

# God's Remnant Church,—As Revealed in the Present Crisis

"We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and *peril will beset God's people on every side*. Intensity is taking hold of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 116.

EVER SINCE the fatal day in 1914, when nation rose against nation, sorrows began to multiply on this earth and with ever increasing speed the world is racing on a downward grade to its final doom. The last movements are getting more rapid and only moments are separating us from eternity. In view of these facts we must awake to our duty as God's people. Amidst the heat of political strife we must remain calm and with cool calculation strengthen our spiritual defenses against the onrushing storm which soon will break upon all that dwell on the earth. Already *great perils have arisen to test the faith of God's people*. Neither the looming Sunday enforcement, nor the rise of Papal power alone is the signal for the commencement of our testing time as a people: Before the brunt of the battle will test us to the uttermost, smaller tests of seemingly insignificant nature will usher in the final battle. While the last act will be a test to the world as a whole (Rev. 3:10), the miniature tests preceding will involve only those already in the message, which may be seen in the following statements from the pen of inspiration:

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 17.

"Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials."—*Id.*, Vol. 5, p. 136.

"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."—*Id.*, Vol. 5, p. 136.

Thus the final encroachments upon our liberties will be preceded by a chain of smaller tests which will increase in intensity.

## PREDICTIONS

Many years ago the inspired handmaid of God wrote down the following significant prediction:

"There is a prospect before us of a *continued struggle*, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. In this situation worldly policy will urge an outward compliance with the laws of the land, for the sake of peace and harmony. And there are *some who will even urge such a course from the Scripture*. 'Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers . . . The powers that be are ordained of God.'—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 712.

Dark looms the future before God's people which is only lighted by an occasional ray of heaven's approbation. In 1904 we were told:

"Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations,—troubles that will not cease until Jesus comes . . . We have no time to lose. *The world is stirred with the spirit of war*."—*Review and Herald*, November 24, 1904.

Highly significant are also the following words:

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. *The spirit of war is stirring the nations* from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming,—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—God's chosen people will stand *unmoved*; Satan and his host cannot destroy them; for angels that excel in strength will protect them."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 17.

"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.

Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers."—*Id.*, Vol. 5, p. 136.

These statements substantiate the fact that those tests which are to precede the Sunday-enactment will commence at a time when "nation shall rise again nation," or when the "spirit of war" brings opposition to the truth. We are, therefore, safe in concluding that the predicted tests have started with the first outbreak of worldwide hostilities as was witnessed in 1914.

### FULFILLMENT

At exactly the before mentioned time the *Review and Herald* of August 27, 1914, well aware of the situation abroad, places the following plea:

"Particularly should the church of God today remember our European brethren who are now suffering adversity. . . . It should be our earnest prayer that God will save His cause of truth during this trying period, and that He will safeguard the lives of His children."

Since the prediction was made that as soon as these fiery trials should commence "the great proportion" would yield to the pressure of earthly powers, we may be interested to know what actually took place. Here are the heart-rending facts which made heaven weep:

Men of trust, which grew gray in the service for their Master, betrayed the entrusted flock of Europe into the hands of the "powers that be." Mistaking the "truth" with the "organization,"—"rather than subjecting themselves to derision, threatened imprisonment and death" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 81), they yielded the truth in order to save their institutions. They informed the government that:

"In these times of stress, we have bound ourselves together in defense of the 'Fatherland,' and under these circumstances we will also bear arms on Saturday (Sabbath)."

Looking forward to this event, God's servant said:

"The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 81.

There is no time in the history of the church where there is a greater revolt against heavenly order as when God's commandments are declared null and void. Speaking of the fourth and sixth commandment the pioneers of the Advent movement had declared as early as 1864:

" . . . neither of which, in our view, could be observed while doing military duty . . . and rather

than violate our principles, we have been content to pay, and assist each other in paying the three hundred dollars commutation money."—*Seventh-Day Adventists In Time of War*, p. 58.

How shamefully then did the European division cast aside this truth to avoid persecution! In plain terms: they separated from the Remnant Church by leaving the straight and narrow path and branched-off into forbidden paths of apostasy. The actual happenings of this gigantic falling-away from the truth in Europe from 1914 to 1918 are anxiously kept away from the laity in America to this day. But what caused the greatest bitterness in the downfall of Laodicea, is the fact, that the faithful few, that would rather die than yield to fallen leaders were cruelly dis-fellowshipped from the church, as several documents reveal. They did not separate themselves,—they did not believe error,—they had no personal grievances,—but stood faithful on the platform of eternal truth, loving the cause and loving the brethren. They indeed fought the battles of the Lord when champions were few. When the armistice was signed in 1918, there were two distinct Adventist churches in Europe,—the nominal believers whose number had, of course, greatly increased because of their linking with the world,—and the "little company" (Compare with *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 209), of faithful believers in the threefold angels message.

In 1923 the General Conference Committee had declared:

"But we grant to each of our church-members absolute liberty to serve their country, at all times and in all places, in accordance with the dictates of their personal conscientious convictions."—Gland, Switzerland, Jan. 2, 1923.

The great Adversary knows the deep-rooted love for freedom which pervades the heart of the American people for which their forefathers had left an intolerant world abroad. Since "Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for ancient Israel" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 60), he builds upon this freedom his masterly deception in form of a spurious "liberty of conscience" which does not exist. How well he succeeded in blinding thousands of trusting Adventists by means of this cunning device will be proven by the following facts:

The German *Zions Waechter*, of March 20, 1916, cited the following report, which Elder L. R. Conradi received while attending the Fall Council at Loma Linda in 1915:

"We grant every country in the world the full liberty to fit themselves into their fixed laws in the future as they have in the past."

Thus, instead of faithfully rebuking the apostasy abroad, the General Conference in America virtually gave *LICENSE TO TRANSGRESSION* of the fourth and sixth commandments. In 1917 Elder Spicer visited Europe and brought first-hand information back to America. In the year 1920 the committee of the General Conference went abroad to grant the Reform-Movement delegates a hearing at Friedensau, Germany. But since they themselves had given the *go-ahead signal* by giving them *liberty to transgress* in 1915, they had no alternative now but to denounce those who stood faithful. And this they did. Again we hear Elder Daniells stressing the so-called "liberty of conscience" in saying:

"We have taken the position, that each one should act according to *his own conscience* in this matter."—*Protocol*, p. 36.

How he extended this "liberty" into actual transgression can be seen in the following statement:

"And lastly, all those who *fought with weapons* on the battlefield, *were also non-combatants*, if they believed it their duty to do so."—*Id.*, p. 44.

The fallen leaders had taken exactly this stand from 1914 to 1918 and since Elder Daniells called this also "non-combatancy" they stood now *justified* by the General Conference. The long-hoped-for unity was thus frustrated, because the highest leaders *linked-up with apostasy*. Taking the Biblical path, the faithful few appealed once more most solemnly to the assembled delegates of the San Francisco General Conference in 1922, but were again refused with the remark:

"We could never permit these questions to come up before the whole delegation of the General Conference; that would cause the greatest disturbance we have ever had."—A. G. Daniells.

That this is still the position held by the church today is outlined in the more recent booklet, *Our Youth In Time Of War*, p. 6:

"The church does not attempt to dictate to its members individually, but each person must stand upon *his own conscientious convictions*."

This extended "liberty" finds no support, neither in the Scriptures, nor in the Testimonies. The Apostle Peter charges us:

"As free, and not using your *liberty for a cloak of maliciousness*, but as the servants of God." I Peter 2:16.

The Spirit of prophecy most emphatically protests against such satanic delusion and its dire results, saying:

"*Were men free* to depart from the Lord's requirements and set up a standard of duty for

themselves, there would be a *variety of standards* to suit different minds, and the government would be taken out of the Lord's hands. The will of man would be made supreme, and the high and holy will of God,—His purpose of love toward His creatures,—would be dishonored, disrespected."—*The Mount of Blessing*, p. 82.

Now, another deadly conflict of nations is formally ended. Reports from Continental Europe are multiplying that a new tidal-wave of apostasy of much greater magnitude than from 1914 to 1918 has swept the nominal Adventist churches abroad. Seventh-day Adventists in Europe, sad indeed, have been the *most zealous defenders of the tyranny of ruling dictators*, actually fighting and dying for them in opposing armies, brother against brother. And in this "land of the free," at home, thousands have lent a *helping hand* to those who "destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:18), some being *actually* and others *indirectly* engaged in warfare. O, how many tried to serve two masters but found it impossible. All this, because unfaithful leaders counselled them to "*co-operate with sin*" and take unwarranted "*liberties*" in transgression. Indeed, the apostasy is universal and the results are deplorable.

Every true child of God which uses the power of reasoning from cause to effect will be interested in the following fact-finding questions:

1. Since all apostasy from the truth is inspired from beneath,—to whom shall we attribute the title "*The True Triumphant Remnant Church?*"—to those who cowardly rejected the truth in the crisis, or to those who stood firm as a rock to principle?

2. Since apostatised leaders here and abroad *separated themselves* from the original platform of truth, whom should we address as God's people today?

3. Since the General Conference *upholds and encourages apostasy* and becomes implicated in the open revolt against God's law,—does she any longer represent the leadership of the Remnant Church?

4. Since *organization in Europe failed* completely in upholding the truth and its defenders,—should we today rely on these institutions, or rather on the primitive truths of our message?

5. Since the "faithful" few were *forcefully ejected* from the denomination, *did their Lord and Master go with them, too?* as He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matt. 25:40.

6. Since we have to *belong to the true Remnant*

Church of which Christ is the head, do we have to cast our lot with God's afflicted few?

7. Since only those who work out their salvation with *fear and trembling* may expect to triumph,—have we exhausted our energies to find the real truth about the true Remnant Church?

The sin of Aaron and Eli is resting heavy upon the nominal Adventist church. Standards are left to trail in the dust and sin and sinners find no rebuke. "Every unclean and hateful bird" finds an asylum under the shelter of "liberty of conscience." No wonder the church is becoming a strong, popular feature in the religious—as well as the political world, nearing the one million membership mark, in straight opposition to Zephaniah 3, verse 12, which reads:

"I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord."

The true characteristics of the Remnant Church are no longer found among the large Adventist body and she has forfeited the right to call herself "God's people," "the Remnant of her seed," etc. A mere ascent to the truth makes her no longer "God's chosen people," nor the "repairer of the breach" in the law (Isaiah 58:12), but, while boasting of the law, she is actually breaking its every precepts and thereby dishonoring God. (Romans 2:23.)

DEAR READER:

In the foregoing narrative of the events which took place in our days we have briefly summed up the facts which call for a decided action on YOUR part. The clarion call is extended to YOU today in "certain tones." YOU cannot

conscientiously shrug off existing facts without jeopardizing YOUR OWN souls' salvation. It is YOUR solemn duty to investigate as the noble Bereans did before YOU. If YOU find matters true (and no doubt YOU will), YOU must not hesitate to take a "bold and unyielding stand for the truth" (*Early Writings*, p. 50), and come clear on the side of truth and righteousness. We like to impress the following words from the pen of inspiration deeply upon YOUR mind, in the hope that they will find their mark and then will give YOU no rest until YOU have made your final decision:

"The word of the Lord, spoken through His servants, is received by many with *questionings and fears*. And many will defer their obedience to the warnings and reproofs given, *waiting till every shadow of uncertainty is removed* from their minds. The unbelief that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to the evidence that God is pleased to give. He requires of His people *faith that rests upon the weight of evidence*, not upon perfect knowledge. Those followers of Christ who accept the light that God sends them, *must obey the voice of God* speaking to them when there are many other voices crying out against it. It requires discernment to distinguish the voice of God.

Those who will not act when the Lord calls upon them, but who wait for more certain evidence and more favorable opportunities, will *walk in darkness*, for the *light will be withdrawn*. The evidence given one day, if rejected, may never be repeated."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 258.

### WAITING

"KNOCKING! KNOCKING! STILL HE'S THERE!  
WAITING, WAITING, WONDROUS FAIR;  
BUT THE DOOR IS HARD TO OPEN  
FOR THE WEEDS AND IVY-VINE  
WITH THEIR DARK AND CLINGING TENDRILS  
EVER ROUND THE HINGES TWINE.

"KNOCKING! KNOCKING! WHAT, STILL THERE!  
WAITING, WAITING, GRAND AND FAIR;  
YES, THE PIERCED HAND STILL KNOCKETH,  
AND THE TENDER HEART IS SORE.  
AH, MY SOUL, FOR SUCH A WONDER  
WILT THOU NOT UNDO THE DOOR?"

"Behold, I Stand  
at the DOOR  
and KNOCK"

Rev. 3:20.

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