



# **Hope for Laodicea**

**Roy E. Gane**  
**Andrews University**

# Ten Bridesmaids

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

# **Ten Bridesmaids**

But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'



# Ten Bridesmaids

And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.' (Matt. 25:1-13 NRSVue).



# Message to Ephesus

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write... ‘I know your works, your toil and your endurance...

I also know that you are enduring and bearing up for the sake of my name and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

Remember, then, from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.’” (Rev. 2:1-5).



# **Adventist Failure**

Ellen G. White (died in 1915) said Christ could have returned during her lifetime if His people had cooperated in doing the Gospel work.

# Adventist Failure

“Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward.



# **Adventist Failure**

But in the period of doubt and uncertainty that followed the disappointment, many of the advent believers yielded their faith. . . . Thus the work was hindered, and the world was left in darkness. Had the whole Adventist body united upon the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, how widely different would have been our history!

# **Adventist Failure**

It was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be thus delayed. God did not design that His people, Israel, should wander forty years in the wilderness...For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault.

# Adventist Failure

It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord's professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.”

—Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, pp. 695-696.  
(1883).



# Adventist Failure

“If every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us.”

—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 29.  
(1909)

# City of Laodicea

“In the letter to Laodicea (Rev 3:14–22), the church is rebuked for allowing the wealth and comfort enjoyed by the Laodiceans in general to blunt the edge of its Christian confession:

materially affluent and self-sufficient, it was spiritually ‘wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.’ The city’s economic prosperity, eye ointment, and wool could do nothing to help this spiritual destitution.

# City of Laodicea

The lukewarmness for which, thanks to this letter, the name of Laodicea has become proverbial, may reflect the condition of the city's water supply.

The water supplied by the spring at Başıpınar, it is suggested, was tepid and nauseous by the time it was piped to Laodicea, unlike the therapeutic hot water of Hierapolis or the refreshing cold water of Colossae . . . ; hence the Lord's words, 'Would that you were cold or hot!'"

—F. F. Bruce, "Laodicea (Place)," *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, vol. 4, pp. 230-231.



# **Message to Laodicea**

## **Revelation 3:14-22**

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation:

# Message to Laodicea

‘I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

# Message to Laodicea

For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.'



# Message to Laodicea

Therefore I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white robes to clothe yourself and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

# Message to Laodicea

I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent.

# Message to Laodicea

Listen! I am standing at the door,  
knocking; if you hear my voice and open  
the door, I will come in and eat with you,  
and you with me.



# Message to Laodicea

To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.'

# **Message to Laodicea**

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”  
(Rev. 3:14-22).

# Effect of Message to Laodicea

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.



# Effect of Message to Laodicea

I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.”

—Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, 270.

# Effect of “Latter Rain”

“I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life.

# Effect of “Latter Rain”

I asked what had made this great change.  
An angel answered, ‘It is the latter rain, the  
refreshing from the presence of the Lord,  
the loud cry of the third angel.’”

—Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, 271.



# **“Latter Rain”**

“O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.” (Joel 2:23).

# **“Latter Rain”**

“Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my spirit.

# **“Latter Rain”**

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, **before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes**. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved...” (Joel 2:28-32, quoted in Acts 2:17-21).



# Equal Opportunity Spirit

“And a young man ran and told Moses, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, ‘My lord Moses, stop them!’ But Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? **Would that all the LORD’S people were prophets and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!**’” (Num. 11:27-29).

# Love from Holy Spirit

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God...

and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Rom. 5:1-2, 5).

# Elijah Message

“Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.” (Mal. 4:4-6).



# Third Angel's Message

“Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.”

(Rev. 14:12).

“There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect.

More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Galatians 5:22, 23. This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life.

‘When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.’

Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church.



When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.”

—Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, 67-69.