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THE REMNANT OF HER SEED

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The Problem of Sin and its Solution

In order to understand Genesis 3:15 we must understand the original condition of man and the immediate consequences of sin.

- Adam and Eve's **original garments**: A **spiritual** robe of righteousness made evident by a **literal** robe of light:

*"The **white robe of innocence** was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. They **lived in perfect conformity** to the will of God. They gave all the **strength of their affections** to their heavenly Father [**the spiritual robe**]. A beautiful **soft light**, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair [**the literal robe**]. This **robe of light** [**the literal robe**] **was a symbol** of their **spiritual garments** of heavenly **innocence** [**the spiritual robe**]. Had they remained true to God it would ever have continued to enshroud them. However, when sin entered, they **severed their connection** with God [**lost their spiritual robe**], and the light that had encircled them **departed** [**the literal robe**]." COL, pp. 310, 311*

- The Bible corroborates Ellen White's perspective. The **first result** of sin was **spiritual** nakedness of soul followed by **physical** nakedness of body:

Genesis 2:7

*"Then the eyes of both of them were opened [**obviously their spiritual eyes because their physical eyes could see**], and they knew that they were **naked** . . ."*

- **Man's solution** to the problem of spiritual and physical nakedness: Garments of '**fig leaves**' made by their own hands:

*". . . and **they** sewed fig leaves together and **made themselves** coverings."*

*"The fig-leaves represent the **arguments used to cover disobedience [in other words, self-justification]**. When the Lord calls the attention of men and women to the truth, the making of fig leaves into aprons will begin, to **hide the nakedness of the soul**. However, the nakedness of the sinner is not covered. **All the arguments pieced together** by all who have interested themselves in this flimsy work will come to naught." *Review and Herald*, November 15, 1898*

- Their nakedness was not merely physical because even **after covering** themselves with the fig leaves, they still felt naked:

Genesis 2:8-1

*"And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked**; and I hid myself."*

- That very day Adam and Eve should have suffered ultimate nakedness—death. However, God had devised a way to cover their spiritual and physical nakedness:

In **heavenly event**: In heaven, Jesus offered to take **man's place**. To live the life that he should live and die the death that he should die:

*"The **instant** Adam yielded to Satan's temptation, and did the very thing which God had said he should not do, Christ, the Son of God, stood between the living and the dead, saying: "Let the **punishment fall on Me**. I will stand in **man's place**. Give him another trial." Transgression placed the whole world under the death sentence. But **in heaven** there was heard a voice saying, 'I have **found a ransom**.'" *The Bible Echo, June 27, 1900.**

The **earthly announcement** of the heavenly event:

Genesis 3:21: A lamb without blemish **died** in order to cover the shame of Adam and Eve's nakedness. In

symbolic language, this ceremony portrayed how God would solve the problem of man's nakedness:

*"Also **for** Adam and his wife the **Lord God made** tunics of **skin**, and [**He**] clothed them."*

*"To Adam, the offering of the **first sacrifice** was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the **first time** he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death of man or beast. As **he slew the innocent victim**, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God's dear Son could expiate. He marveled at the infinite goodness that would give such a ransom to save the guilty. A **star of hope** illumined the dark and terrible future and relieved it of its utter desolation." PP 68*

- On the **cross**, Jesus fulfilled the meaning of the first sacrifice. Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God, by His sinless life, wove a robe of perfect righteousness and then took upon Himself man's spiritual nakedness. This is the reason why Jesus hung **physically** naked on the Cross (1 Peter 1:18-20):

John 19:23-24

*"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took **His garments** and **made four parts**, to each soldier a part, and also **the tunic**. Now the tunic was without seam, woven*

from the top in one piece. ²⁴ They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things."

- In **this life**, God covers our **spiritual nakedness** with Christ's perfect righteousness. **Baptism** is the official robing ceremony (explain the meaning of baptism):

Galatians 3:26, 27

*"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on** Christ."*

- At the **second coming** God will clothe us **physically** with a radiant robe of literal light:

Revelation 7:9

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands."

The Root Prophecy

Genesis 3:15

After Adam and Eve sinned, God came down to the Garden and spoke the following words to the serpent:

"And I will put [1] enmity between [2] you [the serpent] and the [3] woman, and between [4] your seed and [5] her Seed: He ['it' in Hebrew] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His [masculine in Hebrew] heel."

Theologians refer to this as the protoeuangelion or the first gospel promise. Although God announced this declaration of war and final sentence to the serpent, Adam and Eve were present, listening to God's words. The imagery is that of a man lifting his foot to crush the head of a serpent and just before the foot crushes the head, the serpent bites the man's heel.

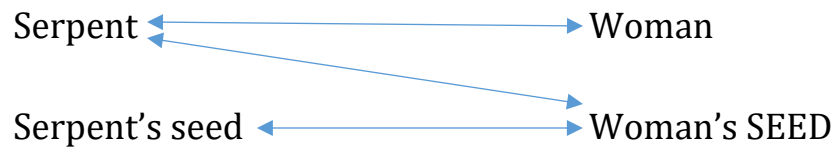
"Through the very bruising of his heel by Satan, because of affliction, temptation, and sorrow, Christ was gaining the victory in behalf of the human family; for he triumphed over his enemy in not yielding to his temptation, and thus bruised the head of the serpent." Signs of the Times, March 26, 1894

Five elements and their meaning in Genesis 3:15:

- The enmity: The great controversy between Christ and Satan
- The serpent: Satan
- The woman: The true Church
- The woman's SEED: Jesus
- The serpent's seed: Satan's human instruments

In Genesis 3:15 the enmity runs in **three directions**:

- The serpent versus the woman
- The woman's SEED versus the serpent's seed
- The serpent versus the woman's SEED



Note: Although the enmity runs in three directions, the **primary enmity** is between the serpent and the woman's SEED.

Who is the serpent's seed?

- **Cain** was the wicked one's seed:

1 John 3:12

*"... not as Cain who was **of the wicked one** and murdered his brother; and why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous."*

- **Pharaoh**, who attempted to kill Moses, was the great dragon's seed:

Exodus 1:15-17

"Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the

birthstools, **if it is a son**, then **you shall kill him**; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

Ezekiel 29:3, KJV

"Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, **Pharaoh** king of Egypt, **the great dragon** that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."

- Satan used **Herod** as his seed to attempt to kill the male Son:

Matthew 2:16

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was **exceedingly angry**; and he sent forth and put to death **all the male children** who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men."

Ellen White explained:

"The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9); he it was that **moved upon Herod** to put the Savior to death. However, the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian era was the **Roman Empire**, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents **Satan**, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of **pagan Rome**." *The Great Controversy*, p. 438

- **Satan** threw some of the **Smyrnans** into **prison** but he did not do it in person:

Revelation 2:10

*“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, **the devil is about to throw some of you into prison**, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*

- The **Jews of Christ’s day** were the devil’s seed because they wanted to kill Jesus:

John 8:44

*“You are of **your father the devil**, and the **desires of your father** you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*

- Revelation 12:13, 14 states that the **[1] dragon/serpent** persecuted the **[2] woman** for a **[3] ‘time and times and half a time’**

Revelation 12:13, 14

*“Now when **the dragon** saw that he had been cast to the earth, **he persecuted the woman** who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness to her*

*place, where she is nourished for a **time and times and half a time**, from the **presence of the serpent**.”*

Daniel 7:25 states that the **little horn** persecuted the **saints** for ‘a time and times and half a time’:

Daniel 7:24, 25

*“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall **persecute the saints** of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then **the saints** shall be given into **his hand** for a **time and times and half a time**.”*

Conclusion: The inevitable conclusion is that the dragon/serpent persecuted God’s people by means of **his seed**, the little horn. The papacy was thus the serpent’s seed.

- Just before the second coming, Satan will work by stealth, hidden from human eyes. That is to say, the dragon will not do his work **in person** but rather by using the kings of the earth as his seed.

Revelation 16:13 describes the three enemies of God’s people as the **dragon**, the **beast** and the **false prophet**. However, Revelation 19 describes the same three powers as the **kings** of the earth, the **beast** and the **false prophet**. The ‘kings’ serve as the dragon’s seed. Chapter 20 then describes the binding of Satan in person.

Revelation 16:13

*“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the **dragon**, out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**.”*

Revelation 19:19-21

*“And I saw the **beast**, the **kings of the earth**, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.²⁰ Then the beast was captured and with him the **false prophet** who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **These two** were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*

Revelation 20:1

*“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.² He **laid hold of the dragon**, that **serpent of old**, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”*

Who is the SEED of the Woman?

The Bible refers to THE SEED as **one**. However, it also describes the seed as **many**. Throughout the course of Old Testament history, THE SEED would eventually come from a lineage of many **‘preliminary’** seeds. After THE SEED came, **many seeds** would then come **spiritually** from THE SEED.

Genesis 3:15: The promised SEED is **one person**:

*"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; **He** shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise **His** heel."*

Note: The Roman Catholic **Douay-Rheims Version** is the only Bible version that erroneously claims that **the woman** would crush the head of the serpent:

*"I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: **she** shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for **her** heel."*

Genesis 4:25: Abel and Seth were **preliminary** seeds:

*"And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me **another seed** **instead** of Abel, whom Cain slew."*

Note: Everyone in the Old Testament **holy line** of the Messiah was a 'preliminary seed' from whom THE SEED would eventually come. It is significant that the Bible almost exclusively attributes **seed to males** but Genesis 3:15 and Matthew 1:16 attributes THE SEED to females, Eve and Mary!

Genesis 12:3: The blessing would come **through Abraham**, a 'preliminary' seed:

*"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee** shall all families of the earth be blessed."*

Genesis 22:17, 18: God promised Abraham **much seed** but the blessing would come only through **one solitary SEED** (according

to **John 8:56** Abraham understood the offering of Isaac as pointing to Messiah):

*"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply **thy seed** as the **stars of the heaven**, and **as the sand** which is upon the sea shore; and **thy seed** shall possess the gate of his enemies; ¹⁸ And **in thy seed** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."*

Galatians 3:13-14: According to Paul, the death of the **ONE SEED** brought the blessing of Abraham:

*"**Christ** has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴ **that** the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."*

Galatians 3:16, 26-29: The seed is **ONE**, not many. However, those who accept Christ and experience baptism are the SEED'S seed:

*"Now to Abraham and **his seed** were the promises made. He saith **not**, and to **seeds**, as of many; but **as of one**, and to thy seed, **which is Christ**. ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all **one in Christ** Jesus. ²⁹ And **if ye be Christ's**, then **are ye Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise."*

1 Samuel 7:12: God promised to establish His kingdom through a **singular SEED** from the lineage of David:

*“And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up **thy seed** after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish **his** kingdom.”*

Psalm 89:29: God promised a **singular SEED** from the lineage of David:

*“His **[David’s] seed** also will I make to endure forever, and **his** throne as the days of heaven.”*

Acts 13:22, 23: Jesus is the **singular** SEED from the line of David:

*“And when he had removed him **[Saul]**, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. ²³ Of **this man’s seed [David’s]** hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Savior—**Jesus**.”*

Romans 4:16: The SEED’S seed are the **many** who have faith in Christ like Abraham did:

*“Therefore it is of faith that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to **all the seed**; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of **us all**.”*

Romans 9:6-8: The seed are **many** who receive Jesus as Savior:

*“Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: ⁷ Neither, because they are the **seed of Abraham**, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. ⁸ That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the **children** of the promise are counted **for the seed**.”*

An illustration will help us understand the **relationship** between the ONE SEED and the many seeds:

When **a farmer** plants a single tomato seed in the earth, it dies and ‘resurrects’ (germinates), grows and finally produces many seeds. In a similar manner, Jesus is the singular SEED who died, resurrected, and as a result produces the SEED’s many seeds.

John 12:24

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and **dies**, it remains **alone**; but if it dies, it produces **much grain**.”*

Ellen White explained:

*“The **grain** of wheat that preserves its own life can produce **no fruit**. It abides **alone** [**a singular seed**]. Christ could, if He chose, save Himself from death. However, should He do this, He must **abide alone** [**a singular seed**]. He could bring no **sons and daughters** to God. Only by yielding up His life could He impart life to humanity. Only by falling into the ground to die could He become **the seed of that vast harvest**—the great multitude that out [**many seeds**] of every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, are redeemed to God.”*
The Desire of Ages, p. 623

The Tri-Directional Enmity in Genesis 3:15 and Revelation 12

In Genesis 3:15 the enmity runs in **three directions**:

- The serpent versus the woman
- The woman’s SEED versus the serpent’s seed

- The serpent versus the woman's SEED

In Revelation 12, the enmity also runs in **three directions**:

- The serpent versus the woman's SEED
- The serpent versus the woman
- The serpent versus the seed of the woman's SEED (Jesus is the SEED and the final remnant is the SEED'S seed)

Genesis 3:15 and Revelation 12

There are several common elements in Genesis 3:15 and Revelation 12:

- The woman
- The ancient dragon/serpent
- Satan's seed (Pagan Rome, Papal Rome, the image of Papal Rome)
- The enmity
- The woman's SEED
- The seed of the woman's SEED

The Literary Structure of Revelation 12

The **literary structure** of Revelation 12:

- **12:1-5** further developed in **12:7-12**
- **12:6** further developed in **12:13-16**
- **12:17** further developed in chapter **13**

Ellen White understood that Revelation 13 is an enlargement of Revelation 12:17. In the following statements, she links the events

of Revelation 13:11-18 with Revelation 12:17:

*"The dignitaries of **church and state will unite [the image of the beast, Revelation 13:14]** to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor **the Sunday [the mark of the beast, Revelation 13:16]**. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments **[not being able to buy or sell and eventually a death decree, Revelation 13:15, 17]**. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing **Sunday observance**. Liberty of conscience that has cost so great a sacrifice will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict, we shall see exemplified the prophet's words: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." **Revelation 12:17.**" *GC*, p. 592*

*"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." [Revelation 12:17] In the **near future**, we shall see these words fulfilled as the [1] **Protestant churches** unite with the [2] **world** and with the [3] **papal power** against commandment keepers. The same spirit which actuated papists in ages past will lead Protestants to pursue a **similar course** toward those who will maintain their loyalty to God." *5T*, p. 449*

The Flow of Revelation 12

Cycle #1: The war against the Male Son

Revelation 12:1-4

The **Old Testament Church** was crying out in anguish for the birth of THE SEED while the dragon was waiting in the wings to destroy Him as soon as He was born:

*“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a **woman** clothed with the **sun**, and the **moon** under her feet, and upon her head a **crown** of **twelve** stars: ² And she being with child cried, **travailing** in birth, and pained to be delivered. ³ And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great **red dragon**, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. ⁴ And his **tail** drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to **devour her child** as soon as it was born.”*

Revelation 12:5

The **birth** of the Deliverer and His ascension to heaven as victor:

*“And she brought forth a **man child**, who **was to rule** all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was **caught up** unto God, and to his throne.”*

Cycle #2: The war against the woman

Revelation 12:6

Having been unsuccessful in destroying the woman's SEED, the dragon launches a persecution against **the woman** who gave birth to the Male Son:

*"And the **woman** fled into the **wilderness**, where she hath a **place prepared** of God that they should **feed** her there a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**."*

Expansion of Cycle #1: The war against the Male Son

Revelation 12:7-9: **Expansion** of verses 1-5:

The war that began in heaven culminates when Jesus cast out Satan at the cross:

*"And there was **war in heaven**: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found **any more in heaven**. ⁹ And the great dragon was **cast out**, that **old serpent**, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and **his angels were cast out** with him."*

Revelation 12:10-12: **Expansion** of verses 1-5:

The victory **celebration in heaven** when the victorious war hero returns:

*"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, '**Now** is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren **is cast down**, which **accused***

***them** before our God day and night.’¹¹ And they overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives **unto the death**.¹² Therefore **rejoice** ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe** to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is **come down [from heaven when he was cast down]** unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”*

Expansion of Cycle #2: The war against the woman

Revelation 12:13-15: Expansion of verse 6:

The dragon persecutes the woman for time, times and the dividing of time:

*“And when the **dragon** saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the **woman** which brought forth the man child.¹⁴ And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the **wilderness**, into her **place**, where she is **nourished** for a **time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent.¹⁵ And the **serpent** cast out of his **mouth [singular] water** as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.”*

Revelation 12:16

The **‘earth’ rescues** the woman by swallowing up the persecuting waters:

*“And the **earth helped** the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and **swallowed up the flood** which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”*

Cycle #3: The final war against the SEED'S seed:

Revelation 12:17

The dragon persecutes the SEED'S seed:

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Expansion of Cycle #3: The final war against the SEED'S seed:

Revelation 13:1-18

Four Historical Stages

In Revelation 12, there is only one woman in four historical stages:

- Before the Son was born.
- When the Son was born and ascended to heaven.
- When the woman fled to the wilderness for 1260 years.
- When the dragon will persecute the final remnant of the woman's SEED.

Stages of Revelation 12 in Chronological Order

Stage #1

The Old Testament Church was crying out in anguish for the birth of THE SEED while the dragon was waiting in the wings to destroy Him as soon as He was born (Revelation 12:1-2).

In Revelation 12, a single woman symbolizes both Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church. Dispensationalists miss the

mark when they teach that God has two mutually separable peoples with a different plan for each—one for Israel and the other for the Church. In Revelation 12, there is only **one** dragon, **one** Messiah and **one** people of the Messiah. This is not **replacement theology** but rather **continuation theology**!

What do the sun, the moon and the twelve stars represent? We find the answer when we identify the **greater light** and the **lesser light**. According to **Genesis 1:16**, the literal sun is the greater light and the literal moon is the lesser light. In symbolic terms, as the moon reflects the glory of the sun, so do the written Scriptures reflect the glory of Jesus (John 5:39; follow Paul's argument in 2 Corinthians 3:13-18). The woman standing on the moon represents the Church standing on the foundation of **the Scriptures** (Ephesians 2:19-22).

- The **sun** represents Jesus Christ, who is the greater light (Psalm 84:11; Matthew 17:3; Revelation 1:16; Malachi 4:1)
- The **moon**: represents the Bible which is the lesser light that gives witness to Jesus (John 5:35, 39, 46, 47)
- In the Old Testament period, the **twelve stars** represent the twelve sons of Jacob who were the founders of the nation of Israel and later became the twelve tribes (Genesis 37:9, 10; Genesis 49:28).
- In the New Testament period, the **twelve stars** represent the twelve Jewish apostles who founded the Christian Church (Mark 3:14) and continued the legacy of Israel. Notice the number of times that the gospel of Matthew refers to the apostles as 'the twelve' (Matthew 10:1, 2, 5, 11:1; 20:17;

26:20). The twelve Jewish apostles **do not replace** Israel but rather **continue** Israel.

Ellen White explained the significance of the number 12:

*“As in the Old Testament the **twelve patriarchs** stood as representatives of Israel, so the **twelve apostles** stood as representatives of the gospel church.” AA, p. 19*

Stage #2

The woman gives birth to THE SEED, a **Male Son** (12:2, 5).

Stage #3

The dragon/ancient serpent **attempts to destroy** the woman's SEED by using Herod as his seed (12:3, 4).

Stage #4

The Male Child **survives** the serpent's attack and then God catches Him up to His throne (Revelation 12:5; 3:21). Revelation 12:5 summarizes, in broad strokes, Messiah's **entire earthly sojourn** from His birth to his ascension to heaven.

Stage #5

Expansion of stage #4 (Revelation 12:7-9). When the woman's SEED dies on the cross, resurrects and ascends to heaven, He **casts out** the accuser of the brethren from heaven (see John 12:30-33).

Stage #6

All heaven **rejoices and sings** when the woman's SEED arrives victoriously in heaven (12:10-12; also 5:11-13).

Stage #7

Heaven pronounces a **woe** upon those who live on the earth after Michael casts the dragon out of heaven at the cross (12:12).

Stage #8

After the Male Son survives the dragon's attack and ascends to heaven, the dragon launches a malicious attack against the woman for 1260 days (12:6).

Stage #9

The dragon uses his seed—the Roman little horn—to **persecute the woman** for 'a time, times and half a time (12:13-15).

Revelation 13:1-10 further expands the **42 months** of papal oppression against the saints of the Most High. These verses tell us that at the conclusion of the 42 months the beast would receive a mortal wound.

Stage #10

Toward the end of the 'time, times and half a time' the **earth helps** the woman by swallowing up the waters of persecution that the dragon/serpent spewed out of his mouth. At this point in the sequence, only the **territory** helps the woman because no nation has yet arisen in the territory (12:16).

Stage #11

At the end of the 42 months, the beast received a mortal wound and for a while is out of action (13:10).

Stage #12

Filled with rage because the earth has helped the woman, the serpent/dragon launches a final persecution against the SEED's seed, because they keep the **commandments** of God and **possess** the testimony of Jesus Christ (12:17; chapter 13).

A second **beast** (now a nation) rises from the **earth** (from the territory that helped the woman) with two horns like a lamb, representing **civil and religious liberty** (13:11). However, the beast from the earth goes through a **metamorphosis**. It heals the first beast's deadly wound and ends up speaking like a dragon, an expansion of Revelation 12:17. (13:12-18).

Revelation 19:20 NIV

*"But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs **on his behalf**."*

Revelation 19:20, New Century

*"But the beast was captured and with him the false prophet who did the miracles **for the beast**."*

Revelation 19:20: The Message

*"The Beast was taken, and with him, **his puppet**, the False Prophet, who used signs to dazzle and deceive those who had taken the mark of the Beast and worshiped his image."*

*"**Kings and rulers and governors** have placed upon themselves **the brand of antichrist**, and are represented **as the dragon** who goes*

to make war with the saints--with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus. In their enmity against the people of God, they show themselves guilty also of the choice of Barabbas instead of Christ." Testimonies to Ministers, p. 38

In Revelation 12, the dragon symbolizes **Satan working through Rome:**

- Pagan Rome (the dragon) when he attempted to kill the male Son.
- Papal Rome (the dragon) when he attempted to slay the woman.
- Papal Rome when the United States speaks as a dragon by making an image of and to Papal Rome.

Stage #13

In true historicist fashion, the 'Male Son' will have the final word after the dragon launches a final war against the SEED's seed. Verse 5 tells us that in the end, the Male Son will 'rule all nations with a rod of iron.' (Revelation 2:27; 7:17; 19:15 in the context of Psalm 2; John 21:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2). The Greek word *poimaino* ('rule') has a positive and a negative sense. The Lord will **feed** His sheep but **shatter** the wicked like a potter's vessel.

The Remnant's Two Characteristics

Revelation 12:17 tell us **when** and **where** the final remnant would appear. It also gives us **two characteristics** of the remnant:

- They keep the **commandments** of God

- They possess the **testimony of Jesus**—the true gift of prophecy (Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9)

In Revelation 13, the land beast attacks the remnant because they have these two characteristics:

- Revelation 13 explains that the dragon especially hates the **Fourth Commandment** (the seal of God in contrast to the mark of the beast).
- The name of the beast from the earth is the **false prophet** (Revelation 16:13; 19:20). Thus, God's people have the true gift of prophecy and the land beast has the counterfeit. The false prophet interprets prophecy from a **preterist and futurist** perspective thus hiding the true issues in the controversy. This is why the book *Great Controversy* by Ellen White (the true prophet) is so important:

*"The Great Controversy should be very **widely circulated**. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the **closing scenes** of this earth's history, it bears a **powerful testimony** in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a **wide circulation** for this book than for any others I have written; for in *The Great Controversy*, the **last message of warning** to the world is given **more distinctly** than in any of my other books." Letter 281, 1905.*

Explanation of the Casting out of Satan

Revelation 12:4 presents the **entire sweep** of the controversy between Christ and Satan from the origin of sin in heaven until

Jesus died on the cross. John first gives a flashback into what happened in heaven and then goes right to the birth of Jesus. In verses 7, 8 John once again gives a flashback to heaven and then verse 9 deals with the casting out of Satan at the cross and the succeeding heavenly celebration when He sat with His Father on His throne (verses 10-12 and Revelation 5:11-13).

Something similar occurred when Jesus stated that He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven (Luke 10:18-20). Ellen White explained:

*"Like the apostles, the seventy had received supernatural endowments as a seal of their mission. When their work was completed, they returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name." Jesus answered, "**I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**" The scenes of the **past** and the **future** were presented to the mind of Jesus. He **beheld** Lucifer as he was **first cast out** from the heavenly places. He **looked forward** to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, "It is finished" (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate. **Beyond the cross** of Calvary, with its agony and shame, Jesus **looked forward** to the great final day, when the prince of the power of the air will meet his destruction in the earth so long marred by his rebellion. Jesus beheld the work of evil forever ended, and the peace of God filling heaven and earth." The Desire of Ages, p. 490*

"When Christ cried, "It is finished," God's unseen hand rent the strong fabric composing the veil of the temple from top to bottom. The way

*into the holiest of all was made manifest. God bowed His head satisfied. Now His justice and mercy could blend. He could be just and yet the justifier of all who should believe on Christ. He looked upon the victim expiring on the cross, and said, "It is finished. The human race shall have another trial." The redemption price was paid, and **Satan fell like lightning from heaven.**" The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 5, p. 1150*

Although Revelation 12:7-9 reminisces about the original casting out of Lucifer from heaven, the text refers primarily to the victory of Jesus on the cross for the following reasons:

- **John 12:31-33**

Jesus predicted the casting out of Satan at the cross:

*"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world **will be cast out.**" ³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." ³³ This He said, signifying by **what death He would die.**"*

- Revelation 12:13 tells us that Satan was enraged against the woman **because he had been cast out of heaven.** When Jesus cast out Satan from heaven originally, there was no woman to persecute. In short, the casting out of Satan from heaven at the cross, enraged Satan against the church:

*"Satan again counseled with his angels, and with bitter hatred against God's government told them that while he retained his power and authority upon earth their efforts must be tenfold stronger against the followers of Jesus. They had **prevailed nothing against Christ** but must overthrow His followers, if*

*possible. In every generation, they must seek to ensnare those who would believe in Jesus. He related to his angels that Jesus had given His disciples power to rebuke them and cast them out, and to heal those whom they should afflict. Then Satan's angels **went forth like roaring lions**, seeking to destroy the followers of Jesus." EW, pp. 191, 192*

- Satan had accused the brethren for some time before Jesus cast him out of heaven so this cannot refer the original casting out. At the beginning there were **no brethren to accuse** (the angels are not Christ's brethren. The brethren are those who receive Jesus as Savior—see Matthew 12:48, 49; John 20:17; Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:11, 12, and 17). Satan accused the brethren day and night in heaven before Jesus cast him out (for example, Job).
- According to Revelation 12, when Christ cast out Satan, some brethren had already gained the victory over him **by the blood** of the lamb. When Jesus cast out Satan from heaven at the beginning, the brethren did not yet exist and the Lamb had not died!
- Immediately after Jesus cast Satan out, the heavenly beings **sang a victory** song that begins with the word '**now**'.
- After Jesus cast out Satan from heaven, he persecuted the woman for **1260 years**. Clearly, this cannot refer to the original casting down because there would be a gap of over 4000 years between the casting down and the persecution of the woman.

- Ellen White refers to verse 10 as applying to the song of the heavenly beings when Jesus gained the victory at the cross, at His resurrection and at His arrival in heaven:

*"And I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, 'now is come salvation and strength, and the kingdom of our God and the power of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night.'" The **casting down of Satan as an accuser** of the brethren in Heaven was accomplished by the great work of Christ in **giving up his life**." *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 3, p. 194*

*"Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. **Christ bowed His head and died**, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.' Revelation 12:10.*

*"At the **death of Jesus** the earth was wrapped in profound darkness at midday; but at the resurrection the brightness of the angels illuminates the night, and the inhabitants of heaven sing with great joy and triumph: Thou hast vanquished Satan and the powers of darkness! Thou hast swallowed up death in victory! "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God, day and night."*

*"With joy unutterable, all Heaven welcomed the hour when the Savior, at the close of his earthly mission, **ascended to the celestial courts**. As a mighty Conqueror, he led the way upward, and the multitude of captives whom he had raised from the dead at the time when he came forth from the tomb, followed him. With **songs of joy and triumph**, the heavenly host escorted him upward. At the portals of the city of God, an innumerable company of angels awaited his coming. As they approached the gates of the city, the angels who were escorting the Majesty of Heaven, in triumphant tones addressed the company at the portals: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in!" Present Truth, February 18, 1886*

In what sense did Christ cast out Satan at the cross?

*"Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the **unfallen angels** and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By **shedding the blood** of the Son of God, he had **uprooted himself from the sympathies** of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The **last link of sympathy** between Satan and the heavenly world was broken." DA, p. 761*

"In this choice the principles of Satan were made manifest; and the hosts of heaven, and all the worlds that God had created,

judged that Satan was an accuser of the brethren, a liar, and a murderer. In heaven and among the unfallen worlds the question of Satan's deceiving power, of his malignant principles, was settled and the perfect purity and holiness of Christ, who was bearing the test and trial in behalf of fallen man, was forever proved. Through the development of Satan's character and principles, he was forever uprooted from the affection of the unfallen worlds, and the controversy concerning his claims and the claims of Christ was forever settled in heaven." 1SM, p. 348

Satan Crushed by the Last Generation

God's people will have a role in the final crushing of Satan's head:

Romans 16:20

"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly."

"Every soul that remains true to Christ is another evidence and reminder of the first prophecy. Satan may bruise the heel, but the faithful believer shall bruise the head of the serpent." RH, July 18, 1882

"This prophecy refers not only to the enmity between Christ and Satan, but also to the enmity that exists between the world [Satan's seed] and the followers of the world's Redeemer [the SEED'S seed]. Christ was the special one who should bruise the head of the serpent; but the prophecy also includes all those who shall overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." ST July 11, 1895

*"The Lord said to Satan, that old serpent, "It [the Seed of the woman] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). Christ in a **special manner** bruised the head of the serpent, but the prophecy is **far-reaching**. It is a declaration of an unwearied conflict between Christ **and His followers [the SEED's seed]**, and Satan and his **angels** and **human agencies [Satan's seed]** on this earth, **to the close of time**." *Christ Triumphant*, p. 322*

*"They [Satan and his angels] can bruise only the heel, while in the very act, when Satan seems to have triumphed in putting them [the remnant] to torture and death, the faithful who stand in **defense of the law** of Jehovah are **wounding the head** of the great rebel." *Manuscript 55*, 1886*

*"**Registered** in the history of nations, **John Huss** lives. His godly works and steadfast faith, his pure life and conscientious following of the truth that was unfolded to him, these he would not yield even to be saved a cruel death. All heaven witnessed that triumphant death, by the whole universe. Satan **bruised the heel** of the seed of the woman, but in the act of Huss **his head was bruised**. . . ." *Christ Triumphant*, p. 325*

We must understand this in the context of **Saul** on the road to Damascus. In persecuting the SEED's seed, Satan persecutes the SEED. It is in this sense, that the SEED's seed will crush the serpent's head.



THE REMNANT OF HER SEED

BY PASTOR STEPHEN BOHR

WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?

Introduction

In recent years, there has been a lively discussion in Adventist academia on whether it is possible to overcome sin before the close of probation. One side claims that because we have a sinful human nature it will not be possible to overcome sin until God changes this body into the likeness of Christ's body. The other side claims that the end time generation will overcome sinful thoughts and acts in sinful flesh. What do the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy have to say about this important subject? Let us approach this for a moment from the perspective of the life of Moses.

The **three stages** of Moses' life:

- During the **first 40 years** of his life, the culture and religion of Egypt deeply affected the character of Moses. He exhibited his hot temper by killing an Egyptian.

*“Moses had been learning **much that he must unlearn**. The influences that had surrounded him in Egypt--the love of his **foster mother**, his own **high position** as the king's grandson, the **dissipation** on every hand, the **refinement**, the **subtlety**, and the **mysticism** of a false religion, the **splendor** of idolatrous worship, the solemn **grandeur of architecture and sculpture**—all had left **deep impressions** upon his developing mind and had molded, to some extent, his habits and character.”*

- During the **second 40 years**, Moses developed an **intimate relationship** with the Lord as he tended Jethro's sheep in the wilderness of Midian. He **unlearned** most of what he had learned in Egypt and was ready to lead Israel to the Promised Land.

*“**Time, change of surroundings**, and communion with God could **remove** these impressions. It would require on the part of **Moses himself a struggle** as for life to renounce error and accept truth, but God would be his helper when the conflict should be too severe for human strength.” *PP*, p. 248*

- The Bible does **not mention one sin** that **Moses committed** during the last 40 years of his life (except when he struck the rock twice on the borders of the Promised Land). This, in spite of the fact that Israel tested his patience to the utmost.

Ellen White wrote that the **one sin** that Moses committed just before Israel entered the Promised Land prevented him from translation to heaven from among the living:

*“Had not the life of Moses been marred with **that one sin**, in failing to give God the glory of bringing water from the rock at Kadesh, he would have entered the Promised Land, and **would have been translated to heaven without seeing death**. However, he was not long to remain in the tomb. Christ Himself, with the angels who had buried Moses, came down from heaven to call forth the sleeping saint. Satan had exulted at his success in causing Moses to sin against God, and thus come under the dominion of death.” PP, p. 478*

There is a difference between a person being **ready for translation** while alive and translation to heaven after **death and resurrection**. At death, a person’s **record is complete**. If the person repented, confessed his sins and trusted in Jesus, God will blot them out from the record of the person’s life in the sanctuary before the close of probation and place them on the head of the scapegoat. Because the person did not commit additional sins after death, there is no need for an intercessor during the time of trouble.

However, after probation closes, believers who are alive will still be writing their life record. If a person sins during the time of trouble after the close of probation, there will be no intercessor to forgive sins because the intercessory ministry of Jesus will have ceased. Thus, Ellen White wrote concerning the time of trouble:

*“In that fearful time, after the close of Jesus’ mediation, **the saints** were living in the sight of a holy God **without an intercessor**. Every case was decided, every jewel numbered. Jesus tarried a moment in the outer apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and the sins which had been confessed while He was in the most holy place were placed*

upon Satan, the originator of sin, who must suffer their punishment.”
EW, pp. 280, 281

*“When he leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time **the righteous** must live in the sight of a holy God **without an intercessor**.”* *GC*, p. 614

Regarding the 144,000, Ellen White wrote:

*“These, having been **translated** from the earth, from **among the living**, are counted as “the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.”*
*“These are they which came out of great tribulation;” [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17.] they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood **without an intercessor** through the final outpouring of God's judgments.”* *GC*, p. 649

Standing in the Last Day

Revelation 6:14-16 describes the **second coming** of Christ:

*“Then the **sky receded** as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every **mountain** and **island** was moved **out of its place** and the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!”*

Revelation 6:17 then ends with **a question**:

*“For the great day of His wrath has come, and **who is able to stand?**”*

What is the meaning of the word 'stand'? The answer is that in the New Testament, it is the **antonym** of the word '**fall**'.

- **Mark 3:24, 25**

*"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom **cannot stand**.²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house **cannot stand**."*

- **John 8:44**

*"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning and **does not stand in the truth** [in other words, **he fell from the truth**] use there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*

- **1 Corinthians 10:12**

*"Therefore let him who thinks **he stands** take heed lest **he fall**."*

- **Ephesians 6:11-13**

*"Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able **to stand** against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand **in the evil day**, and having done all, **to stand**."*

- **2 Timothy 2:19**

*"Nevertheless the **solid foundation** of God **stands**, having this*

*seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ **depart from iniquity.**"*

- **Luke 21:36**

*"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and **to stand** before the Son of Man."*

As we have seen, Revelation 6:17 ends with the **pointed question**, 'who shall be able to stand?' The answer to this question is in the **following chapter**—the **144,000** will be able to stand.

The Sealing of the 144,000

Revelation 7:1-4: These verses highlight **the sealing** of the 144,000 but **not** their sterling **character**:

*"After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, **holding the four winds** of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having **the seal of the living God** and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the **servants of our God** on their foreheads.' And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousands of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed."*

The Ezekiel 9 Backdrop

The idea of sealing the 144,000 on the forehead comes from **Ezekiel 9** where God's own **professed people** were committing

the abominations of the land. In the ensuing destruction, God only protected those who had the mark on the forehead. The angels with the destroying weapons cut down the rest.

Ezekiel 9:1-6

*"Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, 'Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a **deadly weapon** in his hand.' ² And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his **battle-ax** in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar. ³ Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; ⁴ and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through **the midst of Jerusalem**, and put a mark **on the foreheads** of the men who **sigh and cry** over all the abominations that are done within it.' ⁵ To the others He said in my hearing, 'Go **after him** through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. ⁶ Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but **do not come near** anyone on whom is the mark; and **begin at My sanctuary.**'"*

Ellen White linked the sealing in Ezekiel 9 with the sealing in Revelation 7:

*"The day of God's vengeance is just upon us. The **seal of God** will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who **sigh and cry** [Ezekiel 9:4] for the abominations done in the land. Those **[believers]** who **link in sympathy with the world** are eating and drinking with the*

drunken **[Matthew 24:49]**, and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity. "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry;" but "the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." [Psalm 34:15, 16].

Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God, or be **cut down by the destroying weapons [Ezekiel 9:2, 5]**. Already a few drops of God's wrath have fallen upon the earth; but when the seven last plagues shall be poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, then it will be forever **too late to repent**, and find shelter. **No atoning blood** will then wash away the stains of sin.

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.

When this time of trouble comes, **every case is decided**; there is **no longer probation**, **no longer mercy** for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people." 5T, p. 212

The Character of the Last Generation

Revelation 14:1-5: This passage provides a description of the **character** of God's end time remnant:

"Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His **Father's name** written on their **foreheads**. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And

*I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They **sang as it were a new song [they went through the experience of Israel at the Red Sea]** before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These ones were **not defiled with women**, for they are virgins. These ones **follow the Lamb** wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found **no deceit**, for they are **without fault** before the throne of God."*

The same Question in other Places

Revelation 6:17 is not the only place where question 'who shall be able to stand' appears. Neither is Revelation 7 the only place where we find the answer to the question. Furthermore, Revelation 14 is not the only place where we find a description of the character of the end time generation. Other passages highlight the sterling character of God's final remnant. Let us examine some of them.

Joel 2:11: Verses 1-10 describe the **second coming** of Jesus and then **verse 11** ends with the **same question** as Revelation 6:17:

*"The LORD gives voice before His army, for His camp is very great; for strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is **great and very terrible, who can endure it?**"*

Joel 2:12-17: The succeeding verses provide the **answer** to the question in terms of the Day of Atonement:

*"Now, therefore," says the LORD, "**Turn** to Me with all your heart, with **fasting**, with **weeping**, and with **mourning**." So **rend your***

heart, and not your garments; **return** to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him--A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God? Blow the **trumpet** in Zion, consecrate a **fast**, call a sacred **assembly**; **Gather** the people, **sanctify** the congregation, **assemble** the elders, **gather** the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. Let the priests, **who minister** to the LORD, **weep** between the porch and the altar; let them say, "**Spare Your people**, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'

The items in this verse clearly refer to the attitude of God's people during the Day of Atonement:

- The blowing of **trumpets** announced the Day of Atonement.
- A call to **repentance** with fasting, weeping and mourning.
- A call to **rend the heart** and not the garments (see Isaiah 58).
- A call for every person to **assemble** around the sanctuary and follow the work of the high priest.
- A call to **fast**.
- A call to **sanctify** the assembly.
- A call for the **ministers** to **weep** between the porch and the altar.

The People on the Day of Atonement

The **congregation** had a role to play on the Day of Atonement while the High Priest was cleansing the sanctuary:

- The sound of **trumpets** announced the coming Day of Atonement (the Millerite movement in 1844 and the Loud Cry of Revelation 18:1-5). When the Day of Atonement ends, there will be only **two groups**: Those who remained in Babylon and those who came out.
- All Israelites were required to **assemble around the sanctuary to follow** the work of the High Priest in the sanctuary—it was a **holy convocation** (Leviticus 23:21, 24, 27)
- While the high priest was **cleansing the sanctuary**, the people were gathered outside **afflicting their souls** (**Leviticus 16:29, 30, 23:27**). The closer we come to Jesus the more sinful we will see ourselves and the more we will want to reflect his image (Hebrews 12:1-3). The further we are from Jesus the better we will feel about ourselves.
- The congregation **fasted** (**Isaiah 58; Joel 2:11ff**):
"The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome simple food, which God has provided in abundance." Medical Ministry, p. 283

Isaiah 58:6-7

*"Is this not **the fast** that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the*

poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?"

- The congregation was to **abstain from work** because their minds needed to be focused on the work of the high priest in the sanctuary (**Leviticus 16:29, 30; 23:28**)
- As the high priest blotted out the sins of the people **from the sanctuary**, the people were to **blot out sin from their soul** temple through the power of the Holy Spirit. The message is that we must be **cleansing the soul temple** here while Jesus is cleansing the **heavenly temple** there. Jesus will not cleanse from **there** what we have not cleansed **here** through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Leviticus 23 explains that those who did not afflict their souls were to be **cut off** from the congregation and **destroyed** (**Leviticus 23:28-30**). The expression 'cut off' means that the individual was longer a member of God's people (Genesis 17:14; Exodus 12:15; Leviticus 20:3; Numbers 15:30, 31; Psalm 34:16; 37:28; 109:13, 15)

Those who are alive when Jesus comes will need a special preparation to stand before a holy God. Through the grace of God and their own diligent efforts, they must cleanse the soul temple of sin. Those who live during the period of the judgment of the living will need to experience **total victory over sin**. Regarding our responsibility during the Day of Atonement, Ellen White wrote:

*"From the **Holy of Holies**, there goes on the grand work of **instruction**. The angels of God are **communicating** to men [**what are they communicating to us?**]. Christ officiates in the sanctuary.*

We **do not follow Him** into the sanctuary, as we should. Christ and angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above united with the church below is warring the good warfare upon the earth. **There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ's cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven.**" Maranatha, p. 249

"Godliness, sobriety, and consistency will characterize the life and example of every true Christian. The work which Christ is doing in the sanctuary above will **engage the thoughts** and be the burden of the **conversation**, because **by faith** he [the word 'he' here means his people] has entered into the sanctuary. **He is on earth, but his sympathies are in harmony with the work that Christ is doing in heaven. Christ is cleansing the heavenly sanctuary from the sins of the people, and it is the work of all who are laborers together with God to be cleansing the sanctuary of the soul from everything that is offensive to Him.** Everything like evil surmising, envy, jealousy, enmity, and hatred, will be put away, for such things grieve the Holy Spirit of God and put Christ to an open shame. Love of self will not exist, nor will any engaged in this work be puffed up. The example of Christ's life, the consistency of his character, will make his influence far-reaching. He will be a living epistle, known and read of all men." *Manuscript 15*, 1886, pp. 2, 3 ('Christian Integrity in the Ministry,' no date)

"Satan is constantly alluring away from faithfulness and thoroughness in the essential works of **preparedness** for the great event that will try every man's soul. The work in the heavenly sanctuary is going forward. Jesus is cleansing the sanctuary. **The work on earth corresponds with the work in heaven.** The

heavenly angels are at work constantly to draw man, the living agent, to look to Jesus to contemplate and meditate upon Jesus that he may, in viewing the perfection of Christ, be impressed with the imperfections of His own character . . . This is the burden of the message for this time." *The Upward Look*, p. 344

The Question and the Answer in Isaiah 33:14-16

Isaiah 33:14: The question (see also Hebrews 12:28, 29):

"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"

Isaiah 33:15, 16: The answer underlines the holy lifestyle of the final remnant.

"He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: ¹⁶ He will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure [Revelation 7:17 states that they will hunger or thirst anymore]."

The Question and the Answer in Psalm 15

Psalm 15:1: The question:

"LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle [the sanctuary]? Who may dwell in Your holy hill [Mt. Zion]?"

Psalm 15:2-5: The answer underlines the holy lifestyle of the final remnant:

“He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; ³ he who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change [does not break his promises]; ⁵ he who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved [who shall be able to stand?]”

The Question and the Answer in Nahum 1

Nahum 1:1-6, 8, 9: The second coming:

“God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; the Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies; ³ The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. ⁴ He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, and dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, and the flower of Lebanon wilts. ⁵ The mountains quake before Him, the hills melt, and the earth heaves at His presence, yes, the world and all who dwell in it. . . ⁹ What do you conspire against the Lord? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.”

Nahum 1:6: The **question:**

*"**Who** can stand before His **indignation** and who can endure the **fierceness of His anger**? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him."*

Nahum 1:7: The **answer:**

*"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the **day of trouble**; and He knows those who **trust in Him**."*

The Question and the Answer in Malachi 3

Malachi 3:2, 3: The **question:**

*"But **who can endure** the day of His coming and **who can stand** when He appears?"*

Malachi 3:3: The **answer** emphasizes the purification and purging of God's final remnant:

*"For He is like a **refiner's fire** and like **launderers' soap**. He will sit as a **refiner** and a **purifier** of silver; He will **purify** the sons of Levi, and **purge** them as gold and silver, that they **may offer** to the Lord an offering in righteousness."*

Ellen White applied these verses the 'last generation':

*"Says the prophet: "**Who may abide** the day of His coming and **who shall stand** when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:2, 3. Those **who are living** upon the earth when the **intercession of Christ shall cease** in the sanctuary above are to*

***stand** in the sight of a holy God **without a mediator**. Their robes must be **spotless**, their **characters must be purified** from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the **grace of God** and their **own diligent effort**, they must be **conquerors** in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward **in heaven**, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of **putting away of sin**, among God's people **upon earth**. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14. When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ **will be ready** for His appearing." GC, p. 425*

The Question and the Answer in Psalm 24:3-10

The angelic hosts sang this song for the first time when Jesus ascended to heaven with the **first fruits** (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 833-835). There, waiting for His arrival, were the Father, the cherubim and seraphim, the representatives of the worlds that never sinned and the Holy Spirit. However, the angelic hosts will sing this antiphonal song once more when Jesus ascends to heaven with the redeemed of all ages.

Psalm 24:3: The **question**:

*"**Who** may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or **who** may stand in His holy place?"*

#2: The **answer**: A holy lifestyle

Psalm 24:4-6: The **answer**:

*"He who has **clean hands** and a **pure heart**; who has not lifted up his soul to an **idol**, nor **sworn** deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive blessing*

from the LORD, and **righteousness from the God** of his salvation. ⁶
This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face.”

#3: The **arrival** in heaven and the welcome:

Psalm 24:7-10

“Lift up your heads, O you gates and be lifted up, you everlasting doors and the King of glory **shall come in!**⁸ Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD **mighty in battle.**⁹ Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors and the King of glory **shall come in!**¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.”

Welcomed by the Father:

“The sacrifice of our Savior has made ample provision for every repenting, believing soul. We are saved because God loves the purchase of the blood of Christ; and not only will He pardon the repentant sinner, not only will He permit him to **enter heaven**, but He, **the Father** of mercies, will **wait at the very gates** of heaven to **welcome us**, to give us an **abundant entrance** to the mansions of the blest. Oh, what love, what wondrous love the Father has shown in the gift of His Beloved Son for this fallen race! And this Sacrifice is a channel for the outflow of His infinite love that all who believe on Jesus Christ may, like the prodigal son, receive full and free restoration to the favor of Heaven.” 7BC, p. 950

Other Relevant Passages

Isaiah 54:8-10 and Psalm 46 contain beautiful promises for the remnant who lives on earth when the **islands** sink and the **mountains** fall:

Isaiah 54:8-10

*"With a little wrath I **hid My face from you for a moment**; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer. ⁹ "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. ¹⁰ For the **mountains** shall depart and the **hills** be removed, but My kindness shall **not depart from you**, nor shall My **covenant of peace** be removed," says the Lord, who has mercy on you."*

Psalm 46:1- 11: This Psalm inspired **Martin Luther** to write the song, 'A Mighty Fortress is our God'

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present **help in trouble**. ² Therefore we will not fear, even though the **earth be removed**, and though **the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea**; ³ Though its **waters roar** and be troubled, though the **mountains shake** with its swelling. ⁴ There is a river whose streams shall make glad the **city of God**, the **holy place of the tabernacle** of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her, she shall **not be moved**; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. ⁶ The **nations raged**, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered **His voice**, the **earth melted**. ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the **God of Jacob** is our **refuge**. ⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has made **desolations in the***

earth.⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

A Clean and Faithful Generation

The Bible clearly teaches that God will have a final generation that has totally overcome sin, albeit in with a sinful nature.

Matthew 5:8

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”

Hebrews 12:14-16, 28, 29

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled:¹⁶ lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright . . . Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.”

1 John 3:1-3

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know

that when He is revealed, we shall **be like Him**, for we shall **see Him as He is**.³ And everyone who has this hope in Him **purifies himself** just as He is pure.”

Titus 2:11-14

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,¹² teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age**,¹³ looking for **the blessed hope** and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from **every lawless deed** and **purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works**.”

Revelation 22:11-13

“And he said to me, **“Do not seal** the words of the prophecy of this book **[the door of mercy is still open]**, for **the time** is at hand **[the close of probation]**.¹¹ He who is unjust, let him be **[imperative mood]** unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be **[imperative mood]** filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be **[imperative mood]** righteous still; he who is holy, let him be **[imperative mood]** holy still.”¹² “And behold, I am coming quickly, and **My reward is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work.”

Verse 10 in the NIV:

“Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.¹¹ Let him who does wrong **continue** to do wrong; let him who is vile **continue** to be vile; let him who does right **continue** to do right; and let him who is holy **continue** to be holy.”

How to Cleanse Sin from the Life

Two secrets of victory: Fill your mind with the Word of God and keep out anything that defiles:

Ephesians 5:25-27

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the **washing of water by the word**, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*

John 15:3

*"You are already clean because of **the word** which I have spoken to you."*

2 Corinthians 3:18

*"But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

Psalms 119:9-11

*"How can a young man **cleanse his way**? By taking heed according to **Your word**. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹ Your **word** I have hidden **in my heart**, that I **might not sin** against You."*

Hebrews 12:1-3

*"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight**, and **the sin** which so easily*

ensnares us, and **let us run** with endurance the race that is set before us, ² **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured **the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For **consider** Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”

Ellen White Measures in

“Those who are **distrustful of self**, who are **humbling themselves** before God and **purifying their souls** by obeying the truth--these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity. **Now is the time to prepare**. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an **impure** man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the **ambitious, world-loving** man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of **false tongues or deceitful hearts**. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God--candidates for heaven.” *The Faith I Live By*, p. 288

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have **one spot or stain** upon them. It is left **with us** to remedy the defects in our characters, to **cleanse the soul temple** of every defilement. **Then** the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples” *Maranatha*, p. 240

“All who have truly **repented** of sin, and by **faith claimed** the **blood of Christ** as their atoning sacrifice, have had **pardon entered** against their names in the **books of heaven; as they have become partakers** of the righteousness of Christ, and their **characters are**

found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares, by the prophet Isaiah: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah 43:25." The Great Controversy, p. 483 "Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Savior be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble." The Great Controversy, p. 623

Why the End Time Generation is Different

- **Greater light = Greater responsibility**
God expects more where He gives more
(parable of the talents)
- **Greater power = Greater responsibility**
- **Greater trial = Greater faith and trust**

"The forces of darkness will unite with human agents who have given themselves into the control of Satan, and the same scenes that were exhibited at the trial, rejection, and crucifixion of Christ will be

revived. Through yielding to satanic influences, men will be **transformed into fiends**; and those who were created in the image of God, who were formed to honor and glorify their Creator, will become the **habitation of dragons**, and Satan will see in an apostate race his masterpiece of evil--men who **reflect his own image**.”
Review and Herald, April 14, 1896



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