

## **PROPHECY, PROMISES and YOU!**

Strength and hope through “Christ Our Righteousness”

### TEMCAT STUDY

#### **A Mighty Message to Lighten the World was Given to us as a People**

There was a period of time when the church had stagnated as indicated in the message to the church of Sardis, “Thou Hast a name that thou livest and are dead!” (See Revelation 3:1.) But then, at the beginning of the 1800s the ‘Advent Movement’ sprang up simultaneously all over the world. The Holy Spirit led people to study the prophecies. It was seen that there was a time prophecy in the book of Daniel that was nearing its end.

As the result of different ones’ simultaneous study of prophecy all over the world, the Advent awakening swept through the world with power. It had its roots in the prophecy of Daniel 8:14. “...Unto two thousand and three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” You see, when God’s Word says something, the power is already there and when the time begins to come for the event to take place, events swing into action to fulfill it. That is why the Saviour said, “...If these should hold their peace, the very stones would cry out.” Luke 19:40.

During this same Awakening time there came signs in the heavens: the Dark Day, the Moon as Blood, the Falling of the Stars. These things actually happened; they were written up in the newspapers. People all over the world began to pay attention, and they turned their eyes to the Bible.

When that tremendous meteor shower took place, it literally lightened the world with its glory. People got up and ran outside to see the light. They were not used to having streetlights outside all over, so it was dark at night, and here suddenly was this huge display of light! People who loved God were thrilled and praising Him while sinners were terrified. All knew that this was something out of the ordinary. This Awakening was fueled by these events and even more eyes turned to the prophecies and people began to preach Christ’s Second Coming.

Even in New York City, businessmen on Wall Street organized regular meetings for prayer! In the 1830s, William Miller began to preach in the United States, while others preached in various parts of the world. The Lord even raised up prophets among some of the isolated native peoples of the world, who taught their people about the true God. (See J. N. Loughborough “The Great Second Advent Movement” for some accounts)

A true understanding of Bible prophecies reveals the gospel teaching that the abiding presence of the Saviour affords protection and deliverance from hostile foes; victory is assured through the indwelling Spirit of God. We need the realization that Christ, the King of glory, reigns in the trusting heart and gives victory over sin. "...we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Romans 8: 37. "...Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27. *The Moral Purpose of Prophecy*, by Louis Were, 1949, preface.

"The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. From the first intimation of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, 'They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads' (Revelation 22:4), the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme—man's uplifting—the power of God, 'which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' 1 Corinthians 15:57." *Education*, 125.

"We find that Salvation is taught not only in the gospels but also in the prophecies. It is a vitally important truth that the true interpretation of the prophecies illustrates how salvation is accomplished, and also strengthens the soul to resist sin. As the Word of God is the 'seed' which, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, generates the new life (1 Peter 1:23), that life is revived and strengthened as often as the Word of God is read and received into the soul (1 Thessalonians 2:13). The 'new man' (Colossians 3:10) *lives and grows 'by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God'*" (Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18). *The Moral Purpose of Prophecy*, by Louis Were, 1949, preface.

This is a wonderful concept! That as often as we read the Word of God, with an honest heart, really wanting to know His will and do it, then it breathes life into us! I personally have learned that when sick and suffering, if I put on audio tapes of the King James Bible, and just lie there and listen, I am comforted and strengthened physically and spiritually, in a way nothing else can do. Remember it was by the Word of the Lord that the heavens were made! There is real power in that Word.

### **What Happened?**

You all know the story of the Great Disappointment. On the morning after October 22, 1844, there remained only a handful, a remnant, who still clung to faith. There had been a big group watching, most of them afraid it was going to happen and many hoping it would not, now there was this tiny remnant.

They had gone through a testing period; they did not have any pride left. They did not have any worldliness; they had given up all that. Those who still had pride just denied everything the next day and claimed that they

never really believed. So this little group came together and began to pray, to study and to seek the Lord earnestly to know the truth. The Lord honored the earnest efforts of this little handful who really wanted to know what He had to say, and He sent the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy. The Spirit of Prophecy began to help them and guide them as they studied.

Now the knowledge of the true doctrines were not just dumped in their lap; they had to search, study and pray. When they could go no further, they would pray and Sister Harmon would be taken off in vision and shown the answer. When they would double-check it with the Bible, it was seen to be true. (REFERENCE ALLUDED TO?) Selected Messages Book 1 -PG- 206

Point by point our truths were laid down. They were studied out, laid down and confirmed by the Holy Spirit that they were true. They learned about the Sabbath and recognized their part in the fulfilling prophecy of the Three Angels, and they began to teach these truths with great power. This is where our firm foundation of the Seventh-day Adventist message was developed. It came as the child of prophecy, the Word of God, and anointed by the Holy Spirit.

In those days there was no organization. Finally as they began to grow it became necessary to have some sort of simple organization. There were two main reasons why they organized. One reason was so they could legally own property and thus have needed schools, hospitals, missions, etc., and the other was to form a core group who could provide backing and financial support to send missionaries and evangelists into the world field.

We lose sight of this in our day because people are now telling us that the reason for organization is so that somebody up top can tell us what we must believe and what we are to do. NO! That was never God's intent in organization.

### **Kingly Power Begins to Arise**

As long as the people were heeding the messages of God's Word, the blessing was on them and they prospered spiritually, but very early they began to lose it. What happened? They began to not listen to the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy quite as much. There were people who wanted to rule over their brethren like kings and dictators. They began to tell others what to do and the people began to go along with this idea of obeying your "superiors," this spirit of kingly power began to arise. Corruption began to come in through various subtle ways.

We are focusing primarily on prophecy today, and I was astonished to learn that if the Holy Spirit does not lead you in your interpretation of Scripture and prophecy, you are not able to understand Righteousness by Faith! Remember what we learned is the theme of ALL Scriptures? "The *central theme* of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the *redemption plan*, the *restoration in the human soul of the*

*image of God*. From the first intimation of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, ‘They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.’ (Revelation 22:4.), the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme,—man's uplifting,—the power of God, ‘which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ 1 Corinthians 15:57.” *Education*, 125. [Emphasis added.]

If this principle is not grasped, Scripture will be wrested and twisted to fit private interpretations and wrong views will come in leading us away from what Jesus is trying to show us in the prophecies He has given His people.

### **Worldly Outlook Comes In**

“In purifying the life (1 Peter 1:22) and building up the soul (Acts 20:32), the Saviour emphasizes the necessity of heeding ‘every word’ of the Holy Scriptures (Matthew 4:4). Man's indefatigable enemy seeks to render ineffective to students of the Bible the life-giving energy contained in certain important prophecies of Holy Writ. He does this by means of erroneous interpretations.” *The Moral Purpose of Prophecy*, by Louis Were, 1949, preface.

Some among us began to interpret prophecy by what was happening in the newspapers instead of faithfully comparing scripture with scripture and letting inspired counsel interpret inspired counsel. In looking to worldly ideas and being filled with pride in their own theories, they lost the guidance of the Heavenly Teacher and so strayed into paths that unfitted them to understand and appreciate God's truths, which are spiritually discerned.

### **Desire for the “New and Sensational”**

“The Saviour not only says, ‘Search the Scriptures’ (John 5:39), but He also inquires: ‘How readest thou?’ [How? With what Spirit are you reading?] (Luke 10:26). By erroneous interpretations it is possible to ‘add unto’ or ‘take away from’ the Word of God, against which we are explicitly warned in Revelation 22:18, 19. He who studies the Scriptures in a way ‘approved unto God’ is said to be ‘a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.’ 2 Timothy 2:15).” *The Moral Purpose of Prophecy*, by Louis Were, 1949, preface.

It became popular to interpret every new uprising in the world as potentially leading to the Battle of Armageddon. The idea came in that military battles between nations were referred to by the prophecies and they were bent and twisted to fit the latest news issue. This did not happen until in the 1870s when one well known expositor of prophecy, who formerly had reflected the views of the pioneer brethren, after much worldly

reading, took a turn for a militarily based view and brought in a pattern of interpretation that would result in Adventists embarrassing themselves with false predictions for almost a century!

### **Pride of Opinion**

Once these erroneous stands were taken, the originators swelled with pride and self-importance and so placed themselves further out of the way of God's leading Spirit. Debating and arguing were popular, and the Holy Spirit was grieved. Jesus was lost sight of. Warning after warning was sent to the brethren to repent and turn from this ungodly course, but pride forbade humble confession, and strife as to "who should be the greatest" ruled those who had started out with so much promise.

"I want to say to my brethren, Shall we humble our hearts before God and be converted? Shall we put off all of the self-sufficiency and the lifting up of ourselves, and come down at the foot of the cross? The lower we lie at the foot of the cross the more clear will be our view of Christ. For just as soon as we begin to lift ourselves up and to think that we are something, the view of Christ grows dimmer and dimmer and Satan steps in so that we cannot see Him at all. But what we want is to come and dwell in view of the cross." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, vol. 1, 159.

### **The Result—Confusion!**

"In the old sanctuary, and later in the temple of the Jews, only those dedicated to the holy office of the priesthood were permitted to view the wonderful glories to be seen within the sacred edifice. And only those whose lives are dedicated to God are permitted to see the inner beauties of the temple of truth. Said Jesus to the Jewish leaders: 'Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which *testify of Me.*' John 5: 39, 46." *The Moral Purpose of Prophecy*, by Louis Were, 1949. 11

The Lord *ONLY* leads the humble, surrendered soul—the proud are allowed to walk in the sparks of their own kindling which leads to confusion.

*Taking Your Eyes off Jesus Results in Focusing on a Picture of a Dark Future with no Indwelling Saviour.*

These Christless, military views of Prophecy turned the eyes of the people to the world and away from the Saviour. Thinking about a future of war and strife, when you are not anchored in Jesus' love results in **FEAR!** Which brings about a human works outlook.

### **A Powerless Gospel**

"We do not half know [how] to pray. We do not know how to get the victory. If only we [would] come to Him and knew how to pray, our hearts would be melted and we would see the blessing of God, and our hearts would

become softened by the love of Christ. And when the love of Christ is there, why, then you can do anything. *But it has been Satan's studied work to keep the love of Christ out of our hearts. But the trouble is, there is a great lot of ceremony and form.* What we want is the love of Christ, to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves. When we have this, there will be a breaking down as with the walls of Jericho before the children of Israel. But there is such an amount of selfishness and desire of supremacy in our ranks. Why, it is most painful. We see it everywhere." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, vol. 1, 159. [Emphasis added.]

### **Frustration, Despair, Self Righteousness and Hypocrisy**

Hypocrisy is the best a man can ever do when he tries to serve God in his own strength with his own unconverted heart! So this Pharisee spirit ruled largely in the church; pride, hypocrisy, kingly power, debating and arguing, and in 1888 God saw fit to send a precious message to fit up His people for His coming, and what was the outcome? Most of the leadership rejected it! Spiritual things can only be discerned by spiritual people.

*With the Christless, false prophetic understanding, our birthright was lost! Same as the Jews!*

"The Jewish leaders had studied the teachings of the prophets concerning the kingdom of the Messiah; but they had done this, not with a sincere desire to know the truth, but with the *purpose of finding evidence to sustain their ambitious hopes.*" *The Desire of Ages*, 212. [Emphasis added.]

As the spiritual condition of a church declines, more attention is paid to the externals of religion and less to the internals—a lifeless husk instead of the living grain. Literal things which have been instituted because of their spiritual significance lose their spiritual meaning, and the service of the church degenerates into formalism; the letter is emphasized as the spirit wanes. Thus it was in the experiences of ancient Israel, and it has been repeated in the experience of the Christian church. "...the Jews lost the spiritual life from their ceremonies, and clung to the dead forms." *The Desire of Ages*, 29.

Here is an example: "To Moses God had said concerning His commandments, 'Thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.' Deuteronomy 6:8. These words have a deep meaning. As the Word of God is meditated upon and practiced, the whole man will be ennobled. In righteous and merciful dealing, the hands will reveal, as a signet, the principles of God's law.... The eyes, directed toward a noble purpose, will be clear and true.... But by the Jews of Christ's day all this was undiscerned. The command given to Moses was construed into a direction that the precepts of Scripture should be worn upon the person. They were accordingly written upon strips of parchment, and bound in a conspicuous manner about the head and wrists." *Ibid.*, 612.

### **1888 Rejected!**

When God sent His spiritual message, the people walking in sparks of their own kindling, just could not see the light! (See Isaiah 50:11.) For many years the Messenger of the Lord pleaded and reproved these leaders trying to let them see the light, but most resisted it and the church went into the Dark Ages of Adventism!

I grew up with the “military” Christless view of the prophecies and hearing the men of the church talking about the fall of Turkey and all these terrible events—when Turkey fell, this was the close of probation. (The Bible never says this.) As a child I felt afraid about these things; I did not really know a personal Saviour, just an historic Jesus who died on Calvary long ago and some day would come back, but in the mean time you are on your own. I had nightmares about Armageddon. I really believe that many Seventh-day Adventists were led into a fear-based religion through incorrect military interpretations of the prophecies! Evangelists, through the years, would point to current events and expound that this or that unrest was soon to burst into Armageddon, only to be proven wrong time after time! Our preachers would expound how the eastern races were preparing to march into battle with the West, again a false view of prophecy that failed to materialize. How much we lost as a people through a worldly prophetic outlook instead of a Biblical Spirit-led view only God knows!

### **Now Again the “Christ Our Righteousness” Message is Beginning!**

Simultaneously, people all over the world are turning to Righteousness by Faith! We are told that this message IS the power of the Fourth Angel; it IS the latter rain message, and it is the SEALING message! It will swallow up all messages! *It will lighten the earth with God’s Glory!*

Remember God’s GLORY is His perfect LOVE as expressed in His Law, which is His very character!

### **But a False Revival Came First!**

This is the “new theology”—the peace and safety message of sin and live! Celebrate! Love is all we need! Unite together; truth is not important, just UNITY! Now, as said in the Spirit of Prophecy, when the real revival is among us, many look to it as “something dangerous.”

“There is to be in the [Seventh-day Adventist] churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations, they will oppose the work. ‘Why,’ they say, ‘should not we know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?’” *Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

Let us look at promises and prophecies and their deeply personal, spiritual meaning to us. *God's true people are pictured in His glorious mountain.*

- A faithful, trusting heart is held as an impregnable fortress "...upon a very high mountain..." (See Ezekiel 40:2; 43:12; Ephesians 1:3; 6:12; Revelation 14:1.) in the midst of hostile foes.
- "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" Isaiah 40:9.
- *VICTORY is assured.* The power or "...gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.
- *PROTECTION is assured.* "...kept by the power of God through faith..." 1 Peter 1:5. "...we [the Father, Son and Holy Spirit] will...make our abode with him." John 14:23. "...I will encamp about mine house..." Zechariah 9:8.
- *POWER is assured.* "Strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..." Ephesians 3:16, 17. "For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her." Zechariah 2:5. "Turn you to the strong hold..." Zechariah 9:12.
- *GUIDANCE is promised.* "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21.

### **Prophecies to Look At**

Victory assured! Daniel 11 and Revelation 17–18 show the defeat of the beast and all the evil forces of the world are assured! It is not God's people who need fear in this conflict! "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9.

*We need to fear compromises;* even small compromises cut off our connection to God's power. We need to fear the worldly look. We need to fear taking our eyes off of Jesus! We need to fear pride! Jesus and the Godhead can only dwell with a humble, contrite heart! "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15.

*We need to fear pride that would cause us to lose the indwelling of Jesus.* "It is high time that we were awake out of sleep, that we seek the Lord with all the heart, and I know He will be found of us. I know that all heaven

is at our command. Just as soon as we love God with all our hearts and our neighbor as ourselves, God will work through us. How shall we stand in the time of the latter rain? Who expects to have a part in the first resurrection? You who have been cherishing sin and iniquity in the heart? You will fail in that day.” *Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, 60.

### **Overcome the World through Jesus’ Blood and His Power!**

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Revelation 12:11. “When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world.” *The Desire of Ages*, 324.

The true interpretation of Scripture makes the Bible a new and living book! No longer a book containing dry records of the past, and future blessings which are unrelated to the present, but a Book containing a past and a future which lives in the present—a living book vibrant with messages from a living Christ.

### **Protection Wherever You Are!**

Do you not long to be in the secret place? Turn away from the worldly look! Read in its entirety Psalms 91. “If this is not enough, what more could heaven do for the fallen race than has been done? What more, says Christ, ‘could I do for My sheep than that I have done’? What more? Will He have to let us go? He will unless you change your attitude before God, for He has done all He could to save us. According to the light that we have received, so is our accountability before God. Walk in the light as He is in the light. There is no darkness in Him at all.” *The Ellen G. White 1888 Material*, vol. 1, 160, 161.

We cannot save ourselves, *but He can and will save all who come to Him!* “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.” Isaiah 41:10.

“...they shall surely gather together, but not by Me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.... No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper.” Isaiah 54:15, 17. In his daily

experience the earnest Christian says: “Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear...”  
Psalms 27:3.