

Stewardship Ministries Department

GENEROSITY STEWARDSHIP, PROPHECY, AND LAST DAY EVENTS

Important to Study Last Day Events

“As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand” –Christ Object Lessons, 133.

“The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy THE FIRST PLACE IN THE MINDS OF GOD'S PEOPLE ... Here is no guess work, no scientific deception. Here are the truths that concern our PRESENT and FUTURE welfare” –Vol. 8 Testimonies, 302.

Faithful Stewards to Receive God's Seal

“Each individual soul is on trial for his life, Has he given to God that which belongs to Him? Has he surrendered to God all that is His, as His purchased possession? All who cherish the Lord as their portion in this life will be under His control and will receive the sign, the mark of God, which shows them to be God's special possession. Christ's righteousness will go before them, and the Glory of the Lord will be their reward. The Lord protects every human being who bears His sign” –(Letter 77, 1899) Vol. 7 SDA Bible Commentaries, 969.

“The indelible mark of God is upon them. God can plead that His own name is written there. The Lord has shut them in. Their destination is inscribed GOD NEW JERUSALEM. They are God's property, His possession” –Testimonies to Ministers, 446.

A Great Reformatory Movement

“In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifest before the great Day of Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lighted with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God. I heard voices of thanksgiving and praise and there seemed to be reformation such as was witnessed in 1844.”

“Yet some refused to be converted. They were not willing to walk in God's way, and when, in order that the work of God might advance, calls were made for free will offerings, some clung selfishly to their earthly possessions. These covetous ones became separated from the company of believers” –Vol. 9 Testimonies, 126.

The Spirit of Sacrifice

“He designed that the spirit of sacrifice would widen and deepen for the closing work” –Vol. 3 Testimonies, 396.

Benevolence and The Apostolic Days

“The experience of apostolic days will come to us when we wholeheartedly accept God's principle of benevolence” –Vol. 7 Testimonies, 146.

“The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.”

“But near the close of earth's harvest a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest *‘in the time of the latter rain.’... ‘He will cause to come down ... The rain, the former rain, and the latter rain, Zechariah 10:1; Joel 2:23’*” – Acts of Apostles, 55.

“The plan of systematic benevolence is pleasing to God. I was pointed back to the days of the apostles, and saw that God laid the plan by the descend of the Holy Spirit, and that by the gift of prophecy He counseled His people in regard to a system of benevolence.” –Vol. 1 Testimonies, 190

“Their hearts were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth, testifying to the power of Christ. They were filled with an intense longing to carry forward the work He had begun. They realized the greatness of their debt to heaven and the responsibility of their work. Strengthened by the endowment of the Holy Spirit, they went forth filled with zeal to extend the triumphs of the cross ... They had consecrated their lives to Him for service, and their very features bore evidence to the surrender they had made” –Acts of Apostles, 46.

The Saints Before The Time of Trouble

"I was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God through sacrifice" –Counsels on Stewardship, 59.

"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice" (Psalms 50:3, 5).

The Shaking and Stewardship

"The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause. The angel said, 'Think ye that any will be compelled to sacrifice? No, No, IT MUST BE A FREE WILL OFFERING, IT WILL TAKE ALL TO BUY THE FIELD'" –Early Writings, 50-51.

Unselfishness a Binding Power

"Unselfishness is to bind God's people together with firm, tender bonds. There is a vast power in the church when the energies of the members are under the control of the Spirit, gathering good from every source, educating, training, and disciplining SELF. Thus is presented to God a powerful organization, through which He can work for the conversion of sinners. Thus heaven and earth are connected, and all divine agencies co-operate with human instrumentalities" –My Life Today, 39.

The Need for Self-Sacrifice

"Because Christ's self-sacrificing love is not interwoven in the life practices, the church is weak where it should be strong. By its own course it has put out the light and robbed millions of the Gospel of Christ" –Counsels on Stewardship, 54.

Benevolence a Principle Not a Feeling

"The tendency of the modern pulpit is to strain out the Divine justice from the Divine benevolence, to sink benevolence into a sentiment rather than exalt it into a principle" – Great Controversy, 465.

The Experience of Achan
Recorded for the Last Days

“All are doubtless familiar with Achan's case. It is recorded in sacred history for all generations, but more especially for those upon whom the ends of the world are come” – Vol. 3 Testimonies, 520.

“The victory of taking Jericho was not obtained through warfare or the exposure of the people ... The battle was the Lord's ... the victory and the glory was the Lord's and the spoils were His, which He reserved for His treasury, Achan understood well the reserve made and that the treasures of gold and silver which he coveted were the Lord's. He stole from God's treasury for his own benefit” –Vol. 3 Testimonies, 269.

“The people finally rid the camp of sin and the valley of Achor becomes the valley of Hope” (Joshua 7:25, 26).

“I will give her the valley of Achor for a door of hope” (Hosea 2:14, 15).

“I say that many who profess to be keeping the commandments of God are appropriating to their own use the means which the Lord has entrusted to them and which should come into His treasury. They rob God in tithes and offerings ... They bring leanness and poverty upon themselves and darkness upon the church.” –Vol. 3 Testimonies, 269.

The Saints Make a Covenant and are Sealed

“The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hat shined. Our God shall come and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him and it shall be very tempestous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice” (Psalms 50:1-5).

These verses refer to the time just prior to the coming of Jesus, to the sealing. (Revelation. 7:2).

“There is safety in God's church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth ... until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads. The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east or sun rising. This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God” –Testimonies to Ministers, 444.

The Sighing and Crying Ones

“And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof” (Ezekiel 9:4).

“Selfishness is an abomination.” –Vol. 2 Testimonies, 551.

Why do they sigh and cry? Because they are deeply concerned, they are involved; they are committed Christians.

“These sighing crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they reproved, counseled, and entreated ... In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamination and weeping, reproofs, and wan1ings” –Vol. 5 Testimonies, 210.

“They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness; and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The class who do not feel grieved over thier own spiritual declination, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God” –Vol. 5 Testimonies, 211.

“And begin at the ancient of men” (Ezekiel 9:6).

These are ministers –see Vol. 5 Testimonies, 211.

“I tell you plainly brethren unless the ministers are converted, our churches will be sickly and ready to die ... Our ministers need a transformation of character. . . Christ will be with every minister who, although he may not have attained to perfection of character, is seeking most earnestly to become Christlike. Such a minister will pray. He will weep between the porch and the alter, crying in soul anguish for the Lord's presence to be with him; else he cannot stand before the people. They sigh and cry” –Testimonies to Ministers, 143.

The selfish and greedy weep and howl in the last days.

“Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days” (James 5:1-3).

"You may be perplexed in business; your prospects may grow darker and darker, and you may be threatened with loss. But do not become discouraged; cast your care upon God and remain calm and cheerful. Begin every morning with earnest prayer, not omitting to offer praise and thanksgiving. Ask for wisdom to manage your affairs with discretion and thus prevent loss and disaster. Do all you can on your part to bring about favorable results. Jesus has promised divine aid, but not without human effort ... Jesus is our friend all heaven is interested in our welfare; and our anxiety and fear grieves the Holy Spirit of God. No place should be given to that distrust of God which leads us to make a preparation against future want the chief pursuit of life, as though our happiness consisted in these earthly things and we could gain them while ignoring the fact that God controls all things" –Review & Herald, February 3, 1885.