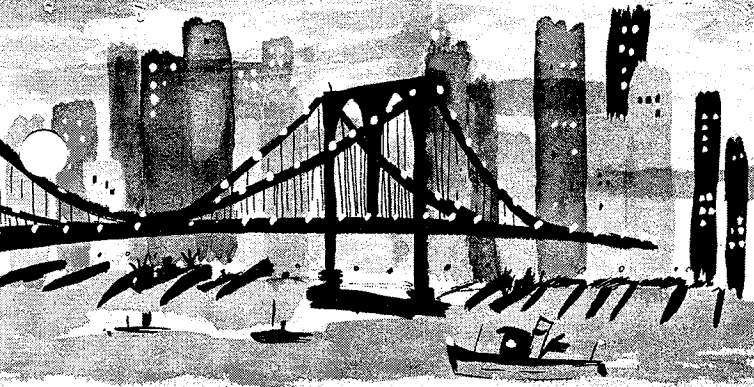


JUNE 1975.



"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

ANALYSIS - III

In this analysis, we shall cover four different areas of thought which are interrelated. The conclusions drawn result from the fact that the prophecy of Luke 21:24 given by Jesus Himself has been fulfilled. We might call it "The Fall-Out" from fulfilled prophecy.

The Sealing

When God arose "from the cherub, whereupon He was," He ordered the sealing work to proceed in "the midst of Jerusalem."¹ God has borne long with the disobedience of His professed people. It has been written:

The Lord God is a jealous God; yet He bears long with the sins and transgressions of His people in this generation. . . . Because the people are disobedient, unthankful, unholy, as were ancient Israel, time is prolonged that all may hear the last message of mercy proclaimed with a loud voice. The Lord's work has been hindered, the sealing time delayed. Many have not heard the truth. But the Lord will give them a chance to hear and be converted.²

Because the church appointed to proclaim the final message has failed in the trust committed to it, God has taken things into His own hands, and will provide the means whereby those who have not heard the truth will have opportunity to do so. God arises and orders the delayed sealing to commence - the selection of the 144,000 through whom He plans to make His final witness.³

The ones sealed are found in the "midst of Jerusalem". They are concerned about what is taking place in that city. We are told plainly that in Ezekiel's prophecy, Jerusalem represents the church. We read:

Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth,

wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done" in the church.⁴

These sealed ones receive a special mark. On their foreheads is written "God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name."⁵ These members of Old Jerusalem, receive a new citizenship. They obtain a "new" Mother. As Paul wrote - "But the Jerusalem, which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."⁶ Let us face the fact, painful though it may be, that those who are presently calling for us to be loyal to "The Church, Our Mother", indicating it to be the earthly corporate organization, are deceivers of the people, giving the trumpet an uncertain sound, and lulling the laity into a fatal security.

If the prophecy of Ezekiel 9 teaches anything, it teaches plainly that the church as presently constituted will not go through, and only those sealed from it will reach the New Jerusalem. This prophecy also answers the question left unanswered in regard to Laodicea. The Faithful Witness declared - "Because thou art lukewarm. . . I am about to spue thee out of my mouth."⁷ The sealed ones are classified with the overcomers of Philadelphia, for the Philadelphian church is pictured as a group bearing the "name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem."⁸ Thus Laodicea - if the prophecy of Ezekiel 9 means anything - is spued out.

The Final Form of the Church

In the light of the prophecy of Ezekiel 9, and the comments found thereon in the Spirit of Prophecy, what will the church look like in its final conflict with the powers of earth that will be marshalled by the dragon host?⁹ We have not studied the work of "the third angel" as we should have. It should have engrossed our whole mind, our whole attention, for we read:

I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the from the tares, and seal, or bind, the

wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.¹⁰

First note - the Angel said - the third angel "is to select the wheat from the tares." Surely heaven knows which way the process of selection and separation is to be carried out. It is not the tares that are to be removed from the wheat, but the wheat from the tares. Many today are thinking and writing, as if God had not arisen from the cherub whereupon He was, as if God had not commanded another work to begin. What might have been, and what is, are two different things. Blessed are they who are willing to follow the unfolding scroll of prophecy, and who discern in the events taking place, the message of God for this hour. The expression in Early Writings where the angel is quoted direct as saying that the wheat is selected from the tares is not an isolated instance as found in the writings of the servant of the Lord. In another place we are told - "the gold will be separated from the dross in the church" not the dross from the gold.¹¹ Also, "the little company" is plainly set forth as distinct from the "many" who continue the forms of religious service even though the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel.¹²

The question comes as to how the wheat sealed and bound for the "heavenly garner" will be organized? The same accompanying angel also revealed this to the servant of the Lord. The description reads:

He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, "The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner."¹³

These little companies are bound together, not by human organization, but by truth, and truth alone. This and this alone will firmly unite them. And is it not also of deep interest that "the righteousness of Christ, . . . is pure, unadulterated truth,"¹⁴ and that those sealed are settled "into the truth, both intellectually

and spiritually, so they cannot be moved."¹⁵

The Final Witness

The pure mark of truth is stated to be wrought in the sighing, crying ones in Jerusalem by the Holy Spirit.⁴ We are also told that those who are sealed "reflect the image of Jesus fully."¹⁶ In the light of this, it is noteworthy to observe before Jesus gave a detailed account of the specific signs in Luke 21, He warned His followers that they would be brought before synagogues, kings, and rulers for His name's sake. This opportunity was to "turn to [them] for a testimony."¹⁷ Mark connects this witness directly with the witness of the Holy Spirit through the lips of those who are thus delivered up. It reads:

When they shall lead you and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.¹⁸

Only as we reflect the image of Jesus fully can this be our experience. He emptied Himself, so that Father alone appeared in His life. The words He spoke; the deeds He did, were not His but the Father who sent Him.¹⁹ And only as we understand the incarnation in its reality - Christ in our fallen, defiled human nature, letting the power of the Holy Spirit act for Him - can we come to reflect that possibility. And when this does occur, God will have that group through whom He can give the final witness to the world - before courts of justice and legislative assemblies. Then those who have been deprived of hearing pure, unadulterated truth because of the failure of the church appointed to bear that witness, will be enabled to hear and make a decision before it is eternally too late.² This is the time in which we are now living, the gathering of the personnel for that final testimony. If we cannot now yield ourselves to let the Holy Spirit use our voices, and pens to reprove, counsel, and entreat in regard to the abominations that are being done in the midst of the church, how can we

stand up, and let the Holy Spirit use our voices to call the religious federation gathered to the place called in the Hebrew tongue, Har-Magedon, for just what it is - the agency for the deification of Satan.²¹ Well did Jeremiah ask -

If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace [the comfortable pew], wherein thou trustest, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of the Jordon?²²

Significance of the Date - 1967

In the very year that the servant of the Lord told Dr. P. T. Magan that we would have to remain here many more years because of insubordination, she also wrote that we should study Luke 21 regarding what was to come upon Jerusalem.²³ She did not include Matthew 24, nor Mark 13 which are parallel chapters. The only item that is found in Luke 21 in regard to Jerusalem that is not found in the other two books is the prophecy which relates to "the times of the Gentiles." In other words, God intended to give His chosen church every possible opportunity to accomplish its appointed mission. He would bear long with them, but He was also telling the church that there would be a limit beyond which He would go no further, and He gave a sign to mark off that limit. This we have exceeded, and God let events on earth take their course.

However, in this mercy of God, there is a challenge to those who have run ahead of God. Various groups - the Reformed Seventh-day Adventist body, the Rod, Brinsmead-Decade I - and others too numerous to mention, sought to anticipate the decision to be rendered in the balances of the heavenly sanctuary. Instead of sighing and crying in the "midst of Jerusalem", they sought to create their own "city". God did appoint a corporate human organization to fulfill His intended mission on the earth - the final warning to the inhabitants of earth - the nations. And until God would so indicate that He had weighed this organization in the balances of the sanctuary, no human authority was in a position to so judge, or

to act as if God had already done so. And no human being had the insight to know what the decision of heaven would be until it was announced through the sign He Himself permitted to take place. Thus there needs to be a deep heart-searching, and repentance on the part of all those who have thus run ahead of God.

There is another side to this coin also. Even as Israel of old sought to take the land of Canaan by storm after God said that generation would die in the wilderness, so the corporate body will seek to take the Latter Rain by storm to show that God is still with the organization. But to know what God has said in letting Luke 21:24 be fulfilled will keep us from being deceived by a false latter rain. We will be able to rest on the Word of God instead of our senses.²⁴

Keep in mind that the leadership of the church today is just as defiant as the Pharisees of old who "defied earth and heaven to dispossess them of their rights. But by lives of unfaithfulness they were preparing for the condemnation of heaven and separation from God."²⁵ This is not stretching a point for we read - "As it was in the days of Christ, so it is now; the Pharisees do not know their spiritual destitution. To them comes the message, . . ." and Revelation 3:17-18 is quoted. The leadership of Laodicea unmindful of the decision rendered in the balances of the sanctuary, continue to defy heaven to remove their candlestick out of its place.²⁶ But the message of Ezekiel 9 is simply that the candlestick has been removed, and given to a group who will render to God fruit in due season - even the group known in prophecy as the 144,000 on whose foreheads will be put their destination - New Jerusalem.

¹Ezekiel 9:1-4

²Ellen G. White, Letter 106, 1897 quoted in The Faith I Live By, p. 288

³Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 266

⁴Ibid., p. 267

⁵Ellen G. White, Early Writings, p. 15

⁶Galatians 4:26

⁷Revelation 3:16 Greek

⁸Revelation 3:12

⁹Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 213

- ¹⁰Ellen G. White, Early Writings, p. 118
- ¹¹Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 81
- ¹²Ibid., p. 210
- ¹³Ellen G. White, Early Writings, pp. 88-89
- ¹⁴Ellen G. White, Testimonies to Ministers, p. 65
- ¹⁵Ellen G. White, Ms. 173, 1902, (4BC:1161)
- ¹⁶Ellen G. White, Early Writings, p. 71
- ¹⁷Luke 21:12-13
- ¹⁸Mark 13:11
- ¹⁹Philippians 2:7 RSV, John 8:28; 12:49-50; 14:10
- ²⁰See Footnote #12
- ²¹Ellen G. White, Testimonies to Ministers, p. 62
- ²²Jeremiah 12:5
- ²³Ellen G. White, Ms. 184, 1901; Letter 20, 1901 See Counsel to Writers and Editors, pp. 23-24
- ²⁴Ellen G. White, Great Controversy, p. 625 - "Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses?"
- ²⁵Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, p. 294
- ²⁶Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages., p. 280

++++++

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Bauer Tape of the Month - "The Review & Herald Fire" Send direct to Mrs Jeanne D. Colston, Gen. Del., Al Tahoe Sta., South Lake Tahoe, Calif., 95702
The cost per cassette copy is \$2.50.

Seventh-day Adventist Ecumenism - "Robert Hunter, pastor of the Morganton, North Carolina [SDA], district, and a member of the local ministerial association, joined in PULPIT EXCHANGE DAY, exchanging pulpits with [Father] Thomas Burke of St Charles Roman Catholic church. The theme of the city-wide program was 'Blest Be the Tie.'" Southern Tidings (Official Organ of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventist) April, 1975, Telex Notes, p. 12.

Correction - In the Special Report - 1, we reported that the Northern California Conference had a loss from playing in the stock market of over Seven Million Dollars. A member of the Subcommittee on Organization and Finance advised us that "the figures you show in the right hand column are not cumulative." Thus the "paper" loss on the stock investments for the six year period covered in the report would be \$2,053,298.42, if each loss is reflected in the following year's total. We arrived at our figure by adding the losses for each year together. But be it only Two Million dollars such practices by the hierarchy of the money of the laity is inexcusable. We have wondered what the total losses for the church as a whole have been. An unconfirmed report coming to this desk indicated a loss on paper of over Fifty Million Dollars. It would be well if the leadership of the church would either deny or confirm with facts and figures this loss so that the truth might be known.

++++++