



Our  
Merciful  
Loving  
Father

Ellen White

Compiled by Tina Marie Simon

# Our Merciful Loving Father

Quotes for the Spirit of Prophecy

Compiled by  
Tina Marie Simons

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Brian Heckethorn and Ben Kramlich

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## Introduction

Over the past year a burst of glorious light is shining upon the Word of God to reveal the truly loving character of our Father as revealed in the life of Christ while He was here on earth. There are many who have embraced the idea that our Father does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner and yet many questions have remained unanswered as to how to explain the judgments in the Old Testament and the final destruction of the wicked.

During the Feast of Tabernacles in 2016 light and truth came to the people of God through the understanding of the ministration of death as connected to the work of both the Old and New Covenant to bring a believing soul into the complete experience of righteousness by faith as manifested in obedience to all the commandments of God.

Shortly after this time a series of meetings conducted in Talking Rock Georgia called *Escaping the Pentagon of Lies* drew together a collection of Bible students from around the world in response to that message to meditate upon the loving character of our Father in heaven.

Several people began to share quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy that confirmed the truths that had been considered in the series. At this time Tina Marie Simon became so captivated by the inspired statements within the Spirit of Prophecy that she searched for many hours bringing together a wonderful bouquet of statements that reveal the beauty and glory of our Father.

I have been thrilled reading over this collection and every fibre of my being says amen for on every page is found confirmation that the Son of the Living God has revealed to the universe who the Father really is and what He is like. He has exposed the lies of the enemy who have tried to present God as harsh and violent when required to maintain order in His domains. We can say with absolute certainty that Jesus Christ has shown us the Father and what a picture of love is given to us. Now we can behold the character which will be the very seal of God given to us through the gift of the Spirit during the appointed times of refreshment designated for us. Let us rejoice for our redemption draws nigh.

Adrian Ebens.

## **God's character of love and mercy as the last message**

**The truths of the third angel's message have been presented by some as a dry theory; but in this message is to be presented Christ the Living One. He is to be revealed as the first and the last, as the I AM, the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star. Through this message the character of God in Christ is to be manifested to the world.** The call is to be sounded: "O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, **Behold your God!** Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom." Isaiah 40:9-11. {6T 20.1}

**The third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and this truth must be brought before the world; but the great center of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out of the third angel's message.** By many who have been engaged in the work for this time, Christ has been made secondary, and theories and arguments have had first place. **The glory of God that was revealed to Moses in regard to the divine character has not been made prominent.** The Lord said to Moses, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee" (Exodus 33:19). "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, 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" (Exodus 34:6, 7). **A veil has seemed to be before the eyes of many who have labored in the cause, so that when they presented the law, they have not had views of Jesus, and have not proclaimed the fact that, where sin abounded, grace doth much more abound. It is at the cross of Calvary that mercy and truth meet together, where righteousness and peace kiss each other.** The sinner must ever look toward Calvary; and with the simple faith of a little child, he must rest in the merits of Christ, accepting His righteousness and believing in His mercy. Laborers in the cause of truth should present the righteousness of Christ, not as new light but as precious light that has for a time been lost sight of by the people. **We are to accept Christ as our personal Saviour, and He imputes unto us the righteousness of God in Christ.** Let us repeat and make prominent the truth that John has portrayed: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). In the love of

God has been opened the most marvelous vein of precious truth, and the treasures of the grace of Christ are laid open before the church and the world. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son” (John 3:16). What love is this—what marvelous, unfathomable love—that would lead Christ to die for us while we were yet sinners! **What a loss it is to the soul who understands the strong claims of the law, and who yet fails to understand the grace of Christ which doth much more abound! It is true that the law of God reveals the love of God when it is preached as the truth in Jesus;** for the gift of Christ to this guilty world must be largely dwelt upon in every discourse. It is no wonder that hearts have not been melted by the truth, when it has been presented in a cold and lifeless manner. No wonder faith has staggered at the promises of God, when ministers and workers have failed to present Jesus in His relation to the law of God. How often should they have assured the people that “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). {1SM 383- 384.}

**The everlasting gospel is to be preached, and it is to be practiced in true missionary work carried forward not after the wisdom that men may devise, but after the wisdom of God. All who walk in safe paths are to understand that the third angel’s message is of consequence to the whole world, and must be carried to the world in clear, straight lines, and in its distinctive features, as Christ revealed it to John.** [Revelation 14:6-12, quoted.] This is the message we have to bear; this is the work we have to do. This is the message God has kept before the Seventh-day Adventist people. **The truth of this message will not decrease, but will increase in force and importance as we are brought down to the close of the work of God on earth. We have no time to lose.** {18MR 28. 1, 2}

The words God has given His servants to proclaim are words of solemn import. We hear the voice of the angel of God as we listen to the message proclaimed by the servants of God, **who are sounding the trumpet note of warning and giving the last message of mercy to a perishing world. God’s angels may not be visible, but the messengers through whom God works are visible;** and those who reject their words, who strive to counteract the messages God sends, **place themselves in a position similar to that of the Jews who rejected Christ.** {Lt87-1896.14}

Let the people understand that you have a message that means life, eternal

life to them if they accept it. **If any subject should enthuse the soul it is the proclamation of the last message of mercy to a perishing world. But if they reject this message it will be to them a savor of death unto death.** Therefore there is need to work diligently, lest your labors be in vain. O that you would realize this, and that you would urge the truth upon the conscience with the power of God. Give force to your words and make the truth appear essential to their educated minds.—Letter 8, 1895

He will restrain all the forces of darkness, until the warning is given to the world, and all who will heed it are prepared for his coming. God's people should make mighty intercession to him for help now. And they must put their whole energies into the effort to proclaim the truth during the respite that has been granted. As they consecrate themselves unreservedly to God's service, **a convincing power will attend their efforts to present the truth to others, and light will shine into many hearts.** My brethren and sisters, sleep no longer on Satan's enchanted ground, but arouse, and **call into requisition every resource for the proclamation of the message of mercy. The last warning is to be given "before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."** {RH November 23, 1905, Art. A, par. 16,17}

At this time, when the enemy is working as never before to engross the minds of men and women and turn them from the truth, **we should be laboring with increasing activity in the highways and also in the byways.** Diligently, interestedly, **we are to proclaim the last message of mercy in the cities—the highways**—and the work is not to end there, but is to extend into the surrounding settlements and in the country districts—into the byways and the hedges Letter 4, 1911, p. 3. (To W. C. White, February 15, 1911.)

In the life of Christ compassion for the suffering was ever manifested. Had all those who claim to believe in Christ followed His example, what a different aspect would our world present today. **This work has been neglected by the church; but we thank God that there is an opportunity to redeem the time, to bear the message of mercy in the highways and the hedges.** The church has been remiss in following Christ in self-denial and self-sacrifice. She has neglected to reach down to the very depths of misery to which Satan has dragged down those who have listened to his temptations. {Ms18-1898.13}

**The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who**

**refuse to walk in its advancing glory. The work that might have been done, will be left undone by the rejecters of truth, because of their unbelief. We entreat of you who oppose the light of truth, to stand out of the way of God's people. Let Heaven-sent light shine forth upon them in clear and steady rays. God holds you to whom this light has come, responsible for the use you make of it. Those who will not hear will be held responsible; for the truth has been brought within their reach, but they despised their opportunities and privileges. **Messages bearing the divine credentials have been sent to God's people; the glory, the majesty, the righteousness of Christ, full of goodness and truth, have been presented; the fullness of the Godhead in Jesus Christ has been set forth among us with beauty and loveliness, to charm all whose hearts were not closed with prejudice.** We know that God has wrought among us. We have seen souls turn from sin to righteousness. We have seen faith revived in the hearts of the contrite ones. Shall we be like the lepers that were cleansed who went on their way, and only one returned to give glory to God? Let us rather tell of his goodness, and praise God with heart, with pen, and with voice. **The work of every ambassador of Christ is to bear witness to the light.** He is not to take Christ's place, **but to reveal Christ to the world, to show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.** God has sent his ministers out as his standard-bearers. They are to point to Jesus who taketh away the sin of the world. They are not to awaken the sympathy of the people for themselves, but to carry their sympathies above themselves to the precious object of their praise and reverence, that they may lead the people to love Christ and him crucified. If, through the grace of Christ, you have caught some beams of the light of truth as it is in Jesus, do not place yourself upon the pinnacle; do not think that you have caught all the rays of light, and that there is no increased illumination to come to our world. {RH May 27, 1890, par. 6, 7}**

Since the Saviour shed His blood for the remission of sins, and ascended to heaven "to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24), light has been streaming from the cross of Calvary and from the holy places of the sanctuary above. But the clearer light granted us should not cause us to despise that which in earlier times was received through the types pointing to the coming Saviour. **The gospel of Christ sheds light upon the Jewish economy and gives significance to the ceremonial law. As new truths are revealed, and that which has been known from the beginning is brought into clearer light, the character and purposes of God are made manifest in His dealings with His chosen people.** Every additional ray of light that we



receive gives us a clearer understanding of the plan of redemption, which is the working out of the divine will in the salvation of man. We see new beauty and force in the inspired word, and we study its pages with a deeper and more absorbing interest. {PP 367.4}

**” A knowledge of God will constitute a kind of knowledge that will be as enduring as eternity** {RH February 25, 1896, par. 2}

**The Christian will be a savor of life unto life to others, although he may not be able to explain the mysteries of his experience.** But he will know that when clouds and darkness compassed him about, and he cried unto the Lord, the darkness was dispersed, and peace and joy were in the temple of the soul. He will know what it is to have the pardoning love of God revealed to the heart, to experience the peace that passeth all understanding, to have praise and thanksgiving and adoration welling up in the soul unto Him who has loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood. He has peace through Jesus Christ, and joy in the Holy Ghost. One with Christ, his soul is filled with submission to His will, and heaven is enshrined in his heart while he is enfolded in the bosom of infinite love. **Christians of this order will bear much fruit to the glory of God. They will rightly interpret the character of God, and manifest His attributes unto the world.**—The Signs of the Times, April 3, 1893.

**Not all who name the name of Christ are one with Christ. Those who do not have the Spirit and the grace of Christ are none of His, no matter what may be their profession. By their fruits ye shall know them.** The customs and practices that are after the order of the world do not carry out the principles of God’s law, and therefore do not breathe of His Spirit nor express His character. Christlikeness will be revealed only by those who are assimilated to the divine image. **Only those who are being molded through the operation of the Holy Spirit are doers of the Word of God, and express the mind and the will of God.** {YRP 74.3}

Through John the Revelator, Christ declares: “I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.” **In the message that we are to bear, the character of God, as revealed in Christ, is to be manifested to the world.** The call is to be sounded by human lips and is to be exemplified in the daily life of both the young and the elderly disciples. {Lt384-1907.5}

Even among those who claim to be Christians the question might be asked,

**What god are you worshiping?** Is it the true and living God you are worshiping, or an idol? **Are you worshiping the true God as He revealed Himself in Jesus Christ,** in His Word, in nature and in the soul, or is your God one of your own creation, an idol in His place? What god are you worshiping, an unsympathetic being entirely opposite to Christ, one who has no heart to blend with others because these souls do not fit in the groove you have made? God is not heartless, cold, and dictatorial. The cold love, like an arctic winter, is satanic in its character. You can say, We will not bow the knee. This god is not our God. **The true God is infinite in tenderness, in sympathy, in compassion. Our God is revealed in the tender attributes of Christ. The love of God is represented in Christ.** {Ms194-1898.4}

It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. **At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth.** This is the work outlined by the prophet Isaiah in the words, "O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him." Isaiah 40:9,10. **Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love.** COL 415

**We have a most important work to do—the work of proclaiming the third angel's message.** We are facing the most important issues that men have ever been called to meet. **All should understand the truths contained in the three messages; for they are essential to salvation.** {Lt106-1902.14}

The Lord will make it manifest to His people that He is God. **He wants you to trust wholly in Him.** Time is short, and we are seeking the Lord, that we may know and do His will. **Let us, my dear brother, hide ourselves with Christ in God.** Let us draw near to God, that He may draw near to us. **We are every one of us to be heralds of the gospel, that the good news of salvation through Christ may be proclaimed throughout the world. Every soul who has not heard the third angel's message must hear it.** Christ is our Advocate

in the courts of heaven. To Him we are to make all our appeals. **Through Him we have peace with God and rejoice in the hope of salvation. We are to bear to others the glad tidings of pardon through Christ.** {Lt199-1904.4-5}

## **Christ's mission**

**In the councils of heaven the Lord planned to reshape the broken, perverted characters of man, and to restore to them the moral image of God. This work is termed the mystery of godliness. Christ, the only-begotten of the Father,** assumed human nature, came in the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin in the flesh. **He came to testify to the unchangeable character of the law of God that had been impeached by Satan.** Not one jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. Christ lived the law in humanity, in order that every mouth might be stopped, and that Satan might be proved an accuser and a liar. **Christ revealed to the world the character of God as full of mercy, compassion and inexpressible love.** He came to lift up man. It was provided that whosoever should believe in Christ as his personal Saviour should be saved. In all his works he taught men that it was his mission not to destroy men's lives, but to save them. {ST July 2, 1896, par. 3}

**The creation of the worlds, the mystery of the gospel, are for one purpose, to make manifest to all created intelligences, through nature and through Christ, the glories of the divine character. By the marvelous display of His love in giving** "his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," **the glory of God is revealed to lost humanity and to the intelligences of other worlds.** {ST April 25, 1892, par. 2}

**It was for the purpose of giving to man a perfect representation of the character of God that Jesus came to our earth. He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.... Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us." The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork, but Philip could not accept nature as his God. "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."** **We are to behold the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. God has revealed himself in Jesus Christ. In the person of his only begotten Son,** the God of heaven has condescended to stoop to our human nature. **The Father in heaven has a voice and a person which**

Christ expressed {General Conference Daily Bulletin, March 6, 1899, par. 8}

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. Tender, compassionate, sympathetic, ever considerate of others, He represented the character of God, and was constantly engaged in service for God and man. {8T 286.3-4}

A group of Pharisees had gathered near, and the sight of them brought to the mind of Jesus the contrast ever manifest in the effect of His words and works. He said, "For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." Christ had come to open the blind eyes, to give light to them that sit in darkness. He had declared Himself to be the light of the world, and the miracle just performed was in attestation of His mission. The people who beheld the Saviour at His advent were favored with a fuller manifestation of the divine presence than the world had ever enjoyed before. The knowledge of God was revealed more perfectly. But in this very revelation, judgment was passing upon men. Their character was tested, their destiny determined. {DA 475.2}

God Himself must be revealed to humanity. In order to do this, our Saviour clothed His divinity with humanity. He employed the human faculties, for only by adopting these could He be comprehended by humanity. Only humanity could reach humanity. He lived out the character of God through the human body which God had prepared for Him. He blessed the world by living out in human flesh the life of God, thus showing that He had the power to unite humanity to divinity (The Review and Herald, June 25, 1895).

The Lord has given Christ to the world for ministry. Merely to preach the Word is not ministry. The Lord desires His ministering servants to occupy a place worthy of the highest consideration. In the mind of God, the ministry of men and women existed before the world was created. He determined that His ministers should have a perfect exemplification of Himself and His purposes. No human career could do this work; for God gave Christ in humanity to work out His ideal of what humanity may become through entire obedience to His will and way. God's character was revealed in the life of His Son. Christ not only held a theory of genuine ministry, but in His humanity He wrought out an illustration of the ministry that God approves. Perfection has marked out every feature of true ministry. Christ, the Son of the living

God, did not live unto Himself, but unto God.—Manuscript Releases 18:380 (1891). {DG 102.1}

**Through the plan of salvation a larger purpose is to be wrought out even than the salvation of man and the redemption of the earth. Through the revelation of the character of God in Christ, the beneficence of the divine government would be manifested before the universe,** the charge of Satan refuted, the nature and result of sin made plain, and the perpetuity of the law fully demonstrated. {ST February 13, 1893, par. 12}

**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.** {ST, September 30, 1889 par. 7}

**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. . {BEcho, November 1, 1892 par. 3}

What breadth and depth and height these words reveal. **Christ came to this earth to reveal the Father, to place Him in a correct light before men.** Satan had aroused the enmity and prejudice of the race against God. He had pointed to Him as exacting, overbearing, and condemnatory, the author of suffering, misery, and death. He charged upon God the attributes of his own character. **Jesus came to declare the name of God, to reveal Him to the world. To Moses God had revealed the meaning of His name.** [Exodus 34:5-9; Deuteronomy 7:6-9, quoted.] - {18MR 331.3}

**Christ came to reveal to the world, in the sight of heavenly intelligences, the true character of the Father, and to present his claims to the sovereignty of the universe.** Jesus represented the character of the Father in a way to disprove the lying representations of the enemy, for the Son of God revealed the Father as a being full of mercy, compassion, goodness, truth, and love. Far from casting off the fallen sons of Adam, Jesus had come to take upon himself their guilt, woe, and misery, and to suffer the penalty of the law which man had transgressed. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. He was the express image of his Father's person, the

brightness of his glory. {ST June 13, 1895, par. 5}

**Christ declares the mission he had in coming to the earth. He says in his last public prayer, "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."** [John 17:25, 26.] When Moses asked the Lord to show him his glory, the Lord said, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee." [Exodus 33:19.] "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.... And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped." [Exodus 34:6-8.] **When we are able to comprehend the character of God as did Moses, we too shall make haste to bow in adoration and praise.** Jesus contemplated nothing less than "that the love wherewith Thou hast love me" [John 17:26.] should be in the hearts of his children, that they might impart the knowledge of God to others. {RH November 17, 1891, par. 8}

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}

**It is the purpose of this book to set forth Jesus Christ as the one in whom every longing may be satisfied.** There is many a "Life of Christ" written, excellent books, large funds of information, elaborate essays on chronology and contemporaneous history, customs, and events, with much of the teaching and many glimpses of the many-sided life of Jesus of Nazareth. **Yet it may be truly said, "the half has never been told."** It is not, however, the purpose of this work to set forth a harmony of the gospels, or even to give in strictly chronological order the important events and wonderful lessons of the life of Christ; **its purpose is to present the love of God as revealed in his Son, the divine beauty of the life of Christ, of which all may partake, and not to satisfy the desires of the merely curious nor the questionings of critics.** But even as by the attraction of His own goodness of character Jesus drew His disciples unto Himself, and by His personal presence, by His

sympathetic touch and feeling in all their infirmities and needs, and by His constant association, transformed their characters from the earthly to the heavenly, from the selfish to the sacrificing, from smallhearted ignorance and prejudice to largehearted knowledge and profound love for souls of all nations and races, even so **it is the purpose of this book so to present the blessed Redeemer as to help the reader to come to Him face to face, heart to heart, and find in Him, even as did the disciples of old,** Jesus the Mighty One, who saves “to the uttermost,” and transforms to His own divine image all those who come unto God by Him. Yet how impossible it is to reveal His life! It is like attempting to put upon canvas the living rainbow; into characters of black and white the sweetest music. {DA 17.5,6}

**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..**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.** {RH, March 9, 1897 par. 10}

**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.** {ST June 27, 1895, par. 7}

**Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, gave himself for a fallen world, and in him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.** No greater gift can be bestowed upon man than that which is comprehended in Christ. And yet men wait, refusing to give to God the allegiance of the heart. But let the impenitent look to the plan of redemption, and ask themselves, “**How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?**” It is perilous to neglect to render to God the full consecration of all our powers, for he has given them to man in trust. Will you not ask yourself, “**How is it with my soul?**” **The great gift of salvation has been placed within our reach at an infinite cost to the Father and the Son.** To neglect salvation is to neglect the knowledge of the Father, and of the Son, whom God hath sent in order that man might become a partaker of the divine nature, and thus, with Christ, an heir of all things. A neglect to lay hold of the priceless treasure of salvation, means the eternal ruin of your soul. The peril of indifference to God and neglect of

his gift, is measured by the greatness of salvation. **God has done to the uttermost of his almighty power. The resources of infinite love have been exhausted in devising and executing the plan of redemption for man. God has revealed his character in the goodness, the mercy, compassion, and love manifested to save a race of guilty rebels.** What could be done that has not been done in the provisions of the plan of salvation? **If the sinner remains indifferent to the manifestation of the goodness of God, if he neglects so great a salvation, rejects the overtures of divine mercy, refuses the gift of life purchased by the precious blood of Christ, what can be done to touch his hard heart?** If the wonderful achievement wrought out by our Creator and Redeemer, **into which he threw all his power and love,** does not move the proud human heart, when man sees that his soul was thought of such value that the Son of the infinite God, the Majesty of heaven, was willing to lay down his life in order that he might be saved, then there is **nothing that will move that man.** Christ left the royal courts, and accepted a life of shame, reproach, and suffering, and did not shrink even from the death of the cross, in order that he might unite humanity with divinity. **Are you so infatuated with the love of self, with the suggestions of Satan, that these considerations do not move you to a life of humility, and of submission to God? Will not the love and compassion of him who gave in one gift all that heaven afforded, awaken a response in your heart?** “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” {RH November 21, 1912, par. 2}

Like John the Baptist, we are to point men and women to Jesus, saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” **In the message we bear, the character of God, as revealed in Christ, is to be manifested to the world.** The call is to be sounded by human lips and exemplified in human lives. By word and by action we are to repeat the divine call, “The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” {RH July 22, 1909, par. 16}

## **Satan's false charges and rebellion against God's government**

**In the opening of the great controversy,** Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, **that justice was inconsistent with mercy,** and that,



should the law be broken, it would be **impossible for the sinner to be pardoned**. If God should remit the punishment of sin, urged Satan, He would not be a God of justice. When men broke the law of God, Satan declared it was proved that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, **Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out** from God's favor. **God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner.** {DA 761.4}

**The spirit of discontent and disaffection had never before been known in heaven.** It was a new element, strange, mysterious, unaccountable. Lucifer himself had not at first been acquainted with the real nature of his feelings; for a time he had feared to express the workings and imaginings of his mind; yet he did not dismiss them. He did not see whither he was drifting. **But such efforts as infinite love and wisdom only could devise, were made to convince him of his error. His disaffection was proved to be without cause, and he was made to see what would be the result of persisting in revolt.** Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong. **He saw that the divine statutes are just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all heaven.** {PP 39.1}

**That which Satan had instilled into the minds of the angels**—a word here and a word there—opened the way for a long list of suppositions. In his artful way he drew expressions of doubt from them. **Then, when he was interviewed, he accused those whom he had educated.** He laid all the disaffection on the ones he had led. As one in holy office, **he manifested an overbearing desire for justice, but it was a counterfeit of justice, which was entirely contrary to God's love and compassion and mercy.** {RH September 7, 1897, par. 4}

Rejecting with disdain the arguments and entreaties of the loyal angels, **he [Satan] denounced them as deluded slaves.** The preference shown to Christ he declared an act of injustice both to himself and to all the heavenly host, and announced that he would no longer submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs. He would never again acknowledge the supremacy of Christ. He had determined to claim the honor which should have been given him, and take command of all who would become his followers; and he promised those who would enter his ranks a new and better government, under which all would enjoy freedom. {PP 39.3}

Now the perfect harmony of heaven was broken. Lucifer's disposition to serve himself instead of his Creator aroused a feeling of apprehension when observed by those who considered that the glory of God should be supreme. In heavenly council the angels pleaded with Lucifer. **The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law.** God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself. **But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance.** Lucifer allowed his jealousy of Christ to prevail, and became the more determined. {PP 35.3}

**God in His great mercy bore long with Lucifer.** He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first indulged the spirit of discontent, not even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels. Long was he retained in heaven. **Again and again he was offered pardon on condition of repentance and submission.**—The Great Controversy, 495, 496.

The mighty revolter then declared that he was acquainted with God's law, and if he should submit to servile obedience, his honor would be taken from him. No more would he be intrusted with his exalted mission. **He told them that himself and they also had now gone too far** to go back, and he would brave the consequences; for to bow in servile worship to the Son of God he never would; **that God would not forgive, and now they must assert their liberty and gain by force the position and authority which was not willingly accorded to them.** 1SP 21

All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father, to have each case determined. Satan unblushingly made known his dissatisfaction that Christ should be preferred before him. He stood up proudly and urged that he should be equal with God, and should be taken into conference with the Father and understand his purposes. God informed Satan that to his Son alone he would reveal his secret purposes, and he required all the family in Heaven, even Satan, to yield him implicit, unquestioned obedience; but that he (Satan) had proved himself unworthy a place in Heaven. Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, **comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me!** 1 SP 22

**Many of Satan's sympathizers** were inclined to heed the counsel of the loyal

angels, **and repent of their dissatisfaction, and be again received to the confidence of the Father and his dear Son.** The mighty revolter then declared that he was acquainted with God's law, and if he should submit to servile obedience, his honor would be taken from him. No more would he be intrusted with his exalted mission. He told them that himself and they also had now gone too far to go back, and he would brave the consequences; for to bow in servile worship to the Son of God he never would; that God would not forgive, and now they must assert their liberty and gain by force the position and authority which was not willingly accorded to them. 1SP 20,21

When Satan became disaffected in heaven, he did not lay his complaint before God and Christ; but he went among the angels who thought him perfect and represented that God had done him injustice in preferring Christ to himself. **The result of this misrepresentation was that through their sympathy with him one third of the angels lost their innocence, their high estate, and their happy home.** {5T 291.1}

But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. **Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final.** There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God. {DA 761.5}

The discord which his own course had caused in Heaven, **Satan charged upon the law and government of God. All evil he declared to be the result of the divine administration...** Even when it was decided that he could no longer remain in Heaven, **infinite wisdom did not destroy Satan.** Since the service of love can alone be acceptable to God, the allegiance of his creatures must rest upon a conviction of his justice and benevolence. GC88 498.3]

**With intense interest the unfallen worlds had watched to see Jehovah arise, and sweep away the inhabitants of the earth.** And if God should do this, Satan was ready to carry out his plan for securing to himself the allegiance of heavenly beings. **He had declared that the principles of God's government make forgiveness impossible.** Had the world been destroyed, he would have

claimed that his accusations were proved true. **He was ready to cast blame upon God**, and to spread his rebellion to the worlds above. **But instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it.** {DA 37.2}

"Before Christ's first advent, the sin of refusing to conform to God's law had become widespread. Apparently Satan's power was growing; his warfare against heaven was becoming more and more determined. A crisis had been reached. **With an intense interest God's movements were watched by the heavenly angels. Would He come forth from His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity? Would He send fire or flood to destroy them?** All heaven waited the bidding of their Commander to pour out the vials of wrath upon a rebellious world. One word from Him, one sign, and the world would have been destroyed. The worlds unfallen would have said, "Amen. Thou art righteous, O God, because Thou hast exterminated rebellion." **But "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 might have sent His Son to condemn, but He sent Him to save. Christ came as a Redeemer. no words can describe the effect of this movement ON the heavenly angels: With wonder and admiration they could only exclaim, "Herein is love!" {RC 58.4, 5}

Lucifer took the position that as a result of the law of God, wrong existed in heaven and on this earth. **This brought against God's government the charge of being arbitrary. But this is a falsehood, framed by the author of all falsehoods.** God's government is a government of free-will, and there is no act of rebellion or obedience which is not an act of free-will. {ST June 5, 1901, par. 4}

**Satan charged God with an unforgiving spirit, because he would not receive on terms of favor those who disobeyed his law and therefore misrepresented his character** RH March 9, 1897, par. 5

**Pardoning, redeeming love is brought to view in Christ Jesus. Satan had misrepresented the character of God, and it was necessary that a correct representation should be made to worlds unfallen, to angels, and to men.** Satan had declared that God knew nothing of self-denial, of mercy and love, but that he was stern, exacting, and unforgiving. **Satan never tested the forgiving love of God; for he never exercised genuine repentance.** His representations of God were incorrect; he was a false witness, an accuser of

Christ, and an accuser of all those who throw off the Satanic yoke, and come back to render willing allegiance to the God of heaven. {RH, March 9, 1897 par. 3}

**A compassionate Creator, in yearning pity for Lucifer and his followers, was seeking to draw them back from the abyss of ruin into which they were about to plunge. But His mercy was misinterpreted. Lucifer pointed to the long-suffering of God as an evidence of his own superiority,** an indication that the King of the universe would yet accede to his terms. If the angels would stand firmly with him, he declared, they could yet gain all that they desired. He persistently defended his own course, and fully committed himself to the great controversy against his Maker. Thus it was that Lucifer, "the light bearer," the sharer of God's glory, the attendant of His throne, by transgression became Satan, "the adversary" of God and holy beings and the destroyer of those whom Heaven had committed to his guidance and guardianship. PP 39

**Satan could not be presented to the universe at once in his real character. His crooked course must be allowed to continue until he should reveal himself as an accuser, a deceiver, a liar, and a murderer.** In the latter act, Satan uprooted himself from the affection of the loyal universe. In the death of the Son of God the deceiver was unmasked.—Letter 16a, 1892.

**Satan is constantly at work, with intense energy and under a thousand disguises, to misrepresent the character and government of God. With extensive, well-organized plans and marvelous power, he is working to hold the inhabitants of the world under his deceptions.** God, the One infinite and all-wise, sees the end from the beginning, and in dealing with evil His plans were far-reaching and comprehensive. It was His purpose, not merely to put down the rebellion, but to demonstrate to all the universe the nature of the rebellion. **God's plan was unfolding, showing both His justice and His mercy, and fully vindicating His wisdom and righteousness in His dealings with evil.** {PP 78.3}

The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. **It was a revelation of "the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal."** Romans 16:25, R. V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne. **From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan,**

**and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. {DA 22.2}**

Satan began his work as an accuser in heaven. This has been his work ever since the fall, and it will be his work in a special sense as we approach nearer to the close of time. He is aroused when he sees a people on the earth, who, even in weakness and sinfulness, have respect to the law of Jehovah. He delights in their unworthiness. He has no intention that they shall obey the divine law, and has devices prepared for every soul, that all may be ensnared and separated from God. He would accuse and condemn God, and all who try to carry out his purposes in mercy and love, in compassion and forgiveness. Every manifestation of God’s power for his people arouses the enmity of Satan against them. He instigates them to evil, and when he has succeeded, throws all the blame upon the tempted ones, presenting them before the Advocate clothed in the black garments of sin, and endeavoring to secure the severest penalty. **He urges justice without mercy, not allowing repentance. He argues that the penalty of sin can never be remitted, and God be just.** {SW September 25, 1906, par. 7-8}

**This counterfeit justice that Satan advocates, God abhors; it must not come into the experience of the sons and daughters of God. **Satan’s censuring must not be imitated by any one who is a partaker of the mercy and the love of God. Let not one of his professed children climb upon the judgment seat to accuse or condemn another** RH September 22, 1896, par. 9}**

In heaven itself this law was broken. **Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. **Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men.** He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion**

against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world. {DA 21.3}

When Christ came to our world, Satan was on the ground, and disputed every inch of advance in His path from the manger to Calvary. **Satan had accused God of requiring self-denial of the angels, when He knew nothing of what it meant Himself, and when He would not Himself make any self-sacrifice for others. This was the accusation that Satan made against God in heaven;** and after the evil one was expelled from heaven, he continually charged the Lord with exacting service which He would not render Himself. **Christ came to the world to meet these false accusations, and to reveal the Father. We cannot conceive of the humiliation He endured in taking our nature upon Himself.** {1SM 406.2}

**The Lord saw the use Satan was making of his powers, and he set before him truth in contrast with falsehood.** Time and time again during the controversy, Satan was ready to be convinced, ready to admit that he was wrong. But those he had deceived were also ready to accuse him of leaving them. What should he do?—submit to God, or continue in a course of deception? He chose to deny truth, to take refuge in misstatements and fraud. **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. By causing the death of the Sovereign of heaven, Satan defeated his own purpose. **The death of the Son of God made the death of Satan unavoidable. He was allowed to go on until his administration was laid open before the worlds unfallen and before the heavenly universe.** By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he uprooted himself from the affections of the unfallen beings. **He was seen by all to be a liar, a thief, and a murderer.** {RH September 7, 1897, par. 11- 13}

**Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe.** He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, **he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.**

Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. **The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.** {DA 761.2}

Satan's work is to lead men to ignore God, to so engross and absorb the mind that God will not be in their thoughts. The education they have received has been of a character to confuse the mind, and eclipse the true light. **Satan does not wish the people to have a knowledge of God; and if he can set in operation games and theatrical performances that will so confuse the senses of the young that human beings will perish in darkness while light shines all about them,** he is well pleased. {RH March 13, 1900, par. 5}

**The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken.** This could not be done by force. 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.** This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. **Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings."** Malachi 4:2. {DA 22.1}

**By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character.** With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; **while the living God, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few** {DD 29.1}

**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. Christ says, "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." Through knowledge of Christ we may be brought into union with the Father. {ST May



18, 1891, par. 2. 3}

When we go mourning, we leave the impression upon minds that God is not pleased to have us happy, and in this we bear false witness against our Heavenly Father. **Satan** is exultant when he can lead the people of God into unbelief and despondency. **He delights to see us mistrusting God, doubting his willingness and power to save us. He loves to have us feel that the Lord will do us harm by his providences.** O let the attitude of doubt be changed! Christ in the Old Testament is the same as Christ in the New Testament {RH January 14, 1890, par. 5}

By nature man has no love for God. It is not natural for him to think of heavenly things. **Satan has worked against God and His government, leading men to attribute to God the traits which belong to the power of evil. Christ came to this world to reveal the Father.** The human family had sinned against God. The terror of a broken law hung over them; and so low had they sunk, that it seemed impossible to infuse them with spiritual life. But in His work Christ was not to fail nor to be discouraged. {RH March 12, 1901, par. 14}

Satan's representations against the government of God, and his defense of those who sided with him, were a constant accusation against God. These murmurings and complaints were groundless. **Yet God allowed Satan to work out his theories. He could have handled Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. But by this He would have given a precedent for the violence of man which is so abundantly shown in our world in the compelling principles.** The Lord's principles are not of this order. **All the compelling power is to be found under Satan's government.** God 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, and cause him **mental or physical suffering.** **This principle is wholly of Satan's creation.** {Ms57-1896.9}

**The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, an unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience.** "Come now, and let us reason together" is the Creator's invitation to the beings He has made. Isaiah 1:18. **God does not force the will of His creatures.** He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. A mere forced submission would prevent all real

development of mind or character; it would make man a mere automaton. Such is not the purpose of the Creator. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God. {SC 43.4}

**God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan’s constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself.** To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God. {GC 591.2}

**Satan wished to change the government of God, to fix his own seal to the rules of God’s kingdom.** Christ would not be brought into this desire, and here the warfare against Christ commenced and waxed strong. Working in secrecy but known to God, **Lucifer became a deceiving character. He told falsehood for truth.** {16MR 180.2}

**God had manifested His abhorrence of the principles of rebellion.** All heaven saw His justice revealed, both in the condemnation of Satan and in the redemption of man. **Lucifer had declared that if the law of God was changeless, and its penalty could not be remitted, every transgressor must be forever debarred from the Creator’s favor. He had claimed that the sinful race were placed beyond redemption and were therefore his rightful prey.** But the death of Christ was an argument in man’s behalf that could not be overthrown. The penalty of the law fell upon Him who was equal with God, and man was free to accept the righteousness of Christ and **by a life of penitence and humiliation to triumph, as the Son of God had triumphed, over the power of Satan. Thus God is just and yet the justifier of all who believe in Jesus** But it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to the earth to suffer and to die. He came to “magnify the law” and to “make it honorable.” Not alone that the inhabitants of this world might regard the law as it should be regarded; but it was to demonstrate to all the worlds of the universe that God’s law is unchangeable. Could its claims have been set aside, then the Son of God need not have yielded up His life to atone for its transgression. The death of Christ proves it immutable. And the

sacrifice to which infinite love impelled the Father and the Son, that sinners might be redeemed, demonstrates to all the universe—what nothing less than this plan of atonement could have sufficed to do—that **justice and mercy are the foundation of the law and government of God** {GC 502.3-4}

In the banishment of Satan from Heaven, God declared his justice, and maintained the honor of his throne. But when man had sinned through yielding to the deceptions of this apostate spirit, God gave an evidence of his love by yielding up his only begotten Son to die for the fallen race. In the atonement the character of God stands revealed. **The mighty argument of the cross demonstrates to the whole universe that God was in no wise responsible for the course of sin that Lucifer had chosen; that it was no arbitrary withdrawal of divine grace,** no deficiency in the divine government, which inspired in him the spirit of rebellion. {4SP 320.3}

**The Lord has revealed the fact in his word that Satan is at the head of fallen principalities and powers, and is the ruler of the darkness of this world.** Day and night he is plotting against God and against those who are seeking to obey the truth. He transforms himself into an angel of light, and makes darkness appear as light, and light as darkness; and he seeks continually to lead unstable souls to unite with him in thinking evil and in speaking evil of those who will not be turned from the truth. **He is described in the Scriptures as a liar, a destroyer, a tormentor, an accuser, a murderer,** and it will not be difficult to discern on which side a soul is fighting, or under what leadership he is moving, if he is found accusing and condemning others. If men and women have been placed so that they have gained influence, and they use that influence to further Satan's designs, they are uniting with the great adversary and apostate. RH.1894-12-11

**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. **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

**Christ exposed Satan's falsehoods and deceiving character, and in many hearts destroyed his corrupting influence.** It was this that stirred Satan with such intense hatred. With his hosts of fallen beings he determined to urge the warfare most vigorously; **for there stood in the world One who was a perfect representative of the Father, One whose character and practices refuted Satan's misrepresentation of God. Satan had charged upon God the attribute[s] he himself possessed. Now in Christ he saw God revealed in His true character—a compassionate, merciful Father, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to Him in repentance, and have eternal life...** But Satan reached only the heel; he could not touch the head. At the death of Christ, **Satan saw that he was defeated. He saw that his true character was clearly revealed before all heaven,** and that the heavenly beings and the worlds that God had created would be wholly on the side of God. He saw that his prospects of future influence with them would be entirely cut off. **Christ's humanity would demonstrate for eternal ages the question which settled the controversy.** {1SM 254, 255}

## **Character of God misrepresented**

**After Satan had induced man to sin against God,** he claimed that man had chosen him as his leader in the place of God, and that his work from henceforth should be to unite with him in making void the law of Jehovah. It was his work now to enlist the beings whom God had created, to be the agents of Satan, and to cooperate with him in obliterating the moral image of God from the soul. **Through all the ages he has worked upon the same principles that he worked upon in causing the fall of man. He presented the restriction of God in such a way to the mind of Eve as to create jealousy,**

and said to her, “God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Satan cast reflections upon the character of God, representing him as selfish and oppressive. {ST October 8, 1894, par. 5}

From the beginning it has been Satan’s studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself. Therefore he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of him. The Creator has been presented to their minds as clothed with the attributes of the prince of evil himself,—as arbitrary, severe, and unforgiving,—that he might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men. Satan has striven so to confuse the minds of those whom he has deceived that they would put God out of their thoughts. He would then obliterate the divine image in man, and impress upon the soul his own likeness; he would imbue men with his own spirit, and make them captives according to his will. {RH February 15, 1912, par. 2}

Heaven, looking down and seeing the delusions into which men were led, knew that a divine Instructor must come to the earth. Through the misrepresentations 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. {RH November 17, 1891, par. 6}

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 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 it is difficult to dispel the cloud that obscures His glory from their view” (1SM 355)

**Satan represents God’s law of love as a law of selfishness.** He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts. The fall of our first parents, with all the woe that has resulted, he charges upon the Creator, **leading men to look upon God as the author of sin, and suffering, Jesus was to unveil this deception** {DA 24.2}

**The people whom God had called to be the pillar and ground of the truth had become representatives of Satan. They were doing the work that he desired them to do, taking a course to misrepresent the character of God, and cause the world to look upon Him as a tyrant.** The very priests who ministered in the temple had lost sight of the significance of the service they performed. They had ceased to look beyond the symbol to the thing signified. In presenting the sacrificial offerings they were as actors in a play. The ordinances which God Himself had appointed were made the means of blinding the mind and hardening the heart. **God could do no more for man through these channels. The whole system must be swept away.** {DA 36.2}

Satan is seeking to overcome men today, as he overcame our first parents, by shaking their confidence in their Creator and leading them to doubt the wisdom of His government and the justice of His laws. **Satan and his emissaries represent God as even worse than themselves, in order to justify their own malignity and rebellion. The great deceiver endeavors to shift his own horrible cruelty of character upon our heavenly Father, that he may cause himself to appear as one greatly wronged by his expulsion from heaven because he would not submit to so unjust a governor.** He presents before the world the liberty which they may enjoy under his mild sway, in contrast with the bondage imposed by the stern decrees of Jehovah. Thus he succeeds in luring souls away from their allegiance to God. {GC 534.3}

While the hatred of sin with God is strong and full, His love for sinners is stronger still. His love is without a parallel. **Satan has worked upon the minds of human beings to carry out the line of action commenced in heaven, and**

carried out in Eden, to make man believe that God does not love him, that He is a tyrant, revengeful and vindictive. The father of lies has worked on this line until the character of God has been so grossly misrepresented that men know not God. Jesus came to the world to represent the Father, to reveal His love, His forgiving power. Satan has been sowing enmity in the heart of man against God. He has tried to make good his lies; he has so perverted the character of God in the ideas of man and induced them to perpetuate all kinds of wickedness that Jesus Christ might fail and be discouraged in His work and the forbearance of and goodness of God worn out with the rebellion and stubbornness of the hearts of men. He [Satan] has thought possibly he might extinguish the last spark of mercy from God, and exasperate His justice to universally destroy the race, that he should then more ably cast reflection upon God. For thousands of years he has had almost full control of man by his deceiving, deluding power and his complicated machinery, keeping in motion the whole agency of evil, provoking every passion, seeking to control every intellect, and the whole mass of humanity seemed [to] lose a knowledge of God. But the Lord sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world, “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” “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.” John 3:16. “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God.” John 3:17-21. Do not in appearance and influence be saying to the Lord, “Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.” Job 21:14. {Lt72-1890. 16-20}

Since the announcement to the serpent in Eden, “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed” (Genesis 3:15), Satan had known that he did not hold absolute sway over the world. There was seen in men the working of a power that withstood his dominion. **With intense interest he watched the sacrifices offered by Adam and his sons. In these ceremonies he discerned a symbol of communion between earth and**

heaven. He set himself to intercept this communion. He misrepresented God, and misinterpreted the rites that pointed to the Saviour. Men were led to fear God as one who delighted in their destruction. The sacrifices that should have revealed His love were offered only to appease His wrath. Satan excited the evil passions of men, in order to fasten his rule upon them. When God's written word was given, Satan studied the prophecies of the Saviour's advent. From generation to generation he worked to blind the people to these prophecies, that they might reject Christ at His coming. {DA 115.1}

"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}

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. Christ says, "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." Through knowledge of Christ we may be brought into union with the Father. {ST May 18, 1891, par. 2. 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}

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, 889, par. 8}

It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God's law, but this truth had become perverted. **Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God,—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin.** Hence one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner. **Thus the way was prepared for the Jews to reject Jesus. He who “hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows” was looked upon by the Jews as “stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted;” and they hid their faces from Him.** Isaiah 53:4, 3. **God had given a lesson designed to prevent this. The history of Job had shown that suffering is inflicted by Satan, and is overruled by God for purposes of mercy.** But Israel did not understand the lesson. The same error for which God had reproved the friends of Job was repeated by the Jews in their rejection of Christ. {DA 471.1-3}

In Isaiah's day the spiritual understanding of mankind was dark through misapprehension of God. **Long had Satan sought to lead men to look upon their Creator as the author of sin and suffering and death.** Those whom he had thus deceived, imagined that God was hard and exacting. They regarded Him as watching to denounce and condemn, unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there was a legal excuse for not helping him. The law of love by which heaven is ruled had been misrepresented by the archdeceiver as a restriction upon men's happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they should be glad to escape. **He declared that its precepts could not be obeyed and that the penalties of transgression were bestowed arbitrarily.** {RH March 18, 1915, par. 1}

Through generation after generation, from age to age, **Satan has gathered human agencies through whom to work out his diabolical purposes, and to bring about the enforcement of his plans and devices in the earth.** The great putrid fountain of evil has been continually flowing through human society. **Though unable to expel God from His throne, Satan has charged God with satanic attributes and has claimed the attributes of God as his own....** Through his serpentine sharpness, through his crooked practices, he has drawn to himself the homage that human beings should have given to God, **and has planted his satanic throne between the human worshiper and the divine Father.**—Manuscript 39, 1894 (The Review and Herald, April 14, 1896).

When Christ came, He entered a world disloyal to God, a world all seared and marred by the curse of rebellion against the Creator. **The arch deceiver had carried on his work with intense vigor, until the curse of transgression had fallen upon the earth. Men were corrupted by Satan’s inventions. He had been leading men astray by his false representations of God’s character. Claiming [for] himself the attributes of mercy, goodness, and truth, Satan attributed his own attributes to God. These misrepresentations must be met and demonstrated as false, by Christ in human nature.** {8MR 40.1}

Christ said, **“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”** Satan has planted himself between God and man, and seeks to intercept every ray of light that God would have come to man. He casts his awful shadow across the earth, and envelops the human race in spiritual darkness. **But through Jesus Christ, the Father is pleased to reveal his character to his chosen people.** O, then walk in the light, appreciate the light, and step by step advance from light to a greater light. {RH February 13, 1894, par. 12}

**The Son of God came to our world with his heart overflowing with love for fallen man. He was in the express image of God, and equal with God in character. He was the brightness of his Father’s glory, the express image of his person. He came to meet and to conquer his adversary, Satan, the fallen angel, who had become exalted because of his brightness and wisdom, and who desired to place his throne above the throne of God.** Satan desired to set aside the law of God, whose precepts could not be altered any more than could his character or his throne. Satan sought to be first among the ranks of heaven, to have the supremacy in the courts of God, and for this sin he was cast out of heaven, and became the lowest of all creatures. **Christ came to**

**controvert Satan's assertions, and to reveal his misrepresentations of the character of God.** The Son of God clothed his divinity with humanity, and came to the world without parade or display, that he might be accepted, not because of outward attractions, but because of his heavenly attributes of character, as revealed in his words and works. **He presented to men lessons whereby their souls were brought into comparison with the law of God, not in a legal light, but in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, that man by beholding might be changed into the divine image.** {ST November 5, 1894, par. 2}

We need to come still closer to God.... Why is it that our hearts have been so insensible to the love of God? Why have we had so hard a judgment of our heavenly Father? **From the light that God has given me, I know that Satan has misrepresented our God in every possible way. He has cast his hellish shadow athwart our pathway, that we might not discern our God as a God of mercy, compassion, and truth.** This is why the iron has entered into our souls. We thus put our kind heavenly Father in a false light... All this should change. **We must gather up the rays of divine truth and let our light shine upon the darkened pathway of others. Heaven's light shines for those who will follow Christ, the light of the world. He says, "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).** {RH February 26, 1889, par. 5}

## God's character misunderstood

**In losing sight of the true character of Jehovah,** the Israelites were without excuse. Often had **God revealed Himself to them as one "full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."** Psalm 86:15. "When Israel was a child," He testified, "then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt." Hosea 11:1. Tenderly had the Lord dealt with Israel in their deliverance from Egyptian bondage and in their journey to the Promised Land. **"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old."** Isaiah 63:9. {RH March 18, 1915, par. 2-3}

Although not one of the prophets had a higher mission or greater work to perform than had John, yet he was not to see even the result of his own labors. **He was not privileged to be with Christ and witness the divine power attending the greater light.** It was not for him to see the blind restored to

sight, the sick healed, and the dead raised to life. He did not behold the light which shone through every word of Christ, reflecting glory upon the promises in prophecy. **The world was illuminated with the brightness of the Father's glory in the person of his Son; but the solitary prophet was denied the privilege of seeing and understanding the wisdom and mercy of God through a personal knowledge of the ministry of Christ.** In this sense, many who were favored by the teachings of Christ and saw his miracles, were greater than John. {2SP 84. 2,3}

**If that book [Bible] is read, the mercy and love of God will be revealed;** it will be seen that he lays upon men none of these heavy burdens. All that he asks is a broken and contrite heart, a humble, obedient spirit. {4SP 386.2}

**We have now reached a time when souls must be saved from becoming completely deceived by falsehoods in the lips of Satan's followers.** Long has God's law been made void. **The necessity of divine interference will soon be manifest. Incorrect conceptions of our God have been formed by many who ought to have known better,** and would have known better had they heeded the warnings that God has given. {21MR 68.5}

**If the world knew the principles of the laws of God's government, if they obeyed his commandments, they would discern the character of God in the law, and would no longer be at enmity with God. But turning from the law of God, men have no means of discerning his character, and the attributes of the character of Satan are cherished and cultivated.** .. "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." Why is it that men reach this state of deception? Why is it they walk so contrary to all the laws of God? Jesus answers: **"And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.** {RH March 9, 1897, par. 12}

**The God whom they had been claiming to serve, but whose character they had misunderstood, was set before them as the great Healer of spiritual disease.** What though the whole head was sick and the whole heart faint? what though from the sole of the foot even unto the crown of the head there was no soundness, but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores? Verse 6. **He who had been walking frowardly in the way of his heart might find healing by turning to the Lord.** "I have seen his ways," the Lord declared, "and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him....

Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him." Isaiah 57:18, 19. {RH March 25, 1915, par. 2}

**God's people must give to the world a representation of the character of God in Jesus Christ. The Christian churches are fast losing their knowledge of God. His character has been misunderstood and misinterpreted.** But a message has come from God which must be proclaimed. **The trumpet must give a certain sound.** "I Jesus have sent mine angel to proclaim these things to the churches." **The truth, the revelation which Jesus gave to John, must be sounded forth everywhere. "Lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."** I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you that these things shall come unto this generation. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Our work is now to rouse the people. Satan with all his angels has come down with great power, to work with every conceivable deception to counterwork the work of God. The Lord has a message for his people. **This message will be borne, whether men will accept or reject it.** As in the days of Christ, there will be the deep plottings of the powers of darkness, but the message must not be muffled with smooth words or fair speeches, crying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace, to those who are turning away from God. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." **"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God; they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God."** {ST December 23, 1897, par. 14-16}

**When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.** {DA 668.3}

## **Jesus revealed the Father's character**

**By transgression man had separated himself from Him who alone is light and love.** The sinner was “alienated from the life of God,” “dead in trespasses and sins.” The only hope for the fallen race was found in their becoming reconciled to God. **Satan had so misrepresented God that man had no true conception of the divine character. But in carrying out the plan of salvation, Christ revealed that “God is love.”** “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation; but he provided the propitiation because he loves us. **Christ was the medium through which he could pour out his infinite love upon a fallen world. “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.” The Father suffered with the Son.** In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of infinite love paid the price of our redemption. {Echo August 1, 1892, par. 2}

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}

**The more we study the attributes of the character of God as revealed in Christ, the more we see that justice has been sustained in the sacrifice that met the penalty of the law, and that mercy has been provided in the only begotten Son, who bore the penalty of the law in the sinner's place,** in order that man might have another probation, another opportunity to be obedient to the law of God's government, that it might be made manifest who could be trusted to become members of the Lord's family, children of the Heavenly King. RH March 9, 1897, par. 4, 5

**By this brightness, God designed to impress upon Israel the exalted character of His law and the glory of the gospel revealed through Christ. While Moses was in the mount, God presented to him not only the tables of the law, but also the plan of salvation.** He saw the sacrifice of Christ prefigured by all the types and symbols of the Jewish age; and it was the heavenly light streaming from Calvary, no less than the glory of the law of God, that shed such radiance upon the face of Moses. {PP 330.2}

And the Lord said, Behold there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock; and it shall come to pass, **while my glory passeth by**, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover thee with my hand while I pass by.” **And Moses saw the goodness of the Lord. He manifested his character to him. He represented himself as a God, full of compassion and tender mercy. And these are the fruits that we shall bear if we are partakers of the divine nature.** {RH April 2, 1889, par. 4}

**The Lord Himself declares His character, that Satan has malignantly set in a false light. “And the Lord proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin.”** [Exodus 34:6, 7.] The heart of God yearns over man. He is ever looking down upon us with the tender solicitude of a parent for his erring child, drawing us by the strong cords of His love, [expressed] in His rich promises {Lt20-1889.15}

**But in Christ we behold the character of the Father, and see the pitying tenderness which God exercised for fallen man**, giving his only begotten Son as a ransom for the transgressors of the law. **It is in beholding the love of God that repentance is awakened in the sinner’s heart, and an earnest desire is created to become reconciled to God.** When the transgressor becomes acquainted with God, and experiences his love, it produces in his heart a hatred for sin and a love for holiness. {RH March 9, 1897, par. 4}

**Christ revealed His Father’s character not only during His public ministry, but during the much longer period spent at His home in Nazareth of Galilee.** For many years He accepted the lot of a humble carpenter. Though He was the Son of the highest, He was obedient to His earthly parents. And His was a life free from sin. We may be like Him in word and deed; for to us God is ready to impart grace sufficient for every need. {Ms110-1905.12}

**In the time of John the Baptist, Christ was about to appear as the revealer of the character of God.** His very presence would make manifest to men their sin. Only as they were willing to be purged from sin could they enter into fellowship with Him. Only the pure in heart could abide in His presence. {DA 108.1}

**His sermon on the mount** virtually contradicted the doctrines of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees. **They had so misrepresented God that He was looked upon as a stern judge, incapable of compassion, mercy, and love.** They presented to the people endless maxims and traditions as proceeding from God, when they had no “Thus saith the Lord” for their authority. Though they professed to know and to worship the true and living God, they wholly misrepresented Him; and **the character of God, as represented by His Son, was as an original subject, a new gift to the world.** **Christ made every effort so to sweep away the misrepresentations of Satan, that the confidence of people in the love of God might be restored** {RH September 11, 1894, par. 6}

**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}

The period of Christ’s personal ministry among men was the time of greatest activity for the forces of the kingdom of darkness. **For ages Satan with his evil angels had been seeking to control the bodies and the souls of men, to bring upon them sin and suffering;** then **he had charged all this misery upon God.** Jesus was revealing to men the character of God. He was breaking Satan’s power, and setting his captives free. New life and love and power from heaven were moving upon the hearts of men, and the prince of evil was aroused to contend for the supremacy of his kingdom. Satan summoned all his forces, and at every step contested the work of Christ. {DA 257.1}

It was Satan that prompted the world’s rejection of Christ. **The prince of evil exerted all his power and cunning to destroy Jesus; for he saw that the**



**Saviour's mercy and love, His compassion and pitying tenderness, were representing to the world the character of God.** {GC 501.2}

**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}

**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}

**God calls for the highest capabilities and talents to be purified, refined, softened by the grace of Christ, that the whole being may convey to the world the character of God.** Jesus Himself could not express in words to the understanding of man the love of the Father; He could only say, "God 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.] **But He did express the love of God in His actions.** Never can we equal the goodness and the love of Jesus, but He calls upon every man and woman and youth and child to behold Him, and by beholding His perfection of

**character, to become changed into His image.** Call every talent into exercise to copy the Pattern. As Christ died to save man, He calls upon us to live as seeing Him who is invisible, that we may save souls. In all our business calling, we should let Christ preside, let His spirit and His mercy and His love be prominent. {Lt27-1892.29}

**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 11.2} {SC 12.1, 2}

**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. — Signs of the Times, December 30, 1889, par. 6

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 (Review and Herald, Feb. 15, 1898).

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 spitefully. 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. {RH November 17, 1891, par. 7}

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}

The purity and holiness of Christ, the spotless righteousness of Him who did no sin, was a perpetual reproach upon all sin in a world of sensuality and sin. **In His life the light of truth was flashed amid the moral darkness with which Satan had enshrouded the world. Christ exposed Satan’s falsehoods and deceiving character, and in many hearts destroyed his corrupting influence. It was this that stirred Satan with such intense hatred.** With his hosts of fallen beings he determined to urge the warfare most vigorously; **for there stood in the world One who was a perfect representative of the Father, One whose character and practices refuted Satan’s misrepresentation of God. Satan had charged upon God the attribute[s] he himself possessed. Now in Christ he saw God revealed in His true character**—a compassionate, merciful Father, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to Him in repentance, and have eternal life. {1SM 254.3}

**All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of His Son.** {8T 286.1}

A formal religion is to be dreaded; for in it is no Saviour. **Plain, close, searching, practical discourses were given by Christ. His ambassadors should follow his example in every discourse.** Christ and his Father were one; in all the Father’s requirements Christ cheerfully acquiesced. **He had the mind of God. The Redeemer was the perfect pattern. Jehovah was manifested in him.** Heaven was enshrined in humanity, and humanity inclosed in the bosom of Infinite Love. **If ministers will in meekness sit at the feet of Jesus, they will soon obtain right views of God’s character** {1TT 526.2}

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.** The Lord Jesus is an example in all things. By the works which he did he made it plain that he was in council with the Father, and that he was in every move fulfilling the eternal purposes of God. In spirit, in works, in his whole earthly history, he revealed the mind and purpose of God toward his heritage among men. {ST April 11, 1895, par.1- 2}

**It is our duty to preach faith, to present the love of Christ in connection with the claims of the law; for neither can be rightly understood without the other. In every discourse the love of God, as manifested in Christ, the sinner’s only hope,** should be dwelt upon until the people realize something of its power and preciousness. **If this is done as it should be, it will not be said of this people that they teach the law but do not believe in repentance, faith, and conversion. We want these subjects to be blended as God has blended them; then will the truth be presented in its completeness, not as a mere theory, but as a power that will transform the character.** It will then be preached in demonstration of the Spirit and with power. Then those who have accepted the doctrines of the Bible will not be unfed; they will feel the vivifying influence of the Holy Spirit.—Gospel Workers, 227, 228 (1892)

**Jesus loves those who represent the Father,** and John could talk of the Father’s love as no other of the disciples could. **He revealed to his fellow men that which he felt in his own soul, representing in his character the attributes of God. The glory of the Lord was expressed in his face.** The beauty of holiness which had transformed him shone with a Christlike radiance from his countenance. In adoration and love he beheld the Saviour until likeness to Christ and fellowship with Him became his one desire, and in his character was reflected the character of his Master **“Behold,” he said, “what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God....** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:1, 2. {AA

545. 2.3}

**"We could not behold the glory of God unveiled in Christ and live; but as he came in the garb of humanity, we may draw nigh to our Redeemer. We are called upon to behold the Lord our Father in the person of his Son.** {Signs of the Times, January 20, 1890, par. 5}

**"There are but two classes in the world,--the class that know God, and the class that know him not. The spiritual man belongs to the first class, the natural man to the other; and it is according to our estimate of the character of the Father and the Son that our class is determined** {RH, February 10, 1891 par. 2}

Those who choose Satan as their ruler will reveal the spirit of their chosen master, who caused the fall of our first parents. **By rejecting the divine Son of God, the personification of the only true God, who possessed goodness, mercy, and untiring love, whose heart was ever touched with human woe, and accepting a murderer in His place,** the people showed what human nature can and will do, when the restraining Spirit of God is removed, and men are under the great apostate. Just to that degree that light is refused and rejected will there be misconception and misunderstanding. **Those who reject Christ and choose Barabbas will work under a ruinous deception. Misrepresentation, the bearing of false witness, will grow under open rebellion.** {3SM 416.2}

In marked contrast to all this was the life of Jesus. In that life no noisy disputation, no ostentatious worship, no act to gain applause, was ever witnessed. **Christ was hid in God, and God was revealed in the character of His Son.** To this revelation Jesus desired the minds of the people to be directed, and their homage to be given. {DA 261.2}

As Legislator, Jesus exercised the authority of God; His commands and decisions were supported by the Sovereignty of the eternal throne. **The glory of the Father was revealed in the Son; Christ made manifest the character of the Father. He was so perfectly connected with God, so completely embraced in His encircling light, that he who had seen the Son, had seen the Father. His voice was as the voice of God** (The Review and Herald, January 7, 1890)

Christ hated one thing only, and that was sin. But although **He represented in**

**His spotless character the character of His Father, yet the world hated and refused Him.** The human heart loves sin and hates righteousness, and this was the cause of the hostility of the world to Jesus {BEcho April 9, 1894, par. 3}

**The life of Christ is a perfect revelation of the character of God.** What then is our duty? Paul tells us. Christ revealed Himself to Paul as he was persecuting the saints, and the apostle declares. "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Henceforth his one desire was to preach Christ and Him crucified. Writing to the Ephesians he says, "**Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ: and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God,** who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." {CentralAdvance April 8, 1903, Art. A, par. 4}

**In the early morning meetings I tried to present the paternal love and care of God for his children. The knowledge of God's love is the most effectual knowledge to obtain, that the character may be ennobled, refined, and elevated. Jesus is to be our pattern.** The Lord has lessons of the greatest importance for us to learn. He leads us as children to take views of his goodness, mercy, and love, from the simple, lowly life of our dear Redeemer. Christ ever directed the minds of his disciples to God as to a loving Father. **He educated his followers to look upon God with confidence and love. When we are overawed with the greatness and justice of God, we are pointed to Jesus, to his spotless character and his infinite love. There we see the Father revealed in the Son, for God is love.** {RH March 5, 1889, par. 8}

Put on Christ, and walk in love as dear children. "**Learn of me,**" says the **Great Teacher; "for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."** We should guide the souls of men, not in our way, but in the new and living way which Christ consecrated with his own blood. In this way we may "run, and not be weary;" "walk, and not faint;" we may go on from strength to strength, from light to greater light, till the beams of the Sun of Righteousness illuminate all the chambers of the mind and heart. As the light is diffused, given to others, greater light will come. The reason why the

churches sit in darkness and have no light, is that they have not given light, they have not been as a city set upon a hill, that cannot be hid. O that all would cultivate love for souls, and deny inclination! **Then the love of Christ would burn in the heart, and souls for whom he died would rejoice in the revealed mercy of God.** {RH February 10, 1891, par. 14}

**The love of God as manifested in Jesus, will lead us to the true conception of the character of God.** As we behold Christ, pierced for our sins, we shall see that we cannot break the law of God and remain in His favor; we shall feel that as sinners we must lay hold of the merits of Christ and cease to sin. **Then we are drawing nigh to God. As soon as we have a correct view of the love of God, we shall have no disposition to abuse it.** {1SM 312.1}

When you turn away from the broken cisterns that can hold no water, and in the name of Jesus your Advocate come directly to God, asking for the things you need, the righteousness of Christ will be revealed as your righteousness, the virtue of Christ as your virtue. **You will then understand that justification will come alone through faith in Christ; for in Jesus is revealed the perfection of the character of God; in His life is manifested the outworking of the principles of holiness.** Through the atoning blood of Christ the sinner is set free from bondage and condemnation; through the perfection of the sinless Substitute and Surety, he may run in the race of humble obedience to all God's commandments. Without Christ he is under the condemnation of the law, always a sinner, but through faith in Christ he is made just before God. {1SM 330.1}

**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}

All the humiliation which Christ endured was in behalf of the fallen race, that man might have the mind of Christ. **Christ revealed to the world the love of God for fallen man and the perfect love which he bore his Father. And in humanity this same love is to be revealed. In the fallen race the very image of God is to be reflected** {ST November 25, 1897, par. 11}

**All who had seen Christ during His trial had been convicted of His loyalty and royal character.** That face, once beheld by humanity, was never



forgotten. As in Cain's face was expressed his guilt as a murderer, **so in the face of Christ were revealed innocence, serenity, benevolence, the image of God.** But His accusers would not heed the signet of heaven, and that countenance was hidden by the mantle of God. {ST December 8, 1898, par. 8}

**God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which "angels desire to look," and it will be their study throughout endless ages.** Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from **Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which "seeketh not her own" has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto.**—The Desire of Ages, 19, 20.

**For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.** 2 Corinthians 4:6. The glory of God is His character ...**This character was revealed in the life of Christ.** That He might by His own example condemn sin in the flesh, He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. **Constantly he beheld the character of God; constantly He revealed this character to the world. ...No greater gift than the character that He revealed, can Christ ask His Father to bestow upon those who believe on Him.** ST September 3, 1902

**There are souls who are trembling in unbelief.** They ask, "How can I know that God is reconciled to me? How can I be assured that He loves and pardons me?" It is not for you, dear youth, to make yourselves just with God. . Jesus invites you to come to him with all your burdens and perplexities. Abandon the hope you have held that a legal religion can save you; and do just as Jesus has told you. He says, "Come unto me, learn of me, believe in me." Accept the promise and the provision that God has made. "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." You need not be lost in seeking your way to heaven. Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." **Then look away from self to Jesus; for in Christ the character of the Father is revealed ...The character of God as revealed by Christ invites our faith and**

love, for we have a Father whose mercy and compassion fail not. At every step of our journey heavenward He will be with us to guide in every perplexity, to give us help in every temptation\_{YI September 29, 1892}

**We cannot by searching find out God. But He has revealed Himself in the character of Christ, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. If we desire a knowledge of God, we must be Christlike.** When Philip said to Christ, "Show us the Father, and it sufficeth us," the Saviour answered, "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; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" [John 14:8, 9]. **Christ was the express image of the Father in person and character.** {21MR 410.1}

**The Lord's measure of correct character is given in the words of the prophet Micah: "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"** There are men who may be represented as doing justly and loving mercy, but who have not the true principle within them, the faith that will lead them to walk humbly with the Lord. They may seem to have every specification needed but that of sanctified faith, but lacking this, they lack all. The life is not sanctified, and without this sanctification of motive and purpose, it is impossible to please God. **God has given men and women affections and intellect that they may appreciate the character of God as it was revealed in the earthly life of Christ, and through faith in Christ reveal the same attributes.** Christ is to be manifest in the life of every true believer. Each is to prove in his life his right to the claim he makes for citizenship in the kingdom of Christ and of God. {RH September 30, 1909, par. 5}

**Those who would behold this glory would be drawn to love Jesus and to love the Father whom he represented. 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}

**Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes.** They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. **Are we worshipping the true God as He is revealed in His word, in Christ,** in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? **God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour.** He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshipping the true God. {5T 173.4}

**In answer to the request of Philip, “Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us,”** Jesus said: **“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; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? 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.” The Lord Jesus is the embodiment of the glory of the Godhead. **The light of the knowledge of the glory of God is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. God has revealed himself to men; he stooped to take upon him our nature, and in his Son we see the glory of the divine attributes. Those who see not in Christ the divine character are in the shadow of Satan’s misrepresentation of divinity. “The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”** “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins; who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.” **In Christ Jesus is a revelation of the glory of the Godhead. All that the human agent can know of God to the saving of the soul, is the measure of the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, to which he can attain; for Christ is he who represents the Father.** The most wonderful truth to be grasped by men is the truth, “Immanuel, God with us.” Christ is the wisdom of God. He is the great “I AM” to the world. **As we contemplate the glory of the divine character as revealed in Christ, we are led to exclaim, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”** This wisdom is displayed in the love that reaches out

**for the recovery of lost and ruined man. {ST December 12, 1895, par. 4 5}**

Christ is to be the life of the believer; His life is to be repeated in the Christian. **Christ was a manifestation of the Father. The knowledge and glory of God was revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.** Let us behold His character by studying His Word and be changed into His divine likeness. {Lt326-1907.5}

How can our testimony have power to win souls? **What we need is to know God and the power of His love, as revealed in Christ, by an experimental knowledge. We must search the Scriptures diligently, prayerfully; our understanding must be quickened by the Holy Spirit, and our hearts must be uplifted to God in faith and hope and continual praise.** {ST 743.2}

Christ has said: **“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.”** The duty of searching the Scriptures is enjoined upon every son and daughter of Adam. Jesus says, **“And they are they which testify of me.” The Father was revealed in the Son, and in studying Christ we shall learn of the Father.** Then let us come to search the word of God with softened, subdued hearts, and read the testimony concerning our Lord and Master. {RH July 26, 1892, par. 1}

**Had those who name the name of Christ a knowledge of the Book that unfolds the character of God, they would not be at variance one with another.** Those who are one with Christ are one with each other. This union is a living testimony to the power of the Gospel of Christ. Those thus united demonstrate to the world that God has sent His Son to redeem them. **They are a manifestation of what the truth can do for humanity.** They are living witnesses to the power of redemption. **The love of God dwells in their hearts, as it dwelt in the heart of Christ, leading them to obey God’s holy law. Christ’s character is His glory, and the glory of believers is the representation they give of Christ’s character.** Unbelievers are convicted and converted as they see Christ’s Spirit revealed by His children. {ST March 3, 1898, par. 12}

**As the Saviour gave His last messages to His beloved followers, words filled with weighty importance fell from His lips.** These words of inspiration were to be their anchor during the test and trial before them. **“Let not your heart be troubled,” He said; “ye believe in God,” who is so plainly revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures. Believe in Me as the brightness of His glory, the**

**manifestation of His character.** “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you,” to secure for you the right to a home in My Father’s kingdom. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” **I left the courts of heaven to come to you and show you the way, and I will be with you in the mansions I have prepared. Let not sorrow fill your hearts; for I love you, “and whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”** {ST December 20, 1899, par. 5}

## **The law of God is a transcript of His character**

**Jesus Christ was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy.** The world’s Redeemer was symbolized in types and shadows through their religious services. The glory of God was revealed in Christ within the veil until Christ should appear in the world, and display to the world all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. **In Christ we behold the image of the invisible God; in his attributes we see the attributes of the character of the Infinite.** Jesus said: “I and my Father are one.” “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” **Unless we keep our attention fixed upon Jesus, Satan will intercept the bright gleams of light from the throne of God, and we shall lose the knowledge of the character of God as it is revealed in the ten moral precepts, and as it is seen in the life of his only-begotten Son. Satan constantly seeks to obstruct the view of Christ by placing a representation of himself before us; but unless our faith shall pierce his hellish shadow, and we obtain a view of the holiness of God’s character, we shall be divested of our strength, and become purposeless, helpless, weak, and inefficient, the deluded prey of Satan’s temptations.** We shall give to the world the strength of the faculties of soul, mind, and body, and deprive Christ of the service which he has purchased with his own blood. {ST August 29, 1895, par. 7-8}

**The foundation firmly laid, we need wisdom that we may know how to build.** When Moses was about to erect the sanctuary in the wilderness, he was cautioned, “See that thou make all things according to the pattern showed thee in the mount.” In his law God has given us a pattern. Our character building is to be “after the pattern showed to thee in the mount.” **The law is the great standard of righteousness. It represents the character of God, and is the test of our loyalty to his government. And it is revealed to**

us, in all its beauty and excellence, in the life of Christ. {NPUGleaner March 17, 1909, par. 4}

"In presenting the binding claims of the law, many have failed to portray the infinite love of Christ.... The law is to be presented to its transgressors, not as something apart from God, but rather as an exponent of his mind and character. As the sunlight cannot be separated from the sun, so God's law cannot be rightly presented to man apart from the divine Author. {RH, February 3, 1891 par. 9}

**"God does not annul His laws. He does not work contrary to them"** (Ed 148)

Christ came to this world to represent the character of God as expressed in his law, and in human nature he lived that law. So our lives are to be spent in doing God's will. {SW March 5, 1907, par. 7}

If Christ had thought it necessary, He could have opened to His disciples mysteries which would have eclipsed and put far out of sight all the discoveries of the human mind. ...**He could have presented to men and women a tree of knowledge from which they might have plucked from age to age; but this work was not essential to their soul's salvation, and the knowledge of the character of God was necessary to their eternal interests....** Jesus, the Lord of life and glory, came to plant the tree of life for the human family and to invite the members of a fallen race to eat and be satisfied. He came to reveal to them what was their only hope, their only happiness, both in this world and in that which is to come.... **He would allow nothing to divert His attention from the work which He came to do.... Jesus saw that people needed to have their minds attracted to God, that they might become acquainted with His character and obtain the righteousness of Christ represented in His holy law. He knew that it was necessary that all should have a faithful representation of the divine character, that they might not be deceived by the misrepresentations of Satan, who had cast his hellish shadow athwart their pathway, and to their minds clothed God with his own satanic characteristics....** However great and wise the teachers of the world might have been regarded in His day or may be regarded in our day, yet in comparison to Him they are not to be admired; for all the truth they uttered was but that which He originated, and all that came from any other source was foolishness. Even the truth they uttered, in His mouth was beautified and made glorious; for He presented it in simplicity and dignity.—

Signs of the Times, May 1, 1893

**Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. The law reveals the attributes of God's character, and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition.** God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19) {DA 762.1}

**The law of God is a transcript of his character; it portrays the nature of God. As in Christ we behold the brightness of his glory, the express image of his person, so also in the law the attributes of the Father are unfolded...** The whole character of God was revealed in his Son,... ST Dec 30, 1889

**God is omnipotent, omniscient, immutable. He always pursues a straightforward course. His law is truth—unchanging, eternal truth. His precepts are consistent with His attributes.** But Satan makes them appear in a false light. By perverting them he seeks to give human beings an unfavorable impression of God. Throughout his rebellion he has sought to represent God as an unjust, tyrannical Being. {Ms1-1902.22}

But Satan's hypocrisy has been unmasked by Christ's life, trial, and death. Christ took upon Himself human nature, and by His perfect life demonstrated the falsity of the claims of him who constantly accuses those who are trying to obey God's law. And the blood of Christ shed on the cross is the everlasting, incontrovertible testimony that **God's law is as immutable as is His own character. The crucifixion of Christ was a murder instigated by Satan and carried out by people who had separated themselves from God.** In the day of judgment, when the death of Christ upon the cross is seen in all its reality, every voice will be hushed. Everyone will see that Satan is a rebel.—Manuscript 1, 1902.

**He that abideth in Christ is perfected in the love of God, and his purposes, thoughts, words, and actions are in harmony with the will of God expressed in the commandments of His law.** There is nothing in the heart of the man who abides in Christ that is at war with any precept of God's law. Where the Spirit of Christ is in the heart, the character of Christ will be revealed, and there will be manifested gentleness under provocation, and patience under trial. "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."**Righteousness can be defined only by**

**God's great moral standard, the Ten Commandments.** There is no other rule by which to measure character.—The Signs of the Times, June 20, 1895

**"We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Christ is the sinner's advocate. Those who accept His gospel behold Him with open face. They see the relation of His mission to the law, and they acknowledge God's wisdom and glory as revealed by the Saviour. The glory of Christ is revealed in the law, which is a transcript of His character,** and His transforming efficacy is felt upon the soul until men become changed to His likeness. They are made partakers of the divine nature, and grow more and more like their Saviour, advancing step by step in conformity to the will of God, till they reach perfection. {1SM 240.3

**The more we study the attributes of the character of God as revealed in Christ, the more we see that justice has been sustained in the sacrifice that met the penalty of the law, and that mercy has been provided in the only begotten Son,** who bore the penalty of the law in the sinner's place, in order that man might have another probation, another opportunity to be obedient to the law of God's government, that it might be made manifest who could be trusted to become members of the Lord's family, children of the Heavenly King. {RH March 9, 1897, par. 5}

**The righteousness of the law was presented to the world in the character of Christ, and the holy, benevolent, and paternal attributes of God were revealed in his dealings with mankind.** He explained the solemn relation which existed between man and God, between man and his fellow-man. He taught the necessity of prayer, repentance, faith, virtue, and perfection of character. {ST June 9, 1890, par. 9}

The word of God was plain, but men's words had made it mysterious and unintelligible. **But the instruction which Christ gave was unmistakable. His disciples were to obey the precepts of the law, and to represent the character of God to the world. He said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."** {ST March 26, 1896, par. 5}

**You need not be lost in seeking your way to heaven. Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Then look away from self to Jesus; for in Christ the character of**



**the Father is revealed.** Paul says, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” **The character of God as revealed by Christ invites our faith and love; for we have a Father whose mercy and compassion fail not.** At every step of our journey heavenward he will be with us to guide in every perplexity, to give us help in every temptation. Then be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, and render praise unto him who is the light and health of your countenance. {YI September 29, 1892, par. 8}

**A good name is more precious than gold.** ... We are living in times of peril that should cause the hearts of all to fear. We see the minds of many wandering through the mazes of skepticism. The causes of this are ignorance, pride, and a defective character. Humility is a hard lesson for fallen man to learn. **There is something in the human heart which rises in opposition to revealed truth on subjects connected with God and sinners, the transgression of the divine law, and pardon through Christ.** {1TT 586.1}

## **God's justice and the punishment of sin**

**I was shown in the vision given me of the Judgment, that God would send warnings, counsels, and reproof.** Some would take heed to their ways and seek the Lord, while some would follow their own judgment because it was more convenient and pleasing to their own natural hearts to do so, [and] while some others would kick against the pricks, rise up against the testimonies of reproof, despise the warnings, choose their own wisdom, **be ensnared and overcome by the enemy,** and so blinded by his infatuations [that] they would be utterly unable to discern the things of God and would work directly against the light, enshrouding themselves in darkness and error. Then these very ones would sustain and strengthen the hands of our bitterest enemies...

**I was shown** that the time was in the near future that these whom God had warned and reproved 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.**

But [from] those who have no sense of the goodness and mercy of God, [those] who refuse His merciful warnings, who reject His counsels to reach the highest standard of Bible requirements, who do despite to the Spirit of grace, **the Lord would remove His protecting power. I was shown that Satan would entangle and then destroy, if he could,** the souls he had tempted. God will bear long, but there is a bound to His mercy, a line which marks His mercy and His justice.

**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, reproves, 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** . It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey. And storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, if he is not restrained, we shall see more terrible manifestations of his power than we have ever dreamed of. 14MR 2-3

When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. **The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent** . God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their

probation; **the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace , they have no protection from the wicked one .** Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. **As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose.** The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. GC 614

With these words of light and truth before them, how dare men neglect so plain a duty? How dare they disobey God when obedience to His requirements means His blessing in both temporal and spiritual things, and disobedience means the curse of God? **Satan is the destroyer. God cannot bless those who refuse to be faithful stewards.** All He can do is to permit Satan to accomplish his destroying work. We see calamities of every kind and in every degree coming upon the earth, and why? **The Lord's restraining power is not exercised.** The world has disregarded the word of God. They live as though there were no God. Like the inhabitants of the Noachic world, they refuse to have any thought of God. Wickedness prevails to an alarming extent, and the earth is ripe for the harvest. 6T 388

Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today. More and more the world is setting at nought the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. **This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it .** The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. **He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity,** and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain. 7 T 141

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 1901-09-17

The people of Israel were at this time loyal to God; and so long as they continued in obedience to His law, no power in earth or hell could prevail against them. But the curse which Balaam had not been permitted to pronounce against God's people, he finally succeeded in bringing upon them by seducing them into sin. **When they transgressed God's commandments, then they separated themselves from Him, and they were left to feel the power of the destroyer"** GC 529

**Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows.** When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. **It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer.** But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would--He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. **Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.** GC 589

Before obtaining freedom, the bondmen must show their faith in the great deliverance about to be accomplished. The token of blood must be placed upon their houses, and they must separate themselves and their families from the Egyptians, and gather within their own dwellings. Had the Israelites disregarded in any particular the directions given them, had they neglected to separate their children from the Egyptians, had they slain the lamb, but failed to strike the doorpost with blood, or had any gone out of their houses, they would not have been secure. They might have honestly believed that they had done all that was necessary, but their sincerity would not have

saved them. **All who failed to heed the Lord's directions would lose their firstborn by the hand of the destroyer** PP 278

The sinner is exposed to eternal death, until he finds a hiding place in Christ; and as loitering and carelessness might rob the fugitive of his only chance for life, so delays and indifference may prove the ruin of the soul. **Satan, the great adversary, is on the track of every transgressor of God's holy law, and he who is not sensible of his danger, and does not earnestly seek shelter in the eternal refuge, will fall a prey to the destroyer.** PP 517

Thus was fulfilled the word of God to David by the prophet, "Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor. . . . For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." 2 Samuel 12:11, 12. **Not that God prompted these acts of wickedness, but because of David's sin He did not exercise His power to prevent them.** PP 738

The destruction that came upon the northern kingdom was **directly from God himself**. The Assyrians were merely **the instruments that he used to carry out his purpose**. Through Isaiah, who began to prophesy before the fall of Samaria, the Lord referred to the Assyrian hosts as the "rod of mine anger." "The staff in their hand," he said, "is mine indignation." Isaiah 10:5. RH, February 12, 1914

### **Compare with:**

Had Israel taken heed to the messages of the prophets emphasizing the value of "the great things" of God's law, they would have been spared the humiliation that followed. **It was because they persisted in turning aside from his law that God was compelled to allow their enemies to take them captive**. RH, February 26, 1914

We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection which we enjoy. **It is the restraining power of God that prevents mankind from passing fully under the control of Satan**. The disobedient and unthankful have great reason for gratitude for God's mercy and long - suffering in holding in check the cruel, malignant power of the evil one. **But**

when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest. The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God's hatred of sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty. GC 36

The Canaanites had filled up the measure of their iniquity, and the Lord would no longer bear with them. His defense being removed from them, they would fall an easy prey to the Hebrews (4T 151) PP 390

While the Jewish leaders professed to have great zeal for the honor of God and the good of Israel, they were enemies of both. By precept and example they were leading the people farther and farther from obedience to God—leading them where He could not be their defense in the day of trouble” (AA 417)

“The Lord had never commanded them to ‘go up and fight.’ It was not His purpose that they should gain the land by warfare, but by strict obedience to His commands” (PP 392)

Moses was too hasty in slaying the Egyptian. He supposed the people of Israel understood that God's special providence had raised him up to deliver them. But the Lord did not design to accomplish this work by warfare, as Moses thought, but by his own mighty power, that the glory might be ascribed to him alone. Yet even this rash act was overruled by God to bring about his purpose. ST Feb 19, 1880

In the conquest of Gilead and Bashan there were many who recalled the events which nearly forty years before had, in Kadesh, doomed Israel to the long desert wandering. They saw that the report of the spies concerning the

Promised Land was in many respects correct. The cities were walled and very great, and were inhabited by giants, in comparison with whom the Hebrews were mere pygmies. **But they could now see that the fatal mistake of their fathers had been in distrusting the power of God. This alone had prevented them from at once entering the goodly land.**

When they were at the first preparing to enter Canaan, the undertaking was attended with far less difficulty than now. **God had promised His people that if they would obey His voice He would go before them and fight for them; and He would also send [437] hornets to drive out the inhabitants of the land.** The fears of the nations had not been generally aroused, and little preparation had been made to oppose their progress. But when the Lord now bade Israel go forward, they must advance against alert and powerful foes, and must contend with large and well-trained armies that had been preparing to resist their approach. {PP 436.4}

These nations on the borders of Canaan would have been spared, had they not stood, in defiance of God's word, to oppose the progress of Israel. **The Lord had shown Himself to be long-suffering, of great kindness and tender pity, even to these heathen peoples.** PP 434

Everyone who will break from the slavery and service of Satan, and will stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Immanuel will be kept by Christ's intercessions. Christ, as our Mediator, at the right hand of the Father, ever keeps us in view, for it is as necessary that He should keep us by His intercessions as that He should redeem us with His blood. **If He lets go His hold of us for one moment, Satan stands ready to destroy.** Those purchased by His blood, He now keeps by His intercession (MS 73, 1893)

Men cannot with impunity reject the warning which God in mercy sends them. A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah's day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. **Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the Flood**. In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of Christ. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation: "Your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:38. Looking down to the last days, the same Infinite Power

declares, concerning those who "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved": "For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. **As they reject the teachings of His word, God withdraws His Spirit and leaves them to the deceptions which they love.** {GC 431 }

Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for heaven. **He has trained his powers to war against God; the purity, peace, and harmony of heaven would be to him supreme torture. His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced. The reproach which he has endeavored to cast upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself.** And now Satan bows down and confesses the justice of his sentence. "Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest." Verse 4. **Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan's rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan's own works have condemned him. God's wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated.** It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created. "All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee." Psalm 145:10. The history of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness that with the existence of God's law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created. With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: "Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints." {GC 670.2-3}

**The law of ten commandments is not to be looked upon as much from the prohibitory side, as from the mercy side. Its prohibitions are the sure guarantee of happiness in obedience.** As received in Christ, it works in us the purity of character that will bring joy to us through eternal ages. **To the obedient it is a wall of protection. We behold in it the goodness of God, who by revealing to men the immutable principles of righteousness, seeks to shield them from the evils that result from transgression. We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the**



punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death. 1SM 235

The children of Israel were taken captive to Babylon because they separated from God, and no longer felt that it was their duty to maintain principles unadulterated by the sentiments of the nations around them. Because of their separation from God, the Lord humbled them. He could not work for their prosperity, He could not fulfil His covenant with them while they were untrue to the principles He had given them to zealously maintain, that they might be kept from the methods and practices of the heathen nations who dishonored God. By their spirit and their works the children of Israel misrepresented the righteousness of God's character, and the Lord permitted them to be taken captive. He left them to their own ways, and the innocent suffered with the sinners in Zion. {Ms121-1898.2}

We are coming right upon the time when Satan is to work with all manner of bewitching influences, and those that are charmed with them now, or give them the least countenance now, will be all ready to be swept right in to act a part with the devil then. Evil angels are working all the time upon the hearts of men. Satan is working with everyone who is not under the control of the Spirit of God. It is the lying wonders of the devil that will take the world captive, and he will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. He is to work miracles; and this wonderful, miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world. It is now just beginning.

I want to tell you another thing. The vials of God's wrath and the sprinkling of them are already coming. What is the matter that we do not discern it? It is because the light of truth does not affect the heart. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the world. You hear of calamities by land and by sea, and they are constantly increasing. What is the matter? The Spirit of God is taken away from those who have the lives of men in their hands, and Satan is coming in to control them, because they give themselves to his control. Those who profess to be the children of God do not place themselves under the guardianship of the heavenly angels, and as Satan is a destroyer, he works through those men and they make mistakes; and they

will get drunk and because of intemperance, many times, bring these terrible calamities upon us. {Ms1-1890. 34, 35 36}

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 Sept 17 1901

With these words of light and truth before them, how dare men neglect so plain a duty? How dare they disobey God when obedience to His requirements means His blessing in both temporal and spiritual things, and disobedience means the curse of God? Satan is the destroyer. God cannot bless those who refuse to be faithful stewards. **All He can do is to permit Satan to accomplish his** destroying work. We see calamities of every kind and in every degree coming upon the earth, and why? **The Lord's restraining power is not exercised.** The world has disregarded the word of God. They live as though there were no God. Like the inhabitants of the Noachic world, they refuse to have any thought of God. Wickedness prevails to an alarming extent, and the earth is ripe for the harvest. {6T 388.3}

## **Mercy of the Father through the Son**

**Jesus, your Advocate, stands before the mercy seat** under the rainbow of promise, pleading in your behalf. Shall He plead for you in vain? {Lt116-1894.2}

**As the bow in the cloud is formed by the union of the sunlight and the shower, so the rainbow encircling the throne represents the combined power of mercy and justice.** It is not justice alone that is to be maintained; for this would eclipse the glory of the rainbow of promise above the throne; men could see only the penalty of the law. **Were there no justice, no penalty, there would be no stability to the government of God. It is the mingling of judgment and mercy that makes salvation complete. It is the blending of the two that leads us, as we view the world's Redeemer, and the law of Jehovah, to exclaim, "Thy gentleness hath made me great"** (The Review and Herald, December 13, 1892).

Thus God has **"made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to the good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself; that ... he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him."** Ephesians 1:9, 10. {BTS December 1, 1907, par. 5}

**He [Jesus] is the great Medium through whom we receive the mercy and favor of God.** He, then, is indeed the Originator, the Author, as well as the Finisher, of our faith (Manuscript 21, 1891)

**"Love your enemies," He bade them; "bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven;" "for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." "He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." "**Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.**" Matthew 5:44, 45; Luke 6:35, 36. {8T 286.7}**

**To the Jewish nation God revealed himself as a watchful, a kind, forbearing father, a God of mercy and truth. He manifested himself to them through his Son.** And this Saviour is our Advocate. Our weakness in human nature will not bar our access to the Heavenly Father, for he died to make intercession for us. {HM June 1, 1897, Art. B, par. 10}

**"Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world."** (Ellen G. White—Steps to Christ, P. 13)

The spirit of enmity was most strikingly displayed in the world's reception of Christ. **The Son of God came to man with a message of mercy from the Father. He came not to condemn the world**—though they were deserving of condemnation, for rebellion was almost universal—**but that the world through him might have life.** Yet he was despised and hated by the very people he came to bless and save. {RH July 18, 1882, par. 6}

**Christ in His teaching linked with the warning of judgment the invitation of mercy.** "The Son of man is not come," He said, "to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Luke 9:56. "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17. **His mission of mercy in its relation to God's justice and judgment is illustrated in the parable of the barren fig tree.** Christ had been warning the people of the coming of the kingdom of God, and He had sharply rebuked their ignorance and indifference. **The signs in the sky, which foretold the weather, they were quick to read; but the signs of the times, which so clearly pointed to His mission, were not discerned.** {COL 212. 1-2}

Christ came to this earth, and by a life of obedience showed that man could obey. He canceled the guilt resting upon the sinner. **That the sinner might stand before God clothed with His robe of righteousness, He clothed Himself with the robe of sorrow.** {Ms66-1901.15}

**Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe.** In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him. **He was acquainted with the character of His Father; He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love.** By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favor was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor. {DA 756.3}

Satan, the first apostate, looked upon the fruit of his apostasy in the vast army under his banner, and his mind was made to comprehend the meaning of warfare against God and His Son. **He saw how many he had by his subtlety led away from God, from happiness and holiness.** The truth of his position and his efforts to overthrow God and assume His place, when he

took with him vast numbers of angels who might have been a happy family in heaven, flashed over him. **Never had the arch-deceiver such an appreciation of God and His throne, His holiness, His justice, His goodness, His amazing love, as when Christ hung on the cross. Mercy and truth had met together, righteousness and peace had embraced each other.** {Ms94-1899.52}

**The efficiency of the cross guards the redeemed race from the danger of a second fall. The life and death of Christ effectually unveils the deceptions of Satan, and refutes his claims.** The sacrifice of Christ for a fallen world draws not only men, but angels unto Him [in] bonds of indissoluble union. **Through the plan of salvation the justice and mercy of God are fully vindicated,** and to all eternity rebellion will never again arise, affliction never again touch the universe of God.—The Messenger, June 7, 1893. {TA 296.2}

**Not only man but angels will ascribe honor and glory to the Redeemer, for even they are secure only through the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the inhabitants of unfallen worlds have been guarded from apostasy.** It is this that has effectually unveiled the deceptions of Satan and refuted his claims. Not only those that are washed by the blood of Christ, but also the holy angels, are drawn to him by his crowning act of giving his life for the sins of the world. God’s dealing with the rebellion of Satan is justified before the universe. **The justice and mercy of God are fully vindicated, so that, through all eternity, rebellion will never again arise.** Such is the import of His own words when for the last time teaching in the temple He said, looking forward to His approaching sacrifice, “Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” **Will draw all unto me—not only earth, but heaven; for of him “the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”** Ephesians 3:15. {BTS December 1, 1907, par. 4}

**By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin.** It was Satan’s purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but **in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.”** John 3:16. {DA 25.3}

We are not to entertain the idea that God loves us because Christ has died for us, but that he so loved us that he gave his only-begotten Son to die for us. **The death of Christ was expedient in order that mercy might reach us with its full pardoning power, and at the same time that justice might be satisfied in the righteous substitute. The glory of God was revealed in the rich mercy that he poured out upon a race of rebels,** who through repentance and faith might be pardoned through the merits of Christ, for God will by no means clear the guilty who refuse to acknowledge the merit of a crucified and risen Saviour. {ST May 30, 1895, par. 5- 6}

When we go mourning, we leave the impression upon minds that God is not pleased to have us happy, and in this we bear false witness against our Heavenly Father. **Satan is exultant when he can lead the people of God into unbelief and despondency.** He delights to see us mistrusting God, doubting his willingness and power to save us. **He loves to have us feel that the Lord will do us harm by his providences.** **O let the attitude of doubt be changed! Christ in the Old Testament is the same as Christ in the New Testament.** {RH January 14, 1890, par. 5}

**The ruling principles of God's throne are justice and mercy. It is called the throne of grace.** Would you have divine enlightenment?—Go to the throne of grace. **You will be answered from the mercy seat. A covenant has been entered into by the Father and by the Son to save the world through Christ.** “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.” No power save that of Omnipotence could make such a covenant. **The rainbow above the throne is a token that God through Christ binds himself to save all who believe in him.** The covenant is as sure as the throne, and his throne is established in righteousness. **Then why are we so unbelieving, so distrustful? Why doubt so frequently, and trust God so fitfully? Whenever we come to the throne of God to ask his mercy, we may look up, and behold the rainbow of promise, and find in it assurance that our prayers shall be answered.** {ST October 10, 1892, par. 1}

**“The word of God reveals His character. He Himself has declared His infinite love and pity.** When Moses prayed, “**Show me Thy glory,**” the Lord answered, “**I will make all My goodness pass before thee.**” Exodus 33:18, 19. **This is His glory.** The Lord passed before Moses, 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.” Exodus 34:6, 7. He is “slow to anger, and of great kindness,” “because He delighteth in mercy.” Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18.” (Ellen G. White—Steps to Christ, P.10)

You who doubt the mercy of God, look at the Lamb of God, look at the man of sorrows, who bore your grief and suffered for your sin. He is your friend. He died on the cross because he loved you. {RH January 14, 1890, par. 7}

## **Satan the destroyer and the author of death**

The sinner is exposed to eternal death, until he finds a hiding place in Christ; and as loitering and carelessness might rob the fugitive of his only chance for life, so delays and indifference may prove the ruin of the soul. Satan, the great adversary, is on the track of every transgressor of God's holy law, and he who is not sensible of his danger, and does not earnestly seek shelter in the eternal refuge, will fall a prey to the destroyer. PP 517

My brethren, let your souls be truly converted. If ever there was a time when we needed to understand our responsibilities, it is now, when truth is fallen in the streets and equity cannot enter. Satan has come down with great power to work with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; and everything that can be shaken will be shaken, and those things that cannot be shaken will remain. The Lord is coming very soon, and we are entering into scenes of calamity. Satanic agencies, though unseen, are working to destroy human life. But if our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall see of His grace and salvation. {RH July 30, 1908, par. 5}

There is a boundary to the mercy of God, for He does not always strive with men. A record is kept of all the blessings offered and how those blessings are treated; and if we neglect our duty we shall soon see, as did the Jews, that the anger of God is not withheld but we shall be given over to the power of Satan. While it seems astonishing to us that the Jews rejected Christ, we ourselves will act out the same thing if we refuse the light for this time. {3MR 79.1}

**God’s ministers have a most solemn, sacred work to do in our world. The end is near. The message of truth must go.** As faithful shepherds of the flock,

God's servants are to bear a clear, sharp testimony. **There is to be no perverting of the truth. Divine grace never leads away from mercy and the love of God. It is the power of Satan that does this.** When Christ preached, His message was like a sharp, two-edged sword, piercing the consciences of men and revealing their inmost thoughts. {2SM 158.4}

**Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer;** God is the restorer. {CH 168.2}

Disease and premature death have so long prevailed, with an ever-increasing weight of suffering, that they have come to be regarded as the appointed lot of humanity. But this is not the case. **God is not the author of the many woes to which mortals are subject; it is not because He desires to see His creatures suffer that there is so much misery in this world.** Neither is it all due to Adam's transgression. We may mourn over the fall in Eden, and think that our first parents showed great weakness in yielding to temptation, thus opening the door for sin to enter our world, with all its attendant evils. But the first transgression is not the only cause of our unhappy lot. A succession of falls has occurred since Adam's day. {PHJ February 1, 1902, par. 8}

**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. As they work to relieve suffering humanity, they are to point out the origin of all suffering, and direct the mind to Jesus, the great Healer of both soul and body. His heart of sympathy goes out to all earth's sufferers, and with every one who works for their relief, he co-operates. As with his blessing health returns, the character of God will be vindicated, and the lie thrown back upon Satan, its originator. {ChristianEducator October 1, 1898, par. 9}

**Our heavenly Father does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men. He is not the author of sickness and death; He is the source of life.** He would



have men live; and He desires them to be obedient to the laws of life and health, that they may live. {GW92 172.2}

**Read the Scriptures carefully, and you will find that Christ spent the largest part of His ministry in restoring the suffering and afflicted to health. Thus He threw back upon Satan the reproach of the evil which the enemy of all good had originated. Satan is the destroyer; Christ is the Restorer.** And in our work as Christ's collaborators, we shall have success if we work on practical lines. Ministers, do not confine your work to giving Bible instruction. Do practical work. Seek to restore the sick to health. This is true ministry. Remember that the restoration of the body prepares the way for the restoration of the soul.—Manuscript 55, 1901 {MM 240.1}

**Satan is the author of death.** What did Christ do after He brought Satan under the dominion of death? The very last words of Christ while expiring on the cross were, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The devil saw that he had overdone himself. **Christ by dying accomplished the death of Satan and brought immortality to light.** {Ms1-1889.48}

**The same subtle enemy that beguiled Adam and Eve still attends our steps, and employs his strength and skill to urge us on in the way that leads to death.** He was working to thwart the purpose of God when he presented the first temptation in Eden; and he has ever since been trying to deface the image by marring the body and depraving the soul. Wherever we look, we see evidences of his success in this work in the indulgence of depraved appetites and lustful passions, in defilement and corruption, deformity and sin. **It is to these causes, and not to the providence of God, that the physical degeneration of the race is attributable. Men have listened to the suggestions of the arch-deceiver, and he delights in the ruin he has wrought.**{PHJ February 1, 1902, par. 9}

Again Satan was defeated, and again he resorted to deception in the hope of converting defeat into victory. **He now represented God as unjust in having permitted man to transgress His law.** "Why," said the tempter, "when God knew what would be the result, did He permit man to be placed on trial and bring in misery and death?" **The children of Adam gave ear to the tempter and murmured against the only Being who could save them from the destructive power of Satan.** PP 331

It is no part of Christ's mission to compel men to receive Him. **It is Satan, and**

**men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederate with evil angels bring suffering upon their fellow men, in order to convert them to their ideas of religion;** but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love. He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. **There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.** There are thousands today echoing the same rebellious complaint against God. They do not see that to deprive man of the freedom of choice would be to rob him of his prerogative as an intelligent being, and make him a mere automaton. **It is not God's purpose to coerce the will. Man was created a free moral agent.** Like the inhabitants of all other worlds, he must be subjected to the test of obedience; but he is never brought into such a position that yielding to evil becomes a matter of necessity. No temptation or trial is permitted to come to him which he is unable to resist. **God made such ample provision that man need never have been defeated in the conflict with Satan** {DA 487}

**Satan has charged injustice upon God, and at various times has set in motion all his supernatural agencies, in order to cut off from men the knowledge of God** .. He has worked in such a manner that the Prince of heaven has seemed to be lost sight of. It has seemed that the confederacy of idolatry has borne supreme sway, and that Satan had indeed become the god of this world. **But the only begotten Son of God has looked upon the scene, has beheld human suffering and misery. With pity he has seen how his human agencies have been blinded by the deceptions of the enemy, and have become victims of Satanic cruelty. He has seen how Satan has exalted men simply for the purpose of casting them down, how he has flattered them, in order to draw them into his net and destroy them.** {RH October 22, 1895, par. 5}

I ask you, my dear friend, What will it profit you if you gain the whole world and lose your own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Your life is an uncertain matter. You may count on years of worldly pleasure, but disease or accident, something you have made no provision for, may suddenly cut you off, and you will be unready. Your reason, which you think is above the average of human beings, may be taken from you in a moment

by death. **Satan is the destroyer. Suffering and misery are in his ranks, and if you stand under his banner, the black banner of rebelling against God, refusing to keep His commandments, the mandate may go forth at any moment,** Cut down the unfruitful tree. Why cumbereth it the ground? {Lt15-1899.10}

**As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble.** And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. **If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above. He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light,** representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins, and yet destroy him and his angels. **He claims them as his prey, and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy. As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost.** Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. **Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes to so destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations, and turn from their allegiance to God.** {GC88 618. 2-3}

The long-suffering of God toward Jerusalem only confirmed the Jews in their stubborn impenitence. **In their hatred and cruelty toward the disciples of Jesus they rejected the last offer of mercy. Then God withdrew His protection from them and removed His restraining power from \*Satan and his \*angels, and the nation was left to the control of the leader she had chosen...**\*Satan aroused the fiercest and most debased passions of the soul...**\*Satan was at the head of the nation, and the highest civil and religious authorities were under his sway.**" (Ellen G. White, GC, (1911) Pgs. 28-29) GC 1888 P. 29)

We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection which we enjoy. It is the restraining power of God that prevents mankind from passing fully under the control of Satan. The disobedient and unthankful have great reason for gratitude for God's mercy and long-suffering in holding in check the cruel, malignant power of the evil one. But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailling harvest. The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God's hatred of sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty. {GC 36.1}

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. {GC88 36.1}

When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their

**probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace , they have no protection from the wicked one .** Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. **The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.** GC 614

**Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls.** He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. **It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer.** But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah, and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—**He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard.** He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs; and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them. {CH 460.2}

**Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today.** More and more the world is setting at nought the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. **The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it .** The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain. 7 T 141

**Satan is watching his chances to secure souls to himself and unless we have God's protection,** he will break forth in violence and his angels will be set at work to do some marked mischief. **The terrible tornadoes, the railroad disasters, the calamities at sea, are because of Satan's wrath.** The Lord does

not work a miracle to protect those who are constantly working against Himself and strengthening the power of darkness. And this is only the beginning. **Their hearts will not repent because they are fully set in them to do evil and that continually.** These disasters, which should make men afraid, are now regarded only by those who fear for their own personal safety, themselves and those connected with them.—Letter 3a, 1883. {3MR 318.2}

**With these words of light and truth before them, how dare men neglect so plain a duty? How dare they God when obedience to His requirements means His blessing in both temporal and spiritual things, and disobedience means the curse of God? Satan is the destroyer.** God cannot bless those who refuse to be faithful stewards. **All He can do is to permit Satan to accomplish his destroying work.** We see calamities of every kind and in every degree coming upon the earth, and why? The Lord's restraining power is not exercised. The world has disregarded the word of God. They live as though there were no God. Like the inhabitants of the Noachic world, they refuse to have any thought of God. Wickedness prevails to an alarming extent, and the earth is ripe for the harvest. 6T 388

**It is no wonder that violence and crime have spread over the earth,** and moral darkness, like the pall of death, shrouds the cities and habitations of men. **Satan controls many households, people, and churches.** He watches the indications of moral corruption, and introduces his specious temptations, carefully leading men into worse and worse evils, **till utter depravity is the result.** The only safety is to watch unto prayer against his devices; for he goes about, in the last days, like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. **The presence of Jesus is a safe-guard against his advances.** The Sun of Righteousness discloses the hideous blackness of the enemy of souls, and he flies from the divine presence. {2SP 317.2}

When parents or rulers neglect the duty of punishing iniquity, **a train of circumstances will arise which will punish sin with sin.** {EP 528.3}

**The Lord still works in a similar manner to glorify His name by bringing men to acknowledge His justice.** When those who profess to love Him complain of His providence, despise His promises, and, yielding to temptation, unite with evil angels to defeat the purposes of God, **the Lord often so overrules circumstances as to bring these persons where, though they may have no real repentance, they will be convinced of their sin and will be constrained**

to acknowledge the wickedness of their course and the justice and goodness of God in His dealings with them. It is thus that God sets counteragencies at work to make manifest the works of darkness. And though the spirit which prompted to the evil course is not radically changed, confessions are made that vindicate the honor of God and justify His faithful reprovers, who have been opposed and misrepresented. Thus it will be when the wrath of God shall be finally poured out. When “the Lord cometh with ten thousand of His saints, to execute judgment upon all,” He will also “convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds.” Jude 14, 15. Every sinner will be brought to see and acknowledge the justice of his condemnation. {PP 393.1}

Satan would immediately take us up and force his terrible companionship upon us. Oh, let us seek every day to obtain a deeper experience, cultivating the love of Jesus. Let every one on the vessel realize that he is under the protection of God. Christ said, “Without me ye can do nothing.” “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.” {7MR 205.1}

## Merciful disciples/followers

The Lord of hosts has warned us that we shall take heed not to misrepresent the law of his government by any unmerciful action on our part toward our fellow-men {RH August 13, 1895, par. 6}

It was the same Jesus who commanded that love should be the ruling principle in the old dispensation, that commanded that love should be the ruling principle in the hearts of his followers in the New Testament. The working out of the principle of love is true sanctification. Those who walk in the light will be the children of the light, and will diffuse light to those who are around them in kindness, in affection, in unmistakable love. “God is love: and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” {YI November 8, 1894, par. 7}

....But he whose eyes have been opened to see the love of Christ, will behold the character of God as full of love and compassion. God will not appear as a tyrannical, relentless being, but as a father longing to embrace

**his repenting son.** The sinner will cry with the psalmist, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." **All despair is swept from the soul when Christ is seen in his true character.** {RH, February 3, 1891 par. 10}

**Those who have become the children of God will give to the world some evidence of the fact. A change takes place in the disposition and character—a change from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God.** The apostle says to the Ephesians: "You hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." **"God who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, ... and hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."** [Ephesians 2:1, 4-6.] But the class to whom I refer know nothing of such a change. They do not even comprehend the language. The child of God is easily distinguished from a presumptuous self-deceiver. The fruit of the Spirit is not a boisterous, noisy, boasting, self-confidence, but a humble joy that leads to the abasement of self. {Ms1-1878.6}

**We are to go forth to proclaim the goodness of God and to make plain His real character before the people. We are to reflect His glory. Have we done this in the past?** Have we revealed the character of our Lord by precept and example? Have we not joined in the work of the enemy of souls and misrepresented our heavenly Father? Have we not been passing judgment on our brethren, criticizing their words and actions? Then the love of God has not been enthroned in our souls. Let us make a decided change. RH February 26, 1889, par. 6}

**If the world knew the principles of the laws of God's government, if they obeyed his commandments, they would discern the character of God in the law, and would no longer be at enmity with God.** But turning from the law of God, men have no means of discerning his character, and the attributes of the character of Satan are cherished and cultivated. {RH March 9, 1897, par. 12}

**But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God,** the conscience will be quickened, and the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God's holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth.... **[The sinner] sees the love of God,** the beauty of



holiness, the joy of purity; [and] longs to be cleansed and to be restored to communion with Heaven.—Steps to Christ, 23, 24. {BLJ 361.6}

**In like manner the disciples of Christ are set as light bearers on the way to heaven; through them the Father's mercy and goodness are made manifest to a world enshrouded in the darkness of misapprehension of God. By seeing their good works, others are led to glorify the Father who is above;** for it is made manifest that there is a God on the throne of the universe whose character is worthy of praise and imitation. The divine love glowing in the heart, the Christlike harmony manifested in the life, are as a glimpse of heaven granted to men of the world, that they may appreciate its excellence. {RC 319.5}

**When our heavenly Father has not only given Jesus to our world, but all heaven in the One great Gift,** when He made no reserve whereby He could exceed the value of **His gift, those who are the recipients of such wonderful love are called upon to love one another as Christ has loved them. The Saviour's teachings in the Old Testament, while enshrouded in the cloudy pillar, present the same high standard as do His teachings in the New Testament.** Please read Leviticus 19. The entire chapter is a lesson given for the benefit of future generations. It is Jesus Christ who is speaking. Read also 1 John 2:4-7. John 1:1-4, 14. {Lt42-1894.16}

**There is perfect harmony between the instruction of the Old Testament and that of the New. The Lord Jesus himself gave to Moses the principles that were to be given to Israel. Lessons of mercy, goodness, generosity, and strict honesty, were given by Christ in the Old Testament, and were repeated by him when he came in human flesh to our world.** {1888 1533.3}

**Some say the Old Testament history is moonlight, the New Testament history is sunlight. As I read the Old Testament history I cannot say this.** His going forth is prepared as the morning. Christ is just as much shining as the way, the truth, and the life in the Old Testament history as in the New. **His instruction to Israel from Mount Sinai is the same powerful light as was expressed in His teachings when He revealed Himself in person as the Great Teacher, the Son of the Infinite God. All His words are verity and truth.** {Ms142-1904.9}

He was the Way for the patriarchs, for the prophets, and He is the Way for the Christian church today. **Christ is brought to view in the Old Testament**

**Scriptures as a personal Saviour. And the same Christ who was the Way in the Old Testament Scriptures declares in the New, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”** {ST January 10, 1900, par. 7}

**We can cooperate with Christ in the upbuilding of his kingdom only by being sanctified by his Spirit. We must use no force, take up no weapons to compel obedience;** for to do this would be to exhibit the same spirit revealed by the enemies of Christ. {RH August 18, 1896, par. 5}

## Conclusion

**God did not create evil.** He only made the good, which was like Himself. But Satan would not be content to know the will of God and do it. His curiosity was on the stretch to know that which God had not designed he should know. **Evil, sin, and death were not created by God; they are the result of disobedience, which originated in Satan.** 5T 503

**Evil, wherever it exists, will always league against good.** So fallen angels and fallen men will join in a desperate companionship. The lofty prince of darkness calculated that if he could induce men—as he had induced angels—to join in the rebellion, he should have them as his working agents, his allies, in every enterprise against heaven. {Ms55-1886.20}

To whom does this apply? **Satan was the first great rebel in heaven.** On account of his power to deceive, he carried many of the holy angels on his side. God was truth and justice. God moved in a straightforward course to vindicate His law. Satan must yield or evade God’s arguments. **He came where the two roads branched. It was submission or open rebellion. He took the latter position. He had misconstrued, perverted, wrested the words of God until he carried with him a large number of the angels; a large number, true, but for his deception. He practiced the work of accusing, of fraud, of deception until he himself was his own dupe. He believed his own lies; his darkness was to him light, and light was darkness.** To Satan this was his ruin. He really had the advantage. Lucifer could lie, deceive, accuse. God cannot lie. God moved in a straightforward course. Lucifer moved in a crooked, wriggly, twisting course, serpent-like. **Lucifer could be warned at the beginning of this course of sin as only God can warn, but his stubborn resistance and unbelief construed every merciful interposition of God into a**

**pressure and restriction of his rights.** He fancied himself for a time, because he gained some of the angels to his side as superior to God. The Lord allowed Satan to go on until he should reveal himself in his true character. Christ alone, by giving Himself a sacrifice, could destroy the works of Satan. {Ms22- November 30, 1885}

**“God destroys no man.** Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself” (COL 84 84).

**By venturing to disregard the will of God upon one point, our first parents opened the floodgates of woe upon the world.** And every individual who follows their example will reap a similar result. **The love of God underlies every precept of His law, and he who departs from the commandment is working his own unhappiness and ruin.** {MB 52.2}

There is not a commandment of the law that is not for the good and happiness of man, both in this life and in the life to come. **In obedience to God’s law, man is surrounded as with a hedge and kept from the evil.** He who breaks down this divinely erected barrier at one point has destroyed its power to protect him; for he has opened a way by which the enemy can enter to waste and ruin. {MB 52.1}

**How was God to be rightly represented to the world? How was it to be known that He was a God of love, full of mercy, kindness, and pity? How was the world to know this? God sent His Son, and He was to represent to the world the character of God.** Satan has come right in and placed himself between God and man. It is his work to divert the human mind, and he throws his dark shadow right athwart our pathways, so that we cannot discern between God and the moral darkness and corruption and the mass of iniquity that is in our world. Then what are we going to do about the matter? Shall we let that darkness remain?—No. There is a power here for us that will bring in the light of heaven to our dark world. **Christ has been in heaven and He will bring the light of heaven, drive back the darkness, and let the sunlight of His glory in.** Then we shall see, amid the corruption and pollution and defilement, the light of heaven. **We want to keep the perfect Pattern before us. God was so good as to send a representation of Himself in His Son Jesus Christ, and we want to get the mind and heart to unfold and reach upward. Just as soon as Adam and Eve fell, their countenances fell at the sight of their miserableness. We may see our wretchedness, and**

we should pray that God will reveal our own hearts to us; but we should pray also that He will reveal Himself to us as a sin-pardoning Redeemer. **Let yours be the prayer, Reveal Thyself to me,** that in Thy matchless grace I may lay hold on the golden link, Christ, which has been let down from heaven to earth, that I may grasp it and be drawn upward. 1888 75-76

That the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." In the light of the Saviour's life, the hearts of all, even from the Creator to the prince of darkness, are revealed. **Satan has represented God as selfish and oppressive, as claiming all, and giving nothing, as requiring the service of His creatures for His own glory, and making no sacrifice for their good. But the gift of Christ reveals the Father's heart. It testifies that the thoughts of God toward us are "thoughts of peace, and not of evil." Jeremiah 29:11.** It declares that while God's hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work. No truth essential to our salvation is withheld, no miracle of mercy is neglected, no divine agency is left unemployed. Favor is heaped upon favor, gift upon gift. **The whole treasury of heaven is open to those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, and laid open the resources of infinite power, He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man. Use these gifts to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness will be found in loving Me.**" {DA 57.1}

**"In plain language the Saviour taught the world that the tenderness, the compassion, the love that He manifested toward humanity, were the very attributes of His Father in heaven.** Whatever doctrine of grace he presented, whatever promise of joy, whatever deed of love, whatever divine attraction He exhibited, had its source in the Father of all. In the person of Christ we behold the eternal God engaged in an enterprise of boundless mercy toward the fallen race." ~ Signs of the Times, Aug. 20, 1894

**"In striking contrast to the wrong and oppression so universally practised were the mission and work of Christ. Earthly kingdoms are established and upheld by physical force, but this was not to be the foundation of the Messiah's kingdom.** In the establishment of his government **no carnal weapons were to be used,** no coercion practised; no attempt would be made to force the consciences of men. These are the principles used by the prince

of darkness for the government of his kingdom. His agents are actively at work, seeking in their human independence to enact laws which are in direct contrast to Christ's mercy and loving-kindness" (RH, August 18, 1896 par. 2).

**The same enmity that was in the hearts of the apostate Jews, that would lead them to murder the Son of God, was in the hearts of these Catholic religious zealots and made them altogether satanic, to persecute those who were struggling for religious freedom** and to lead hundreds of souls to the edge of fearful precipice and dash them over upon the ragged rocks. These who pretend to be Christ's vicegerents upon earth do the works of their father the devil. **When did Christ leave them an example of putting to death either Romans or heathen because they did not believe His doctrines?** {Ms62-1886.62}

"Herod and the wicked authorities killed the Just One, but **Christ never killed anyone**, and we may attribute the spirit of persecution—because men want liberty of conscience—to its origin—Satan." {Ms62-1886.64}

**Satan's agents are constantly working under his direction to establish his authority and build up his kingdom in opposition to the government of God.** To this end they seek to deceive Christ's followers and allure them from their allegiance. Like their leader, they misconstrue and pervert the Scriptures to accomplish their object. **As Satan endeavored to cast reproach upon God, so do his agents seek to malign God's people.** The spirit which put Christ to death moves the wicked to destroy His followers. All this is foreshadowed in that first prophecy: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed." And this will continue to the close of time. {GC 507.2}

"**When will men learn that God is God, not man, and that He does not change? Every calamity, every death, is a witness to the power of evil,** and to the truth of the living God. The Word of God is life, and it will abide forever. Through all eternity it will stand fast. How can man, knowing what God is and what He has done, choose Satan's way instead of God's way? There is only one path to Paradise restored,—the path of obedience" (ST, January 25, 1910 par. 18).

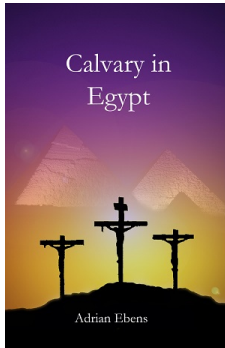
**"A congregation may be the poorest in the land. It may be without the attraction of any outward show; but if the members possess the principles of the character of Christ,** they will have His joy in their souls. Angels will

unite with them in their worship. The praise and thanksgiving from grateful hearts will ascend to God as a sweet oblation. **So it should be now. The people of the world are worshiping false gods.** They are to be turned from their false worship, not by hearing denunciation of their idols, but by beholding something better. **God's goodness is to be made known. "Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God."** Isaiah 43:12. {COL 298-299}

## **Ellen White's prayer**

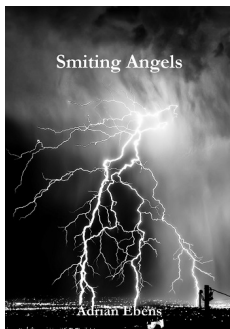
It is a painful thought to me that I can do so little. The limited sphere of human capabilities leads me to feel indeed the words of Christ, "Without Me ye can do nothing." Many are endowed with superior talents and do not use them, because they have no living connection with God.... My own scanty knowledge and feeble energies drive me to Jesus, and the language of my heart is, "Oh God, I can do nothing. I hang my helpless soul on Thee, Jesus Christ my Saviour. Put Thy grace into my heart. Attract my mind from my weakness to Thy almighty strength, from my ignorance to Thy eternal wisdom, from my frailty to Thy enduring might. Give me correct views of the great plan of redemption. Let me see and understand what Christ is to me, and that my heart, soul, mind, and strength are bought with a price. Christ has imparted to me that I may impart to others. **Lift up my soul; strengthen and enlighten my mind that I may comprehend more clearly the character of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, that I may know that it is my privilege to be a partaker of the divine nature.**" The great and eternal power of God fills my mind with awe, and sometimes even terror.... **May I indeed look upon Jesus, full of goodness and compassion and love, and behold the Lord God, and call Him by the endearing name of Father.** The deep struggles of my own soul against temptations, the earnest longings of my mind and heart to know God and Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, and to have assurance, peace, and rest in their love, lead me to desire every day to be where the beams of the Sun of Righteousness can shine upon me. {OHC 146. 3-5}

## Calvary in Egypt



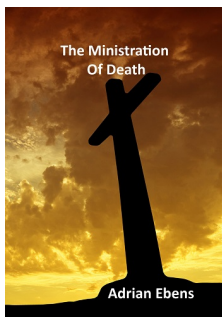
Ponder it carefully. The minds of the Roman soldiers are controlled by Satan, yet the breath by which they live is the life that lights every man that comes into the world. The power of Christ in the souls of men is used by Satan to nail Him to the cross. Just stop and ponder that for a moment. The single image of a Roman soldier with hammer held high and driving a spike into those precious hands of the Saviour holds the key to plagues of Egypt and all the power of destruction manifested on the earth.

## Smiting Angels



Do God's holy angels really kill people? Does Christ truly speak the words "These people must die for now, go and execute them!" Did Jesus hide this part of the character of God when He came to this earth? Jesus never executed anyone while here. If executing people is part of His character then why did He not reveal this while here on earth? For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. Luke 9:56

## The Ministration of Death



Why Did Jesus tell Peter to put away his sword but tell the Levites to go through the camp and slay those who refused to repent? How is it possible that Jesus could say that all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and in the Old Testament a man blasphemes and is stoned to death without mercy? Why did Jesus apparently call a woman who asked for help a dog and why did God command Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice when the law says thou shalt not kill?

# Our Merciful Loving Father

Ellen White prayed these beautiful words

Oh God, I can do nothing. I hang my helpless soul on Thee, Jesus Christ my Saviour. Put Thy grace into my heart. Attract my mind from my weakness to Thy almighty strength, from my ignorance to Thy eternal wisdom, from my frailty to Thy enduring might. Give me correct views of the great plan of redemption. Let me see and understand what Christ is to me, and that my heart, soul, mind, and strength are bought with a price. Christ has imparted to me that I may impart to others. **Lift up my soul; strengthen and enlighten my mind that I may comprehend more clearly the character of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, that I may know that it is my privilege to be a partaker of the divine nature.** The great and eternal power of God fills my mind with awe, and sometimes even terror.... **May I indeed look upon Jesus, full of goodness and compassion and love, and behold the Lord God, and call Him by the endearing name of Father. The deep struggles of my own soul against temptations, the earnest longings of my mind and heart to know God and Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, and to have assurance, peace, and rest in their love,** lead me to desire every day to be where the beams of the Sun of Righteousness can shine upon me. Our High Calling Page 146

As you read and meditate on the themes in this book may it become our prayer as well.