

## Sabbath School Lesson #13 – Ablaze With God's Glory – 17-23 Jun 2023

**C**hrist has not left the world without a warning for destruction soon to befall the wicked. He has sent His angels to oversee the work of warning souls. John says, "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory" (Revelation 18:1). The message of this angel is now given in connection with the now current third message. An idea of its extent and power may be gathered from the description of the angel given. In Revelation 14, the first message is said to go with a "loud voice;" the same is also said of the third message; but this angel of Revelation 18, instead of simply flying "in the midst of heaven," like the others, is said to "come down from heaven." He comes, as it were, nearer to the earth, with a message more pointed and direct; and he has "great power," and the earth is "lightened with his glory." No such description of a message from heaven to man is elsewhere to be found in all the Bible. It is the last message, given with surpassing glory and unwonted power. It is an awful hour when world's destiny is decided, – a most solemn crisis when an entire contemporaneous generation of the human family is to pass the bounds of probation, as the last note of mercy is sounded in their ears. In such a time, the world must not be left without warning. So amply must the great fact be heralded, that none can plead a reasonable ignorance of impending doom. Every excuse must be taken away. The justice and long-suffering and forbearance of God in delaying threatened vengeance till all have had an opportunity to receive knowledge of His will, and space to repent, must be vindicated. An angel is sent forth, panoplied with Heaven's power. The light that encircles the throne enshrouds him. He comes to the earth. None but the spiritually dead – yea, "twice dead, and plucked up by the roots" (Jude 1:12) – would fail to realise his presence. Light flashes everywhere. The dark places are lighted up.

**Sunday: Preparing for the Final Crisis** – In preparation for the final crisis, Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:6 that "let us not sleep, as do others;" what does that mean, and how can we know if we are, indeed, sleeping and, if we are, what will it take to wake us? Sacred history reveals the fact that in all ages the Divine judgments have fallen suddenly and unexpectedly. Even the greatest of them have taken the world by surprise, and it will be even so in our day. Hear the words of Christ: "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 25:37-39). They "knew not until the flood came." Why did they not know? Had not Noah preached it to them for a hundred and twenty years? Yes; but they did not believe him; and the same unbelief blinds the eyes of men to-day. Notwithstanding the plain prophecies in Daniel and Revelation, the vast majority of mankind will not know of the coming destruction of earthly things. And they will be ignorant of this simply because they will not heed the plain words which our merciful God has sent to warn and save them. "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.... . For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-9). Solemn and forcible is the admonition left by our Saviour upon this point: "Take ye heed, watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is.... . Watch ye therefore; for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping" (Mark 13:33-36). What excuse can be rendered at the final day by those to whom God shall have spoken in vain? "Behold now is the accepted time."

**Monday: Knowing Truth** – How do you understand Jesus' words: "the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32)? What does that mean? How has the truth set you free? What does it mean to be "free" in this context? There is no uncertainty in the Gospel of Christ. The difficulties which men imagine they see in it are all in themselves, and these will vanish as

soon as they accept it. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Certainty accompanies the Gospel of Christ. Whoever wishes to do the will of God, shall know. By faith we understand. We are not to guess at truth, not to speculate about it, not to be ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth, but to know it absolutely. Is it too much for a man to say that he knows that he lives? Do you chide a man for saying, "I am alive"? That is knowledge that a man has not to learn; he has not to go outside of himself for it; he does not need to ask anybody's opinion about it. But Jesus Christ is "the way, and the truth, and the life;" the life is the truth; the true light that lights every man is the truth itself. So every man may and should be able to know the truth as absolutely as he knows that he lives. By what means can, it be determined that a man is alive? – by seeing if there is motion. If the heart beats, if we can detect the faintest flutter in any artery, showing that the blood is moving, we know that the man is alive. So even a dying man will demonstrate to us that life is not yet extinct, by moving a finger or turning his eyes. How much more can that man in whom there is abundance of life be sure of the fact. He can move his arms freely; he can leap and shout; there is free action in every muscle. He knows that he lives, and if some croaking sceptic should chide for his positiveness, saying, "You should not express yourself so confidently; you may say that you think you live, or you hope you are alive, but it is altogether too presumptuous for you to say that you know you are alive, at least until you have had a counsel of doctors," he would laugh in his face. This same joyous confidence may anybody have as to his absolute knowledge of the truth. Jesus Christ is the truth. Notice how He uses the words "the Son" as synonymous with "the truth." He says: "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:31-32; 36). Jesus said, "I am the truth" (John 14:6). It just comes to this: Ye shall know Jesus Christ, and He shall make you free. That is the teaching. To know the truth is to know Christ.

**Tuesday: The Reformation Continues** – We are to continue the reformation that began back in 1844 with the three angels messages. To reenforce that work, "Another angel came down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." What keeps back that flood of light? Has that flood of light been waiting to burst forth upon the world, ever since that time? What has kept it back after 1844? What has kept it back since? It is unbelief that keeps us bondage so as not to proclaim the message. O think of it! The message would have been proclaimed in that "great power;" the Lord would have wrought mightily with our efforts; a flood of light would have been shed upon the world; years ago the inhabitants of the world would have been warned, the closing work completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people! O let us then no longer delay the work!

**Wednesday: God's Glory Fills the Earth** – What is this that fills the earth, but the Loud Cry? "The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message" EG White – {EW 277.1}.

**Thursday: The Lamb, the Slain Lamb** – Why is keeping the slain Lamb at the centre of our message crucial not only for leading others to Him but also for your own spiritual life? This is especially important in light of striving to be among the 144,000. In Revelation 14 our attention is called to the 144,000. It is said of these that they came out of great tribulation, which could not be said of all who have a part in the resurrection of the just at the second coming of Christ. Those who suffer with Christ will reign with Him. All who possess pure Christianity will suffer either mental or physical agony; but this falls below the great tribulation of the 144,000. These will know most by experience of the sufferings of Christ, hence are represented as being nearest to the slain Lamb. They will be to Him a special treasure. These will be next to the throne. The Lamb shall lead them. In chapter 14:4, they are spoken of, after their redemption, as following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.