

REMNANT PROPHECY SEMINAR

Self-Sacrificing Love

05: Receiving the Golden Oil

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I want to go over some statements that will address how to receive the Golden Oil. The Testimony of Jesus says:

“The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. . .”

Sometimes in our application of the wise and foolish virgins we believe that the Wise virgins have the truth; the Foolish ones do not have the truth, or they do not have access to the truth. But according to the Spirit of Prophecy, if you are advocating the truth; if you have a regard for the truth; if you like being around those who believe the truth, this means you have some type of access to the truth. You know where to get the truth; you know where the source of truth is found. I don't want us to have the preconceived opinion that the foolish virgins don't have the truth.

When we talk about how to receive the Golden Oil, we know that the oil is truth but the oil is much more than just a theoretical, intellectual knowledge of the truth. Obviously, if that was the case then they would have the oil, but they don't have the oil. So the oil in relation to the messages of Present Truth, that is only a portion of the oil, there are other ingredients and components to the oil that they do not have.

It tells us here that they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's work. The purpose of Truth is to allow the Spirit of Truth to lead us into truth and sanctify us by the truth, so we can reflect the image of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

“They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles.”

The Parable of the seed on stony ground says that when the SUN was up they are scorched and wither away. If we have not had our old nature broken up, then when the SUNDAY Law arises it will be seen whether we are in the new nature—the new Man—Christ Jesus, or if we are still in the old carnal nature which represents the nature of the Beast, the man of sin, the papacy that is not subject to the Law of God neither can be because there is enmity and hatred against that Law. They are not surrendered to the principle of Self-sacrificing Love.

“Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; . . .”

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Here we see the contrast with the new nature, the image of Christ; the old nature has not been broken up through the work of the Holy Spirit.

“. . .but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live.”

They advocate the truth; they have a regard for the truth, they like being around those that believe the truth, they enjoy the truth for this time made plain upon tables and they like going to the meetings and being numbered among those that believe Present Truth, but at the same time, sadly, they do not know God. So it is possible to study the revelations and visions of Jesus Christ but yet not know Him personally. The reason they do not know Him is they have not studied His character. We can immerse ourselves in the study of prophecy, knowledge, doctrine, various reforms, and Present Truth, but still not know God because in studying all that we still haven't studied His character. We don't know Who God is; it says they have not held communion with Him therefore they do not know God. They do not know how to trust, how to look, and live.

When I consider someone looking and living; I think of the story of the brazen serpent in the wilderness found in Numbers 21:8, 9. The people were attacked by serpents as they were murmuring and complaining while traveling through the country of Edom. God told Moses to make a brazen serpent and He said “Whosoever looks upon that serpent will live.” We know there was no healing power or virtue in the symbol, the brazen serpent on the tree, but according to John 3:14-17, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so the Son of Man was lifted up; so all may look on Him and live. When we do look at Jesus Christ, when we do behold Him on the cross, there is something that takes place in our old nature and our experience.

Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

They have not yielded to the Holy Spirit's working; when you yield to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God leads you to Calvary; you look upon Him Whom your sins have pierced and you mourn for Him. Your heart is broken; this begins the breaking up of the old nature so the Spirit of God can recreate in us a new nature. When we behold the Lamb of God, our sin is taken away and also by beholding we become changed.

This is the difference between the Wise and the Foolish Virgins; this difference is not so much in doctrine. I want to make that plain. I believe in our experience we can get proud and lifted up thinking that somehow and somehow we are better because we subscribe to these theological tenants; that we promote these truths, we have Campmeetings, sermons and DVDs, this is our message that we carry everywhere and so somehow this sets us apart from the foolish virgins in the church.

According to the Spirit of Prophecy it is not doctrinal truth; it is not the knowledge of Prophecy that makes one different; the difference is that the Foolish Virgins have not yielded to the Holy Spirit's working; their nature has not been transformed from the old to the new; they don't know God because they do not study His character. They have not had communion with Him so

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they don't know how to trust, how to look and live, and that can be any one of us. I am not comparing myself among brethren and thinking I am wise or foolish, if I don't know God and have not studied His character and don't know how to look and live, I am a foolish virgin no matter what I profess or what I teach: I do not have the OIL.

2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

So the Spirit of God leads you to Calvary; you look upon Him Who was wounded for your transgressions, bruised for your iniquity, you allow that sin to be taken away. As you continue to behold the glory of the Lord as in a glass you become changed. It is not something that happens overnight, it is something that you have to continually do. We are going to ever be beholding Calvary throughout the ceaseless ages of Eternity and as long as we keep our eyes fixed upon Christ and remember His sacrifice, we will be changed into His image by the Spirit of God from Glory to Glory. This is what the Foolish Virgins have failed to do.

"Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." COL 415.

This is the message; "Behold your God". Can you tell someone to behold someone that you have not beheld? No; so it would be foolish of the foolish virgins to think they can tell someone, "Behold your God. Your God is coming!" and yet they have not beheld Him on the cross; in the Heavenly Sanctuary in His final acts of ministry in the Day of Atonement, the blotting out of sins. All those that have beheld God and His glory in the glass are changed into that same image, from glory to glory by the Holy Spirit of God.

"The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them."

The Foolish Virgins cannot give this message; not because they do not know Daniel and Revelation and how to explain the Three Angel's messages, but because they don't know God and have not studied His character. If you have not thoroughly studied His character and beheld it and had an experience where you are changed into that same image by the Spirit of God then you are not going to be able to give that revelation of His character of Self-sacrificing Love.

"The light of the Sun of Righteousness is to shine forth in good works--in words of truth and deeds of holiness. Christ, the outshining of the Father's glory, came to the world as its light. He came to represent God to men, and of Him it is written that He was anointed "with the Holy Ghost and with power," and "went about doing good." In the synagogue at Nazareth He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18, 19. This was the work He commissioned His disciples to do. "Ye are the light

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of the world," He said. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:14, 16." COL 416

"The message of hope and mercy is to be carried to the ends of the earth. Whosoever will, may reach forth and take hold of God's strength and make peace with Him, and he shall make peace. No longer are the heathen to be wrapped in midnight darkness. The gloom is to disappear before the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. The power of hell has been overcome.

"But no man can impart that which he himself has not received. . . COL 418.

You cannot impart to others what you have not received; it has to be a personal experience. You cannot lean upon the faith and experience of your brethren. We can study together; pray together; we can encourage and provoke one another to love and good works; but at the same time we have to take the Little Book and eat it ourselves, we have to go and behold Christ ourselves. We can't behold Christ for each other; we can't take the book and eat for one another. You can stare and watch me eat my plate of breakfast and lunch and no matter how good I say it is and you can see the expression and happiness and contentment as I am eating this food—but that can't do anything for you. You have to take it and eat it; I can't eat for you and you can't eat for me.

"In the work of God, humanity can originate nothing. No man can by his own effort make himself a light bearer for God. It was the golden oil emptied by the heavenly messengers into the golden tubes, to be conducted from the golden bowl into the lamps of the sanctuary, that produced a continuous bright and shining light. **It is the love of God continually transferred to man that enables him to impart light.** Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith the golden oil of love flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God." COL 418.

We are talking about how to become a bright and continuously shining light. The heavenly messengers are the ones that empty the Golden Oil into the tubes, thus the lamps are fed and when they are shining, it gives light to all. Notice; it is the Love of God continually transferred to man that enables Him to impart light.

Self-sacrificing Love, this abiding principle, this is what allows us to be lights. If this is lacking in us then our lamps are going out in darkness and we can't be those watchmen and light bearers. We can walk in the sparks of our own kindling, as it were, but we don't want to do that because when we see people walking in the sparks of their own kindling that is strange fire! That is the false fire that apostate Protestantism is able to manifest through the power of Satan.

The Golden Oil

We are going to focus on what the Oil is; it is not simply doctrine, knowing the truth or the waymarks, because they know that, advocate that and believe in that. There is something that the wise have and the foolish do not.

"Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith the **golden oil of love** flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God." COL 418.

It is the Golden Oil of Love; Self-sacrificing Love. To get this you have to study His character; hold communion with Him so you can know how to trust, look, and live.

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“Our precious Redeemer is standing before the Father as our intercessor, and is preparing mansions for all those who believe in him as their personal Saviour. Let those who would meet the divine standard, search the Scriptures for themselves, that they may have a knowledge of the life of Christ, and understand his mission and work.” YI, January 16, 1896.

Is this why we search the scriptures Brethren? If we are searching the Scriptures merely to understand Islam in Bible Prophecy, and we need to understand this, it is vital because it is connected to the Latter Rain; if we are searching only to understand what the ‘Day of the Lord’ is or when it comes; or the Sunday Law and the Close of Probation, which we must—but if that is ALL we are doing, we are putting ourselves in a position where we are not going to receive that Golden Oil of Love. It is clear here that we have to study the scriptures for ourselves to have knowledge of the life of Christ and understand His mission and His work. If all we are doing is studying to prove our theology is correct, and our interpretation of Scripture is sound and that we’re on the platform—if that is ALL we are doing, then we are not going to know God experimentally. We might know Him theoretically or historically but we are not going to know Him as a personal Saviour from sin and be changed into His glorious image by the Spirit of God. We will still be in our old nature and not have the new nature.

“Our precious Redeemer is standing before the Father as our intercessor, and is preparing mansions for all those who believe in him as their personal Saviour. Let those who would meet the divine standard, search the Scriptures for themselves, that they may have a knowledge of the life of Christ, and understand his mission and work. Let them behold him as their Advocate, standing within the veil, having in his hand the golden censer, from which the holy incense of the merits of his righteousness ascends to God in behalf of those who pray to him. Could they thus behold him, they would feel an assurance that they have a powerful, influential Advocate in the heavenly courts, and that their suit is gained at the throne of God. What an experience may be attained at the footstool of mercy, which is the only place of sure refuge! You may discern the fact that God is back of his promises, and not dread the issue of your prayers, or doubt that Jesus is standing as your surety and substitute. [The Foolish Virgins do not know this]

“As you confess your sins, as you repent of your iniquity, [You can only do this as you go to Calvary and behold the Lamb lifted up for the sins of the world.] Christ takes your guilt upon himself, and imputes to you his own righteousness and power. To those who are contrite in spirit, he gives the **golden oil of love**, and the rich treasures of his grace.”

When you have a contrite spirit you can receive the Golden Oil of Love. If you are not beholding the Lamb, beholding the Advocate, how can you have a contrite spirit? The Foolish Virgins never had a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:18 “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”

To have a contrite spirit means your heart is broken; our hearts become broken at Calvary. We have a broken heart because we realize that He died of a broken heart; our sins crucified Him; our sins broke His heart and blood and water came out of His side when He was pierced. The Foolish Virgins never had a broken heart.

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Psalm 51:7 "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

When the bones, or the heart is broken that is the work of being purged so that your sins and iniquities can be blotted out. He can create in us a clean heart; He can take away the old nature and give us a new nature. If we are not sighing and crying for the abominations; if we are not weeping over our own sins and the sins of others, we are going to be left without the Seal of God. We won't receive the Golden Oil of Love.

Isaiah 57:15 "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

The contrite spirit is a broken heart but also you are humbled as well. God says He dwells with those of a contrite and humble spirit. What He does for them is He revives them. This is true revival. If our heart is not being broken, and if we are not being humbled and having a contrite spirit then we are not experiencing true revival. There might be a false excitement; like the stony-ground hearers they receive the Word and they get all excited, they start rejoicing but as soon as temptation comes they fall away because it is not an abiding principle; Self-sacrificing Love. So if we are truly being revived by the study of Daniel and Revelation, it is not just the study of the events connected with the close of probation that brings us that experience.

"When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart." TM 114.

True revival is seen in those that have a contrite and humble heart and spirit; to those He gives the Golden Oil of Love and rich treasures of grace.

"It is then that you may see that the sacrifice of self to God through the merits of Christ, makes you of infinite value; for clothed in the robe of Christ's righteousness, you become the sons and daughters of God. Those who approach the Father, recognizing the bow of promise, and ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus, will receive their request. At the very first expression of penitence, Christ presents the humble suppliant's petition before the throne as his own desire in the sinner's behalf. He says, "I will pray the Father for you.'" YI, January 16, 1896

"We should daily obtain a deep and living experience in the work of perfecting Christian character. We should daily receive the holy oil, that we may impart to others. All may be light bearers to the world if they will. We are to sink self out of sight in Jesus. We are to receive the word of the Lord in counsel and instruction, and gladly communicate it. There is now need of much prayer. Christ commands, "Pray without ceasing;" that is, keep the mind uplifted to God, the source of all power and efficiency. TM 510.

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“We may have long followed the narrow path, [the old paths] **but it is not safe to take this as proof that we shall follow it to the end.** If we have walked with God in fellowship of the Spirit, it is because we have sought Him daily by faith. From the two olive trees the golden oil flowing through the golden pipes has been communicated to us. But those who do not cultivate the spirit and habit of prayer cannot expect to receive the golden oil of goodness, patience, long-suffering, gentleness, love.” TM 511.

That sounds like the fruit of the Spirit; so the Golden Oil is the Spirit of God; here it is the fruit of the Spirit. That is what the Foolish don't have. Somehow they are thinking, “With all my knowledge, all of my doctrine and prophecy and theology, that is the oil.” That is not the oil; that is just a portion of it. Without the fruit of the Spirit that lamp is going to go out! It says that if we are not cultivating the Spirit and habit of prayer, prayer life; daily walking with Him, seeking a deep living experience; not being stony-ground hearers where the seed does not penetrate the soil but remains on the surface. There is no root and the SUN will scorch such.

“God is dishonored when we do not receive the communications which he sends us. Thus we refuse the golden oil which he would pour into our souls to be communicated to those in darkness.” RH, February 3, 1903.

The communications, the messages of God's Spirit definitely compose and are designed to lead us to receive the Golden Oil of Love; the fruit of the Spirit.

“When the call shall come, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” those who have not received the holy oil, who have not cherished the grace of Christ in their hearts, will find, like the foolish virgins, that they are not ready to meet their Lord. They have not in themselves the power to obtain the oil, and their lives are wrecked. But if God's Spirit is asked for, if we plead, as did Moses, “Show me thy glory,” the love of God will be shed abroad in our hearts. The golden oil will be given to us.” RH, February 3, 1903.

How do we get it? We have to have the Spirit and prayer; we need to be praying, “Lord, show me Thy glory.” His glory is His name; it is His character. He's merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty. [Exodus 34:6, 7]

If we pray this prayer, “Show me Thy glory”, the Love of God will be shed abroad in our hearts. [Romans 5:5]. When Moses came down from that mountaintop experience, he wasn't the same. His face was shining; it was shining with the glory of God's character and His love; it was the Golden Oil that he had received. When Moses beheld the righteousness of Christ in the Law, he saw the glory of His Self-sacrificing Love, which is what caused his face to light up.

This was the second time Moses had gone up into the mount; the first time he received the Law, but when he came down his face was not lighted up. The second time he went up to receive the Law, when he prophesied again as it were, God began to show him Christ and His righteousness in the Law. God was showing him the power by which they could obey and keep the Law. When he saw Jesus Christ in that Law and His Self-sacrificing Love, that is what caused his face to shine. This is when he received the Love of God, the glory of God and the oil for his lamp and vessel.

The servants of God will also have their faces shining with holy consecration at the Loud Cry.

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“Servants of God, **with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration**, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. [Revelation 13:13.] Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.” GC88 612.

It tells us also when the day and the hour of His coming is announced:

“Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and **our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did** when he came down from Mount Sinai.” EW 14.

What Moses had received was the Golden Oil of Love; Self-sacrificing Love. We want to show some practical ways to receive the Golden Oil and that this is the difference between the Wise and the Foolish. If you think it is just the Three Angel's Messages made plain upon tables, that's not it; it's the Golden Oil of Love; it's the fruit of the Spirit; it's His glory and God is showing us how to receive it.

“We know that lamps which give us light have no light in themselves. They cannot fill themselves. So the holy appointed ones must empty the Golden Oil into the golden tubes; and the heavenly fire when applied makes them burning and shining lights. Our hearts cannot reflect light until there is a vital connection with heaven. This alone can make them burn steadily with holy, unselfish love for Jesus and for all who are the purchase of his blood. And unless we are constantly replenished with the golden oil, the flame will die out. Unless the love of God is an abiding principle in our hearts, our light will go out.” HM, July 1, 1897

What is it that we are in danger of losing? It's not our doctrines; not our theology; not our prophecy because for some, Satan is not going to deceive you with New Theology. You are not going to give up the 2520; you are not going to preach the false view of the Daily; you are not going to reject the correct understanding of the seven trumpets and the Time prophecies; you believe these charts were directed by the hand of the Lord and should not be altered and are still truth for this time; so many of us are not going to be deceived there. The deception of the foolish virgins is, they thought by having these things alone, it constituted them a witness for Christ; it made them a watchman and light bearer because they are bearing light.

No, brethren, it says; “Unless we are constantly replenished with the golden oil, the flame will die out. Unless the love of God is an abiding principle in our hearts, our light will go out.” The Golden Oil is Self-sacrificing Love and that is what they don't have.

“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” The tiniest lamp, kept replenished with the golden oil, which sends forth its bright beams and discovers the darkness, is of far more value than the large lamp which flashes with brilliancy for a time, then sputters and goes out, leaving souls in darkness, to stumble their way along as best they can.” HM, July 1, 1897

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Like the old song says, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." If the tiniest lamp is kept replenished with the Golden Oil, Self-sacrificing Love, it's of more value than that large lamp which flashes with brilliancy and then goes out, leaving souls in darkness. This was the problem with Ephesus; they had left their first love. "Remember where you have fallen and repent and do the first works or I am taking your candlestick from you—you will be in darkness. You won't be My messenger; you won't be My chosen."

"It is the golden oil that the heavenly messengers empty into the golden tubes, to be conducted into the golden bowl, that creates a continuous, bright, and shining light. It is the love of God continually transferred to the human agent that keeps him a bright and shining light for God. Then he can communicate light and truth to all who are in darkness and error and sin. . .

If we don't have this abiding principle in us; if we don't have Self-sacrificing Love, how can we truly communicate light and truth to those who are in darkness, error and sin? You really can't.

"The golden oil is not manufactured by any human skill. It is the unseen power of the holy messengers who wait before the throne of God to communicate to every one who is in darkness, that they may diffuse heaven's light. Into the hearts of those united to God by faith, his golden oil of love flows freely, to flow forth again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God, in being a blessing to their fellow men. Thus they are enabled to shine." HM, July 1, 1897 par. 11

Killing the Dragon

"The sin of much talking is not small in its result. Words bitter as gall may be spoken in the heat of satanic passion; but when these poor, deluded souls come to their senses, and are as ashamed as they ought to be of their words, why do they not acknowledge their sin, and thus disappoint the enemy? It may be that they have cultivated a spirit of evil-surmising, and communicate their suppositions to others. But those whose hearts are right with God will say, "I cannot hear these evil reports." If you know evil of your brother or your sister, go in the spirit of Christ, and talk it over with them. Get it out of the way. Kill the dragon, and hurry him out of sight, where he will never have a resurrection. Let no flaw in your speech, no defection in your spirit, break the friendship and love which Christ has enjoined upon you to cultivate. Then the golden oil will be emptied into the tubes and conducted into the bowl, that the lamp may burn brightly." HM, July 1, 1897 par. 12.

Why don't we have the Golden Oil of Love? It is because the Dragon is alive in us; we have not killed the Dragon. There can be a whole sermon just on this point of the Dragon. This is the reason why the Foolish Virgins do not have the Golden Oil of Love, because they have never killed the Dragon; it says to kill the Dragon and slay him, hurry him out of sight to where he doesn't have a resurrection.

The Dragon represents the old man; the carnal mind; that old nature, the body of sin. In the prophetic sense we know the Dragon represents Egypt which is worldliness, atheism, it's the spirit of unbelief. It is the spirit where even though they receive divine light they harden their heart against the light and they never surrender; they are never broken. It says; "Kill the Dragon"; then the Golden Oil will be given to us.

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Revelation 13:11 “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”

This lamb-like beast is the United States, apostate Protestantism, and the False Prophet. We need to notice the characteristics of the Dragon. If we speak like a Dragon, if we act and behave like a dragon, then we too are manifesting the characteristics of the False Prophet; not true Protestantism but apostate or false Protestantism. What does the Dragon do?

Revelation 13:12 “And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

The character of the Dragon is that of the Papacy; so those that act and speak and behave like a Dragon in relation to how they deal with their brethren, they are exercising the spirit of Rome; Papal Rome. How do you know you are dealing with the Dragon, somebody that is exercising the power and spirit of antichrist in a practical sense here? Notice what they do;

Revelation 13:12 “. . . and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

What does it mean, ‘they cause’? It means they force this worship on others. What happens when you don’t go along with what he says to do? You get persecuted and put to death! Is that the Spirit of Christ? It is not!

So what if I do not want to worship the first beast? What if I don’t go along with your theology or your doctrine? What if I do not see light in it, what if I don’t understand? There is anger; kill you, heretics! Is this the Spirit of the Lamb? What is so deceptive about this, is it looks like a lamb; it looks like it is Christ-like. It looks like it has the Golden Oil of Love. But when it speaks, when it opens its mouth . . . and everything seems to be at peace until you disagree with it—now you got to be put to death. “You better receive my mark in your right hand or forehead or you can’t buy or sell.” That is an ultimatum; that’s a dictator; that is a tyrant; this is the spirit of the Dragon!

What else does the Dragon do? This is what needs to be killed; it needs to be crucified. How is the Dragon to be slain? Can you slay or kill the Dragon by just going to the Law and looking at the Law? That is not going to do it. The only way you can kill the Dragon is by going to the cross; he has to be crucified. Now notice what else the Dragon does:

Revelation 12:3 “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

Who does the Dragon go after? Who is he trying to kill? He is trying to kill Christ; the spirit of the Dragon kills Christ; he persecutes Christ. How do we crucify Christ? It is when we crucify Him afresh and put Him to open shame when we sin and our sins re-enact the scenes of Calvary and wound Him and grieve Him afresh—that is the Dragon at work. You are manifesting the spirit of Satan.

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Revelation 12:7 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

The Dragon is said to be the devil and Satan; and how does he operate? He uses deception. The Dragon that is to be killed represents deception; it represents dishonesty; those that are crucifying Christ and making war against Christ; and not only against Christ.

Revelation 12:13 “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.”

He persecutes the woman; he persecutes the brethren; persecutes Christ—everyone who is not in agreement with him—“You are either with me or against me,” he destroys. He makes war. We are looking at the characteristics of the Dragon and applying them in a practical sense.

Revelation 12:17 “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

The Dragon also makes war against God’s commandment keeping people. Verse 10 says:

Revelation 12:10 “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

Who is the accuser of our brethren? It is Satan who is represented as the Dragon here. The spirit that accuses the brethren, the spirit that wars and persecutes Christ and His church, the spirit that exercises the power of the Papacy, the spirit that says; “Listen, you better worship this way, you better believe this way, or I am putting you to death!” that is the Dragon and that is what the Spirit of Prophecy says here in relationship to how we are dealing with our brothers and sisters.

Jesus said; “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35

The Dragon does not have Self-sacrificing Love; the Dragon has nothing but hatred, vengeance and anger, nothing but death and destruction for the brethren—this is self-exaltation. Notice again:

“Kill the dragon, and hurry him out of sight, where he will never have a resurrection. Let no flaw in your speech, no defection in your spirit, break the friendship and love which Christ has enjoined upon you to cultivate. Then the golden oil will be emptied into the tubes and conducted into the bowl, that the lamp may burn brightly.” HM, July 1, 1897 par. 12.

We indeed are foolish virgins to think that because I have the truth for this time, but I am holding it in unrighteousness; the Dragon has not been killed but is actively alive in me, we are still alright. You can’t get the Golden Oil because Self-sacrificing Love vs. self-preservation,

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selfishness, sin and death; these are the two principles here. We are either manifesting Christ or we are manifesting the Dragon.

The only way the Dragon can be killed and destroyed that he has not a resurrection, is to come to Calvary.

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." What changes are wrought all unknowingly to the one who tremblingly brings from the storehouse the precious word upon which he has been feeding. [Eating the Little Book] The strength is not his own, it is God's. One heart may be turned to God under the co-operation of the Holy Spirit with the human agent, and that one, converted to God, brought under the power of truth, the Holy Spirit, makes a working agency, a fresh instrument, to communicate the golden oil which has been communicated to him through divine and human agencies. That one lamp, kept steadily burning with the golden oil, will light many candles. HM, July 1, 1897 par. 22.

The Golden Oil is not theoretical knowledge and truth alone; that's just part of it. The Golden Oil is Self-sacrificing Love; it is the fruit of the Spirit. As long as the Dragon stands in our way we are not going to get it. This is why the Holy Spirit can be falling on hearts all around us and we won't discern it, we won't receive it. The Dragon, the Image of the Beast that stands in our way prevents us from developing the Image of Christ. If the Dragon is not killed, we are going to join the Dragon in his war against commandment keepers and we will receive his mark. We won't have the Seal of God. We won't be with God's commandment keeping people.

The Song of Songs

Songs of Solomon is a very beautiful book of the Bible; it is also prophetic of the relationship between Christ and His Bride, His church triumphant.

Song 1:1 "The song of songs, which is Solomon's. 2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine. 3 Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. 4 Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee."

Notice the Love of God here; the love that Solomon had for the Shulamite bride is the same divine love that Christ has for His people. What is it that the virgins love more here? The love—is more than wine or doctrine. Don't misunderstand me; we can't get rid of the doctrine; we can't get rid of the Three Angels, this is our birthright. This is our identity, our message and mission, so we can't get rid of this. If we got rid of this, we wouldn't be Seventh-day Adventists any longer. This tells us who we are and shows us where we are going. We've come out of the world, out of Babylon and darkness, we are God's remnant; we have a message. God is going to work through us; but that does not mean that we are witnesses for Christ. That does not mean that we are Christians.

That's been the deception; with us many are more in love with the wine, the doctrine, the history, the reforms, the parallels, the lines; we are more in love with that, than with His Love. When the church comes in contact with Christ and they have a personal and living experience what do they remember more? "We will remember thy love more than wine".

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Why do we love Him? Is it because He showed us the true understanding of the 'Daily'? The trumpets, the Seals, the Seven Thunders, Daniel 11:40-45; the reform lines? Is that what we take away? No; we love Him because He first loved us. Self-sacrificing Love, the Cross will be our science and our song throughout the ceaseless ages of Eternity. That is one thing that we will never stop studying. We love His Love more than wine; Self-sacrificing Love. We remember what He has done for us; how He has delivered us; brought us out of the world, out of Babylon; He has converted us and changed us from what we were—the Dragon, into what we now should be—The Lamb.

Song 1:3 "Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee."

What do they love about Him? His character; His name is as good ointments—what are ointments? It means oil; "Because of the savour of your good oil—Thy name is as good oil." Name means honor and authority; it means character. Your character is as oil poured forth therefor the virgins love Thee. What is the difference between the Wise and the Foolish Virgins? The Spirit of Prophecy says that the oil is character and character is not transferable.

I am coming to understand that the **Foolish Virgins, they love His wine, His true doctrine more than they love His character.** They love His wine more than Love—that is why they don't get the Holy Oil poured forth into their lamps. The Wise love His character more than His doctrines.

"Draw me, we will run after thee": what draws you, what causes you to run after Him? It should be His Self-sacrificing Love, His character that draws you. "If I be lifted up I will draw all men to myself"; "I have loved thee with an everlasting love therefore with loving-kindness will I draw thee". If we are just being drawn to Christ because of doctrine and theology, the theory of truth, that is not going to be enough to carry you through. It is not going to prepare you to stand during the final crisis—it's not.

Song 2:1 "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. 2 As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. 3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."

His fruit; this is the fruit of the Spirit, His character, the oil, His love, was sweet to my taste.

Song 2:4 "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."

Self-sacrificing Love, that's the banner; what is this banner of Love? It is the blood-stained banner of Prince Emanuel. It is also the banner of the Third Angel's Message; "The commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus". When we are presenting the Third Angel's Message, we can't just present the commandments alone; we have to include the Faith of Jesus. They go together hand in hand.

What does Jesus love about His bride? We've seen that the church says, "Your Love is better than wine". That is important because this is a woman that has her first love. What happens when you let go of Love but hang onto wine—the truth, the doctrine? You are going to let go of the doctrine, you will let go of the reforms, you will apostatize, you will backslide sooner or later. Love is what holds you to preserve the reforms, the doctrines, the landmarks, and the waymarks.

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Song 4:1 "Behold, thou art fair, my love; [this is Christ speaking.] behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead."

This wording is all highly symbolic and prophetic.

Song 4:2 "Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them. 3 Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely: thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks."

Song 4:10 "How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices!"

Notice, the church says "I will remember Thy love more than wine." Then what does Christ say that He loves about His bride? He says that their love is better than wine. So what does Christ want us to have? Does He want us to have correct doctrine? Yes; He doesn't want us to have a false message. He wants us to be true disciples, true prophets, true watchmen. But what does He want more? He wants to smell the sweet oil from us; He wants the service of our love.

Remember He said, "Peter, do you love Me?" he didn't say, "Peter, do you believe this?" "Peter, do you understand this?" "Peter, do you know how to interpret this?" that is not what He said and I am not trying to be funny here! He says, "Peter, do you love Me?" then He says, "Feed My sheep." Now you can interpret the Scriptures; now you can teach the truth; now you can expound on Prophecy.

Remember, we read it; we can have all the other excellences and all the other graces and abilities and gifts, but if we are lacking in Love then our work is going to be a failure. What does Jesus love most about us? He wants our love because He knows that if He has our love, He truly has us. "I am not worried about the message, or about the truth, I want your love."

Song 6:4 "Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners."

This is the church triumphant; 'terrible as an army with banners'. What are the banners? The banner is love. Self-sacrificing Love; the banner is the Third Angel with Jesus being the great center of attraction.

Song 6:10 "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?"

This is God's church, she has the greater and lesser light, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy; she looks forth as the morning—the Day Dawn:

2 Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

Hosea 6:3 "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."

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Just as Christ goes forth as the morning so does she; and He will come unto us as the rain, the latter and former rain upon the earth. This is God's church triumphant, she has the banner of love, she has His character, she has the oil, and she has the message for the time, the Third Angel.

Song 8:6 "Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame."

We are talking about the Sealing work; set me as a seal upon your heart and your arm. Where was the Law to be? As frontlets between your eyes, [a band on the forehead] Bind it upon your fingers, bind them upon the tables of your heart. Then it says that love is strong as death; in other words, God's hatred for sin is as strong as death; but God's love is stronger than death.

God's love is like a most vehement flame; it's like a coal of fire which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. It's an abiding principle. We are talking about the Seal but in connection with the Seal is Self-sacrificing Love, the glory of the Law.

Song 8:7 "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned."

What is God trying to show us in a prophetic sense? Waters and floods cannot drown love; they can't quench it either, it is too hot, too powerful. What was it that Peter lacked so that He was not prepared for his time of trouble? Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Jesus asked him three times because Peter denied Him three times—he really did not have Self-sacrificing Love for his master.

The Love represents the Golden Oil; the waters and floods cannot drown out the one who has Self-sacrificing Love—the one that has the Golden Oil of Love in their vessels and lamps. Brethren, is there a flood coming? Is there a storm coming? What are the waters and floods that are going to try to destroy us—sweep us away with storm and tempest?

Isaiah 59:19 "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."

What is this standard that the Holy Spirit lifts up against them; the ensign, the banner? It is Self-sacrificing Love. That's the standard that's lifted up against the enemy and he flees. We are talking about the waters and the floods coming against God's people, but as the Bible says:

Isaiah 43:1 "O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. 2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

Waters, flood, fire in the last days represent the time of trouble.

Isaiah 8:7 "Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: 8 And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel."

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What are the waters and floods coming upon God's people in the last days? Remember the serpent cast out the flood out of his mouth to cause the woman to be drowned. What is going to keep us from sinking, drowning, being overflown by the flood of persecution? It is God's character of love; many waters can't quench love, neither can the floods drown it: Self-sacrificing Love. This is the Golden Oil. In Daniel 11:40, 41, when he enters into the Glorious Land and many are overthrown; why are they overthrown? It is because they didn't have the Golden Oil of Self-sacrificing Love. That is what is going to keep us; that is what is going to hold us; that is going to keep us through the deepest night of apostasy and darkness.

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."

This will draw the gentiles to be converted; Self-sacrificing Love. The last warning message, the last merciful rays is a revelation of the character of God's love. This is what will keep us; if we don't have this then our experience will be no better than Peter's; we will come to the test of the three-fold union and deny Him with cursing and swearing. We will be like the Dragon; like the Beast; but not like Jesus.

Can you have Self-sacrificing Love and love sin too? The Bible says in Psalm 97:10, "Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:" Hebrews 1:9 "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity." In Psalm 91, the reason why God delivers His people in the time of trouble is found in verse 14:

"Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation."

If we don't love His love, His name and His character more than the wine of doctrine, prophecy, or reforms, as true and correct and wonderful as they are; we are not preparing to get the Golden Oil. Then when the floods come and the winds are loosed, our houses are going to be swept away by storm and tempest. May that not be; may we have the experience of Self-sacrificing Love, that principle, that power will hold us and not let us go and we can be victorious in Christ and reflect His image fully that the world can be lightened with His glory and come out of Babylon and stand with us.