

THE 144,000

WHY ALL THE SILENCE FOR 165 YEARS? | ZEPHANIAH 1:8-11 | ZECHARIAH 3:5-8

Hello Friends,

Before we commence this study, I would like to share 2 important items in the news. The first deals with 4 prophecies in the book of *Zephaniah* and the failure of *Silicon Valley Bank* on March 10, 2023, the 16th largest bank in the United States, and the largest bank failure since the global financial crisis in 2008. The economies of the world are in shambles, and this one bank failure has had repercussions worldwide!

“Shares in banks around the world have slid after troubles at one US bank triggered fears of a wider problem for the financial sector. ... This had a knock-on effect, with the four largest US banks losing more than \$50bn in market value.”
—<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-64911066>

And what does that have to do with *Zephaniah*? According to *Zephaniah*, “in the day of the Lord’s sacrifice” (Passover), He “will punish the princes, and the king’s children (close of probation for God’s church), and “there will be a “great crashing from the hills” (earthquake), and “all they that bear silver are cut off” (stock market crash.)

In 1902 Mrs. White had a vision where she saw ministers, their wives, and their children, studying the *Jewish Economy* and the sacred character of all that appertained to the temple service in 5 books of Scripture. *Zephaniah* is the third book mentioned and *Zechariah* is the fifth.

“In the night season I was in my dreams in a large meeting, with ministers, their wives, and their children. I wondered that the company present was mostly made up of ministers and their families. The prophecy of *Malachi* was brought before them in connection with *Daniel*, *Zephaniah*, *Haggai*, and *Zechariah* ... Through the prophets, God has given a delineation of what will come to pass in the last days of this earth’s history; and the Jewish economy is full of instruction for us. ... Scripture was compared with Scripture, and application was made of the word of God to our own time.” —*The Review and Herald*, February 4, 1902

Now, let’s look at *Zephaniah*. “And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD’s sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king’s children. ... And it shall come to pass in that day saith the LORD, that there shall be ... a great crashing from the hills. ... all they that bear silver are cut off.” —*Zephaniah 1:8-11*.

Luke wrote: “Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.” —*Luke 22:1*. Twenty-five years after the cross, Paul kept this “8-day feast” with his converts: “The Philippians were the most loving and truehearted of the apostle’s converts, and during the eight days of the feast he enjoyed peaceful and happy communion with them.” —*Acts of the Apostles*, 390, 391.

Lest you think *Zephaniah* does not apply to the close of probation, here is what the pen of inspiration wrote:

“It was needful that men should be awakened to their danger; that they should be roused to prepare for the solemn events connected with the close of probation. The prophet of God declares ... ‘It shall come to pass at that time,’ saith the Lord, ‘that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil.’ *Zephaniah 1:12* ... Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them;’ their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation.’ *Zephaniah 1:18, 13.*” —*The Great Controversy*, 310 Will it happen this Passover? Time will tell. You will be amazed at what *Zechariah* reveals which may help us answer this question.

The second item deals with the study I emailed on January 17, 2023, entitled: “*If 2022 Is Correct, Then, Persecution Starts During The Feast Of Unleavened Bread In 2023.*”

On March 2, 2023, Tucker Carlson posted a YouTube video entitled: “*Tucker: Here’s who you should be afraid of.*” Tucker Carlson has 10.4 million YouTube subscribers, and the video has received 1.3 million views. In the video Tucker makes the case that “*there is a war against Christians happening in America.*” Here’s the YouTube link to the 13-minute video: <https://youtu.be/RGwiC7SIDAI> In case YouTube removes the video, you can find it in my website under Videos.

Why is it that we have never heard a sermon on who is to compose the 144,000? Why all the silence for 165 years? Because of this statement written in 1901: “It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as, who is to compose the hundred and forty-four thousand? This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question. ...—Manuscript 26, 1901.” —*Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 174

To understand this statement, we must research the history going back to 1858, when Mrs. White wrote an explosive statement about the 144,000. Her statement was disputed by some of the highest-ranking leaders in our church for the next 45 years, until the death of Uriah Smith in 1903.

“Moses was present, and represented those who will be raised from the dead at the second appearing of Jesus. And Elias, who was translated without seeing death, represented those who will be changed to immortality at Christ’s second coming, and without seeing death will be translated to heaven.” —*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 1, p. 43.2 (1858)

Two years after her 1901 statement Mrs. White wrote: “Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.” —*Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905. How can we strive without knowing what we’re striving for?

This study will focus on the character traits that must be possessed by the 144,000. 1) Are the 144,000 a literal number or are they the same as the “great multitude?” —*Rev. 7:9* 2) “There

were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” –Rev. 7:4. 3) “These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.” –Rev. 14:4. 4) “And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.” –Rev. 14:5. 5) “And they sing the song of Moses?” –Rev. 15:3. 6) “Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple.” –Rev. 7:15. 7) “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” –Rev. 14:4.

The 1858 statement may not seem explosive to us now but remember that there are no Scriptures to study on the 144,000 from the Old or the New Testaments, except for John in Revelation 7, 14 and 15. Therefore, the topic was then, and is still now, disputed, and controversial. Here are two examples:

“Bro. Arnold held that the 1000 years of Revelation 20 were in the past; and that the 144,000 were those raised at Christ's resurrection.” –*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 2, p. 97.2 (1860)

The second example is an article written by Uriah Smith, a Seventh-day Adventist author, minister, educator, theologian and editor of *The Review and Herald*.

“Do the 144,000 represent only those who have never passed through death? – Not at all. ... Imagine such men as Elder James White, Elder J. N. Andrews, and Elder Joseph Bates, who led out in the beginning of this work ... who went down in death with their hearts and minds full of this blessed anticipation—imagine such men waking up after what will seem to them no longer time than the tick of a clock, and finding that they have dropped out of their coveted position, and are not part of the 144,000! **The idea is not supposable.**” –Uriah Smith, *The Review & Herald*, August 10, 1897.

Since the article above was not written by Mrs. White, you will not find it in the www.egwwritings.org Here's the link to it in the *Adventist Pioneer Library*: [A Study of the 144,000, by Uriah Smith](#)

It is now known that Mrs. White and Uriah Smith disagreed on two crucial issues: 1) Their diametrically opposed views regarding the 144,000, and 2) The three prophetic periods of Daniel 12, which I shared with you in an email on November 18, 2018, and entitled: *ANALYSIS – YouTube, Mark Finley Talks About David Gates' Video “Even at the Door.”*

To make sure God's people understood that the 144,000 are translated “without seeing death,” the Holy Spirit inspired Mrs. White after her statement in 1858, to include similar statements in five of her most important books in 1882, 1888, 1890, 1911 and 1915.

“Jesus would be honored by translating, without their seeing death, the faithful, waiting ones who had so long expected Him.” –*Early Writings*, 282, 283 (1882)

“None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had. ‘These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.’ These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as ‘the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.’ ‘These are they which came out of great tribulation;’ [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17.]” –*The Great Controversy*, 648 (1888) & (1911)

“By faith Enoch “was translated that he should not see death ... The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be ‘redeemed from the earth’ (Revelation 14:3) at the time of Christ's second advent ... As Enoch was translated to heaven before the destruction of the world by water, so the living righteous will be translated from the earth before its destruction by fire.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 88.3 (1890)

“Elijah was a type of the saints who will be living on the earth at the time of the second advent of Christ and who will be ‘changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump,’ without tasting of death. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52.” –*Prophecy and Kings*, 227 (1915)

Despite the clear counsel from Mrs. White above, Uriah Smith in his powerful position as editor of *The Review and Herald* for over 50 years, defiantly opposed Mrs. White and wrote in the same 1897 article quoted earlier the following:

“Those who deny that those who die under the third message can be numbered among the 144,000, fail to see the connection between that message and Revelation 7:1-8.” –[A Study of the 144,000, by Uriah Smith \(1897\)](#)

Before we look at the character traits of the 144,000, we must first decide if this is a “literal” or a “symbolic” number. Four points leave us without a doubt that the 144,000 and the “great multitude,” is not only a literal number but is also one and the same group.

Point #1 – God's prophet wrote clearly: “The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.” –*Early Writings*, 14.1 The fact that she included “144,000 in number” in commas, immediately after the living saints, leaves no doubt of what she was shown in her first of many visions!

Point #2 – In Revelation 7:4 John “HEARD” the angel say that only 144,000 were sealed: “And I heard the number of them which were sealed.” In Revelation 7:9 John “SAW” a great multitude. “After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes.” –*American Standard Version* If any of us saw that many people together, we would also describe it the same way John did.

Point #3 – Did you notice that in Revelation 7:9, the great multitude was “arrayed in white robes?” To make sure John was not confused on who this special group was, one of the 24 elders approached him and asked: “What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple.” –Revelation 7:13-15

The elder in Rev. 7:13 said that the “great multitude” came “out of great tribulation.” This cannot apply to the millions of martyrs that died during the 1260-year papal persecution because *The Great Controversy* unequivocally applies the 144,000 to those which came out of “great tribulation,” AND to the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” –Revelation 7:13, 14 & 15:2, 3 *This is still a future event!*

“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire ... are gathered the company that have gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.’ With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, ‘having the harps of God,’ they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men ... ‘These are they which came out of great tribulation;’ they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.” –*The Great Controversy*, 648 (1911)

As we shall see in Zechariah and the Spirit of Prophecy, “came out of great tribulation,” refers to the only group in the history of humanity who are sealed (not at death, but while living), with the “seal of the living God,” –Revelation 7:2 thus enabling them to “pass through *Jacob’s Time of Trouble*, during the time of the plagues, when there is no Intercessor in the heavenly Sanctuary.

The “white robes,” are given when their sins are “blotted out” just before they are put “upon the head of the goat,” –*Leviticus 16:21*, “While they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they will have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins will have been blotted out by the atoning blood of Christ, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 202

Point #4 – The elder in Revelation 7:13-15 also explained to John that the “hundred forty and four thousand,” –Revelation 7:4 is the “great multitude,” –Revelation 7:9 and the only group who are “before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple,” –Revelation 7:15. Mrs. White was shown that ONLY the 144,000 are allowed entrance in the holy temple. ONLY they have the “Father’s name written in their foreheads. And. ... follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” –Revelation 14:1, 4

“And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, ‘Only the 144,000 enter this place,’ and we shouted ‘Alleluia.’” –*Early Writings*, 19

“Upon the crystal sea before the throne ... stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand ... ‘In their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault’ before God. ‘Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple.’ ... Revelation 7:14-17.” –*The Great Controversy*, 648, 649

“*Zechariah’s vision of Joshua and the Angel* applies with peculiar force to the experience of God’s people in the closing up of the great day of atonement. ... Their only hope is in the mercy of God; their only defense will be prayer. As Joshua was pleading before the Angel, so the remnant church, with brokenness of heart and earnest faith, will plead for pardon and deliverance through Jesus their Advocate. They are fully conscious of the sinfulness of their lives ... The tempter stands by to accuse them ... He points to their filthy garments, their defective characters ... He hopes to so destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations, turn from their allegiance to God, and receive the mark of the beast. ... As the people of God afflict their souls before Him, pleading for purity of heart, the command is given, ‘Take away the filthy garments’ from them, and the encouraging words are spoken, ‘Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.’ The spotless robe of Christ’s righteousness is placed upon the tried, tempted, yet faithful children of God ... Now they are eternally secure from the tempter’s devices. Their sins are transferred to the originator of sin ... ‘A fair miter’ is set upon their heads ... While Satan was urging his accusations and seeking to destroy this company, holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro, placing upon them the seal of the living God. These are they that stand upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having the Father’s name written in their foreheads. They sing the new song before the throne, that song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. ‘These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.’ Now is reached the complete fulfillment of those words of the Angel: ‘Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth My servant the Branch.’ Christ is revealed as the Redeemer and Deliverer of His people. Now indeed are the remnant “men wondered at,” as the tears and humiliation of their pilgrimage give place to joy and honor in the presence of God and the Lamb.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, pages 472-476 (1882.)

Did you notice “men wondered at” from Zechariah 3:8 and the commentary above from Mrs. White applying that Scripture to the 144,000? Did you notice that this reference was taken from pages 472-476 of Volume 5 of the Testimonies? Now notice what the Holy Spirit revealed to her on pages 469 and 470.

“Then the Angel, who is Christ Himself ... puts to silence the accuser of His people, declaring. ... ‘Take away the filthy garments from him,’ and to Joshua the Angel declares, ‘Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe

thee with change of raiment' ... Israel were clothed with 'change of raiment'—the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. ... 'Thus saith the Lord of hosts: If thou wilt walk in My ways ... I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.' He would be honored as the judge or ruler over the temple and all its services; he should walk among attending angels, even in this life, and should at last join the glorified throng around the throne of God. 'Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at.' ... Through faith in Christ they were restored to God's favor. By virtue of His merits, if they walked in His ways and kept His STATUTES, they would be 'men wondered at,' honored as the chosen of heaven among the nations of the earth." —*Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, pages 469, 470 (1882.)

Friends, the section covering pages 467-476 of *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5 was written in 1882 and is entitled "Joshua and the Angel." 33 years later, it was included as Chapter 47 of *Prophets and Kings*, the last book Mrs. White wrote in 1915. Do you think this is important?

If you have had any doubts as to whether the "statutes of God" are binding today upon God's people, this one reference alone should settle your mind. Because the 144,000 "kept His statutes, they would be 'men wondered at,' honored as the chosen of heaven." "Salvation is far from the wicked: For they seek not thy statutes." —*Psalms 119:155*

The "change of raiment" is the "righteousness of Christ." This is the message of "*Righteousness by Faith*" that Jones, Waggoner, and Mrs. White, tried in vain to convey to the church leaders in the 1888 General Conference Session in Minneapolis. If you have not read the 36-page study by Elder Norman Bradley (then 92) as he went back and researched the entire "secret" history, it behooves you to do so. You can find it on my website by date, under the tab "Studies," and entitled: 20190614 - *Exposing the Skeleton in the S.D.A. Closet of 1888.*

Here is a letter written to Elder George I. Butler, President of the General Conference, who together with Uriah Smith, fought vehemently against Jones, Waggoner, and Mrs. White.

"I tremble for you and Elder Smith, for I know from the light God has been giving me from time to time for the last 45 years that you are working upon principles that are not altogether after God's order. Your understanding has become confused upon some things. You must not think that the Lord has placed you in the position that you now occupy as the only men who are to decide as to whether any more light and truth shall come to God's people ... the position you occupy is a responsible one and your relation to the cause and work of God makes it important that you be entirely clear and correct in your ideas of what is truth and what is light." —1888 *Materials*, Vol. 1, p. 86 (*Letter 21*, 1888, Written to Elder George I. Butler, October 14, 1888.

Will the 144,000 be sealed only from "all the tribes of the children of Israel?" —*Rev. 7:4*. Uriah Smith in his paper provides

the answer in a few Scriptures: Galatians 3:29; Romans 9:6-8; Ephesians 2:12, 19; Romans 2:29 and Romans 11:17, 24.

"And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." —*Rev. 14:5*. Although we seldom hear about perfecting our characters before Jesus returns, this promise is throughout Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy. Jesus said: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." —*Matthew 5:48*

"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." —*Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, p. 216

The last characteristic of the 144,000 is complicated and controversial. "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins." —*Rev. 14:4*. A pure woman symbolizes Zion —*Jeremiah 6:2*, and an impure woman symbolizes an apostate church —*Revelation 17:1-5*. If Revelation 14:4 only means not being associated with an apostate church, the first part of the sentence would suffice. Why did John add "for they are virgins?" I submit to you that "virgins" has a deeper meaning. Of virgins Paul wrote: "I speak this by permission, and not of commandment." —*1 Corinthians 7:6*. Why? I would like to share with you some inspired statements for your study.

When Jesus "leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor." —*Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, p. 432

The countenances of the 144,000 "were lighted up with the glory of God, and they shone with glory as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look upon them for the glory." —*Early Writings*, 286 When Moses was in the presence of God he was told: "Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." —*Exodus 3:5*

"In all the journeyings of Israel "scrupulous cleanliness as well as strict order throughout the encampment and its environs was enjoined ... Every person who was unclean from ANY cause was forbidden to enter the camp. These measures were indispensable ... and it was necessary also that perfect order and purity be maintained, that Israel might enjoy the presence of a holy God." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 375

How did Jesus tell Moses to "sanctify" the people? "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow. ... for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. ... And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives." —*Exodus 19:10-15*

Why? Because they would be “unclean,” and unable to live in God’s holy presence. “The woman also with whom man shall lie with seed of copulation, they shall both bathe themselves in water, and be unclean until the even.” –*Leviticus 15:18*

“I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.” –*Early Writings*, 71.1

Marriage is one of two institutions, along with the Sabbath, that were ordained by God before the fall of Adam. God said to Noah “be fruitful, and multiply,” and through Paul we are told: “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church. . . . that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.” –*Ephesians 5:25-28*. But since Adam’s fall, Satan has unceasingly tried to destroy the sanctity of marriage, and as of 2015, same-sex marriage is now federally legal in all 50 states in America and most countries in the world.

More than any of his other devices, Satan has used the sins of concupiscence and licentiousness to deceive God’s people. These were the sins of the antediluvians, the Sodomites, and when every other enchantment of Balaam failed, he used these sins to deceive the Hebrews.

“The Israelites, who could not be overcome by the arms or by the enchantments of Midian, fell a prey to her harlots . . . It was thus that the children of Seth were seduced from their integrity, and the holy seed became corrupt. It was thus that Joseph was tempted. Thus Samson betrayed his strength, the defense of Israel, into the hands of the Philistines. Here David stumbled. And Solomon, the wisest of kings, who had thrice been called the beloved of his God, became a slave of passion, and sacrificed his integrity to the same bewitching power.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 457

Is it any wonder then that we have been warned by Paul, Peter and John about the “lust of the flesh,” in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 2 Peter 2:9, 10 and 1 John 2:16.

Paul was convinced that he would be alive and witness the glory of the Lord for he wrote: “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.” –*1 Thessalonians 4:17* Notice Paul’s counsel.

“It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife. . . . Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer. . . . But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none.” –*1 Corinthians 7:1, 2, 5, 29.*

Mrs. White also thought that she would witness the Second Coming of Christ. “Christ has given signs of His coming. He

declares that we may know when He is near, even at the doors. He says of those who see these signs, ‘This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.’ These signs have appeared. Now we know of a surety that the Lord’s coming is at hand.” –*The Desire of Ages*, 632 (1898). Notice her counsel in chronological order, prior to 1898.

“What doest thou here, Elijah? This solemn time, so near the judgment, on the very borders of the eternal world, is the very time when those whom God calls to a special work, if they have wives, should be as though they had none. Trouble and afflictions are coming to our world, anguish and distress upon every soul. Men’s hearts will be failing for fear and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth. While in this solemn time you should be wide-awake, earnest, giving your whole souls to the work in warning the world, you are veering from it, divorcing your interests and hearts from it by accumulating your domestic cares.” –*Letter 51a*, 1878, par. 13

“If our workers were walking close with God, they would see the situation and would feel that it is no matter of rejoicing to bring a child into the world. A blessing is pronounced upon the eunuchs who keep the Sabbath, etc. Isaiah 56:3-5. The time has come when, in one sense, they that have wives be as though they had none.” –*Manuscript 34a*, 1885, par. 12

“We are living in the last days, on the very borders of the eternal world, and now is the time when married men that have wives be as though they had none. The base passions have been indulged and gratified to the expense of health and religion and life itself, and many married men and women will never be accounted worthy to have the pure robe of Christ’s righteousness because they are defiled in heart and in life, they are steeped in defiling sin.” –*Letter 6*, 1888, par. 5

“Jesus did not enforce celibacy upon any class of men. He came not to destroy the sacred relationship of marriage, but to exalt it and restore it to its original sanctity. Manuscript 126, 1903.” –*The Adventist Home*, 121 Did she change position in 5 years?

God told Abraham: “Thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their’s . . . and they shall afflict them four hundred years. . . . And thou . . . shalt be buried in a good old age.” –*Genesis 15:13-15*. In like manner, the Holy Spirit must have shown Mrs. White, sometime between 1898 and 1903, that the Lord’s coming was not as close as she expected, and Paul’s counsel in 1 Corinthians 7 was applicable only to that special group who will have to live when there is no “mediator between guilty man and an offended God.” –*Early Writings*, 280. Four life-changing events had taken place.

Change #1: On August 6, 1881, her husband James White passed away and she had to confront, without his support, rebellious leaders like George Butler and Uriah Smith. **Change #2:** The fiasco of the 1888 *Minneapolis General Conference Session* took place from October 18 to November 4, 1888. **Change #3:** On December 13, 1888, Alonso Jones presented arguments before the United States Senate Committee on Education and Labor and successfully defeated what many

Seventh-day Adventists believed to be the “imminent enactment” of the *National Sunday Law* bill introduced by Senator Blair on May 21, 1888. **Change #4:** On December 8, 1891, in complete opposition to her will, and God’s will, she was “exiled” to Australia where she remained until 1900.

At the 1888 General Conference Session held in Minneapolis, the church leadership rejected the *Righteousness by Faith* message delivered by Jones and Waggoner. For the next 3 years, Mrs. White, along with Jones and Waggoner visited churches and camp meetings sharing the message rejected at the Conference. In 1891 church leaders successfully broke this union by “exiling” Mrs. White to Australia, Ellet Waggoner to England, and leaving Alonso Jones alone in America. Here is part of a letter written by Mrs. White in 1896 to O.A. Olsen, the General Conference President.

“Dear Brother Olsen ... You have done a sad work. ... I have not, I think, revealed the entire workings that led me here to Australia ... **The Lord was not in our leaving America.** He did not reveal that it was his will that I should leave Battle Creek. **The Lord did not plan this,** but he let you **all** move after your own imaginings ... **We were needed at the heart of the work,** and had your spiritual perception discerned the true situation, you would never have consented to the movements made ... **There was so great a willingness to have us leave, that the Lord permitted this thing to take place.** Those who were weary of the testimonies borne were left without the **persons** who bore them. Our separation from Battle Creek was to let men have their own will and way, **which they thought superior to the way of the Lord.**” –1888 Materials, Vol. 4, pp. 1621, 1622.

Friends, now we are on “the very borders of the eternal world,” where Paul and Mrs. White thought they were. Very soon now, “the night cometh, when no man can work.” –John 9:4.

The 144,000 receive the “seal of the living God,” while they are living. It is a seal that prepares them for “translation,” for “immortality,” for living with angels in heaven. This is why John wrote: “These were redeemed from among men, **being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**” And Jesus said: “For in the resurrection **they neither marry, nor are given in marriage,** but are as the angels of God in heaven.” –Matthew 22:30

“As a prophet, John was ... to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming ... **All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God must learn the lessons of temperance and self-control.** The appetites and passions must be held in subjection to the higher powers of the mind ... For this reason temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ's second coming.” –*The Desire of Ages*, 101

I close with excerpts from a *Review and Herald* article which is applicable to all of us **NOW!** Mrs. White is shown a vision of the final moments of earth’s history, just before God’s people are sealed and probation closes. Notice that Jesus is “amid the golden candlesticks” which are in the “holy place.” In her vision, pursuant to Leviticus 16:18, Jesus had already left the “most holy place.” Friends, it’s later than we think. Please

study my 5-part video series: “*Leviticus 16, The Sealing, The Close of Probation & The Trumpets.*”

“The Lord of righteousness is walking amid the golden candlesticks. ... The four angels are holding the four winds that a special work may be accomplished: the saints of God are to be sealed in their foreheads. **Brethren, how long before you will be ready for the seal of God?** ... Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds of the earth. Terrible destruction is forbidden to come in full. The accidents by land and by sea; the loss of life, steadily increasing, by storm, by tempest, **by railroad disaster,** by conflagration; the terrible floods, the earthquakes, and the winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat, while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury **until the servants of God are sealed** in their foreheads. Get ready, get ready, I beseech you, get ready before it **shall be forever too late!** ... It is our work to know our special failings and sins, which cause darkness and spiritual feebleness, and quenched our first love. Is it worldliness? Is it selfishness? Is it the love of self-esteem? Is it striving to be first? Is it the sin of sensuality that is intensely active? Is it the sin of the Nicolaitans, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness? ... Whatever it is that has been petted and cultivated until it has become strong and overmastering, make determined efforts to overcome, else you will be lost. It is these cherished sins, abhorrent to God, that make enfeebled moral courage, and leave you to choose to walk apart from God, while you retain a miserable, heartless, outward form ... **The great Head who moves in the midst of his candlesticks** will never be without a church. ... Let prayer be ascending now without delay **to Him who walketh in the midst of the golden candlesticks.** Take not thy Holy Spirit from us.” –*The Review and Herald*, June 7, 1887

Your brother in Christ,

Lou Munilla

Website: www.SundayLawAlert.com; Facebook: Luis F. Munilla (English); Facebook: Luis Fernando Munilla (Español); YouTube: SundayLawAlerts; Email: Lou@SundayLawAlert.com; Zelle or PayPal: Lou@SundayLawAlert.com