

Overwhelming Surprise 7 of 8

Satan's Snares

#0423

Study Given by W. D. Frazee— November 1965

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. 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 12:12, 17.

The wrath of the Devil is not always manifested in a *roar*, in an open attack. He includes that in his program. But the book of Revelation unmasks his subtle deceptions.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" Revelation 12:9.

Satan has many snares, many traps. You know, a man who is engaged in trapping animals, sometimes when dealing with an animal that is very difficult to catch, will put a number of traps in different locations around the bait, hoping that in the very effort to avoid *this* trap he will fall into *that* one. So it is with the Devil. He has many snares, many methods. But notice he deceiveth the whole world. Notice that right here in our own country, as a part of the ecumenical movement in which the papacy and so-called Protestants join hands in exalting Sunday, *great* miracles are to play their part.

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live" Revelation 13:13–14.

So you see that miracles are to play a prominent part. For over a hundred years this message has called attention to this prophecy and has looked forward to the fulfillment of these words. We usually think of the power of spiritualism as we read these verses of the coming miracles. It's all spiritualism, for spiritualism is the work of evil spirits of devils working miracles. One of their miracles is to appear as someone who has been dead, but they're not limited to that at all. One of the

greatest waves of religious revival that has ever spread over the world is just ahead of us. And this will be spiritualism just as truly as the spirits in the séance chamber appearing as the departed dead. Notice this clear prediction of what's ahead, and I wonder if we're not even now entering in to it. After speaking of the coming loud cry, which we're all looking forward to, the servant of the Lord says:

"The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world"
Great Controversy, page 464.

What's coming before the true loud cry? A counterfeit. The great revival is just ahead of us. Doubtless, we are even now entering into it. What will you and I do as that great religious revival grows, in extent and in power, what will we do? Notice that "multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them when the work is that of another spirit. " Don't forget: this is what takes the whole world captive. This is the ecumenical idea. This draws *all* the churches together, Catholic, Protestant, and even the world. A *great* movement to bring peace and security. And when they have succeeded (almost); when they say it's within their grasp, but this little group that won't go along, they are determined to rid the earth of the Mordecai in the gate. *Then* is when God will interfere, and sudden destruction will come upon them. But before that awful calamity, all the world will have been engulfed in this *great* religious revival, except the remnant.

I want you to notice what it is that enables the remnant to avoid this snare. And don't think it won't be subtle; don't think it's going to be crude. Jesus says plainly:

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"
Matthew 24:24.

We need something extraordinary to prepare us to resist this, to detect it. And God has given it to us, no question about it. I read it here in one of the earliest messages that Sister White ever wrote and is now available to us in these reprints of the Ellen G. White articles:

"Dear Brethren and Sisters, this is a very important hour with us. Satan has come down with great power, and we must strive hard and press our way to the kingdom. We have a mighty foe to contend with, but an Almighty Friend to protect and strengthen us in the conflict. If we are

firmly fixed upon the present truth, and have our hope like an anchor of the soul cast within the second veil, the various winds of false doctrine and error cannot move us. The excitements and false reformations of this day do not move us, for we know that the Master of the house rose up in 1844 and shut the door of the first apartment of the heavenly tabernacle. And now we certainly expect that they will go with their flocks to seek the Lord, but they will not find Him. He has withdrawn Himself within the second veil from them. The Lord has shown me that the power which is with them is a mere human influence, and not the power of God" *Present Truth*, March 1850.

This opens up *Heaven* to us, my dear friends. And it shows that if our anchor is within the second veil, then we'll not be moved by all these false revivals and reformations here in this world. There's the answer. There's the *key* to the whole thing.

Now let's think about it a little. What's up there within the second veil?

"And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the Ark of His testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail" Revelation 11:19.

What are the remnant looking at? The Most Holy Place. What do they see there? The Ark. What do they see in the Ark? The testament. What's that? The law, the Ten Commandments. That is the *great center*: the law, in the Ark, in the Most Holy Place. And that law is just what this wicked world, with all their religion, does not want. They want to get away from that law. So Satan is giving them religious tranquilizers of all kinds—substitutes for the real thing.

The remnant, instead of listening to these religious teachers, instead of drinking the wine of Babylon which intoxicates, are filling their souls with that glory which is shining down from the mercy seat.

There's something else besides the Ark and the law. There is a Man there—a God-man. Paul says:

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" Hebrews 8:1–2.

Remember that the papacy is the great *counterfeit* system. It has a priesthood, but it's on *earth*. It has a sanctuary, but it's on *earth*. It offers forgiveness of sins, but on *earth* through a human priesthood. It has its substitute for the law in the Ark in the Temple in Heaven. And so, the remnant are completely divorced from the papal substitution. God has warned us about this papacy, and

how cleverly it is contrived to meet the minds of the world. In that great book that unmasks the snares of Satan, we read:

"It [the papacy] is prepared for two classes of mankind, embracing nearly the whole world—those who will be saved by their merits, and those who would be saved in their sins. Here is the secret of its power"
Great Controversy, page 572.

If there is something in my heart that is willing to be saved in sin, the papacy is going to get me. It may get me directly, or it may get me through apostate Protestantism. It may get me through one of these false revivals. On the other hand, suppose I want to be saved by my merits. Will it get me? Yes, the papacy will get me either directly or through some other arm. This great, religious revival, like the papacy, is prepared for these two classes of mankind, embracing those who would be saved by their merits and those who would be saved in their sins.

We will study these two great classes and the danger in both for you and me, and how we're to be kept from it; how God's message in the sanctuary is the preparation to keep us from yielding to these two ideas.

Take the matter of those who would be saved in their sins. Oh, how clearly the message of the sanctuary shows that if a man is going to find salvation, he must come up to the sanctuary where that law is, and do what with his sins? Confess his sins. He must meet the law. He must repent. He must give up his transgression. Then he must come back on the Day of Atonement and join in that heart-searching, afflicting the soul, and watch outside the sanctuary while the High Priest goes in and sprinkles the blood on the Most Holy Place.

"For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD" Leviticus 16:30.

Does the sanctuary service show that God intends to deliver His people from sin and clean them up and get rid of sin and eradicate it? Is that the message? That's it. This program that the Church of Rome offers to people of sinning and doing penance, sinning and doing penance is not the Gospel. And the Protestant version of it is not the Gospel. The idea that all there is to the Gospel is to be sure to keep your sins confessed is simply a cheap, Roman Catholic view of the Gospel. Thank God, there is something more than merely pardon. There is power.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" Romans 1:16.

If you and I have some darling sins that we'd like to hold on to, if we have some weaknesses of the flesh that we'd like to excuse, the Devil has a snare already for us: either in the papacy or in one of these *daughters* of the harlot, that drink the same wine and echo the same message. We will find something with *mighty power*, power that will sweep people off their feet, and we will say this is the great power of

God. This gives me peace. This gives me release from the conflict. I don't have to fight and struggle anymore. All I have to do is simply believe in Jesus, and I'll be saved All right. The Lord knows that I'm weak, and even though I keep sinning, there'll be a way for me. And that's what millions believe today, my friends. Now I want you to notice what we have been warned on this point:

"Man cannot be saved without obedience, but his works should not be of himself; Christ should work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure" *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 364.

"No man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul" *Ibid.*, page 366.

"Let no man present the idea that man has little or nothing to do in the great work of overcoming; for God does nothing for man without his cooperation...Never leave the impression on the mind that there is little or nothing to do on the part of man; but rather teach man to cooperate with God, that he may be successful in overcoming" *Ibid.*, page 381.

"When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit. But He will not accept those who claim to have faith in Him, and yet are disloyal to His Father's commandments. We hear a great deal about faith, but we need to hear a great deal more about works. Many are deceiving their own souls by living an easy-going, accommodating, crossless religion" *Ibid.*, page 382.

Do you see the warning? Babylon today is just going pell-mell after this easy-going religion. All you do is come to the altar, make a decision for Christ, claim that Jesus has accepted you, and go on your way. Don't worry. Just have peace. There's a grain of wheat and a bushel of chaff in all that, my friend.

Oh, how much we need that view of the open door to the Most Holy Place. How much we need that view of the Ark with the law in it, and recognize that the judgment is set, the books are opened, and our lives will be measured by that law. How much we need to lay *hold* of the glorious fact that the plan of salvation contemplates our *complete* recovery from the power of sin. What a message we have, that the *power* is there in the Most Holy Place.

But now on the other hand, notice that statement that the Roman church has prepared for those who will be saved by their merits. Oh, what a laborious system of works is in the Roman Catholic ritual. What a mass of ceremonies, penance, sackcloth and ashes, and all the rest. My dear friends, there's the Protestant counterpart to all that. It can creep into our own midst and into our own heart. The *idea* that something we have done or are doing, or can do or will do will save us is the lie of the enemy. It's a disappointment.

It is the thing that Luther struggled with for years. Finally, when the glorious light of justification by faith broke upon his soul, what peace he experienced.

It's the thing that Wesley labored with for years in his own experience, *seeking* to be good. The very word *Methodist* came from their methodical lives. They were seeking to have everything just so. And Read there in Great Controversy the chapter on Later English Reformers, the struggle that Wesley had. And believe me, this is a very subtle deception. Our very desire to reach that standard of perfection, our very efforts to keep God's law, can lead us into this *snare* of the enemy to depend upon our merits.

Notice here:

"There are conscientious souls that trust partly to God, and partly to themselves. They do not look to God, to be kept by His power, but depend upon watchfulness against temptation, and the performance of certain duties for acceptance with Him. There are no victories in this kind of faith. Such persons toil to no purpose; their souls are in continual bondage, and they find no rest until their burdens are laid at the feet of Jesus" *Ibid.*, page 353.

They've got to have their prayer every day at a certain time, or else they're in a guilt complex. They've got to read so many chapters in the Bible or else they're in the doghouse. That's Roman Catholicism, my friend. There are no victories in this kind of failure. Such persons toil to no purpose. Their souls are in continual bondage, and they find no rest until their burdens are laid at the feet of Jesus. And how is the sanctuary the answer to that? Why friend, we look up there, and we see not merely a law, we see a mercy seat. We see not merely a standard, we see a great High Priest bearing our nature and the nature of the Deity, lifting those wounded hands and sprinkling the blood upon the mercy seat.

We *know* that our entrance there is through His name. We know that our victory is through His blood. We do not scale down the standard to meet our poor efforts, but we trust in that *all* prevailing name. Thank God, friends. The false reformations of this day will not move us as long as our *anchor* is cast within the veil.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" Hebrews 6:19–20.

Instead of imbibing this wine of Babylon, instead of filling our minds with all the religious ideas which are *flooding* the religious press today, I beseech you—let us turn to Hebrews and Revelation and Leviticus and Daniel in the Bible; let us turn to *Great Controversy* and *Early Writings*; let's fill our minds with these glorious truths of the sanctuary which has made and will *keep* us a peculiar people. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus in the Most Holy Place, and we shall be *kept* from these deceptions, which will take all the world captive.

Dear Lord, we thank Thee for the open door of the Most Holy Place. As we look in this morning, we not only see a holy law which beckons to perfection, we see a great High Priest Who has given His precious life to *bring* us to perfection. We are confident of this very thing—that He which has begun a good work in us *will* finish it until the day of Jesus Christ. We thank Thee in His name, amen.

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