

Study for the Months of November-December 2019

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The Two Witnesses/Olive Trees/Lampstands/Prophets in Revelation and the Two Olive Trees/Anointed Ones in Zechariah - *Part I*

Revelation 11: 1-12 and Zechariah 4: 1-6, 11-14

Let's focus at once on two parallel Scripture passages from these two different prophetic books: Zechariah, which means "Yahweh has remembered" and Revelation which means "apocalypse," "disclosure," "unveiling," "something revealed"—the last book of the Holy Bible where its sixty-six books meet and end, to which its author, John the beloved, gives the title, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." (ch. 1: 1).

We will begin with the last one because it informs and reminds us that it is no less than Jesus Christ Himself who gives power to these two witnesses, two olive trees, two lampstands, two prophets, two anointed ones, and that, in summary, He is not only the Author and Focus of Revelation and the prophecies of the Bible being *the* Prophet of prophets, as in King of kings and Lord of Lord but of the whole *Bible* itself—the *written* word of God revealing the *living* Word. The same disciple introduced Him to us in his gospel in these sublime words of profound truth of Him who is "the way, the truth and the life."

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him' and without Him was not anything made that was made . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1: 1-3, 14, K.J.V.

Revelation 11: 3, 4:

"And I will give power to *My two witnesses*, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.' These are *the two olive trees and the two lampstands* standing before the God of the earth."

Zechariah 4: 1-6, 11-14:

"Now the Angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is awakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, 'What do you see? So I said, 'I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. *Two olive trees are by it, one at the right*

of the bowl and the other at its left.’ So I answered and spoke to the Angel who talked with me saying, ‘What are these my Lord?’ Then the Angel who talked with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you know that these [the foregoing] are? And I said, ‘No, my Lord.’ So He answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the Lord for Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.’ vs 1-6.

“Then I answered and said to Him, ‘What are these **two olive trees** one on the right of the lampstand and the other on its left?’ And I further answered and said to Him, ‘What are these **two olive branches** that drip into the receptacles of the to the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?’ Then He answered me and said, ‘Do you not know that these are?’ And I said, no my Lord.’ So He said, ‘These are **the two anointed ones**, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.’” vs 1-14.

Now, let’s return to the Two witnesses and Two Olive Trees of Revelation 11 and read more specific prophetic details regarding them.

The Two Witnesses:

v 1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. v 2 But leave out the court which is outside of the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they [the Gentiles] will tread the holy city underfoot for forty two months. v 3 ‘And I will give power to **My two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.’ v 4 These are **the two olive trees and the two lampstands** standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. v 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. v 6 These [two witnesses/two olive trees/two lampstands] to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

The Two Witnesses Killed:

v 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. v 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. v 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. v 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these **two prophets** tormented those who dwell on the earth.

The Two Witnesses Resurrected:

v 11 Now after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. v 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. v 13 In the same hour there was a great

earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand men were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. v 14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.”

First things first.

Before proceeding further, we should bear in mind that we are dealing specifically with Biblical prophecy. Prophetic language uses figures, metaphors and symbols that couch profound literal truth. The whole Bible is its own best expositor and thus provides *the* keys to correct prophetic interpretation that reveals “the truth as it is in Jesus.” Eph. 4: 21. It is the only one to be used. All others, particularly transliteration—while appealing to many are unbiblical, therefore, counterfeits that invariably lead to misinterpretation, confusion, deception and fanaticism, particularly of time-setting. Transliterating prophecy is folly. If the keys are not employed it would be far better that the prophecies were left untouched for less harm would be inflicted on both the unlearned expositor and unwary and credulous listeners. This sad truth is borne out of the many prophetic failures in the past (*excluding* those prophesied) in creating more skeptics and agnostics in its wake.

Moreover, as apostle Paul says, “spiritual things can only be spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2: 11-16). “For to be carnally-minded is death, but to be spiritually-minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” Rom. 8: 6-8, N.K.J.V. Only the Holy Spirit that can bring the enlightenment of the spiritual meaning. A correct exegesis of the prophecy alone is insufficient to feed the soul. Only the indwelling of the Holy Spirit can bring the enlightenment of its spiritual meaning. This is what being “intellectually and spiritually settled into the truth” means. One without the other is in vain. Note:

“The prophecies of the Bible are not difficult to understand, if we follow the rules laid down in Scripture for interpreting prophecy. These rules are few in number, and they are not complicated. When used in connection with prophetic symbols, ‘sea,’ or ‘waters,’ stand for ‘multitudes’ of people (Rev. 17: 15; Isa. 8: 7; 17: 12; Jer. 6: 23); ‘wind,’ stands for ‘war’ (Jer. 4: 12, 13; 25: 31, 32); ‘beasts’ stand for ‘kingdoms’ (dan. 7: 23); and ‘days’ for ‘years’ (Num. 14: 34; Eze. 4: 6). “- *Christian Edwardson, “Facts of Faith,” Southern Publishing Association, Revised, 1943, p. 52.*

Secondly.

We need to understand that by the very nature of their work and message, which did not originate from them but from God Himself, His true prophets spoke and wrote more for our time than theirs. Moreover, more often than not they themselves did not fully comprehend the meaning of what God spoke through to them. They simply and faithfully wrote or spoke these prophecies to whomsoever they were intended for. The meaning was unfolded from age to age as they became applicable and needed from

generation to generation as determined by the wisdom and perfect timing of God.

This is *also* why “prophets are subject to the prophets.” 1 Cor. 14: 32. In keeping with the principle that Scripture is its own best expositor, each of the prophets and their prophecy verify the other and mutually expand and magnify their spiritual meaning through time. They belong to an unbroken prophetic chain beginning with the mother of all prophecies in Genesis 3: 15 of the “promised *seed* of the woman” to the very last in Revelation 22: 20: “*He* who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely *I* am coming quickly.’”

In fact, following the “apotelesmatic” principle, the repetition of a prophecy is its expansion thereof, as in type-antitype where the local becomes national, and the national becomes global, etc. There are also triple-application prophecies that follow the same apotelesmatic principle. God’s faithful prophets simply and faithfully proclaimed the messages and prophecies given them. Most were persecuted and lost their lives for doing so. (As did the first disciples).

This is one of the compelling reasons why we, who are still living in these tumultuous times and are seeking for satisfactory explanations should treasure the value of the prophecies by diligently studying them by the guidance and protection of the angels and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, for “spiritual things can only be discerned spiritually.” 1 Cor. 2: 14. Never forget that the prophecies and the gospel go hand in hand for they come from One Mind and one Author. And “what God has joined together let no man put asunder.” These were preserved with the blood and lives of the prophets and handed down to our generation in a “silver platter” so to speak. Sadly, this is why countless professed follower of Christ so carelessly---and truth to speak, stupidly and fatally---take these for granted! They were not given merely for church doctrine nor for individual speculation and interpretation, much less to add to the confuse but for our eternal salvation! To neglect them is to reject the gift of Heaven and lose our promised inheritance of eternal life. In God’s kingdom of righteousness, neglect is not a benign word. Ignored, it becomes negligence, and when indulged becomes active rejection—not only of the prophecies but of the gospel and the law of God itself! Remember what the prophets warned?

“*My people* are destroyed for *lack* of knowledge. Because you have *rejected* knowledge, I will also *reject* you from being *priest* for Me; because you have forgotten the *law* of your God, I will also forget your *children*.” Hosea 4: 6.

This dire warning is not limited to those formally and officially ordained and anointed priests, ministers and pastors. Ordination, in and of itself is not an unconditional, fool-proof instrument and endowment of a calling of God neither a guarantee or proof of infallibility. In fact, it bestows, expects and thus demands a higher standard, greater responsibilities and a stricter accountability to God as expositors of God’s word and “guardian of souls,” and under shepherds.

“I will also forget your children.”

If there is anything that any God-fearing parent should fear to hear from a prophet or spokesman for God say, it is these very words: “God told me to tell you that He will forget your children.” And God will never have His prophets say anything to His chosen ones that is not based on and prompted by His unconditional love, wisdom from above, perfect righteousness, enduring mercy and justice all combined together.

In Hosea’s prophecy are clearly cited the simple yet devastating reasons why God would say and decree such a terrible thing: *The rejection of the knowledge of God by forgetting to obey His law*. Sadly and alarmingly, there is yet so much of the glory, scope and magnitude of God’s law in relation to His infinite character, wisdom, power, love and the nature of His kingdom that have not been fully understood as they should, by God’s people, at this late hour of earth’s history. Contextually, as the body of the verses surrounding it clearly reveals, this particular “forgetting” is not the lackadaisical, lazy, lukewarm and careless *neglect to remember*, or occasional slip-ups caused by a severe shaking of faith by heavy trial or tribulation but actual, sustained and open disobedience by word and deed. More importantly, this warning is directed to those who should know much better—those in positions of leadership and trust, including all designated as under shepherds, such as parents in their respective homes, minister, pastors and all such as are called “the spiritual guardians of the people” in their churches, and prophets of course as well as those who “prophesy, meaning, “preach the word” compelled by inspiration in the churches—such as happened in the early church, beginning at Pentecost. As prophecy abundantly warns, Satan has his unnumbered counterfeit agents and agencies. God’s people must be intellectually and spiritually endowed with the whole armor of God to be successful in quickly detecting and exposing the spurious lest we, as well others more vulnerable, be ensnared and taken.

Lest the Christian forget: Obedience is the fundamental test of discipleship—whether in the initial acceptance of the invitation “Come,” or onward to “if you love me, keep My commandments.” In the Bible a people never are given the distinction by God as “His people” or “the apple of His eye” or “the chosen ones” or “His church” unless they are the ones appointed by Him, not by any man or institution, to be the very “keepers” of His law or commandments. This terrible warning regarding the children should serve as a powerful deterrent to any and all who are in responsible positions, whether in the family or in the church.

In the New Testament, as the expansion of the Old Testament *chosen nation* of the literal nation of the twelve tribes of ancient Israel, God calls His chosen people—the church-- “a royal priesthood,” the priesthood of believers. The apostle declared:

“But you are a chosen generation, *a royal priesthood*, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Pet. 2: 9, N.K.J.V.

“A royal priesthood”

There are only three dispensations, not ten, as is commonly believed and taught in the Christian mainstream. These three dispensations are directly tied into the office and functions of the priesthood, indicating its great importance and significance in the plan of salvation.

NOTE: These three dispensations of the priesthood are, in the order they are given: First the Patriarchal, then Levitical, and finally the Christian, the latter referring to Christ Himself as our merciful High Priest, Advocate, Intercessor and Mediator with the Father in the heavenly sanctuary. This is His penultimate office and work. The last office He assumes when He finally casts down the censer, saying triumphantly “It is done,” and He casts off His white priestly garments and puts on His dazzlingly glorious kingly garments and returns to earth with all His angels, will be as “King of kings and Lord of Lords” This is the way and manner He will return to resurrect to eternal life all His sleeping saints. Hallelujah!

From the fall of man, beginning with the patriarchal dispensation (Adam, Job, Abraham, Jacob, etc.), and moving on to the now-organized national Levitical dispensation of ancient Israel, priests were bestowed great authority with its corresponding special and exclusive privileges not even extended to kings. But they also bore a heavy burden in their sacred position and work as mortal, fallible mediators “in things pertaining to God” between God and man, —intercessors between the lost and the unbelievers and God.

These were prototypes of Christ’s antitypical and *penultimate* office as merciful High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary. Their actions, words and influence not only impacted their own characters but the lives and salvation of countless others—either as “a savor of life unto life or death unto death.” Yes, if you didn’t know by now---that’s how solemnly serious it is to claim or profess to be God’s chosen people! Not to intentionally know is another way of “taking the Lord’s name in vain,” by professing to be a follower of Christ, which is what *Christian* really means, and yet carelessly and thoughtlessly misrepresenting Him in our words, actions and our very lives, presumptuously saying, “I am a Christian and already saved.” This, in fact, is “crucifying Him afresh.” Exo. 20: 7; Heb. ____.

Jeremiah, another prophet of old, bearing the description “the weeping prophet” so appropriately attached to his persona and career (who unsurprisingly also wrote the book *Lamentations*—have you read it?), declared a warning to the *backslidden chosen ones then*, which is more relevant and forceful today. Why? How? By the pandemic-wide spiritual deterioration, confusion, deception, counterfeiting and apostasy corrupting the antitypical “high places” of all classes, methods and interpretations of “religious worship,” and more so among the professed Christian churches of the world in these last days who confidently claim to be “the chosen ones”— whether corporately or designate an individual as the “chosen one” or the “true church,” which all, of course, claim to be—as prophesied by his fellow prophets, specifically the combined and interlinked time prophecies of Daniel in the Old and John in the Revelation.

Apostle Paul’s follow-up description of such “in perilous times of the last days” as “having the form of godliness but denying the power thereof” (2 Tim. 3: 5,1-6) is so sadly

apropos to our present condition.

Jesus said to His three disciples, “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.” Why? “*The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*” See Matt. 26: 41, 36-45. I only know too well by personal experience, as well as first-person witness of friends, fellow church members and even those attending group or home Bible studies that I have conducted through the years that it has proved helpful to many of them to print out the verses instead of just providing where they are found, for at least two reasons:

(1) To aid in avoiding the excuse so often pled by even the well-intentioned that they have “hardly any time” in their madhouse schedules and deadlines in their homes and workplace to take the time to actually read, much less ponder upon it from their own Bibles, etc., quickly adding that, “God understands my situation.” Sounds familiar?

(2) To show, while it is still fresh on the mind and on-topic, its vital connection and contribution towards obtaining a better understanding and appreciation, in this particular case, *of the role of the prophets and their prophecies to one’s standing with God in these last days*, especially if one claims or professes to be part of the remnant who are also described as “a chosen generation, *a royal priesthood*, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Pet. 2: 9, N.K.J.V. This holds true when dealing with all other topics of Bible study, which I intend to keep on doing by God’s grace as long as He extends my life, health and clarity of mind, an integral part of this ministry.

Now this (all emphasis mine). Jeremiah 8: 1-12, N.K.J.V:

v 1 At that time,’ says the Lord, ‘they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of the princes, and *the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets*, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, *out of their graves.*

v 2 They shall *spread them before the sun and the moon and all the hosts of heaven*, which they have loved and they have served and after which they have walked, which they have sought and *which they have worshipped.* They shall not be gathered nor buried, they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth.

v 3 Then death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of those that remain of this evil family, who remain in all the places where I have driven them,’ says the Lord of hosts.

The perils of false teachings in Jerusalem. v 4 Moreover you shall say to them, Thus says the Lord: . . . v 5 *Why then has this people slidden back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding?* They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return [to God].

v 6 I listened and heard, but they do not speak aright. No man repented of his wickedness, saying, ‘What have I done?’ Everyone turned to his own course, as the horse rushes into the battle.

v 7 *Even the stork of the heavens knows her appointed times, and the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow observe the time of their coming. But My people [not the heathen, pagan, Gentiles agnostics, atheists, or Samaritans!] do not know the judgment of the Lord.*

v 8 How can you say, **'We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Look, the false pen of the scribe certainly works falsehood.** The wise men are ashamed. They are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have **rejected** the word of the Lord so what wisdom do they have?"

v 10 **Because from the least even to the greatest everyone is given to covetousness; from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely.**

v 11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, **saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace.**

v 12 **Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations? No! They were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush, therefore they shall fall among those who fall; in the time of their punishment they shall be cast down,' says the Lord.**" Jer. 8: 1-12.

On the impending final judgments coming upon the earth: Isa 24: 1, 2-5.

v 1 Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants. v 2 And it shall be: **As with the people, so with the priests.** v 3 The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered, for the Lord has spoken this word. v 4 The earth mourns and fades away; the haughty people of the earth languish. v 5 The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. v 6 Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left." Isa. 24: 1, 2-5.

Now, back to the prophecy of Hosea. Hos. 4: 4, 5, 7-9:

v 4 Now let no man contend, or reprove another, for your people are like those who contend with the priest. v 5 Therefore you shall stumble in the day; **the prophet shall also stumble with you in the night;** and I will destroy your mother. . . . v 7 The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. v 8 They eat up the sin of My people; they set their heart on their iniquity. v 9 **And it shall be: like people, like priest.** So I will punish them for their ways. And reward them for their deeds." Hos. 4: 4, 5, 7-9.

In the time of Christ, the Jewish *nation* whose status and distinction as the chosen *people* was to forever end as prophesied in the 70-week prophecy of Daniel 9, with their corporate decision through their Sanhedrin to crucify Christ in A.D. 31 and three and half years later, to stone Stephen, one of the 70 disciples to death as the first martyr of the Christian dispensation. Speaking of "the scribes and Pharisees which were of Jerusalem," the religious leaders of the Jewish nation, whom He called "hypocrites whom Isaiah prophesied of," prompting His disciples to tell Him, "don't you You know they were offended by what You said?" Jesus answered and said, 'Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.'" Matt. 15: 1,

12-14. 14. See also Luke 6: 39. He repeated Jeremiah's prophecy, "they shall fall among those who fall; in the time of their punishment." Jer. 8: 12. Indeed, like people, like priest, like false prophet! "Both fall into a ditch."

Now, as to God's true prophets writing more for the future, our time in fact, than their time, not fully understanding what they spoke and wrote, comes an additional rebuke to God's people today. What is it? These godly prophets, already favored by God by being entrusted with prophetic revelations, *still inquired and searched diligently* in order to obtain more light that God promised to reveal to those who search thus. Question: Do we have the same attitude and desire today? Or are we lukewarm Laodicean Christians content to say, 'I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing?'

As a necessity, I quote below a large extract from Ellen G. White's *The Great Controversy*, 1911 edition, pp. 344-346, because it clearly reveals the key problems attending the prophets and Christ's first disciples regarding prophecy---how and why they did not fully understand, in fact misapprehended them *though they loved Him*.

"Even the prophets who were favored with the special illumination of the Holy Spirit, did not fully comprehend the import of the revelations committed to them. *The meaning was to be unfolded from age to age, as the people of God should need the instruction therein contained.*

"Peter, writing of the salvation brought to light by the gospel, says: 'Of this salvation *the prophets have inquired and searched diligently*, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, *not to themselves*, but *to us* they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven---things which angels desire to look into.'" 1 Pet. 1: 10-12, N.K.J.V.

"*Yet while it was not given to the prophets to understand fully the things revealed to them, they earnestly sought to obtain all the light which God had been pleased to make manifest. They 'inquired and searched diligently,' 'searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify.' What a lesson for the people of God in the Christian age for whose benefit these prophecies were given to His servants! 'Unto whom it was revealed that **not unto themselves, but unto us** they did minister.'* Witness these holy men of God as they 'inquired and searched diligently' concerning revelations given them for *generations that were yet unborn. Contrast their holy zeal with the listless unconcern with which the favored ones of later ages treat **this gift of heaven!** What a **rebuke** to the ease-loving, world-loving indifference which is content to declare that the prophecies cannot be understood.*

"Though the finite minds of men are inadequate to enter into the counsels of the Infinite One, or to understand fully the working out of His purposes, yet often it is because of some error or neglect on their own part, that they so dimly comprehend the messages of Heaven. *Not infrequently*, the minds of the people, *even of God's servants*, are so blinded by human opinions, the traditions and false teachings of men, that they are able only partially to grasp the great things which He has revealed in His word. *Thus*

it was with the disciples of Christ, when the Savior was with them in person! Their minds had become imbued with the popular conceptions of the Messiah as a temporal prince, who was to exalt Israel to the throne of the universe! [the very same error being held by the politically-active Christians today!], and they could not understand the meaning of His words foretelling His sufferings and death.

“Christ Himself had sent them forth with the message, ‘*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*’ Mark 1: 15. *That message was based on the prophecy of Daniel 9. [the 70-weeks]. The sixty-nine weeks were declared by the angel to extend to ‘the Messiah the Prince,’ and with high hopes and joyful anticipations the disciples looked forward to the establishment of Messiah’s kingdom at Jerusalem, to rule over the whole earth.*

“They preached the message which Christ had committed to them, *though they themselves misapprehended its meaning.* While their announcement was based on Daniel 9: 25, they did not see in the next verse of the same chapter, that Messiah was to cut-off [crucified]. From their birth their hearts had been set upon *the anticipated glory of an earthly empire, and this blinded their understanding* alike to the specifications of the prophecy and the words of Christ.

“They performed their duty in presenting to *the Jewish nation* the invitation of mercy, and then, at the very time when they expected to see their Lord ascend the [literal] throne of David, they beheld Him seized as a malefactor, scourged, derided, and condemned, and lifted up on the cross of Calvary. What despair and anguish wrung the hearts of those disciples during those days while the Lord was sleeping in the tomb!

“*Christ had come at the exact time and in the manner foretold by the prophecy.* The testimony of Scripture had been fulfilled in every detail in His ministry. He had preached the message of salvation, and ‘His word was with power.’ The hearts of His hearers had witnessed that it was of Heaven. The word and the Spirit of God attested the divine commission of His Son.

“The disciples still clung with *undying affection* to their beloved Master. And yet their *minds* were shrouded with uncertainty and doubt. [Note this! Our love is not enough. God’s love is!] In their anguish they did not then recall the words of Christ pointing forward to His suffering and death. If Jesus of Nazareth had been the true Messiah, would they have been thus plunged and grief in disappointment? This was the question that tortured their souls while the Savior lay in His sepulcher during the hopeless hours of that Sabbath which intervened between His death and resurrection.”

(To be continued next issues)