

A Remnant Shall Be Saved

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Study given by W. D. Frazee

"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth" Romans 9:27, 28.

This text obviously relates to our time. It is talking about the finishing of the work. The Lord is going to finish it, and He is going to finish it in righteousness.

Verse 27 calls our attention to two things: A great number of people as the sand of the sea, and a remnant that will be saved.

The word "remnant" is familiar and precious to us. Let's repeat together Revelation 12:17:

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

Is that the same remnant that Romans speaks of? Apparently it is. They keep God's commandments and have the testimony of Jesus. And there is a remnant that is going to be saved. It will be the remnant of the seed of the woman. It will be the remnant of the seed of Israel. But I am afraid they will not be as the sand of the sea.

Don't misunderstand me. There will be a great multitude in heaven. John saw them in Revelation 7. They are of all ages and all nations gathered before the throne. Thank God, there will be a great multitude like the sand of the sea.

But in this last generation only a remnant will be saved. And if we are going to be saved, we will need to be among the remnant.

The word "remnant" suggest that which remains. I would like to have you think of it not merely as a piece of a bolt of cloth which happens to come at the end. I would like to have you think of it as those who stick with Christ and His church through thick and thin, and are still on the scene when the last bugle sounds.

Isaiah 24 deals with the scenes of the coming of Christ, the time of trouble.

"Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof" Isaiah 24:1.

Verse after verse describes the awful scenes of the time of trouble.

"When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done" Isaiah 24:13.

Isaiah hears over the earth those singing praise to God. He likens them to the olives that remain in the top of the tree when those who are gathering the olives are shaking the tree, and everything that can be shaken comes down and few are left. He likens them to a few grapes that are missed when the grapes are gathered in the vineyard.

"Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel" Isaiah 17:6.

Quite a picture. Here is an olive tree filled with berries. What happens. A shaking comes. Where are most of the olives? On the ground. There are just a few left up there.

"Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers. . . .

"To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason"
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 136.

These are just two statements from a number we might read showing that we are going to face a tremendous shaking and sifting. The question is, will we be among those who desert in the crisis hour? Will we be among the remnant that remain?

I suppose each one of us would say, I expect to be, I plan to be, I hope to be among those that remain.

I am glad we don't have to just leave it to chance. I am glad we don't have to wait and see. We shall have to wait, but we can make certain now. In fact, that is why God tells us about these things.

The key to it is in the next verse:

"At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel" Isaiah 17:7.

There is only one answer to a powerful magnet, and that is a more powerful magnet. You have seen the fingers of a magnet reach down and pick up a piece of steel. But I can take away a piece of steel from any magnet you see. I have a more powerful magnet.

Thank God, if you and I will be willing to be drawn to Christ, there is a power that will hold us when all the storms of this world are making things turmoil and chaos.

"For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low" Isaiah 2:12.

"And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day" Isaiah 2:17.

"Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" Isaiah 2:22.

There are those who say the church is built upon Peter. But any who might have been building on Peter would have been swept away the night Peter lost his moorings. And there may be those like Peter in the church today who are prompt to speak in defense of the Lord, and are ready to get out the sword in defense of Jesus, who in the crisis hour will desert the Master.

If we in any sense are building on them or around them, we too will go down when the storm comes. Our only hope is being anchored in Jesus.

There are two dangers I would like to point out in our study this morning. Both of them center in looking to men instead of Christ.

One is the danger of depending on men merely because they occupy a position in the church. The other is the danger of looking to and listening to men who do not occupy positions in the church. When I first started studying this question, I thought that these dangers were far removed from the each other. But the more I studied them the more I saw that they were two facets of the same danger.

If you allow some man in the organization to stand between you and Christ, eventually you will go down. But if you allow some man who is not in the organization to steal away your faith and hope and the triumph of the remnant you are just as certainly trusting in man as the one who allows some human in the

organization to become a god to him instead of Christ. So those two dangers are not as far apart as they seem.

Our hope is in looking to Jesus. Let me give you an example of what I mean. How many of you have ever heard of Elder A. T. Jones? A generation or more ago he was a man who was used to bring a wonderful message on righteousness by faith to this people. At the height of his influence the messenger of the Lord was led to give some earnest warnings both to him and those who admired him. Sister White wrote to him in April, 1894 as follows:

"I can tell you, and all our teachers of faith and doctrine, stick to the Word. Preach the Word, but never, never make a place for A. T. Jones. Guard this point jealously. Many are so weak in faith and experience that they will look to A. T. Jones. And what you say and do they will say and do, for they will not look beyond you to Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. At every step that we advance, if our advance is one of safety, we must lean wholly on a power out of and above ourselves. The Lord is infinite. He has all resources at His command. And if we trust in Him implicitly and not in our own capabilities, we shall walk softly before Him and have less and less confidence in human capabilities" *The Kress Collection*, Page 33.

Brethren, as this message closes we are going to see more and more what God can do. More and more will we recognize the leadership of Jesus in this movement. Now that will not lead us to pull apart, for as has often been represented, if we follow the spokes of the wheel to the hub and the nearer we come to the center the closer we are to one another. Christ is the great center. He is the head of the body, the church.

There is no man living or dead who is our Savior. There is no man living or dead who is our guide. Jesus is the leader and the guide of His people.

True, He uses men to bring His message. But the secret of sticking with this movement and this truth lies in letting men lead us to Christ and being anchored in Him rather than being tied to any man.

As we face the approaching shaking of this movement, there are two great dangers. One is the danger of trusting to men because they have official position. The other is the reaction from that, but it is none the less looking to men, applauding men, and having confidence in men.

There are some minds that tend to accept men because they are in an official position. But there is a type of mind that is suspicious of anyone in an official position. And that type of mind falls an easy prey to the man who is not in an official position who raises doubts and questioning concerning the leadership. That type of mind is ready to embrace the teachings which step by step lead away from the movement.

"The conflict is to wax fiercer and fiercer. Satan will take the field and personate Christ. He will misrepresent, misapply, and pervert everything he possibly can, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Even in our day there have been and will continue to be entire families who have once rejoiced in the truth, but who will lose faith because of calumnies and falsehoods brought to them in regard to those whom they have loved and with whom they have had sweet counsel" *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 411.

We are living in a time when rumors are floating all around the country. We would do well to close our ears to these things which would separate brethren and undermine confidence in the body of Christ. We will need all the faith we can develop in the triumph of this message, for we are entering upon troublous times.

Those who open their ears to the reports and rumors that would undermine faith and confidence in the body of Christ are simply opening up their garden to be sowed full of thistles and cockleburrs. There will be a harvest.

What is Satan's purpose in those reports? Some of them are too exaggerated to be believed by most people, but he hopes to sow enough of those things that in a time of crisis we will say, Well, where there is so much smoke there must be some fire. Thus our confidence is undermined in the movement that God has established, and we go down in the crisis hour.

Somebody says, but there is so much worldliness in the church. That is right. There is. What is going to happen to it? I will tell you what is going to happen. It is either going to be sifted out of the individual member, or that member will be sifted out of the church. It is just that simple. Not one worldly loving member of the church will survive the shaking. Not one. Such will be among that great multitude of olives that fall to the ground when the tree is shaken. Notice:

"Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. . . . In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. . . . Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat" *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 81.

We look out there, and there is a floor of rich wheat. But the wind has not blown yet. The winds of persecution and heresy blow through the thrashing floor. What happens? Clouds of chaff are gone. We stand and say, Is there anything left? Oh, yes, there is a remnant there. That is what the remnant is. They remain. They do not go out. They do not join another movement. They do not establish another

party. The chaff goes out, the wheat remains. Here is another view of this same scene:

"Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place"
Selected Messages, Book 2, page 380.

The tree is going to be shaken. The thrashing floor is going to be purged. This church will be sifted. Multitudes will go out. I would like to be among those who will remain. But I must be anchored in Christ. I must be careful to make neither one of these mistakes we are pointing out. Certainly I must not anchor my faith in some man merely because he is in an official position, for if he should become worldly minded, I would go out too. But if reacting from that I place my faith in men who run at their own orders, and teach by their own inspiration, I have only selected another vehicle to take me from the movement of God.

There are various ways of getting out of a big city. You can go on a train, a bus, or a plane. All of them will get you out. And how foolish it is for the man in a bus to look up at the person in the plane and say, My, you are getting away from here a lot faster than I am. It will just be a matter of time when they all will be outside the city limits, the county limits, and the state limits.

How foolish it is for various ones who are following men to look at one another and say, You are following man. Paul met that condition in the early church, and he gave a testimony about it.

"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided?" 1 Corinthians 1:12.

Elder Robinson quotes a most interesting and important testimony from the Lord's messenger. I read:

"We must wait patiently and not fail or be discouraged, for God has His plans all arranged. While we are burdened and distressed, but waiting in patient submission, our invisible helper will be doing the work we do not see, and will bring to pass in His providence events which will either work reformations, or will separate these half-hearted, world loving members from the believers. The Lord knows about every case and how to deal with each"
The Story of Our Health Message, page 444.

We cannot take out all the tares now. The Master will separate the wheat from the tares when the time comes. But we can seek an experience with God that will lead us to remain with Christ and the movement through every shaking time. Nothing less than this will give us a part in that remnant that will finally be saved.

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