

## **'BUILDING THE ARK'**

### **Every Blow a Witness**

“Every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people.” {PP 95.1} {CC 38.6}  
{ST, February 27, 1879 par. 11}

“Every blow struck on the ark was a warning message.” {RH, September 19, 1907 par. 8}  
{LHU 371.4} {1BC 1088.6} {AUCR, September 15, 1902 par. 8}

“Every blow struck on the ark was a note of warning.” {ST, April 10, 1901 par. 3}

“Every blow struck upon the ark was preaching to the people. Noah directed, he preached, he worked, while the people looked on in amazement and regarded him as a fanatic.” {SR 63.2}  
{1SP 70.1} {3SG 65.1}

*We are building our character, and every blow that comes, every trial, is to shape us and make us fit the Pattern.*

“In the probationary time granted us here, we are each **building a structure** that is to have the inspection of the Judge of all the earth. This work is **the molding of our characters**. Every act of our lives is a stone in that building, every faculty is a worker, **every blow that is struck is for good or for evil**. The words of inspiration warn us to take heed how we build, to see that our foundation is sure. If we build upon the solid rock, pure, noble, upright deeds, the structure will go up beautiful and symmetrical, a fit temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.” {HP 47.4} {YI, June 10, 1897 par. 6}

“In every affliction God has a purpose to work out for our good. **Every blow that destroys an idol**, every providence that weakens our hold upon earth and fastens our affections more firmly upon God, is **a blessing**.” {ML 93.3} {RH, September 11, 1883 par. 13} {RH, April 10, 1894 par. 9}

“It may be that much work needs to be done in your character building, that you are a rough stone, which must be squared and polished before it can fill a place in God's temple. You need not be surprised if with **hammer and chisel** God cuts away the sharp corners of your character until you are prepared to fill the place He has for you. No human being can accomplish this work. Only by God can it be done. And be assured that **He will not strike one useless blow**. His **every blow is struck in love**, for your eternal happiness. He knows your infirmities and works to restore, not to destroy.” {7T 264.3}  
{ST, August 18, 1909 par. 4} {CG 168.2} {TDG 23.2}

“You need not be surprised if with the **hammer and the chisel of trial** God cuts away your defects of character. He alone can accomplish this work. And be assured that **he will not strike one useless blow**. His **every blow is struck in love**, for your eternal good and happiness. He knows your defects, and works to restore, not to destroy. He sends trials to you to make you strong to do and to suffer for him.” {RH, June 20, 1907 par. 4} {FLB 317.3}

“When the advocates of truth reveal the efficiency of truth in their life and character, **a blow is struck** against the kingdom of Satan.” {ST, July 11, 1895 par. 11} {YI, October 11, 1894 par. 8}  
{SD 41.5}

*This is how every blow is a witness. When we accept the trial as a blessing from God to help perfect our character, it strikes back at Satan! And it is a witness to the people when they see us bearing the trials without complaining or getting irritated.*

## **Follow the Pattern**

“God gave Noah the exact dimensions of the ark, and **explicit directions** in regard to its construction in **every particular.**” {ST, February 27, 1879 par. 17}

*He has also given us instructions in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. In building our character, we are to follow the Pattern exactly.*

“Let your character-building be **in accordance with the beautiful pattern** revealed to men in **the life of Christ.**” {LHU 185.4} {Advocate, December 1, 1901 par. 5}

“God expects us to build characters **in accordance with the Pattern** set before us. We are to lay brick by brick, adding grace to grace, finding our weak points, and correcting them in accordance with the directions given. When a crack is seen in the walls of a mansion, we know that something about the building is wrong. In our character-building, cracks are often seen. Unless these defects are remedied, the house will fall when the tempest of trial beats upon it.” {CG 165.4} {YI, October 25, 1900 par. 5} {AG 112.2}

“Teach the simple principles of the word of God, making the Bible the **foundation** of your study. The **true higher education** is that which is received by sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning of Him. Let your character building be after the pattern revealed to man in **the life of Christ.**” {CT 252.3}

“The **foundation** firmly laid, we need wisdom that we may know how to build. When Moses was about to erect the sanctuary in the wilderness, he was cautioned, "See ... that thou make all things **according to the pattern** showed to thee in the mount." Hebrews 8:5. In His law, God has given us the pattern. Our character building is to be after "the pattern showed to thee in the mount." The law is the great standard of righteousness. It represents the **character of God**, and is the test of our loyalty to His government. And it is revealed to us, in all its beauty and excellence, in **the life of Christ.** ..." {CT 62.1} {SpTEd 73.3} {NPU Gleaner, March 17, 1909 par. 4} {YI, February 19, 1903 par. 3}

“In every generation and in every land **the true foundation and pattern for character building** have been the **same**. The divine law, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart; ... and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27), the great principle made manifest in **the character and life of our Saviour**, is the only secure **foundation** and the only sure guide.” {Ed 228.4} {Mar 146.6} {RC 289.6} {SD 46.5} {PK 82.3}

“It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding place of His glory. It is in the mount with God—**in the secret place of communion**—that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. Thus we shall be enabled so to fashion our **character building** that to us may be fulfilled His promise, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 2 Corinthians 6:16.” {Ed 258.4} {GW 254.1} {HP 83.6} {MYP 249.1} {RH, December 31, 1908 par. 10}

## Chap. 78 - Building for Eternity

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a **wise man**, which built his house upon a **rock**: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a **rock**. Matt. 7:24, 25.

“The **formation of character** is the work of a lifetime, and it is for eternity. If all could realize this, if they would awake to the thought that we are individually deciding our own destiny for eternal life or eternal ruin, what a change would take place! How differently would this probationary time be occupied! ...

“In **character building** it is of the greatest importance that we dig deep, removing all the rubbish and building on the immovable, solid **Rock, Christ Jesus**. The **foundation** firmly laid, we need wisdom to know how to build. ... In His law God has given us a **pattern**, and it is after this pattern that we are to build. The law is the great standard of righteousness. It represents the **character of God**, and is the test of our loyalty to His government.

“Thoroughness is necessary to success in character building. There must be an earnest desire to carry out the **plans of the Master Builder**. The timbers used must be solid; no careless, unreliable work can be accepted; it would ruin the building. The **whole being** is to be put into this work. It demands strength and energy; there is no reserve to be wasted in unimportant matters. There must be determined human force put into the work, **in cooperation with the divine Worker**. There must be **earnest, persevering effort** to break away from the customs and maxims and associations of the world. Deep thought, earnest purpose, steadfast integrity, are essential. There must be no idleness. Life is a sacred trust; and every moment should be wisely improved. ...

“Remember that **you are building for eternity**. See that your **foundation** is sure; then build firmly, and with persistent effort, but in gentleness, meekness, and love. So shall your house stand **unshaken**, not only when the storms of temptation come but when the overwhelming flood of God's wrath shall sweep over the world.” {OHC 84}

“If thoughts of Christ, his work and **character**, are cherished, you will be led to sink deep the shaft of truth, and you will be enabled to come into possession of precious jewels of truth. Through an appreciation of the **character of Christ**, through **communion with God**, sin will become hateful to you. As you meditate upon heavenly things, and walk with God, as did Enoch, you will lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset, and will run with patience the race set before you. We think that we are familiar with the **character of Christ**, and we do not realize how much is to be gained by the study of our **glorious Pattern**. We take it for granted that we know all about him, and **yet we do not comprehend his character or mission**. If we neglect to search the Scriptures, which testify of him, we shall be led from the truth into the error of the wicked one. **Our building must be founded upon the Rock Christ Jesus** or it will not stand the test of the tempest.” {ST, December 1, 1890 par. 3}

“**Thoroughness** is necessary to success in **character-building**. There must be an earnest desire to carry out the plans of the Master-builder. The **timbers** used must be **solid**; no careless, unreliable work can be accepted; it would ruin the building.” {YI, February 19, 1903 par. 4} {1MCP 352.3} {OHC 84.4}

## The Covering

“The work of completing the building was a slow process. Every piece of timber was **closely fitted**, and **every seam covered with pitch**. All that men could do was done to make the work perfect; yet, after all, it was impossible that it could of itself withstand the violence of the storm which the Lord in his fierce anger was to bring upon the earth. God alone by his miraculous power, could preserve the building upon the angry, heaving billows.” {ST, February 27, 1879 par. 18}

*We are to do all we can to make our character building perfect, and then we need to be covered with the righteousness of Christ inside and out as the ark was covered within and without with pitch.*

“... and shalt pitch<sup>3722</sup> it within and without with pitch<sup>3724</sup>.” (Genesis 6:14)

3722. **kaphar**, kaw-far'; a prim. root; to cover (spec. with bitumen); fig. to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel:—appease, make (an) **atonement**, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, to pitch, purge (away), put off, (make) reconcile (-liation).

3724. **kopher**, ko'-fer; from H3722; prop. a cover, i.e. (lit.) a village (as covered in); (spec.) bitumen (as used for coating), and the henna plant (as used for dyeing); fig. a **redemption-price**:—bribe, camphire, pitch, **ransom**, satisfaction, sum of money, village.

“Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom<sup>3724</sup>.” (Job 33:24)

*Jesus paid the ransom for us, the redemption-price for our souls. He died to make an atonement for our sins, to forgive and cleanse us from all sin, and to cover us with His spotless robe of righteousness. We need to be covered with the robe of Christ's righteousness to be protected so that we will be able to stand through the time of trouble. Read Isaiah 26:20.*

“In the days of Noah, the wickedness of the world became so great that God could no longer bear with it; and he said, "I will destroy man whom I have created, from the face of the earth." But he pitied the race, and **in his love provided a refuge for all who would accept it**. He gave the message to Noah to be given to the people: "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." Noah was directed to **build an ark**, and at the same time to preach that God would bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy the wicked. Those who would believe the message, and would **prepare** for that event by repentance and reformation, should find pardon and be saved; but a continued resistance of the entreaties and warnings from God through his servant Noah, would separate them from God, and as a result infinite mercy and love would cease its pleadings. The Spirit of God continued to strive with rebellious man until the time specified had nearly expired, when Noah and his family entered the ark, and the hand of God closed its door. Mercy had stepped from the golden throne, no longer to intercede for the guilty sinner.” {ST, Apr. 1, 1886 par. 3}

“When tempted to sin let us remember that Jesus is pleading for us in the heavenly sanctuary. When we put away our sins and come to Him in faith, He takes our names on His lips and presents them to His Father, saying, "I have graven them upon the palms of my hands; I know them by name." And the command goes forth to the angels to protect them. Then in the day of fierce trial He will say, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast" (Isa. 26:20). What are the chambers in which they are to hide?—They are **the protection of Christ and holy angels**. The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies and in all parts of the earth, and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Every one must stand the test for himself.” {HP 264.2} {HS 158.3} {4BC 1143.6} {RH, November 19, 1908 par. 21}

“I saw a **covering** that God was drawing over His people to **protect** them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with **the covering of the Almighty**.” {EW 43.2} {SD 342.2}

“The **storm** of God's wrath is soon coming upon a guilty world, and can you endure the thought of coming up to such a scene without a hope in God, and feeling that his withering frown is upon you? **If you want a shelter, you must seek it now**, and then you will be hid when the fierce anger of the Lord shall come.” {YI, December 1, 1852 par. 5}

## The Preparation

"I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble **must reflect the image of Jesus fully**.

"I saw that many were neglecting the **preparation** so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a **shelter**! They had neglected the needful **preparation**; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the **victory** over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that **preparation** necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence." {EW 71} {ExV 58-59} {CET 111-113} {FLB 337} {Mar 41} {Mar 254}

"In Noah's day there were men who laughed to scorn his words of warning. They said that nature was governed by fixed laws which made a flood impossible, and that if there were any truth in what he said, the great men, the wise and prudent, would understand the matter. There was total disbelief in Noah's testimony in regard to the coming judgments; but this unbelief did not prevent or hinder the gathering storm. At the appointed time, "the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened," and the earth was washed of its corruption. Only those who found shelter in the ark were saved.

**Reader, another storm is coming.** The earth will again be swept by the desolating wrath of God, and again sin and sinners will be destroyed. ...

"But though this is a day of trouble and distress to the wicked, the righteous will be able to say, "Lo, this is our God;" "we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." The truth will be their shield and buckler. God will be their **refuge**, and under his wings shall they trust. Says the psalmist: "Because thou hast made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." " {Bible Echo, July 1, 1887 par. 13-15} {ST, November 27, 1884 par. 14-16} **Read Psalm 27:5.**

"The faithful Noah had spoken to them the words of God, assuring them if they would repent of their sins and believe the testimony of warning they might **find a shelter in the ark and be saved** from the destructive storm that was soon coming. As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. Water will never destroy the earth again, but the weapons of God are concealed in the bowels of the earth which he will draw forth to unite with the fire from heaven to accomplish his purpose in the destruction of all those who would not receive the message of warning and purify their souls in obeying the truth and being obedient to the laws of God. The voice of warning is now being heard inviting the people to **escape and find refuge, not in the ark but in Jesus Christ.** How will the warning be treated? Christ tells us just as it was received in the days of Noah. Thousands will deride the message of mercy and salvation, and turn aside, one to his merchandise, another to his farm, and give little or no attention to these things. They will be occupied with eating, drinking, and dressing, planting and building as in the days of Noah, as though no sound of alarm had ever saluted their ears." {ST, January 3, 1878 par. 9}

## The Storm is Coming

“Those who follow their own mind and walk in their own way will form **crooked characters**. Vain doctrines and subtle sentiments will be introduced with plausible presentations, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Are church members building upon the Rock? **The storm is coming**, the storm that will try every man's faith, of what sort it is. Believers must now be **firmly rooted in Christ**, or else they will be led astray by some phase of error. Let your faith be substantiated by the Word of God. Grasp firmly the living testimony of truth. Have faith in Christ as a personal Saviour. He has been and ever will be our Rock of Ages. The testimony of the Spirit of God is true. Change not your faith for any phase of doctrine, however pleasing it may appear, that will seduce the soul.” {Ev 361.4} {RH, August 31, 1905 par. 8}

“You need to watch with the greatest care **how you build**. There is a **storm** coming which will test your hope to the utmost. You should dig deep and lay your **foundation** sure. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a **rock**: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a **rock**." Steadily the builder places one stone upon another until the structure rises stone upon stone. The gospel builder frequently carries on his work in tears and amid **trials, storms** of persecution, bitter opposition, and unjust reproach; but he feels deeply in earnest, for he is building for eternity. Be careful ... that your **foundation is solid rock**, that you are **riveted to it, Christ being that Rock**. {3T 414.2}

“The great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our personal standing in the sight of God. Are our feet on the Rock of Ages? Are we hiding ourselves in the only **Refuge? The storm is coming, relentless in its fury**. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ? Are we working in co-partnership with the Saviour? {Mar 108.5} {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 13} **The character of Christ is to be our character**. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our hearts. Here is our only safety. Nothing can separate a living Christian from God.” {Mar 108.6}

[“*The storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it?*” {Ev 199.1}  
{Mar 108.5} {RH, December 27, 1898 par. 14} {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 13}  
{18MR 63.1}

“*A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it?*” {RC 311.2}  
{8T 315.2}]

“It makes every difference **what material is used in the character building**. The long-expected day of God will soon test every man's work. "The fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." (1 Corinthians 3:13). As fire reveals the difference between gold, silver, and precious stones and wood, hay, and stubble, so the day of judgment will **test characters**, showing the difference between **characters formed after Christ's likeness** and characters formed after the likeness of the selfish heart. All selfishness, all false religion, will then appear as it is. The worthless material will be consumed; but **the gold of true, simple, humble faith will never lose its value**. It can never be consumed, for it is **imperishable**. One hour of transgression will be seen to be a great loss, while the fear of the Lord will be seen to be the beginning of wisdom. The pleasure of self-indulgence will perish as stubble, while **the gold of steadfast principle**, maintained at any cost, will endure forever.” {2MCP 548.1} {RH, December 11, 1900 par. 18} {6BC 1087-1088}

## **Chap. 41 - Our Sure Foundation**

“For other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 1 Cor. 3:11-13.

“As fire reveals the difference between gold, silver, and precious stones, and wood, hay, and stubble, so the day of judgment will **test characters**, showing the difference between **characters formed after Christ's likeness** and characters formed after the likeness of the selfish heart. All selfishness, all false religion, will then appear as it is. The worthless material will be consumed; but **the gold of true, simple, humble faith will never lose its value**. It can never be consumed; for it is **imperishable**.

“Anyone can be just what he chooses to be. **Character is not obtained by receiving an education**. Character is not obtained by amassing wealth or by gaining worldly honor. Character is not obtained by having others fight the battle of life for us. It must be sought, worked for, fought for; and it requires a **purpose, a will, a determination**. To form a character which God will approve, requires **persevering effort**. It will take a continual resisting of the powers of darkness to . . . have our names retained in the book of life. Is it not worth more to have our names registered in that book, have them immortalized among the heavenly angels, than to have them sounded in praise throughout the whole earth?

“In the probationary time granted us here we are each **building a structure** that is to have the inspection of the Judge of all the earth. This work is **the molding of our characters**. Every act of our lives is a stone in that building, every faculty is a worker, **every blow that is struck is for good or for evil**. The words of inspiration warn us to take heed how we build, to see that our **foundation** is sure. If we build upon the solid rock, pure, noble, upright deeds, the structure will go up beautiful and symmetrical, a fit temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.” {HP 47}

“Who will build upon the **foundation** that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ? "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." {RH, 3-6-1894 par. 8}

“Principles are here presented that should be prayerfully considered. **God has given to every man his work**; and if any one turns from the work that God has given him, to do the work of Satan, to defile his own body or lead another into sin, that man's work is cursed, and the brand of Cain is placed upon him. The ruin of his victim will cry unto God, as did the blood of Abel. The whole energies of evil, as in the days of Noah, have gathered themselves together, to make a final effort to obliterate the image of God from the souls of men. **What kind of builders are we individually?** As human agents, are we strengthening the kingdom of the powers of darkness, seducing men, and leading them in the path of destruction? or are we, by precept and example, seeking to win the feet of the straying into the paths of truth and righteousness? Are we, for the sake of gain, defiling the temple of the Holy Spirit, by putting the bottle to our neighbor's lips? Are we acting a part under the great deceiver who tempted Adam to transgress the law of God? Let us hear the word of the Lord: "If any man defile the temple of God [be it his own or another man's soul], him shall God destroy." The fire shall try every man's work, and it will be seen of what sort it is. If we are laborers with God, our work will not be consumed; for we shall lead the feet of men to Jesus Christ, and direct them in the way to heaven. In the heavenly courts he who does this is registered as a **laborer together with God**. He is known as one who is wearing the yoke and bearing the burden of Christ; he is **building upon the true foundation**, and if any man's work which he buildeth thereupon shall abide, he shall receive a reward.” {*Ibid.*, par. 9}

“Again I appeal to the members of the church to **be Christians, to be Christlike**. Jesus was a worker, not for Himself, but for others. He labored to bless and save the lost. If you are Christians you will imitate His example. **He has laid the foundation, and we are builders together with Him**. But **what material** are we bringing to lay on this foundation? "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." If you are devoting all your strength and talent to the things of this world, your lifework is represented by wood, hay, and stubble, to be consumed by the fires of the last day. But **unselfish labor for Christ and the future life will be as gold, silver, and precious stones; it is imperishable.**” {5T 466.3}

“**Every one is deciding his own destiny**. He who reigns in heaven allows every man to take his position to hasten or retard his Lord's appearing. All who consent to be freed from their natural selfishness, and to [be] charged with the Holy Spirit of God, are taking part with God; as the human channel they are pouring forth the currents of a divine influence. Their work has God's blessing within it. They are building upon the foundation, gold, silver, precious stones. When the day of judgment shall try every man's work, of what sort it is, the gold, silver, precious stones, are imperishable; the wood, hay, stubble, are consumed, and the life work of the builder is lost. Just in proportion to man's **consecration to God** in this life, will be his advancement in the future life. According to its character, his work is rewarded, and determines his place in the temple of God. {1888 1511.1}

“Each human being is responsible for the salvation of his own soul, and is under the most solemn responsibility for the salvation of the souls of others. He is to exert a saving influence, he is to watch for souls as they who must give an account. Each man, woman, and youth is passing his time here as a probationer. In that great day when the accounts of all are opened, it will be known who is the foolish builder on the sand, and who the **builder on the eternal Rock**. Then it will be known who have dishonored God's sacred work by bringing in their own principles and practices. It will be seen who have woven their own spirit into methods and plans, to be passed on to the churches to mould their work. All the pettishness, the envy, the jealousies, the want of self-sacrifice, the stubborn resistance to the Holy Spirit's working,—all this the day will declare. **Every work will be judged according to its character.**” {1888 1512.1}

**Preparation for the Judgment** (Sermon by Mrs. E. G. White, June 27, 1886, Orebro, Sweden.)

“Revelation 20:11-15. Here is presented before us the great and solemn day when the judgment is to set and the books be opened, and the dead are to be judged according to the things that are written in the books. I have questioned in my mind, as I have seen the people in our cities hurrying to and fro with business, whether they ever thought of the day of God that is just upon us. Every one of us should be living with reference to that great day which is soon to come upon us. {1SAT 25.1}

“The inhabitants of the old world had the message of warning sent to them 120 years, but it did not suit their inclination to heed that warning, therefore they turned away from the message of truth which God sent to them. It was for their interest to heed that message and **find a refuge from the coming storm** of God's wrath. {1SAT 25.2}

“Do we consider from day to day that a record is going up to heaven of all our actions here? If we would take heed to our ways, and if we would have the fear of God before us, our lives would be far better than they are today. We are here as probationers, on trial. **God is testing us; God is proving us to see what characters we shall build up**. Angels of God in heaven are sent to our earth to weigh moral worth. And our heavenly Father has sent us the message of warning, that we shall **get ready** for that day of final reckoning. He has bid us to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation that surrounds us. He has bid us to "search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" [John 5:39]. {1SAT 25.3}

“It is our **privilege** to understand the great responsibilities that God has placed upon us, so that we shall not be in darkness as to what is coming upon our world. **We cannot afford to meet that day without a preparation.** But when we think of this great and solemn event of Christ's coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, we should live in **great humiliation** before God lest we fail of the grace of God and prove ourselves unworthy of eternal life. When we see that the world is given up to the seeking of pleasure and the indulgence of appetite, we should weep between the porch and the altar, crying "Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach" [Joel 2:17]. {1SAT 26.1}

“We see that the world at large have no thoughts of this great day, and many of them do not care to hear anything about it. But we must meet the record of our lives. We must remember that there is a witness to all our works. An eye like a flame of fire beholds us in all our actions of life. Our very thoughts and the intents and purposes of our hearts are laid bare to God's inspection. As the features are produced upon the polished plate of the artist, so are our **characters** upon the books of record in heaven. {1SAT 26.2}

“We ask you, "How stands your character in the sight of God today? Are you preparing your souls for the grand review, that you may have **the white robe of character** in that day?" You cannot afford to indulge in sin and iniquity; you cannot afford to be found a transgressor of God's great moral rule of righteousness.” {1SAT 26.3}

#### **Chap. 214 - Choosing My Lifework**

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 1 Cor. 3:13.

“We should carefully weigh the matters relative to the work we take up. Will this work be a blessing to souls? **God has not given us work merely to keep us busy, but for His name's glory.** Many are busily engaged gathering wood, hay, stubble. But this will all be consumed. ...

“By God's appointment each man has his post of duty. The careful, prayerful inquiry is to be made, What duty is assigned us individually, as men and women under accountability to God? And whether our labor be wholly limited to spiritual things, or whether it is temporal and spiritual combined, we are to **faithfully** discharge our work. Things secular and things sacred must be combined, but spiritual things are not to be hidden by secular matters. Christ requires the service of the **whole being**, the physical, mental, and moral powers combined. These are to be **enlisted in God's service.** Man is to remember that God has the ownership of all, and that his pursuits are invested with a sacredness that they did not possess before he enlisted in the army of the Lord. Every action is to be a consecrated action, for it occupies God's entrusted talent of time. Holiness unto the Lord is inscribed on all the actions of such a one, because his **whole being** is brought under subjection to God.

“No business is to be undertaken, even in ordinary life, if it is corrupting in its influence upon the senses. **We are in the Lord's training school,** and He has His own appointed means whereby we may be brought into His service. . . . Many are troubled because they are not working directly for the advancement of God's kingdom. But the humblest work must not be ignored. If it is honest work, it is a blessing, and may lead to the higher parts of the work.

“Whether we have one year before us, or five, or ten, we are to be **faithful** to our trust today. **We are to perform each day's duties as faithfully as though that day were to be our last.**” {OHC 220}

“Jesus says, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" [Rev. 16:15]. Here is the great burden to be carried away by every individual. Are my sins forgiven? Has Christ, the Burden-bearer, taken away my guilt? Have I a clean heart, the **righteousness of Jesus Christ, by faith**? Woe be to any soul who is not **seeking a refuge in Christ**, and **conforming the character to the character of Christ**. Woe be [to] all who shall in anywise divert the mind from this work, and cause any soul to be less vigilant now. {18MR 62.3}

“The Lord wants all to understand His providential dealings now, just now, in the time in which we live. There must be no long discussions presenting new theories in regard to prophecies which God has already made plain. Now the great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our **personal safety** in the sight of God. Are our feet on the Rock of ages? Are we hiding ourselves in our only **Refuge**? **The storm is coming, relentless in its fury**. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ? Are we working in copartnership with Christ? {18MR 63.1}

“Already kingdom is rising against kingdom. There is not now a determined engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of our God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the power of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully should we improve the little remaining period of our probation. How earnestly should we examine ourselves. How [earnestly] should we consider and cherish faith before God. How [earnestly] should we eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, that is, carefully study the Word, eat it, digest it, make it a part of our being. **We are to live the Word**, not keep it apart from our lives. **The character of Christ is to be our individual character**. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our hearts. Here is our only safety. Nothing can prevail to separate a living Christian from God.” {18MR 63.2}

### Divine Experiments

“The Lord Jesus is making **experiments** on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting **transformations so amazing** that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as **a fortress impregnable** to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an **incomprehensible mystery**. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with **astonishment and joy**, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are **through the training of Christ developing characters** after the divine similitude, to be **sons and daughters of God**, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven.” {TM 18.1} {CET 208.2} {FLB 142.3} {AG 222.2} {HP 282.2} {SD 356.2} {GCDB, February 27, 1893 par. 12} {PH150 5.1} {PH120 31.2} {4BIO 63.4,5}

“The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Saviour, who **surrounds** him with His presence. **Whatever** comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. **Nothing** can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and **"all things"** that are permitted "work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28.” {MB 71.2}

“The Father's presence encircled Christ, and **nothing** befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. **Whatever** comes to him comes from the Saviour, who **surrounds** him with His presence. **Nothing** can touch him except by the Lord's permission. **All** our sufferings and sorrows, **all** our temptations and trials, **all** our sadness and griefs, **all** our persecutions and privations, in short, **all things** work together for good. **All** experiences and circumstances are **God's workmen** whereby **good** is brought to us.” {MH 488.4} {ST, May 20, 1908 par. 2}