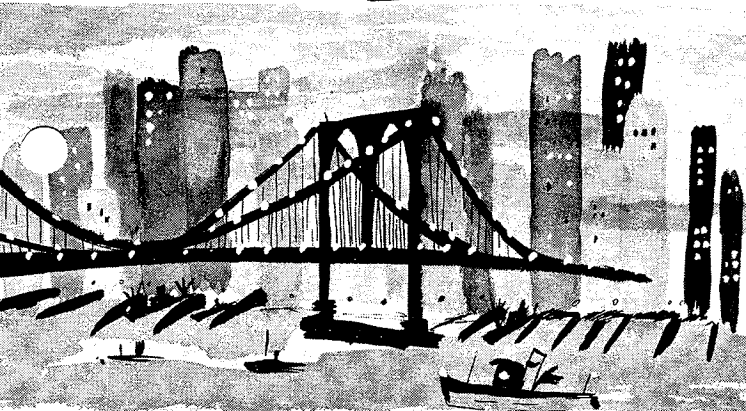


December 195



"Watchman,
what of the night?"

The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come. Isaiah 21:11-12

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

"The sovereignty of God involves fulness of blessing to all created beings."¹ As the Sovereign of the Universe, He is "working salvation in the midst of the earth."² In His hands are "the times" and "the seasons."³ He reveals that which *is necessary* to take place in an ever quickening pace.⁴ Man's relationship to this Divine Sovereignty is elemental to his redemption. The enemy of God has suggested that because the father and mother of our race yielded to the invitation offered in Eden, that mankind has "chosen him as their sovereign."⁵ To question the sovereignty of God has "become the purpose of the prince of angels."⁶ Thus every human being must choose to whom he will yield full and complete allegiance. This is more than verbal; it is reflected in life's decisions that result in action.

To Nebuchadnezzar was revealed the history of the world from his day till the stone kingdom which was to stand forever would fill the whole earth. In this divine order of events, Nebuchadnezzar's place was simply "the head of gold."⁷ But this did not harmonize with his personal ambitions, so he erected an image all of gold.⁸ Still not having learned the lesson of God's sovereignty, he boasted - "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built."⁹ The divine decree went forth taking from him his kingdom, and his rationality "until [he should] know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will."¹⁰ After seven years, upon the return of his understanding, he confessed the confession of life:

I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored Him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from

generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?¹¹

In this same book of prophecy, sealed - set apart - for the time of the end, we find a lesson in the life of Daniel which speaks to the very present issues confronting us today. To Daniel was revealed the course of human history. In the first year of Belshazzar, Daniel had depicted for him in beastly symbols the succession of empires from Babylon's day till the Son of man should receive His kingdom.¹² In the third year of the same king's reign, Daniel was no longer at Babylon but "at Shushan in the palace, which was in the province of Elam." To him again was revealed the course of empire, but Babylon was not included. The inference was very clear - its days were numbered!¹³

Soon the Medo-Persian armies began pushing southward and westward. Daniel could have given himself over to the Persian forces, and asked for political asylum. He thus could have remained at the palace that was to become the royal capital of the Persians.¹⁴ Was not one of the coming personalities among the Persians - Cyrus? But Daniel did not do so. Even though no longer in the government, nor under obligation to the head of State, he retreated with the Babylonian forces, and returned to Babylon. God had not yet spoken. Circumstances indicated a change was imminent, but until God should speak, Daniel maintained a loyalty in harmony with God's original guidance in his life.

In the final days of the tottering Babylonian Empire, Belshazzar made a feast and drank wine to the gods of gold, silver, and brass. Suddenly God speaks forth - a Hand writes - MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. Terror seizes the drunken king and his guests. When Daniel is brought to interpret - he reads the Hand of God as the Sovereign of the Universe. The hour had now come - the kingdom of Babylon had been weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and had been found wanting.¹⁵ Daniel could now

move freely, for God had moved. Though clothed in the garb of the third ruler of the kingdom the night of the Medo-Persia take-over, within days, he was appointed one of the three presidents of the realm of the new kingdom, and the king sought to make him the first.¹⁶

Here was a man greatly beloved of Heaven, whose life moved with the unfolding of the Scroll of Prophecy. Until God - the Divine Sovereign - indicated a change, Daniel was content to wait, but once the indication was given, he moved forth fearlessly. God could use him. He continued until the third year of Cyrus, and saw the decree issued which fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah concerning "the desolations of Jerusalem."¹⁷ In this action, Daniel played a part in the Divine purpose because his life was governed by the sovereignty of God, "who doeth His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth: and none can stay His hand, or say to Him, What doest Thou?"

We today would not find ourselves in such doubt and perplexity if we too, would simply recognize the Sovereignty of God. Through the servant of the Lord, God has plainly spoken:

In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence, "Found wanting." By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged.¹⁸

This is not a conditional prophecy, the Church is to be weighed. The conditional aspect is the decision to be rendered. God does not make an arbitrary judgment. We make the decision by our actions prior to the judgment.

When the Ancient of Days began the Investigative Judgment, He set up a corresponding Movement on earth to work in harmony with His purposes and objectives. This Movement was entrusted to the Church. "In a special sense Seventh-day Adven-

tists have been set in the world as watchman and lightbearers. To them has been *entrusted* the last warning message for a perishing world. . . The most solemn truths ever *entrusted* to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world."¹⁹ This calling of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as the instrument entrusted with these truths was an act of the Sovereignty of God. And until God moved no man had a right to declare otherwise, or to dispute that Sovereign decision.

To so recognize that Sovereignty of God does not declare that the Church, or its leadership was perfect. In many instances - far from it! Voices of reproof and warning were to be sounded. But who had a right, no matter what the provocation to divorce themselves from the institution ordained by God until such time as God would indicate that the Church had been weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and what the verdict of this investigation was? In our finite judgment, we might conclude the answer long before the heart of Infinite Love would so declare. God bore "long with the sins and transgressions of His people in this generation."²⁰

However, prophecy does picture a time when God arises from the "cherub, whereupon He was", and calls for the sealing of His people to begin - those who had been sighing and crying for the abominations that were being committed in the Church.²¹ This is described as "the last work," "the closing work for the church"²² And lest there be any mistake, when this work began, God permitted a sign to be fulfilled that declared clearly the verdict of the Judgment in regard to the Church. The times of the Gentiles - the nations of earth to whom the Church was to give its entrusted message - was fulfilled. Thus "the closing work of the church"²³ had ended. That sign of Luke 21:24 came to pass in 1967. As clearly as the letters were penned on the wall of Beshazzar's palace, so clearly did God let history speak to this generation, - and to the Church!

We who are now living this side of 1967 can be just as guilty of disputing the sovereignty of God in relationship to the Church, as have those who prior to

NOTES AND COMMENTS

From a Reliable Source:

- 1) As of June 30, 1975, The General Conference had over 59 Millions of dollars in common stock.
- 2) As of the same date, they had over 18 Millions of dollars in bonds.
- 3) Between December 31, 1972, and August 21, 1974, the General Conference lost in excess of \$30 Millions of dollars playing the stock market. On the final day of this tabulation, they lost \$100,000 alone.

Unbelievable: A letter dated August 25, 1975 from the Treasurer of the General Conference stated:

"The activities of the Church in this area [stock and bond investments] have been reviewed with the White Estate on several occasions, and it is their opinion that the Church's program does not contravene the counsel that God's messenger has given to this Church."

(Since when has the panoply of divine inspiration descended upon the White Estate so that they can speak for the deceased Prophetess? Are they not aware of the compilation they released in 1940, entitled, Counsels on Stewardship, sections, "The Temptation to Speculate" & "Unwise Investments", pp. 236-242.)

"The desolation of Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah is a solemn warning to modern Israel, that the counsels and admonitions given them through chosen instrumentalities cannot be disregarded with impunity." Prophets & Kings, p. 417

From a High Placed Member of the Hierarchy (Letter dated October 30, 1975)

"Movement of Destiny was published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, and they will have to take any responsibility for that book. This was not published by the General Conference. In fact the General Conference is not in the publishing business. Each publishing house has its own committee that looks at the books that are submitted to them for publication, and this committee takes the responsibility of what is published through that particular house."

(Pray tell, how then did the imprimatur of the President of the General Conference get on the book? How was it that the Chairman of the Guiding Committee for Move- of Destiny was none other than Elder Neal C. Wilson, Vice-President of the General Conference for the North American Division?)

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