

# Overwhelming Surprise 6 of 8

## *Channels of Light*

#0422

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—November 1965

As we continue our study of how to get ready for the overwhelming surprise, we will turn again to our initial text.

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of Light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness” 1 Thessalonians 5:2–3.

It is because we are children of Light that we are destined to escape that overwhelming surprise; escape the destruction that is coming upon the world. And it is only as we *maintain* our experience as children of Light that we can be saved. Jesus says:

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” John 8:12.

Since Jesus is the Light of the world, all who stay close to Him will remain in the Light as the darkness settles down upon this world.

Jesus is up in Heaven. How does He communicate His Light? Through His Word. And the Word, again and again, is presented to us in two great sections, through two great agencies.

The first of those is the law of God.

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day” Proverbs 4:18.

So Light is to shine upon the pathway of the remnant people of God more and more. The original Light that God has given to this world, the basic Light, is stated:

“For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life” Proverbs 6:23.

Since Christ is light, His law is Light. So the remnant people of God will be walking in the Light of the law. How much of the law? All of it.

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” James 2:10.

Have you ever noticed these little electric lights that are put on Christmas trees? Little red, green and yellow lights. They are often wired in series, and if one of them goes out, do you know what happens to all the rest? They *all* go out. That’s the way the commandments are: they’re wired in series. And the only way we get the Light and keep the Light is to have *all* the lamps burning. That is another reason that the Sabbath is so important. He who disregards the Sabbath loses the blessing of that holy day and destroys the authority of all the rest of the law. He has no barrier against sin. So the remnant church will be walking in all the Light.

There is another channel besides the law through which Jesus has chosen to communicate Light to His church.

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” 2 Peter 1:19.

The reason the law is light is that it is the law of Christ, and He is the Light. The reason that prophecy is light is that the Spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 19:10). So through the law and the testimony light has been shining down through the ages. And in a special sense, in the days of the remnant, the Light will shine beautifully and clear through those two great channels. So we find the summing up of it all:

“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.

They have the Light; they are walking in the Light; they are children of Light. They keep the commandments. They have the testimony.

Now we are given a picture of another situation:

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” Isaiah 8:20.

I wonder, dear friends, if we really believe that. If we do, we’ll not be hunting around in the garbage heaps of Babylon to see if we can’t discover some brilliant gem. We’ll be looking upward to the sanctuary where Jesus is, and we will be digging into that law. David says:

“O how I love Thy law! it is my meditation all the day”  
Psalm 119:97.

“Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors”  
Psalm 119:24.

Oh, to *fill* the mind with the law, the Bible, the testimonies, the spirit of prophecy.

Now, I read to you in our last study from the *US Catholic Magazine*, this interesting article, “Why Seventh-day Adventists Are Succeeding.” I called attention to the prominent place the Sabbath is given in Seventh-day Adventist teaching and practice, as presented in this paper that goes to many Roman Catholics. The author of this article was not ignorant of the place of the Spirit of Prophecy in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After presenting the Sabbath, and telling of the resulting attitude toward the Pope that comes in the minds of Seventh-day Adventists, the author says:

“Preeminent in the Seventh-day Adventist movement for nearly seventy years was Mrs. Ellen G. White, which is considered a prophetess by the Seventh-day Adventists. She wrote fifty-three books, and more than four thousand five hundred articles, many of which were based on visions. The role of Mrs. White as a prophetess has disturbed Protestant fundamentalist who would otherwise agree with many Adventist positions, such as their literal interpretations of the Bible and sturdy opposition to the theory of evolution”  
*U. S. Catholic Magazine*, September, 1965.

We have a clear recognition of what he calls the *preeminent* position of this gift of prophecy in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I trust that this gift is preeminent personally in our experience. We need this Light.

Our opening text said, “ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of Light.” We’ve seen where the Light comes from. It comes from Jesus, through the law, and through the testimony. I read:

“It is Satan’s special object to prevent *this* light from coming to the people of God, who so greatly need it amid the perils of these last days” *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, page 667.

Now there’s a sentence worth memorizing. This is talking about the *Testimonies*. The other day I heard that the attitude of the Sabbath-keepers in another nation is that the *Testimonies* are needed in America, but in *that* nation, they aren’t. Well, my dear friends, I know *I* need it. What about you? And I’m inclined to think that everybody else needs it. In fact, I’m sure of it. But each must answer for himself.

If it’s Satan’s *special* object to prevent *this* Light from coming to the people of God, you can see that he’ll have special committees of demons working on this matter. They will work in various ways.

One suggestion made is that times have changed, and it was all right for back there, but we don't need it now. Let's notice a reference on that point:

"Time and trial have not made void the instruction given, but through years of suffering and self-sacrifice have established the truth of the testimony given. The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days" *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 41.

Wouldn't it be strange if *Jesus*, Who is the Light of His people, would give Light that would start them on the journey, and then allow the Light to fade out as they get into the darkest period of human history? Wouldn't that be a strange thing? The One who gave His life will not be thus shortsighted or careless or indifferent. Oh, no. He watches His church with a tender love. And this gift is one of the greatest evidences of His love. These are love letters from the heavenly Bridegroom to His church in this world. Oh, how blessed we are.

The truth of the matter is, so far from being less important, less relevant, less dependable as we near the end: it's just the opposite. I read:

"As the end draws near and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes more important for those who accept present truth to have a clear understanding of the nature and influence of the *Testimonies*, which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel's message from its very rise" *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, page 654.

So we cannot push these books off to the past. They were a blessing when they were written. But it becomes *more* important, says the inspired statement, as we near the end. We are much nearer the end, so it's much more important. But Satan's special object is to prevent *this* Light from coming to the people of God who so greatly need it amid the perils of these last days.

Satan works in various ways. We are told:

"It is not alone those who openly reject the *Testimonies*, or who cherish doubt concerning them, that are on dangerous ground. To disregard Light is to reject it" *Ibid.*, page 680.

Do you see the various ways in which Satan works? He leads some to defiantly take their stand against the Spirit of Prophecy. Most of our people acknowledge that this is God's true church, and that He's put this gift in His church. But the great danger to you and me, is to do what? Disregard the Light. This is equivalent to doing what? Rejecting it.

It's like the boy in the parable Jesus told about. His father said to go work in the vineyard. The boy said he would go, but he went not. He didn't defy his father; he just didn't go.

Oh, how much we need to put into practice the precious things God has given us in this book. Remember, they are all Light. And truly the Light is sweet, as the wise man says.

We have a very graphic picture of how it is that the Devil works to carry out his object to keep this Light from the people of God. And this is certainly far more relevant now than when written because there are so many more things today to keep us from reading the *Testimonies*. Listen:

"Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings" *Ibid.*, page 681.

In order to get the Light we must do what? Read the books. Now watch how the Devil works.

"The cares of the world, the love of fashion, and the lack of religion have turned the attention from the light God has so graciously given, while books and periodicals containing error are traveling all over the country" *Ibid.*

Now there's the Light, yonder. Can I hide the Light? Oh yes. Could I hide the Light with some money, and I take my purse and get it close enough up here to my eye, and will that keep the Light out? Oh yes. Would even a good book keep the Light out? Yes. Dear friends, if the Light is shining, God wants you and me to let *nothing* keep us from understanding and walking in that Light. Then comes this statement:

"Light so precious, coming from the throne of God, is hid under a bushel. God will make His people responsible for this neglect" *Ibid.*

Can you imagine that? Here's Light from the testimonies. Suppose I had a bushel basket here this morning. I would take these books of the Spirit of Prophecy and I just cover them up with that bushel. What a strange thing. But this is what is happening, says the Lord, in *many* places. Light so precious coming from the throne of God is hid under a bushel.

It's been pointed out by some that the bushel is an instrument of commerce that is used to measure goods for buying and selling. One of the *great* things that hinders the people of God in their study of these books is the great desire to make money. And as we studied the other morning, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, which while some coveted after they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Now I read this significant statement:

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision the people perish’ (Prov. 19:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.

“There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 48.

We must meet open opposition, subtle deceptions, and then these cares of the world.

Now, I want you to see a happier picture. Here’s the view of the people who are walking in the *Light*, who are at home in the *Light* on whom is shining the accumulated Light of the ages. Notice they are waiting for something. What is it? Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. What do you call people who are waiting on the coming of Jesus? Adventists, isn’t that right? That’s right. They’re the Adventists. Now let’s see Paul’s message to the Adventists:

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge. Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 1:3–8.

Are Seventh-day Adventists a rich people? Yes. We are rich in proportion to the degree in which this gift is confirmed in our hearts and lives. The sealing consists in the settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually so they cannot be moved. We are to be settled forever in this matter of the Sabbath and the law. We see it’s equally important that we be *eternally* settled concerning this gift of the Spirit of God—the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. As we see Christ in the Sabbath we come to love it and thus be settled in it.

So we see that the Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. It is His love letter to the remnant church. As we see Jesus in these *Testimonies*, we will love this gift and we will become more and more certain. This gift will be more and more confirmed in us. Oh friends, what a rich people we are. Aren’t we thankful? Every day we can thank God for this precious gift.

The Lord wants every part of it to be confirmed in us. As we study those eight hundred pages in *The Desire of Ages* on the life of Jesus and see His life under the

magnifying glass of this modern gift; as we see the beautiful details brought out, we are to become like that, and will, as we behold, and thus this gift is *confirmed* in us.

We turn to *Ministry of Healing*. There we see our Savior as the Great Physician working for the healing of ourselves and others. And as we accept that Light, this becomes *confirmed* in us. We walk in the Light on diet and dress, in exercise and rest, in a proper mental attitude. We learn by experience the peace, the joy, the health that come through obedience to the Light. Thus we become confirmed. And so with *all* the other books. Blessed Light, precious Light.

Dear Lord, we thank Thee that in Thy providence we have been called to be children of Light. As the darkness settles down upon this poor old planet, grant that we shall day by day walk another day's journey with Thee, always walking in this precious Light. Teach us how to draw others into the circle of Light. For Jesus' sake, amen.

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