

END OF TIME SERIES

An Expanded Spirit of Prophecy Study

By Pastor Vance Ferrell

- VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS - BEERSBEBE SPRINGS, TN 37305

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THE MARRIAGE IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE

At times in Scripture, marriage is presented as a symbol of the union of Christ with His people –a relationship that is in fullest harmony of thought and purpose. The antitypical marriage occurs as the judgment passes to someone's name and he or she is accepted and sealed. Then, at His coming, Jesus takes His people to heaven and they partake in the marriage supper of the Lamb. Forever after they will be with Him. At the sealing, they are not only marked as His property and forever sealed off from sin, –they are also joined to Him in a close relationship which, in heaven, even the angels will not experience. "Christ in us the hope of glory" will in heaven reach its greatest fulfillment. God's faithful ones will share in the "en *Christos*" experience throughout all eternity. This symbol of "bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh" illustrates the tender affection and care that God has for His people.

(None of this, of course, refers to a physical, sexual relationship! There will be no marriage relationships in heaven, we are told [MM 99-100; 1SM 172-173; 2SM 25-26].)

The following study, on the marriage in the most holy place, will include a variety of introductory and explanatory material which will take us somewhat into the Sanctuary service. For a much fuller understanding of the Sanctuary Message, you will want to read the present writer's compilation, *The Sanctuary Message*, which is now available in tractbook form from us. (Please use the *Tractbook Order Sheet* to order tractbooks.) The following material is adapted from section 29 of *The Sanctuary Message*.

Please note that, in one sense, the faithful are portrayed as guests of the marriage of Christ with His church; in other presentations, they are themselves said to be married to Christ. Either way, the essential points remain the same. You will find a basic discussion of this in EW 55, 251, 280 and GC 426-428.

In 1844, Jesus the bridegroom went into the most holy place to prepare His people for the marriage.

- 1 -

THE SYMBOL OF THE MARRIAGE

1 - The marriage is completed by the time probation closes.

"[When probation closed for all] Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. *The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.*" - *Early Writings, 280:1.*

2 - In 1844, Christ the bridegroom went into the most holy place to prepare His people for the marriage.

"*Christ had come, not to the earth, as they expected, but as foreshadowed in the type, to the most holy place of the temple of God in heaven.*" - *Great Controversy, 424:1.*

"The proclamation, '*Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,*' in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. *At the appointed time the Bridegroom came not to earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom.*" - *Great Controversy, 427:1.*

"The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of Man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi 3:5, are descriptions of the same event; *and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.*" - *Great Controversy, 426:1.*

3 - The marriage takes place in the Most Holy Place.

"*They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage;* for it takes place in heaven while they are upon the earth. The followers of Christ are to 'wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding.' Luke 12:36. But they are to understand His work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. *It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage.*" - *Great Controversy, 427:1.*

4 - The marriage concludes the investigative judgment.

"*In the parable of Matthew 22, the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage.* Previous to the wedding the king comes to see His guests, to see if all are attired in *the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character* washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matthew 22:11, Revelation 7:14. He who is found wanting is cast out, but all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne. This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is

that of the investigative judgment, the closing work in the sanctuary above." -*Great Controversy*, 428:1.

5 - The marriage takes place as probation is closing for the people.

"When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut. Thus in one short sentence, '*They that were ready went In with Him, to the marriage: and the door was shut,*' we are carried down through the Saviour's final ministration to the time when the great work for man's salvation shall be completed." -*Great Controversy*, 428:2.

"Jesus has risen up and shut the door of the Holy Place of the heavenly Sanctuary and has opened a door into the Most Holy Place and entered in to cleanse the *Sanctuary*."-*Early Writings*, 250:1.

6 - God's people must also prepare for the marriage.

"*The subject of the Sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.*"-*Great Controversy*, 428:1.

"Give to God the most precious offering that it is possible for you to make; give Him your heart. He speaks to you saying, 'My son. My daughter, give Me thine heart. Though your sins be as scarlet. I will make them white as snow; for I will cleanse you with My own blood. I will make you members of my family –children of the heavenly King. Take My forgiveness, My peace which I freely give you. *I will cloth you with My own righteousness, –the wedding garment, –and make you fit for the marriage supper of the Lamb.*

"When clothed in My righteousness, through prayer, through watchfulness, through diligent study of My Word, you will be able to reach a high standard. You will understand the truth, and your character will be molded by a divine influence." *Youth's Instructor*, June 30, 1892.

"God is the husband of His church. *The church Is the bride, the Lamb's wife;* Every true believer is a part of the body of Christ. Christ regards unfaithfulness shown to Him by His people as the *unfaithfulness of a wife to her husband.* We are to remember that we are members of Christ's body."-*7 Bible Commentary*, 985-986.

"*The church is the bride of Christ, and her members are to yoke up with their Leader. God warns us not to defile our garments.*"-*7 Bible Commentary* 986.

7 - Summarizing the marriage experience:

It should be noted that the great majority of statements indicate that Christ is married to the church, rather than to individual believers.

In a sense, it is a corporate marriage. He is married to all His people, not to individuals.

Why is this figure used at all? The primary purpose appears to be to show the closeness we will have to Christ in heaven –an experience closer than the angels can have with Him. (1) We were humans and He became human; that humanness forever to be retained. (2) We suffered and overcame in His strength, as He overcame in His Father's strength. (3) He died to save us, but He did not die for the unfallen angels or the sinless beings on other worlds. (4) Just as the bride stays with her husband, so the

redeemed will follow Him wherever he goeth. Their love for Him is very, very deep. His love for them is very, very deep.

The love of the Father enters this experience also. Nothing in the universe is as close as the Father and the Son, yet we are told that, because of Calvary, the Father loves us as He loves His Son. That is another astonishment.

It is wonderful to be wanted and appreciated. This figure reveals how very much you are wanted and appreciated by the Godhead.

-2 -

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

1 - The parable of the ten virgins, also has application to this experience of the marriage.

"I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. *This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter, for it has a special application to this time*, and, like the third angel's message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.

"In the parable, the ten virgins had lamps, but *only five of them had the saving oil with which to keep their lamps burning. This represents the condition of the church.*" - *Review, August 19, 1890.*

"I saw that *while Jesus was in the most holy place He would be married to the New Jerusalem; and after His work should be accomplished in the holiest, He would descend to the earth in kingly power, and take to Himself the precious ones who had patiently waited His return.*" *Early Writings, 251:1.*

"While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people, and blotted out their sin. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. *The marriage of the Lamb was consummated.*" - *Early Writings, 280:1.*

"*The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people.* . Chapter 25 opens with the words, 'Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins.' Here is brought to view *the church living in the last days*, the same that is pointed out in the close of Chapter 24. In this parable *their experience is illustrated by the incidents of an Eastern marriage.*" - *Great Controversy, 393:2.*

"We all need to *study as never before* the parable of the ten virgins." -4 *Bible Commentary, 1179.*

2 - The call to prepare for the marriage began in 1844.

"In the summer of 1844, midway between the time when it had been first thought that the 2300 days would end, and the autumn of the same year, to which it was afterward found that they extended, the message was proclaimed in the very words of scripture. '*Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!*'" - *Great Controversy, 398:3.*

"My mind was carried forward to the future, when the signal will be given, '*Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye to meet Him.*'" - *Review, February 11, 1896.*

3 - The virgins, lamps, and oil.

"They are called virgins because they profess a *pure faith.*" - *Christ's Object Lessons, 406:3.*

"They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil *with them*; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps." -*Matthew 25:3-4*.

"All had *lamps*, that is, an *outward semblance of religion*; but only five of them had the inward piety. Five of them were wanting in *the oil of grace*." -*Sons and Daughters of God, 118:1*.

"By the *lamps* is represented *the word of God*." -*Christ's Object Lessons, 406:3*.

"All had *lamps, and vessels for oil*. . All have a *knowledge of the Scriptures*. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing." -*Christ's Object Lessons, 408:2*.

"But if we do not *practice the truth*, we have not received *the holy oil*." -*4 Bible Commentary, 1179*.

"The oil is a symbol of *the Holy Spirit*." *Christ's Object Lessons, 407:0*.

"All need to have *the oil of grace* in their vessels with their *lamps*." -*Counsels on Health, 422:1*.

4 - Some were wise and some were foolish.

"The latter class (wise virgins) had received *the grace of God*, the regenerating, enlightening power of the Holy Spirit, which renders His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path." -*Great Controversy, 994:0*.

"*That oil is the righteousness of Christ*. It represents character, and character is not transferable. No man can secure it for another. Each must obtain for himself a character purified from every stain of *sin*." -*Testimonies to Ministers, 294:0*.

"*But some will have delayed to obtain the oil* for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will find that character, *which is represented by the oil, is not transferable*." - *Review, February 11, 1896*.

"The class represented by *the foolish virgins* are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. *They have not fallen upon the Rock*, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. . They do not know God. *They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him*; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. *Their service to God degenerates into a form*. . This is the class that in time of peril are found crying, Peace and safety. They lull their hearts into security, and dream not of danger." *Christ's Object Lessons, 411:1-2*.

"If they cherish hereditary and cultivated *traits of character that misrepresent Christ*, while professedly His disciples, they are represented by the man coming to the gospel feast *without having on the wedding garment*, and by the foolish virgins which had no oil *in their vessels* with their lamps." -*4 Bible Commentary, 1179*.

"In the parable of the virgins, five are represented as wise and five as foolish. The name, '*foolish virgins*' represents *the character of those who have not the genuine heart-work* wrought by the spirit of God . .

"*Those who have despised the divine grace* that is at their command, that would have qualified them to be the inhabitants of heaven, will be *the foolish virgins*. They had all the light, all the knowledge; but *they failed to obtain the oil and grace*; they did not receive *the truth in its sanctifying power*." -*Review, August 19, 1890*.

"There are persons who have received the precious light of the righteousness of Christ, *but they do not act upon it; they are foolish virgins*. They prefer the sophistry of the enemy rather than the plain 'Thus saith the Lord.' When the blessing of God rested upon them in order that they might become channels of light, they did not go forward from light to a greater light; they permitted doubt and unbelief to come in, so that the truth which they had seen, became an uncertainty to them. Satan uses those who claim to believe the truth, but whose light has become darkness. They are foolish virgins indeed, choosing darkness rather than light, and dishonoring God. *The character we cultivate, the attitude we assume today* is fixing our future destiny." -Review, August 19, 1890.

5 - Then comes the marriage.

"The marriage represents *the reception by Christ of His kingdom*." -*Great Controversy*, 426:1-2.

"I saw that *while Jesus was in the most holy place He would be married to the New Jerusalem*; and after His work should be accomplished in the holiest, He would descend to the earth in kingly power, and take to Himself the precious ones who had patiently waited His return." *Early Writings*, 251:1.

"They (Christ's followers) were not to be present in person at the marriage; for *it takes place in heaven*, while they are upon the earth. The followers of Christ are to wait for their Lord, when He will return from the Wedding but they are to understand His work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. *It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage*. . And all who through the testimony of the Scriptures accept the same truths, following Christ by faith as He enters in before God to perform the last work of mediation, and at its close to receive His kingdom, –all these are represented as going in to the marriage." -*Great Controversy*, 427:12; 428:0.

"While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people, and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. *The marriage of the Lamb was consummated*." -*Early Writings*, 280:1

"When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the doors of mercy will be shut. This in one short sentence, '*They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage, and the door was shut*,' we are carried down through the Saviour's final ministration, to *the time when the great work for man's salvation shall be completed*." -*Great Controversy*, 428:2.

-3 -

THE CALL TO THE MARRIAGE

1 - Just now we are in the waiting time - but too many are sleeping.

"*The reason why the Bridegroom delays* is because He is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. O the precious long-suffering of our merciful Saviour!" -*Sons and Daughters of God*, 118:2.

" 'While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.' *By the tarrying of the bridegroom is represented the passing of the time* when the Lord was expected, the disappointment, and the seeming delay. In this time of uncertainty, the interest of the, superficial and half-hearted soon began to waver, and their efforts to relax; but those whose faith was based on a personal knowledge of the Bible, had a rock beneath their

feet, which the waves of disappointment could not wash away. *'They all slumbered and slept;'* one class in unconcern and abandonment of their faith, the other class patiently waiting till clearer light should be given. *Yet In the night of trial* the latter seemed to lose, to some extent, their zeal and devotion. The half-hearted and superficial could no longer lean upon the faith of their brethren. Each must stand or fall for himself." -*Great Controversy, 894:1-895:0.*

"*All who wait for the heavenly Bridegroom are represented In the parable as slumbering because their Lord delayed His coming; but the wise roused themselves at the message of His approach, and responded to the message, and their spiritual discernment was not all gone, and they sprang Into line.*" -5 Bible Commentary, 1099.

"*We are in the waiting time; let your loins be girded about, and your lights shining, that may wait for the Lord when he returns from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks you may open unto him immediately.*" -4 Testimonies, 128:8-124:0.

2 - The final call is given.

"*Near the close of the second angel's message, I saw a great light from heaven shining upon the people of God. The rays of this light seemed bright as the sun. And I heard the voices of angels crying, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!' . . This was the midnight cry, which was to give power to the second angel's message. Angels were sent from heaven to arouse the discouraged saints, and prepare them for the great work before them. The most talented men were not the first to receive this message. Angels were sent to the humble, devoted ones, and constrained them to raise the cry, 'Behold, the Brldegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!' Those entrusted with the cry made hast, and in the power of the Holy Spirit sounded the message, and aroused their discouraged brethren. This work did not stand in the wisdom and learning of men, but in the power of God, and His saints who heard the cry could not resist it. The most spiritual received this message first, and those who had formerly led in the work were the last to receive and help swell the cry, 'Behold, The Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!' The Message was heart-searching, leading the believers to seek a living experience for themselves. They knew that they could not lean upon one another.*" -*Early Writings, 288:8.*

"*I saw a number of angels conversing with the one who had cried, 'Babylon is fallen,' and these united with him in the cry, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!' The musical voices of these angels seemed to reach everywhere. An exceedingly bright and glorious light shone around those who had cherished the light which had been imparted to them. Their faces shone with excellent glory, and they united with the angels in the cry, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh! As they harmoniously raised the cry among the different companies, those who rejected the light pushed them and with angry looks scorned and derided them. But angels of God wafted their wings over the persecuted ones, while Satan and his angels were seeking to press their darkness around them, to lead them to reject the light from heaven.*" -*Early Writings, 241:2-242:0.*

"*My mind was carried forward to the future, when the signal will be given, 'Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,' "**Review, February 11, 1896.*

3 - But for some, it will be too late.

"*It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,' and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares, but one was prepared for the emergency, and*

the other was found without preparation. So *now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity*, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. *The great final test comes at the close of human probation*, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be *supplied*,"- *Christ's Object Lessons*, 412:1.

"*We can not be ready to meet the Lord by waking when the cry is heard, 'Behold, the Bridegroom!'* and *then gathering up our empty lamps to have them replenished.*"- *Christ's Object Lessons*, 419:2-414:0.

"*But some will have delayed to obtain the oil for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will find that character, which is represented by the oil, is not transferable.*"- Review, February 11, 1896.

"*When the testing time shall come*, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. . So the false-hearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference *will be apparent.*" -*Great Controversy*, 602:1.

"*The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty*; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, *then the line of distinction will be drawn* between those who serve God and those who serve Him *not.*"- *Great Controversy*, 605:2.

"There are many who, unless they humble their hearts before the Lord, will be surprised and disappointed when the cry is heard, '*Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!*' *They have the theory of the truth, but they have no oil in their vessels with their lamps.* Our faith at this time must not stop with an assent to, or belief in, the theory of the third angel's message. We must have *the oil of grace of Christ* that will feed the lamp, and cause the light of life to shine forth, showing the way to those who are in darkness."-9 *Testimonies*, 155:1.

"Those who, while having all the light of truth flashing upon their souls, *should have works corresponding to their avowed faith*, but are allured by sin, setting up idols in their hearts, corrupting their souls before God, and polluting those who unite with them in sin, *will have their names blotted out of the book of life*, and be left in midnight darkness, *having no oil in their vessels with their lamps.*" -*Testimonies to Ministers*, 445:1.

"The woes that will be pronounced upon those that have had the light from heaven, and yet did not heed it they will feel, but will have no power to act. This is represented in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. *They cannot obtain a character from the wise virgins, and they have no oil of grace to discern the clear light or to accept it. They cannot light their lamps and Join the procession that goes in to the marriage supper of the lamb.*" -*Special Testimonies to Ministers*, No. 7, pp. 54-55.

"One who sees beneath the surface, who reads the hearts of all men, says of those who have had great light: '*They are not afflicted and astonished because of their moral and spiritual condition.*' 'Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations, I also will choose their delusions, *and will bring their fears upon them*; because when I called none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear; but they did evil before Mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.' 'God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, *'because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,'*'but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' Isaiah 66:3, 4; 2 Thessalonians 2:11,10,12,"-8 *Testimonies*, 249:2.

4 - While some are left out, others will enter.

"The time of God's destructive judgments is *the time of mercy* for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, *while the door is closed to those who would not enter.*" -9 Testimonies, 97:2.

"To souls that are earnestly seeking for light, and that accept with gladness every ray of divine illumination from His holy word, -to such alone light will be given. It is through these souls that God will reveal that light and power which will lighten the whole earth with His glory." - 5 Testimonies, 729:2.

"The message of Christ's righteousness is to sound from one end of the world to the other. *This is the glory of God* which closes the work of title 'third angel.'" -Letter, December 21, 1892, quoted in Review, Extra, January 1899,

"By Implanting In their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. *The light of His glory –His character –is to shine forth* in His followers. Thus they are to glorify God, *to lighten the path to the Bridegroom's home, to the city of God, to the marriage supper of the Lamb.*" -Christ's Object Lessons, 414:2.

5 - Many will be refused admittance to the marriage. .

"In the future, *the earth is to be lightened* with the glory of God, *A holy influence is to go forth to the world from those who are sanctified through the truth.* The earth is to be encircled with an atmosphere of grace. The Holy Spirit is to work on human hearts, taking the things of God and showing them to men." -9 Testimonies, 40:2.

"We may be sure that when the Holy Spirit is poured out *those who did not receive and appreciate the early rain will not see or understand the value of the latter rain.*" -Testimonies to Ministers, 399:1.

"There is to be in the 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 their 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 expectations and ideal, they will oppose the work, 'Why,' they say, 'should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?' -Because *they did not respond to the warnings, the entreaties, or the messages of God*, but persistently said, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.' "-Review, November 7, 1918.

"Some have turned from the message of the righteousness of Christ to criticize the men. . The third angel's message will not be comprehended, *the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light*, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory. The work that might have been done, will be left undone by the rejecters of truth, because of their unbelief. *We entreat of you who oppose the light of truth, to stand out of the way of God's people.* Let heaven-sent light shine forth upon them in clear steady rays." - Review, May 27, 1890.

"But those who have given God only half-hearted service, allowing their lives to be conformed to the ways and practices of the world, will hear the sad words, 'Depart from me; I know you not.'" -9 Testimonies, 252:1.

"Christ tells us how in the last great day ministers, elders, evangelists, physicians, teachers, will confront Him with their claims. They will plead how they have led the singers in their songs of praise, how they have waved the palm branches, how

they have spoken of Him before thousands. 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name,' they say, 'and in Thy name done many wonderful works.'

"But Christ says, *'Then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity. 'O that you had known, even in the day of your visitations, when like sweetest music, mercy's voice fell upon your ears, the things that belonged unto your peace. But you were not ready. If you had been faithful to the warnings of the word; if you had dismissed Satan, instead of linking your arm in his; if you had preserved untarnished the principles of right; If you had obeyed my commandments, broken with ungodly advisers, scorned their Impious bribes, which tempted you to worldly honor; if you had lifted the cross, and followed Jesus in self-denial, I could have welcomed you into My presence. But you have not cared for My society, and now you have no power to go from the snare.*

"I offered you My saving grace, but you refused it and chose the side of the enemy, even as the priests and rulers and mocked at my humiliation. So will I refuse to acknowledge you. I weep for your future, but you have not cared to weep for yourselves. I was pledged to bear you and care for you, even a father beareth and loveth his own son that serveth him. But you would not harmonize with Me.

"The precious invitation was often given, 'Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me, and he shall make peace with Me.' *But you would have none of My counsel.* You have despised all My entreaties and scorned My invitations. *You have caused many to follow your sinful ways, and now your punishment has come. You will receive as your works have been. You must lose everlasting life. You have chosen your own ways, and with such ways, such sentiments, such characters, you could not enter the gates of the holy city.'*

"What a scene is this! I pass over the ground again and again, bowed down in an agony that no tongue can express, as I see *the end of many, many who have refused to receive their Saviour.* "-A Solemn Warning, October 1, 1909, from Sanitarium, California.

6 - The conclusion of the matter: Get ready now, before It is too late.

" 'Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' *Go to your rest at night with every sin confessed. Thus when in 1844 we expected to meet our Lord. And now this great event is nearer than when we first believed. Be always ready, In the evening, In the morning, and at noon, that when the cry is heard, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!' you may, even though awakened out of sleep, go forth to meet Him with your lamps trimmed and burning.*"-9 Testimonies, 48:3.

"Purify your souls by obeying the truth. Faith without works is dead. Put not off the day of preparation. Slumber not in a state of unpreparedness, having no oil in your vessels with your lamps. Let none leave their safety for eternity to hang upon a peradventure. Let not the question remain in perilous uncertainty. Ask yourselves earnestly, Am I among the saved, or the unsaved? Shall I stand, or shall I not stand? He only that hath clean hands and a pure heart shall stand in that day."-Testimonies to Ministers, 448:2.

