

Light Through Darkness - Adrian Ebens

Presented at Waterford Dec 26, 2020

Let us kneel together and we will pray. Father in heaven, we thank you for this blessed Sabbath, we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you do well and rest in the bosom of the Father. And on this Sabbath, we receive that resting spirit, a rest that we cannot manufacture, but we can receive by faith. We receive your resting spirit and we pray for your spirit to teach us. Open our eyes. Help us to know the days in which we live, that the end is fast approaching, that the culmination of the gospel is coming. It is growing, and soon the earth will be lightened with the glory of your character, a wonderful character, a truly loving Father that we may receive the seal of God. I pray that you would guide us - help us, to be attentive, help us to learn by your spirit, teach us, may we grasp the significance of these events. And I thank you in Jesus name, Amen.

Colin hinted at this in his presentation a number of times and that we are seeing old lights in a new framework and the effect of this old light being placed in the new framework that it was meant to be placed back in 1888, but was rejected by God's last day movement means that we are in a situation that we can truly say that we thought that we were rich and increased with goods and had need of nothing. And yet we find ourselves to be wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. But in the gospel that we now believe, that's not a bad thing. That's a good thing because where sin abounds, grace does much more abound. The thing that we all feared when we read the council of Laodicea in Revelation chapter three was, Oh, I don't want to be wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. Yet, that's the only way to receive super abounding grace is to acknowledge that you're wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, and then you will receive the grace that you need to come to that place where Collin read the text in 1 John chapter three, that when (Christ) the seed of the word of God abides in you, you will not sin. I remember reading that as a young man and trembling, thinking, how could this be possible? And yet in my late teens, I chose to believe those words. Even if I could not understand how on earth that could be possible, I chose to believe them, and in choosing to believe them, 'hope maketh not ashamed'. If you give up this belief, then you have no chance. But if you believe trusting, 'Lord I don't know how this is going to be possible. I look at myself and I cannot bear the stench sometimes. But I believe that you are going to change me. You have promised to change me, to make me like you so that I will stop hurting you. I will stop speaking and saying those things that wound and hurt other people'. And as Colin was saying, that if we do not seek to overcome the sharp and harsh words that we speak to one another, we become comfortable with them. We become hardened in heart, and we no longer feel the pain when we shoot and dagger someone

else. But we certainly feel it when they dagger us, don't we? We certainly feel it. We want to retaliate, back and forth, back and forth every day. The Spirit of Prophecy quotes, 'every sharp word that that we speak pierces the heart of Christ'.

Don't you want to stop doing that? Don't you want to stop piercing him? That's my prayer. I want to stop piercing you with irritated feelings and frustration and irritation that's in my soul, when there's that burning in your heart with anger, that burning, it burns Christ, it hurts Him, for Christ dwells in you.

These are the things that I pray that we will think upon. And as we have come to the point of realizing that we had not accepted the truth for over a hundred years ago, I came to the realization and I sat with a dear friend of mine who is now a conference president at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. And I said to him with all sincerity, I said the gospel that we preach will not save anyone. He said those are big words, and I said, I mean, every word of them, the gospel that we preach, the gospel that we were raised on, will not save a single person in these last days. How can I speak these words with such confidence and with such assurance? It's because of the testimonies. It's because of the reading of the writings of Jones and Waggoner and the things that we've been taught and, of course, the true God that we worship.

Some people say, does it matter? Is it really a salvational issue if you believe in the true God and His only begotten Son or whether you believe in the Trinity, does it really matter? Is it of any consequence that whether you believe in the true God or not? Surely it has to be consequential. Surely there has to be an impact in believing if you worship a false God, you are transformed into falseness. You cannot take hold of the arm of God, if you worship the wrong God. It should be plain to us. Is it a salvational issue? Please open your ears. Wake up! It has to be a salvational issue. 'Thou shalt have no other gods before Me', that's one of the commandments. It is the first commandment. It is very important.

And so as we have continued to study and we have come to the conclusion, the things that were taught by our pioneers that are truth; set in a wrong framework, the truth of the subject of the close of probation and the investigative judgment, as many of us have been taught and learned. And I had the awkward situation of teaching many times as an Adventist minister is that it's been completely laid in a wrong framework. And I can only frame it this way, and I might be reminded of many stories that I've read during the Second World War of men and women running into the forest, running away from the coming foe. And the young people are running because they have vigor and they have strength and they have ability. And the older parents are saying, I can't keep up. And many saying, just let me die here in the snow. I pray that you'll come with us.

You feel like you've been an Adventist all your life and you think, well, I've studied everything there is to know. Everything that you have learned is laid in a wrong framework, which means that everything that we knew and were taught is false. All of it, because as the Spirit of Prophecy says, to be 99% Christian is to be 100% heathen.

Do we understand the implications of this? 99% Christian is 100% heathen because it mars the entire color of the soul. The fact that we are so enmeshed in error makes me wonder with joy how we could even get to this point to know the things that we know. For those who've been studying present truth, the fact that we could come to such an understanding of God and to find it locked upon the foundations of the movement of 1840 to 1848, and to be locked upon the foundations of 1888 to 1895. And I'm speaking to those who know about these subjects and to find a picture of God that is so pure, that is so beautiful, that it causes my mind to just love Him, to love our Father and to desire for His sufferings to end and the sufferings of His only begotten Son. It becomes more and more of an awareness in the dullness of my mind that every day God is suffering. Every day God is in agony, in the destruction and death of millions of His children. It's a figure that I can't get out of my head, figures that I have to repeat them over and over and over again. And that is today in this world 137 women will die at the hands of their partner or former partner. 137 women every day are slaughtered in a domestic violence incident. And our Father in heaven has to watch it. You and I don't have to watch it. Some of us are exposed to elements of this, but 137 women - that motivates me. Are we

awake, do we want this scene of misery to come to an end? Education, page 263 says 'God has put it in our power in cooperation with Him to bring this scene of misery to an end'. 125,000 abortions will be performed today. We can bring this scene of misery to an end, but we're going to have to study. We're going to have to acknowledge that what we learned before is as nothing - unless we bring it into its correct framework. It says in the book Desire of Ages page 287, that the 'Pharisees made truth to serve error', to place it in a wrong framework.

And so we have a lot of work to do. A lot of people say, oh, but we already know everything. You're going to die with that kind of an attitude. You're going to die because you will not have the faith that is able to reach into the most Holy place, a faith that will not yield. And I feel urgent about this subject because the end is coming. We can see it coming. We can see great things are now taking place on the stage of human history.

There was a great explosion in the city of Nashville on Christmas morning. A great explosion took place. Some of you haven't heard. A bomb exploded. No one was killed, but a bomb was exploded. Some are wondering who caused this. There was a countdown sequence saying, 'please evacuate the area'. A huge explosion. Why are these things happening? Some of us might call this the Burning of the Reichstag. You know what that is? Where you create an event to create chaos, to impose a different regime. We are seeing changes going to take place in the United States of America. Donald Trump has not yielded the election. There are still elements that he is resting upon to transition into a different form so that America can truly transition from... well; I wouldn't say that's been Lamb like within the last 30 - 50 years. We are on the verge of tremendous change.

And so for those of us that have been studying, we know that this year in the seven year cycle is a sixth year. If you study Leviticus 25, every seventh year is a Sabbath. Ellen White wrote excitedly to Steven Haskell in 1899, talking about the seven year Sabbath cycle. And she said, there's much light here for God's people to learn, much light! It's very important for you and I to understand this cycle, this seven year cycle, because you and I are going to need the extra Sabbath spirit that comes between the Day of Atonement of 2021 and the Day of Atonement of 2022. And why Day of Atonement? Because it's on the Day of Atonement that the Jubilee horn will bow at the end of 49 years. It's on the Day of Atonement when these cycles are occurring. I didn't know any of these things before because of my lack of a correct framework. Why is it important for us to understand that we're in a sixth year? Because when you study the gathering of God's word, which is the living bread from heaven, when you're gathering food, when you're gathering resources, the number six is important. Why is it important? What did the Israelites do on the sixth day? Preparation day, they collected double on the sixth day to give them preparation for getting through the Sabbath so that they weren't gathering and working during that time. We're going to need in this year, in this 12 month period, we're going to need to gather the manna and prepare for the seventh year. I sense that the seventh year is going to be difficult. And if not the seventh year, the seven years after that, as I presented on the last Wednesday night, is going to become difficult. Why? Because we are going to be on probation. The only way to test what is inside of us is to be placed under pressure. It's the only way to know. Not that God wants to do this, but it's the only way for us to know.

And so, this year, I was supposed to be traveling to many countries and preaching the word, but as I have prayed, and every time I pray on what I'm supposed to do, I hear four words, 'write, write, write, preach'. And in the order of things that I have been doing, it's been more like, 'write, write, preach, preach'. So I've had more opportunity to do writing this year to write out the things that I believe that our Father in heaven has shown me. And I'm tremendously excited about this book, As You Judge, in regard to the investigative judgment; to present, what I believe shows a picture of our Father consistent with the words of Christ, where He says, 'my Father judges no one'. How do we mesh that with everything that we were taught? The natural human tendency is to jettison the whole investigative judgment, teaching. Not so! Very important teaching, central pillar and foundation of our faith is the declaration until 2300 days then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. I invite you to study because this is old truth in a new framework. And that requires effort. It requires a recognition. You know, a lot of the things that are being taught are wrong. We're going to have to unlearn many, many things. And if you feel that we're racing through, the snow, escaping from the enemy that is coming, that it's getting too hard. Pray for strength. I think of James White with his scythe and he's cutting

through the wheat fields and he got to a point where he just couldn't go on because of the dyspeptic nature of his stomach. And he couldn't continue that he dropped to his knees and he says 'Father give me strength to keep going so I can make a little bit of money so I can continue to print these pamphlets', that they were producing. Pray for strength. Ask God to give you strength, to give you clarity, because this is really, really important. The work that we are engaged upon.

I'll just mentioned briefly, there is a series of presentations I've called it 2020 Present Truth. It's a series of presentations that I did at Talking Rock Sabbath Chapel 12 months ago. And as I went through these presentations, it was a joy to revisit some of the elements of present truth as we understand them being brought together in these transcripts. I just was delighted to go through these. And I chose this picture of a young woman ready to give birth, because we have come to that point. When you understand, and I've written this in the story, it says, 'The present truth is represented as a young woman about to give birth to the seed of the Messiah. The dragon assails her, but her Husband watches over her with such tender care as she prepares for the delivery of the seed that she so longingly desires to be manifested. The followers of present truth will soon head into the dark night of the world's present crisis. But in that trial of her faith and in learning not to resist evil in the flesh, she will be prepared for the mighty rushing wind that will lighten the earth with the glory (or the character) of the Lord.

Listen to what the spirit of Jesus now says to His church, 'make your calling an election sure. Study to show yourself approved. Walk with your Savior in truth and love'. I would invite you to study these things that are bringing together many elements that we have been studying and putting the pieces together and locking them together into place.

Because we had some new people there at Talking Rock I had the opportunity to lay out many of the foundational principles. And as I said, we put them in the transcripts and of course you can watch it as well. I invite you to do this because I believe we are on the verge of the character of Christ being manifested in His church. And that's why the symbol of the young woman. This is what we're longing for. But of course, as we see the story in Revelation, Chapter 12 with a Dragon is ready to devour the seed of the woman. Of course, this is referring primarily to Jesus manifest in the flesh two thousand years ago, but it speaks to a spiritual principle of Christ being manifested in the characters of His people. And when Christ is manifest, the seed of Christ is manifest in the woman - His people, Satan is angry and he wants to seek and destroy. And we are on the verge of those things. And just when the new world order imagines that they have secured to themselves this world for themselves, 'Tidings out of the east will trouble them' and a message will come that they did not expect, did not anticipate. Gideon and his men will shatter, their earthen vessels will be broken, they will rent their hearts and not their garments. The light of present truth will begin to shine, and the hungry masses of this world will thirstily drink in this beautiful truth. And all of the plans that popery and apostate Protestantism have been planning for the last hundred years or so goes into array, and this will make them tremendously upset. So with that introduction, I want to bring you to our presentation, which I've called Light Through Darkness.

There are a number of objectives that I want to present in this presentation. One of the things that people are finding particularly difficult in studying this message is understanding the mirror principle. How God is working with the mirror to reflect back to human beings, their own sinful nature. People find this difficult to comprehend how this works. I'm introducing this from another perspective because the next book that I plan to write will deal with the origins of the great controversy and the development of Satan's idea of justice that was inconsistent with mercy. We need to lay these elements out piece by piece so that we can understand the issues that are at stake. If we don't understand the issues at the beginning, how will we be prepared for what is taking place at the end?

So Light Through Darkness, just going through some passages of scripture in reference to the word darkness, we look at Acts 26:18.

DARKNESS

Darkness = Power of Satan:

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, **and from the power of Satan unto God...** Acts 26:18

Darkness = Wickedness

The way of the wicked is as darkness: [H653] they know not at what they stumble. Prov 4:19

Darkness = Unrighteousness

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for **what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?** 2 Cor 6:14

Darkness = Hate you brother

He that saith he is in the light, **and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.** 1 John 2:9

And I just want to flag for you this verse Acts 26:18 is going to become a key verse for this movement. When you understand the implications of what this is saying, 'To open their eyes and to turn them', this text was given in the calling of Paul when Saul became Paul.

This is related to his calling; Acts 26:18, 'To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light'. And in classic Hebrew parallel thought, the next words are repeat of what he just said, 'Turn them from darkness to light and from' - what? 'The power of Satan unto God'. So darkness is what in this definition? The power of Satan; darkness is the power of Satan. I think most of us would have understood that.

Proverbs 4:19, 'The way of the wicked is as darkness. They know not at what they stumble'. Darkness equals wickedness. That would make sense, wouldn't it? If the power of Satan is darkness, the power of Satan produces wickedness. 2Corinthians 6:14, 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers for what fellowship had righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?'. Light is righteousness. Darkness is unrighteousness. Just laying out some definition texts from scripture. 1John 2:9, 'He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother is in darkness even until now'.

The question then is who is your brother? Is the Pope your brother? If you hate, then you're in darkness, 'even until now'.

Light - let's have a look at some texts on light, just contrasting light and darkness. .

LIGHT

Light = God the Father. No darkness at all

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.** 1 John 1:5

Light = Son of God

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. John 12:46

1 John 1:5, 'This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light'. Doesn't say God has light, God is light. And in Him is what? No darkness at all. That means if there's no darkness at all in God, there is no power of Satan in Him. There is no unrighteousness in Him. There is no hatred of anyone in Him. There is no wickedness in Him. This is the definition of darkness. Light equals the Son of God. John 8:12, 'then spake Jesus under them saying I am the light of the world'. If Jesus is the light of the world, what does it say for the world? That the world is in darkness, the whole world layeth in wickedness. 1 John 5 says this because of idolatry. 'I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness'.

If the seed or the word of God abideth in you, you will not sin. You shall not walk in darkness. Darkness is sin. Darkness is the power of Satan. This is what God has promised us. But because the reason we struggle with this is because we were all taught a gospel that will not save you. That's why we wrestle with this. Oh, how can it be possible? This is impossible, I can't overcome sin. That's because we were all taught a false gospel, that's why. John 12:46, 'I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness'. If you believe on Him, you will not abide in darkness. How simple could it be? The problem is that we weren't believing on Him. One, we didn't believe that He was the Son of God. And two, we didn't believe in His character, that in Him there is no violence. 'Neither was guile found in His mouth', Isaiah 53.

A few texts on light; the sun in the heavens is a representative of Christ, Revelation 1:16,

SUN REPRESENTS CHRIST

And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: **and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.** Rev 1:16

But unto you that fear my name shall **the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;** and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. Mal 4:2

'... and His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength'. The sun in the heavens above is a representative of Christ and His righteousness. And of course, Malachi 4:2 '...the Sun of righteousness'. 'But unto you that fear my name'. What is name? Character. You who know my character - 'then shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healings healing in His wings; and you shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall'. So the sun is a representative of Christ.

Now, with these thoughts in mind about light and darkness, let's consider some other passages. I'm going to keep building on this; 'For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness'.

LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS

For God, who **commanded the light to shine out [Ek] 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 Cor 4:6

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. Matt 10:27

You see the Greek word that I have there (Ek), does that suggest a potential problem? How can the light of God shine out of darkness? How do we understand this? In God, there is no darkness at all. And yet God commanded the light to shine out of darkness. It's coming out of

darkness. We need to unpack this a little bit more. And of course, it says 'hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory (or character) of God in the face of Jesus Christ'.

Another beautiful passage that speaks about Christ's mission to the world. Why did He come? Do we believe, as it says in the hymn, 'Sent Him to Die'. Was that the mission?

I came across this text and I just love it when a text suddenly hits you, 'what I tell you in darkness'. Is there any darkness in Christ? No! 'What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light'. We're going to come back to this text - very interesting what Jesus is saying here. 'And what you hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops'.

SOURCE OF DARKNESS

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive [to take, get hold of] forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Acts 26:18

Source of darkness. Now, I'm coming back to this text. We can look at this again because this just blew me away. Acts 26:18 'To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive'. In the Greek it means to take, to get hold of - what? So what is it about the darkness and the power of Satan? What is it related to the subject of? The forgiveness of sins and the ability to take hold of forgiveness. This text is telling you very clearly what the heart of the great controversy is about. The power of Satan relates to the inability to take hold of the forgiveness of sin - it's right there in the text. Referencing Rom 5:20, the law entered that the offense might abound, where sin abounded grace did much more abound. Here we see darkness, power of Satan that when they open their eyes are able to receive, take hold of, grab forgiveness of sins. How? 'Which are sanctified by faith that is...' where? 'In me'. This is the Gospel. The whole great controversy summed up in that one verse. That's the source of the darkness.

We're going to unpack this a little bit more. Satan says God will not forgive; Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.1, Page 20.

SATAN SAYS GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE

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 20.2}

'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 entrusted 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'. You've gone too far. God will not forgive you. This is the power of Satan manifested, and as a result, 'they must assert their liberty and gain by force the position of authority which was not willingly accorded them'. Here is the introduction of the doctrine of force. Spirit of Prophecy tells us that God does not use force. Satan in introducing the idea that God would not forgive. Introduces us and the universe the idea of force; to take by force that which you desire.

SATAN SAYS GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE

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. DA 761.4

Desire of Ages 761.4 'In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed'. Who came up with the idea that law cannot be obeyed and that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned? There is the source of darkness. This is the source of darkness; that God will not forgive.

GOD IS MERCIFUL

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; [olam] and his truth endureth to all generations. Psa 100:5

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. [olam] Ps 136:1

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Exo 34:6

'His mercy is everlasting; (olam)'. That means forever and ever and ever. His mercy never ends. That should speak to you. 'And His truth endureth to all generations', Psalms 100:5. Psalm 136:1, every second verse is saying this over and over again. 'O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: and His mercy endureth forever'. 'Endureth' is a supplied word. His mercy forever. (Olam), it never ends on God's side. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance on God's side, His mercy will never, never end. And you're familiar with Exodus 34, the very first word that God spoke after His self existence. 'The Lord, the Lord God is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth'. So when Satan says God will not forgive he's saying that God is not merciful, or there's a point at which He becomes unmerciful. This is a lie. This is the source of darkness. This is the problem.

MANUFACTURING DARKNESS

It was most difficult to make the deceiving power of Satan apparent. His power to deceive increased with practice. If he could not defend himself, **he must accuse, in order to appear just and righteous, and to make God appear arbitrary and exacting.** In secret he whispered his disaffection to the angels. There was at first no pronounced feeling against God; but the seed had been sown, and the love and confidence of the angels was marred. The sweet communion between them and their God was broken. Every move was watched; **every action was viewed in the light in which Satan had made them see things.** 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.**

{Review and Herald, September 7, 1897 par. 3-4}

Now, this is a text, a passage that we mentioned this in the book Natural Justice and Atonement, and Key to Empowering the Third Angel's Message. This is a game changer. 'It was most difficult to make the deceiving power of Satan apparent. His power to deceive increased with practice. If he could not defend himself, he must accuse. In order to appear just and righteous and to make God appear arbitrary and exacting. In secret he whispered his disaffection to the angels. There was at first no pronounced feeling against God, but the seed had been sown, and the love and confidence of the angels was marred'. How many angels? It says just 'the angels'. Have you ever considered that? There's more passages on this as to how many were involved in this. The love, the relationship between God and His angels was marred by the seeds that Satan was sowing. 'The sweet communion between them and their God was broken (all the angles). 'Every move was watched'. Whose every move was watched? The Father's, every move was watched. 'Every action was viewed in the light in which Satan had made them see things'.

Satan had manufactured a pair of glasses for every one of the angels and subtly had put them on them. And now they know they were seeing God in a very different light than what they had seen Him before. 'That which Satan had instilled into the mind 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 justice, which was entirely contrary to God's love and compassion and mercy'. This is the origin of the great controversy. This is where darkness comes from. The Review and Herald, September 7, 1897. And this is how he manufactured darkness. All the angels now were affected by what Satan was saying.

THICK DARKNESS

Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising **nearly one half of all the angels**, and exclaimed, These are with me! 1SP 22



Lucifer had at first so conducted his temptations that he himself stood uncommitted. The angels whom he could not bring fully to his side, he accused of indifference to the interests of heavenly beings. The very work which he himself was doing, he charged upon the loyal angels. It was his policy to perplex with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. And his high position, so closely connected with the divine government, gave greater force to his representations. PP 41

So, you've read many passages in the Bible about the thick darkness that is around God, I'm presenting to you a picture of the Father and I've got yellow is a symbol of brightness of the Father's glory, but around this Satan had created a lens which says that God will not forgive and that sin must be punished. Every sin must be punished, urged Satan. And God and his Son was locked up in this darkness. Patriarchs and Prophets page 41, 'Lucifer had at first so conducted his temptations that he himself stood uncommitted. The angels whom he could not bring fully to his side, he accused of indifference to the interest of heavenly beings, the very work which he himself was doing, he charged upon the loyal angels'.

These are important tactics because they're going to be used again. 'It was his policy to perplex with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery'. Mystery - God is a mystery, apparently. 'And by artful perversion, cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah'. This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Not so as I was told when I was removed from my position. It is absurd Adrian to believe that Jesus is the literal Son of God. That's what I was told. 'And his high position, so closely connected with the divine government, gave greater force to his representations'.

Now we see it says in The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.1, page 22, 'then Satan exultantly, pointed to his sympathizers', comprising how many? 'Nearly one half and exclaimed, these are with me'. That's 48, 49 percent, isn't it? Forty nine point five, nearly half, forty nine point eight, whatever it's around there. Nearly half of the angels sided with Lucifer in regard to what he was teaching. But even though nearly half of the angel sided with Lucifer, the other angels were still impacted by Satan's concepts of justice and mercy, and therefore, God was shrouded in darkness as a result of this.

CREATION REVEALS THIS CONFLICT

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep [surging mass of water]. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Gen 1:2

Invisible made visible.

And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. Rev 17:15

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. Psa 18:4

One of the key principles that we've studied is the divine pattern in this movement, and that is that the invisible is manifested in the visible and therefore the creation of this world is a manifestation of what was happening in the invisible. And if we study it carefully, we will see that the war in heaven, the principles of the war in heaven were being manifested in the creation of this world. That first week of creation was not sin, that it was manifesting something that was going on in heaven. 'And the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep'.

What does darkness represent? Represents sin, wickedness, hatred, confusion. The power of sight and darkness was upon the face of the deep. The word deep is 'surging mass of water'. 'And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters'. Gen 1:2. The spirit of God is pleading with the Angels because, as it says in Revelation 17:15, 'the waters, which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth are peoples and multitudes', and in the heavenly realm, the waters are angels. Are they not all ministering spirits? And doesn't spirit represent water? It's a symbol that can come back; that there's a surging mass of water in the heavens as the angels are convulsed with these new thoughts and these new ideas and the Spirit of God is moving upon the angels, wooing them and drawing them, trying to show them the truth.

The invisible is made visible. It says, in Psalms 18, which is a crucifixion, a prophecy. 'The sorrows of death compassed me in the floods of ungodly men made me afraid'. There was a flood. The Dragon in Revelation 12, 'floods come out of his mouth and the dragon'. In the beginning that serpent of old called the devil and Satan, he flooded heaven with his ideas. And God and his Son were shrouded in darkness. Because of the hatred of Satan for the Son of God.

SURGING MASS OF WATER

Until this time all heaven had been in order, harmony, and perfect subjection to the government of God. It was the highest sin to rebel against His order and will. All heaven seemed in commotion. The angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at its head. Satan, ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of Jesus, was insinuating against the government of God. Some of the angels sympathized with Satan in his rebellion, and others strongly contended for the honor and wisdom of God in giving authority to His Son. There was contention among the angels. Satan and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. EW 145

Early Writings page 145, 'Until this time, all heaven had been in order, harmony and perfect subjection to the government of God. It was the highest sin to rebel against His order and will. All heaven seemed in commotion'. A surging mass of convulsions that are taking place. And so God demonstrates this in the creation of this world. See the connection? 'The Angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at its head. Satan, ambitious to exalt himself and unwilling to submit to the authority of Jesus, was insinuating against the government of God. Some of the angels sympathized with Satan in his rebellion, and other strongly contended for the honor and wisdom of God in giving authority to his Son'. Did you read that? Did God give authority to his Son? That's what the word of God says. He gave authority to his Son. He made His Son equal with Himself, and that created jealousy in the heart of Lucifer. That is a simple explanation of the great controversy, isn't it? There was contention among the angels. Satan and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God, a surging, seething mass of water and the spirit of God was moving upon the surface of the water.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. Gen 1:3-4

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Acts 26:18

Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ. {TDG 128.2}

'And God said, let there be light'. I saw that in a new way today. I like the word 'let', the Father is pleading; 'let there be light'. He doesn't use force; 'let my people go', 'come let us reason together', 'let there be light'. 'Let not your heart be troubled'. 'And there was light and God saw that the light was good'. What does this say about the darkness? Does it say the darkness was good? There is no darkness in God. It's clearly telling us the origins of the great controversy in the creation story. Doesn't say that the light was good because He separated the light from the darkness and He called the light good. The gospel is being taught by Moses. Moses is teaching you the gospel in the creation story, in the origins of the great controversy.

As again, Acts 26:18, 'that they might receive forgiveness and inheritance among them, which are sanctified by faith that is in Me'. The faith of Jesus, as we will read later, Satan tried to convince Christ of what he was saying. He tried to bring Christ onto his side and to bring Him under his authority. And it was quite a struggle for Christ to resist him. 'Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God'. Expelled? 'They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus'. This fact, the fallen angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God'. They wanted to obscure this because if Christ was begotten and inherited all things from the Father, they were consigned to believe that everything that they possessed was given to them. And they couldn't glory in their own wisdom, in their own beauty. The Son of God was a constant reminder that all they possessed came from somebody else. If they could only look directly upon the Father and look upon a Being who received nothing from anyone, and by beholding, they became tainted, and that image they could worship - themselves. The direct worship of God the Father ultimately leads to the worship of self. By beholding you become changed.

Christ is the one that holds the whole universe together. He's the one we must look to - Christ! That's why He gave Him a name above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that He is Lord to the glory of God, the Father. In Christ, the whole universe holds together. And a begotten Being who received all things that He might give. That is the pattern by which we are to live. But they would obscure this fact that Christ was begotten. And we see this today, don't we? We say we believe that Jesus is a begotten being. Oh, you believe Jesus is created. It's the same argument in the beginning. These arguments, Satan floating both sides of these arguments, confusing, begotten and created. This Day With God page 128.2, devotional by Ellen White.

ANGELS OFFERED MERCY

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, nor 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. GC 495,496

(Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! 1SP 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. 1SP 20

Angels offered mercy. Why? Because God is ever merciful. 'God in His great mercy, bore long with Lucifer. He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station where he first indulged the spirit of discontent, nor 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', what? 'Repentance and submission', GC 495,496. How do you read that? Submit or else? Or, let there be light - come back, I'll forgive you. This path you're trading is going to hurt you. It's going to destroy you.

We remember nearly one half of the angels sided with Lucifer. But as it says here, 'Many of Satan sympathizers were inclined to heed the counsel of the loyal angels and repent of their dissatisfaction and be received again into the confidence of the Father and his dear Son'. Many of them thought, no - I need to go back, I need to go back! But, as we have been taught, once they had crossed the line that God cut them off, God threw them out, boom! End of story! You're finished! No, no, no, no. This is not our Father.

ANGELS OFFERED MERCY

Many were disposed to heed this counsel, to repent of their disaffection, and seek to be again received into favor with the Father and His Son. But Lucifer had another deception ready. The mighty revolter now declared that the angels who had united with him had gone too far to return; that he was acquainted with the divine law, and knew that God would not forgive. He declared that all who should submit to the authority of Heaven would be stripped of their honor, degraded from their position. For himself, he was determined never again to acknowledge the authority of Christ. The only course remaining for him and his followers, he said, was to assert their liberty, and gain by force the rights which had not been willingly accorded them. {PP 40.3}

So far as Satan himself was concerned, it was true that he had now gone too far to return. But not so with those who had been blinded by his deceptions. To them the counsel and entreaties of the loyal angels opened a door of hope; and had they heeded the warning, they might have broken away from the snare of Satan. But pride, love for their leader, and the desire for unrestricted freedom were permitted to bear sway, and the pleadings of divine love and mercy were finally rejected. {PP 41.1}

Now we come to Patriarchs and Prophets page 40.3, so I did detour a little bit on this part, but I find this fascinating, this story of the origins of the great controversy. 'Many were disposed to heed the counsel and to repent of their dissatisfaction'. PP 41.1 'So far as Satan himself was concerned, it was true that he had now gone too far to return. But not so with those who have been blinded by his deceptions. To them, the counsel and entreaties of the loyal angels', what? 'Opened a door hope, and had they heeded the warning, they might have broken away from the snare of Satan'. And so just do the math. Nearly half of the angels side with Lucifer. How many angels ultimately fell? Thirty three per cent. So were there any angels that walk through this door of mercy? Work it out! Had to be, but the Spirit of Prophecy conceals this, it doesn't state it explicitly. I'm not sure why the full reason for that. But what we say next may shed some light on that.

'But pride, love for their leader and the desire for unrestricted freedom were permitted to bear sway, and the pleadings of divine love and mercy were finally rejected'. Why doesn't it say that God had had enough? He was sick of these angels trying to change and overthrow His government, so He threw them out. Doesn't say that, does it? But that's what many would have us believe, wasn't that what we were taught - that God threw them out of heaven and cast them to the earth? Well, look at this. I've got it here. This is something you may not have heard before. I find this fascinating.

LUCIFER'S JEALOUSY

The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in prospect. This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities. The law of heaven should be the standard law for this new world, for human intelligences. Lucifer was jealous of Christ and this jealousy worked into rebellion and he carried with him a large number of the holy angels. Jesus, the Son of God, was not deceived by Lucifer's sophistry. He stood true to principle and resisted every line of reasoning of Lucifer and all the angels who had taken sides with him, thus evidencing that as He stood, every angel might have stood. {Ms43b-1891.3}

This is Ms43b-1891.3, 'The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven'. They began to discuss the creation of this world. 'There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in prospect'. Did you know that? He put in, he submitted a request; I would like to be made governor of this domain.

'This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged take the world with all its probabilities'. Oh, bless you, Lord Jesus, what probabilities you've had to endure! 'The law of heaven should be the standard law for this new world'. Just think about it for a moment. We'll have a look at some other passages on this. Satan managed to convince the angels to see God in a different light through his justice system, as we will soon see all of the unfallen worlds also, were seeing justice in this light.

The creation of this world was God's only hope, His only hope to demonstrate to the world what God's character was really like. And then Satan succeeded in taking us down as well. And that left God alone with His Son, shrouded in darkness with no light anywhere. So God was forced to speak out of darkness because there was nowhere in the universe where light existed of the true character of God. 'Lucifer was jealous of Christ in his jealousy, worked into rebellion and carried with him a large number of holy angels. Jesus, the Son of God, was not deceived by Lucifer's sophistry. He stood true to principle and resisted every line of reasoning of Lucifer and all the angels who had taken side with him, thus evidencing', what? 'That as He stood, every angel might have stood'. Now that's a bit of a clangor for the Trinity, isn't it? What is that saying? Every angel might have stood as He stood.

SEPARATION OF THE WATERS

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. Gen 1:6-8

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. (Rev 12:3-4)

The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail. Isa 9:15

Separation of the waters, what is the separation of the waters? That's the 33 and the 67, the waters above; the angels that remained, in the waters below; separation of the waters. 'And God said, let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters. And let it divide the waters from the waters and God made the firmament and divided the waters', the air, what is the firmament? That pocket of air between the waters above and the waters beneath, the spirit of God, that sharp two edged sword came in and separated the angels. It was the word of God. Satan could no longer bear the convictions of conscience. And as it says, in Jude 1:6, 'they left their first estate'. Revelation 12:3, that 'with his tale, he cast a third of the stars to the earth'. And this is how Michael and His angels cast Satan out. It was through the spirit of pleading with Lucifer not to do this. That drove Satan out with his angels. Do you see the creation story in a different light?

'And there appeared another wonder in heaven, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, seven crowns, and his tail drew a third part of the stars and he cast them to the earth'. And in Isaiah 9:15, what is the tail? A 'prophet that teaches lies'. It's through the lies of the Dragon that those third of the angels, they believed Lucifer when he said God will not forgive us, we've gone too far. And so they fell with him.

FATHER SPEAKS OUT OF DARKNESS

The sweet communion between them and their God was broken. Every move was watched; every action was viewed in the light in which Satan had made them see things. 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. {Review and Herald, September 7, 1897 par. 3-4}



For God, who commanded the light to shine out [Ek] of darkness, ...
2 Co 4:6

So the Father speaks out of darkness, as we said, 'The sweet communion between them and their God was broken. Every move was watched; every action was viewed in the light in which Satan', Satan had enshrouded God in darkness through his lies and through his deceptions. And this means that God commanded the light to shine out of the darkness. Every time God speaks, we hear it. We see it through the lens of darkness. Every word that God speaks is darkness to us in our human nature because of the lens through which he had made the universe see Him. And in the fall of man, Adam embraced Satan's philosophy that you cannot be forgiven. If he had believed that God was ever merciful when He said, 'Have you eaten of the fruit of the tree', he would have knelt down and said, 'Father, forgive me, please forgive me'. But he didn't. He justified himself because he embraced a false justice system. And so God is forced to speak out of darkness. His words, when they come out, they must go through this darkness and they come to the human heart as darkness. We will study this a little bit more. This is really important to understand.

FATHER SPEAKS OUT OF DARKNESS

These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. (23) And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; Deut 5:22-23

Deuteronomy 5:22-23, the giving of the commandments; 'These words, the Lord spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness'. There is this fire on the mountain and around the fire there is thick darkness. God is telling you what is happening in heaven, what happened in the beginning. And so when God speaks to the children of Israel, they hear a voice through thick darkness. 'With a great voice, and He added no more. And


He wrote them in two tables of stone and delivered them unto me. And it came to pass when ye heard the voice out of the midst of darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders'. This is what happens whenever you hear stories involving darkness. It's because Satan is enshrouding God with his understanding. Darkness all around the cross wasn't there? Same story, same story as before. And how can there be fire? You walked up and down in the midst of the fire of stones, the stones of fire. How can there be darkness and fire at the same time?

audience If you believe that fire is a consuming fire in the eyes of the children of Israel?

Yes, Exodus 24:17 yeah, in the eyes of the children of Israel. It doesn't make sense naturally for there to be a fire in a darkness around the fire.

DARKNESS = THE SECRET PAVILION OF GOD

There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down: **and darkness was under his feet**. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. **He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters** and thick clouds of the skies. At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. (Psa 18:8-12)



Look at this text. This is the crucifixion Psalms. And I want to suggest to you that the crucifixion of Christ is a manifestation of what happened in the very beginning. It's manifesting what happened to God, how God and His Son were shut up in darkness. Lucifer had shut Him up - in darkness, and Lucifer crucified the Son of God from the foundation of the world. Didn't he? 'There went up a smoke out of His nostrils, and fire out of His mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it'. Oh, that's Pentecost isn't it? The coals of fire. But what happens? 'He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under His feet'. Interesting. And He rode upon a cherub, and did fly; yea, He did fly upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness His secret place'. How did God make darkness His secret place? He refused to kill Lucifer, that's how He made the darkness His secret place. He could have picked him up and cast him down as one casts a pebble and destroyed him. But would He have got rid of the darkness if He had done that? He would have enthroned darkness forever. His whole throne would have been dark. The fire would have gone out. So He had to remain enshrouded in darkness. 'Thick clouds of the skies at the brightness that was before Him, His thick clouds, past hailstones, coals of fire', all the words of God that come out, they come through the thick darkness and they are coated in darkness and they're understood as darkness. That's how we understand it. Now the whole universe is involved.

THE WHOLE UNIVERSE INVOLVED

Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. Then the prevarications and accusations of him who had once been an exalted angel were seen in their true light. It was seen that his professedly spotless character was deceptive. His deeply laid scheme to exalt himself to supremacy was fully discerned. His falsehoods were apparent to all. God's authority was forever established. Truth triumphed over falsehood. {ST, August 27, 1902 par. 11}

Not merely in the minds of a few finite creatures in this world, but in the minds of all the inhabitants of the heavenly universe, has the immutability of God's law been established. Satan's course against Christ was heralded to every world. When the issue was finally determined, every unfallen being expressed indignation at the rebellion. With one voice they extolled God as righteous, merciful, self-denying, just. His law had been vindicated. {ST, August 27, 1902 par. 12}

Signs of the Times, August 27, 1902. You've heard part of this. I've quoted this a number of times in Reflecting Christ, page 58 about when all the unfallen world said that this world should be exterminated. They were ready to do it. Well, you should read the whole thing it's breathtaking. This is the beginning of what she says, 'Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unknown worlds. Then the provocations, accusations of him, who had once been an exalted angel, were seen in their true light'. Could we comprehend the victory of the cross when Jesus finally expired and said 'it is finished'? Suddenly the light, the darkness broke free of the loyal angels and the unfallen worlds. Suddenly the light emerged, and as the sun became visible on the fourth day of creation, so the sun in the spiritual world became visible. At the end of the fourth millennium, the light appears.

'It was seen that his professedly spotless character was deceptive, his deeply layed scheme to exalt himself to supremacy was fully discerned, his falsehoods were apparent to all. God's authority was forever established'. Hallelujah. 'Truth triumphed over falsehood'. Here we go. 'Not merely in the minds of a few finite creatures in this world, but in the minds of', what? 'All the inhabitants of the heavenly universe', this tells you that the darkness had enshrouded all of them. 'Satan's course against Christ was heralded to every world. When the issue was finally determined, every unfallen being expressed indignation at the rebellion'. Finally, they were able to see. Finally, it was made clear they no longer needed to serve God with fear of death, that God would exterminate them. 'With one voice, they extolled God as righteous, merciful, self-denying, just. His law had been vindicated'. God and his Son walked a razor blade for four thousand years, not only with this world, but with the entire universe and all the unfallen worlds shrouded in darkness, in darkness. The triumph of God and his Son cannot be underestimated. They were backed up against the wall. Satan had them on the ropes. He had them on the ropes. He had them by the throat. He had everyone with him. Even the loyal angels were in their minds, they had sympathies for Satan. Why could Satan walk into the heavenly courts, as it says in the book of Job? Because of the sympathies of the loyal angels. That's why he could still come. The reason he can't go there anymore is because there's no sympathy for him anymore. That's why.

FALL OF MAN

Adam and Eve listened to the voice of the tempter, and sinned against God. **The light, the garments of heavenly innocence**, departed from these tried, deceived souls, and **in parting with the garments of innocence, they drew about them the dark robes of ignorance of God**. The clear and perfect light of innocence which had hitherto surrounded them, had lightened everything which they had approached, but deprived of that heavenly light, the posterity of Adam could no longer trace the character of God in his created works. Therefore, after the fall, nature was not the only teacher of man. In order that the world might not remain in darkness, in eternal, spiritual night, the God of nature must meet man through Jesus Christ. The Son of God came to the world as a revelation of the Father. He was "that true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." {HL 289.1}

The fall of man. I know we're covering a lot of stuff, but there's a lot more light to come, a lot more light; to believe that you can walk with the light, you can embrace the light. We're in the double portion of the Spirit. Believe it! 'Adam and Eve listened to the voice of the tempter and sinned against God. The light the garments of heavenly innocence'. There was a light. Why did the light go out? 'Departed from these tried, deceived souls, and in parting with the garments of innocence they drew about them', what? 'The dark robes of ignorance of God'. This is your inheritance and mine; passed on to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me. Did Adam hate God? The carnal mind is enmity against God, not subject to the law of God. Neither indeed can it be. Adam hated God. That's why he took the fruit. He was convinced in his mind that God wanted to kill his wife and he hated God. But like Lucifer, he hid it. He hid it under a garment of darkness. This is our father, this is what we inherited from Adam, death reigned from Adam to Moses. Death, because of the belief that every sin must be punished.

'The clear and perfect light of innocence which had hitherto surrounded them had lightened everything which they had approached. But deprived of that heavenly light, the posterity of Adam could no longer trace the character of God in His creative works'. That's a huge statement with that garment of light. Adam could go up to plants and it says 'hold converse with the plants' through the light that surrounded him. That blows my mind! Dr. Doolittle on steroids is probably not the right illustration, but anyway.

'Therefore, after the fall, nature was not the only teacher of man. In order that the world might not remain in darkness, in eternal spiritual night, the God of nature must meet man through Jesus Christ. The Son of God came to the world as a revelation of the Father'. Bless you, Jesus, for showing us the Father, what the Father is really like. Heavenly Places 289.1 says in the great controversy, that fallen man entered into desperate companionship with Lucifer and his angels. There was no disharmony between Satan and Adam. They were bosom buddies. They had the same goals, the same aspirations. And this is our inheritance. That light was a symbol of the spirit of Jesus. It was the Holy Spirit manifestation in Adam and Eve. And it's interesting, isn't it, that when Eve ate the fruit, she didn't lose her garment of light. We won't go there today.

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES ON EARTH

After the fall of our first parents, Christ declared that in order to save man from the penalty of sin, He would come to the world to conquer Satan on the enemy's own battle-field. **The controversy that began in heaven was to be continued on the earth. In this controversy much was to be involved. Vast interests were at stake.** Before the inhabitants of the heavenly universe were to be answered the questions: "Is God's law imperfect, in need of amendment or abrogation, or is it immutable? Is God's government in need of change, or is it stable?" {ST, August 27, 1902.2-3 }

We come back to Signs of the Times, I read this earlier August 27. This she says, 'After the fall of our first parents, Christ declared that in order to save man from the penalty of sin', not for sin. Is there a difference? I think there is. 'He would come to the world to conquer Satan on the enemy's own battlefield. The controversy that began in heaven was to be continued on the earth. In this controversy much was involved. Vast interests were at stake'. What were the vast interests? All the unfallen worlds were at stake. All of the heavenly hosts were at stake. Vast interests! 'Before the inhabitants of the heavenly universe were to be answered the questions: "Is God's law imperfect, in need of amendment or abrogation, or is it immutable? Is God's government in need of change or is it stable?" The whole universe was asking this question because Lucifer had infused this.

SATAN SURROUNDS MEN WITH DARKNESS

If Satan sees that he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger, and, with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears that he will lose a captive, and **he calls a reinforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and form a wall of darkness around him**, that heaven's light may not reach him.
CCh 319.2

I posted this recently on our Facebook group, 'If Satan sees that he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger,

and, with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears that he will lose a captive, and he calls a reinforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and form a wall of darkness around him'. Have you ever noticed that when you try and witness to someone and suddenly they have mishaps, they have difficulties, they have problems, they have confusion that overtakes them, they're not able to continue?

Satan is at war to put a hedge of darkness around them. They're not able to comprehend or understand the things that you say. A wall of darkness, and I want to suggest to you, and this is a point I'm inserting a brief point here, if you bring elements that are inspired by Satan into your home, you're inviting darkness to be in your home. I've said this many times, try and understand. You bring music, videos, objects, television programs into your home. You bring darkness into your home and you are making it harder for yourself. You're inviting angels that vibrate darkness to stand around you and to diffuse the light that God is trying to present to you. There are no television programs that are going to bring you light. Can I say that any more plainly? There is nothing on television that is going to bring you light. You may receive news, but what does the news tell you? It's full of darkness in order to weigh you down and to discourage you. Yes, we need to be aware of things. But if you are watching anything from Hollywood, if you are listening to anything remotely related to music that is created by people who do not worship God and his only begotten Son, you are inviting darkness into your home. I can't state it any more plainly than that. And the churches that worship a killing God, a three-in-one killing God. You listen to their music, what do you bring into your home? You bring that darkness into your home. Let's move on.

DARKNESS

To open their eyes, and to **turn them from darkness** to light, and from the **power of Satan** unto God, that they may **receive [to take, get hold of] forgiveness of sins**, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Acts 26:18

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. RH, March 9, 1897.

Acts 26:18, 'To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may take hold of forgiveness, of sins', because Satan had convinced the universe, including Adam and Eve, that God would not forgive sins. The loyal angels were unconvinced. They were not sure. They were uncertain, but the fallen angels were certain that God would not forgive. 'Satan had declared that God knew nothing of self-denial, of mercy and love, but that He was stern, exacting and unforgiving'. What does it say next? 'Satan never tested the forgiving love of God; for he never exercised genuine repentance'. He believed his own lies. He didn't believe that God would forgive. So he never asked for forgiveness. Just like Adam. Adam never asked for forgiveness because he didn't believe in the forgiving love of God. Review and Herald, March 9, 1897. Darkness, and so man inherits - he is full of darkness. If your eye becomes dark, if your ability to see God is dark, and then the whole soul is darkness and you are surrounded by darkness. And the word of God comes out as light, but Satan makes it darkness, so when you hear that word from

God, it is darkness to you. It is God saying 'I will destroy the earth'. That's what you hear. It comes out as light, but it comes to your ear as darkness because we are full of darkness.

SPEAKING TO MEN IN DARKNESS

And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. Exo 24:17

Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Matt 5:25

'And the sight of the glory of the Lord, (the character of God), was like devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. Exodus 24:17. And I want to bring you this thought, Jesus is saying something here very interesting, the whole world is against Him. Lucifer has taken control of so many things. What was left for God to do? But to, 'Agree with his adversary, quickly, while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary delivered the to the judge'. Oh, we know that differently now, don't we? Who is the judge? There is one that seeketh and judgeth - Lucifer, Satan. 'Deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.' Matt 5:25. If God wanted to save the human race, He had to agree with His adversary. He had to walk with him. He could do nothing else. All of His words were interpreted as darkness.

The only other thing for him to do was to wipe out the entire universe. But then Satan lives on as God, doesn't he? Because he changes the character of God to do that, which he would never do. God has been through absolute hell through this experience. Speaking to men in darkness a little bit more.

SPEAKING TO MEN IN DARKNESS

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:4-5

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. John 1:10-11

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. **Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.** John 8:42-43

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

'In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness,' did not comprehend, it did not 'apprehended it', could not take hold of it. John 1:4-5. 'He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. John 1:10-11. 'Jesus said unto them, if God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God. He came out of the Father, the only begotten Son. And then he says, 'Why do you not understand my speech? Even because you cannot hear my word'. John 8:42-43

Why do we not understand God's speech? Because Satan has locked Him up in thick darkness. God's thoughts are not our thoughts. His ways are not our ways. That's why we can't hear what Jesus is saying. Isaiah 55, 'for my thoughts and not your thoughts'.

SPEAKING TO MEN IN DARKNESS

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. Matt 10:27

Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: **but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.** Matt 10:27-28

Speaking the light through the darkness.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.** Matt 10:29-31

Come back to this text, Matthew 10:27, I want to address this point, 'What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light', the Son speaks to us and we hear it in darkness. But He's speaking it in light, but it becomes darkness to us. And immediately after He says this, He gives us a perfect example. He does this for us. 'And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him, which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell'. Jesus is agreeing with His adversary quickly while He's with him in the way, He's speaking in a way that they can understand. We understand this as God; able to destroy body and soul and hell, that's human nature - that makes sense to humanity. So He speaks in darkness because men are in darkness. But then He speaks light through the darkness. And then He said immediately after this, He says, 'Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall to the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows'. Matthew 10:29-31 Do you see what He's saying? He first speaks something like be very afraid because God can destroy you, but don't be afraid because the very hairs of your head are numbered. It doesn't make sense to us. It creates confusion. And the reason we get confused is because we're in darkness. And He's speaking light through darkness. He's constantly speaking light through darkness.

When it comes to God, we know nothing about God. So how does He get common ground? So He has to go from what we know and then bring us towards where He is; from the known to the unknown.

SPEAKING TO MEN IN DARKNESS

In this parable Christ was meeting the people on their own ground. The doctrine of a conscious state of existence between death and the resurrection was held by many of those who were listening to Christ's words. The Saviour knew of their ideas, and He framed His parable so as to inculcate important truths through these preconceived opinions. He held up before His hearers a mirror wherein they might see themselves in their true relation to God. He used the prevailing opinion to convey the idea He wished to make prominent to all--that no man is valued for his possessions; COL 263

This is one of the key passages that we've looked at in dealing with the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. COL 263, 'In this parable Christ was meeting the people on their own ground. The doctrine of a conscious state of existence between death and resurrection was held by many of those who were listening to Christ words. The Savior knew their ideas, and He framed his parable so as to inculcate important truths through these preconceived opinions'. From the known to the unknown and these preconceived opinions that they held about a conscious state of existence in hell, are they true? Or are they false? They're false. So Jesus states He inculcates important truth through falsehood because all we know is falsehood. We don't know anything about light, only darkness. So He has to meet us in the darkness and bring us into the light. 'He held up before his hearers a mirror wherein they might see themselves in their true relation to God'. Here is the mirror principle, and I'm presenting it to you through light and darkness because we are all darkness. God has to meet us at darkness, not because He wants to. Because that's reality, because God's word is filtered through Satan's justice system. There's no other way for Him to speak to us except to meet us in our darkness. And so what I speak to you in darkness, speak ye in light.

SPEAKING TO ADAM IN DARKNESS

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. Matt 10:27

Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Gen 3:22-24)

What did Adam believe?

For 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. Gen 3:5

Speaking to Adam in darkness. I want to give you this example, 'what I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light'. Matt:10-27. Notice what it says. Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness. Genesis 3:22, 'And the Lord God says to Adam, behold, the man has become as one of us to know, good and evil. And now, lest he put forth his hand and take also over the tree of life and eat and live forever. Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man; and placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep every way, to keep the way of the tree of life'. Why does God say these things? Because Adam is in darkness. What does Adam believe? This is what Adam believes. 'For 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'. Gen 3:5 And God says that 'man has become like one of us to know good and evil'. And He does to Adam that which Adam thinks God will do to him. Doesn't He? And Why? Because He has to meet Adam where he is. He has to. He has to agree with His adversary while He's with him in the way. And in moving him out of the garden, He is probing Adam, He's testing him, but He is agreeing with him. He can do nothing but agree with Adam because what happens if He leaves him in the garden? Adam goes 'God is a push over we don't have to worry about His law. We can stay here. We can mess up the house. We can do whatever we want'. Well, that's not a good outcome. God didn't want to throw him out, but He could do nothing else but throw him out, because that's what Adam thought. That's what he thought God should do. This principle over and over, speaking, light in darkness.

The diagram consists of two concentric circles. The top circle is yellow and contains the text 'Father' and 'Son'. It is surrounded by a black ring with the text 'God will not forgive Sin must be punished God will not forgive'. A thick grey arrow points downwards from this circle to a second, smaller black circle below it. This second circle contains the text 'man' and is surrounded by a black ring with the text 'Sin must be punished God will not forgive'. The background is dark grey with a wooden floor at the bottom.

SPEAKING TO ADAM IN DARKNESS

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. Matt 10:27

Speaking light through darkness

Plain and specific prophecies had been given regarding the appearance of the Promised One. To Adam was given an assurance of the coming of the Redeemer. The sentence pronounced on Satan, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15), was to our first parents a promise of the redemption to be wrought out through Christ. {AA 222.1}

Speaking light through darkness. AA 222.1, 'Plain and specific prophecies had been given regarding the appearance of the Promised One. To Adam was given an assurance of the coming of the Redeemer. The sentence pronounced on Satan, 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman'. So God speaks to Adam of hope and at the same time while speaking hope to him. He is also causing his sinful understanding to abound, causing sin to abound, but giving him hope. These two things are happening at the same time.

THE CANAANITE WOMAN

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. Matt 10:27

Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. Matt 15:22-26

I want to use the Canaanite woman example to close off. Well, I've covered this many times, but this time I want to take you through the Spirit of Prophecy in greater detail to understand we've got to get our head around this principle to see how God is working with us. Matthew 15:22, 'And, behold, a

woman of Canaan came out of the same coast, and cried unto Him saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with the devil. But He answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought Him saying; Send her away; for she cries after us. But He answered and said, I'm not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said; it is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs'. That sounds awful. We just brushed it off, oh bad luck, or deal with it.

THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness

Here a woman who was a Canaanite met and besought him to heal her daughter, who was grievously vexed with a devil. **The woman well knew that the Jews had no dealings with the Canaanites and that they refused even to speak to them;** but having heard of the miracles of mercy which Jesus had performed, she resolved to appeal to him to relieve her daughter from the terrible affliction that was upon her. **The poor woman realized that her only hope was in Jesus, and she had perfect faith in his power to do that which she asked of him.** {2SP 301.1}

Now, let's have a look at what the Spirit of Prophecy says about this story. 2SP 301, 'Here, a woman who was a Canaanite met and besought Him to heal her daughter who was grievously vexed with a devil. The woman well knew that the Jews had no dealings with the Canaanites'. She knew this 'and that they refused even to speak to them, but having heard of the miracles of mercy, which Jesus had performed, she resolved to appeal to Him to relieve her daughter from the terrible affliction that was upon her. The poor woman realized that her only hope was in Jesus, and she had perfect faith in His power to do that which she asked of Him'. So she's got these two conflicting elements in her soul, this faith, the faith of Jesus. Does Jesus know she possesses this faith? Yes He does because He's dwelling in her, His spirit. So he knows that's why He went there. As you read later on, He went there because she was there. And with that is her belief that He may not even speak to me, but I have to try.

THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness

But Jesus received the importunities of this representative of a despised race in the same manner as the Jews would have done; this was not only to prove the faith and sincerity of the woman, but also to teach his disciples a lesson of mercy, that they might not be at a loss how to act in similar cases after Jesus should leave them and they could no longer go to him for personal counsel. Jesus designed that they should be impressed with the contrast between the cold and heartless manner in which the Jews would treat such a case, as evinced by his reception of the woman, and the compassionate manner in which he would have them deal with such distress, as manifested by his subsequent granting of her petition in the healing of her daughter. {2SP 302.1}

2SP 302.1, 'But Jesus receives the importunities of this representative of a despised race in the same manner as the Jews would have done'. Isn't that risky? Could that risk Jesus being seen to be like the Jews by acting like the Jews? 'This was not only to prove the faith and sincerity of the woman, but also to teach His disciples a lesson of mercy, that they might not be at a loss how to act in similar cases after Jesus should leave them and they could no longer go to him for personal counsel. Jesus designed that they should be impressed with the contrast between the cold and heartless manner in which the Jews would treat such a case, as evinced by His reception of the woman, and the compassionate manner in which He would have them deal with such distress'. This passage actually gives me a lot of comfort. Over the last few years, there are some times where I have demonstrated how people actually think about the character of God, and it's upset people because I'm reflecting the nature of what people think about God's character. And there's even some individuals that have taken little clips of me in these states and put them out. It's really bad to watch. I tell you, it was really, really upset my meal when I watch that. But here's Jesus doing it! 'As evinced by this one, by his reception of the woman, and the compassionate manner in which He would have them deal with such distress, as manifested by His subsequent granting of her petition in the healing of her daughter'.

THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness

Although Jesus was apparently indifferent to her cries, yet she did not become offended and leave him, but still had faith that he would relieve her distress. As he passed on, as if not hearing her, she followed him, continuing her supplications. The disciples were annoyed at her importunity and asked Jesus to send her away. Their sympathies were not aroused by her distress. They saw that their Master treated her with indifference, and they therefore supposed that the prejudice of the Jews against the Canaanites was pleasing to him. But it was a pitying Saviour to whom the woman made her plea, and, in answer to the request of the disciples to send her away, Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Although this answer was in accordance with the prejudice of the Jews, it was an implied rebuke to the disciples, which they afterward understood as reminding them of what he had often told them: That he came to the world to save all who would accept him. Whoever sought the Saviour, ready to believe on him when he should be manifested to them, were of the lost sheep whom he had come to gather in his fold. {2SP 302.2}

Speaking in the darkness because men are in darkness, although Jesus was apparently indifferent to her cries, yet she did not become offended and leave Him, but still had faith that He would relieve her distress. Why is this so important for you and me to understand?

When it appears that God has forsaken you, when it appears that everything you believe is gone, when it appears you have no friends and no one to support you, to help you and your prayers feel like nothing and you feel like God is a million miles away. Remember this story. This is how God deals with us. He is probing us to see what's inside because there is darkness in us. 2SP 302.2, 'As He passes on as if not hearing her, she follows Him continuing her supplications, the disciples were annoyed at her importunity, and asked Jesus to send her away. Their sympathies were not aroused by her distress. They saw that their Master treated her with indifference, and they therefore supposed that the prejudice of the Jews against the Canaanites was pleasing to Him'. Do we understand what is going on here? 'But it was a pitying Savior to whom the woman made her plea, and, in answer to the request of the disciples to send her away, Jesus said, I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'. And the disciples go Yeah! 'Although this answer was in accordance with the prejudice of the Jews, it was an implied rebuke to the disciples'.

How are you supposed to work that out? 'Which they afterward understood is reminding them of what He had often told them; that He came to the world to save all who would accept Him. Whoever sought the Savior, ready to believe on Him when He should be manifested to them, were of the lost sheep of whom He had come to gather and his fold'.

THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Speaking in darkness because men are in darkness

The woman was encouraged that Jesus had noticed her case sufficiently to remark upon it, although his words conveyed no definite hope to her mind, and she now urged her case with increased earnestness, bowing at his feet and crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." Jesus, still apparently rejecting her entreaties, according to the unfeeling prejudice of the Jews, answered, "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." This was virtually asserting that it was not just to lavish the blessings brought to the favored people of God upon strangers and aliens from Israel. This answer would have utterly discouraged a less earnest seeker. Many would have given up all further effort upon receiving such a repulse, and would have gone away feeling humiliated and abused, beyond all patience; but the woman meekly answered, "Truth, Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." {2SP 303.1}

2SP 303.1 'The woman was encouraged that Jesus had noticed her case sufficiently to remark upon it', Jesus is speaking now - she gets hope from that statement! That's the faith of Jesus, isn't it? 'Although His words conveyed no definite hope to her mind, and she now urged her case with increased earnestness, bowing at His feet and crying, "have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter's grievously vexed with a devil". Jesus still apparently rejecting her entreaties, according to the unfeeling prejudice of the Jews, answered, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it to dogs". This was virtually asserting that it was not just to lavish the blessing brought to the favored people of God upon strangers and aliens from Israel. This answer would have utterly discouraged a less earnest seeker. Many would have given up all further effort upon receiving such a repulse, and would have gone away feeling humiliated and abused, beyond all patience; but the woman meekly answered, "Truth, Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table". Do you see how God works with us?

Do you see how it's possible that in the same way that Jesus is speaking here, that he could say to Saul, "Saul, I want you to kill all the Amalekites men, women and children".

Can you see that in this same paradigm? Is it possible? That when men are in darkness, God is meeting men in their darkness. He is meeting them where they are and He is probing them, but He doesn't do it without sufficient evidence that they should know that there is a different way of seeing things. And this is where the majority of people, the dealing of the Canaanite woman should be a lesson to us. Jesus is speaking words that Pharisees speak. He is acting like a Pharisee. He's speaking like a Pharisee. He talks with indifference. He infers that she's a dog! For the one purpose of to bring light out of darkness, that the word that He had placed in her manifest and out of her mouth, out of the darkness inside of her comes light, 'truth, Lord but even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the master's table'. And that's where we hear those words. 'Oh, oh, woman!', Jesus, in seeing in this woman, this wretched woman, this Canaanite woman that wasn't even part of God's remnant movement. This so-called dog as the Jews called her. This light comes out of her, 'truth Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the master's table'. Oh, Celebration! I'm sure the Father and Son both shed huge tears. Beautiful, my beautiful daughter, you conquered Satan!

THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Speaking light through darkness

From the abundance upon which the rightful family feasts, the crumbs fall to the floor and are devoured by the dogs that watch for them under the table. She acknowledged that she occupied a like position to that of the brutes that accept thankfully whatever falls from their master's hand. While favoring God's people with rich and bountiful gifts, would not Jesus bestow upon her one of the many blessings he gave so freely to others? While confessing that she had no claim upon his favor, she still plead for a crumb from his bounty. Such faith and perseverance were unexampled. Few of the favored people of God had so high an appreciation of the Redeemer's benevolence and power. {2SP 303.2}

Jesus had just departed from Jerusalem because the scribes and Pharisees were seeking to take his life; but here he meets one of an unfortunate and despised race, that had not been favored with the light of God's word; yet she yields at once to the divine influence of Christ, and has implicit faith in his ability to grant her the favor she asks. She has no national nor religious prejudice or pride to influence her course of action, and she unconditionally acknowledges Jesus as the Redeemer, and able to do all that she asks of him. The Saviour is satisfied, he has tested her confidence in him, and he now grants her request and finishes the lesson to his disciples. Turning to her with a countenance of pity and love, he says, "O woman, great is thy faith. Be it unto thee even as thou wilt." From that hour the daughter became whole, and the demon troubled her no more. The woman departed acknowledging her Saviour, and happy in the granting of her prayer. {2SP 304.1}

This was the only miracle that Jesus wrought while on this journey. It was for the performance of this very act that he went into the coast of Tyre and Sidon. He wished to relieve the afflicted woman, and at the same time to leave an example, in this work of mercy toward one of a despised people, for the benefit of his disciples {2SP 304.2}

2SP 303.2, 'From the abundance upon which the rightful family feasts, the crumbs fall to the floor and are devoured by the dogs that watch for them under the table. She acknowledged that she occupied a like position to that of the brutes that accept thankfully, whatever falls from the master's hand. While favoring God's people with rich and bountiful gifts, would not Jesus bestow upon her one of the many blessings he gave so freely to others? While confessing that she had no claim upon his favor, she still pled for a crumb from his bounty. Such faith and perseverance were unexampled. Few of the favored people of God had so high an appreciation of the Redeemer's benevolence and power'.

And speaking to those online or anybody here, if you're unfamiliar with this message and you're on the outside, and you're watching this on YouTube, when you're hearing this for the first time, this could be you; unexampled faith - demonstrated way above the faith of God's people. SP 304.1, 'Jesus had just departed from Jerusalem because the scribes and Pharisees were seeking to take His life; but here He meets one of an unfortunate and despised race that had not been favored with the light of God's word. Yet she yields at once to the divine influence of Christ and has implicit faith'. So the divine influence is drawing her, is pulling her forward while speaking those words which those around Him and she herself believed; causing sin to abound, that the grace by which He is drawing her might much more abound. This is how God works with us. This is the Gospel.

'To grant her the favor, she has no national or religious prejudice or pride to influence her course of action, and she unconditionally acknowledges Jesus as the Redeemer and able to do all that she asks of Him. The Savior is satisfied. He has tested her confidence in him, and He now grants her request and finishes the lesson for his disciples. Turning to her with a countenance of pity and love, He says, Oh, woman, great is thy faith. Be it unto thee even as thou wilt. From that hour, the daughter became whole and the demon troubled her no more. The woman departed, acknowledging her Savior happy in the granting of her request. This was the only miracle that Jesus wrought while on this journey. It was for the performance of this very act that He went into the coast of Tyre and Sidon. He wished to relieve the afflicted woman at the same time to leave an example in this work of mercy toward one of the despised people for the benefit of his disciples'. 2SP 304.2

This is how God works with us, and the gospel is the same in the Old Testament as in the New Testament, He will speak in a mirror to you. He will speak that which you believe in order to probe and test you at the same time trying to show you that He's not like this in character. This is the gospel. And if we don't come to understand this, we will be confirmed in the darkness that we believe that God demands death, that God will destroy sinners, that He will kill them with His own hand, that He will light up a barbecue for 200 billion people while they're screaming and howling in agony and death and everywhere to say, oh, you're righteous and holy God, because there's nothing else you can say, because if you do, you're going to be in that fire, too. Away with such stupidity! You can never worship a God like this and the love of God like that with any sense of freedom in your soul. You can never receive the seal of God if you believe this, because God is not like this. This is the conclusion that I've come to from my study of scripture. I'm trying my best to present it as best I can to present it to you that God speaks out of darkness. The words that I speak in darkness, preaching ye in light.

We have to come to a better understanding, and I thank God for this opportunity. I know I've taken your time, but I pray it was time well invested. It was tremendous joy for me to see another element to this, to see how our Father works. The Canaanite woman agreed with her adversary, 'truth, Lord', she agreed. He seemed to be her adversary. He seemed to be attacking her and calling her a dog. And she agreed with Him, but she hung on. And this is what we are going to have to do. This is how we're going to have to look at these things. There is no darkness in God. There is no darkness in Him at all. We've done enough. Please study these things. Please look at these things. We'll write out more of these things in the next book, The Origins of the Great Controversy, bringing out these elements. Try and see these things differently so that the Old Testament, you won't be shot through with javelins and swords like we have been in the past. When we're reading these things and realize He's showing us what we're like, not what He's like. All right, let's close.

Father in heaven, I thank you for the opportunity to share this information. I pray that it stirs up our minds. I thank you for the forbearance and patience of everyone. We went a little bit longer, but I pray that it was worth the effort to dig a little bit deeper for gold, for true gold.

I stand amazed, Father, that you have been backed into such a corner with your Son in the darkness surrounded you. And Lucifer, he thought he had you. But he underestimated your love and truly love triumphs over the darkness and when you said Lord Jesus, 'it is finished', what a joy to know that you released the unfallen worlds and the angels from the sympathy's with Satan, and he was uprooted. And now there's only us - who will join us? Who will be part of the one hundred and forty four thousand? Who will hear the voice of God speaking now, 'come, my child, come reflect my character, I'll freely give it to you, all bestowed upon you. But I have to test you. I have to bring out of you the darkness that is in you. But I will walk with you all the way, and I will bring you to abounding light and we shall conquer Satan and his deceiving lies'. And we shall be children of light and not of darkness. And I thank you in Jesus' wonderful name, amen.

