

THE ONE TRUE GOD LESSON #7

LOUD CRY OF THE FOURTH ANGEL

THE SIN OF ANCIENT AND MODERN ISRAEL

INTRODUCTION

GC 188 17, 18. “From the crest of Olivet, Jesus looked upon Jerusalem. Fair and peaceful was the scene spread out before him. It was the season of the Passover, and from all lands the children of Jacob had gathered there to celebrate the great national festival. In the midst of gardens and vineyards, and green slopes studded with pilgrims’ tents, rose the terraced hills, the stately palaces, and massive bulwarks of Israel’s capital. The daughter of Zion seemed in her pride to say, “I sit a queen, and shall see no sorrow;” as lovely then, and deeming herself as secure in Heaven’s favor, as when, ages before, the royal minstrel sung, “Beautiful of situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion,” “the city of the great King.” [Psalm 48: 2.] In full view were the magnificent buildings of the temple. The rays of the setting sun lighted up the snowy whiteness of its marble walls, and gleamed from golden gate and tower and pinnacle. “The perfection of beauty” it stood, the pride of the Jewish nation. What child of Israel could gaze upon the scene without a thrill of joy and admiration! But far other thoughts occupied the mind of Jesus. “When he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.” [Luke 19: 41.] Amid the universal rejoicing of the triumphal entry, while palm branches waved, while glad hosannas awoke the echoes of the hills, and thousands of voices declared him king, the world’s Redeemer was overwhelmed with a sudden and mysterious sorrow. He, the Son of God, the Promised One of Israel, whose power had conquered death, and called its captives from the grave, was in tears, not of ordinary grief, but of intense, irrepressible agony.” GC 1888: 17, 18.

What was the great sin of the Jewish nation, what was the reason for such agony? They had rejected Gods dear and only Son.

Let us pray: dear Father please give us your holy spirit for we need to understand this great and important subject. I thank You for hearing my prayer,

and I know you will answer it, for I ask it in your Son’s name. Amen.

Matthew 23: 37, 38. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.”

Matthew 21: 37-39. “But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, they will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, this is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. V. 39. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.”

There was another time when Israel had rejected God. Elijah had told king Ahab there would be no rain but by his word. Finally, after three and one half years Elijah returned and all Israel were summoned to Mt. Carmel. We all know the story, how Elijah rebuilt the altar of the Lord, laid the sacrifice on it. In 1st Kings 18: 21. We pick up the story. “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, how long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”

What was it about Elijah’s message that was so important? What did it have to do with Israel thousands of years ago and again at the time of Christ and echoing down to the end of time? What does it have to do with us today just before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord? Elijah’s voice is clear and keen. How long halt ye between two opinions?

Before we continue let’s talk about Moses and find out how his message is connected with Elijah’s. Moses had spent 40 years herding sheep until at the burning bush God sent him back to Egypt to free Israel from bondage. By the Lords direction and with his staff he called down 10 devastating plagues that virtually destroyed Egypt.

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Now they were at Mt. Sanai. Moses had spent 40 days on the mountain with the Lord and had received the Ten Commandments written by the finger of God on two tables of what I believe to be blue sapphire stone.

FLB P. 296: 5. The children of Israel had lost confidence in the prophet God had ordained. This is the lesson we as God's people must learn. The peril of this deception is ominous with its foundations having already been placed among us. When this happens then apostasy will manifest itself. "The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29: 18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony." **FLB P. 296: 5.**

This is what happened to Israel and will happen also to us when confidence in God's prophet is lost.

When Moses returned off the mountain Israel had made an idol, a golden calf, and were dancing naked around it. Moses was angry and broke the two tables of stone. Exodus 32: 25. "And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies :) V. 26. Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, 'who is on the LORD'S side? Let him come unto me'. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him."

When the people of God reject His means of counsel and reproof (His prophet) they are naked without the blessing of God. They are stripped of God's protection, as were the children of Israel.

There was no physical city gate. Moses stood in the breach of Israel's spiritual defenseless position. By choosing to come to Moses, they were placing themselves again under God's protection through His divine appointed channel. So it is with us today. If we reject our last day prophet's counsel we are placing ourselves outside of Gods divine protection, we are left naked. We are left powerless to obtain God's protection against false doctrines and the establishment of idols, whether **philosophical or material**,

and the forsaking of all our sins is imposable. By choosing to come to Moses, they were placing themselves back into gospel order and thus the leadership and protection of God through His divinely appointed channel could and was reinstated.

We are in the same position if we have rejected our last day prophet and her writings. We must embrace Gods divinely appointed channel of instruction and reproof in order to once again come under the protection and leadership of God.

One might think that Elijah's message was not related to us but to the fall of Israel during the time of Babylon, but this would be a great mistake. God warns us that the message of Elijah would be sent just before the great and terrible day of the Lord and that it is tied to Moses warning because of the disobedience to God's law. We have seen previously that his message of tribulation was "even in the latter days". Deut. 4: 30.

"Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. 'Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.'" (1 Corinthians 10: 11.) (MR. P.417: 1).

Christ Himself identified John the Baptist as a fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord." (John 1: 23). What was John trying to make straight? Let's look at the church during that time. There was no apparent outward worshiping of graven images but there was instead a concept of God the Father and the Messiah that totally destroyed the truth concerning them both. By their doctrine of Christ's temporal reign and exaltation of Israel to universal dominance, they had made a philosophical idol. The Jews therefore were guilty of spiritual idolatry. The mission of John was to make a straight path (narrow truth or doctrine) for Christ. John was sent to correct their view of the Father and Son. Their idolatry was one of a spiritual and doctrinal nature.

One might ask, does God really see false doctrinal or philosophical views of Himself as idolatry? Consider

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the following quote by Ellen G. White. “Are we followers of God as dear children, or are we servants of the prince of darkness? Are we worshipers of Jehovah, or of Baal? Of the living God, or of idols? No outward shrines may be visible, there may be no image for the eye to rest upon, **yet we may be practicing idolatry.** It is as **easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone.** Thousands have a **false conception of God and his attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal.** Are we worshipping the true God as he is revealed in his word, in Christ, in nature, or are we **adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in his place?**” ST Feb. 8, 1883.

Before we explore this further, let us look at Malachi’s prophecy again.

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts. **Remember ye the Law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4: 1-6.

You must remember that we are looking at Moses’s message in symphony with that of Elijah. Let’s look at Elijah’s message for the time of Christ.

Malachi 3: 1 “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.”

This text also has application to Christ coming to the soul temple, but that is a different study. We can look at that later. This prophecy was fulfilled when Christ entered and cleansed the temple. Yet it will also be fulfilled just before His second coming. There is no temple upon the earth at Christ’s second coming. The only temple mentioned as being on earth at that time is the church. We know that in both 1st & 2nd Corinthians tell that we, the members of His church, are temples for His dwelling.

Matthew 3: 1-3. “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, ‘repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Where in Isaiah was Matthew quoting from? Isaiah 40: 1-5. “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: **for she hath received of the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.** The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”

Here we see that the Elijah message is to precede both Christ first and second coming. Let’s look at what Jesus said concerning John the Baptist.

Matthew 11: 12-15. “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

Pay attention to verse 12 underlined in bold print. How did this happen in Christ day? What did He mean when He said “the violent take it by force?”

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We have already seen that the Jewish leaders rejected the only begotten Son of God there by rejecting the Father also. 1st John 2: 23. “Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also].” They rejected many simple truths presented by Christ. Finally, they murdered the Son of God to silence His voice. Since we know that history will be repeated it is evident that the Elijah message for the last days **will also be about rejecting Christ.**

“John the Baptist went forth in the spirit and power of Elijah, to prepare the way of the Lord, and to turn the people to the wisdom of the just. He was a representative of those living in the last days, to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present before the people, to prepare the way for the second appearing of Christ.” CTBH p. 39, 1890. (Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene).

If we are to bear the Elijah message to our beloved church and also to the world, we must know what that message was in particular. What doctrine concerning the Father and Son has caused this well-nigh universal apostasy?

In order to truly understand the apostasy, we must learn what the original Elijah message is. So now let us look at his message.

1st Kings 16: 31. “And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him (Ahab) to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.”

We know that a woman in scripture represents a church. This understanding will help us to see how our church has fulfilled prophecy by going to the fallen churches of the world inquiring how the stigma of their viewing us as a cult might be rectified. Their response was we must accept the doctrine of the trinity just as the rest of the Christian world to be viewed as truly Christian. By 1980 the Trinitarian belief had, under the influence of our leaders, become so widely accepted that at the general conference that year they altered the fundamental beliefs to accept the Trinity. The leaders, as King Ahab, has

led the church in this apostasy. They are vehemently against what was once a pillar of belief for the S.D.A. church.

1st Kings 17: 1. “And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.”

Ahab, in joining himself with the world quickly adapted their spiritual views as to who and what God was. Although I used this quote earlier, we will look at it again because it gives us the spiritual definition of Baal worship.

ST. FEBURARY 8, 1883: 1& 2. “Are we followers of God as dear children, or are we servants of the prince of darkness? Are we worshipers of Jehovah, or of Baal? Of the living God, or of idols?”

“No outward shrines may be visible, there may be no image for the eye to rest upon, yet we may be practicing idolatry. **It is as easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone. Thousands have a false conception of God and his attributes.** They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as he is revealed in his word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring **some philosophical idol** enshrined in his place?” (ST. FEBURARY 8, 1883: 1& 2).

Ahab had joined himself to the world (Jezebel) and was worshiping a false image of God. God had warned Israel that He would withhold the rain if they did this. Could this be the reason the latter rain is withheld from God’s people today?

Deut. 11: 13-17. “And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. **Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods,**

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and worship them; and then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.”

Now let's put it together. The first part of the Elijah message is that because Israel was serving Baal (any doctrine that replaces the Father as supreme) the latter rain would not fall. Have we as a people wondered why the latter rain has not fallen with power among us? Could it be that we as a people have joined ourselves to a doctrine concerning the Father and Son that is contrary to what the scriptures reveal? The doctrine of the trinity destroys the Father and Son love personality as surely as did the Jews reject Christ. Have we inadvertently joined ourselves by this doctrine (the trinity) to a woman (church) of the world and are thus worshiping Baal? The messages of Elijah and Moses declare that this sin will cause God to shut up the windows of heaven.

1st Kings 18: 1, 2. “And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. And Elijah went to show himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.”

1st Kings 18: 17. “And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.”

Is it possible that we as a people are in great danger, and have done the same? When the message of the truth concerning God is sent to us as a people, will we reject it and then accuse those that are bringing the message as the troublemakers of our church? If type meets anti-type the answer is unfortunately—yes!

1st Kings 18: 20-22. “So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel. And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, how long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a

word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.”

Here is probably one of the saddest scenes in history. When given the opportunity to voice their support when confronted with the truth of choosing which god to serve, there was only silence. How is it with you today? When you see doctrines that deny the son of God and reject God as His Father, do you stand up for truth and back God's messenger or sit silently in fear of the earthly kings who worship Baal instead of Jehovah?

1st Kings 18:30, 31. “And Elijah said unto all the people, come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:”

NOTE: Elijah's message was not one of division. He was rebuilding the altar that had been a true representation of the twelve tribes of Israel with stones representing the rock on which God's church is built. He was trying to unite Israel back to communion with the true God.

The heart of the second part of the Elijah's message or ministry is to help people see that they are hung between two opinions. If we are to be true followers of God, we must follow the example of Elijah and set the truth before the church, and then the world. How is this done?

His mission was not one of division. He was rebuilding the altar, a symbol representing all Israel. The stones being a representation of the one true God. The altar (representing the truth about the Father), given to us as a people, has been torn down and replaced with the high places of Baal. You may ask how the altar is a representation of us and the Father. It is quite simple this rebuilding of the altar represents the twelve final tribes which will comprise the 144,000. Revelation 14:1 “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his **Father's name written in their foreheads.**” They will have

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no other gods before Him. A name written in the forehead represents character. Those with God's name in their foreheads represents those who have developed the character of God (His law) in their hearts and minds.

The Israel of God has the name of God in their foreheads representing the connection between Israel and the Father. In Christ's day the Jewish leaders did not recognize the significance of the altar. Matthew 23: 16-19. "Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?"

NOTE: Christ Himself said that altar (which represents the Father) was greater than the gift (Himself). Here we see that the Jews were so focused on the lamb that they did not understand the ministry and importance of the Father. They profane the altar (the Doctrine of the Father) which makes the sacrifice meaningless. How true is the type, we see Christ's name being used by all Christians? They proclaim, "All we need is Christ". But as true as this need is, yet without Christ's ministry within us, and the Father's and Son's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary above, the gift is meaningless. John 6:44. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." If the Jesus we worship today is not the true Son of the Father, then in vain do we proclaim the name! Without the altar of God (truth about the Father) rebuilt, it remains a high place for Baal.

Today the work of the Father has been denied by most. They have accepted the trinity doctrine which destroys the actual Father and the actual Son regulating them to equal deities of equal longevity of life, playing roles as Father and Son, and have added a third god person called the "holy spirit"! This doctrine, which destroys the work of the Father and His

Son, is a most deadly error and is most assuredly spiritual Baal worship.

The truth concerning the personality of the Father and Son was given to us as a people. The founding fathers collectively refuted the trinity doctrine and although some misuse a few statements made by Ellen White to try and state that she changed her position late in life, regarding our once held position as non-Trinitarians. This is not so! It is a well-established fact that our church pioneers completely rejected any concept that denied the actual son-ship of Christ. And concerning Ellen White's supposed change; how can truth change? The idea that a prophet will change over time, voiding what has been revealed by God to be truth is ludicrous and not Biblical. This stance would only condemn that prophet by causing that prophet to fail the biblical test given by the word of God for a prophet. Those who try to take this stand are inadvertently destroying the very credibility of the prophet they are trying to use.

When Elijah was building the altar of the Lord he was not building a new altar but rebuilding the old altar representing all of Israel in those stones. Likewise the truth of the personality of the Father and Son has not changed. It is only being restored as it was given to our forefathers, and by God. It is being restored like the altar Elijah rebuilt. It is the turning back to our Adventist roots concerning the truth about the Father and Son.

It was only when the altar was rebuilt that fire (the outpouring of God's Spirit) fell consuming the gift and the altar. Without the rebuilt altar (the truth of the Godhead) no fire could descend, **just as no latter rain can fall until we firmly stand on the truth of the Godhead.**

1st Kings 18:36-39. "And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that **I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.**

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Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”

Acts 2: 1-4. “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Here is seen a beautiful truth. When God is worshiped as He really is, He will pour out His Spirit with power. This was a demonstration of the Spirit being poured out at Pentecost. The Latter Rain will be similar but with more power.

Even though Ahab remained joined to Jezebel and idolatry, he could no longer prevent the early and latter rain from falling on those who cried the LORD, He is the God; the LORD! It also triggered a persecution response from the worldly aspect of the church (Jezebel). Thus it will be in our future. Church leaders may reject the truth, but the latter rain will fall on the just and those who repent of spiritual idolatry. Then the time of trouble such as never has been will commence. At that time, our greatest danger may well come from within the church from the anti-types of Jezebel and Ahab. “We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts ex-

pressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices.” (RH March 22, 1887).

1st John 1: 1-3. “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;). That which we have seen and heard declare us unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

John 17:3. “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

1st John 2: 22-25. “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also]. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.”
Let us pray:

I thank you Father for spreading light in your vineyard. May it have affect! May Your spirit descend upon each of your children. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

May God bless abundantly according to His amazing love and grace.

Virgil Prindle

“THE LOUD CRY OF THE FOURTH ANGEL'S MINISTRY”

T.L.C.F.A.M.