

The Prophetic Gift Lesson 12 1Q 2009

The Blessings of the Prophetic Gift

Read memory text – “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets” Amos 3:7

Thoughts? What does this mean to you? What would be included in this?

Will the second coming occur without Christ revealing it to His servants the prophets?

Does this require the prophetic gift to be manifested again prior to the second coming? Or does it mean that the second coming has already been prophesied about so there is no need for a prophet or prophets to arise in the actual generation that sees Christ come?

Revelation 7:1-3

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”

Is this describing the time before or after the second coming? Who are the “servants” of God who are sealed in their forehead?

But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”
Revelation 10:7

Who are the servants of God? Is it referring to the prophets?
Will there be people with the prophetic gift at the end of time?

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls. Joel 2:28-32

What does this prophecy predict? Do we expect the second coming of Christ to occur without the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, without the rising up of a people who are empowered with the Holy Spirit to speak rightly for God?

Or will the later rain fall preparing a people to meet Jesus? With that outpouring will they be gifted with the gift of prophecy?

SUNDAY

Top question “Why did God elect Israel as His special people?”

Read first paragraph “God chose Israel...” – well said, thoughts or questions?

How did it go wrong? What happened? Here is a people chosen by God, blessed with His presence, directions, prophets, teaching tools yet it all went terribly wrong, how?

Lies about God were retained in their minds, pagan concepts of God infected their thinking. They valued power more than

character. Therefore, after periods of rebellion, after chastisement by God, leaders arose devoted to never falling backward again. So what did they do?

They enacted all types of manmade rules and regulations to control behavior. But this only caused greater insecurity, anxiety, fear, evil surmising, jealousy, and sickness of heart. They began to judge each other and criticize and chastise those who broke the rules.

One of the founders of our church wrote it this way:

The effort to earn salvation by one's own works inevitably leads men to pile up human exactions as a barrier against sin. For, seeing that they fail to keep the law, they will devise rules and regulations of their own to force themselves to obey. All this turns the mind away from God to self. His love dies out of the heart, and with it perishes love for his fellow men. A system of human invention, with its multitudinous exactions, will lead its advocates to judge all who come short of the prescribed human standard. The atmosphere of selfish and narrow criticism stifles the noble and generous emotions, and causes men to become self-centered judges and petty spies. {MB 123.1}

Thoughts? So what went wrong? They devised their own rules to conform behavior and never came to a right knowledge of God.

What about Christianity today? What was the purpose of the Christian church? Have we done what we were called to do? What has gone wrong?

The Christian church has gotten infected with twisted ideas about God. The church built up human exactions to conform behavior and the Dark Ages were terrible times of legalism, rules, exactions, meaningless rituals, judgmentalism, power

and coercion over others all to conform behavior. What kind of a God did this represent?

What happened because of this? Reformation – and what has happened in the aftermath of the reformation? Instead of a system in which we have to work to pay God, to earn God's approval – no more Hail Mary's, Our Father's, no more penance, indulgences, pilgrimages, no more need for Mary or the Saints to pray the Father for us – all that done away with and instead what do we have?

Our legal penalty paid by the blood of Jesus to assuage the Father's wrath so He won't have to lash out against us and kill us. Sin, cannot be overcome, sin cannot be cured, sin cannot be removed – we are stuck in our sin until Jesus comes it can only be paid for by the blood of Jesus. Oh, and the record of sins can be erased from heavenly records – but not from hearts and minds???? Do you like this concept? This is twisted!

Christianity is stuck, we have missed the Good News, Jesus victory means healing of our hearts, minds and characters. It means cleansing of the Spirit Temple. It means renewal of God's people on earth, it means victory over sin in our lives now!

- What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Romans 6:1,2
- And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2Cor 5:15
- I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

- So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. Ephesians 4:17

What about the SDA church, what is the purpose of the SDA church? How are we doing? What message are we taking to the world?

MONDAY

Read first paragraph “Through the father’s....” thoughts?

What are the benefits of this system? What are the drawbacks?

Because this system is spelled out in the Bible should we revert to this type of education today? Why would this system not be good for today?

What lesson do we learn from this? Are their instructions found in the scripture that were good for a particular place and time but not good for us today? Any others?

- Circumcision?
- Starting a fire on Sabbath?
- Ceremonial washing?
- Phylacteries?
- Animal sacrifices?
- Women not speaking in church or teaching men?

Are there some examples from Scripture that we have wandered away from that we would do better to practice again?

- Church leaders not being graduates of seminary?
 - What seminary training did the Apostles have?
 - Does that mean seminary training is bad?
- Sabbath observance?

- Healthful living?

Bottom green section – what should a Christian school be like today? How should it be different from other schools?

- What should be the highest priority?

Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator-- individuality, power to think and to do. The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions. {Ed 17.2}

Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It strengthens the character, so that truth and uprightness are not sacrificed to selfish desire or worldly ambition. It fortifies the mind against evil. Instead of some master passion becoming a power to destroy, every motive and desire are brought into conformity to the great principles of right. As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is re-created in the image of God. {Ed 18.1}

Thoughts?

TUESDAY

Health reform – what is the purpose of health reform and healthy lifestyle?

What health principles have you found most beneficial?

Read bottom green section – thoughts?

When does the health message become unhealthy?

- When we practice rules rather than principles, example?
 - Never eat meat rather than eat what is most nutritious to the body
 - Soy is always a better protein source than meat (fish)
 - Soy is high in phytoestrogens and can contribute to hypospadias in male children
 - Some emerging evidence is suggesting the estrogen like effect in utero and early infancy could contribute to feminizing effects on male brains increasing the risk of homosexuality
 - Unfermented soy proteins may inhibit trypsin an enzyme needed for digestion contributing to significant GI disturbance, and nutritional absorption problems
 - Animal studies show high soy diets inhibit normal growth, bone development and sexual development and increase infertility
 - Soy processing often results in the formation of nitrates which are carcinogenic and in order to flavor the soy byproduct many artificial agents are added.
 - Phytic acid is contained in all seeds and hulls and binds to essential minerals such as calcium, zinc, magnesium and iron. Diets that are solely legume based result in mineral deficiency.
 - Long slow cooking reduced phytic acid in most legumes but soy requires

fermentation in order to reduce this substance.

Thoughts?

WEDNESDAY

Read top question “Where were the...” Thoughts?

Dt 11:18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Which is the more important place to have them written?

Publishing work – what is the importance of publishing?

What was perhaps the most significant contributor to the emergence from the Dark Ages?

The printing press – knowledge could be disturbed widely. And what has been the most translated, printed, published and sold book in the world? The Bible.

When Martin Luther nailed his 95 thesis to the wall in Wittenberg and the reformation started, what event came next that scared the Catholic church more than any other? Luther’s translation of the Bible into German. Why?

Does this give us any insight into the benefit of publishing? If you could publish a message what would you want to see published?

THURSDAY

Theology – the lesson documents the theological battles that occurred in our church in the early years, how various unhealthy teachings tried to infiltrate the church:

- Holy Flesh movement
 - The things you have described . . . the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit. {Mar 234.1}

The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. . . . A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of Satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit's working. . . . Those participating in the supposed revival receive impressions which lead them adrift. They cannot tell what they formerly knew regarding Bible principles. {Mar 234.2}

No encouragement should be given to this kind of worship. The same kind of influence came in after the passing of the time in 1844. The same kind of representations were made. Men became excited, and were worked by a power thought to be the power of God. . . . {Mar 234.3}

Men and women, supposed to be guided by the Holy Spirit, held meetings in a state of nudity. They talked about holy flesh. They said they were beyond the power of temptation, and they sang, and shouted, and made all manner of noisy demonstrations. . . . Satan was moulding the work, and sensuality was the result. The cause of God was dishonored. Truth, sacred truth, was leveled in the dust by human agencies. . . . {Mar 234.4}
- Perfectionism movement

- Date setting for Christ's return
- Pantheism
- Spiritualism
- Arianism
- Legalism

What about today? What unhealthy theologies have penetrated or threatened to penetrate our church?

Evolution as a means of creation?

FRIDAY

Read question 2 and discuss