

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR



on earth, as Inspiration declared (General Conference Bulletin, 34th Session, Vol. 4, Extra No. 1, April 3, 1901, p. 25, cols. 1, 2) at the turn of the century. Consequently, when the time arrived in 1929 for the eleventh-hour call (the additional message which "gives power and force to the third angel's message"—EW 277:1) to be sounded to the Church, it came, not through the "ancient men," the General Conference and leadership, but through the laity, thus completing the proof that the key of knowledge of present truth, the keys of the Kingdom, with which Peter was entrusted, are at work today unlocking the Gates of Glory to all whom Truth's decree binds, and locking them to all whom it looses, now in the unfolding of the scroll for the eleventh hour.

So it is plain to be seen that the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven are now in the hands of those who have this climactic, eleventh-hour message, "this gospel of the Kingdom." Just as plain therefore as Heaven can make it, the truth stands out that the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, the present truth for today, have passed from the hands of the General Conference and leadership in general to the hands of the eleventh-hour laborers—the Davids "willing to do and dare" (5T 81:2) for the purification of the Church (5T

81:1; 187:3) and the setting-up of the Kingdom (Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45; Matt. 13:41, 43; 19:28; 25:31-34; Mic. 4:8; Ezek. 36:35, 36; Obad. 21), just as verily as they passed from the Sanhedrin to Peter in the days of Christ's first advent.

So it is that what is Truth's decree on earth today is also the decree in Heaven.

Cease From Men

Since you will inescapably find yourself under severe trial if you obey your inner convictions and take hold of the advanced present truth now at the eleventh-hour call, the fifth and final call of the Gospel in Bible time, you must therefore let the Lord alone be your guide, and Inspiration your only teacher. Do not value your salvation so little as to trust to the wisdom of another. Be wise: obey the word of the Lord, investigate for yourself, and do not delay, for you know not the narrow margin of time between you and Heaven. "Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom." Mic. 7:5.

Investigate Personally

With the abundance of evidence herein made available to all, no

one need remain in ignorance of the source through which the Lord is revealing His eleventh-hour message of mercy if each will but investigate personally, "*prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*" 1 Thess. 5:21.

Aside from the great peril involved, there is neither intellectual nor spiritual integrity in making "flesh your arm," entrusting to someone else your personal responsibility of investigating "a message that comes in the name of the Lord" (CSW 28:1). Each must for himself prove "all things" and "hold fast that which is good," as every true child of God has ever done. Those who will not take time and pains to do this with the solemn message of the hour are not honest with themselves or with God, and their interest in the Kingdom of Heaven is not such as that shown in the parable of the merchant man who sought salvation as though seeking for "goodly pearls" or "hidden treasure" (Matt. 13:44, 45). And those who cannot for themselves discern the difference between truth and error are prefigured by the "five foolish virgins," the rejecters of the "extra oil" or present truth, who are consequently shut out from the marriage supper of the Lamb, loosed on earth and in Heaven for time and eternity.

But there is still another class who from pride of opinion and

for fear that in coming to the light they may have their errors exposed to view, refuse to discharge their individual responsibility and consequently remain in the darkness. Still others hold back from openly taking their stand by the side of those who advocate the plain but unpopular present truth because of the inconvenience, reproach, and persecution which follow in the wake of being cast out of the synagogue.

So the sins of prejudice, pride, and cowardice, lurking beneath the surface, work like a cancer in the heart, cheating the victim of eternal glory.

Let the tragic fact be reemphasized, so that none fail to be admonished by it, that the rulers of ancient Israel—priests, scribes, and Pharisees—who deprived the people of their God-given right to investigate for themselves the teachings of Christ at the third-hour call, perished along with their victims under the condemnation of the laws which were to save them.

"Woe unto you, lawyers!" therefore, declared Christ, "for ye have taken away the key of knowledge [*of present truth—the keys of the Kingdom*"]: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." Luke 11:52.

Tragic, indeed, this ironical picture of the Jews before Christ's

day—yes, and ever since—thinking they had all the truth there was to know. “We have Moses,” they smugly said, and true, they did have him. Indeed, they had the entire Old Testament. But their misunderstanding of Moses’ and the rest of the prophets’ writings, and their consequent misconception of the plan of God and resultant overconfidence in themselves, led them to feel that they were rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing. It was this self-complacent attitude that caused them at the third-hour call to turn a deaf ear to the teachings of Christ, the King of glory. Thus their misconception of the truth and their prejudice against light upon the Word of God so robbed them of the knowledge and the wisdom of Jehovah that they lost the keys of the Kingdom and were finally led, to their everlasting shame, condemnation, and loss, to commit the terrible crime of taking the life of the Son of God.

This fearful guilt, however, does not lie upon the hapless Jew alone. The Christian Church as well, in each of her succeeding periods, has in effect crucified the Saviour afresh in rejecting His messages of present truth to her, thereby unwittingly forfeiting the keys of the Kingdom. So it was in the days of Luther, of Knox, of Wesley, of Campbell, of Miller, and of Sister White. And so it is

today, the day of antitypical Elijah (Mal. 4:5; Matt. 17:11; TM 475:3), with all who are failing now at the eleventh-hour call to take special heed to avoid the enemy’s ever-set snare.

This fatal mistake was repeated again and again during the Reformation, and again in the preaching of the First, Second, and Third Angel’s Messages. Each one who accepted the advancing truth and became a member of the ninth-hour fellowship, the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination, did so only by making his own investigation and decision in the light of the ninth-hour message, that of the three angels of Revelation 14, the present truth since 1844, independent of priest or scribe or Pharisee. And as that method of investigation was the only sane and safe procedure then, it is just as certainly so now at eventide, at the eleventh hour, when the light flooding God’s Word makes it wonderfully clearer to our understanding than when we first believed.

And though for your following obediently in the way God commands, the unfaithful watchmen of today, having “betrayed their trust” (5T 211:2), “cast you out” and remove your name from the church books, let your soul rejoice (Isa. 66:5; Luke 6:22, 23) and gladly endure the trial of your faith, knowing that it “worketh

...a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17); that, indeed, your accepting the present truth, the eleventh-hour message, and obeying it, is the only key that will open to you the Kingdom of God and forever insure—bind—your membership therein with the redeemed in the Church Eternal; and that the only book that is worth-

while having your name bound in is "the Lamb's Book of Life."

(Adapted and bound up from the testimony of the ROD in *The Answerer*, Book No. 4, pp. 37-41; *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 29; *The White-House Recruiter*, pp. 12-30; *Pre-"Eleventh Hour" Extra!*, pp. 44-46; *The Latest News for "Mother,"* pp. 52, 53.)

AWAKENING—GREATEST AND MOST URGENT NEED

Because of the Denomination's dangerous double drift into worldliness (5T 217:2) and complementary legalism (ISM 387, 388), making an awakening—"a spiritual revival and spiritual reformation" (COR 121:3)—"the greatest and most urgent of all" her needs (COR 31:2), Inspiration mercifully sounded many warnings and appeals to her through the years. Representative of these many messages from the lips of long-suffering LOVE, the following four, so very solemn and ominous then, are as much more so now as her drift today at the eleventh hour is more critically dangerous and her consequent need greater and more urgent.

"Truth, *present truth*, is what the people *need*."

"So long as the watchmen do not give the trumpet a certain sound, the people are not alarmed, and are not on the lookout for

danger.

"The rebuke of God is upon us because of our neglect of solemn responsibilities. His blessings have been withdrawn because the testimonies He has given have not been heeded by those who professed to believe them. *O, for a religious awakening!* The angels of God are going from church to church, doing their duty; and Christ is knocking at the door of your hearts for entrance. But the *means* that *God has devised to awaken* the church to a sense of their spiritual destitution, *have not been regarded*. The voice of the True Witness has been heard in reproof, but has not been obeyed. Men have chosen to follow their own way instead of God's way, because self was not crucified in them. Thus the light has had but little effect upon minds and hearts."—5T 719, 720.

"The Laodicean message is ap-

plicable to the church at this time. Do you believe this message? Have you hearts that feel? Or are you constantly saying, We are rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing?...

"In a clear, determined voice the messenger said, 'I ask you what you are doing? O that you could comprehend! O that you could understand the importance of the warning and what it means to you and to the world! If you did understand, if you were filled with the Spirit of the One who gave His life for the life of the world, you would cooperate with Him, making earnest, self-sacrificing efforts to save sinners.'

"...*A great awakening must come to the church.* If we only knew, if we only understood, how quickly the spirit of the message would go from church to church. *How willingly would the possessions of believers be given to support the work of God.* God calls upon us to pray and watch unto prayer."—1SM 92:1-3.

"The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light. We are living at a time when Satan is at work on the right hand and on the left, before and behind us; and yet *as a people we are asleep.* God wills that a *voice shall be heard arousing His*

people to action.'"—5T 709:0.

"If there is not an *awakening* among us who have had so great light and so many privileges, *we shall sink to ruin, and our fate will be worse than that of Chorazin and Bethsaida;* 'for,' as Christ said of those cities, 'if the mighty works which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.' Matt. 11:21."—Id. 529:2.

Genuine Channel of Light Versus Counterfeits Aplenty

Doubtless many, if not all, of the readers of these pages have received from various sources publications purporting to be the "voice" of the Heaven-called-for "awakening" or "revival of true godliness among us"—"the greatest and most urgent of all our needs." The seemingly endless proliferation and flow of such literature either from, or in support of, various claimants, accentuates Inspiration's warning: "When the Lord has a *genuine* channel of light, there are always plenty of counterfeits."—2SM 96:2.

Among counterfeits aplenty, the genuine is not readily detected but by the discerning eye of expertise. Similarly, "spiritual things ...are spiritually discerned."

1 Cor. 2:13, 14. "Discernment" and "earnest attention" are indeed "required to distinguish the voice which speaks for God" "when there are many other voices crying out against it."—5T 69:0; 3T 258:2.

Inevitably, the "genuine channel of light," the voice of the genuine awakening, with the keys of the Kingdom, has "plenty of counterfeits." But the discerning eye will by "earnest attention" distinguish the genuine, the one truly with the key of knowledge—the present truth, which is what "the flock needs now."—EW 63:1.

Since 1929, over one hundred cognate publications have erected, evidence upon multiplied evidence, monumental proof that The Shepherd's Rod message is Heaven's "genuine channel of light"—that it is the Lord's voice (Mic. 6:9) in the eleventh-hour call by Elijah, "the voice of the day of the Lord" (Zeph. 1:14), crying out to the sleeping remnant (2T 205:1; 337:2, 3) to "get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come."—EW 119:1.

Test Specifications for Awakening

The true test of whether any message and movement purporting to be Heaven's called-for

awakening instrumentality today is, very obviously, not solely whether it magnifies the Sanctuary, and in so doing roiles up the muddy waters in the Church enough to win supporters, but whether it meets Inspiration's several specifications for Heaven's scheduled and charted one-and-only awakening for the Church at this time. Implementing the test is the following catalogue of Bible specifications. First and last, it must embody prophecy's answers to the following questions:

- Implemented by whom? By antitypical Elijah the prophet (Mal. 4:5).

- When? "At Supper" (Luke 14:17); "at the eleventh hour" (Matt. 20:6); "before the great and dreadful day of the Lord" (Mal. 4:5).

- What will he be? "Voice of the day of the Lord" (Zeph. 1:14); reconciler (Mal. 4:5); restorer of all things (Matt. 17:11); messenger preparing the way of the Lord (Mal. 3:1).

- How? Through the ROD—the Lord's voice (Mic. 6:9).

- Focal point? The city—the Church (Mic. 6:9).

- Whom will he awake? The sleeping wise virgins (Matt. 25:1-13).

- Objective? Marking-sealing of 144,000 wise virgins—the first fruits of the harvest (Ezek. 9;

Rev. 14:1-4; 7:2-8; 3T 266:2; TM 445:1); purification of Church (Matt. 3:12; Isa. 1:25; 5T 80, 81; 210, 211; 8T 250:1; TM 373:0, 1); Judgment of living (Mal. 3:1-4); ushering in of infant Kingdom (Mic. 4:7, 8; Zech. 8:2-8).

- Name of awakeners? Before the close of probation for Church, Davids (Zech. 12:8; 5T 81:2)—Davidians; after close of probation for Church and during Loud Cry—new name (Isa. 62:1, 2; 65:15).

- Mission of sealed-escaped ones? Gather great multitude of God's people out of all nations (Isa. 66:19-21; Rev. 18:4; 7:9; CT 532:1).

- Where does "little flock" feed? In antitypical Carmel, Bashan, and Gilead (Mic. 7:14).

Prophecy (Mic. 7:14) projects Carmel, Bashan, and Gilead as the three successive places of good spiritual pasture where the little "flock of God's heritage" feeds on the ROD of God—first in Carmel, second in Bashan, finally in Gilead. The only Carmel ever to sequester one answering to the prophetic description of Elijah the prophet with the ROD was Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas, whence the little flock fed from 1934-1955.

After the shepherd of Carmel (Mic. 7:14) was smitten, the sheep scattered (Zech. 13:7), and Carmel withered and cast off its

fruits (Isa. 33:9; Amos 1:2). Now the voice of the ROD, the True Shepherd, is gathering "the little ones" to feed upon Its preserved pasture at Bashan and to increase and mature until, 144,000 strong, they are perfected in righteousness. Whereupon their Shepherd leads them on to Gilead, the pasture of peace, where "they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." Zeph. 3:13. Then, as Heaven's faithful bellwethers, they go forth into all the world to lead out from the flocks of Babylon Christ's "other sheep which are not of this fold"—the Kingdom. Thus the flock of God's heritage, the 144,000, fulfills Jesus' prophecy: "And other sheep I have [*other than the remnant of the twelve tribes—the 144,000*], which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice [*the ROD—Mic. 6:9*]; and there shall be one fold [*the Kingdom restored*], and one shepherd." John 10:16; Ezek. 34:23; 37:24.

In the progression of Micah 7:14, the ROD providentially leads the little flock on from pasture to pasture, successively from Carmel to Bashan to Gilead. In this succession from Carmel, their cradle and their nursery, to Gilead, their Kingdom-home, they tarry in Bashan, their dressing chamber, until they are clothed with the

“white raiment” (Rev. 3:18), adorned to sit with the Lord in His throne—Jerusalem (Rev. 3:21; Jer. 3:17). Following Him whithersoever He goeth; at Bashan they follow Him through the Sanctuary, into Gilead, the Kingdom—from grace to glory!

Thus redeemed by grace, they are made priests and kings, ministers of grace and emissaries of glory, to carry the total healing truth, the “balm of Gilead,” to heal the hurt of the righteous in Babylon (Jer. 8:11; 46:10, 11; 51:6-10) and bring them into the Kingdom.

• How does Elijah’s message produce the “little flock”? Through the latter rain (James 5:17, 18; Joel 2:23, margin).

In Bible symbolism, spiritual rain is basically doctrine (Deut. 32:1, 2). The former rain came in the doctrine or testimony of Jesus, in person, for 3½ years, then in the baptism of power on the day of Pentecost. The latter rain is now falling in the doctrine or testimony of Jesus in the message of Elijah, to be climaxed by the baptism of power at the anti-typical Pentecost.

In its basic manifestation of doctrine, the latter rain develops in the 144,000 miracle-knowledge of truth which begets miracle-character which brings the endowment of miracle-power on Pentecost. This pre-pentecostal out-

pouring of the latter rain, the manifestation of truth in doctrine (TM 338:0), falls on hearts all around us, yet is not discerned or received (TM 507:1); whereas the pentecostal outpouring or baptism, the manifestation of sheer dynamic energy in untrammelled power miraculously to live, preach, and demonstrate the truth, will produce not only miraculous knowledge of salvation and miraculous character for salvation but also the miraculous works of salvation. Then will these miracle-men, the 144,000, be “men wondered at” indeed (Zech. 3:8). They will make mightily manifest who have the keys of the Kingdom and who by virtue of them are binding and loosing on earth and in Heaven. At this climactic manifestation of the latter rain in galvanic power, the world will tremble. Why, then, in its present doctrinal manifestation can it be falling all around and not be perceived? Simply because of prejudices and/or preconceptions which keep minds from hearing and understanding.

Heaven’s Eleventh-Hour Synchronism

It is now clear to be seen that, in a very considerable array of evidence, this study has presented substantive proof that (1) anti-