

# **Part 2 – A message to the church in the spirit and power of Elijah**

Is there a message to Gods people in the last days?

What is the spirit and power of Elijah?

Why do we need a plain Thus saithe the Lord?

Why a need of a message to the Laodiceans?

# Text for Meditation

“A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. **Revival** signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. **Reformation** signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.--The Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1902.”

— **Selected Messages Book 1, p. 128.1**

# A work similar to Elijah

“Walk in the light, as He is in the light.” It is earthliness and selfishness that separate from God. The messages from heaven are of a character to arouse opposition. The faithful witnesses for Christ and the truth will reprove sin. Their words will be like a hammer to break the flinty heart, like a fire to consume the dross. **There is constant need of earnest, decided messages of warning.** God will have men who are true to duty. **At the right time He sends His faithful messengers to do a work similar to that of Elijah.”**

— Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5 p 254.2

# John, in the spirit and power of Elijah

“For years the Lord has been calling the attention of His people to health reform. This is one of the great branches of the work of preparation for the coming of the Son of man. **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 these last days, to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present before the people, to prepare the way for the second appearing of Christ.**

**John was a reformer.** The angel Gabriel, direct from heaven, gave a discourse upon health reform to the father and mother of John. He said that he should not drink wine or strong drink, and that he should be filled with the Holy Ghost from his birth”

— **Councils on diet and food p 70.4**

# Elijah to herald the day of wrath

“John came in the spirit and power of Elijah to proclaim the first advent of Jesus. I was pointed down to the last days and saw that John represented those who should go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to herald the day of wrath and the second advent of Jesus.”

— Early Writings 155.1

# Thus saith the Lord

“Instead of opening the soul to receive rays of light from heaven, some have been working in an opposite direction. Both **through the press and from the pulpit** have been presented views in regard to the inspiration of the Bible which have not the sanction of the Spirit or the word of God. **Certain it is that no man or set of men should undertake to advance theories upon a subject of so great importance, without a plain “Thus saith the Lord” to sustain them.** And when men, compassed with human infirmities, affected in a greater or less degree by surrounding influences, and having hereditary and cultivated tendencies which are far from making them wise or heavenly-minded, undertake to arraign the word of God, **and to pass judgment upon what is divine and what is human, they are working without the counsel of God.** The Lord will not prosper such a work. The effect will be disastrous, both upon the one engaged in it and upon those who accept it as a work from God. Skepticism has been aroused in many minds by the theories presented as to the nature of inspiration. Finite beings, with their narrow, short-sighted views, feel themselves competent to criticize the Scriptures, saying: “This passage is needful, and that passage is not needful, and is not inspired.” — **Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5 p 709.1**

# A message to prepare the people

“In this age, **just prior to the second coming of Christ** in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done. **God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.** The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was: “Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; ‘repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, **we have a message to bear**—“Prepare to meet thy God.” Amos 4:12. **Our message must be as direct as was the message of John.** He rebuked Kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding that his life was imperiled, he did not hesitate to declare God's word. And our work in this age must be done as faithfully.”

— **Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8 p 332.3**

# A message of interpreted prophecies

“This is the suggestion that I made to Elder Haskell which resulted in the book he published. **The need is not filled by this book.** It was my idea to have the two books bound together, Revelation following Daniel, as giving fuller light on the subjects dealt with in Daniel. The object is to bring these books together, showing that they both relate to the same subjects.” — **Testimonies to Ministers p 117.2**

“**A message that will arouse the churches is to be proclaimed.** Every effort is to be made to give the light, not only to our people, but to the world. **I have been instructed that the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be printed in small books, with the necessary explanations, and should be sent all over the world.** Our own people need to have the light placed before them in clearer lines.” — **Testimonies to Ministers p 117.3**



# A message to Laodicea

“The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time.”

— Testimonies to the Church vol 3 p. 252.1

The Lord here shows us that the message to be borne to His people by ministers whom He has called to warn the people is not a peace-and-safety message. It is not merely theoretical, but practical in every particular. The people of God are represented in the message to the Laodiceans as in a position of carnal security. They are at ease, believing themselves to be in an exalted condition of spiritual attainments.

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” — Testimonies to the Church vol 3 p. 252.3

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“What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds **the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception**. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, **for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct.**”

— **Testimonies to the Church vol 3 p. 252.4**

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“It is difficult for those who feel secure in their attainments, and who believe themselves to be rich in spiritual knowledge, **to receive the message which declares that they are deceived and in need of every spiritual grace.** The unsanctified heart is **“deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.”** I was shown that many are flattering themselves that they are good Christians, who have not a ray of light from Jesus. They have not a living experience for themselves in the divine life. They need a deep and thorough work of self-abasement before God before they will feel their true need of earnest, persevering effort to secure the precious graces of the Spirit.”

— **Testimonies to the Church vol 3 p. 253.1**

# An additional message

“Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, “Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” **This message seemed to be an addition to the third message**, joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844. The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom.”

— **Early Writings p. 277.2**

# Study Summary

- There is a message to the church in the last days, just before the coming of Christ
- The message will come in the spirit and power of Elijah
- Those who herald the message will be like John the Baptist
- Proclaiming a repentance from sin and a denunciation of the world and all worldliness
- A message of revival and reformation
- The message is to Laodicea first