

# THE SOUTHERN WATCHMAN

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**“The Wheat & Tares may closely resemble each other,  
but the Third Angel will successfully separate them at  
the time of harvest”**

**“...These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.”**

# THE LAST CRISIS

“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones... On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: "How can we best glorify God?" The Lord was not in their thoughts. I thought: "Oh, that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising. They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man." As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah. The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines. I am instructed that when the Lord's time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God's appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition.

There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God's word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them. The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ's second coming. Of the men who by robbery and extortion are amassing great riches, it is written: "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5:3-6. But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians "knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away." Matthew 24:39. They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And today the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin.

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfilment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place".  
{9T 11-14}

## YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN

"Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price." We are God's property, and are to honor and glorify God. But we do not honor and glorify God when we become the servants of men, when we consent to have our liberty restricted by men or by councils of men. We have been bought with the precious blood of Christ, in order that we may be just and generous to our own souls. I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God, that you break every band that would restrict your liberty in Christ. God has light to impart to all his children that is of a more radiant character than any we have received, and you have no right to bind yourself in such a way as to shut yourself away from the light. You have no right to do after the inventions of any society of men, who would circumscribe the limit of your thought, and cause you to become a mere mechanical Christian.

You have many things to learn, and much to unlearn. You will have to sit at the feet of the great Teacher and learn of him concerning themes that are higher and nobler than the themes which now engage your attention. I am free to address you who have shut yourselves away from the light, because I know that a higher Teacher than man is calling you. You have lost much in your religious life, because you have failed to improve the opportunities that have been presented to you from the Father of lights. Fresh rays of light from heaven are always given that the character may be transformed, that the soul may be able to contemplate truth in a new relation. When Jesus is welcomed into the heart, he will refine and mould and fashion the character. Those who receive him more fully, will not have less energy in their religious life, but their religion will be of a higher, holier type than ever before. They will work in such a way that their usefulness will be increased. God would have his professed children reach a higher standard, and ever go on, still reaching up to that which they have not attained. They should cherish every divine inspiration, for as his property he requires this of them. {ST, August 27, 1894 par. 5-6}

The Southern Watchman is a free monthly newsletter from Certainty of Prophecy designed to sound the trumpet to God's people during this time of God's Visitation to His beloved Children. Our mission is to stir up our brothers and sisters in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church to the eternal realities that are soon to come upon us as an overwhelming surprise. This publication is funded by readers like you and your donations are greatly appreciated

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# Part 1 - The Empowering of the Third Angel

## Introduction

*There is a great work to be done for this time, and we do not half realize what the Lord is willing to do for his people. We talk about the first angel's message, and the second angel's message, and we think we have some understanding of the Third Angel's message; but we should not be satisfied with our present knowledge. Our petitions, mingled with faith and contrition, should go up to God, for an understanding of the mysteries that God would make known to his saints. We should have a realization that unless taught by the Holy Spirit, we shall not rightly comprehend the Bible; for it is a sealed book even to the learned, who are wise in their own conceit. Jesus meant just what he said when he directed his disciples to "search the Scriptures." Searching means to compare scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. We should not be satisfied with a superficial knowledge. We should search for the hidden treasure concealed beneath the surface, as the merchant-man seeks for goodly pearls. Light, great light, will reward the diligent searcher for truth. {RH, June 4, 1889 par. 8}*

*Those who are **engaged in proclaiming the Third Angel's message** are searching the Scriptures upon the **same plan** that Father Miller adopted. {RH, November 25, 1884 par. 25}*

As Seventh-Day Adventists we presume that we are to one extent or another familiar with the Three Angels' Messages, this supposition is well worth investigating for it is indicated by the prophet that "we think we have some understanding of the Third Angel's message"; in addition to this supposition are rules that accompany the study and proclamation of the Third Angel's message, rules which multitudes in the church are not acquainted with. Notwithstanding this, the Spirit of Prophecy helps us identify the work of the Third Angel in a manner that most have not heard of, let alone considered; it is thus the burden of this series of articles to bring to the attention of God's people the solemn work of the Third Angel – "the binding-off" that is underway as we draw nearer the close of our probation.

## Empowerment of the First & Second Angel

From Adventism's prophetic heritage it can be identified that following the arrival of the first and second angels messages was their empowerment. This understanding can be recognised in Millerite history by tracing the fulfilment of the first and second angels' messages in that generation. We will begin by looking at the arrival and empowerment of the First Angel to prove this concept.

In fulfilment of the "Time of the End" of Daniel 11:40(a) the first angels' message arrived in 1798 following the end of the 1260 years of papal supremacy following its deadly wound. At this time God gave an increase of knowledge in the prophecies of Daniel, particularly Daniel 8:14 - the message of the judgement near (See GC 355-356). The preaching of the coming of Christ was worldwide but took a more definite form in modern glorious land – The United States of America, with William Miller being the primary instrument chosen of God to proclaim this message. The truthfulness of the nearness of Christ's coming was however confirmed through the fulfilment of a predicted prophecy and this empowered the message of the judgment to come; this fact we note from Ellen White and John Nevins Andrews;

*In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfilment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown "in A.D. 1840, sometime in the month of August;" and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: "Allowing the first period, 150 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years, fifteen days, commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case."--Josiah Litch, in Signs of the Times, and Expositor of Prophecy, Aug. 1, 1840.*

*At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. **The event exactly fulfilled the prediction.** (See Appendix.) **When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement.** Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and **from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.** {Great Controversy 334-335}*

*Prior to the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1840, it had been shown by those who were preaching the immediate advent of Christ, that the hour, day, month, and year of Ottoman supremacy would expire the 11th of August, 1840. **When the event verified the truthfulness of this calculation, the way was prepared for the advent message to go with mighty power.** The prophecies were not only unsealed, but, in the providence of God, a demonstration of the truthfulness of the mode of calculation respecting the prophetic times was given to the world. Thus, at the very time when the mighty angel of God was to come down with the little book open in his hand, and to cry with a loud voice, **the advent message began to be proclaimed with great power.** It was the good news of the everlasting kingdom, and of the advent of our glorious King. {1892 John Nevins Andrews, Three Messages of Revelation 14:6-12 p28.1}*

This outline, of an initial arrival and a subsequent empowering of the message can also be identified historically in the fulfilment of the second angel's message, which arrived on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1844 when the Millerites suffered their first disappointment and was consequently empowered at the Exeter Camp Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1844 when the Midnight Cry was given; this history we note from the pen of Inspiration as follows;

***Another mighty angel** was commissioned to descend to earth. Jesus placed in his hand a writing, and as he came to earth, **he cried, Babylon is fallen! is fallen!** Then I saw the **disappointed ones** again look cheerful, and raise their eyes to heaven, looking with faith and hope for their Lord's appearing. But many seemed to remain in a stupid state, as if asleep; yet I could see the trace of deep sorrow upon their*

*countenances. The disappointed ones saw from the Bible that they were in the tarrying time, and that they must patiently wait the fulfilment of the vision. The same evidence which led them to look for their Lord in 1843, led them to expect him in 1844. I saw that the majority did not possess that energy which marked their faith in 1843. Their disappointment had dampened their faith. But as the disappointed ones united in the cry of the second angel, the heavenly host looked with the deepest interest, and marked the effect of the message. They saw those who bore the name of Christians turn with derision and scorn upon those who had been disappointed. As the words fell from the mocker's lips, You have not gone up yet! an angel wrote them. Said the angel, They mock God. {1 Spiritual Gifts 153.1}*

***The midnight cry was given to give power to the second angel's message...**This cry did not stand in the wisdom and learning of men, but in the power of God, and his saints who heard the cry could not resist it. The most spiritual received this message first, and those who had formerly led in the work were the last to receive and help swell the cry, Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him. In every part of the land, light was given upon the second angel's message, and the cry was melting down thousands. It went from city to city, and from village to village, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. {1 Spiritual Gifts 140-141}*

Upon two witnesses this principle is thus established, we may therefore expect its repeat with regard to the Third Angel.

### **The Third Angel Empowered by the Angel of Revelation 18**

The Third Angel of Revelation 14 arrived on Oct 22, 1844 (see EW 254). And as is true of the arrival of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> angels' message, the light of the third was not immediately understood by the disappointed believers but the comprehension of its message and import was progressively unfolded along the way. The Testimonies point out in many references that the Third Angel is to be empowered when the Angel of Revelation 18 arrives in history to join it, here we cite two;

***The Third Angel's Message is to be given with power.** The power of the proclamation of the first and second messages is to be concentrated in the third. In the Revelation, John says of **the angel***

*that unites with the Third Angel, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice." {Pamphlets 130 31.2}*

*The angel who unites in the proclamation of the Third Angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. 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. {Great Controversy 611.1}*

### **Identifying when the Empowerment is fulfilled**

In Millerite History the empowering of the first angel was accompanied by the fulfilment of a prediction, in this case it was Josiah Litch's prediction of the fall of the Islamic Ottoman Empire. As we recognise that God's work has a striking similarity in every age (see GC 343) we shall note a remarkable repeat of this history in our generation.

The prophet Ellen White was given a prophetic dream, the fulfilment of which helps us to identify the arrival of the angel of Revelation 18, whose work is to empower that of the Third Angel. Take note of the following quotation;

*"Now comes the word that I have declared that New York is to be swept away by a tidal wave. This I have never said. I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story: 'What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled.' The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God's power. From the*

*light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. One word from the Lord, one touch of His mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulfulness of which we cannot imagine." {Life Sketches 411.5}*

The above excerpt unmistakably bonds the falling of the "great buildings" of New York with the arrival of the Angel of Revelation 18 that is to empower the work of the third. The falling of these "great buildings" in New York as described in Testimonies for the Church Volume 9 page 11 (9T 11) referenced on page 2 undoubtedly refers to the event of September 11, 2001, an incident that is widely known and will be frequently referenced in these articles as **9/11**. Following the attack by radical Islam on the World Trade Centre in New York, these "great buildings" fell just as described in the dream given to the Prophet Ellen White and thus fulfilled the "predictive" dream which we now understand to mark the empowering of the Third Angel. We thus note an activity of Islam empowering both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> angels in the history of the Millerites and in our own respectively, this striking similarity is no coincidence, it is the Lord's doing! This simply means that from 9/11 the message of the Third Angel is now more significant in its application to the generation that witnessed its fulfilment.

### **The Substance of the Third Angel**

*Revelation 14:9-11 - "And the Third Angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And*

*the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name".*

The message of the Third Angel of Revelation 14 gives a warning to those who would worship the

***'What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled.'***

image of the beast or receive his mark. This warning could not have been given when this angel arrived in history on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1844 as the light on this subject was not immediately understood. This message then, would have to be understood first and then proclaimed when it became a present reality, that is, when the image of the beast and the mark of the beast issues are soon to be brought before the world to test the waiting people of God. Then can we expect more light on the subject and with it a warning of approaching crisis (see Amos 4:7).

Both subjects of the image of the beast and the mark of the beast are connected with the final workings of the man sin – the papacy, as brought to view in the book Daniel. This knowledge has been unsealed and has brought to view the final rise of this apostate power in the unsealing by the Lion of the tribe of Judah of the last six verses of Daniel 11 (verses 40-45), which relate to the final rise and fall of the “king of the north” who prophetically is a figure of the papacy/ the man of sin.

The history of Daniel 11:40 talks about the powers symbolised by the king of the north and the king of the south, these symbols can be prophetically identified as the Papacy and Atheism respectively. In the year 1798 (time of the end for the Protestants) the papacy received its deadly wound from atheistic France and lost its position of worldwide supremacy; but this was to be overturned in 1989 (the time of the end for this generation) when the papacy through an alliance with the United States defeated the forces of atheism that had taken the form of communism at the collapse of the Soviet Union. Thus in 1989 the papacy began its quest to once again rise to the throne of the universe; and as can be identified the man of sin is connected with both the image and mark of the beast (see GC 443-450, Rev 13), consequently making the message of the Third Angel a present reality in our time, hence its empowering at 9/11.

For a proof text study on Daniel 11:40-45 you may download the “Time of the End” magazine available on the website (also available in Shona).

### **The Third Angel is empowered & The Latter Rain**

*The latter rain is to fall upon the people of God. A mighty angel is to come down from heaven, and the whole earth is to be lighted with his glory. Are*

*we ready to take part in the glorious work of the Third Angel? Are our vessels ready to receive the heavenly dew? Have we defilement and sin in the heart? If so, let us cleanse the soul temple, and prepare for the showers of the latter rain. **The refreshing** from the presence of the Lord will never come to hearts filled with impurity. May God help us to die to self, that Christ, the hope of glory, may be formed within! I must have the Spirit of God in my heart. I can never go forward to do the great work of God, unless the Holy Spirit rests upon my soul. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." **The day of judgment is upon us.** O that we may wash our robes of character, and make them white in the blood of the Lamb! {Review & Herald, April 21, 1891 par. 11}*

The latter rain arrives with the descent of the mighty angel that is to lighten the whole earth with his glory; this angel, according to Inspiration came into prophetic history following the event of the falling of the great buildings of New York which were thrown down by the turning and overturning of God’s power. The Latter rain has thus been falling since 2001 but in the words of Sister White;

*Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, **we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.** {Testimonies to Ministers & Gospel Workers 507.1}*

The subject of the Latter rain is not understood by God’s people as it should be and thus many fail to recognise it and therefore cannot be benefited by it. The diligent student would do well to thoroughly investigate this subject as the Latter Rain **is upon us** but many know it not. We will thus briefly endeavor to look into this all important subject.

The word of God identifies the rain or water as a symbol of His Spirit (John 3:5; Rev 22:7; Isa 44:3), this is in accordance with the expectation of the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon His people when we make reference to the latter rain. The Scriptures also identify the rain as falling in two phases, that is the early or former rain and the latter rain (Deut 11:3-4; Job 37:6; Joe 2:23). The purpose of the early rain being to cause the seed to germinate, the word of God being the seed (Mat

13:20; Luke 8:11). The seed can only germinate when the rain falls, this is true in the natural world. Spiritually speaking then, the Lord as given His children His word (the seed) and has caused the Spirit (in measure with the first rain) to cause the seed to germinate that it may grow up to a certain level, after a while, the plant will require the latter rain to cause to grow to full maturity just as the soul needs the full outpouring of the Spirit to grow into the full measure of the stature of Christ. So at the beginning of the final work of the Third Angel, God's people receive the "sprinkling" of the latter rain before its full outpouring at the Sunday when the Loud Cry goes to the world. This is a consistent principle as no seed can expect to germinate and grow to full maturity without having nature run its natural course upon it.

The rain is also described as doctrine or teachings;

*Deu 32:1-2 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*

The words of the Lord are His doctrine and they are also His Spirit (Prov 1:23). The way the Lord communicates with His people is through His Word, and thus He pours out rain upon people, who can also be symbolized as grass (Isa 40:6-7). In Isaiah 28:9-13 we note the teaching and understanding of doctrine is through a line upon line methodology, this principle is also described as the "refreshing, yet the people would not "hear" this refreshing (verse 12). The latter rain is thus something that is to be heard as it is presented to the people "line upon line". That which the people are to hear are the words of the Lord or His messages. The Latter rain therefore represents the messages that come from the Lord "line upon line".

Though many in the church are familiar with the basic concept of a line upon line application in the study of Scripture, in the final work of the Gospel we are to go a step further with this principle; and that is to take up the prophetic lines of Bible histories and bring them together to tell of our present position and work. As are we told that all the prophets spoke more for our time than they did for their own and that all things happened to them as "ensamples" or types to us upon whom the ends of the world are come (3SM 338; 1Cor 10:11); this clearly tells us that all the prophets are speaking

about the end of the world and are speaking the same thing (1Cor 14:32).

To thus receive the latter rain we are to take all the words of God spoken through the prophets and bring their testimonies prophetic line upon prophetic line.

To thus clearly understand the word of God "line upon line" that we may indeed receive the refreshing we are to employ the rules of Biblical Interpretation as outlined in the Scriptures as well the Spirit of Prophecy. Note the following Words from Counsel;

*We should know for ourselves what constitutes Christianity, what is truth, what is the faith that we have received, **what are the Bible rules--the rules given us from the highest authority.** There are many who believe without a reason on which to base their faith, without sufficient evidence as to the truth of the matter. If an idea is presented that harmonizes with their own preconceived opinions, they are all ready to accept it. They do not reason from cause to effect, their faith has no genuine foundation, and in the time of trial they will find that they have built upon the sand. {1888 Materials 403.1}*

***Those who are engaged in proclaiming the Third Angel's message are searching the Scriptures upon the same plan that Father Miller adopted.** In the little book entitled "Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology," Father Miller gives the following simple but intelligent and important rules for Bible study and interpretation... [Rules 1 to 5 quoted] The above is a portion of these rules; and in our study of the Bible **we shall all do well to heed the principles set forth.** {RH, November 25, 1884 }*

The method Biblical interpretation adopted by Miller and His associates were proved correct and we are to uphold these same rules – given us from the Highest Authority if we are to have the correct understanding of the Latter rain messages that are coming to us here at the end of the world. These rules are indispensable to the students of prophecy.

*At every meeting we attend, our prayers should ascend that at this very time, God will impart warmth and moisture to our souls. As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for **the perfecting latter rain.** If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has*



*promised. {Review & Herald, March 2, 1897 par. 7}*

The latter rain is designed to make “perfect” God’s children; that which is perfect is without sin, spot, blemish or any such thing (Matt 5:48), this therefore makes the words of Peter more applicable to our time when under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit he uttered these words;

*Act 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the **times of refreshing** shall come from the presence of the Lord; Act 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Act 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the **times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

The “times of refreshing” are a reference to the time of the latter rain when you bring the word of God line upon line; we thus note in the words of Peter that the refreshing is accompanied with the blotting out of sins. This blotting out of sins is for those who are called to repent and be converted, that is, those that hear these messages, those that are alive! Bringing to view the judgment of the living, for the work of blotting out sins is part of the work of the Investigative Judgment is the blotting out of sins; and those called to repent are not the dead for the dead know not anything.

When we thus talk of the Third Angel being empowered we also talk of the falling of the latter rain and the judgment of the Living being a present reality to Seventh-Day Adventists; this should cause one to seriously ponder the implication of these truths and seek to make a thorough of repentance whilst the door of probation is yet open to us.

While the subject of the Latter Rain has not be extensively dealt with, we trust the reader to employ His God given privilege and duty to investigate these things and see if they be so and subsequently to stand by the truth that the Lord would have driven to their heart.

## The work of the Third Angel

When the warning of the Third Angel (of the image and mark of the beast) becomes a present reality, then we can expect other aspects of His work to apply to our history. And what is the work of the Third Angel?

*I then saw the Third Angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to **select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.**" {Early Writings 118.1}*

*I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were **numbered and sealed.** {Early Writings 279.2}*

*I was shown **three steps--the first, second, and Third Angels' messages.** Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages.*

The Third Angel has a fourfold work to perform as we read from EW 118 & 279 - to separate, seal, bind and to number (numbering accompanies the work of sealing in Rev 7).

The work of the Third Angel is designed to purify the church militant that it may become the church triumphant at the Sunday Law when our probation as Adventists comes to a close and the full outpouring of the Spirit is given (see COL 69, 7BC 966; 5T 81). This is achieved through the threefold work of the everlasting gospel as explained

in the section that follows. This fourfold work will be further explored, Lord willing, in the articles that follow.

## The Everlasting Gospel

*The message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven is **the everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was declared in Eden...** {2 Selected Messages 106.2}*

Revelation 14 brings to view the arrival and work of the Three Angels messages. These messages as they were fulfilled in Millerite history enable us to

ascertain the work of the everlasting Gospel. This work can be delineated and shown to have three stages/steps and is key for us to determine how this same work of the gospel will be fulfilled as it is repeated at the end of the world. The three messages are described by Inspiration as follows;

*I saw a company who stood well-guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown **three steps--the first, second, and Third Angels' messages.** Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. **The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.**" {Story of Redemption 385.1}*

*Many who went forth to meet the Bridegroom under the messages of the first and second angels, refused the third, **the last testing message** to be given to the world, and a similar position will be taken when the last call is made. {Review & Herald, October 31, 1899 par. 12}*

From the above references (the context being the parable of ten virgins as fulfilled in Millerite history) the three angels' messages comprise of three steps, which also are described as testing messages; and a message could either be rejected or accepted. We can therefore identify the history of the Millerites as a three step testing process that resulted in the development and subsequent

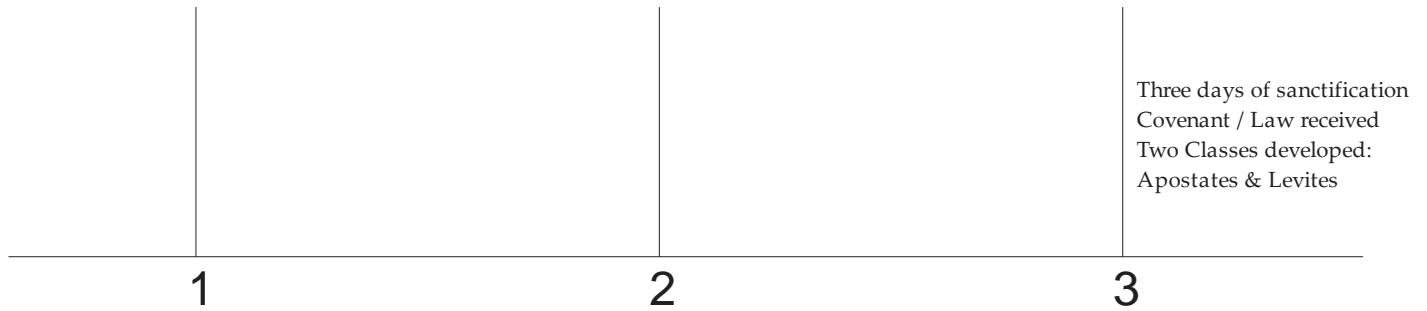
demonstration of two classes of worshipers. That is the work of the Everlasting Gospel; to produce and demonstrate two classes of worshippers through the introduction of a three step testing prophetic message (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> angels' messages); these three steps can be fundamentally identified in many portions of Scripture as; 1) conviction of **Sin**, 2) manifestation of **Righteousness**, and 3) pronouncement of **Judgment**. With examples from Scripture this is tabulated below and also illustrated on a line on page 11;

The three step pattern can be shown in other lines of prophetic history and we may therefore anticipate its repetition at the end of the world. A three step process can be delineated in the last week of the 70 weeks marked for the Jews, the final work for the Protestants in Millerite history, and during the period of the empowerment of the Third Angel.

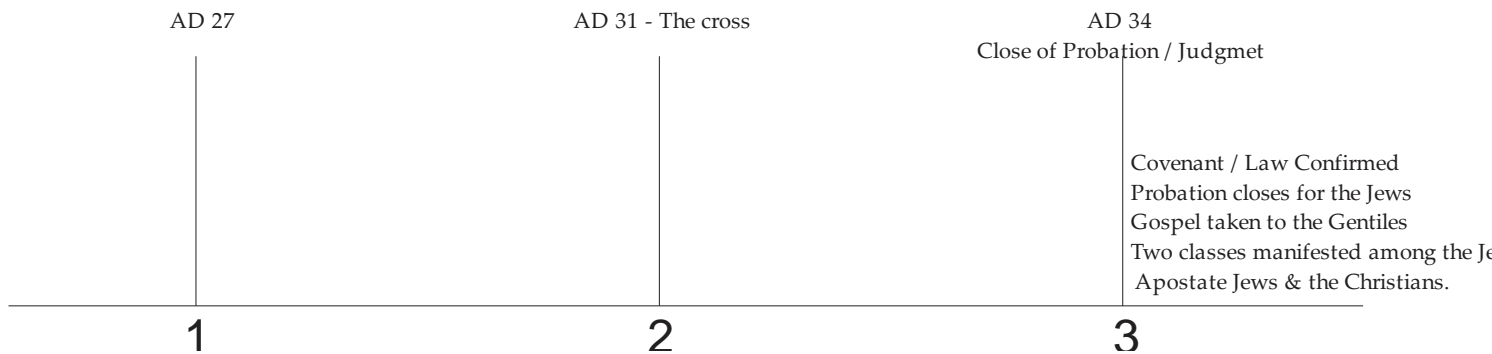
The pattern of the repeat of the Millerite history at the end of the world can be substantiated by a key attribute of Christ's character, and that is, declaring the end of a thing from the beginning of a thing (Rev 1:8,11; Isa 46:9-10). The beginning of Adventism (Millerite history) therefore illustrates the end of Adventism (Reform movement of the 144,000); this is just as the beginning of Ancient Israel illustrates its end.

Text / Steps	1	2	3
<b>John 16:8</b>	Sin	Righteousness	Judgment
<b>Rev 14:7</b>	Fear God	Give Glory	Judgment
<b>Daniel 12:10</b>	Purified	Made White	Tried
<b>Revelation 17:14</b>	Called	Chosen	Faithful
<b>Theology</b>	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Courtyard	Holy Place	Most Holy Place

## Moses & the Covenant - Beginning of Ancient Israel



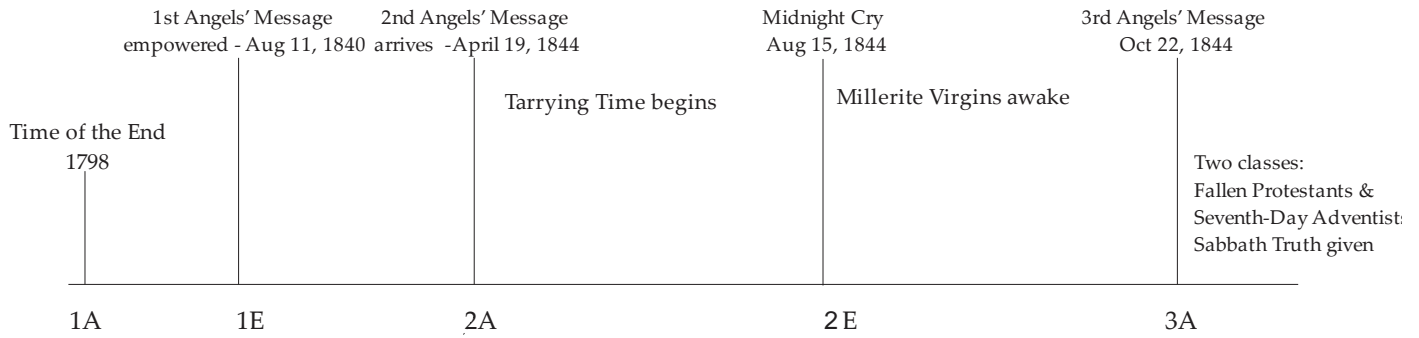
## Christ & the Covenant - End of Ancient Israel



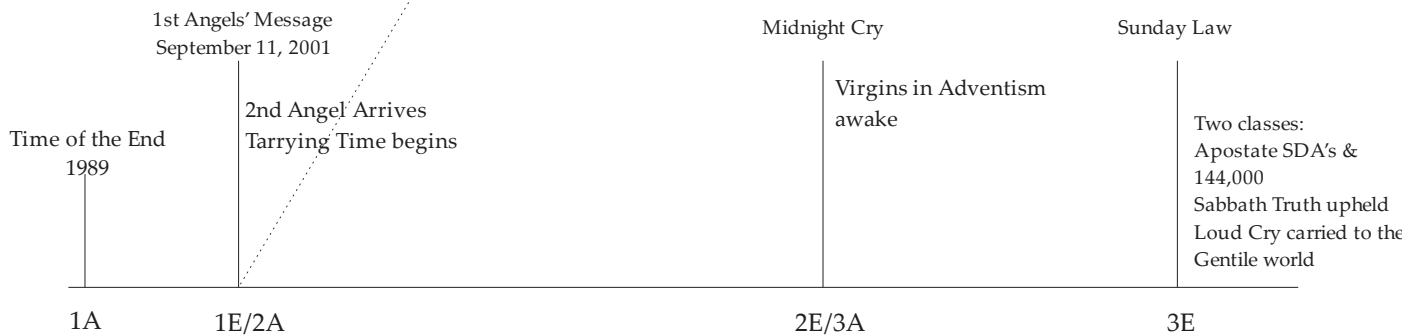
In the time of Moses (beginning of Ancient Israel) we can note that the children of Israel had to be sanctified against the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and then they receive the law; this being an illustration of the three steps of the Everlasting Gospel. We also know from that same history that two classes were manifested and demonstrated, one class –the Levites, manifested their loyalty to the Law of Jehovah whilst the other proved their hypocrisy and worshipped the golden calf made by Aaron (see Ex 19 & 32).

In the time of Christ (End of Ancient Israel), during the last week of the 70 weeks (Daniel 9) in which He came to confirm the covenant, the Jews experienced a three step process as illustrated; The call to repentance from **Sin** by Christ from the time of His baptism ((Matt 4:17), His **Righteousness** manifest on the cross (Matt 27:4,54; Luke 23:41) , and **Judgment** pronounced on the rejecters of Saviour at the stoning of Stephen. This three step process once again developed and demonstrated two classes of worshipers; the Jews that rejected the testimony of Christ and His Disciples and those that accepted the gospel and became a part of the Christian Church founded by Christ Himself.

## Millerite History



## History of 144,000



1A - 1st Angel's Message Arrives  
 2A - 2nd Angel's Message Arrives  
 3A - 3rd Angel's Message Arrives

1E - 1st Angel's Message Empowered  
 2E - 2nd Angel's Message Empowered  
 3E - 3rd Angel's Message Empowered

The history of the 144,000 is the history of the Third Angel. The three steps in our history - the first angel arrives in 1989 and is subsequently empowered in September 11, 2001, the second angel joins it and is empowered at the Midnight Cry and the Third Angel is empowered at the Sunday Law marking the end of our testing period. The history of the Millerites presents such a striking similarity that proves that we are repeating their history. And this history includes that of the Parable of the Ten Virgins, The Seven Thunders and the Three Angel's Messages of the fourteenth chapter of the book Revelation.

**The Repeat of Millerite History** (see illustration above with this section)

In Millerite history we know that the 3 angels messages / 3 steps can be located by clear and distinct waymarks which should be carefully guarded (LDE 14.5; 2SM 102; 1MR 54-55); this history is the clearest illustration of the everlasting gospel. At the arrival of the Third Angel (the third step) two classes can be clearly identified; the fallen Protestant churches that rejected these warning messages and those who remained steadfast and faithful and later on formed the Seventh-Day Adventists Church.

The three histories of Moses, Christ & the Millerites illustrate a pattern we can expect to be repeated in our day. The history of the beginning of Adventism illustrates the history of the end of Adventism according to Christ's signature as the Alpha & Omega, and His attribute as the God who declares the end from the beginning (Rev 1:8,11,17; Isaiah 46:9-10, 41:22-23, 44:7; GC 343). At the end of Adventism the process of the three steps of the three angels messages will be repeated with God's people first (1Peter 4:17) and two classes will be developed and manifested, those that will be part of the reform movement of the 144,000 and those that join the ranks of the adversary at the Sunday Law.

The history of the beginning of Modern Israel is a sacred history that demands our attention and study, and is already being repeated in our day (those willing to recognise it will appreciate it); this is consistent with Sister White's remarks on the parable of the Ten Virgins, the Three Angel's Messages & the Seven Thunders having both past and future fulfilments. Below are a few quotes that emphasise the repeat and importance of this sacred history;

***The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people.*** {Great Controversy 393.2}

*I am often referred to **the parable of the ten virgins**, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. This parable **has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the Third Angel's message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.* {Review & Herald, August 19, 1890 par. 3}

*The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a delineation of events which would transpire under the first and second angels' messages* {7 Bible Commentary 971.6}

*After these **seven thunders** uttered their voices, the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book: "Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered." **These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order.*** {7BC 971.4}

*The Testimony of Pioneer Workers.--I have had presentations regarding the deceptions that Satan is bringing in at this time. I have been instructed that we should make prominent the testimony of some of the old workers who are now dead. Let them continue to speak through their articles as found in the early numbers of our papers. These articles should now be reprinted, that there may be a living voice from the Lord's witnesses. **The history of the early experiences in the message will be a power to withstand the masterly ingenuity of Satan's deceptions.** This instruction has been repeated recently. I must present before the people the testimonies of Bible truth, and **repeat the decided messages given years ago.*** {Counsels to Writers & Editors 26.1}

*All the messages given from 1840-1844 are to be made forcible now, for there are many people who have lost their bearings. The messages are to go to all the churches.* {21Manuscript Releases 437.1}

***The warning has come:*** *Nothing is to be allowed to come in that will disturb the foundation of the faith upon which we have been building ever since the message came in 1842, 1843, and 1844. I was in this message, and ever since I have been standing before the world, true to the light that God has given us. We do not propose to take our feet off the platform on which they were placed as day by day we sought the Lord with earnest prayer, seeking for light. Do you think that I could give up the light that God has given me? It is to be as the Rock of Ages. It has been guiding me ever since it was given. Brethren and sisters, God lives and reigns and works today. His hand is on the wheel, and in His providence He is turning the wheel in accordance with His own will. Let not men fasten themselves to documents, saying what they will do and what they will not do. Let them fasten themselves to the Lord God of heaven. Then the light of heaven will shine into the soul-temple, and we shall see the salvation of God.* {General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903 par. 35}

The foundational messages of our history are described as the "platform" & "Rock of Ages". Accordingly the history of the Three Angels' messages is to be carefully understood and guarded if we are to stand firm during the time of their perfect

fulfilment (1989 to the Sunday Law). We have shown in the illustration of the history of the Three Angels' messages in Millerite history and the parallel of that history in relation to our day. As students of prophecy we are expected to take note of these important histories seeing that they will be (are being) repeated.

*The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, **showing their order**, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the Third Angel's message. **There cannot be a third without the first and second.** These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been and the things that will be. {2 Selected Messages 104.3}*

*God has given the messages of Revelation 14 their place in the line of prophecy, and their work is not to cease till the close of this earth's history. The first and second angel's messages are still truth for this time, and **are to run parallel** with this which follows. The Third Angel proclaims his warning with a loud voice. "After these things," said John, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory." In this illumination, the light of **all the three messages is combined.** {1888 Materials 804.3}*

## **In Summary**

*"To us, as God's servants, has been entrusted the Third Angel's message, **the binding-off message**, that is to prepare a people for the coming of our King. Time is short. The Lord desires that everything connected with His cause shall be brought into order. He desires that the solemn message of warning and of invitation shall be proclaimed as widely as His messengers can carry it. The means that shall come into the treasury, is to be used wisely in supporting the workers. Nothing that would hinder the advance of the message, is to be allowed to come into our planning. . . . {Life Sketches 423.1}*

*The words were spoken: "Repeat the messages in their order. Tell My people to **proclaim the message, the binding-off message, that is to proclaim a people for the coming of the King.** Give the world a knowledge of the messages of the first, second and Third Angels. Bind up the law among My disciples.*

*There are many who will listen because men will speak under the influence of the Holy Spirit. You are twenty years behind; but let the warning voice now be heard speaking with the voice of assurance." {5Manuscript Releases 128.2}*

The message and warning of the Third Angel is designed to prepare a people for the second coming of Christ. This work cannot be carried forward by a people who suppose they have some understanding of it. The work of the everlasting Gospel will thus first have to be accomplished in those whom God has ordained to bear the burden of this solemn work – Seventh-Day Adventists. When God's people have been tested and purified through the three step testing process as it applies in our time, they will then be fitted to carry out the work, themselves being free from sin or any such thing.

The Third Angels' Message is the "Binding-off" message that has been entrusted to God's people. This message is to engross the whole mind and the whole attention of God's professed people. Only by a correct knowledge and application of the 14 rules of Biblical interpretation adopted by Father Miller can the Third Angels Message be correctly understood and subsequently proclaimed with power; these rules are hardly known in Adventism and we wonder why the power of God seldom attends our missionary efforts.

The event of 9/11 marks a turning point in the history of both the world and the church. The Lord has shed much light on the message and work of the Third Angel for this generation to understand. This light is rapidly expanding and yet we are all as God's people are in a terrible slumber. The publishers of this newsletter thus entreat the reader to candidly study this most important theme and make an earnest work of preparation for the final work ahead of us. The parable of the ten virgins is now at play once again in our experience as God's people as it was in Millerite history, a history that will help us identify our present position and work as we near the close of our probation as Seventh-Day Adventists.

*In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. **We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.** {Life Sketches 196.2}*

## Part 2 - The Third Angel – Sealing & Numbering

### Introduction

*I then saw the Third Angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention." {Early Writings 118.1}*

*I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were **numbered and sealed**. {Early Writings 279.2}*

In the first article in this series we looked at the empowerment of the Third Angel in broad summary and identified that the arrival of the angel of Revelation 18 marked this empowering on September 11, 2001 following the event of radical Islam's attack on the great buildings of New York (see 9T 11, LS 411). This event was a parallel to the predicted activity of Islam in Millerite history resulting in the empowerment of the first angel's message. We also cited the fourfold work of the Third Angel as identified in the opening references above, namely; separating, sealing, binding and numbering. Continuing with our focus of the Third Angel's work, this article will focus on the sealing & numbering effort of the Third Angel.

### The Four Winds and the Sealing

**Rev 7:1** *And after these things I saw **four angels** standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. **Rev 7:2** And I saw **another angel** ascending from the east, **having the seal of the living God**: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, **Rev 7:3** Saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.***

Revelation 7 brings to view the work of sealing that takes place amongst God's people at the end of the world. This work clearly takes place amongst the children of Israel who today spiritually are Seventh-Day Adventists. A similar work of sealing is also brought to view in Revelation 9:1-4 under the sounding of the 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet & 1<sup>st</sup> Woe, which brings to view Islam as a subject of Bible Prophecy (see our October 2014 issue for a further study on the role of Islam in Bible prophecy). Under the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet, whilst Islam was active in its warfare against an

apostate priesthood (Church of Rome), the Lord was protecting those that had His seal. In like manner in the account of the Millerite time period, as the history of 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet & 2<sup>nd</sup> woe (also a subject of Islam) was coming to an end, God was setting His seal on the faithful of that generation who later on became God's commandment keeping people – SDA's. This was between the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> woe on Aug 11, 1840 and the end of the sounding of the sixth trumpet on October 22, 1844 as shown in the illustration on the last page. As noted, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe have reference to Islam, and by combining the characteristics of these two woes we have the prophetic justification of identifying the 3<sup>rd</sup> woe as a reference to Islam which comes under the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet which began sounding on Oct 22, 1844.

*I saw **four angels** who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, "My blood, Father, My blood! My blood! My blood!" Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel fly with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do in the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, "**Hold! hold! hold! hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.**"*

*I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was **God that restrained** the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the **four angels** had power from God to hold the **four winds**, and that they were about to let them go; but **while their hands were loosening**, and the four winds were about to blow, **the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed**, and He raised His hands to the Father, and **pleaded** with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels, and **bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads.** {Christian Experiences & Teachings 102.1-2}*

***Angels are holding the four winds**, represented as an angry horse seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path. {20Manuscript Releases 216.6}*

The four angels holding the four winds of Revelation 7 are restrained because the servants of God are not sealed, it is at the point that Christ pleads before the Father on behalf of His people and thus the work of

sealing begins, that is, when the four winds are restrained, and these four winds are described as an angry horse.

## The “angry horse” of Bible Prophecy

It is acknowledged on all hands that Ishmael the son of Abraham by Hagar is regarded as the father of those who today hold to the religion of Islam, set as a highly esteemed figure within the circles of the oriental faith (see muslimvoices.org/ishmael-islam). In view of this the inspired word declares the characteristic of Ishmael’s posterity – that he will be a “wild man”, his hand will be against every man and every man’s hand against him (Gen 16”11-12). The Hebrew equivalent of “wild man” is “pereh”, rendering the phrase to mean “wild ass” - a member of the horse family. Ishmael’s posterity thus describes an angry horse that angers the nations - his hand against every man and every man’s hand against him”.

Following the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York on September 11, 2001 the nations were angered and came together to fight radical Islam, this being the fulfilment of the holding of the four winds referenced as an angry horse “seeking to break loose and rush over the whole earth, bearing destruction and death”. The event of 9/11 was thus used by the Lord to give a signal to His people that the sealing work of Revelation 7 was now underway.

## Sealing complete at the Sunday law

***The Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. It points to God as the Creator, and is the sign of His rightful authority over the beings He has made. Those who obey this law will bear the seal of God, for He has set apart this day as a sign of loyalty between Himself and His people. To Moses on Mount Sinai He said, "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." The mark of the beast is the opposite of this,--the observance of the first day of the week as the sabbath enforced by human law. This mark distinguishes those who acknowledge the supremacy of the papal authority from those who acknowledge the authority of God. {Signs of the Times, March 22, 1910 par. 4-5}***

[Revelation 7:1-3 quoted] *Here was a work to be done before the angels should let go the four winds; and if we shall awake to what is transpiring right around us, we must admit that we are not ready for the contest and the perplexities which are to be*

*brought upon us, after the decree shall go forth. {Review & Herald, December 18, 1888 par. 16}*

*If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false Sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls "My holy day," you receive the mark of the beast. When does this take place?-- When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working-day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, and refuse the seal of God. If we receive this mark in our foreheads or in our hands, the judgments pronounced against the disobedient must fall upon us. But the seal of the living God is placed upon those who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord. {Review & Herald, July 13, 1897 par. 6}*

The sealing of God’s people is a progressive work that began when the four winds were restrained following the activity of radical Islam on September 11, 2001 and will continue till we reach the Sunday Law, at which point two classes of worshipers amongst God’s professed people are clearly distinguishable. Those that honour and keep the Sabbath will receive the seal of God whilst those who conscientiously obey the decree of man that commands one to honour the false sabbath will receive the mark of the beast. At this time, those who have stood faithful in the image of the beast crisis that comes before the Sunday Law will then be empowered to give the loud cry of the Third Angel and call those who have not rejected the light on the Sabbath to come out of Babylon.

*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 80.4}*

Let God’s people once again be reminded that the test that decides our eternal destiny is not the decree passed at the Sunday law but it is the image of the beast crisis that precedes it. When we see the coming together of church and state through the enactments of Sunday laws we will then be called to make our calling and election sure for all eternity (see GC 605). At the Sunday Law we will be merely reflecting the character we would have developed during the time of Adventism’s visitation that began at 9/11 and ends at the Sunday Law.



## Conditions of receiving the seal of God

Now is the time to prepare. **The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman.** It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal **must be without spot before God**,--candidates for heaven. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour. {*Christian Experiences & T* 191.2}

**Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement.** Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. {*5 Testimonies for the Church* 214.2}

That the seal of God is placed on a perfect people is unmistakable; when the Sunday Law is passed God's people are expected to have cooperated with Divine agencies in the attainment of a perfect Christian character in advance of giving the loud cry that gives the world its final warning message, for the world can only be warned by a people sanctified by the truth they profess (7BC 980.8). The misguided notion that because of our human nature we are to continue in sin until Jesus comes is Satanic and is void of faith that works by love and purifies the soul; it also denies the promise that Christ is able to save to the uttermost and is proficient to keep us from falling (Hebrews 7:25; Jude 1:24).

## The Numbering of The 144,000

**Revelation 14:1-5** *And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

**Revelation 15:2-4** *And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, [and] over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous [are] thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true [are] thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for [thou] only [art] holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*

*The decree is to go forth that all who will not receive the mark of the beast shall neither buy nor sell, and, finally, that they shall be put to death. **But the saints of God do not receive this mark.** The prophet of Patmos beheld those that had gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. {*Signs of the Times, November 8, 1899 par. 11*}*

The 144,000 are numbered and stand as those that have obtained the seal of the living God (Day Star, January 24, 1846) having obtained the victory of the image and mark of the beast. This work of numbering is accomplished during the three step testing period from the empowering of the Third Angel to the Sunday when the church becomes triumphant. In Bible history, the theme of the numbering God's people before they go do a work can be found in many portions of Scripture. We will now identify a few of these and identify how they typify the numbering of God's people here at the end of the world.

## Gideon's army – Judges 7

In the story of Gideon, God's people were to face a three-fold enemy – the Midianites, Amalekites and children of the east; in preparation for this battle God's army was numbered and underwent two cleansings that proved who amongst the called were chosen and faithful (GW 297-298, Rev 17:14), ready for the battle; this was a test of their character. The principle of the two temple cleansings is drawn from Christ's ministry (RH Dec 6, 1892). From the story we note that the army starts off with 32,000 men, the number goes down to 10,000 and finally to just 300, not a big number when compared to their enemies! From Gideon's story we see the number of troops twice reduced, this history was repeated in Millerite History when the number of Advent believers was reduced from about 200,000 to 50,000 at the Midnight Cry and finally about 50 on October 22,

1844. This teaches that the Lord is not all about numbers but delights to work with those who are diligent in their effort to carry out His will. This is true of the 144,000; it is not the number that makes them more distinguishable but rather it is the purity of the character that is emphasised more in the Scriptures and SOP.

The threefold enemy encountered by Gideon's army typified God's last day people who are to confront the three-fold union of the Dragon, Beast & False Prophet (Rev 16:14) at the Sunday Law. But before they can face this enemy they must go through the three step testing process of the everlasting Gospel identified in the 1<sup>st</sup> series of these articles. When this testing process is accomplished those that will make up God's army will be numbered and subsequently empowered by the Spirit of God to go forth and defeat the enemies of the Lord.

### Numbering at Pentecost

Ahead of the day of Pentecost as the Disciples gathered in the upper rooms the number of the twelve had to be made up following the falling away of Judas Iscariot who had fallen away. This typified the making up of the number to replace the apostasy of the Judas's of our history who betray the cause of Christ, to take up the assigned responsibility in the church as it goes forward in a new phase of the work.

*"Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen, that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was **numbered with the eleven apostles.**" From these scriptures we learn that the Lord has certain men to fill certain positions. God will teach his people to move carefully, and to make wise choice of men who will not betray sacred trusts. If in Christ's day the believers needed to be guarded in their choice of men for positions of responsibility, we who are living in this time certainly need to move with great discretion. We are to present every case before God, and in earnest prayer ask him to choose for us. {General Conference Bulletin, June 1, 1909 par. 6-7}*

Those that were familiar with the Christ's ministry from the baptism of John were among those selected

to replace Judas. The baptism of Christ identifies the beginning of God's visitation by Christ to the Jews; and those that were familiar with the ministry of Christ were seen as able replacements for the fallen Judas. Christ began the work of selecting and training the disciples He cleansed the Temple of its sacrilegious practices, this act was repeated shortly before His crucifixion ahead of their great commission, and in like manner we are in the time of our visitation; this visitation is carried out through the messages that come with the angel of Revelation 18 beginning at 9/11 and ending at the Sunday Law. These messages are designed to select the wheat from the tares and do the work of sealing God's people ahead of the greatest ingathering that takes place at the Sunday Law. Those who have been confronted and have been faithful with the truths of the messages of the angel of Revelation 18 will be numbered and be among the unified company that will carry forward the work of carrying the message of the Third Angel to the world at the Sunday Law just as the disciples carried the gospel the rest of the world at the stoning of Stephen.

### Numbering in Advance of Canaan – Numbers 25-26

#### First the Apostasy

*Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. **We are repeating the history of that people.** {5 Testimonies for the Church 160.2}*

As the children of Israel were ending their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, apostasy crept into the camp just as they were preparing to cross over into the Promised Land. And as we are repeating the history of that people we should discern the apostasy that has crept in amongst God's people today. 171 years following the disappointment of October 22, 1844 God's people today are in no better a condition than the pioneers of this church. To put it frankly God's people are in apostasy that's as dark as midnight; and this is visible and clear to all who are willing to see it. It is not the burden of this article to dwell on the apostasy in the church but it can be identified that the cause of apostasy among Ancient Israel was the mingling with the heathen nations, this in direct contrast with the command of the Lord to the Israelites to "learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer 10:2) and not to intermarry with them. The following quotes reference causes and results of departing from the Lord, which contain rich lessons for us in these last days; *RH, March 16, 1897 par. 6; COL 414.3; RH, December 19, 1907 par. 5; RH, February 20, 1908 par. 7*

## Unlawful Union and the repeat in our present history

That which led to the apostasy at the Jordan was the gradual embracing of the practices and habits of the Midians, this led the children of Israel to openly practice idolatry and engage in unlawful unions with the heathen. This turning upside down of the marriage relation in Ancient Israel is prevalent in the church today; this is evident by the practices of women ordination in the North American Division, gender roles being overturned in direct contradiction to Bible principles and the accommodation of homosexually oriented individuals in church business activities. At a prophetic level the act of debasing the marriage relation in one form or another is an illustration of an unlawful relationship – image of the beast, which is the crisis that will be the test that decides the eternal destiny of God’s people. Without a doubt we are God’s denominated people, the apple of His eye (Deut 32:10; Zec 2:8); but as we see ourselves faltering on this subject at a moral and spiritual level we may expect, albeit sadly, that the majority of God’s people will fail when the great test comes to us, we may expect to be spewed out of the Lord’s mouth unless we become zealous and repent; for first comes the natural then follows the spiritual (see 1Cor 15:46).

The Lord sent a plague amongst His people as a means of judgment and cleansing the camp (see PP 455-456); after this plague the Lord commanded Moses to “take sum of all the congregation” (Num

26:1-2). This numbering was part of their preparation for crossing the Jordan over to Canaan.

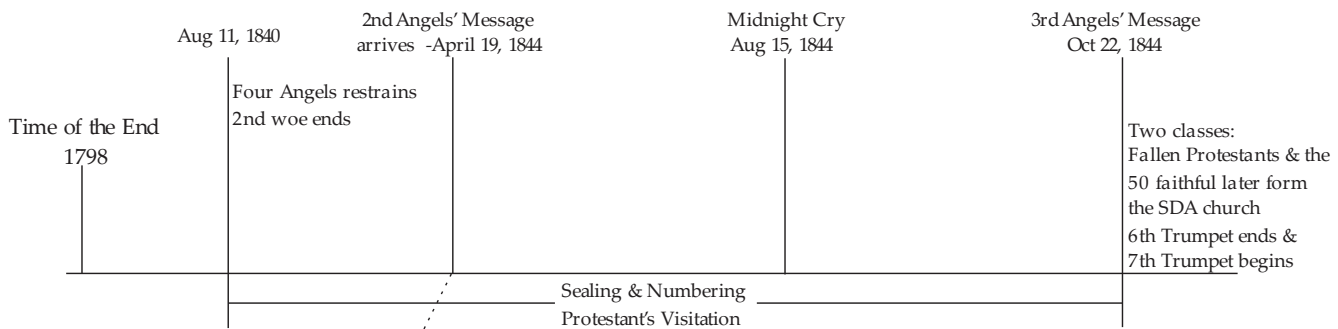
We can thus expect that a work of purification will take place amongst God’s people that will purge the sinners out of Zion; and the generation of the 144,000 will be prepared for battle, this numbering goes hand in hand with the sealing according to Revelation 7 & Ezekiel 9 (see TM 445), beginning when the angel of Revelation 18 arrived on September 11, 2001 and ending at the Sunday Law when all of God’s people have taken their stand on the side of truth.

## In conclusion

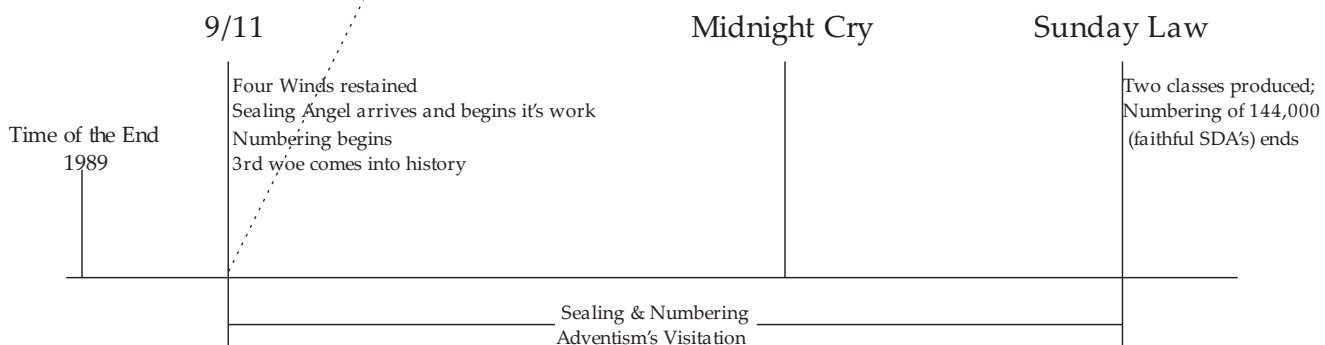
The Third Angel is today in our history going about the work of sealing and numbering those who are making a diligent effort to be part of the final generation that will close the work of the gospel in this earth’s history. We have entered into the most solemn period of the history of the church and that of the world. The end of all things is nigh at hand, we are at the very threshold of eternal glory but none, save only those who accept the final warning message of the Third Angel will partake of this glory. This warning message first has to do its work where judgment begins – the Seventh-Day Adventist church. May the Lord thus awaken us all to a sense of privilege and responsibility as the work draws to its close.

The next article will feature the separating & binding work of the Third Angel.

## Numbering & Sealing in Millerite History



## Numbering & Sealing of the 144,000



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