

Revival and Reformation

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

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“Like every other one of God’s good gifts entrusted to the keeping of humanity, marriage has been perverted by sin; but it is the purpose of the gospel to restore its purity and beauty. In both the Old and the New Testament the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people, the redeemed ones whom He has purchased at the cost of Calvary. “Fear not,” He says; “thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is His name; and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”

“Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you.” Isaiah 54:4, 5; Jeremiah 3:14. In the “Song of Songs” we hear the bride’s voice saying, “My Beloved is mine, and I am His.” Song of Solomon 2:16; 5:10.” Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, 64.

Let Us Meditate Upon Psalm 119:169-176

Tau – Twenty Second and Last Letter of the Hebrew Alphabet

“Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word. Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word. My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.”

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25, also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people. In Matthew 24, in answer to the question of his disciples concerning the sign of his coming and of the end of the world, Christ had pointed out some of the most important events in the history of the world and of the church from his first to his second advent; namely, the destruction of Jerusalem, the great tribulation of the church under the pagan and papal persecutions, the darkening of the sun and moon, and the falling of the stars. After this he spoke of his coming in his kingdom, and related the parable describing the two classes of servants who look for his appearing.

Matthew 25 opens with the words, “Then shall the kingdom of Heaven be likened unto ten virgins.” Here is brought to view the church living in the last days, the same that is pointed out in the close of chapter 24. In this parable their experience is illustrated by the incidents of an Eastern marriage” *The Great Controversy*, 393.

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

“When the time passed at which the Lord’s coming was first expected, – in the spring of 1844, – those who had looked in faith for his appearing were for a season involved in doubt and uncertainty. While the world regarded them as having been utterly defeated, and proved to have been cherishing a delusion, their source of consolation was still the Word of God. Many continued to search the Scriptures, examining anew the evidences of their faith, and carefully studying the prophecies to obtain further light. The Bible testimony in support of their position seemed clear and conclusive. Signs which could not be mistaken pointed to the coming of Christ as near. The special blessing of the Lord, both in the conversion of sinners and the revival of spiritual life among Christians, had testified that the message was of Heaven. And though the believers could not explain their disappointment, they felt assured that God had led them in their past experience.

Interwoven with prophecies which they had regarded as applying to the time of the second advent, was instruction specially adapted to their state of uncertainty and suspense, and encouraging them to wait patiently, in the faith that what was now dark to their understanding would in due time be made plain.” *The Great Controversy*, 391. 4

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

“The coming of Christ, as announced by the first angel’s message, was understood to be represented by the coming of the bridegroom. The widespread reformation under the proclamation of his soon coming, answered to the going forth of the virgins. In this parable, as in that of Matthew 24, two classes are represented. All had taken their lamps, the Bible, and by its light had gone forth to meet the Bridegroom. But while “they that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them,” “the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.” The latter class had received the grace of God, the regenerating, enlightening power of the Holy Spirit, which renders his Word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. In the fear of God they had studied the Scriptures to learn the truth, and had earnestly sought for purity of heart and life.

These had a personal experience, a faith in God and in his Word, which could not be overthrown by disappointment and delay. Others “took their lamps, and took no oil with them.” They had moved from impulse. Their fears had been excited by the solemn message, but they had depended upon the faith of their brethren, satisfied with the flickering light of good emotions, without a thorough understanding of the truth, or a genuine work of grace in the heart.” *The Great Controversy*, 393. ⁵

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

“These had gone forth to meet the Lord, full of hope in the prospect of immediate reward; but they were not prepared for *delay* and disappointment. When trials came, their faith failed, and their lights burned dim.

“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.” By the tarrying of the bridegroom is represented the *passing of the time* when the Lord was expected, the disappointment, and the *seeming delay*. In this time of uncertainty, the interest of the superficial and half-hearted soon began to waver, and their efforts to relax; but those whose faith was based on a personal knowledge of the Bible had a rock beneath their feet, which the waves of disappointment could not wash away. “They all slumbered and slept;” one class in unconcern and abandonment of their faith, the other class patiently waiting till clearer light should be given. Yet in the night of trial the latter seemed to lose, to some extent, their zeal and devotion. The half-hearted and superficial could no longer lean upon the faith of their brethren. Each must stand or fall for himself.” *The Great Controversy*, 394.

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Three Delays Presented in the Book Song of Songs 2:7-10 – 3:5, 6 – 8:4, 5, 14

“I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please. The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice. My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

Song of Songs 2:7-10.

“I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please. Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?”

Song of Songs 3:5, 6.

“I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please. Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?.... “Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.”

Song of Songs 8: 4, 5, 14. – <https://www.numbers1317.org/resources/The%20Prophetic%20Song%20of%20songs.pdf>

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.” Matthew 25:5-7.

First Delay in the Book Song of Songs

“I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, *by the roes, and by the hinds* of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.” Song of Songs 2:7.

The Roes and Hinds represent the Word of God

"Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words." Genesis 49:21 KJV

First Delay – Song of Songs 2:7 – Secondary – Historical Application

After Christ's First Coming, the Christian Church fell into apostasy – Sunday Law was enforced in 325 AD, altering the true Creator's worship – 1260 years of darkness with the Papacy – 538 - 1798

First Delay – Song of Songs 2:7 – Primary – Present Day Application

After the Great Disappointment of 1844, the *First Delay* occurred when in 1888, the Biblical Calendar restored by the Millerites was presented to and rejected by the Adventists leaders.

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Reason for the Delay – Unbelief

“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. 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!

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. He promised to lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there a holy, healthy, happy people. But those to whom it was first preached, went not in “because of unbelief.” *Evangelism*, 696. 9

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Second Delay in the Book Song of Songs

“I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, *by the roes, and by the hinds* of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.” Song of Songs 3:5.

The Roes and Hinds represent the Word of God

"Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words." Genesis 49:21 KJV

Second Delay – Song of Songs 3:5 – Primary – Present Day Application

After the Great Disappointment of 1844, the Second Delay occurred when in 1939, the Biblical Calendar restored by the Millerites was presented to and rejected by the Adventists leaders.

- <https://144000teachers.org/last-conflict/1844-2/> Grace Amadon Collection
- Study of the 3 Delays – The Prophetic Song of Songs, Marian Berry, 1990
<https://www.numbers1317.org/resources/The%20Prophetic%20Song%20of%20songs.pdf>

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Delay – Unbelief – Murmuring – Rebellion – Ancient and Modern Israel History

“ [Israel’s] hearts were filled with murmuring, rebellion, and hatred, and He [God] could not fulfill His covenant with them. 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. 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

We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ’s sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action.” Letter 184, 1901, Evangelism, 693.

“The coming of the Lord will not tarry past the time that the message is borne to all nations, tongues, and peoples. Shall we who claim to be students of prophecy forget that God’s forbearance to the wicked is a part of the vast and merciful plan by which He is seeking to compass the salvation of souls?” RH, June 18, 1901, Evangelism, 697.

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Third Delay in the Book Song of Songs

“I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please.”
Song of Songs 8:4.

The *Roes and Hinds* representing the Word of God *are missing* in chapter 8 verse 4 giving hope for the restoration of the true Worship Time under the Second and Third Angel’s Messages, to be known all over the world and to hasten the Coming of our Savior and King.

Third Delay – Song of Songs 8:4 – Primary – Present Day Application

After the Great Disappointment of 1844, the Third Delay occurred when in 1995, the Biblical Calendar restored by the Millerites was presented to and rejected by the Adventists leaders.
<https://144000teachers.org/last-conflict/1844-2/> Grace Amadon Collection

However, in 2005-2007, the Biblical Calendar restored by the Millerites and contained in the study of the Grace Amadon Collection, has now been presented and still is presented and distributed around the world through the Biblical Calendar Movement 2020 – 2030.

<https://www.biblicalcalendarmovement.org/>

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

“As the time comes for it [the message of the third angel] to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power, – all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these.

Many ... will be seen hurrying hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to bring the light to others. The truth, the Word of God, is as a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who sit in darkness....The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings, and, casting off all man’s machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit’s power. Multitudes will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord.” Evangelism, 699, 700. 13

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Bride is Ready for Her Groom

“We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for? If she be a *wall*, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar. *I am a wall*, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour.” Song of Songs 8:8-10.

The Church –The Bride – The Depository of God’s Law – The Wall

“They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” Isaiah 61:4; 58:12. The prophet here describes a people who, in a time of general departure from truth and righteousness, are seeking to restore the principles that are the foundation of the kingdom of God.

They are repairers of a breach that has been made in *God’s law – the wall* that He has placed around His chosen ones for their protection, and obedience to whose precepts of justice, truth, and purity 14 is to be their perpetual safeguard.” Prophets and Kings, 677.

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Church – *Guests* – *Great Multitude* – Court – Holy Place Experience – *Died* Believing in Christ
“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that *they without us* should not be made perfect.” Hebrews 11:39, 40.

Church – *Bride* – 144000 – Most Holy Place Experience – *Live* in Christ – During the Plagues
“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire, – so resplendent is it with the glory of God, – are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” Revelation 15:2 – 13:.

With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, “having the harps of God,” they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, “the voice of harpers harping with their harps.” Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17. “And they sing “a new song” before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand.” The Great Controversy, 648.

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Church – *Bride* – 144000 – Most Holy Place Experience – *Live* in Christ – During the Plagues

“It is the song of Moses and the Lamb, – a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience, – an experience such as no other company have ever had.” These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as “the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

“These are they which came out of great tribulation;” Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17. They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments. But they have been delivered, for they have “washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” “In their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault” before God.” The Great Controversy, 648.

Day 14 – Bride Ready for Her Groom

Church – *Bride* – 144000 – Most Holy Place Experience – *Live* in Christ – During the Plagues

“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.” Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17. They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst.

But “they shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17.” *The Great Controversy*, 648.

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Let Us Meditate Upon Psalm 119:169-176

Tau – Twenty Second and Last Letter of the Hebrew Alphabet

“Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word. Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word. My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.”

Let Us Pray

“Many ... will be seen hurrying hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to bring the light to others. The truth, the Word of God, is as a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who sit in darkness....The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings, and, casting off all man’s machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit’s power. Multitudes will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord.”
Evangelism, 700.