions into one and God seeks to call His people OUT of the corrupt religions. It is interesting that they have a huge temple now on Mount Carmel! Satan does not forget.

Mary Baker Eddy; Christian Science (Which is neither Christian or science) 1821-1908. Her work paralleled Ellen White, she raised up her new religion in 1879 and the emphasis was on healing. She wrote extensively. This was the very time that the Health Message was developing in Adventism.

The Fox Sisters; phenomenon of rapping in 1848; which formed the foundation for modern Spiritualism.

Rudolf Steiner; Anthroposophy. (1861-1925)

Madame Helena Blavatsky, (1831-1891) Theosophy. She wrote extensively, a series of volumes—Isis Unveiled. Occult to the extreme.

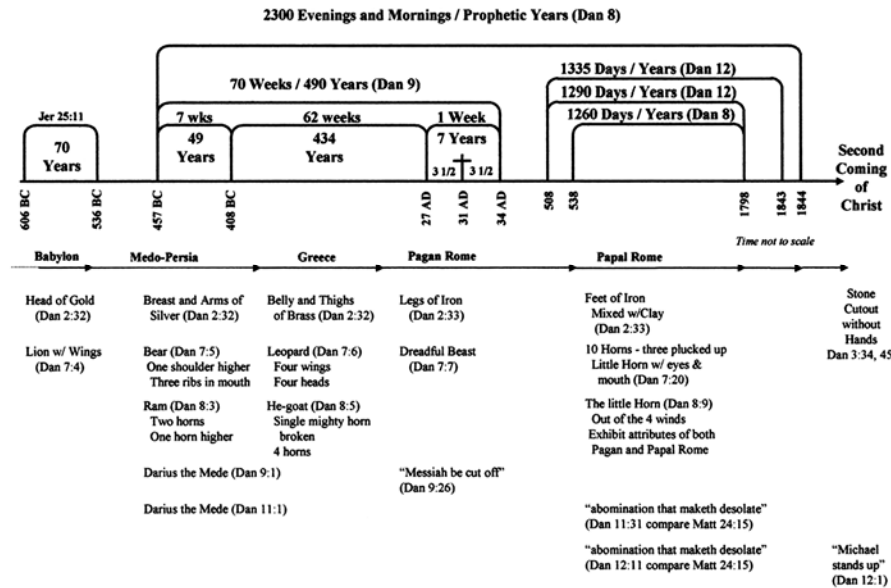
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Plymouth Brethren: Darbyism; a religious sect which first appeared at Plymouth, England, about 1830. Darby (1800-1882) developed the idea of the Secret Rapture around 1838.

Then too, Marxism, Darwinism, Mesmerism, and countless societies for the investigation of the paranormal all rose up around the same time like toadstools. Yes—Satan KNEW the time had come for God to do a mighty work to gather His people—It is just too bad that so many of us fail to see what he saw!

Some of the Amazing Time Prophecies that establish the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy

Daniel 2, 7-9, 11 & 12



2b. Understanding the Prophets: Connecting Link or Dispensational Prophets

The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. Oh, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth. CM 125.

You hear in Adventism today that Sister White was a 'lesser light', but it is light! **All the prophets; every prophet was a lesser light—in comparison to Christ, the Greater Light**, but they were all light. The source of the messages of all the true prophets is Jesus Christ. To reject the light, is to reject Christ. The comparison of greater

light, lesser light has nothing to do with putting Sister White down on the level of some type of minor prophet. We are going to be held accountable for the light that we receive or reject.

“The prophet John was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As God's representative he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. He was the lesser light, which was to be followed by a greater.” DA 220.

John the Baptist was a **connecting link or Dispensational Prophet**. John the Baptist's ministry was to direct the peoples minds from the earthly to the heavenly sanctuary. The first thing that he stated when he saw Christ was; “Behold the Lamb of God.” He was a connecting-link prophet pointing the people to the end of the earthly dispensation, and lifting their thoughts to the beginning of the Heavenly dispensation. He was a connecting link prophet, a dispensational prophet.

There is another connecting-link, dispensational prophet; his name is Noah. The worship of God's people before the flood took place at the gates of the Garden of Eden. The first thing that Noah did after he got off the ark was to set up an altar and offer a sacrifice. Noah was a connecting link prophet; he was used to change the focus of worship from the gates of the Garden of Eden to altar worship.

Another connecting link prophet was Moses. He was used to change the focus of worship for God's people from **altars to the earthly sanctuary**.

There is only one other connecting-link, dispensational prophet. Ellen White was used by the Lord in connection with the **change of the focus of worship of God's people from the Holy place to the Most Holy Place**. Consistently in her earlier writings that was what she was speaking about. She had a vision of Christ moving from the Holy to the Most Holy. She had a vision of the sanctuary, the Ark of the Covenant and the Ten Commandments. This message was her work.

If we are going to categorize Ellen White, **she stands with a group including John the Baptist, Noah, and Moses**. What other group of three prophets would have more weight than those three? Ellen White stands with those three.

Her ministry, because she is a Proclaiming Prophet, a Gathering Prophet, is life or death, and her ministry, the Spirit of Prophecy is the first test for Seventh-day Adventists at the end of the world. If we flunk the first test, we are not around for the second test. The second test has to do with recognizing the coming together of Church and State in the United States; it's the 'Image of the Beast test' The Spirit of Prophecy is what provides us the ability to recognize these events for what they are.

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.” 2SM 80.

This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed.

The definition of the Image of the Beast it is the combination of church and state with the church in control of the relationship. Our test today as Seventh-day Adventists began in the 1980s with the formation of the Christian Coalition, and the secret alliance between the USA and the Vatican. We need to realize that church and state are coming together in the United States, the Lamb-like Beast is ready to speak as a dragon and the

final movements will be rapid ones. In the very near future they are going to push through a Sunday Law.

Recognizing this is our test. Why is that our test? Because as Seventh-day Adventists living at the end of the world we should know that when that Sunday Law arrives, probation closes on Adventism!

The Bible says:

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

Do you think that God would bring His final remnant people down to the time period when He was going to close up shop and bring judgment upon them, and not try to forewarn that it is about to take place? He does so by telling us that our last warning that He is closing up shop in the Most Holy Place above, is a visual test that church and state are coming together in the United States, and we must finish the work of character development, or we are going to be lost.

Today the second test for Seventh-day Adventists is the fact that church and state are coming together. But if I am like some in Adventism today that have taken the writings of Ellen White and thrown them away or refused to read them, I have cut off the information base that inspiration has supplied that most clearly reveals the actions of the Protestants and the Catholics and the Politicians in the United States. You can see it in the Bible, **but you can see it a thousand times more clearly in a book like the Great Controversy.**

If I flunk the first test and I throw away the Great Controversy I no longer have the information available to tell me what's going on. And what's going on is the animals are getting on the ark and the door is about to close!

The first test for Seventh-day Adventists is the ministry of Ellen White; it's life or death because she is a gathering prophet. She's not a minor prophet; she stands with Moses, Noah, and John the Baptist. Her name corresponds with her ministry. Therefore once you understand that, and you read Revelation 3:18, you realize right there in that verse is Ellen Gould White. Right there in the Bible.

Summary: These are very solemn times indeed that we are living in. it is very easy to see that the door on the ark is soon to be shut. The music on the plain of Dura at Nebuchadnezzar's image is about to sound. We will need the character that was illustrated by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. We need the character demonstrated by Noah. But the prophetic testimony is that we are Laodecians, we think everything is alright, when everything is all wrong.

We must pray for the courage to set aside the idols, the darling sins that prevent Jesus from coming in and abiding with us by the Holy Spirit. We need Jesus to come in and awaken us to the work that we must do for ourselves and for others. There is no longer any time to be playing around, we must truly be God's possession. May we take hold of the great Gift that God has given us in the Spirit of Prophecy to help us wake up and prepare so that not one of us will be missing when the redeemed gather on the Sea of Glass.

What will happen to those who reject the first test of the Spirit of Prophecy?

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw

in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence."

"Again and again I have been shown that the people of God in these last days could not be safe in trusting in men, and making flesh their arm. The mighty cleaver of truth has taken them out of the world as rough stones that are to be hewed and squared and polished for the heavenly building. They must be hewed by the prophets with reproof, warning, admonition, and advice, that they may be fashioned after the divine Pattern; this is the specified work of the Comforter, to transform heart and character, that men may keep the way of the Lord." . . . LS 323.