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Lest We Forget

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” LS196

A Most Precious Message and its Messengers

What of the Messengers? (Part 2, continued from Vol. 9, No. 1)

With this issue we continue the collection of Ellen White statements characterizing the special work of A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner as messengers. This section will conclude in the next issue, to be followed by an issue on the message.

All references are from *The EGW 1888 Materials* unless otherwise noted.

1890 March 9 (Sermon)

If we place ourselves in a position that we will not recognize the light God sends or His **messages** to us, then we are in danger of sinning against the Holy Ghost. Then for us to turn and see if we can find some little thing that is done that we can hang some of our doubts upon and begin to question! The question is, has God sent the truth? Has God raised up **these men** to proclaim the truth? I say, yes, God has sent men to bring us the truth that we should not have had unless God had sent somebody to bring it to us. God has let me have a light of what His Spirit is, and therefore I accept it, and I no more dare to lift my hand against **these persons**, because it would be against Jesus Christ, who is to be recognized in **His messengers**. (p. 608)

1890 March 10 (to W. C. White and wife)

Since I made the statement last Sabbath that the view of the **covenants** as it had been taught by Brother **Waggoner** was truth, it seems that great relief has come to many minds. (p. 623) [see PP363ff.]

(Continued on page 2)

The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This messages was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.

(pp. 1336, 1337; also TM91, 92)

1890 May 27 (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* article, "Living Channels of Light")

Those whom God has sent with a **message** are only men, but what is the character of the **message** which they bear? Will you dare to turn from, or make light of, the warnings, because God did not consult you as to what would be preferred? God calls men who will speak, who will cry aloud and spare not. God has raised up his **messengers** to do his work for this time. Some have turned from the **message** of the righteousness of Christ to criticize the men and their imperfections, because they do not speak the message of truth with all the grace and polish desirable. They have too much zeal, are too much in earnest, speak with too much positiveness, and the **message** that would bring healing and life and comfort to many weary and oppressed souls, is, in a measure, excluded for just in proportion as men of influence close their own hearts and set up their own wills in opposition to what God has said, will they seek to take away the ray of light from those who have been longing and praying for light and for vivifying power. Christ has registered all the hard, proud, sneering speeches spoken against his servants as against himself. (p. 673)

1890 August 27 (to O. A. Olsen)

Dear Bro. Olsen: The enclosed testimony I sent to the Ohio Conference especially, but the Lord has shown me that the very same evils which are reprov'd in that conference exist in other conferences. Churches are in need of personal piety and a deeper, far deeper experience in the truth and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The spirit of resistance that has been exhibited in presenting the righteousness of Christ as our only hope has grieved the Spirit of God, and the result of this opposition has required the delivery of this matter the more earnestly and decidedly, causing deeper searching into the subject and calling out an array of arguments that the **messenger** himself did not know was so firm, so full, so

thorough upon this subject of justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ as our only hope. The subject has been brought before many minds. The sad part of the matter is that some who ought to have stood in the clear light on this subject were working on the enemy's side of the question. (p. 703)

1890 December 23 (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* article, "Be Zealous and Repent")

The Lord has sent a **message** to arouse his people to repent, and do their first works; but how has his **message** been received? While some have heeded it, others have cast contempt and reproach on the **message** and the **messenger**. Spirituality deadened, humility and childlike simplicity gone, a mechanical, formal profession of faith has taken the place of love and devotion. Is this mournful condition of things to continue? is the lamp of God's love to go out in darkness? The Saviour calls; listen to his voice: "Be zealous and repent." Repent, confess your sins, and you will be forgiven. "Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?" Why will you try to rekindle a mere fitful fire, and walk in the sparks of your own kindling? (p. 765)

1890 (Manuscript *Light in God's Word*)

We have seen in our experience that when the Lord sends rays of light from the open door of the sanctuary to His people, Satan stirs up the minds of many. But the end is not yet. There will be those who will resist the light and crowd down those whom God

The real heaven-sent messengers

has made His channels to communicate light. Spiritual things are not spiritually discerned. The watchmen have not

kept pace with the opening providence of God, and the real heaven-sent **message** and **messengers** are scorned. (p. 831)

1891 January 6 (to U. Smith)

Dear Brother Smith,— Since your visit and our conversation I decided to place this in your hands to read yourself, and if necessary I may read it before a select number. I have a copy of the same. After I was so greatly burdened the Tuesday night, the same night I returned from Washington, I felt that I must trace upon paper my true feelings and the things which the Lord revealed to me. You may desire to know these things. When you visited me yesterday Jan. 5 and proposed such a meeting to take place I was glad because I thought that will result in good. But when you stated that you had not had feelings against Eld. **Waggoner**, and Eld. **A.T. Jones**, I was surprised. Perhaps you thought thus, but how could you think thus, is a mystery to me. The feelings cherished by yourself and Elder Butler were not only despising the **message**, but the **messengers**. But the blindness of mind has come by warring against the light which the Lord designed to come to his people. (p. 846)

1891 March 24 (Article *Our Present Dangers*)

In the revival work that has been going forward here during the past winter we have seen no fanaticism. But I will tell you what I have seen. I have seen men who were so lifted up in themselves, and so stubborn, that their hearts were enshrouded in darkness. All the light that Heaven graciously sent them is interpreted to be darkness. When the enemy presents a device of his own, some are ready to accept that; but they have been so very cautious that they would not receive the light which would have made them wise unto salvation. The mission of God's servants was to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. The bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, if received, would have illuminated the soul- temple,

Messengers through
whom the Lord has
wrought in power

and driven out the buyers and sellers, the pride of opinion and the lust of the flesh. But there are some who have criticised and depreciated, and even stooped to ridicule, the **messengers** through whom the Lord has wrought in power. (p. 904)

1891 March (Article read at Gen. Conf. of 1891)

In the fear and love of God I tell those before whom I stand to-day that there is increased light for us, and that great blessings come with the reception of this light. And when I see my brethren stirred with anger against God's **messages** and **messengers**, I think of similar scenes in the life of Christ and the reform. The reception given to God's servants in past ages is the same as the reception that those to-day receive through whom God is sending precious rays of light. The leaders of the people to-day pursue the same course of action that the Jews pursued. They criticize and ply question after question, and refuse to admit evidence, treating the light sent them in the very same way that the Jews treated the light Christ brought them. (p. 911)

The Lord has been calling his people. In a most marked manner he has revealed his divine presence. But **the message** and **the messengers** have not been received but despised. I longed that those who have greatly needed **the message of divine love** would hear Christ's knock at the door of the heart, and let the heavenly guest enter. But at the hearts of some Jesus has knocked in vain. In rejecting **the message** given at Minneapolis, men committed sin. They have committed far greater sin by retaining for years the same hatred against **God's messengers**, by rejecting the truth that the Holy Spirit has been urging home. By making light of **the message** given, they are making light of the word of God. Every appeal rejected, every entreaty unheeded, furthers the work of heart-hardening, and places them in the seat of the scornful. (p. 913)

1891 March (pamphlet *Danger in Adopting Worldly Policy in the Work of God*)

But not all are following the light. Some are moving away from the safe path, which at every step is a path of humility. God has committed to his servants a message for this time; but this message does not in every particular coincide with the ideas of all the leading men, and some criticize the **message** and the **messengers**. They dare even to reject the words of reproof sent to them from God through his Holy Spirit. (p. 954)

To accuse and criticize **those whom God is using**, is to accuse and criticize the Lord, who has sent them. All need to cultivate their religious faculties, that they may have a right discernment of religious things. Some have failed to distinguish between pure gold and mere glitter, between the substance and the shadow.

The prejudices and opinions that prevailed at Minneapolis are not dead by any means; the seeds sown there in some hearts are ready to spring into life and bear a like harvest. The tops have been cut down, but the roots have never been eradicated, and they still bear their unholy fruit to poison the judgment, pervert the perceptions, and blind the understanding of those with whom you connect, in regard to the **message** and the **messengers**. When by thorough confession, you destroy the root of bitterness, you will see light in God's light. Without this thorough work you will never clear your souls. You need to study the word of God with a purpose, not to confirm your own ideas, but to bring them to be trimmed, to be condemned or approved, as they are or are not in harmony with the word of God.... (pp. 954, 955)

1892 April 15 (to J. H. Kellogg)

The many cautions that in the loving kindness of the

Lord have been sent to you lead me to write you now in this matter. Be careful how you take a position against Elder **Waggoner**. Have you not the best of evidence that the Lord has been communicating **light** through him? I have, and the people where he has labored have been greatly blessed under his labors. (p. 977)

1892 July 26 (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* article, "Search the Scriptures")

The rebuke of the Lord will be upon those who would be guardians of the doctrine, who would bar the way that greater light shall not come to the people. A great work is to be done, and God sees that our leading men have need of greater light, that they may unite with **the messengers** whom he shall send harmoniously to accomplish the work that he designs they should. The Lord has raised up **messengers** and endowed them with his Spirit, and has said, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob

their sins." Let no one run the risk of interposing himself between the

Messengers endowed with
His Spirit

people and **the message** of heaven. **The message** of God will come to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out. I call upon every minister to seek the Lord, to put away pride, to put away strife after supremacy, and humble the heart before God. It is the coldness of heart, the unbelief of those who ought to have faith, that keeps the churches in feebleness. (p. 992)

1892 August 30 (to U. Smith)

The first thing recorded in Scripture history after the fall was the persecution of Abel. And the last thing in Scripture prophecy is the persecution against those who refuse to receive the mark of the beast. We

should be the last people on the earth to indulge in the slightest degree the spirit of persecution against **those who are bearing the message of God to the world**. This is the most terrible feature of unchristlikeness that has manifested itself among us since the Minneapolis meeting. Sometime it will be seen in its true bearing, with all the burden of woe that has resulted from it. (p. 1013)

1892 September 1 (to O. A. Olsen)

I wish that all would see that the very same spirit which refused to accept Christ, the Light that would dispel the moral darkness, is far from being extinct in this age of the world. There are those in our day who are no more ready to recognize and acknowledge light than were the people when the prophets and the apostles came with messages from God, and many rejected the **message** and despised the **messenger**. Let us beware that this spirit is not entertained by any one of us.... (pp. 1019)

Why do not brethren of like precious faith consider that in every age, when the Lord has sent a **special message** to the people, all the powers of the confederacy of evil have set at work to prevent the word of truth from coming to those who should receive it?

If Satan can impress the mind and stir up the passions of those who claim to believe the truth, and thus lead them to unite with the forces of evil, he is well pleased. If once he can get them to commit themselves on the wrong side, he has laid his plans to lead them on a long journey. Through his deceptive wiles he will cause them to act upon the same principles he adopted in his disaffection in heaven. They take step after step in the false way, until there seems to be no other course for them except to go on, believing they are right in their bitterness of feeling toward their brethren. Will the Lord's **messenger** bear the pressure brought against him? If so, it is because

God bids him stand in his strength and vindicate the truth that he is sent of God. (pp. 1022-1023)

When a new view is presented, the question is often asked, "Who are its advocates? What is the position of influence of the one who would teach us who have been students of the Bible for many years?" God will send His words of warning by whom He will send. And the question to be settled is not what person is it who brings the **message**; this does not in any way affect the word spoken. "By their fruits ye shall know them." (pp. 1023)

In regard to the testimony that has come to us through the Lord's **messengers**, we can say, We know in whom we have believed. We know that Christ is our righteousness, not alone because He is so described in the Bible, but because we have felt His transforming power in our own hearts. (p. 1024)

Should the Lord's **messengers**, after standing manfully for the truth for a time, fall under temptation, and dishonor Him who has given them their work, will that be proof that the **message** is not true? No, because the Bible is true. "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Sin on the part of

the messenger of God would cause Satan to rejoice, and those who have rejected **the messenger** and **the message** would triumph; but it would not at all clear the men who were guilty of rejecting **the message** of truth sent of God. (p. 1025)

Messengers whose message is true even if the messengers fall under temptation

1892 September 2 (to A. T. Jones)

Elder **Jones**, walk carefully before God. "Ye are a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men." Be

careful not to present in the paper views which you know will clash with Elder Smith; for he feels that he is in authority to control the articles which appear in the REVIEW; but if he makes an attempt to close the door that light shall not come to the people, then, sad as it may be, the Lord will remove him. But the Lord loves Brother Smith, and be careful that no occasion shall be given, by publishing articles that he has not seen. If after he sees the articles and publishes them without seeing and speaking with the author of the article, then he has no right to put in the paper an opposite view; for he hurts the cause of God. This is no time for dissension; press together; seek to be a unit. There should be a breaking down of icy reserve and a mutual confidence and freedom exercised. Each must guard his words. Avoid all impressions which savor of extremes; for those who are watching for a chance will seize hold of any words strongly expressed to justify them in their feelings of calling you an extremist.

The crisis is just before us. The fierce conflict of mind with mind, of principle with principle, of truth with error, which is fast approaching, and which has already begun, calls for constant vigilance. This world is the great field where the last battle is to be fought. Now every man who is on the Lord's side will come up to the battle of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty, and the walls of antichrist shall fall before the Captain of the Lord's host. Then let not the chosen of God be found in opposition to the **messengers** and **messages** He sends; but let the ability and tact of every soul, by all Scriptural and holy means, be employed to give greater efficiency and strength in the aggressive warfare—not against brethren, not against the Lord's anointed—but against the Satanic agencies that they must meet.

The Lord will speak through His **messengers**. They are only the human instrumentalities, possessing no

grace or loveliness of their own, and are powerful and efficacious only as God, the eternal Spirit, shall work upon human hearts. The treasure of the everlasting gospel is in earthen vessels. Paul may plant, and Apollos may water, and this is the extent of their ability: God only giveth the increase. There must be no dishonoring of God, no grieving of His Holy Spirit, by casting dishonor or reflection upon God, who selects His **messengers** to bear a **message** to the world, by refusing the **message** of God's words from the lips of any of His servants, by whom He may send it. Many souls rob themselves of great blessings, and Christ of glory which should redound to Him; because they do not take heed to this, there is confusion, and defection, and weakness. (pp. 1037-1039)

1892 September 19 (to Uriah Smith)

Some have made confession, yourself among the number. Others have made no confession, for they were too proud to do this, and they have not come to

God sent these young men to bear a special message

the light. They were moved at the meeting by another spirit, and they knew not that God had

sent these young men, Elders **Jones** and **Waggoner**, to bear a **special message** to them. (p. 1043)

It is quite possible that Elder **Jones** or **Waggoner** may be overthrown by the temptations of the enemy; but if they should be, this would not prove that they had had no **message** from God, or that the work that they had done was all a mistake. But should this happen, how many would take this position, and enter into a fatal delusion because they are not under the control of the Spirit of God. They walk in the sparks of their own kindling, and cannot distinguish between the fire they have kindled and the light which God

has given, and they walk in blindness as did the Jews. (pp. 1044, 1045)

Oh, that self may be subdued in each one of us who profess to believe in Jesus! Oh, that pride may be laid in the dust! Oh, that we may more fully reflect the image of Jesus! As never before we should pray not only that laborers may be sent forth into the great harvest field, but that we may have a clear conception of truth, so that when the **messengers** of truth shall come we may accept the **message** and respect the **messenger**. Oh, that darkness may not settle upon any soul, but that the illuminating Spirit of Christ shall fall upon His people. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and the glory of our Redeemer is His character; this we must behold with spiritual vision....

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” [1 Thess. 2:13]. The word of God cannot work effectually in the heart when it is barred out by unbelief. The **message** which the **messengers** have been proclaiming is the **message to the Laodicean church**....

Messengers with the message of God to the Laodicean church

This **message** has not had the influence that it should have had upon the mind and heart of the believers. The true state of the church is to be presented before men, and they are to receive the word of God not as something originating with men, but as the word of God. Many have treated the **message** to the Laodiceans as it has come to them, as the word of

man. Both **message** and **messenger** have been held in doubt by those who should have been the first to discern and act upon it as the word of God. Had they received the word of God sent to them, they would not now be in darkness. “For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and the Father, and of Christ” [Col. 2:1, 2]. (pp. 1050, 1051)

Those who name the name of Christ should adopt Christian maxims. They should fear to ridicule the **message** or the **messenger**. Let no man say that his conversation is in heaven, while he is manifestly groveling in the dust, and his thoughts and feelings are as far separated from God as the east from the west. The true Christian will fear to make light of God’s **message**, lest he may lay a stumbling block in the way of a soul who may see and imitate his example.

The church of God is to shine as a light to the world, but Jesus is the illuminator, and He is represented as moving among His people. No one shines by his own light. The Lord God almighty and the Lamb are the lights thereof. The **message** given us by A. T. **Jones**, and E. J. **Waggoner** is the **message** of God to the Laodicean church, and woe be unto anyone who professes to believe the truth and yet does not reflect to others the God-given rays. Elder Smith, had you been unprejudiced, had not reports affected you and led you to bar your heart against the entrance of what these men presented; had you, like the noble Bereans, searched the Scriptures to see if their testimony agreed with its instruction, you would have stood upon vantage ground, and been far advanced in Christian experience. If you had received the truth into a

good and honest heart, you would have become a living channel of light, with clear perception and sanctified imagination. Your conceptions of truth would have been exalted, and your heart made joyful in God. God would have given you a testimony clear, powerful, and convincing. But the first position you took in regard to the **message** and the **messenger**, has been a continual snare to you and a stumbling block. (p. 1052)

Reader, pray for His Spirit to understand
the message!

This special collection,
“A Most Precious Message
and Its Messengers”,
will continue in the next issue
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Lest We Forget

Volume 9

Number 2

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