

# FOOD FOR THE FLOCK

MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

## THE GREAT SLAUGHTER OF EZEKIEL NINE: UNFAITHFUL SDA'S PERISH IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee... For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.” Matt. 23:27a, Isa. 9:16



The Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold

“Study the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. The time is short, God is calling; will you hear? Will you receive His message? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity.” Letter 106 Sept. 26, 1909

“The time will soon come when the prophecy of Ezekiel nine will be fulfilled; the prophecy should be carefully studied for it will be fulfilled to the very letter. Study also the 10th chapter which represents the hand of God as at work to bring perfect method and harmonious working into all the operations of His prepared instrumentalities” Letter 31 A, 1894

“To His angels He gives the commission to execute His judgments. Let the ministers awake, let them take in the situation. **The work of judgment begins at the sanctuary.** ‘And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter

weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar.’ Read Ezekiel 9:2-7.” {TM 431}

Seeing that the injunction of the Spirit of Prophecy is to study Ezekiel nine, and a solemn warning is given, let us not waste any more time in doubt as to whether these things will be. Now is the time to avail oneself of the information needed to avoid this coming catastrophe.

### Ezekiel 9:1-11:

**vs. 1: “He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand.**

**vs. 2: “And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.**

# In this Issue: Ezekiel Nine, the 144,000, and the Men who “Sigh” and “Cry” for all the Abominations

vs. 3: “And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side;

vs. 4: “And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

vs. 5: “And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city [church <sup>Matt. 5:13, 14</sup>], and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

vs. 6: “Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which [were] before the house.

vs. 7: “And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

vs. 8: “And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

vs. 9: “Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah [SDA denomination] is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city [church] full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

vs. 10: “And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.”

vs. 11: “And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.”

We can be sure that an event such as this has not yet been fulfilled. As the voice of Inspiration marks it for the future, we know this prophecy is for the Church in the last days. We are the “city set on a hill”, and the “salt of the earth”, but what happens if “salt loses its savor”?

The prophet of the Lord says Ezekiel nine “will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep.”

Pondering how the church has reached this fateful condition, one might ask:

## Why has this stupor come upon God’s people?

“The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God’s power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus “Peace and safety” is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God’s people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. **These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together...** Here we see that the church--the Lord’s sanctuary--was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God... Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God or be cut down by the destroying weapons.” {5T 211, 212}

## Leadership Did Not Keep Up with Light (Truth)

“Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. . .” {LDE 179.3}

“Those who have rendered supreme homage to ‘science falsely so called’ will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the

eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.” {5T 80.1}

The prophet of the Lord says, “The abominations for which the faithful ones were sighing and crying were all that could be discerned by finite eyes, but by far the worst sins, those which provoked the jealousy of the pure and holy God, were unrevealed. The great Searcher of hearts knoweth every sin committed in secret by the workers of iniquity. These persons come to feel secure in their deceptions and, because of His long-suffering, say that the Lord seeth not, and then act as though He had forsaken the earth. But He will detect their hypocrisy and will open before others those sins which they were so careful to hide.

“No superiority of rank, dignity, or worldly wisdom, no position in sacred office, will preserve men from sacrificing principle when left to their own deceitful hearts. Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous prove to be ring-leaders in apostasy and examples in indifference and in the abuse of God’s mercies. Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy.

“The day of God’s vengeance is just upon us. The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land. Those who link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity.” {5T 212}

### Leadership Was Never to Control Conscience of Laity

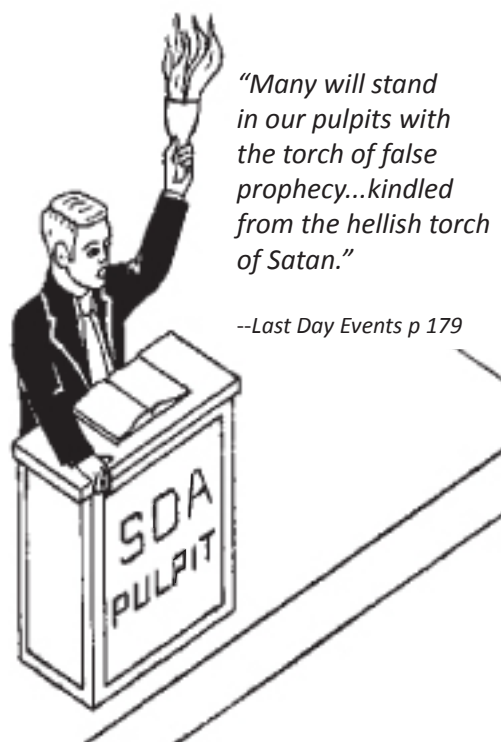
“Again and again I repeat the warning: Never place as president of a conference [a] man who supposes that such a position gives him the power to dictate and control the consciences of others. It is natural for man to have a large estimate of self; old habits wrestle for the supremacy; but the man who occupies a position of trust should not glorify himself.” {9MR 175.1}

“The Presidents of Conferences are being imbued with a spirit to rule, to require men to bow to their judgment; if any refuse, the course pursued toward them is such as to fill heaven with indignation.” {ChL 29.2}

“Our institutions need cleansing as did the temple when Christ was upon the earth. Man lords it over men’s consciences, man dictates to his fellow-men as God. Everywhere throughout the field this spirit is leavening hearts with the same narrow and selfish purposes. Reaction must come, and who shall then set things in order? Jesus says, ‘He that will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.’”--Letter 65, 1895, pp. 7, 8 (June 19, 1895). {ChL 29.3}

“The high-handed power that has been developed, as though positions had made men gods, makes me afraid, and ought to cause fear. It is a curse wherever, and by whomsoever it is exercised. This lording it over God’s heritage will create

such a disgust of man’s jurisdiction that a state of insubordination will result... The spirit of domination is extending to the presidents of our conferences. If a man is sanguine of his own powers and seeks to exercise dominion over his brethren, feeling that he is invested with authority to make his will the ruling power, the best and only safe course is to remove him, lest great harm be done, and he lose his own soul, and imperil the souls of others. ‘All ye are brethren.’” {ChL 31.3}



### Unfaithful Ministers Abound

“We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself.

God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.” {5T 79.4}

“Ministers who are preaching present truth should not neglect the solemn message to the Laodiceans. The testimony of the True Witness is not a smooth message. The Lord does not say to them, You are about right, you have borne chastisement and reproof that you never deserved, you have been discouraged unnecessarily by severity, you are not guilty of the wrongs and sins of which you have been reproofed.”--RH Sept. 16, 1873. {PaM 195.2}

“The great issue so near at hand will weed out those whom God has not appointed and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain.”--3SM 385 (1886). {LDE 179.2}

“Some will go out from among us who will bear the ark no longer. But these can not make walls to obstruct the truth; for it will go onward and upward to the end.”--TM 409, 411 (1898). {LDE 179.4}

“Ministers and doctors may depart from the faith, as the Word declares they will, and as the messages that God has given His servant declare they will.”--7MR 192 (1906). {LDE 179.5}

Speaking to the those in church leadership, the prophet of the Lord says: “You have no right to manage, unless you manage in God’s order. Are you under the control of God? Do you see your responsibility to Him? . . . That these men should stand in a sacred place to be as the voice of God to the people, as we once believed the General Conference to be, -- that is past. What we want now is reorganization.”--General Conference Bulletin, 34th Session, Vol. 4, Extra No. 1, April 3, 1901, p. 25, Cols. 1 and 2.

### Testimonies Rejected

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing, and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders. The church has turned back from following Christ her leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus.”--Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 217. {ChS 38.4}

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony...

“When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.” {FLB 296.7}

### Testimony of True Witness Rejected

“The message to the Laodiceans is applicable to Seventh-day Adventists who have had great light and have not walked in the light. It is those who have made great

profession, but have not kept in step with their Leader, that will be spewed out of His mouth unless they repent.”

“We are too easily satisfied with our attainments. We feel rich and increased with goods, and know not that we are ‘wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ Revelation 3:17. Now is the time to heed the admonition of the True Witness: ‘I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.’ Verse 18.” {CET 189.3}

“Some will not receive the testimony that God has given us to bear, flattering themselves that we may be deceived and that they may be right. They think that the people of God are not in need of plain dealing and of reproof, but that God is with them. These tempted ones, whose souls have ever been at war with the faithful reproving of sin, would cry: Speak unto us smooth things. What disposition will these make of the message of the True Witness to the Laodiceans? There can be no deception here. This message must be borne to a lukewarm church by God’s servants. It must arouse His people from their security and dangerous deception in regard to their real standing before God. This testimony, if received, will arouse to action and lead to self-abasement and confession of sins. The True Witness says: ‘I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot.’ And again, ‘As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.’ Then comes the promise: ‘Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.’”



### **“Rich and Increased with Goods”: Adventists Stopped Searching for Truth**

“Maintaining Truth Not to Preclude New Light.-- It is a fact that we have the truth, and we must hold with tenacity to the positions that cannot be shaken; but we must not look with suspicion upon any new light which God may send, and say, Really, we cannot see that we need any more light than the old truth which we have hitherto received, and in which we are settled. While we hold to this position, the testimony of the True Witness applies to our cases its rebuke, ‘And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ Those who feel rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, are in a condition of blindness as to their true condition before God, and they know it not.” --Review and Herald, August 7, 1894.

“As the student sacrifices the power to reason and judge for himself; he becomes incapable of discriminating between truth and error, and falls an easy prey to deception. He is easily led to follow tradition and custom... The mind that depends on the judgment of others is certain, sooner or later, to be misled.”—Education pp. 230, 231

“Led of God, but Not Infallible.--We must not think, ‘Well, we have all the truth, we understand the main pillars of our faith, and we may rest on this knowledge.’ The truth is an advancing truth, and we must walk in the increasing light.” {CW 33.2}

“Increased Light to Shine.--A spirit of pharisaism has been coming in upon the people who claim to believe the truth for these last days. They are self-satisfied. They have said, ‘We have the truth. There is no more light for the people of God.’ But we are not safe when we take a position that we will not accept anything else than that upon which we have settled as truth. We should take the Bible, and investigate it closely for ourselves. We should dig in the mine of God’s word for truth. ‘Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.’ Some have asked me if I thought there was any more light for the people of God. Our minds have become so narrow that we do not seem to understand that the Lord has a mighty work to do for us. Increasing light is to shine upon us; for ‘the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.’”-- Review and Herald, June 18, 1889. {CW 34.2}

“Investigation of Doctrine.--There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can

afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation.” {CW 35.2}



“The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field...”  
Adventists stopped searching for truth and became afraid of encountering error.

“Would-be Guardians of the Doctrine.--The rebuke of the Lord will be upon those who would be guardians of the doctrine, who would bar the way that greater light shall not come to the people. A great work is to be done, and God sees that our leading men have need of greater light, that they may unite harmoniously, with the messengers whom He shall send to accomplish the work that He designs they should. The Lord has raised up messengers and endued them with His Spirit, and has said, ‘Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.’” {CW 38.1}

“Let no one run the risk of interposing himself between the people and the message of heaven. The message of God will come to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out. I call upon every minister to seek the Lord, to put away pride, to put away strife after supremacy, and humble the heart before God. It is the coldness of heart, the unbelief of those who ought to have faith, that keeps the churches in feebleness.”-- Review and Herald, July 26, 1892.” {CW 38.2}

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures, and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold.” {Counsels to Writers 40.1}

“The trial of the children of Israel, and their attitude just

before the first coming of Christ have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ.” {1Selected Messages 406}

“The Lord keeps truth fresh, placing it in new settings.--How do you know but that the Lord is giving fresh evidences of his truth, placing it in a new setting, that the way of the Lord may be prepared? What plans have you been laying that new light may be infused through the ranks of God’s people? What evidence have you that God has not sent light to His children? All self-sufficiency, egotism, and pride of opinion must be put away. We must come to the feet of Jesus, and learn of Him who is meek and lowly of heart.”--ISM 414. {PaM 28.1}

The church has not reached this state by accident, for in the Revelation is detailed:

### Satan’s Attack on SDA Church

**Rev. 12:13-16:** “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man [child].

**Vs 14:** “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

**Vs 15:** “And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.”

**Vs 16:** “And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”

The early Church (the woman) faced persecution and was driven from the promised land (Jerusalem) by Titus in 70 A.D. into the land of the Gentiles (the wilderness). The Church would be nourished away (given truth by measure; the Protestant Reformation) from her home for a period of 1260 years. The 1260 year period ended in 1798 and 46 years later, in 1844 when the “judgment was set” in Daniel seven, the Adventist Church came on the scene preaching

the Judgment of the Dead. As she was the only church to appear at the end of this time period, she rightly claims the identity of the “woman” (God’s Church) in verse 15.

The flood which comes out of the serpent’s mouth is none other than the tares, the unconverted in the church. The flood started in the Dark Ages and has continued down the annals of time to the Church today.

In Testimonies to Ministers under the “Snares of Satan” chapter, Ellen White was given a vision of Satan’s council with his angels, and gives us a direct quote from him as he plans his attack on Sabbath-keepers:

“...I will influence popular ministers to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which

the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their ministers explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will.

“But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbath keepers....When death shall be made the penalty of violating our Sabbath, then many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side.

“But before proceeding to these extreme measures, we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who honor the true Sabbath....

“...Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most

effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our powers, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.” {TM 472-474}

It is by this plan (which has already met with success in the



Sowing tares: the enemy thought to carry away the SDA church by the influence of the unconverted.

fallen churches) that Satan endeavors to infiltrate the church with those who are unconverted (the flood) and cause her to be “carried away”. Therefore it is seen that the:

### Sealing/Slaying is Needed to Save the Church

“And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the



“The young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine.”—Jer. 34:30.

earth... For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.” Isa. 63:5, 6, 4

The destruction of the wicked in the church is detailed in Ezekiel nine, Isa. 66:15-24, 63:1-6, Zeph. 1:12-18, and in the parables; Matt. 13:30, Luke 17:26-37, and Matt 24:37-51. This event, the Lord says, takes place so He may bring salvation to the world through His faithful people (the redeemed). These statements should not be interpreted to mean the seven last plagues. While the same fate awaits all who are unfaithful in the church and Babylon, the seven plagues are designated for Babylon (Rev 18:4) the judgment of Ezekiel 9 starts in “Israel” and “Judah”, --God’s church. This may seem shocking to those who have never seen the aforementioned quotes, yet the slaughter of Ezekiel nine was common knowledge to the founders of the Church. The great purpose for which the SDA church was born was to give the last messages of mercy to a dying world, to repair the breach made in the law of God, however this commission can not be fulfilled in its present condition. The execution of this “strange work” must take place for these two reasons:

1. The church would be unable to stand in the time of trouble with sinners in her midst.
2. The church could not work harmoniously to complete her mission of spreading the “gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the earth” while wicked men, including those in

leadership positions, are casting their influence throughout the congregations.

The Spirit of Prophecy explains: “The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted, and those who were once converted, but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?” {CD 455.2}

“If the presence of one Achan was sufficient to weaken the whole camp of Israel, can we be surprised at the little success which attends our efforts when every church and almost every family has its Achan?” 5T 157

“The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place.”--2SM 380 (1886). {LDE 180.5}

“Some may claim that these severe denunciations belong only to the Jewish age, that we are now in a dispensation of mercy rather than of wrath and condemnation. But New Testament history presents many instances which show that the same sins which brought the wrath of God upon his people anciently will bring his wrath upon his church today.” {Special Testimonies, May 5, 1881 par. 13}

“The destroying angel is soon to go forth again, not to destroy the first-born alone, but ‘to slay utterly old and young, both men, women and little children’ who have not the mark. Parents, if you wish to save your children, separate them from the world, keep them from the company of wicked children; for if you suffer them to go with wicked children, you cannot prevent them from partaking of their wickedness and being corrupted. It is your solemn duty to watch over your children, to choose their society at all times for them. Teach your children to obey you, then can they more easily obey the commandments of God, and yield to his requirements. R&H Oct. 14, 1875

“But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.” Malachi 3:2, 3

It is for these reasons that the faithful are sealed, and the spiritually dead slain, thus purifying the church from sin and sinners. Thus begins the:

### Judgment of the Living



1 Pet. 4:17: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

"To His angels He gives the commission to execute His judgments. Let the ministers awake, let them take in the situation. **The work of judgment begins at the sanctuary.** 'And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar.' Read Ezekiel 9:2-7." {TM 431}

The angels come from the higher gate, --north, the direction of God's throne. (See Ps. 48:2) The angel who carries the writer's inkhorn must be the angel who chronicles our deeds in the book, and has the power to seal the saints. As the judgment of the living proceeds, the angels with destroying weapons are there to execute judgment on the wicked in the church.

"We are in the great day of atonement, when our sins are, by confession and repentance, to go beforehand to judgment. God does not now accept a tame, spiritless testimony from His ministers. Such a testimony would not be present truth. The message for this time must be meat in due season to feed the church of God. But Satan has been seeking gradually to rob this message of its power, that the people may not be prepared to stand in the day of the Lord." {ISM 124.3}

"In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment. The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. **When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living.**" {ISM 125.1}

As Ezekiel saw this great slaughter, he was so filled with woe that he exclaimed, "Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?" Ezekiel 9:8 The great question then remains;

## Who then, can be sealed?

Ezekiel's vision of the great slaughter to take place in the church was a prophecy but the revelation of it is found in Revelation 7:1-4. To gain a clearer understanding, we must connect Ezekiel nine with Revelation seven, for the prophet of the Lord says "**This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision.**" --Testimonies to Ministers & Gospel Workers p. 444, 445

**Rev. 7:1-4 "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.**

**"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,**

**"Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**

**"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."**

It is interesting to note that the only thing holding

back the release of the winds, --the church/state confederacy (See Testimonies vol. 5 p 152) is the fact that the servants of God, the 144,000, have not been sealed. Of this event Ellen White said,

"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 with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on 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.’” {EW 38.1, 2}

“The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads.” {TM 445}

Until now the identity of the 144,000 has remained a mystery to the denomination, but let it not be so any longer. As the time of the sealing is now, we ought to know who they are and where they come from according to Rev. 14:1, 3-5. Ellen White wrote, “Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand” {RH March 9, 1905}. Therefore, we must learn the truth about them.

**Rev. 14:1-4 “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 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.”**



#### **The 144,000 have some unique characteristics:**

1. They speak and teach only the Truth, enabling them to stand without fault before the throne of God.
2. They are “not defiled with women”. “They profess a pure faith, waiting for their Lord and watching in the evening of this earth’s history. They are not found in Babylon among the fallen churches, nor are they teaching their erroneous doctrines.” {COL 406, 412; TM 61}
3. Among those living in the last days, they are “redeemed from the earth,” becoming the first to “stand with the Lamb

on Mount Zion”. They are the first to perfect a Christian character and the first to enter the latter-day kingdom.

4. They are the “first fruits” of the last spiritual harvest of souls. With the 144,000 saints being classed as the “first fruits”, there must also be a class of saints identified as the “second fruits”.

5. They are “priests” and “kings” to their Lord. They have the work of bringing in their brethren from the other churches into God’s Truth and Kingdom. (Rev. 7: 9)

6. They are of Israelite descent. Although they may not have the racial features of a Jew, the 144,000, coming from the dispersed tribes, have lost their racial identity. Many Christian Jews at the time of early Christian church lost their distinct racial identity as they mixed with the Gentiles. God, however, has always kept track of that bloodline. The Bible says in Rev. 7 they are from the 12 tribes of Israel, and the Spirit of Prophecy says they are to be sealed within the SDA church. (See Psalms 87:4-6, Matt. 1:1-17 and 3T 266.2; MH 405.1) They cannot be sealed from the unbelieving Jews, for they do not have the most elementary doctrine of the gospel, --Christ! See 1 John 2:22.

7. They are living saints among the SDA church. They are translated without seeing death.

The 144,000 and all who are sealed within the church are the true Israel upon whom God’s blessings for the latter days will flow. The 144,000

are God’s chosen leadership for the Church, much like the 12 apostles were chosen by Jesus to be the founders of the early Christian church.

Not just 144,000 are to be saved, but all those who “sigh” (awake and reform) and “cry” (endeavor to share the message with others) will receive the seal. These are the first fruits, the first in the final great harvest of souls before the second coming of Jesus. See Rev. 14:4

#### **What is the Seal?**

“(Eph. 1:13; 4:30) A Mark Which Angels Read.--[Eph. 1:13 quoted.] What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels,

but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption.”(Letter 126, 1898). {4BC 1161.4}

“Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming.” {4BC 1161.6}

“The angel with the writer’s ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel.” (Letter 12, 1886). {4BC 1161.5}

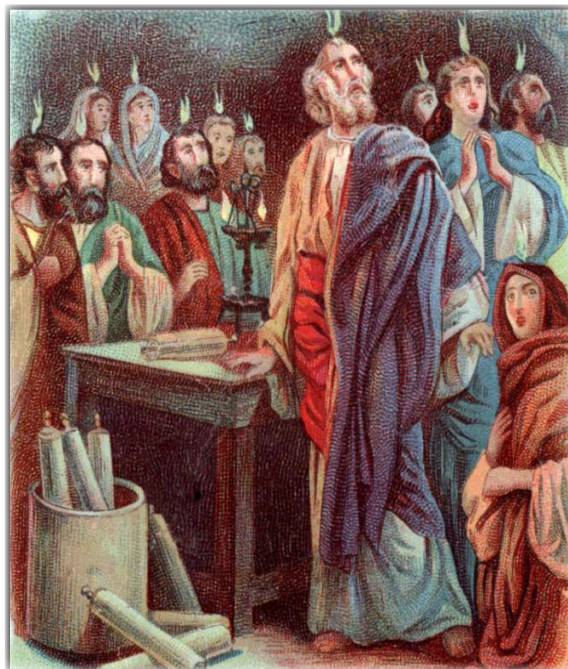
We are sealed when we accept the truth, follow it, and live out it’s principles in the strength of Jesus. Most will stumble here. The fall of SDA’s in Ezekiel nine begins with their rejection of the True Witness. This testimony is a message of truth, the new light, that reveals the true condition of the sinner and lays the sins of the church bare. Eventually the contest between the messengers of truth and the naysayers will result in a showdown which will “shake” the whole church. Only those who are faithful to God and His principles will remain. In the word’s of the prophet, “only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it (third angel’s message) when it shall have swelled into the loud cry. This statement brings us to the overwhelming fact that the:

### **The Purification of Church Brings Latter-Day Pentecost**

When this “special work of purification”, of putting away of sin and sinners among God’s people, is accomplished, then the church is described as; “‘Fair as the moon, clear as the sun and terrible as an army with banners,’ she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer.” {GC 425; PK 725}

“The entire church, acting as one, blending in perfect union,

is to be a living, active missionary agency, moved and controlled by the Holy Spirit...” “All that the apostles did, every church-member today is to do.” “His workers will then see eye to eye, and the arm of the Lord, the power of which was seen in the life of Christ, will be revealed.” -- {Testimonies, Vol. 8, p. 47; Vol. 7, p. 33; Vol. 9, p. 33.} Immediately after the sealing of the 144,000 is completed in Rev. 7 there is seen “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands...” Rev. 7:9 These are the second fruits which come out of “Babylon” (the fallen churches and the world), for there cannot be first fruits where there is no second. Those who are triumphant in the church will have the great honor of bringing in their brethren from the other churches as an “offering” to the Lord!



“A work similar to that which the Lord did through His delegated messengers after the Day of Pentecost He is waiting to do today.” {7T 33}

**Isaiah 2:2** And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

**3** And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

“And I will give her (the Church) her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor (Ezekiel 9) for a

door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name. Hos. 2:15-17 (See Josh. 7:24-26)

Beloved, there is no other message so important for the Church, for in a little while mercy will no longer plead. What finite men need most to understand is that entrance into the kingdom of God is not based on our organizational ties, but rather, whether we have individually accepted the light and put on the righteousness of Christ. Satan’s war is now,-- in this church and against this sealing message. His determined



purpose is to so deceive us, that we will be unprepared to stand in the day of the Lord! Soon, God will summon the church to:

**“Arise, shine;** for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

“Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall show forth the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

“Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

“And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

“For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish. The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

“The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

“For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

“Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also [shall be] all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.” Isa. 60:1-22

It is important to remember that these scriptures cannot apply to the new earth, for in the new earth there will not be any births or marriages. It must apply to God’s latter-day kingdom.

“There are men today who express their belief that there will be marriages and births in the new earth; but those who believe the Scriptures cannot accept such doctrines. The doctrine that children will be born in the new earth is not a part of the ‘sure word of prophecy’ (2Pet 1:19). The words of Christ {Mat 22:30} are too plain to be misunderstood. They should forever settle the question of marriages and births in the new earth. Neither those who shall be raised from the dead, nor those who shall be translated without seeing death, will marry or be given in marriage. They will be as the angels of God, members of the royal family”—1 Selected Messages, pp. 172, 173

“It shall come to pass that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.” Isa. 4:3, 4.

“Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.



Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.” Isaiah 28: 14-17

**“For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.**



**“For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.” Isa. 66: 16, 15**

God, in His love and mercy for us, has forewarned us of the impending judgment, --so His church, the apple of His eye, may be ready for His coming. Now, if you will be saved, you must “Cease ye from man, in whose nostrils is his breath.” Isa. 2:22