



Lesson 13 Revival and Reformation

The Promised Revival: God's Mission Completed.

SABBATH

First: What is God's Mission? Has it already been completed, or is it yet to happen??

“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:7, 8, NKJV).

“The challenge of preaching the gospel in the context of the three angels' messages to the entire world may seem impossible. Although the Seventh-day Adventist Church is growing rapidly *[is it??]*, it is not keeping up with the population. There are multiple areas of the world where the name “Seventh-day Adventist” (much less our message) is not known. *[is this a bad thing?]*

The reality of this harsh fact leads to serious questions. Is it possible for the gospel to be preached to the entire world in this generation? Will there be some unusual breakthrough that will dramatically speed up the proclamation of the three angels' messages? *[Does it matter which gospel is presented?]*

There is always one thing to keep in mind when we discuss this topic: the mission is God's, and He will accomplish it. At the same time, however, we must remember that we have been called to a crucial role in that final work, as well.” *[emphasis – mine.]*

Wasn't God's mission to restore mankind to his/her original nobility after Creation? To restore a correct understanding of God in man's mind/heart? To have mankind in harmony with His Law? Unselfish, kind, living out His perfect Law in heart, mind, and behavior. Didn't He accomplish this a little over 2,000 years ago? If so, what's left?

SUNDAY

What is the “power” spoken of when “the Holy Spirit has come upon you”? The Holy Spirit is also known as the Spirit of Love, and Truth. How does this fit?? What are the fruits of the Spirit? [see Galatians 5, 22,23.] What is the “power” of these fruits? How powerful is self-control? Which is more powerful? Thermonuclear destruction or Creator of Life? Love or hate, selfishness or selflessness? Death or Life? Disease or healing?

“No matter how challenging the task, the promises of God are sure. Jesus' statement that ““this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”” (Matt. 24:14, NKJV) is a promise. The proclamation of the gospel to the entire world may seem impossible, but God's power will overcome every obstacle. Every person on planet Earth will have a reasonable opportunity to hear and understand God's message of love and truth before the



return of our Lord (*See Rev. 18:1*.)”

It still matters which gospel is being preached.

MONDAY

Doesn't it make sense that God would provide some sort of illustration for humanity, since he has known, from the Beginning, how long this process would take, and how many would accept His grace, as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, and how many would reject it? We see this illustration in the early / latter rain metaphor. The real question is, are we now receiving the latter rain, or are we hindering it?

The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. It sends down its roots into the earth. It drinks in the sunshine, the dew, and the rain. It receives the life-giving properties from the air. So the Christian is to grow by co-operating with the divine agencies. Feeling our helplessness, we are to improve all the opportunities granted us to gain a fuller experience. As the plant takes root in the soil, so we are to take deep root in Christ. As the plant receives the sunshine, the dew, and the rain, we are to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. The work is to be done “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6. If we keep our minds stayed upon Christ, He will come unto us “as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” Hosea 6:3. As the Sun of Righteousness, He will arise upon us “with healing in His wings.” Malachi 4:2. We shall “grow as the lily.” We shall “revive as the corn, and grow as the vine.” Hosea 14:5, 7. By constantly relying upon Christ as our personal Saviour, we shall grow up into Him in all things who is our head.

The wheat develops “first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” The object of the husbandman in the sowing of the seed and the culture of the growing plant is the production of grain. He desires bread for the hungry, and seed for future harvests. So the divine Husbandman looks for a harvest as the reward of His labor and sacrifice. Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ's character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others. COL 66.1.

TUESDAY

What were the prerequisites for the Early rain? See Acts Ch. 1, 2.

- Unity of purpose
- Unity of knowledge of God's character as revealed by Jesus
- Continual prayer
- Sharing resources with each other
- Teachable spirits
- NO unity of doctrine or denomination



Might it make sense that the prerequisites haven't changed?? Isn't God still waiting on a people to fully reveal the "power" [see Sunday's lesson] of a transformed heart and mind?? A people unwilling to keep this power to themselves, and build a fortification of doctrines to protect their "truth"? A teachable people?

The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God. God cannot pour out His Spirit when selfishness and self-indulgence are so manifest; when a spirit prevails that, if put into words, would express that answer of Cain,—“Am I my brother's keeper?”—The Review and Herald, July 21, 1896.

The lesson states that “all spiritual revival and genuine reformation lead to a passionate desire to witness.” I would take it a step further, and say we cannot help but witness.

WEDNESDAY

3rd paragraph. “The symbolism of fire is a symbol of the glory, presence, and power of God manifest in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. To be baptized with fire is to be immersed in the glory of God's presence through the Holy Spirit in order to witness in His power. Moses met God at the burning bush and then left the glory of His presence in order to witness to Pharaoh. Elijah witnessed to Israel in the glory of God's fiery presence on Mount Carmel. When tongues of fire fell on Pentecost, the disciples witnessed in languages that they had never before known. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is immersion in the presence and power of God in order that we can effectively witness of His glory. Once again, in the last days of earth's history, God's people will be immersed in His presence, filled with His power, and sent out to witness of His glory to the world.”

This is a powerful paragraph, especially if one takes it to its rational conclusion, and applies it to the destruction of the unrighteous. Won't every human be “baptized” with the fire of God's presence eventually?

THURSDAY

The lesson suggests that the book of Revelations can be summed up thusly: Jesus wins, satan loses. I suggest it is summed up: God Is Love. Just like the summation of the entirety of Scripture, and Creation. 1st paragraph:

“Here is good news: the same Jesus who defeated Satan on the cross will come again and triumph over the powers of hell and put a full end to evil (*Rev. 19:19-21; Ezek. 28:18-19*). Evil



will not have the last word. Poverty and pestilence will not have the last word. Sickness and suffering will not have the last word. Chaos and crime will not have the last word. Disease and death will not have the last word. Instead, God will.”

What will God’s last words be? “Up yours, wicked”? “Is it hot in here, or is it just me”? “Burn, burn, burn”? NO. It will be something like, “I love you, satan. There will, forever, be a hole in my heart where you used to be. I will miss you very much.”

FRIDAY

1st question in the green section below.

“...Ellen G. White wrote: “The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God.” In class, discuss what you think that means. What does it not mean? After all, our message is very logical, very reasonable, and it comes with some very powerful arguments in its favor. How are we to understand, then, what she is telling us?”

Thoughts?