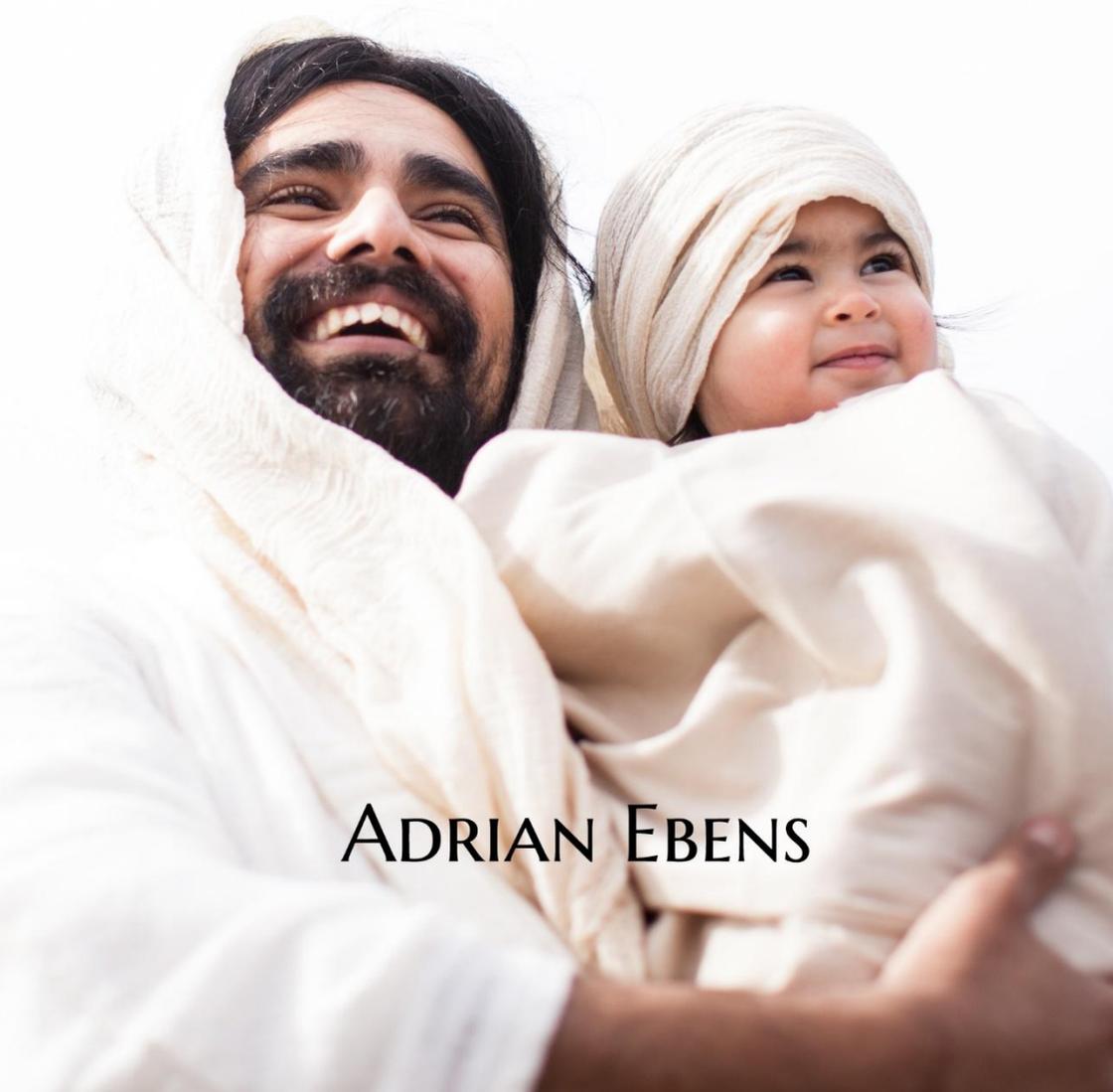


CHRIST'S MISSION TO THE WORLD



ADRIAN EBENS



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Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?

The coming of Jesus Christ to this earth was an act of love, kindness and mercy beyond comprehension. Stepping down from His exalted position to become a human being fills us with amazement. To think of the Son of God, the majesty of Heaven humbling Himself to be born in a stable as a vulnerable infant. The effect of just this act alone should subdue natural human pride and ambition.

The question that begs to be asked is why did He come? What was the key message and mission that He came to deliver? The prayer of Jesus, the night before His crucifixion tells us clearly His purpose and mission.

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which
You have given Me to do. John 17:4

Here Jesus tells us the work that the Father gave Him to do. This work was to glorify the Father. What is God's glory? Moses asked this question and God revealed to Moses His glory.

And he [Moses] said, "Please, show me Your glory." Exodus 33:18

Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and **proclaimed the name of the LORD**. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." Exodus 34:5-7

What God revealed was His character. Merciful, gracious, longsuffering or patient and full of goodness and truth. How precious to know these things about our Father. Therefore, we see that Jesus revealed the character of His Father. He showed us the mercy, grace, patience, goodness and truth of God.

What does it mean that God will visit the iniquities of the father upon the children to the third and fourth generation? Firstly, let's look at a very similar statement found in the 10 commandments.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:4-6

The God of the Bible is a God of mercy. Those who turn away from the true God and choose a god of vengeance and retribution will eventually experience what they falsely believe. It is not because God harms them but because those who turn away from God and step away from His protection will place themselves in the hands of the destroyer, who is Satan.

Their king is the angel from the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon—the Destroyer. Revelation 9:11

nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. I Corinthians 10:9-10

Satan is the destroyer, but Christ is the restorer. RH Nov 26, 1895

God sends His angels to watch over and protect His children. Those who reject the true God, after years of appeals and pleas by the Spirit of God, are eventually left alone according to their own decision. This is what happened to Israel in the destruction of Jerusalem after the nation rejected the Messiah.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; Matthew 23:37-38

God's Judgments Don't Come Directly from Him

God did not desolate the nation of Israel Himself. He left the nation of Israel to be desolated by the destroyer.

The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet: "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself;" "for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." Hosea 13:9; 14:1. Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, **the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will.** The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control. {GC 35.3}

This is what God means when he visits the iniquities of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me. The word *visit* in the Hebrew means to *oversee, care for, charge, call to remembrance.* Our Father in heaven allows each person's decisions stand. He does not force people to change their minds. He oversees the process of each person receiving the fruit of their own decisions. The Bible expresses it this way.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of

the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. Galatians 6:7-8

The spiritual seeds that a person plants will be allowed to bear fruit either to eternal life or to death. God oversees the process of allowing each person have the fruit of their decisions. This is the only fair thing to do. Even though it causes our Father terrible suffering to allow this, He does it because He is longsuffering and that the freedom to choose is preserved for all.

I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way: They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproveth, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them. {14MR 3}

There are some who argue that this statement from Ellen White is not a general principle but only referring to a specific event just ahead of the time she wrote this. Two paragraphs earlier she writes:

I was shown that the time was in the near future that these whom God had warned and reproveth and given great light but they would not correct their ways and follow the light, He would remove from them that heavenly protection which had preserved them from Satan's cruel power; the Lord would surely leave them to themselves to follow the judgment and counsels of their own wisdom; they would be simply left to themselves, and the protection of God be withdrawn from them, and they would not be shielded from the workings of Satan; that none of finite judgment and foresight can have any power to conceive of the care God has exercised through His angels over the children of men in their travels, in their own houses, in their eating and drinking. Wherever they are, His eye is upon them. They are preserved from a thousand dangers, all to them unseen. Satan has

laid snares, but the Lord is constantly at work to save His people from them. {14MR 2.3}

Yet this is the very principle God expresses in the 10 Commandments and it is the principle Jesus expressed to the Jewish leaders saying their house was left to them desolate. Here is this principle stated again as a general principle concerning nations that reject Him.

God keeps a reckoning with the nations. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice. Those who work evil toward their fellow men, saying, How doth God know? will one day be called upon to meet long-deferred vengeance. In this age a more than common contempt is shown to God. Men have reached a point in insolence and disobedience which shows that their cup of iniquity is almost full. Many have well-nigh passed the boundary of mercy. Soon God will show that He is indeed the living God. He will say to the angels, "No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy. Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work." {RH, September 17, 1901 par. 8}

So when Ellen White states what is going to happen in the near future she is simply indicating that God's universal principle of dealing with apostasy was about to take place. It was not a one-off event. This is compounded by these universal statements about God's angels.

Angels are sent from the heavenly courts, not to destroy, but to watch over and guard imperiled souls, to save the lost, to bring the straying ones back to the fold. {RH May 10, 1906}

Angels do not come to the earth to denounce and to destroy, to rule and to exact homage, but are messengers of mercy to cooperate with the Captain of the Lord's host, to cooperate with the human agents who shall go forth to seek and to save the lost sheep. Angels are commanded to

encamp round about those who fear and love God. {ST
November 20, 1893, par. 3}

Thank the Lord that He does not send His angels to destroy. He is not a destroyer but a restorer.

God Does Not Force Anyone

In order for every person to be able to have the freedom to choose and have the fruits of their own decisions, God cannot force anyone at any time. This truth is clearly stated in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

My life is continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Your law.
Psalm 119:109

And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15

When a person is threatened to be killed by the one they refuse to follow, this is not freedom of choice. If God threatens to burn and destroy those who refuse to follow Him, He is not giving them the freedom to choose. In this case He would be forcing them to choose Him. But God's government is not like this.

The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. {DA 22}

It is only through love that loves grows up in the soul and we are consumed by thoughts of love for Jesus and His Father. The angels are delighted to see this happen in a sinner's heart.

The Holy Spirit enlightens, renews, and sanctifies the soul. **Angels behold with inexpressible rapture the results of the**

working of the Holy Spirit in man. By the revelation of the attractive loveliness of Christ, by the knowledge of his love expressed to us while we were yet sinners, the stubborn heart is melted and subdued, and the sinner is transformed and becomes a child of God. **Love is the agency which God uses to expel sin from the human soul. By it he changes pride into humility, enmity and unbelief into love and faith. He does not employ compulsory measures;** Jesus is revealed to the soul, and if man will look in faith to the Lamb of God, he will live. {ST, June 9, 1890 par. 10}

Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power. {DA 759.1}

Force is the last resort of every false religion. {ST May 6, 1897}

God's power is constantly exercised to counteract the agencies of evil; He is ever at work among men, not for their destruction, but for their correction and preservation. – {PP 694.1}

If the principle of force is contrary to God's government then how is it possible for God to at any time use these principles? The Spirit of prophecy makes it very clear that force can only be found under Satan's government.

Satan's representations against the government of God, and his defense of those who sided with him, were a constant accusation against God. His murmurings and complaints were groundless; and yet God allowed him to work out his theory. **God could have destroyed Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. But by so doing he would have given a precedent for the exercise of force. All the compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this**

order. He would not work on this line. He would not give the slightest encouragement for any human being to set himself up as God over another human being, feeling at liberty to cause him physical or mental suffering. This principle is wholly of Satan's creation. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 7}

We are told that God might have destroyed Satan and his followers but this would have created a precedent for the use of force. This defines the meaning of the term force. Force includes destroying someone when they oppose you. God could not do this because these are not His principles. It also means that God could never destroy Satan at any time because this would create a precedent for the use of force. Listen as the Testimony of Jesus continues this theme in the next paragraph.

The principles of the character of God were the foundation of the education constantly kept before the heavenly angels. These principles were goodness, mercy, and love. Self-evidencing light was to be recognized and freely accepted by all who occupied positions of trust and power. They must accept God's principles, and, through the presentation of truth and righteousness, convince all who were in his service. This was the only power to be used. **Force must never come in.** All who thought that their position gave them power to command their fellow beings, and control conscience, must be deprived of their position; for this is not God's plan. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 8}

Force is never to come in which means that destroying those who oppose the truth must never come in. Only by love is love awakened.

These principles are to be the foundation of education in God's church today. The rules given by him are to be observed and respected. God has enjoined this. His government is moral. **Nothing is to be done by compulsion. Truth is to be the prevailing power.** All service is to be done willingly, and for the love of God. All who are honored with positions of influence are to represent God; for when officiating, they are in the place of

God. In everything their actions must correspond to the importance of their position. The higher the position the more distinctly will self-sacrifice be revealed if they are fit for the office. Every heart that is controlled by these principles will be loyal. But when those who profess to be in God's service resort to accusation, they are adopting Satan's principles to cast out Satan; and this never will work. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 9}

How can we teach people that if they do not believe what we believe that God will burn and destroy them? This is the use of force and it involves the use of compulsion. It is not possible for God's people to work in this line. Truth must be our prevailing power. Ellen White continues in the next paragraph

In the councils of heaven it was decided that principles must be acted upon that would not at once destroy Satan's power; for it was God's purpose to place things upon an eternal basis of security. Time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his government. The heavenly universe must see worked out the principles which Satan declared were superior to God's principles. **God's order must be contrasted with Satan's order. The corrupting principles of Satan's rule must be revealed.** The principles of righteousness expressed in God's law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, perfect, eternal. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 10}

Notice that it says that God's order must be contrasted with Satan's order. Ellen White explains how this contrast was made complete when Jesus came to earth.

The Lord allowed Satan to go on, and demonstrate his principles. God did reveal that his principles were right, and he carried the worlds unfallen and the heavenly universe with him; but it was at a terrible cost. His only begotten Son was given up as Satan's victim. **The Lord Jesus Christ revealed a character entirely opposite to that of Satan.** As the high priest laid aside his gorgeous, pontifical robes, and officiated in the white linen dress

of a common priest, so Christ emptied himself, and took the form of a servant, and offered the sacrifice, himself the priest himself the victim. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 12}

In stooping to take upon Himself humanity, Christ revealed a character the opposite of the character of Satan. DA 25.1

If Satan kills those who oppose him and Jesus revealed a character that is opposite to Satan then it becomes evident that Christ does not kill those who oppose Him and therefore neither does His Father. There is no kingdom of earth that reflects the kingdom of God:

When Christ was on this earth, He sought in vain for something with which to compare His kingdom. "Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God," He said, "and with what comparison shall I compare it?" He who is the Wisdom of God seemed to hesitate, embarrassed. There was nothing in earthly governments which He could use as a means of comparison. Society contained no fitting symbol of His church.

The kingdom of Christ does not and cannot bear any resemblance to the kingdoms of the world. **In the kingdom of Christ there is no instrument of coercion. In it force has no place.** The gospel of Him who gave His life for the life of the world is a gospel of peace. It is the Saviour's grace, His love, His tender compassion, that breaks every barrier down. The gospel is a power of itself, above all and encompassing all. It is a divine, immutable principle, as well-spring fed by the stream that flows from the throne of God. {21MR 152.3-4}

Love cannot be commanded. The Bible says perfect love casts out fear. If God threatens people with death then God cannot deliver anyone from fear.

Christ's Mission

With these thoughts in mind, I wish to present to you a collection of quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy that clearly reveal the mission of Christ to this world.

As Jesus said, His mission was to reveal the Father's glory or character. In John 17, just 2 verses down from where He stated that He came to glorify the Father, He says this.

I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. John 17:6

God proclaimed His name to Moses as expressed in Exodus 34:5. Here Christ tells us that He not only proclaimed but that He manifested the name of His Father. That means He showed us the Father. As He said to Philip.

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'" John 14:9

I ask you to carefully consider the following quotes to know what the mission of Christ to this world was.

The **love** and **honor** and perfection **revealed** in the **Gospel** are a **revelation to man of the character of God**. The **justice** and **goodness** and **benevolence** that were seen in the character of Christ are to be repeated in the lives of those who accept the privileges of the Gospel. By a study of the word, we are to see Him as He is, and, charmed with the view of His divine perfection, we are to grow into the same image. **We need to understand that the Gospel fully reveals the glory of the Lord. It is the mirror that reveals the character of God to the converted soul. The likeness of God is revealed in the perfect character of His Son**, that we may understand what it means to be made in the likeness of the image of God, and what we may become if by constantly beholding we allow ourselves to be changed from "glory to glory." {ST February 24, 1909, par. 3}

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." [Hebrews 11:1.] How much we may increase our faith. In what way? By making the Bible our foundation. We cannot have

faith that is of any account if we go to human agents, if we go to man, if we are making flesh our arm; but we can [have it] by going to **the very thing that Christ came into the world to bring before us. What was it? The character of God. And He lived the character of God. He lived it in our world.**

The character of God is the law, and therefore Christ said, “Not one jot or tittle of the law shall pass till all be fulfilled.” [Matthew 5:18.] Every specification which Christ has given is life. **He came to bring before us the true and perfect character of the law of God,** and the Word declares, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.” [Psalm 19:7.] Let us hear from the lips of the greatest teacher the world has ever known. He was giving His sermon upon the Mount. The Pharisees had declared that He came to do away with the law. .
9LtsMs, Ms 16, 1894, par. 4-9LtsMs, Ms 16, 1894, par. 5-7

The Gospel is revealed in the first four books of the New Testament. It is in these books that the full glory of the Lord is revealed. This is what Paul refers to as follows:

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, [Jesus Christ] are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Christ tells Philip that if he can see Christ that he can see exactly what the Father is like.

In Christ God beheld the reflection of his own image. God was manifest in the flesh because of the entire identity of his character with Christ's character. That God should be thus manifest in the flesh was a wonder to the heavenly host, “even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations.” {ST, April 15, 1897 par. 10}

Unless men know God as **Christ revealed Him, they will never form a character according to divine likeness**, and therefore they will never see God. - RH, March 9, 1897 p. 10

We are told that Christ's manifestation in the flesh fully revealed the character of God. The entire identity of His character was revealed while Christ was here on earth. We can't know God except through what Christ has revealed.

God requires perfection of His children. His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character. This infinite standard is presented to all that there may be no mistake in regard to the kind of people whom God will have to compose His kingdom. **The life of Christ on earth was a perfect expression of God's law**, and when those who claim to be children of God become Christlike in character, they will be obedient to God's commandments. {COL 315.1}

If Christ's life on earth was the perfect expression of God's law then what else does the Spirit of Prophecy say of God's law?

The law of God is as sacred as God Himself. It is a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, the expression of divine love and wisdom. {PP 52}

If Christ' life on earth is a perfect expression of God's law and the law is as sacred as Himself and is a transcript of His character then Christ on earth revealed perfectly the character of God. With this in mind, consider this inspired statement:

Christ never killed anyone. {CTr 248.4}

This is exactly what the law of God tells us:

Thou shalt not kill. Exodus 20:13

Let's follow the logic.

1. The life of Christ on earth was the perfect expression of God's law.

2. Christ never killed anyone.
3. The law says you shall not kill.
4. Therefore, God does not kill – anyone.

This is as simple as the Bible saying there is One God and One Lord. The Christian world makes this simple truth very complex but it's not. It's simple. The Christian world also makes very complex the idea that God kills people when Christ clearly did not and He is the complete revelation of the Father.

Those who have experienced the blessing of God should be the most grateful of persons. They should send up to God words of thanksgiving because Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh, clothing his divinity with humanity, in order that he might bring before the world the perfection of God in his own character. He came to represent God, not as a stern judge, but as a loving father. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God is love. This was the great truth that Christ came to the world to reveal. **Satan had so misrepresented the character of God to the world, that man stood remote from God; but Christ came to display to the world the Father's attributes, to represent the express image of his person.** "As the Father gave me commandment, even so I do." "This commandment have I received of my Father." **The object of Christ's mission to the world was to reveal the Father.** {ST, April 11, 1895 par. 2}

Christ is the express image of the Father's person as we are told in Hebrews 1:3. Ellen White says that Christ came to the world to display the Father's attributes as the express image of God's person. Then the capstone sentence.

The object of Christ's mission to the world was to reveal the Father. {ST, April 11, 1895 par. 2}

This statement is the complete expression of John 17:4. Christ's mission was to reveal the Father. Thank the Lord for these clear expressions.

Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of **the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God. In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father.** In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, “I have manifested thy name.” **“I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”** **When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.** {ST January 20, 1890, par. 9}

Once again, we are left in no doubt concerning the purpose of Christ’s mission on earth. It was to set men right through a revelation of God. Ellen White’s expansion of John 17:4 beautifully explains Christ’s mission:

When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men. {ST January 20, 1890, par. 9}

How wonderful to know that Christ’s earthly mission showed us what the Father is like. We can be certain we know the Father through Jesus. Thus, Christ is the way to the Father, the truth of the Father and the life of the Father.

They must practice the principles of heaven here on earth if they would become members of the royal family in heaven. **Christ’s life in our world was to furnish a representation in His own character of the supreme excellence of God’s character.** His words were to give life, [that] by His words and deeds that they might have a true conception of His character. Christians are never for one moment to forget that they are to be followers of Christ in all things. {Ms I I-1895.10}

These statements can't be mistaken. Why is it that people wish to say that Christ only came to reveal God's mercy on earth but later He will reveal God's justice? This would destroy confidence in the inspired writings of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Notwithstanding their efforts to counteract His work, Christ was gaining, even in Jerusalem, an influence over the people greater than their own. Multitudes who were not interested in the harangues of the rabbis were attracted by His teaching. They could understand His words, and their hearts were warmed and comforted. **He spoke of God, not as an avenging judge, but as a tender father, and He revealed the image of God as mirrored in Himself. His words were like balm to the wounded spirit.** Both by His words and by His works of mercy He was breaking the oppressive power of the old traditions and man-made commandments, and presenting the love of God in its exhaustless fullness. {DA 204.4}

How beautifully expressed. Christ mirrored the Father's character when He was here on earth. It was a perfect representation.

Thus it has been, and thus it will be till the end of time. Sin is Satan's attribute, and it is always leagued against good. The spirit of Cain is manifest in all false religions. **Satan's work is to condemn and destroy, to take away man's liberty and destroy his life.** Transgression always leads men to act as Satan's agents, to carry out his purposes against God and righteousness. **In Nazareth Christ announced that His work was to restore and uplift, to bring peace and happiness. He came to this world to represent the Father, and He revealed His divine power by giving life to the dead, by restoring the sick and suffering to soundness and health. He was in this world as the tree of life. Satan is at war with Christ, the divine Restorer. His agents are leagued against the Saviour's work of elevating and ennobling man. The first death in our world was caused by the working out of**

Satan's principles; and ever since that time Christ and His followers have been the object of his malignant hate. {ST March 21, 1900, par. 13-15}

The contrast in the quote is clear. Satan's work is to condemn and destroy, to take away liberty and destroy life. Christ's work is to restore and lift up and bring peace. Such a wonderful contrast. In doing this work Christ has revealed the Father. I feel such joy reading these quotes. I hope you do also.

Through Jesus, the Son of God, the Father is more fully revealed to the world. Jesus said to his disciples: "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." The souls of thousands are crying out today, "Show us the Father, and we will be satisfied. We cannot claim God as our Father until we see him." Jesus says to every such soul, as he said to Philip: "'Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me?' Have you seen my works, have you listened to my teachings, have you witnessed the miracles that I have wrought in my Father's name, and yet have you not understood the nature of God? **I have prayed with you and for you, and yet can you not comprehend that I am the way, the truth, and the life, and that in my life I have unfolded to you the character of my Father? I am the brightness of my Father's glory, I am the express image of his person. 'Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.** Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.'" {ST June 9, 1890, par. 1}

Isn't it interesting? The same problem that Philip had, exists today. He could not see that Christ was a full representation of the Father. Almost the whole Christian world is suffering the same blindness. Thank you Lord Jesus for showing us the Father when you came to this world.

Christ came to our world to become our sacrifice. He came to discover to our eyes the gems of truth, to place them in a new setting,—the frame-work of truth. He brought out of the treasure-house of God things new and old, that we might be able to trace down the links in the great plan of salvation. Through the sacrificial offerings of the Jewish dispensation, we are pointed forward to Christ, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. When Christ came, it was to engage in the conflict with the enemy of God and man, on this earth, in the sight of the universe of heaven. **But why was it necessary to wage the warfare in the sight of other worlds?—It was because Satan had been an exalted angel, and when he fell, he induced many angels to join him in his revolt against God's government. He worked in the minds of the angels as he works in the minds of men today. He made a pretension of loyalty to God, and yet he argued that angels should not be under law. He inculcated his ideas, his rebellion and enmity, and hatred of God's law originated in the minds of the angels in heaven through his influence. He caused the fall of man through the same temptations with which he had caused the fall of angels;** and in the world where he proposed to work out his principles of rebellion, the battle had to be fought, that all might behold the real nature and results of disobedience to God's great moral standard. He represented God in a false light, clothing him with his own attributes. **Christ came to represent the Father in his true character. He showed that he was not an arbitrary judge, ready to bring judgments upon men, and delighting in condemning and punishing them for their evil deeds.** The Lord proclaimed his character to Moses in the

mount. “And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.” {ST November 18, 1889, par. 6}

Such a sublime revelation of the Father. Ellen White gives a beautiful summary of why Jesus had to come to the earth. Satan had deceived many in heaven about the character of God as well as the whole human race. Christ revealed the truth of who God is.

This was the description that God gave of his own character. Jesus came to represent the goodness and mercy and love of the Father, and Satan was filled with enmity toward the Son of God, and strove from his very birth to destroy him. He worked through wicked Herod to accomplish his design, but the Lord preserved the life of the young child Jesus, and thwarted the design of the evil one. Repeatedly the life of Christ was in peril. Many times even after the people had listened to his gracious words, and had seen the manifestation of his power in healing the sick and blessing those around him, they were ready to destroy him. He hated sin with a perfect hatred. It was the pure, spotless life of Jesus that stirred up the hatred of Satan and a profligate nation; for Christ did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. The Jewish nation was filled with doubt and prejudice, and this led them to hate the Son of God. Because of their unbelief, they were on the enemy’s side, under the control of the evil one. {ST November 18, 1889, par. 7}

Heaven, looking down and seeing the delusions into which men were led, knew that a divine Instructor must come to the earth. Through the mis-representations of the enemy, many were so deceived that they worshiped

a false god, clothed with the attributes of the satanic character. Those in ignorance and moral darkness must have light, spiritual light; for the world knew not God, and He must be revealed to their understanding. **Truth looked down from heaven and saw not the reflection of her image; for dense clouds of spiritual darkness and gloom enveloped the world. The Lord Jesus alone was able to roll back the clouds; for He is the light of the world.** By His presence He could dissipate the gloomy shadow that Satan had cast between man and God. {CT 28.1}

The Son of God came to this earth to reveal the character of the Father to men, that they might learn to worship Him in spirit and in truth. He came to sow the world with truth. He held the keys of all the treasures of wisdom, and was able to open doors to science, and to reveal undiscovered stores of knowledge, were it essential to salvation. The Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, every phase of truth was evident to Him. {CT 28.2}

In the purity of his life he had revealed the Father, and the glory of God had beamed forth from his character. The perfection of the Father had been displayed before unfallen worlds, before heavenly intelligences, and to sinful men. In the mediatorial work of Christ, the love of God was revealed in its perfection to men and angels. Having overcome the temptation and borne the test in the wilderness, having overcome in our behalf, he bends his steps toward Calvary, and in the perfection of humanity he grasps the world, and in the fullness of his divinity he lays hold upon the throne of God, and proclaims the result of his terrible conflict with the enemy, exclaiming, “Now is the prince of this world cast out,” now is the last enemy destroyed. {ST June 27, 1895, par. 7}

All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of His Son. “No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the

bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.” John 1:18. **Taking humanity upon Him, Christ came to be one with humanity and at the same time to reveal our heavenly Father to sinful human beings.** He was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He shared the lot of men, and yet He was the blameless Son of God. He was a stranger and sojourner on the earth--in the world, but not of the world; tempted and tried as men and women today are tempted and tried, yet living a life free from sin. **Tender, compassionate, sympathetic, ever considerate of others, He represented the character of God, and was constantly engaged in service for God and man.** {8T 286}

How much of the character of God *was* revealed in the Son?

The whole character of God was revealed in his Son, the whole range of the possibilities of heaven is displayed for the acceptance of man in the Son of the Infinite One. The way for man’s return to God and heaven has no barriers. The matchless depths of the Saviour’s love have been demonstrated; and if this manifestation of God’s love for the children of men does not prevail to draw men to himself, there is nothing that ever will. — {ST December 30, 1889, par. 6}

Christ’s oneness with the Father was a constant joy to God, for **He knew that there was in the world One who would not misrepresent Him. In Christ He beheld the reflection of His own character. And it was that His followers might have this same oneness, that was Christ's great desire. For this oneness He prayed.** [John 17:17-21, quoted.] {14MR 220.2}

In Christ God beheld the reflection of his own image. **God was manifest in the flesh because of the entire identity of his character with Christ’s character. That God should be**

thus manifest in the flesh was a wonder to the heavenly host, “even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations.” {ST, April 15, 1897 par. 10}

God has left nothing undone that He could do for us. He gave a perfect example of His character in the character of His Son; and it is the work of Christ's followers, as they behold the incomparable excellency of His life and character, to grow in His likeness. As they look unto Jesus and respond to His love, they will reflect the image of Christ {RH February 15, 1898}

Satan charged God with possessing the attributes that he himself possessed. **Christ came to this world to reveal God's character as it really is.** He is the perfect representation of the Father. His life of sinlessness, lived on this earth in human nature, is a complete refutation of Satan's charge against the character of God. {Bible Training School Oct 1, 1902}

Christ is our pattern, the perfect and holy example that has been given us to follow. {Ms 65, 1894}

Christ alone could represent the Father to humanity, and this representation the disciples had been privileged to behold for over three years. {DA 664}

The Teacher from heaven, no less a personage than the Son of God, came to earth to reveal the character of the Father to men, that they might worship him in spirit and in truth. Christ revealed to men the fact that the strictest adherence to ceremony and form would not save them; for the kingdom of God was spiritual in its nature. Christ came to the world to sow it with truth. He held the keys to all the treasures of wisdom, and was able to open doors to science, and to reveal undiscovered stores of knowledge, were it essential to salvation. **He presented to men that which was exactly contrary to the representations of the enemy in regard to the character of God, and sought to impress upon men the**

paternal love of the Father, who “so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” [John 3:16.] He urged upon men the necessity of prayer, repentance, confession, and the abandonment of sin. He taught them honesty, forbearance, mercy, and compassion, enjoining upon them to love not only those who loved them, but those who hated them, who treated them despitely. In this he was revealing to them the character of the Father, who is long-suffering, merciful, and gracious, slow to anger, and full of goodness and truth. Those who accepted his teaching were under the guardian care of angels, who were commissioned to strengthen, to enlighten, that the truth might renew and sanctify the soul. {CE 74.1}

In describing His earthly mission, Jesus said, The Lord “hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.” Luke 4:18. This was His work. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by Satan. There were whole villages where there was not a moan of sickness in any house, for He had passed through them and healed all their sick. His work gave evidence of His divine anointing. **Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every act of [12] His life; His heart went out in tender sympathy to the children of men. He took man’s nature, that He might reach man’s wants.** The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Even little children were attracted to Him. They loved to climb upon His knees and gaze into the pensive face, benignant with love. Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His intercourse with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. **He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His**

voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He wept over Jerusalem, the city He loved, which refused to receive Him, the way, the truth, and the life. They had rejected Him, the Saviour, but He regarded them with pitying tenderness. His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes. While He ever bore Himself with divine dignity, He bowed with the tenderest regard to every member of the family of God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save. **Such is the character of Christ as revealed in His life. This is the character of God. It is from the Father's heart that the streams of divine compassion, manifest in Christ, flow out to the children of men. Jesus, the tender, pitying Saviour, was God "manifest in the flesh."** 1 Timothy 3:16. {SC 11, 12}

Christ came to this world, and clothed his divinity with humanity, taking upon Him the nature of man. He came to pass through the experiences of humanity, to pass over the ground on which Adam had fallen, to redeem his failure, to meet and conquer the adversary of God and man, that through his grace man might be an overcomer, and finally have a place with Him upon his throne. He took the field of conflict, and on this atom of a world the controversy between Christ, the Prince of life, and Satan, the prince of darkness, was to be waged. **By transgression man had become the child of evil, the captive of Satan, the enemy of God. Satan misrepresented the character of God, and man, who had been made in the divine image, doubted his Heavenly Father's love,** distrusted his word, and set himself in stubborn unbelief and rebellion against his requirements. {BEcho, November 1, 1892 par. 2}

Christ came to represent the character of his Father, to win man back to his allegiance to God, to reconcile man to God. He proposed to meet the foe and unmask his arts, that man might be able to make choice of whom he would serve. Satan had been Lucifer, the light-bearer, the sharer of God's glory in

heaven, and second to Jesus in power and majesty. In the words of inspiration he is described as the one who “sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” But Lucifer had perverted the beauty and power with which he was endowed by the Creator, and his light had become darkness. When through his rebellion he was cast out of heaven, he determined to make man his victim, and the earth his kingdom. He cast the blame of his rebellion upon Christ, and in determined hatred of God, sought to wound Him through the fall of man. In the happiness and peace of Eden, he beheld a vision of the bliss that he had forever lost, and he determined to excite in the hearts of God’s creatures the same bitterness that he himself felt, so that their songs of praise and thanksgiving might be turned to reproach against their Maker. {BEcho, November 1, 1892 par. 3}

The great Physician co-operates with every effort made in behalf of suffering humanity, to give light to the body, and life and restoration to the soul. And why is this? Satan came into our world, and led men into temptation. With sin came sickness and suffering, for we reap that which we sow. **Satan afterward caused man to charge upon God the suffering which is but the sure result of the transgression of physical law. God is thus falsely accused, and his character misrepresented.** He is charged with doing that which Satan himself has done. God would have his people expose this falsehood of the enemy. To them he has given the light of the gospel of health, and as his representatives they are to give the light to others. {Christian Educator, October 1, 1898 par. 9}

All heaven is interested in man’s salvation, and the work may be done speedily, the kingdom of God may come, and the earth be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea. **The great desire of the heavenly intelligences is that the character of God, so long misrepresented and misinterpreted, may be rightly represented before those who have been deceived by the devices of the enemy.**

Satan has imputed to God his own attributes, and is it not now time that the name of Christ should be great among the heathen? God calls for those who have been enlightened to fall into line, and begin aggressive warfare on the strongholds of the evil one. {HM, September 1, 1892 par. 6}

The only hope for the fallen race was found in becoming reconciled to God. **Satan had so misrepresented God that man had no true conception of the divine character. Christ came to the world, and, in carrying out the plan of salvation, revealed to man that “God is love.”** {Messenger, June 7, 1893 par. 2}

Christ came to represent the Father to man. He revealed the nature of God to the world. **Satan had misrepresented the Father. He had pictured him as a being full of revenge, who had no forbearance, no mercy, no patience, no love. He clothed him with his own attributes; but Christ came, and took upon him humanity, that he might reveal to humanity the true character of the Father;** and we are to represent Christ to the world as Christ represented the Father. {RH, April 30, 1889 par. 8}

Satan has misrepresented the character of God. He has clothed him with his own attributes. He has represented him as a being of inflexible sternness. He had shut the world away from beholding the true character of God, by casting his shadow between men and the divine One. **Christ came to our world to remove that shadow. He came to represent the Father. He said, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” He prayed that his disciples might be one with him, even as he was one with the Father. Men have declared that this oneness with Christ is an impossibility, but Christ has made it possible by bringing us into harmony with himself, through the merits of his life and sacrifice.** Why should we doubt the love and power of God? Why should we not place ourselves on the faith side of the

question? Do you behold the charms and attractions of Jesus? Then seek to follow in his footsteps. He came to reveal the Father to the world, and he has committed to us the work of representing his love, purity, goodness, and tender sympathy, to the children of men. {ST, April 15, 1889 par. 6}

Jesus came to this earth to represent the character of the Father to the world. He said, “He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.” Satan had misrepresented the character of God, and placed him in a false light. But Jesus came to reveal the Father’s love and compassion toward the fallen children of men. When those who profess to be the servants of God draw down their countenances in gloom, and are ever complaining, they misrepresent their heavenly Father. They are confirming the impression that Satan has made concerning his character. They say to the world, “The service of God is a hard service. It is bondage to keep the law of God.” This is all false. What is it that puts the shackles on men’s wrists? Is it obedience to law? No, indeed. Those who keep the laws walk at liberty. It is the transgressor that is in bondage. The curse of the law is not upon those who are striving to fulfill God’s holy precepts through faith in the Redeemer. They are covered with his righteousness. They are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. {ST, September 30, 1889 par. 7}

Jesus was hunted from place to place during his ministry. Priests and rulers were on his track. **They misrepresented his mission and labor. He came unto his own and his own received him not. Angels watched the conflict at every step. They saw the spirit and work of the enemy.** They looked with amazement upon the devices of Satan against the divine Son of God. **They saw that he who had only been second to Jesus in power and glory had fallen so low that he could influence men to hunt the steps of Christ from city to city.** When Christ sought the garden of Gethsemane, the enemy pressed darkness upon his soul. Even his disciples did not

watch with him through that hour of trial. They heard the agony of prayer that came from his pale and quivering lips, but they soon allowed sleep to overcome them, and left their suffering Master to wrestle with the powers of darkness alone. {ST, November 25, 1889 par. 1}

Unless men shall know God as Christ has revealed him, they will never form a character after the divine similitude, and will therefore never see God. It is a matter for astonishment among the angels in heaven, that any who have once known God should become careless, should permit their minds to be absorbed in any temporal pursuit, and allow their attention to be diverted from the God of heaven, so that they wantonly and willingly forget their Maker, and substitute for him other lords and other gods. The day has come when there are lords many and gods many, and Satan has purposed to interpose himself between God and the human soul, so that men shall not give homage to God in keeping his law. Satan has wrapped about him garments of angelic brightness, and he comes to men as an angel of light. He causes the guilty soul to see things in a perverted way, so that he hates that which he should love, and loves that which he should hate and despise. **God is so misrepresented to him that he cares not to retain the true and living Father in his knowledge, but turns to the worship of false gods. He knows not that the love of God is without a parallel, yet Christ has revealed that love to a fallen world.** John calls upon the world to behold the wondrous love of God, saying, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." {RH, March 9, 1897 par. 10}

Satan had misrepresented the character of God to the world, and had tempted man to rebellion; but **Jesus came to make manifest in his own life and character what was the true nature of the Father. Everywhere he went, he revealed**

the Father as a God of infinite love and unbounded compassion. {ST, May 18, 1891 par. 2}

In the person and work of Christ the holiness of God is revealed; **for Christ came to reveal the Father. Satan had cast his shadow athwart the pathway of humanity, and misrepresented the character of God.** The controversy of Satan did not end when he was expelled from the courts of heaven. He hated Christ for his position in the courts of God, and he hated him the more when he himself was dethroned. He hated him when he came to a ruined world, to show mercy and manifest his compassion toward a race of sinners. Through the chief priests and Pharisees the hatred of Satan was manifested toward the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. {ST, December 11, 1893 par. 8}

Christ's revelation of the Father was Christ's own gift to the world.

“Satan had clothed the Father in his own attributes, but **Christ represented Him in His true character of benevolence and love. In the character in which Christ presented Him to the world it was as if He gave a new gift to man.** Jesus said in His prayer to the Father: “O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee; but I have known thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it; that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” “Neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son, and He to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.”

The Son of God declared in positive terms that the world was destitute of the knowledge of God; but this knowledge was of the highest value, and **it was His own peculiar gift, the inestimable treasure which He brought into the world. In the exercise of His sovereign prerogative He imparted to His disciples the knowledge of the character of God,** in order that they might communicate it to the world. The only

nation who claimed to be worshiping the true God at the advent of Christ had not a proper conception of His character. They were sitting in Moses' seat, but they did not present God as Moses presented Him, but after the distorted representation of Satan. The character of God was falsified before the people. Truth was so overlaid with tradition, religion was so burdened with man-made tests and commandments, that the purity and luster of truth were completely hidden, and virtue was considered unattainable. The existing religion left man without God and without hope in the world. But the Sun of Righteousness shines forth into the midnight darkness of superstition and error, and rolls back the cloud, and **presents Himself as the one in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, as the exact representation of the Father. This is His message to the world: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."** (ST June 27, 1892 par, 3,4)

Christ's mission to the world reveals what the Father would have done in ALL emergencies. The greatest emergency the universe has faced is the great controversy. In Christ Jesus is revealed what the Father is doing.

The work of the good Samaritan represents Christ's mission to the world. **Our Saviour came to reveal the character of God, to represent his love for man. He acted just as the Father would have done in ALL emergencies.** Christ manifested for us a love that the love of man can never equal. He died to save those who were his enemies; he prayed for his murderers. When we were bruised and dying, he had pity upon us. He did not pass us by on the other side, and leave us, helpless, and hopeless, to perish. He did not remain in his holy, happy home, where he was honored by all the heavenly host, who loved to do his bidding. He beheld our sore need; he undertook our case, and identified his interests with humanity. He became "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the

chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” {HM, October 1, 1897 par. 7}

Christ is the Divine Restorer who never uses force.

Prophecy has plainly stated the nature of Christ’s kingdom. **He planned a government which would use no force; his subjects would know no oppression.** The symbols of earthly governments are wild beasts, but in the kingdom of Christ, men are called upon to behold, not a ferocious beast, but the Lamb of God. **Not as a fierce tyrant did he come, but as the Son of man; not to conquer the nations by his iron power, but “to preach good tidings unto the meek;” “to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;” “to comfort all that mourn.” He came as the divine Restorer,** bringing to oppressed and downtrodden humanity the rich and abundant grace of Heaven, that by the power of his righteousness, man, fallen and degraded though he was, might be a partaker of divinity. {RH, August 18, 1896 par. 3}

We see the issue that was at stake in 1888. It related to the character of God.

“At the Kansas meeting my prayer to God was, that the power of the enemy might be broken, and **that the people who had been in darkness might open their hearts and minds to the message that God should send them, that they might see the truth, new to many minds, as old truth in new frame-work.** The understanding of the people of God has been blinded; for Satan has misrepresented the character of God. Our good and gracious Lord has been presented before the people clothed in the attributes of Satan, and men and women who have been seeking for truth, have so long regarded God in a false light that it is difficult to dispel the cloud that obscures his glory from their view. Many have been living in an atmosphere of doubt, and it seems

almost impossible for them to lay hold on the hope set before them in the gospel of Christ” {RH July 23, 1889}

"In viewing the holiness and glory of the God of the universe, we are terrified, for we know that His justice will not permit Him to clear the guilty. **But we need not remain in terror; for Christ came to the world to reveal the character of God, to make plain to us His paternal love toward His adopted children. We are not to estimate the character of God by the stupendous works of nature alone, but by the simple, lovely life of Jesus, who presented Jehovah as more merciful, more compassionate, more tender, than our earthly parents.** { HP 18.2}

Jesus presented the Father as one to whom we could give our confidence and present our wants. When we are in terror of God, and overwhelmed with the thought of His glory and majesty, the Father points us to Christ as His representative. **What you see revealed in Jesus, of tenderness, compassion, and love, is the reflection of the attributes of the Father.** The cross of Calvary reveals to man the love of God. Christ represents the Sovereign of the universe as a God of love. By the mouth of the prophet He said, “I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:3). { HP 18.3}

This following quote is a beautiful way to finish this collection of quotes. Christ does not destroy. He improves whatever He touches. Hallelujah.

We are to observe carefully every lesson Christ has given throughout His life and teaching. He does not destroy; He improves whatever he touches. E.G.W Letter 135 1897 {ISM, 118}

CHRIST'S MISSION TO THE WORLD

Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of **the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God.** In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father. In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, “I have manifested thy name.” “I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men. {ST January 20, 1890, par. 9}