

THE SHAKING AND SIFTING

The shaking has already begun (EW 50; 4BC. 1161), and we are now in it (1T 429; 6T 332), but ere long it will swell into a purification of the church (2SG 284). The sieve is already moving (1T 100), and the sifting is now taking place (1T 99; 4T 51). A mighty sifting is soon to occur (5T 80).

Sometimes "shaking" and "sifting" are synonymous in the Spirit of Prophecy, sometimes "sifting" is the more severe of the two terms.

Either way, a separating process is involved. Shake sand and gravel in a pan, and they will separate within the pan; drill holes in the bottom and continue shaking; now you are sifting, as the sand falls out and only the gravel remains.

Throughout the history of our church, many superficial believers have been shaken out. (Our problem today is that the church is so lukewarm, that the superficial feel very much at home - and those faithful to our historic beliefs are instead being crowded out; a reverse shaking!) But the shaking/sifting process in our church will climax in the crisis brought on by the enactment of the national Sunday law.

That crisis will powerfully affect every soul living - but it will have an especially immediate and terrific impact on every Sabbath keeper. What more powerful means of sifting out false believers from the true-then when, by government law, it is a criminal act to remain a Seventh-day Adventist!

The shaking/sifting occurs among Sabbath keepers, and has been in progress for many years. It will climax for Sabbath keepers as the Sunday law crisis bursts upon the people of each nation. The shaking/sifting is individually experienced, and results in the seal or mark. **Those receiving the seal also receive the latter rain, empowering them to then go out and give the loud cry to the world.**

Spirit of Prophecy Quotes on the Shaking:

"WE ARE IN THE SHAKING TIME, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands.--6T 332

"AS THE STORM APPROACHES, a LARGE CLASS [the majority] 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. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." {GC 608.2}

"Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church." -4 Testimonies, 89:2.

"Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares

grow up together for the harvest." - 2 Selected Messages, 114:0.

"When the day comes when the law of God is made void, and the church is sifted by the fiery trials that are to try all that live upon the earth, a great proportion of those who are supposed to be genuine will give heed to seducing spirits, and will turn traitors and betray sacred trusts. They will prove our very worst persecutors." -6 Bible Commentary, 1065:1/1.

"Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness." -Prophets and Kings, 188:1.

"Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat." -5 Testimonies, 81:1.

"The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves." -4 Testimonies, 89:2.

"In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged." -5 Testimonies, 80:1.

"Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal." -5 Testimonies, 136:1.

"To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason." 5 Testimonies, 136:2.

"When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." -2 Selected Messages, 368:1.

"Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter than in days of prosperity." -Great Controversy, 602:1.

"Amidst the deepening shadows of earth's last great crisis, God's light will shine brightest, and the song of hope and trust will be heard in clearest and loftiest strains." -Education, 166:7.

"When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will comeback to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. . Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord." - 6 Testimonies, 401:1.

"Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God." -8 Testimonies, 41:1.

"The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the

way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks."-Early Writings, 271:1.

"The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster. "-5 Testimonies, 80:1-81:0.

"Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side." - Great Controversy, 612:2.

"IT IS A SOLEMN STATEMENT that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history,.... They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ." {ChS 41.1}

The Lord forbids us to proceed in any violent way against those whom we think erring, and we are not to deal out excommunications and denunciations to those who are faulty. {TM 47.1}

Finite man is likely to misjudge character, but God does not leave the work of judgment and pronouncing upon character to those who are not fitted for it. We are not to say what constitutes the wheat, and what the tares. The time of the harvest will fully determine the character of the two classes specified under the figure of the tares and the wheat. The work of separation is given to the angels of God, and not committed into the hands of any man. {TM 47.2}

"What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. 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."
Testimonies, volume 5, 216.

"Let both tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. **Then it is the angels that do the work of separation.**" *Selected Messages*, book 2, 69.

"I then saw **the third angel**. Said my accompanying angel, 'Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. **He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner.** These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.'" *Early Writings*, 119.

The third Angel is a message, it is God's word that will separate the wheat from the tares.

This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living

God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin, and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.... {Mar 164.4}

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. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them. {GC 608.2}

In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. **One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel.** Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust **as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe;** and **tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God.** An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standards of Emmanuel into many hands, while a mighty general cried with a loud voice, "Come into line. Let those who loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ, now take their position. 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters.' Let all who will, come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." {RH, November 26, 1903 par. 1}

Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and **their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks.**--EW 271 (1858). {LDE 182.1}

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. **The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men.** Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands, **and conformed to worldly customs,** will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. . . . **Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness.**--Prophets and Kings, p. 188. {ChS 157.2}

The mark of deliverance has been set upon those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done." Now the angel of death goes forth, represented in Ezekiel's vision by the men with the slaughtering weapons, to whom the command is given: "Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women; but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; **and begin at my sanctuary.**" **Says the prophet,** "They began at the ancient men which were before the house." [Ezekiel 9:1-6.] **The work of destruction begins among those who have professed to be the spiritual guardians of the people. The false watchmen are the first to fall.** There are none to pity or to spare. Men, women, maidens, and little children perish together. {GC88 656.2}

The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His

messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: “Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. **Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.**” {5T 211.1}

Here we see that the church—the Lord’s sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God’s power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. **Thus “Peace and safety” is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God’s people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins.** These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. **Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.** {5T 211.2}