

Elijah Message

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 14,

“And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Matthew 24:3.

I want to study to signs of the coming of Jesus tonight. One is a sad sign, and the other is a glad sign. In the twelfth verse, Jesus says as part of His answer:

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold” Matthew 24:12.

As we approach the coming of the Lord, we shall see about us more and more a loveless world, and that will mean a dark world, for love is the light of heaven, and it is the only light here on earth.

“The love of many shall wax cold” Matthew 24:12

And because of that, the tenth verse He says:

“Many...shall hate one another” Matthew 24:10.

Oh how this world is filling up with hate and selfishness. And the home, which is to be in God’s plan the very center of love, not merely a symbol of love, but the place where love shines the brightest, the home today is being pulled apart, and torn to pieces by the lack of love. Lack of love between parents and children, lack between husband and wife, lack of love between brothers and sisters, love is waxing cold, and many are hating one another. It is a sign of the coming of Jesus, friends.

Paul speaks of it in 2 Timothy, the third chapter. Let’s note how specifically he points out these signs of our times.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...” 2 Timothy 3:1, 2.

No longer loving God supreme, no longer loving one another, they love themselves.

“...covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection” 2 Timothy 3:2.

Those are the words that Paul uses to describe the last generation. I shall not weary you tonight, nor nauseate you with what could be brought from the daily press, and from world leaders who compile the statistics, and who deplore the frightful picture of broken homes, disobedient children, parents without natural affection, either for their children, or for one another.

But I want to tell you something about all of this friends, it is not only getting worse, it is going to get still worse. What we have seen is the beginning, and the continuing. We haven't seen the end yet. We have not yet seen the full flower of sin. There have been times in the history of the world when God has allowed sin to demonstrate itself in a very special way. And whenever selfishness and hatred demonstrate themselves in a special way, it is because love, in a special demonstration, has been rejected.

Such an experience took place in the first century of the Christian era. As the love of God was manifested through His Son Jesus, and a whole nation rejected Him and nailed Him to the cross, the fruits of that rejection of love were demonstrated in the terrible scenes connected with the fall of Jerusalem.

You remember that the Savior, in pausing on the Mount of Olives in that triumphal entry, looked over that city and wept over it. With prophetic eye, He saw the armies of Rome gathered about those walls. He heard the shrieks and the moans, the terrible cries of hate and greed within that city. He saw the hundreds and hundreds of crosses set up on and around the hill where His cross a few days later would stand. He saw with prophetic eye the utter breakup, the breakdown of the home, until love, in every form, was completely extinguished, and nothing but hate, and selfishness reigned in that doomed city.

But in *Great Controversy* page 614 we are told that there is a ruin more terrible in which the whole world is to be involved during the time of trouble. That is the time that we are moving toward with rapid pace, and so for just a few minutes, I would like to have you see just a glimpse, the whole picture is too frightful friends, if we could see it as it really was it would make us all truly sick tonight. But we do well to ponder at least for a few moments the picture that inspiration has painted of that terrible doom that came upon Jerusalem when they rejected incarnate love, and remember, it is all to be repeated in this last generation.

I am going to read now from *Great Controversy*. This is speaking of the time of the siege of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, when Titus, at the head of a Roman army, had his forces all around that city. Every one of Jesus' followers had escaped before that final siege. They had watched for the sign that Jesus had given them. They were out of the city. There is a lesson in that, my friends.

Now get the picture of what was going on in that city. As the siege tightened, as the Roman soldiers watched carefully lest any should escape, famine broke out within the city. It was greatly hastened by the greed of many of the rulers and the wealthy. Natural affection was forgotten. Let me read it here.

"Thousands perished from famine and pestilence. Natural affection seemed to have been destroyed. Husbands robbed their wives, and wives their husbands. Children would be seen snatching the food from the mouths of their aged parents. The question of the prophet, 'Can a woman forget her sucking child?' received the answer within the walls of that doomed city: 'The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.' Isaiah 49:15; Lamentations 4:10. Again was fulfilled the warning prophecy given fourteen centuries before" *The Great Controversy*, page 32.

And then she quotes Deuteronomy 28:56 and 57. God had warned His people of what was going to happen if they turned from His law and His way. Selfishness would run its course and exhibit itself in the most frightful ways, listen as I read the words of Moses written down in Deuteronomy 28.

"The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, . . . and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates" Deuteronomy 28:56, 57.

Oh what a picture my friends. All human affection gone! The home broken up completely! No more love between husband and wife, no more love between parents and children, hate, and selfishness, and greed gone to seed, friends. But ah, let me read now page 36.

"The Savior's prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God's mercy and trampled upon His law. Dark are the records of human misery that earth has witnessed during its long centuries of crime. The heart sickens, and the mind grows faint in contemplation. ... But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelations of the future. The records of the past,--the long procession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions, the "battle of the warrior . . . with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood" (Isaiah 9:5),-- what are these, in contrast with the terrors of that day when the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion

and satanic wrath! The world will then behold, as never before, the results of Satan's rule" *Ibid*, page 36,37.

And all we see today, friends, in juvenile delinquency, the revolt of modern youth, the disobedience of children to parents, the increase of divorce, all this are but the drops before the terrible storm that is about to burst upon this world.

Just a little illustration. You know, that in one country where now it is impossible for our missionaries to enter, and communism took over in that country, the communists inspired people to testify against leaders in God's true church. There was a doctor and his wife, a devoted man and woman, that were forced to sit there as criminals while the multitude howled for their blood.

Among that multitude, friends, it seems impossible to believe it, were there own children, a boy and a girl, ten and twelve years of age, that stood up there before that mob and said, "Our parents ought to die. They are the tools of the imperialist. They ought to die. They ought to die. They ought to die." Children, ten, and twelve years of age.

We have little idea, friends, of what men and women, and even children can do when love has fled. What is left is not pretty. Oh my dear parents, your children will either be those signs, or there will be some other signs. Thank God, there is a glad sign for this hour as well as a sad sign.

Turn to Isaiah the eighth chapter. This eighth chapter of Isaiah, you know, is a last day chapter. The seventeenth verse shows it is the time of the advent.

"And I will wait upon the LORD, ... and I will look for him"
Isaiah 8:17.

It is the time of the sealing. The restoration of the seal to the law. The sixteenth verse. It is the time of the revival of spiritism. The nineteenth verse pictures the advocacy of looking toward the spirits and listening to them. It is the time of God's message to the law and to the testimony. The twentieth verse.

It is the time of great confederacy based on fear, verses nine to twelve. And in this time, this time, when God's sealing angel is doing His work, and His people are looking for the soon return of our Lord, there are signs that the eighteenth verse presents.

"Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs" Isaiah 8:18.

Thank God friends, our children don't have to be the signs of 2 Timothy three, they can be the signs of Isaiah eight. They can be tokens of the coming of Jesus, not by their disobedience, but by their obedience. Not by their selfishness, but by their love. That is the thing my heart is glad for tonight friends. I suggest we look at this sign for a little while.

I turn with relief from contemplating those terrible signs of the approaching end in the world about us, and with joy I fix my gaze, and I trust we all shall, upon these signs of Isaiah 8:18.

“Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion” Isaiah 8:18.

In a lawless world, these homes demonstrate obedience to His law. In a loveless world, they show forth His love. In a world that is dark with sin and selfishness, they shine with the light of heaven.

I like this statement in *Christ's Object Lessons*.

“While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints” *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 420.

Isn't that nice? Oh, thank God friends! Here is a home, and yonder is a home, and there is a home, and as the darkness of selfishness settles down upon this world and gets to midnight blackness, that blackness will be broken and pierced only by the light in the homes of the saints. That is the only place the light of love will be left to shine.

Ah friends, God grant that it may shine brightly.

You know, that is what the loud cry is about. About, did I say? That is what the loud cry is! Yes.

“Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, “Behold your God.” The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory” *Ibid*, page 415, 416.

Oh, I want a part in that demonstration. Don't you? I want my little family to be a part of that demonstration. And oh I want every part of this larger family here tonight to share in that glorious demonstration, friends. Love manifested in obedience, instead of selfishness manifested in tearing the home apart.

In the book *Adventist Home*, which is a compilation as you know, on page 32 there are three statements, each one a quotation from a different source all given us by inspiration. I was struck as I looked at this page again with the thrice repeated expression here exactly alike. It is this. A “well-ordered, well-disciplined family.”

Now notice what it says about the well-ordered, well-disciplined family.

“One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached” *Adventist Home*, page 32.

What do you think of that? That is tremendous, isn't it? Let me read it again. If a human author merely had penned these words we might say that she had gotten a bit enthusiastic. Well, doubtless, she was enthusiastic, but she was inspired, friends. Thank God. So we don't have to discount this about a thousand percent. We don't have to discount it one percent. Let me read it again.

“One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached” *Ibid*.

Do you, as you listen to that, hear the echo of our text in Isaiah 8:18?

“Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion” Isaiah 8:18.

Ah, yes friends. Here is another sentence on this page.

“The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family” *Adventist Home*, page 32.

What is the greatest evidence? A well-ordered, well-disciplined family.

Again:

“A well-ordered, a well-disciplined family in the sight of God is more precious than fine gold, even than the golden wedge of Ophir” *Ibid*.

Why, you know, that is all God is going to take out of this world, friends, as it goes down to deep, is these characters that have made the final demonstration. The demonstration of love in a world of hate and selfishness. I repeat, I want a part in that demonstration. Don't you?

You know these pages in the early part of this book are full of precious things on this point. Take page 36.

“A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion--an argument that the infidel cannot gainsay” *Ibid*, page 36.

Here is something that stops the mouths of infidels. What is it? A home that is well-ordered and well-disciplined, where the love of Jesus finds expression in the exercise of proper authority on the part of the parents, and is responded to by loving

obedience on the part of the children. Oh let's make God happy by making the demonstration. What do you say friends?

"From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth. Love should be revealed in action. It should flow out in all home intercourse, showing itself in thoughtful kindness, in gentle, unselfish courtesy. There are homes where this principle is carried out--homes where God is worshiped and truest love reigns" *Ibid*, page 37.

Do you know any of them friends? Thank God, yes!

"From these homes morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessings descend upon the suppliants like the morning dew" *Ibid*.

Then comes this sentence.

"The first work of Christians is to be united in the family" *Ibid*.

What is the first work? I wonder friends, if we are all through the first grade yet?

"The first work of Christians is to be united in the family. Then the work is to extend to their neighbors nigh and afar off" *Ibid*.

Newsweek that just arrived today, I didn't get time to look at much of it, but providentially, I happened to see this paragraph. I think it was a providence. I want to read it to you. I want you to see if you can imagine how this man felt. The reporter that wrote it down makes no comment on that.

He is talking about this earthquake that just took place over there in old Persia a few days ago. Some of you saw the headlines about it. Thousands of people killed in that awful earthquake. Here is the description of it, as given by the reporter. "The World Screamed" is his heading.

"Kerosene dealer Ahmed Jihamdari had quarreled with his wife, and gone out of his mudwalled house to brood in the courtyard, when the dogs began barking in Danisvejum, Iran, just after midnight. Before he could begin looking for the prowler he thought had roused them, the roar came. Jihamdari's first thought was the Russian bomb the radios always talk of as exploded at last. He saw the walls crumble, the roofs gave in, so suddenly that his wife and two children trapped inside died without even screaming for help" *Newsweek*, August 1962.

“Then the neighbors, then the whole village, then the world screamed for help,” Jihamdari told the reporter.

When I read that, I thought I must read that tonight. Is there a husband here, my dear friends, oh I put it to your heart, is there a husband here that if an earthquake should shake this building down and kill your wife and children right now, that you would have regrets because of having a rift in the home that you had not mended before that hour of tragedy?

Is it a fair question, my friends? It is a searching one.

Is there a wife here that would weep all the rest of your life if your husband should be suddenly torn from you in death because the last word you spoke to him was not a word of love?

Are there children here who if your parents were suddenly taken would have to carry through life in the knowledge that they had gone down in death with a barrier between you and them?

Life is so brief between the budding and the fading leaf,
between the sewing and ripened sheaf,
for hate and spite.

We have no time for malice or for greed.
Therefore with love make beautiful the deed.
Fast speeds the night.

Oh friends, I know that in our heart of hearts, we all want to quit the selfishness. We want to quit the unkindness. We want to have done with all that lack of love, but God knows that we are weak. God knows there is many a man who would like to express love, but he feels so awkward and bungling at it. Brother, do it anyway!, for love grows by expression.

Tell those near and dear to you that you love them. Fathers and mothers, tell your children you love them and show it by being kind when you manifest authority, and firm, not weak and sentimental.

Children, tell your parents you love them and show it by willing, cheerful obedience, when it means giving up your plans and your ways to fit in with their plan and their requirements. And I know, as well as you do, that we cannot do this without the One who's name is love. No mere resolution is ever going to turn our homes into heavenly homes.

There is nothing wrong with a resolution, but like the virgins, we need to go and get the oil, friends. And the oil is love. We can't manufacture it, it comes from the sanctuary. from those olive trees in God's presence, His Spirit is communicated and the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us. Romans 5:5.

Really, what we have studied tonight, while it will greatly discourage us with ourselves, can greatly encourage us with Him friends, because He has guaranteed to place these signs in the midst of this wicked world.

“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world”
Philippians 2:14, 15.

Among whom ye shine as what? Lights in the world. Thank God friends, the demonstration is going to be made.

There are some here tonight that have no homes of your home, but some of you are in somebody else's home. Some of you students are hundreds or thousands of miles away from home, there may be some that have no home at all, but I want to tell you something friends, in the providence of God, one way or another, you will have an opportunity to learn and demonstrate these principles that we have studied. If you desire to, God will see that you have an opportunity.

If it isn't in your own home, it will be in somebody else's.
Volume two, page 308. The name of this chapter is *Letter to An Orphan Boy*, but it applies to any one who is away from home, and in somebody else's home.

“Wise is that young man and highly blest who feels it to be his duty, if he has parents, to look up to them, and if he has not, who regards his guardian, or those with whom he lives, as counselors, as comforters, and in some respects as his rulers, and who allows the restraints of his home to abide upon him” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 2, page 308.

So if you are not at home with father and mother, seek an opportunity to demonstrate love by cooperating with those with whom God places you.

You older ones, who do not have a home of your own, this lesson is not without its meaning for you. It is written in the book of Psalms that God set up a solitarian family. It is God's plan in the Christian church that the aged and the youth, the old and the young should be bound together by ties of love. And it may be that God has a work for you to do in cooperating with those who are seeking to carry on this kind of work.

It may be that God has a work for you in helping to train those who are less fortunate. But the only way that any of us, young or old, can make the demonstration is to have this love in our hearts.

And so I lay it before you tonight, all of you, whatever your age or position, whatever your past experience, and I bring you simply and definitely to this challenge. You and I will either be among those signs of darkness that show that the

world is approaching its doom, or we will be among those signs of light that show that the coming of Jesus is at the door.

I pray that everyone of us here tonight may be able to say that we are part of those families of light which reflect here on earth the love and light of heaven.

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