Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord

Lesson 1, 1st Quarter February 24 Mach 1, 2024.

Sabbath Afternoon, February 24

Memory Text:

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. KJV — Psalm 118:22, 23

"Looking with pity upon them, the Saviour continued, "Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Mt 21:42-44

"This prophecy the Jews had often repeated in the synagogues, applying it to the coming Messiah. Christ was the cornerstone of the Jewish economy, and of the whole plan of salvation. This foundation stone the Jewish builders, the priests and rulers of Israel, were now rejecting. The Saviour called their attention to the prophecies that would show them their danger. By every prophecy, they were to be tested. God had spoken to them the nature of the deed they were about to do." DA 597

"The heavens recognized the warning. But notwithstanding the sentence they themselves had pronounced, the priests and rulers were ready to fill out the measure of their guilt. "Then he spake unto them, saying, Take heed, what ye shall do: for this man is a righteous man: and he justifieth the multitude." For the public sentiment was in Christ's favor." DA 597.4

Sunday, February 25

Divine Self-Sacrificing Shepherd

Read Psalm 23; Psalm 28:9; Psalm 80:1; Psalm 78:52, 53; Psalm 79:13; and Psalm 100:3 How is the relationship between the Lord and His shepherd expressed in these texts?

"God was teaching David lessons of trust. As Moses was trained for his work, so the Lord was fitting the son of Jesse to become the guide of His chosen people. His watchcare for his flocks, he was going to make the illustration of the care that the Great Shepherd has for the sheep of His pasture." PP 641.1

"Jesus Shepherd the flock of earth over the earth who were misled by false shepherds. Those whom he longed to gather as the sheep of his pasture were scattered and perishing for want of a shepherd." DA 479.1 "Those who are not of this fold there also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one fold, and I will become their Shepherd." DA 480.1

"Heavenly angels are commissioned to watch the sheep of Christ's pasture. When Satan sees that we are neglecting our duty, he will try to destroy the sheep these angels set in operation influences that will save the tempted souls." "Satan knows that he can do more harm among the people of God than any foe. This I will not enter into that scheme of Satan. I have an Elder Brother on the throne of heaven, who has shown that He has a tender interest in me, and I will not grieve His heart of love." Pc 256.1

"Jesus' heart yearned for the souls of men. He saw their wants misled by false shepherds. Those whom he longed to gather as the sheep of his pasture were scattered and perishing for want of a shepherd." DA 479.1

"Christ, the Chief Shepherd, has entrusted the care of His flock to His ministers as undershepherds; and He bids them have the same interest that He manifested for the souls for which He was willing to sacrifice Himself. He has entrusted to them, He has solemnly commissioned them to be faithful, to feed the flock, to strengthen the weak, to revive the fainting, and to keep them from devouring wolves. PP 191.2

"To save His sheep, Christ laid down His own life; and He points His shepherds to the lows thus manifested, as their example. But "he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not," has no real interest in the flock. He is laboring merely for gain, and he cares only for himself. He eludes his own responsibility, neglecting the flock in danger, and in time of peril or danger he will flee, and leave the flock." PP 191.1

Monday, February 26

The suffering Masiiah

Read Psalm 22 and Psalm 118:22. How was the messiah treated by those He had come to save?

"In quoting the prophecy of the rejected stone, Christ referred to an actual occurrence in the history of Israel. The builders had been entrusted with the building of the first temple. While it had a special application at the time of Christ, the prophecy had also a wider application and more far-reaching. It was as if had also a lesson for us. When the temple builder of Solomon was erected, the workmen had to prepare the stones for the building, and many of the stones that they were bringing to the place of building, not an instrument was to be used upon them; the workmen had only to place them in their proper place. Some of the stones were of unusual size and peculiar shape had been brought; but the workmen could find no place for it, and concluded that it was an unfortunate piece of stone, and they cast it into the way. Long it remained a rejected stone. But when the builders came to the laying of the foundation, they could find no place for a long time to find a stone of sufficient size and strength, and of the proper shape, to take that particular place, and bear the weight of the building. Then they remembered the rejected stone, and they searched for it, and it was brought to the place of building, not as