THE BLIND MAN AND THE PHARISEES
“There is to be in the [Seventh-day Adventist] churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations they will oppose the work. "Why," they say, "should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years? …The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory.”.

{LDE 209.3} {LDE 210.1}
“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and was washed, and came seeing”. John 9:1-7

In the book of John, chapter 9, Christ heals a man that was born blind on the Sabbath day. Here in this chapter we also see the first gospel promise given in Genesis 3:15 re-enacted by the two classes, the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman. The seed of the serpent being represented by the Pharisees who Christ had already identified as being of their Father the devil (see John 8) and the Seed of the women who is represented by the blind man. But not only does this chapter depict the two distinct classes, it also demonstrates the power of God’s word in creation re-applied in the gospel put forth to save men. It is here we see the creative energy of God being brought to view. It is the same creative power that Christ the word of God used to create the world, to restore the man’s vision. It was on the seventh day Sabbath that God’s work was complete hence why he rested and was refreshed. After the seventh day God has not created anything new again. Many are familiar with the verse “my father worketh and I worketh to”, but what are they working to do? They are working to restore Man, back into the image of God. Back to the 7th day when God’s work was complete and he delighted in that fact, that man was created in his own very image. God is not re-creating anything new, but restoring man, as he was in Eden and it is through the physical the Lord desires to teach us the spiritual. It is through understanding the glorious manifestation of the power of God in creation, we can understand the Gospel put forth to save men.
A careful study of the first 7 verses of John chapter nine takes us back to the first day of Creation when God said: “Let there be light and there was light”. Interestingly enough, prior to Christ healing the blind man, he first identifies himself as the ‘light of the world’. (Verse 5) and then creates light, vision for the blind man who is in darkness. It is the same act that was performed in creation. If someone is in blindness, they cannot see, they are in darkness which was the case for the blind man, so when Christ identifies Himself as the light of the world, he is reminding us of creation week, he is taking us back to creation and then he performs the same work as he did in creation. He commands the light to shine out of the Darkness. He restores man’s sight. He provides him the light so that he can see. Mrs White identifies that there was no healing properties in the clay but in Christ, the word of God: “It was evident that there was no healing virtue in the clay, or in the pool wherein the blind man was sent to wash, but that the virtue was in Christ.” {Desire of Ages 471.4}

God does not work as man works. Man has to have the material all ready to his hand when he makes a thing. God is not limited in that way. Utter nothingness is suitable for that purpose to be. So when God made the light he caused it to shine out of darkness.. Shall we say that he made the light out of darkness? It would not be improper, for that is God’s power: “If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.” Psalm 139:9-11

And in speaking comfort to his people in the times of trouble he tells us:
And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. Isaiah 42:16

Nothing is too hard for the Lord, for he is the source of all things; he is and will make the darkness light before his people when gross darkness should cover the earth (Isa 60:2). In fact the pen of inspiration tells us “When the darkness is deepest, the light of a godlike character will shine the brightest”. It is not just in a spiritual sense that Christ is the light of the world. The physical is to teach us the spiritual. (1 Cor 15:6) From the natural we are to learn of the spiritual, the physical light is designed to teach us that God is light. The word of God is light, that word is Christ Jesus (John 1:1-3). The testimony of the scriptures which is the testimony of Jesus Christ can be liken to the Spirit of Prophecy. It is the light that is to shine in the dark place. It is to bring light to God’s people so we read when he (Christ, the word of God) went into Galilee the words of the prophet concerning that region was fulfilled:

“The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.” Matthew 4:15-16

Sin is darkness, it comes from the prince of darkness, and it brings darkness and gloom. The word of the Lord is light; but that was virtually hidden from the people when Christ, the word manifest in the flesh came to the earth. Men wise in their own conceit had taken upon themselves the interpretation of God’s law, put their own ideas and philosophies in place of the work of God, the true light to enlighten mans way. They had taken away
the key of knowledge. So it was in the Middle Ages, generally known as the dark ages; why? Because the bible, the word of God was hidden in a dark cell, hidden away from the people. Men groped in the darkness. It was into this darkness that Christ the light of the world came to his people. The light shone out in the darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not. The pen of inspiration tells us:

“When Christ came to this earth, the traditions that had been handed down from generation to generation, and the human interpretation of the Scriptures, hid from men the truth as it is in Jesus. The truth was buried beneath a mass of tradition. The spiritual import of the sacred volumes was lost; for in their unbelief men locked the door of the heavenly treasure. Darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Truth looked down from heaven to earth; but nowhere was revealed the divine impress. A gloom like the pall of death overspread the earth. But the Lion of the tribe of Judah prevailed. He opened the seal that closed the book of divine instruction. The world was permitted to gaze upon pure, unadulterated truth. Truth itself descended to roll back the darkness and counteract error. A Teacher was sent from heaven with the light that was to light every man that comes into the world. There were men and women who were eagerly seeking for knowledge, the sure word of prophecy, and when it came, it was as a light shining in a dark place.” {Spalding and Magan 58.}

The light from the prophetic word truly identified Christ as the messiah. The five books of Moses, the torah, the law and the prophets had its central foundation in Christ, but the majority did not recognise this. Many did not rejoice in this light. It’s just like when one has been left in a dark room for a long period of time, and a bright light immediately shines, some may manage to adjust their senses and rejoice in this light where another class may refuse, choosing to remain in darkness. Another analogy can be seen in the Sun which is a great source of light to the earth. The sun can have two effects upon substances on the earth. It hardens the clay, or it can melt the snow, just like the words of Christ, the Sun or Righteousness can either harden ones heart as it did with Pharaoh after witnessing a glorious manifestation of the power of God through the
plagues or it can soften one’s heart bringing them to repentance and acceptance of the true Messiah. It is here in John 9 we see the effects that the word of God has upon the two classes, one class, which generally consists of a minority, rejoices in the light, where another rejects the light, choosing darkness:

“He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. And it was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them” (two classes) John 9:11-16

Here we see the enmity spoken of in Genesis 3:15. A glorious manifestation of God’s power always identifies two classes and causes separation. As Christ said: “Think not that I came to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace but a sword.” Matthew 10:34. Continuing on in John 9:

“They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.” John 9:17-22

Here this light of what God had done for the blind man is put forth to the parents, but they rejected it choosing to remain in darkness because they love the praise of men rather than the praise of God. This was their own child and they knew what the Lord had done for him, but they de-
nied him choosing darkness; and so it is has been throughout all generations, many choosing darkness rather than light for fear of being thrown out of the churches. As the apostle John tells us: “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” And so greatly will this be fulfilled in this generation many will deny the truth for this time because of fear of what man will do unto them, because they would rather the praise and acceptance of men rather than the praise of God.

“There is to be in the [Seventh-day Adventist] churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations they will oppose the work. "Why," they say, "should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years? …The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory.”. {Last Day Events 209 -210}

Continuing on in the John 9, we see the darkness deepen for the Pharisees where as the light advances becoming only brighter for the blind man as he continues to walk in it despite the opposition of the Pharisees.

“Then again they called the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. John 9:24-33

After the blind man had uttered these words, the Pharisees were left spellbound. The man had met the inquisitors on their own ground. His reasoning was unanswerable yet they still refused to humble themselves and held denunciations at him:

“They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.” Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.”
Christ had done the physical and had now fulfilled the spiritual. It would not have done the man much benefit if the Lord had just restored the physical eyesight without the spiritual. The man who was once blind continued with the advancing light despite the fact that he could be ostracized from the synagogue and because he continued in the advancing light a greater revelation was given to him. Commenting on this, the pen of inspiration tells us:

“Jesus heard what had been done; and finding him soon after, He said, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" For the first time the blind man looked upon the face of his Restorer. Before the council he had seen his parents troubled and perplexed; he had looked upon the frowning faces of the rabbis; now his eyes rested upon the loving, peaceful countenance of Jesus. Already, at great cost to himself, he had acknowledged Him as a delegate of divine power; now a higher revelation was granted him. To the Saviour's question, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" the blind man replied by asking, "Who is He, Lord, that I might believe on Him?" And Jesus said, "Thou hast both seen Him, and it is He that talketh with thee." The man cast himself at the Saviour's feet in worship. Not only had his natural sight been restored, but the eyes of his understanding had been opened. Christ had been revealed to his soul, and he received Him as the one Sent of God.” {Desire of Ages 474-475}

Here we see that truth is progressive, first he identified Christ as a ‘man’ and then ‘a prophet’ before acknowledging him as the Son of God. He maintained faith in the works that God has done, and did not crumble under these blind guides or resist what the Lord had shown him. If he had denied the works of God he would not have received this greater revelation and so it is in this generation, if we neglect to heed to light from the word of God, then it makes it easier to reject the additional light eventually leaving one in darkness, and this we see was the case for the Pharisees.

“A group of Pharisees had gathered near, and the sight of them brought to the mind of Jesus the contrast ever manifest in the effect of His words and works. He said, "For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." Christ had come to open the blind eyes, to give light to them that sit in darkness. He had declared Himself to be the light of the world, and the miracle just performed was in attestation of His mission. The people who beheld the Saviour at His advent were favored with a fuller manifestation of the divine presence than the world had ever enjoyed before. The knowledge of God was revealed more perfectly. But in this very revelation, judgment was passing upon men. Their character was tested, their destiny determined. The manifestation of divine power that had given to the blind man both natural and spiritual sight had left the Pharisees in yet deeper darkness. Some of His hearers, feeling that Christ's words applied to them, inquired, "Are we blind also?" Jesus answered, "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin." If God had made it impossible for you to see the truth, your ignorance would involve no guilt. "But now ye say, We see." You believe yourselves able to see, and reject the means through which alone you could receive sight. To all who realized their need, Christ came with infinite help. But the Pharisees would confess no need; they refused to come to Christ, and hence they were left in blindness,-
-a blindness for which they were themselves guilty. Jesus said, "Your sin remaineth."
{Desire of Ages 475.3}

It is the same power in creation that the Lord used in the healing of the blind man, testifying to the fact that he is the Messiah but they rejected this. Christ shining light out of darkness but they rejected this, and it is this rejection they had sealed their fate. "The Pharisees were spiritually blind, and were leaders of the blind. The physical blindness that Jesus had healed in the man born blind, was not as dangerous as the moral blindness of those who had evidence piled upon evidence in regard to the divine character of the world's Redeemer, and yet who closed the eyes of their understanding, and refused to see, because they were too self-exalted to be instructed by Christ. They claimed to be learned in the Scriptures, to have spiritual eyesight, yet they made the plainest specifications concerning Christ a different matter from that which the records testified. The light of the world was shining amid the moral darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. The darkness that blinded the minds of the Pharisees was much more deplorable than was the darkness that blinded the eyes of the man who had been born blind." {ST, November 6, 1893 par. 2}

What caused the Pharisaical blindness was their own self exalted state and their refusal to humble themselves under Christ. The origin of sin which is self exaltation stems from Lucifer (see Isaiah 14). Lucifer thought to exalt himself over the law of God which is a transcript of God’s character and because of this, he was cast out of heaven leaving him in darkness, hence why he is commonly referred to as the prince of darkness. The Pharisees were also manifesting the same spirit, which is why Christ refers to them as being of their father the devil. Christ being a fulfillment of the law condemned sin (self exaltation) in the flesh that the righteousness of God might be revealed. He condemned this by demonstrating that in one’s humility lay the power of God. He who had no home, abused and despised by those who he came to give life died a shameful death on the cross mocked and jeered by many; and because he humbled himself even unto death, the Father has given him a name above all names that “every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father.” Christ demonstrated that in one’s humility lay the power of God. This was the light that was to lighten every man’s way. The works of God were manifest in the blind man. At that time, men that were blind were thought to have been because of their sin or that there was sin in his family and this class were despised in society. It is through the weak the Lord demonstrates his power so that no flesh can glory in his presence. The words the blind man had spoken to the Pharisees in regards to the work that the Lord has performed for him were not his words But Christ’s words. While the mystery of iniquity was working in the Pharisees, it was the mystery of Godliness that was working in the blind man. “Christ in you the hope of all glory”. As Christ said: “For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.” Luke 21:15

“And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them” Isaiah 42:16.
Christ works this way to confound the wisdom of the wise so that our faith does not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. It should not stand in the leading men of pleasing address who are able to speak with eloquent words "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?" "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways..."I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done." Job 11:7; Isaiah 55:8, 9; 46:9, 10. Isaiah 55:8

“This spirit of (self exaltation) which actuated those priests and rulers is still manifested by many (today) who make a high profession of piety. They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time. They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and look with contempt upon the advocates of truth as few, poor, and unpopular, having a faith that separates them from the world: ‘Christ foresaw that the undue assumption of authority indulged by the scribes and Pharisees would not cease with the dispersion of the Jews. He had a prophetic view of the work of exalting human authority to rule the conscience, which has been so terrible a curse to the church in all ages. And His fearful denunciations of the scribes and Pharisees, and His warnings to the people not to follow these blind leaders, were placed on record as an admonition to future generations’. {Great Controversy 596.2}

This same scene was re-enacted more specifically in France during the dark ages, which is the 1260 years of Papal supremacy. As gross darkness covered the earth as in the times of Christ when man began to exalt himself over the word of God so it was in the middle ages by the man of sin, “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” (2 Thess 2:4) But through this darkness, light was to shine and pierce through this gross darkness, the word of God was to be manifest the person of the saints, this was the power given his servants but as in Jerusalem, many were going to reject this light choosing to follow the blind teachers.

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth… And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified” Revelation 11:3,4, 8

“These events were to take place near the close of the period (1260) in which the witnesses testified in sackcloth. Through the medium of the papacy, Satan had long controlled the powers that ruled in Church and State. The fearful results were specially apparent in those countries that rejected the light of the Reformation. There was a state of moral debasement and corruption similar to the condition of Sodom just prior to its destruction, and to the idolatry and spiritual darkness that prevailed in Egypt in the days of Moses. In no land had the spirit of enmity against Christ and the truth been more strikingly displayed than in giddy and godless France. Nowhere had the gospel
encountered more bitter and cruel opposition. In the streets of Paris, Christ had indeed been crucified in the person of his saints”. {4 Spirit of Prophecy 190.4}

France fulfilled the same role as Israel in a spiritual sense. Egypt represented by atheism, unbelief was also a characteristic that the Jews demonstrated as they refused to believe in the manifestation of God’s power given to them at that time. The power of God as depicted by the two witnesses clothed in sackcloth. These were the two olive trees and the two candlesticks, light was to shine in the dark place. Proclaimed by humble instruments God’s power was to be made known against the darkness of self exaltation where man’s traditions and ideas were exalted above a plain thus saith the Lord but as in the times of the Jews, they rejected this manifestation of God’s glory:

“Yielding blindly to her false teachers, Paris, like Jerusalem of old, knew not the time of her visitation nor the things which belonged unto her peace. For two years the word of God was preached in the capital; but, while there were many who accepted the gospel, the majority of the people rejected it. France had made a show of toleration, merely to serve his own purposes, and the papists succeeded in regaining the ascendancy. Again the churches were closed, and the stake was set up. {Great Controversy 223}

“Terrible had become the darkness of the nation that had rejected the light of truth. The grace "that bringeth salvation" had appeared; but France, after beholding its power and holiness, after thousands had been drawn by its divine beauty, after cities and hamlets had been illuminated by its radiance, had turned away, choosing darkness rather than light. They had put from them the heavenly gift when it was offered them. They had called evil good, and good evil, till they had fallen victims to their willful self-deception. Now, though they might actually believe that they were doing God service in persecuting His people, yet their sincerity did not render them guiltless. The light that would have saved them from deception, from staining their souls with bloodguiltiness, they had willfully rejected. A solemn oath to extirpate heresy was taken in the great cathedral where, nearly three centuries later, the Goddess of Reason was to be enthroned by a nation that had forgotten the living God.” {Great Controversy 229.1}
It is this rejection that led to the fall, one third of the city fell, (Rev 11:13). It was the same with Jewish nation; it was their rejection of Christ that led to their destruction in 70 AD. In the French revolution, France was in ruins. History depicts how they banned the bible, tried to change the day to a 10 day week, the Goddess of reason, a prostitute was to be enthroned and total anarchy had broken out in the cities. Such is the sure result of nations who neglect, reject and refuse to appreciate and improve upon the light and privileges which God bestows. Unless the church follows on in His opening providence, accepting every ray of light, and in deep searching of the scriptures, religion will inevitably degenerate in the observance of form, and the spirit of darkness in proportion to the light will follow. This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church and God has put it on record for as an admonition to us, the final generation.

Again scenes similar were repeated in the Great Advent Awakening from 1798 – 1844. It was after the dark ages, the book of Daniel was to be open in 1798. The apostle Paul warned the church not to look for the coming of Christ in his day. "That day shall not come," he says, "except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed." 2 Thessalonians 2:3. Not till after the great apostasy, and the long period of the reign of the "man of sin," can we look for the advent of our Lord. The "man of sin," which is also styled "the mystery of iniquity," "the son of perdition," and "that wicked," represents the papacy, which, as foretold in prophecy, was to maintain its supremacy for 1260 years. This period ended in 1798. The coming of Christ could not take place before that time. Paul covers with his caution the whole of the Christian dispensation down to the year 1798. It is this side of that time that the message of Christ's second coming is to be proclaimed.

It is at this time (1798) the book of Daniel was to be unsealed and there was to be an increase of knowledge in the prophecies given by Daniel and John the revelator. This was the light that was to shine in a dark place. The first and second angel’s messages were to be proclaimed and it was not the scholarly theologians who had an understanding of this truth that engaged in its proclamation. Had these been faithful watchmen, diligently and prayerfully searching the Scriptures, they would have known the time of night; the prophecies would have opened to them the events about to take place. But they did not occupy this position, and the message was given by humbler men. Said Jesus: "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you." John 12:35. Those who turn away from the light which God has given, or who neglect to seek it when it is within their reach, are left in darkness. But the Saviour declares: "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Whoever is with singleness of purpose seeking to do God's will, earnestly heeding the light (knowledge) already given, will receive greater light; to that soul some star of heavenly radiance will be sent to guide him into all truth.

William Miller, a humble farmer actively walked in the light that God had granted him in the proclamation of the judgment hour message. A man unlearned according to the religious schools of philosophy in his day and age yet God moved upon him to study the prophecies concerning the judgment to take place in 1844. What empowered the
message God gave to Miller was when Josiah Linch adopted the day for a year principle that Miller used to reach 1843-1844 for the coming of Christ:

“At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. (See Appendix.) When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.” {GC 335.1}

This impetus came as a result of the angel of revelation 10, coming down with one foot on the earth and the over the sea signifying the world wide extent of the movement from 1840 to 1844. This angel was no less a personage of Jesus Christ. The living testimony was to be manifest in the saints and the light of the first and second angel’s was to be given to the established churches, but as Jerusalem of Old, and atheistic France the churches were to reject this, once again crucifying Christ in the form of his saints:

“In every part of the land, light was given upon the second angel's message, and the cry melted the hearts of thousands. It went from city to city, and from village to village, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. In many churches the message was not permitted to be given, and a large company who had the living testimony left these fallen churches. A mighty work was accomplished by the midnight cry. The message was heart-searching, leading the believers to seek a living experience for themselves. They knew that they could not lean upon one another.”

“Many look with horror at the course of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ; and as they read the history of His shameful abuse, they think they love Him, and would not have denied Him as did Peter, or crucified Him as did the Jews. But God who reads the hearts of all, has brought to the test that love for Jesus which they professed to feel. All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel's message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place. I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there.” EW 261

Sadly today, many look back with shame with took place with the Millerites at the great disappointment, not recognizing that the works of God were being manifested here just
as the blind man. God accomplished his own beneficent purpose in permitting the judgment to be given in order to reveal to them what was in their hearts. The message was designed for the testing and the purification of the church. Though the event was misunderstood in 1844, so it was at the cross as the disciples believed that Christ was going established an earthly kingdom, and the reason why Christ allows this to happen is so He can separate the seed of the serpent, those who are of the Father the Devil who manifest the spirit of self exaltation preferring the praise of men rather than the praise of God from the seed of the woman, - those who follow the meek and lowly Jesus. Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross hence why many of the professed followers of Christ refuse to receive light from heaven and like the Jews of old know not the time of their visitation. In consequence of the rejection of the light of the first and second angel’s message, the churches experienced a moral fall. {Great Controversy 390}. They were left in darkness, where as those who humbly waited upon the Lord, remained attached to the Vine just as the disciples had to wait till Lord revealed additional light. Those who continued with the advancing light, the Lord revealed to them the deep things of his word: "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant." Psalm 25:14. In clear light they understood the sanctuary, the state of the Dead and God’s holy law; all the essential truth’s needed for God’s end time church to withstand the wiles of the prince of darkness. The eyes of the blind were once again open and those that appeared to have been in darkness saw a great light, a great light hid from the worldly wise but revealed to the childlike and humble. “Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.” Micah 7:7-9.

All these histories were written for us at the end of the world. “God have spoken once, twice, have I heard this. This power belongeth unto God”. Psalm 62:11. Through these histories God has for-told the events that are to take place at the end. “That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.” Ecc 3:15. What took place in the times of Christ, France, the Millerites will be repeated at greater to degree for us who are living at the end of the world:

“The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. The principles of God's dealing with men are ever the same. The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time.” {Great Controversy 343.1}

For each generation God has a special truth and a special work, and in this generation it is no different. Now can we expect this truth to be found with the high ecclesiastical authorities? Will we find this truth proclaimed by the leading men of Adventist who are loved and adored by the world? No of course not for we know that God has never used that method in the past and neither will He use it in this time:
"For His church in every generation God has a special truth and a special work. The truth that is hid from the worldly wise and prudent is revealed to the child-like and humble. It calls for self-sacrifice. It has battles to fight and victories to win. At the outset its advocates are few. By the great men of the world and by a world-conforming church, they are opposed and despised. See John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, standing alone to rebuke the pride and formalism of the Jewish nation. See the first bearers of the gospel into Europe. How obscure, how hopeless, seemed the mission of Paul and Silas, the two tentmakers, as they with their companions took ship at Troas for Philippi. See "Paul the aged," in chains, preaching Christ in the stronghold of the Caesars. See the little communities of slaves and peasants in conflict with the heathenism of imperial Rome. See Martin Luther withstanding that mighty church which is the masterpiece of the world's wisdom. See him holding fast God's word against emperor and pope, declaring, "Here I take my stand; I can not do otherwise. God be my help." See John Wesley preaching Christ and His righteousness in the midst of formalism, sensualism, and infidelity. See one burdened with the woes of the heathen world, pleading for the privilege of carrying to them Christ's message of love. Hear the response of ecclesiasticism: "Sit down, young man. When God wants to convert the heathen, He will do it without your help or mine." The great leaders of religious thought in this generation sound the praises and build the monuments of those who planted the seed of truth centuries ago. Do not many turn from this work to trample down the growth springing from the same seed today? The old cry is repeated, "We know that God spake unto Moses; as for this fellow [Christ in the messenger He sends], we know not from whence he is." John 9:29. As in earlier ages, the special truths for this time are found, not with the ecclesiastical authorities, but with men and women who are not too learned or too wise to believe the word of God. "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are" (1 Cor. 1:26-28); "that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:5). And in this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal and triumphant fulfillment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to "every nation and kindred and tongue" (Rev. 14:6-14), "to take out of them a people for His name" (Acts 15:14; Rev. 18:1). And the earth shall be lightened with His glory. {Christ Object Lessons 79.}

There is a special truth at this time, and it is only by an increase of knowledge a people will be prepared to stand: "The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days. The Scripture says, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4). When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, "Time shall be no longer." (See Revelation 10:6.) The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to
John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.” {2SM 105.1}

This increase of knowledge is to do in relation to the rise of the man of sin:
"In the first angel's message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the Law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject." 2Selected Messages 106.1

The increase of knowledge which will prepare God's people to stand is a knowledge concerning the counterfeit Sabbath as well as the rapid rise of the Man of sin. This knowledge is in agreement with the warning of the three angels' messages not to worship the beast, and this increase of knowledge is in agreement with the message by the Hiddekel river of Daniel 11:40-45, for the king of the north is the Papacy. We are told:

"The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features plainly revealed in this earth's history." {2Selected Messages 102.1}

In 1989, we see the Man of Sin rising as the Papacy unites with America to overthrow the USSR, as depicted in Daniel 11:40. As knowledge increases in regards to the rise of the man of sin, Satan works with lying wonders to lull people into darkness, light from heaven proclaimed by the angel of revelation 18 will come down to give power unto the third angel, but how will the majority receive this great light?

“There was to be special light for God's people as they neared the closing scenes of this earth's history. Another angel was to come from heaven with a message and the whole earth was to be lightened with his glory. It would be impossible for us to state just how this additional light would come. It might come in a very unexpected manner, in a way that would not agree with the ideas that many have conceived. It is not at all unlikely, or contrary to the ways and works of God to send light to His people in unexpected ways.” {1888 239.1}
As is the times of old, the Majority of God’s professed followers will not understand this light and will reject it: “The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its *advancing* glory.” {LDE 209.3} {LDE 210.1}

However there will be a small group of people that will hold fast to the light and will continue to walk in its advancing glory: “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever…but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand”. Daniel 11:3.10

As depicted in biblical history whenever the man of sin arises, be sure that there will be a large class that will fall away from the truth and will fall away from the faith:

“As the storm approaches, a *large class* who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls” {Great Controversy 608}

Those who have profess faith in third angels message can only be Adventists, yet as the Sunday law is agitated and Satan begins to work with marvellous signs and wonders through spiritualism. Those who have not forfeited their minds with testimony of the scriptures will certainly abandon their ranks and join in with the man of lawlessness, and today this is already happening. Professed Adventist church goers are looking more and behaving more like the world than the separate and distinct set of people God has called us to be and the reason why is because they have played down the Spirit of Prophecy, they have shut down the eyes of the prophet which indeed is God’s vision. This is the light that is to shine in the dark place. Satan is converted under the modern order of things, and though spiritualism, under the garb of Christianity and through the leading men in Adventism, he desires to take the church captive:

“It is true that *Spiritualism is now changing its form*, and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, in *assuming a Christian guise*. But its utterances from the platform and the press have been before the public for nearly forty years, and in these its real character stands revealed. These teachings cannot be denied or hidden. Even in its present form, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, it is really a **more dangerous, because a more subtle deception**. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now professes to accept both. But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenowned heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect. **Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism making little distinction between good and evil.** God's justice, his denunciations of sin, the requirements of his holy law, are
all kept out of sight. The people are taught to regard the decalogue as a dead letter. Pleasing, bewitching fables captivate the senses, and lead men to reject the Bible as the foundation of their faith. Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned”. {Great Controversy 1888 558}

These words written over a hundred years ago is being fulfilled today in the church, no longer is the church encouraged to continue in the advancing light of the prophetic word, but choose to degrade the love of God into a cheap sentimentalism. “All you need to do is love Jesus, that’s all, forget prophecy” where as the pen of inspiration tells us: “Those who become confused in their understanding of the Word, who fail to see the meaning of antichrist, will surely place themselves on the side of antichrist…. The prophecies of Daniel and of John are to be understood. They interpret each other. They give to the world truths which every one should understand. These prophecies are to be witnesses in the world.” {7 Bible Commentaries 949} “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...” and to reject this knowledge; to reject this advancing light will only bring destruction as it did to those who rejected in the times of Christ and in the dark ages. As the church unites more closely with the world including the fallen churches of Babylon through ecumenism loving the praise of men rather than the praise of God, be sure that Gross darkness will soon encapsulate this world again and the time of trouble such as never before will come upon us.

Yet as this darkness increases in the church, and the presence of evil angels felt in the Church be sure that God will provide a brighter light to for the small praying company. “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.” Isa 60:1-2 During the day, the light shinning from a candle is not appreciated but when the darkness is deepest oh how glorious is that light and so it will in the deepest, darkest hour of earth’s history: “The deeper the night for God’s people, the more brilliant the stars. Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners” {5 Testimonies 81:2}

Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David--willing to do and dare. And why does God work like this? So that we do not look to men, for curse is the man that maketh arm is flesh, we are to look to God: “My glory will I not give to another”. “My kingdom is not of this world”. The Worlds glory is self exaltation: “You need to exalt your rights”, “I first and others last” “The power is within”, “Learning to love one’s self is the greatest love of all”, “men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers… lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof ” 2Tim 3:2-5 This is the worlds teaching as depicted all over the media, and those who manifest this spirit will
blindly follow a system such as this. Where as Christ came to show us another way, “Greater love can no man have but to laid down his life for another”, “the first shall be last and the last shall be first”. “He who seeks to save his life, shall loose it.”, “Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” Through tribulation, trial and even disappointment Christ will separate his seed from the serpent seed, but how un willing many desire to go though this purification process. Picture the Lamb of God hanging naked on a tree, deserted by friends, mocked and jeered by the angry mob. Christ’s followers will have to go through a similar experience for in this lay the power of God. Christ was never more glorified than when he was on the cross, but to the world this is foolishness, to many this is stumbling block but to us who are saved it is the power of God:

“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.(1 Cor 1:17-21)

It is in the deepest darkest hour God will command the light to shine out of darkness. The creative energy as seen in creation will be seen in the human heart. God will have a people that will reflect his character his image: The image of self sacrificing love. The mystery of God will be complete in the heart of the believer, Christ in you the hope of all glory. The true Sabbath rest restored as in Eden for this is God’s delight. But how many will reject this choosing to follow the blind guides with pleasing address, how the majority will reject this great light from heaven, as it comes from the most despised class of society, the unpopular crowd, the uneducated therefore forfeiting their place in heaven for eternity.

“He who seeks to save his life, shall loose it.”}

“Of those who boast of their light, and yet fail to walk in it, Christ says, "But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum [Seventh-day Adventists, who have had great light], which art exalted unto heaven [in point of privilege], shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee." At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent [in their own estimation], and hast revealed them unto babes." "And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the Lord, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.” {Review and Herald August 1, 1893}
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