

God's Last Message 8 of 12

#0243

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1958

Let us begin our study in the book of Acts:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy” Acts 2:17–18.

Two questions—first: Are we in the last days? Yes. I think you and I are fully convinced of that as we’ve gone over the evidence in these studies. The stone is about to smite the image of Daniel 2. The kingdom of man is about done. The gold, silver, brass, and iron are gone, and the toes of iron and clay are about to crumble before the impact of that mighty stone, the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scores of other signs which are given us in the Scriptures have been fulfilled, showing us that the next great event in human history is the coming of our Lord. Yes, we are in the last days.

There, the next question we ask is: Where are these visions and dreams that God said would come in the last days? Where is the gift of prophecy, that this text says will be manifest in the last days? If we’re really in the last days, we should be able to point to the fulfillment and say, this day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.

You remember in my last study with you, I told of the infidel who asked me that question after hearing about how the angel had come to people in Bible times, and how different prophets in the Old and New Testaments had seen the angel of prophecy and talked with him, and how they had had these visions and written out these predictions. He said to me, but Mr. Frazee, why doesn’t that angel come today? Why is it just back there, thousands of years ago? Why doesn’t he come today?

And I submit, my friend, that’s a fair question, particularly when the very book that those prophets wrote said that in the last days those visions would be given again. That gift of prophecy would be manifest again. That angel would come again.

In our last lesson, we went through the evidence of Revelation 12:17 and Revelation 19:10, that the remnant of the seed of the woman, the last of God’s people in this world who are keeping the commandments of God, would have this testimony of

Jesus, which is the angel says is the spirit of prophecy. This wonderful gift through which Jesus spoke down through the ages from the days of Adam, Enoch, Noah, on down through. This gift through which he spoke to the New Testament church through Peter, Paul, and John, Philip's four daughters and others. This gift was to be especially manifest in the remnant seed of the woman, the last true church in this world.

This agrees with the Scripture we have read this morning:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy” Acts 2:17–18.

So we should expect just such a fulfillment as the infidel challenged us to produce. We should expect the fulfillment of these wonderful promises.

And I'm happy to tell you, as I told him, that there is a message in this world which has the answer to that question. Something over 100 years ago, God was stirring the minds of His people all over the world to dig into the prophecies of the Bible, especially the books of Daniel and Revelation. This earnest study of prophecy was in itself a fulfillment of prophecy, for the angel had told Daniel:

“... shut up the words, and seal the book...”

That's the book of Daniel.

“...even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” Daniel 12:4.

As we come to the time of the end we see earnest students of prophecy in Europe, in South America, and all over North America and in other parts of the world studying the book of Daniel, and with it the book of Revelation shedding light upon Daniel and comparing the other prophecies of the Bible with these predictions.

As a result, a flood of light was thrown upon the prophetic Word, and hundreds of thousands, and tens and hundreds of thousands of people in various churches in many lands became convinced that the coming of the Lord was near, that Jesus was about to return to earth and that it was necessary to get ready to meet Him.

I want to emphasize that this was a great movement. In various churches in various lands, simultaneously directed by the Spirit of God, it reached its culmination in the 1840s. Here in North America, William Miller, a Baptist, was a leader in it, there were others such as Joshua V. Himes; Charles Fitch; Josiah Litch; Joseph Bates; James White, and various others; men from various churches, but united in the study of prophecies, and directing the attention of all to the coming of Jesus as very very near.

Now in this movement, God began to restore the prophetic gift as He had said He would. William Foy, who was a good speaker in the New England states, traveled and told visions that God had given him of the coming of Jesus and the glories of Heaven. His life was short, but he did a good work while he lived.

Hazen Foss was given a most interesting vision which he was bidden to relate, but for some reason, failed to do so. He was told that the burden would be taken from him and laid upon the weakest of the weak.

This brings us to the year 1844 in December. We are in Portland, Main, in a little home on this December morning. Five young women are kneeling at the family altar seeking God for His blessing. A vision is given to one of these young women. Her name is Ellen Harmon. Ellen and her family had been Methodists. They, with others, had accepted the preaching of William Miller and others who were preaching of the coming of Jesus, very, very soon. And now this morning, God in fulfillment of His promise, sends the angel and gives this young woman a vision of the coming of Jesus, and of the glories of Heaven.

As she came out of vision, she related to those who were there what God had shown her. It encouraged them and blessed them.

Not long after, the angel came again and gave a vision to this young woman. In this vision, she was told that Jesus desired her to be His messenger, to receive these messages from time to time and give them to His people. Some of them would be messages of reproof and warning. She was told that not all would receive them. Some would rise against them as they did the prophets of Bible times. But others would accept them and get life and blessings.

But you know as she thought of it, she shrank from the responsibility. How could she so young—only 17, naturally timid, and so frail—how could she undertake this work? You see, she had been injured in an accident when she was just a girl, and nearly bled to death. As a result of the sickness that came from that accident, she was never able to go very far in school. Much of her time was spent in bed as an invalid.

At this time, when the vision came, she had consumption. One lung was considerably affected, the doctor said, and the other somewhat affected. She could scarcely speak above a whisper. Her friends thought that she would not live long.

Now how could she, sick, frail, uneducated, how could she undertake this great work to which Jesus had called her? Days and days were spent in thought and in prayer over it. Oh, how she wished that the burden might be laid upon someone else. But the words of the angel kept ringing in her ears, "Make known to others what I have made known to you."

Finally, she knelt in submission to the Savior's commission, and accepted the responsibility that Heaven had laid upon her.

In vision the angel said, write the vision. Ah, she said, but you know I cannot write. Her hand had been weak and trembling and unable to put words upon paper. Again the word came to write the vision. In obedience to that command, that frail hand took up the pen and began to trace the messages that God had sent from Heaven. And for over 70 years, she wrote down vision after vision, message after message, the testimony of Jesus to this last generation.

As the result of that long life of ministry, as the result of those scores and hundreds of visions over a 70-year period, we have this library of inspired instruction—not to take the place of the Bible, but rather in fulfillment of the Bible prediction. It is not an addition to the Bible; the Bible is complete in itself. But the Bible itself calls, as I have read from the scriptures, the Bible calls for the manifestation of this prophetic gift in the last days. Thank God, we can say to that infidel who said why the angel does not come today, why are there not visions today? We can say, thank God, here is a movement; here is a message with communication from Heaven. Here are the latter-day revelations that the Bible itself calls for in the last days.

I want you to look at some of these volumes. I'll just describe some of them. Here is this book, *Education*. Imagine a woman who had never gone beyond the fifth grade in school undertaking to write a book on Christian education to be used for the training of teachers. But here is this volume on education.

The honorable P. T. Claxton, commissioner of education for the United States Government under three presidents, read this book through twice. He said I want to read it again; it is the greatest book on education ever written. And it is. Oh, what a volume.

Over in Europe several years ago, the minister of education in one of the Central European Governments translated this entire book into the language of his country to be used as a book of training and instruction for the teachers in the government schools.

Others have indicated their great appreciation of this marvelous volume—*Education*.

Here is a book called *The Desire of Ages*, on the life of Christ—over 800 pages dealing with the experience of our Lord while He lived here in this world.

I am told that this book is called for at the Library of Congress more than any other religious book. At the Panama Pacific International expedition in San Francisco in 1915, this book was placed by the judges alongside the world's greatest authors, and the judges remarked that it was too bad that the author wrote only on religious subjects as her language was so beautiful.

Here is this book, *The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan*. It is one of a series of five books called the *Conflict of the Ages* series, dealing with this wonderful

subject of the age-long controversy between Christ and Satan from the time it began in Heaven until it shall finally be completed, and sin and sinners be no more.

Literally, millions of these books have been circulated in many languages, and today it's doing a wonderful work in unmasking Satan, exposing his plans and revealing the plans of God for the finishing of His work, and the making ready of a people prepared for the Lord.

Here is this book *Ministry of Healing*. This book contains the wisdom of the great Physician. But imagine a woman who had never gone beyond the fifth grade in school sitting down to write a book dealing with health and healing. Yet this book is so well written and so accurately written in the field of health and healing that each new medical discovery, each new scientific research, reveals fresh evidence for the things that were written down in this book 50 years ago.

Over 30 years ago, when I was a medical student at our medical college studying to become a medical missionary, this book was one of our textbooks. We had other textbooks too, written by the great medical men of the world in physiology, in food chemistry, in diseases and diagnosis, and other subjects that go to make up the training in those lines. Need I tell you, friends, that every one of the other textbooks has gone out of date? There've been many, many revised editions of all those textbooks written by merely human authors. But this book, the *Ministry of Healing*, just as it was written nearly 50 years ago, stands with no need of revision. In fact, some of the things which were written at that time, which seemed we had to be taken by faith, today are demonstrated by the scientific research of medical authorities.

I haven't time this morning to deal with all these volumes, of course. I've merely mentioned just a few of them to get this wonderful gift before us. The question is, what shall we do with this gift?

The first thing we ought to do is examine it. 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21. There are two things that would be unwise to do. One would be to gullibility accept everything that claims to be visions and prophecies. That would certainly expose us to the deceptions of Satan, for the Bible says there will be many false prophets in the last days.

The other thing which would be most unfortunate would be to reject the true prophetic gift, to miss the messages that came from Heaven. So the apostle says:

“Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21.

I suggest that taking the Bible as our textbook, taking the Bible as our yardstick, we test and measure these writings of Ellen G. White which claims to be inspired. They present themselves to us as the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy. In this study, I can only begin, in our next lesson, we shall go further.

But now in this study, I'd like to have you turn to Daniel 10:17. I want you to notice something very interesting here that God has done in order to assure men that He is speaking in and through the prophet. In our last lesson, we found that the angel, Gabriel, brought the message from Jesus to the various prophets—to John on the isle of Patmos, to Daniel back there in Persia. In this 10th chapter of Daniel, we're reading one of those visions. Daniel is talking with Gabriel, and in the 17th verse, I want you to notice what he says—this is Daniel speaking:

“...how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord?
for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me,
neither is there breath left in me” Daniel 10:17.

Daniel's question is how he could talk when he had no breath. How would you talk without breath? You wouldn't. But a prophet may. A prophet can because a miracle is being performed in prophetic vision. According to this text that I have just read, a man is doing in prophetic vision that which would be impossible otherwise. He's speaking without breath—neither is there breath left in me, how can the servant of this my lord, talk with this my lord?

God takes away the human breath in order that the voice speaking there in vision may be evidently the working of a miracle; that those viewing the phenomenon may recognize that God is at work.

Now, in the experience of Ellen Harmon, after her marriage to Elder James White, known as Ellen G. White, this was repeated dozens and scores of times. I have before me here on the table, testimony after testimony, dealing with the examination of Sister White while she was in vision by dozens and scores of people over a long period of years. These visions were given in various places at various times under varying circumstances as God would choose.

The human agent herself had no choice as to when she would have a vision. It was Jesus who sent His angel to testify. Sometimes the vision was given when she was all alone; sometimes in a little prayer service with few people there. But other times before large congregations with hundreds of people, both believers and unbelievers present.

Under such circumstances, there was an opportunity for those who had the greatest questions and the deepest doubts to satisfy their minds. They examined her. Doctors examined her. They put a mirror before her mouth while she was speaking to see if any breath would condense there. Other tests were used to see if she had any breath. And in these visions for periods from 15 minutes up to as long as two hours, these doctors, these examiners testified that she was without breath.

You may examine these testimonies, signed and dated. You may see for yourself the evidence that here is a marvelous work and a wonder.

In one of her early visions concerning which we have the testimonials here, it was held, the vision was given in her father's house. A meeting was being held there. As the Spirit of God came upon her in vision in harmony with the text I have just read from the Bible her breath was taken from her. Yet strengthened by the angel of God she arose and went over to the bureau and took a large family Bible that was there weighing 18 pounds.

At this time she was a frail girl of 17 weighing only 70 pounds. But she took that 18-pound Bible and held it in her extended left hand. And holding it with the Bible open on her extended left hand, she went from one to another in that room turning the pages with her right hand and pointing to a special text for each person before, meanwhile turning the pages with the right hand and pointing a special text to each person before whom she stopped while she was having this vision. And those who observed noted that she was quoting the text to which her finger was pointing without looking at it. She held that Bible in that position for 20 minutes, going from one to another.

I've held that Bible years ago when I was holding a series of meetings in the Masonic Temple in Oakland, California, Sister White's son, at that time an old man, Elder W. C. White, gave me the privilege of taking that very Bible which had been preserved down through the years in the family; he gave me the privilege of taking that Bible, to show the audience to which I was giving the same message that you are listening to today. I held that Bible before that audience.

I have seen strong men try to take that Bible and hold it for some time. The most I ever saw anybody hold it in that position was 2 minutes. She held it for 20 minutes, and all the time without breath in her body.

Do you wonder that the people who saw those things, time after time, were convinced that something more than human influence was at work? And you can see that they were impressed, that God was fulfilling His Word that in the last days, God was giving the visions both to men and women in harmony with the prophecy there on the day of Pentecost. Thank God for it.

But ah, let me tell you, the evidence which I have just given you instead of being the evidence, to me it is but the introductory evidence. There is evidence far greater than that. The greatest evidence to me that Jesus is speaking and that this is His testimony is that when I read it, I recognize the Shepherd's voice. Jesus says, "My sheep know My voice."

And you who are familiar with the Bible, as you read these wonderful books and compare them with the Bible, your mind will be impressed with the fact that every truth given in the Bible is accepted and passed on and emphasized and magnified in these latter-day revelations. No attempt is made in the writings of Ellen G. White to supplant the Bible, to contradict the Bible, to modify the Bible, to lessen the Bible. Rather it is to exalt the Bible, to magnify it, to help all to sense the holy character of those words of holy writ.

So to me, the greatest evidence that this is indeed the testimony of Jesus is that I hear the same voice. I suggest that this is evidence each one of you can have for yourself. Oh, taste and see. You can take these volumes—*Steps the Christ*, *Desire of Ages*, *Great Controversy*, and these others—and on your knees and examine them in the light of the Bible, you can test them by God's holy law. And you can find out for yourself as hundreds and thousands of others have found that here indeed is manna from Heaven, here is light from the sanctuary. Jesus is speaking from Heaven to His commandment-keeping people in these latter days. And as that conviction comes to your heart, what joy, what certainty, what security it gives you.

Shall we bow our heads? Our Father, we thank Thee that in these last days in harmony with Thine own pledged Word in the Bible Thou hast visited Thy people. Thou hast sent Thine angel to testify these things in the churches. We thank Thee for the good news. It makes us know Thou doest love us. It makes us know that Thou art thinking of us. It makes us know that Thou art anxious to come and get us, and that Thou hast sent us this light to stir up our minds to study the scriptures to understand them, and to get ready for the coming kingdom. Bless each heart, and help us to appreciate the light from Heaven for Christ's sake, amen.

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