

MY LORD DELAYETH HIS COMING

While many of the professed followers of Christ have lapsed away into error and apostasy, those who have walked in the light, not only hear, but read and understand, the prophecies of his word. The law of God will be made void in the world; its authority will be despised just as it was in Heaven in the first great rebellion; and God would have us intelligent to **NOTE THE MOVEMENT OF NATIONS**, so that we may **SEE THE SIGNAL OF DANGER**, and recognize the warnings that he has given us, that we may not be found on the side of the great deceiver in the crisis that is just before us. {ST, April 22, 1889 par. 3}

There are many who have outgrown their advent faith. They are living for the world, and while saying in their hearts, as they desire it shall be, "My Lord delayeth His coming," they are beating their fellow servants. They do this for the same reason that Cain killed Abel. Abel was determined to worship God according to the directions God had given. This displeased Cain. He thought that his own plans were best, and that the Lord would come to his terms. {PH154 20.1}

It is not a trifling matter for those who have the light of truth to be non-committal, nor for the sentiments of the heart to be expressed in the words, "My Lord delayeth his coming." **The influence of the peace-and safety sentiment is in the midst of us.** A worldly, malarious influence prevails to soothe those who should be stirred by the message of truth to stand as faithful sentinels at the post of duty. {RH, August 23, 1898 par. 4}

Many who have been placed upon the walls of Zion, to **watch with eagle eye for the approach of danger, and lift the voice of warning**, are themselves asleep. The very ones who should be most active and vigilant in this hour of peril are neglecting their duty, and bringing upon themselves the blood of souls. {ST, December 7, 1882 par. 11}

Let no one put aside the warning, and say, "It does not mean me. **I will not be disturbed by this excitable message.**" It is the evil servant who says in his heart, "My Lord delayeth his coming." Professedly a servant of Christ, he may not, in words, deny that the Lord is soon to come; but **his actions show that he puts off that day to a distant period.** He guiltily presumes-on the supposed delay; he becomes careless, and his works testify his unbelief. He adopts the maxims and conforms to the practices of the world. {ST, December 7, 1882 par. 12}

He calls Christ, My Lord. But he says, "My Lord delayeth his coming." **He does not say that Christ will not come; he does not scoff at the idea of his second coming;** but he tells the people that his coming is delayed. **He is removing from the minds of others the conviction that the Lord is coming quickly.** His influence leads men to presumptuous, careless delay. Thus they are off their watch and they echo the words of the unfaithful watcher; still others catch them up, and the evil spirit, and **men are confirmed in their worldliness and stupor.** Their course is downward, not upward; they are not looking for and hastening unto the day of God. {SpTA04 9.1}

There is great need that our weakening faith should be quickened, and that **we should ever keep before the mind the evidences that our Lord is soon coming**, that we may ever be found not only waiting, but watching and working. We are not to be found in idle expectancy; for this leads to carelessness of life, and deficiency of character. {RH, November 22, 1892 par. 6}

Faith in the soon coming of Christ is waning. "My Lord delayeth his coming" is said not only in the heart, but expressed in words, and most decidedly in works. **Stupidity in this watching time is sealing the senses of God's people as to the signs of the times.** RH, September 16, 1873

GUIDANCE IN RELATING TO THE FULFILMENT OF PROPHECIES

The shortness of time is frequently urged as an incentive for seeking righteousness and making Christ our friend. ***This should not be the great motive with us***; for it savours of selfishness. Is it necessary that the terrors of the day of God should be held before us, that we may be compelled to right action through fear? It ought not to be so. ***Jesus is attractive***. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He proposes to be our friend, to walk with us through all the rough pathways of life. {BEcho, June 25, 1894 par. 7}

The great majority of this earth's inhabitants have given their allegiance to the enemy. But we have not been deceived. Notwithstanding the apparent triumph of Satan, Christ is carrying forward His work in the heavenly sanctuary and on the earth. The Word of God portrays the wickedness and corruption that would exist in the last days. ***As we see the fulfillment of prophecy, our faith*** in the final triumph of Christ's kingdom ***should strengthen***; and we should ***go forth with renewed courage*** to do our appointed work.--*Gospel Workers*, pp. 26, 27.

When the watchman, seeing the sword coming, gives the trumpet a certain sound, ***the people along the line will echo the warning, and all will have opportunity to make ready for the conflict***. But ***too often the leader has stood hesitating, seeming to say: "Let us not be in too great haste. There may be a mistake. We must be careful not to raise a false alarm."*** The very hesitancy and uncertainty on his part is crying: ***"Peace and safety.' Do not get excited. Be not alarmed***. There is a great deal more made of this religious amendment question than is demanded. This agitation will all die down." Thus he virtually denies the message sent from God, and the warning which was designed to stir the churches fails to do its work. The trumpet of the watchman gives no certain sound, and the people do not prepare for the battle. Let the watchman beware lest, through his hesitancy and delay, souls shall be left to perish, and their blood shall be required at his hand. {5T 715,716}

While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. ***Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism***, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed. {5T 716.2}

The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. ***Let no one's interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand***. {SpTEd 107.1}

We are living in these last days, when lukewarmness and apostasy abound. The apostle saw in prophetic vision what should exist near the close of time, and ***if our hearts were not calloused by sin and iniquity, we should discern and sense the prophetic picture held up to our view***. -- Letter 16, 1888, pp. 15, 16

O Lord, please open our eyes and help us to see what you want us to see and help us to understand what you want us to understand. Please lead us and strengthen us to cooperate with you that you may cleanse our minds as you cleanse the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary and prepare us to receive the latter rain. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.