Some Principles of Prophecy

Lesson 1, 2nd Quarter March 29 – April 4, 2025

Sabbath Afternoon, March 29

Memory Text:

"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." KJV — Jeremiah 9:24

"The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold concerning the world and the present, from the captivity of Israel to the second coming of Christ, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order." PK 536.3

"Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. The prophecies are now in its fulfillment. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour's prophecy of the events to precede His coming: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:6, 7." PK 535.4

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who control commercial interests, are perplexed, anxious, and disappointed. Many are giving attention field upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. PK 537.1

"The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear." PK 537.2

Sunday, March 30

Whoever Reads, Let Him Understand

Read Matthew 24:15; Revelation 1:3; Matthew 11:29; and Jeremiah 9:23, 24. What do these texts suggest about God's intention to make himself understood?

"When pit Fits followers who were to be being at the time that this horn power was at work against God, His truth, and His people, should be in the midst of the period of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand.)...These clear words of Christ mean that the work of this power in the future from His time.

As the Sabbath (daily) was taken away, and the "abomination set up," then that which took the place of the Holy Sabbath, and the Sanctuary truth, is called "the abomination." Consequently, Sunday observance and a counterfeit priesthood are the only things to which the term 'abomination' can be applied. But for the seventh-day was appointed by the first day of the week, Sunday – "the abomination that maketh desolate." That is, the Sabbath was lost sight of, or "cast down to the ground," and the Sanctuary truth was lost sight of. The truth concerning the sanctuary service was "cast to the ground," (the truth of the priesthood of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary), the Papal priesthood, or the Papal, as it is called now, was set up, thus taking away from the church the true mediatorial work of Christ. The truth of the sanctuary, jointly with the Sabbath, was brought to light in 1844, at which time the judgment (blotting out sins) began in the heavenly sanctuary.

Says the prophet: "Blessed is he that readeth"—there are those who will not read; the blessing is not for them. "And they that hear"—there are some, also, who refuse to hear anything concerning the prophecies. The blessing is not for this class. "And keep those things which are written therein"—many refuse to heed the warnings and instructions contained in the Revelation; none of these can claim the blessing promised. All who indulge the subjects of the prophecy and meet all the symbols here solemnly given, all who refuse to reform their lives and to prepare for the coming of the Son of man, will be condemned. GC 312.2

"In view of the testimony of inspiration, how dare men teach that the Revelation is a mystery beyond the reach of human understanding? It is a mystery revealed, a book spoken. The study of the Revelation directs the mind to the prophecies of Daniel, and both present most important instruction, given of God to men, concerning events to take place at the close of this world's history." GC 341.1

"Jeremiah 9:23, 24. Scarcely can the human mind comprehend the breadth and depth and height of the spiritual attainments of him who gains this knowledge. AA 531.1

"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed the character in operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory." AA 531.2

Monday, March 31

God Wants to Be Understood

What do the following passages suggest about God's understanding in comparison to our own? Psalm 139:1–6; Psalm 147:5; Romans 11:33; 1 John 3:20.

Psalm 139:1–6 – "There is an individual work for each one to do. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon earth to share the watchful care of the infinite heart of love. Christ gave His life for each individual as though there was but one such life offered." "This companionship with God, this intimacy with the Infinite, is the privilege of every child of God. Jesus says, 'I know my sheep, and am known of Mine.' John 10:14. Of Him it is declared, 'He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.' Isaiah 40:11. Shall we, then, be afraid to trust Him? Shall we have a representation of the unsearchable greatness of God, while we can but be impressed with his intimate knowledge of all our ways, and with the great tenderness expressed for the objects of His creation." ST August 21, 1884, par. 12

Psalm 147:5 – "The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. Beyond this we are not to penetrate. The infinite Jehovah has spoken of Himself until it is wearied out in conjectures regarding the nature of God, but the effort will be fruitless. Enough has been given us to satisfy the human mind (an unregenerated God, None are to indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above criticism." MH 429.3

Romans 11:33 – "Yet the finite minds of men are inadequate fully to comprehend the plans and purposes of the infinite One. We can never by searching find out God. We must be content to lift with presumptuous hand the curtain behind which He veils His majesty. The apostle exclaims: "How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33. We can so far comprehend His dealings with us, and the motives by which He is actuated, that we may discern business, love and mercy united to infinite power. Our Father in heaven orders everything in wisdom and righteousness, and we are not to be dissatisfied and distrustful, but to bow in reverent submission. He will reveal to us as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know, and beyond the veil must trust the hand that is omnipotent, the heart that is full of love." GC 527.1

1 John 3:20 – "Selfishness marks the course of many. But whoever hath this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we know, and beyond the we shall trust the hand that is omnipotent, the heart that is full of love." GC 527.1

Tuesday, April 1

Daniel – Shut Up the Words

Read Daniel 12:4. What was the Lord telling Daniel here? (Contrast this with Revelation 22:10.)

Daniel was told to shut and seal the book even to the time of the end. The book, therefore, was not for the understanding of people before the time of the end. So, then, when the book was unsealed and understood we may know that the time of the end is come.

Besides this sign, though, there is the sign of time running to and fro, and an increase of knowledge. The whole world knows that throughout the years of history, prior to our time, the horse was the means of man's speediest transportation and communication, and this method continued throughout the centuries. The angel nevertheless informed Daniel that in the time of the end there would be a change, that travel would then run to and fro, but including the time of the end according to Nahum's prophecy, Inspiration declares: "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the light-ning." Nah. 2:4.

Now that knowledge has been increased since the old, century, or longer, and new discoveries have been made, and transportation and communication, by the use of steam and electricity, have been so and fro unprecedented speed, the subject stands as clear as crystal that we are now living in the time of the end. There can be no doubt about this. This is positive truth, truth that you cannot gainsay and yet believe the Bible and history.

"The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days. The Scripture says, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, "Time shall be no longer." (See Revelation 10:6.) The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days." 2SM 105.1

Wednesday, April 2

Studying the Word

Read Matthew 5:18, 2 Timothy 3:15–17, and Luke 24:27. What do these verses teach us about the way we ought to approach Bible prophecy?

"And Christ himself says, "Think not that I am come to destroy the Law.... Verily I say unto you,"—making the assertion as emphatic as possible—"Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17, 18. Here he teaches, not merely what the claims of God's law had been, and were then, but that these claims should hold as long as the heavens and the earth remain. The law of God is as immutable as His throne. It maintain its claims upon mankind in all ages." PP 365.1

2 Timonthy 3:16, 17—"All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

2 Pet. 1:20, 21—"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Affirmatively stated, all Scripture, not merely a part of it, is inspired. Negatively stated, none of it is privately interpreted, for the reason that it did not come of mere but of God; that is, as the Spirit of God dictated to men the Scriptures, so the Spirit of God must interpret the Scriptures to men. that no man privately (without Inspiration) is capable of disclosing the sealed prophecies or interpreting any part of them or even capable of understanding their importance after they are interpreted except it be by the gift of the Spirit of Truth. "None of the wicked," therefore, "shall understand the wise shall understand." Dan. 12:10.

"After His resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples on the way to Emmaus, and, "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. The hearts of the disciples were stirred. Faith was kindled. They were "begotten again into a lively hope" even before Jesus revealed Himself to them. It was His purpose to enlighten their understanding and to fasten their faith upon the "sure word of prophecy." He wished the truth to take firm root in their minds, not merely because it was supported by His personal testimony, but because of the unquestionable evidence presented by the symbols and shadows of the typical law, and by the prophecies of the Old Testament. It was needful for the followers of Christ to have an intelligent faith, not only in their own behalf, but that they might carry the knowledge of Christ to the world. And as the very first step in imparting this knowledge, Jesus directed the disciples to "Moses and all the prophets." Such was the testimony given by the men Saviour to the value and importance of the Old Testament Scriptures." GC 345.1

Thursday, April 3

Figurative or Literal?

Look up the following texts, allowing the Bible to be its own expositor (to define its own terms). What is the prophetic symbol common to the texts in each case, and what does the Bible say is represented?

Dan. 7:7; Dan. 8:5; Dan. 7:24 - Since these ten horns came into existence as a group, they therefore represent contemporary rulers. When horns represent powers that exist one following the other, Inspiration does not fail to so indicate by showing certain horns coming up and others dropping out. For example, three of the horns of Daniel's fourth beast were "plucked up by the roots," and in their stead a notable horn came up. In our time, however, when the fourth great horn broke off, four came up to take its place, and a fifth one, the exceeding great horn followed thereafter. Dan. 7 and 8. Then, too, even the beasts, themselves, that in their respective periods portray the world, came out of the sea one following the other. Thus all Divine symbolization exhibits the powers and nations and events cause them to appear in the order of time, as the case may be.

Revelation 1:16, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12 - Is not the "Word of thy God quick, and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart?"

"God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armory where we may equip for the struggle. Our loins must be girt about with truth. Our breastplate must be righteousness. The shield of faith must be in our hand, the helmet of salvation on our brow; and with the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, we are to cut our way through the obstructions and entanglements of sin." AA 502.2

Revelation 12:1; Revelation 21:2; Ephesians 5:31, 32; Jeremiah 6:2 – "In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman—a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church." GC 381.1

Friday, April 4

Further Thought

The lesson begins by showing the lack of interest in the prophecies of the Bible, especially since many of them are written in figures and symbols. This, however, should not deter us because "All that prophecy has foretold, concerning events yet to come, will certainly come; has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order." PK 536.3

Sunday's lesson deals with understanding the Word when it is read or studied. Daniel was once a sealed book but is now unsealed, but to the Bible student, understanding and keeping is pronounced upon all who read and understand the prophecies in the book of Revelation.

Monday's lesson talks understanding God's Word, "Yet the finite minds of men are inadequate fully to comprehend the plans and purposes of the infinite One. We can never by searching find out God." GC 527.1

Tuesday's lesson points to the book of Daniel which was once sealed but is now opened. "The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days. The Scripture says, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, "Time shall be no longer." (See Revelation 10:6.) The book of Daniel is now unsealed." 2SM 105.1

Wednesday's lesson deals with studying the Word. Several Scriptures were given to show that the Word of God came to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and That it could only be rightly understood through the same Spirit that inspired men to write it.

Thursday's lesson talks about the Bible being its own expositor. "The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise, "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it is, and let there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error." GC 598.3