

# The Great Disappointment

#0347

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

Does he love you that much, my friend? Can you say with the apostle:

“...[He] loved me, and gave Himself for me” Galatians 2:20.

As I think of it often, if that isn't true, life has no meaning. But if it is true, nothing else matters, just one thing to live for. That's what He died for.

This evening, I would like to just talk with you for a few minutes about three of the greatest events in all the ages. And those dates are A. D. 31, A. D. 1844, and the close of probation, and I don't know the calendar date of that one.

Now, you will think of some other important dates and events in history in the plan of salvation, but I think you will agree with me that these three are outstanding, pivotal, very, very important, essential. In fact, without these, these three, everything else that *has* happened or *will* happen would not be possible. The salvation of man is closely connected with these three.

You know that in the Bible Jesus speaks of Himself as the Head of the church. Paul uses that figure frequently. In Ephesians 5, for example, Christ is the head; His church is the body. When the head is ready to move, what should the body do? Unless it's paralyzed, the body moves when the head is ready to move. Am I correct? Yes.

When Jesus was going up to Jerusalem for that great sacrifice of Calvary, He tried to prepare His church for what was to take place. He took Peter and John and the other disciples apart in the way and said, “Now, we're going up to Jerusalem. And all the things that have been written in the prophets about the Messiah are going to be fulfilled. He's going to be betrayed, denied, mocked, spit upon, scourged, crucified.”

Had it been foretold? Oh, yes. But my dear friends, when Jesus died on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib A. D. 31 when that cross was uplifted on Calvary, His followers on earth were as surprised and disappointed as though they had never heard anything about it. Am I correct? Isn't that strange? But the great Head of the church went ahead with His work. Why? Because He *knew* that their salvation depended on His making His soul an offering for sin. Whether they understood it *then*, He knew that they *would* understand it later. Is that right?

And after that awful disappointment in Gethsemane and Calvary, when the disciples forsook Him and fled, Jesus rose from the dead, and before He ascended to enter the sanctuary as our Great High Priest He spent several weeks working and studying with those disciples. And when the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost,

He pointed them to the Heavenly Sanctuary where Christ had gone. And then, they understood, they understood their disappointment, and how glad they were *then* to enter in with Jesus into the Holy Place by faith. And within a few years, they'd told everybody the good news that Christ had come, He had died, He had risen, He had ascended and was ministering as our Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

Now, we come down 18 centuries, and again—don't miss it—the great Head of the church is about to make a major move. The work in the Holy Place is to stop. The work in the Most Holy Place is to begin.

“...Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” Daniel 8:14.

And in order that His church might be prepared for that move, God sent a message to this work. He moved on the hearts of various people in different places to study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. And all around this world, the message was proclaimed:

“...The hour of His judgment is come...” Revelation 14:7.

“...Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” Daniel 8:14.

But as with the disciples 18 centuries before, their minds were so filled with their ideas of what that all meant that they missed the point, and when the day came and went, the day of His appointment was labeled as the Great *Disappointment*. And so, we read of the Great Disappointment of October 22, 1844. We passed the 130th anniversary of it last Tuesday. And as I was flying across the country, I was meditating on what happened on October 22, 1844. Way up there, seven miles above the earth, I had time and opportunity to think about it.

I want to share some thoughts with you, friends, about it, because what happened on Calvary in the way of disappointment was repeated on October 22, 1844. The church on earth did not know what its divine Head was doing that day. The greatest event since Pentecost was taking place, and not a soul on earth was conscious of it.

Disappointment? Ah friends, not only on earth. There must have been a disappointment in Heaven! Jesus would have been so glad if His church on earth had been ready to move with Him by faith into the Most Holy Place. Thank God, as back there after His resurrection He appeared to the sorrowing disciples, so Jesus has moved into the Most Holy Place began at once to send messages to get the church looking where the action was.

October 23, Hiram Edson, after a season of prayer, walking across the cornfield was stopped, and there the Lord showed him the Heavenly Sanctuary and Jesus moving into the Most Holy Place. He saw that our Great High Priest had done the preceding day exactly what prophecy had foretold: the temple of God was opened, and the Ark of His testament was seen [a paraphrase of Revelation 14:12].

And Christ was seen ministering there in His closing work, preparatory to blotting out the sins of His people and coming to receive them into His kingdom.

Then, began very earnest Bible study in the books of Hebrews, Leviticus, Daniel, Revelation and other Scriptures. Presently, God gave Ellen Harmon visions, one vision after the other, focusing the searchlight of modern revelation on the ancient prophecies of the Bible. And thus illumined, they spoke to the hearts of our pioneers, and this wonderful sanctuary message was seen in all its beauty and fullness. And so, for 130 years now, God has been sending that message around the world, seeking to get people ready for this closing work of blotting out of sins.

In Acts 3:19, Peter, by inspiration, called attention to this closing work in the Most Holy Place. He said:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And He shall send Jesus Christ...”  
Acts 3:19–20.

As the early rain was sent from the Holy Place at the beginning of Christ’s ministry as High Priest, so the Latter Rain will be sent in fullness from the Most Holy Place as He closes up His mediatorial work.

I wonder, friends, will the church today be in touch with its divine Head as He makes that last move? Yes, absolutely. Why do I know? Because while He could go to the cross whether people understood, He could make that plain later. While He could move from the Holy to the Most Holy in 1844 whether anybody on earth understood it, He could explain that later. But friends, He can’t do this closing work in the Most Holy Place and explain it later because later would be too late. You all see it, don’t you?

Do you begin to see why it’s been 130 years? Jesus has slowed His pace that He may walk with us.

You know, up in Washington when they come to the end of a session of Congress, and there are bills that they feel must be passed and yet the last day of the legislative session has come, they have a man that goes up to the great clock that everybody’s watching, and he turns back the hand. And so, in the Senate and in the House they’re still in session on the last day.

And then, if they’re not through after several hours, he’s instructed to go up there again and turn the hands of the clock back because they can’t keep in session past the last day, you understand, but they have work yet to do.

Oh, how often God has turned His great clock back this more than a century of waiting. He told us long, long ago that His plan was to finish things up. But do you see in the very mathematics of it, He gave the date 500 years before the birth of Messiah [see Daniel 9:24–27], He gave the date for the cross and Jesus died on

time according to the time [see Galatians 4:4]. That's what Paul tells us. He could explain it afterward, if He couldn't get His church to understand it before.

Then, look at the mathematics of it in 1844. The very day was pinpointed over two millennia before the event took place, and Heaven's clock struck the hour, and Jesus moved. The Head was ready; the body could see and understand it later. But this time there's no date. Search all the prophecies of the Bible, and you'll find that the last date on the prophetic map is October 22, 1844. There's nothing past that.

What is that to tell you and me? It's to tell us, friends, in trumpet tones that it is not *time* that stands between us and the coming of Jesus. We'll not find the answer by looking at calendars, chronologies, time prophecies, or anything else, friends. The answer lies in this one thing—Jesus is waiting for His church to move in *with* Him into the Most Holy Place.

Way back in 1890 in the *Review and Herald* of February 25, the Lord's messenger wrote:

"The slumbering church must be aroused, awakened out of its spiritual lethargy, to a realization of the important duties which have been left undone. The people have not entered into the Holy Place, where Jesus has gone to make an atonement for His children" *Review and Herald*, February 25, 1890.

Do you see? The Head is waiting for the body to catch up. Jesus wants us to go in with Him. And so, Paul says in Hebrews 10:19:

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil..." Hebrews 10:19–20.

Let us go in.

"Let us draw near..." Hebrews 10:22.

What do you say? What does it mean? *Great Controversy* gives us the answer:

"...[We] are to understand his work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. It is in this sense that they are said to go in..." *Great Controversy*, page 427.

You know, friends, it's a wonderful thing while our feet walk these dusty paths to have our hearts at home with Jesus in the Most Holy Place.

You know what I found as we flew across the continent last Tuesday? I found that every minute we flew, every mile we covered, my mind was less in California and more in Wildwood. And by the time our plane was getting ready to touch down here, I was already here, I was already here. You may be sure I had reasons.

Listen, listen! Jesus is longing for some people who know where they're going in the flesh and whose hearts and minds are already there, whose imagination is being used not to think up all kinds of fictitious tales, not to enjoy a lot of novels and fables, but whose imaginations are actively being used to discern by faith what Jesus is doing there in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

That's why God gave us this book *Early Writings*. Read it! Let's find out what Jesus did in 1844 and what He's been doing since. That's why He gave us *Great Controversy*. Read those wonderful chapters, "What is the Sanctuary," "In the Holy of Holies," "The Investigative Judgment." Fill the mind with these things. There may be less time for the TV. So be it. There may be less time for the radio. Amen. There may be less time for the newspaper and the popular magazines and a lot of other things.

And brothers and sisters, may I say let's watch that we don't lose time even in just chitchat among ourselves. I know God wants us to be sociable in the sense of being kind and friendly. But we've got a job to do. We've got a world to warn. And we've got a Savior that long ago laid down His life for us, and friends that life is still laid down for us, for each one of us. You know what He's longing for? For us to be with Him, for us to be with Him.

Just 70 years ago now, He sent a message to His church. You'll find it in the *Review and Herald* of December 15, 1904. Listen:

"Leaving the first love is represented as a spiritual fall.  
Many have fallen thus. In every church in our land there  
is needed confession, repentance, and reconversion.  
The disappointment of Christ is beyond description"  
*Review and Herald*, December 15, 1904.

"The disappointment of Christ is beyond description" *Ibid.*

Will you repeat that short sentence with me?

"The disappointment of Christ is beyond description" *Ibid.*

Again:

"The disappointment of Christ is beyond description" *Ibid.*

Oh, yes. Think of a bridegroom waiting for the wedding 130 years. Don't His people want to be with Him? Don't we want to give Him what He gave His life to make possible?

What is our business, dear ones? I say we have one business: to make Jesus glad, to satisfy His heart longing, to understand what He's doing there in the sanctuary in the blotting out of sins, to measure our lives by that law in the Ark, the standard of judgment, to seek the cleansing blood, to help us to get rid of every bit of

iniquity. The more we behold, the more we will understand, and the more we will become like Him in mind and character.

Shall we send Him the word that we want to move in with Him? Remember, this can't be like the cross, when He goes ahead whether His church does or not. This can't be like October 22, 1844, when He moved when the hour struck. This clock will not strike until God's church is ready. Many will be sifted out. All of us will either be cleaned up or cleaned out. Oh thank God, He's going to be able to present:

“...A glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing” Ephesians 5:27.

The body and the Head will be firmly united, fully united, intelligently united as we come up to the hour that closes human probation. This is the work of the Most Holy Place. This is the message of the hour of God's judgment. This is what's happening right now, whether we have eyes to see it or not.

Some who do not discern will be shaken out, but all who go through will understand and enter in with all their hearts into this work of getting rid of sin and letting Jesus prepare them for the close of probation.

Let's give Him the word that we're with Him in it, shall we? How many of us would like to send Him that word tonight? Thank God for every one. Remember, friend, it's a very personal thing. He loves you as though you were the only one in all the world. He loves you as though you were the only one in all the world.

Shall we stand?

“Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;  
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow,  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, #318, first stanza.

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