

## Lighting the Earth with His Glory

In Revelation 18:1 we read about a mighty angel who descends from heaven and the whole earth is lightened with his glory. This angel bears the last message of mercy to a world about to be destroyed. What is this glory that lightens the whole earth?

After Israel's great sin of worshiping the golden calf at mount Sinai, we read of Moses asking the Lord, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory." Exodus 33:18. In response the Lord promised "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." Exodus 33:19

God commanded Moses to hew a new set of stone tables to replace the ones that had been broken at the calf and then to come up into the mountain. After Moses came up into the mountain "the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." Exodus 34:5-7.

This, then, is the glory of God. For we read, "It is his righteous character that constitutes the glory of God; and it is this same glory that Christ prays may be given to his followers upon the earth." RH, November 3, 1896

But later on we find Moses himself pleading God's own character as a reason for Him to forgive the Israelites. When they were on the very borders of the promised land, Israel rebelled and refused to go forward at God's command. For we read, "It was upon this knowledge of the long-sufferance of Jehovah and of his infinite love and mercy, that Moses based his wonderful plea for the life of Israel when, on the borders of the Promised Land, they refused to advance in obedience to the command of God. At the height of their rebellion, the Lord had declared, 'I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them;' and he had proposed to make of the descendants of Moses 'a greater nation and mightier than they.' Num. 14:12. But the prophet pleaded the marvelous providences and promises of God in behalf of the chosen nation. And then, as the strongest of all pleas, he urged the love of God for fallen man. 'I beseech thee,' he prayed, 'let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, The Lord is long-suffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression. . . . Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.' Verses 17-19.

"Graciously the Lord responded, 'I have pardoned according to thy word.' And then he imparted to Moses, in the form of a prophecy, a knowledge of his purpose concerning the final triumph of his chosen people. 'As truly as I live,' he declared, 'all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.' Verses 20, 21. God's glory, his character, his merciful kindness and tender love,--all that Moses had pleaded in behalf of Israel was to be revealed to all mankind. And this promise of Jehovah was made doubly sure; it was confirmed by an oath. As surely as God lives and reigns, his glory should be declared 'among the heathen, his wonders among all people.' Ps. 96:3.

"It was concerning the future fulfillment of this prophecy that Isaiah had heard the shining seraphim singing before the throne. 'The whole earth is full of his glory.' Isa. 6:3. The prophet, confident of the eternity of these words, himself afterwards boldly declared of those who were bowing down to images of wood and stone, 'They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.' Isa. 35:2."

RH, March 18, 1915

This is an amazing prophecy! God promised to Moses and swore a double oath to him that the earth would be filled with His glory. This is the work for the final church, for we read in Revelation 18 of the final messenger descending from heaven "and the earth was lightened with his glory." Revelation 18:1. But not only was it sworn to Moses by a double oath, it was repeated by David in Psalm 96:3 and again by Isaiah in Isaiah 6:3 and again by John in Revelation 18. Four times, the Lord promised his prophets

that He would fill the earth with His glory. This promise must be fulfilled in the final generation on the earth. And its fulfillment has already begun. "Today this prophecy is meeting rapid fulfillment. The missionary activities of the church of God on earth are bearing rich fruitage, and soon the gospel message will have been proclaimed to all nations. 'To the praise of the glory of his grace,' men and women from every kindred, tongue, and people are being made 'accepted in the Beloved,' 'that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.' Eph. 1:6; 2:7. 'Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name forever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.' Ps. 72:18, 19." RH, March 18, 1915

Since this is part of the final message of mercy to be given by the final generation and since it was so important that God swore to Moses that it would happen, we can depend on Him to fulfill His word. But how is the earth to be lightened with His glory? "It is his righteous character that constitutes the glory of God; and it is this same glory that Christ prays may be given to his followers upon the earth. Hear the petition that he makes to his Father for them: 'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. . . . And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. . . . And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.'" RH, November 3, 1896

Did you grasp what that said? The glory of God is the perfect reflection of His character in His Church! Part of this reflection is the perfect unity that He has with His Father! His church must have it too or it cannot lighten the earth with His glory.

"This request of Christ has no limit to its fulness. He desires that his followers shall reveal to the world his spirit of unity and love. But before this unity can exist among them, there must be a genuine renovation of every heart; there must be a vital connection with God; the character must be formed after the divine similitude.

"Though each is charged with responsibility, and each has a part to act, 'none of us liveth to himself.' **God has designed by the unity of his people to impress upon a sinful world, and also to reveal to the heavenly intelligences, the fact that Christ has not died in vain.** 'Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.' The pure and holy principle of love distinguishes the character and conduct of Christians from those of worldlings. Standing out from the world, we are to become representatives of the goodness, mercy, and love of God. Thus we may be spectacles unto the world, and to angels, and to men." RH, November 3, 1896.

The only way for God's word to come to pass in this generation is for perfect love, unity, and order to be reached in His church. What an awesome task! What a solemn charge! But He has promised four times and with a double oath, "as He lives and reigns," it will happen! What is that message that is proclaimed by a united and glorious church? It is a call to come out of Babylon. "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, . . . Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:2,4. How is this message a declaration of God's glory, or character? It is a call of mercy, He calls his people to separate from the corrupt, fallen, religious system so that they are not destroyed in the destruction he is about to rain upon Babylon. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants

the prophets.” Amos 3:7. He warned Lot before He destroyed Sodom and saved all who were willing to come out of that city. He warned Noah of flood and saved all who were willing to come out of the world into the ark. “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.” Luke 17:26.

“The Scriptures are constantly opening to the people of God. There always has been and always will be a truth specially applicable to each generation. The message given to Noah was present truth for that time; and if the people had accepted that message, they would have been saved from drinking the waters of the flood. Now suppose a certain people should say, 'We have all the truth that our fathers had; we don't want any more,' and the God of heaven should send them a message as he did to Nineveh. What would be the result?--The same as would have resulted to the Ninevites if they had not repented.” RH, June 29, 1886

This final message is God's glory, revealing His character, by mercifully calling His people out and away from the doom that awaits the wicked, but His character is also one of Justice. He declares that He “will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:5-7. This justice is seen in the warning of the judgments to fall on Babylon and all those who will not separate from her.

“We have a covert, a stronghold into which we may run and be safe. Our prayers must reach the mercy-seat, where mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. The grace which is sufficient for all, will enable us to rise above the severest trials, and to endure the most trying tests. Never was there a period when so much was at stake as there is now. Never was there a generation upon whom rested such weighty responsibilities as upon this generation; for God has entrusted to the men of this time the last warning message.” RH, April 23, 1889

“Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands his servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty, and leave results with God.” GC88 609

“In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began 'at Moses and all the prophets' and 'expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.' Luke 24:27. But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form.” COL 127.4

It is a solemn responsibility and fearful work that this generation is required to do. But God has promised that it WILL be accomplished. The earth WILL be filled with His glory. What a reward awaits those who are faithful in His work! For of the final generation, the 144,000, it is written, “And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.” Revelation 15:2-4. They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb because they have fulfilled the promise given to Moses by the Lamb. They have been His instruments to lighten the earth with His glory! Did you notice that they mention the fact that all nations shall come and worship? This is the direct fulfillment of the prophecy

and oath given to Moses. This is what sister White said was beginning in her day through the missionary activities of the church. The world today is a very different place than it was in 1915. Almost half the world hadn't even heard of Christianity back then, but today almost the entire world knows about Christianity. There are only a few isolated tribes left, here and there, who have not heard about Christianity. The entire world will soon have had an opportunity to know Christ. All nations will soon receive the final message as was promised so many centuries ago!

The song of Moses was written after the victory of God over Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea, and the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Israel sang "The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him... The LORD shall reign for ever and ever." Exodus 15:2,18. It is this same song of victory that the 144,000 sing after their victory over the forces of evil and the bondage of sin. For we read after the destruction of Babylon, "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:...Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 19:1,7. The 144,000 sing the song of Moses because they have "gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name." Revelation 15:2

The final triumph is sure because it was sworn to Moses by a double oath that it would happen. By the love and unity, order and faith, of the final generation the earth will be lightened, and is being lightened by His glory! Don't you want to be a part of it?