

Our First Allegiance

Ac:5:29: Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 32: And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

- **Romans 13:1** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

- **Romans 13:7** Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.
- **1 Pet. 2:17** Honour all [men]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Absolute Universal Ruler

- Ps. 103:19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Absolute Universal Ruler

- **Dan. 4:17** This matter [is] by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that **the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men**, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

Earthly Kings Subject to A Higher Power

- **Daniel 4:37** Now I Nebuchadnezzar **praise and extol and honour the King of heaven**, all whose works [are] truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

A Time to Defy The World's Principle in The State

- Dan. 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter. 3:17 If it be [so], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver [us] out of thine hand, O king. 3:18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**

A Time to Defy The World's Principle in The State

- **Mat. 4:8** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all **the kingdoms of the world**, and the glory of them; **4:9** And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, **if thou wilt fall down and worship me.** **4:10**
Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Serve

- **To act as the minister of; to perform official duties to; as, a minister serves his prince.**
- **To obey servilely or meanly.**
- **To be subservient or subordinate to.**

Worship

- **Chiefly and eminently, the act of paying divine honors to the Supreme Being; or the reverence and homage paid to him in religious exercises, consisting in adoration, confession, prayer, thanksgiving and the like.**
- **To adore; to pay divine honors to; to reverence with supreme respect and veneration.**
- **To honor with extravagant love and extreme submission; as a lover.**

Neither Serve Nor Worship

- **Oh king, we will serve and obey you in civil matters relating to the government. However, we will not act as a minister of or pay divine honors to your god relative to religion.**

A Time To Defy The World's Principle in The Church

- Acts. 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set [them] before **the council**: and the high priest asked them, 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that **ye should not teach in this name?** and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your **doctrine**, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 5:29 Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

A Time To Defy The World's Principle in The Church

- **Regarding religious duty and conscientious doctrinal beliefs, we will obey God and not men. Whether they are in government or Church:**
 - We will obey God, not a council of men.
 - We will obey God, not talented men.
 - We will obey God, not educated men.
 - We will obey God, not experience men.
 - We will obey God, not reverent men.
 - We will obey God, not holy men.
 - We will obey God, not God's men.
 - **WE WILL OBEY GOD AND GOD ALONE!**

First Allegiance to Heaven

- {ChS 105.1} “The call to place all on the altar of service comes to each one. We are not all asked to serve as Elisha served, nor are we all bidden to sell everything we have; but God asks us to give His service the first place in our lives, to allow no day to pass without doing something to advance His work in the earth. He does not expect from all the same kind of service.

First Allegiance to Heaven

- “One may be called to ministry in a foreign land; another may be asked to give of his means for the support of gospel work. God accepts the offering of each. It is the consecration of the life and all its interests, that is necessary. **Those who make this consecration, will hear and obey the call of Heaven.**” --Prophets and Kings, p. 221. {ChS 105.1}

First Allegiance to Heaven

- **“At this time** we need, not men who will catch up new, fanciful ideas, but men who will catch the notes that sound from the heavenly courts, and **who, without consulting any man, will obey God’s orders.** We have been warned that the enemy will bring in his deceptive working. In so subtle a way will he work that he will appear to be an angel of light. I am bidden to lift up my voice and say to all our people, Beware, beware. Those who, having had warnings and entreaties and counsels, still follow their own will, are not laborers together with God. {PCO 17.2}

False Gods In Church

- “The high-handed power that has been developed, **as though position has made men gods**, makes me afraid, and ought to cause fear. It is a curse wherever and by whomsoever it is exercised. This lording it over God's heritage will create such a disgust of man's jurisdiction that a state of insubordination will result. The people are learning that men in high positions of responsibility cannot be trusted to mold and fashion other men's mind and characters. The result will be a loss of confidence even in the management of faithful men. **But the Lord will raise up laborers who realize their own nothingness without special help from God.**
... {TM 361.1}

Elijah's Rebuke to the King

- **1 Kings 16:30** And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that [were] before him. **16:31** And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and **served** Baal, and **worshipped** him.

Elijah's Rebuke to the King

- **1 Kings 17:1** And Elijah the Tishbite, [who was] of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, [As] the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

The Spirit of Elijah

- **Mal 4:5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:
4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

The Baptist In Spirit of Elijah

- **Mark 6:17** For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. **6:18** For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. **6:19** Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:

No Earthly human Consideration

- **Luke 14:26** If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

No Earthly human Consideration

- **Mat. 12:47** Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. **12:48**
But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? **12:49** And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! **12:50** For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

No Human Interference

- **Luke 2:48** And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. **2:49** And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

No Human Interference

- **John 2:3** And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. **2:4** Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

Speak With Boldness

- **Jer. 1:17** Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. **1:18** For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. **1:19** And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I [am] with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

The World's True Nobility

- **“How often those who trusted the Word of God, though in themselves utterly helpless, have withstood the power of the whole world,--Enoch, pure in heart, holy in life, holding fast his faith in the triumph of righteousness, against a corrupt and scoffing generation;**

The World's True Nobility

- “Noah and his household against the men of his time, men of the greatest physical and mental strength and the most debased in morals; the children of Israel at the Red Sea, a helpless, terrified multitude of slaves, against the mightiest army of the mightiest nation on the globe;

The World's True Nobility

- “David, a shepherd lad, having God's promise of the throne, against Saul, the established monarch, bent on holding fast his power; Shadrach and his companions in the fire, against Nebuchadnezzar on the throne; Daniel among the lions, against his enemies in the high places of the kingdom; Jesus on the cross, against the Jewish priests and rulers forcing even the Roman governor to work their will; Paul in chains, led to a criminal's death, against Nero, the despot of the world's empire. {RH, December 24, 1908 par. 6}

The World's True Nobility

- “Such examples are not found in the Bible alone. They abound in every record of human progress. The Vaudois and the Huguenots, Wyclif and Huss, Jerome and Luther, Tyndale and Knox, Zinzendorf and Wesley, with multitudes of others, have witnessed to the power of God's Word against human power and policy in support of evil. These are the world's true noblemen. They are its royal line.” {RH, December 24, 1908 par. 7}

No Compromise For Peace

- **{GC88 45.2} After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the Word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children.**

No Compromise For Peace

- To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war. {GC88 45.2}

5:29. What Does God Say?--We are not to inquire, What is the practice of men? or, What is the custom of the world? We are not to ask, How shall I act in order to have the approval of men? or, What will the world tolerate? The question of intense interest to every soul is, What hath God said? We are to read His Word and obey it, not swerving one jot or tittle from its requirements, but acting irrespective of human traditions and jurisdiction (RH Oct. 1, 1895).

5:31 (Romans 2:4). Repentance the Gift of Christ.--
[Acts 5:31 quoted.] Repentance is as much the gift of Christ as is forgiveness, and it cannot be found in the heart where Jesus has not been at work. We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ. Christ draws the sinner by the exhibition of His love upon the cross, and this softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition and repentance in the soul (RH April 1, 1890).



The Warning of Gamaliel



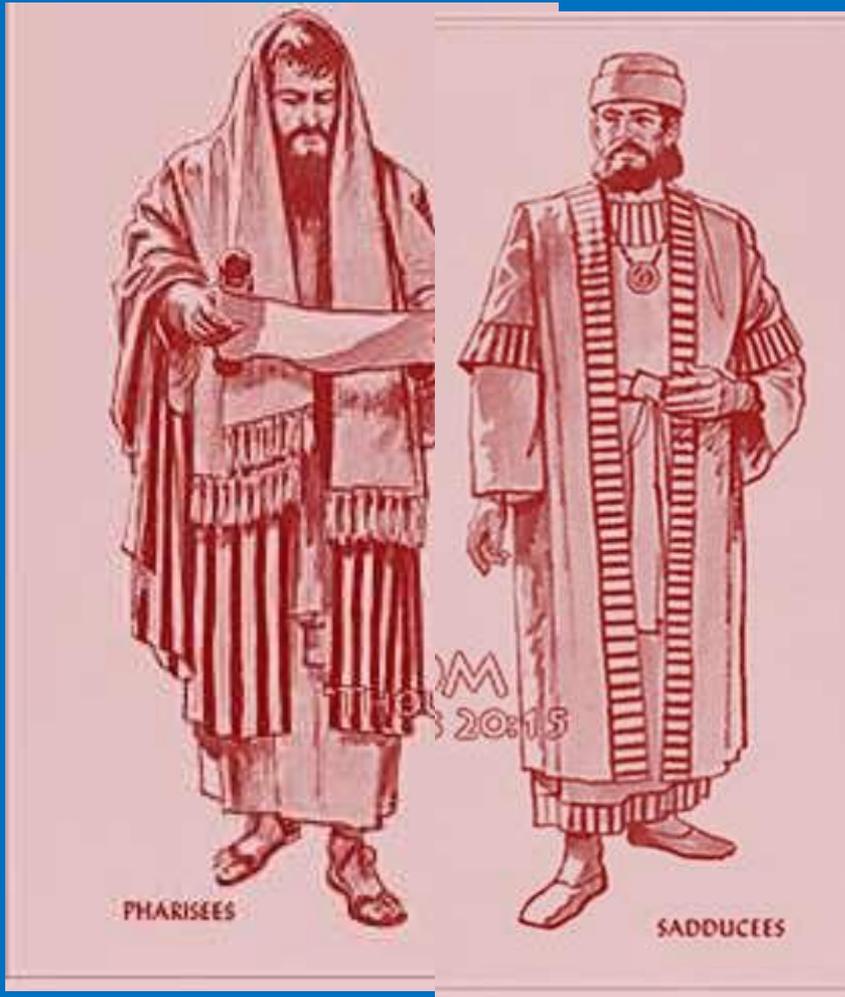
The Warning of Gamaliel

The Pharisees intended
to kill the apostles.

Acts 5:34 “..a teacher of the law,
respected by all the people
stood up in the Sanhedrin and
gave orders to put the men
outside for a short time.”



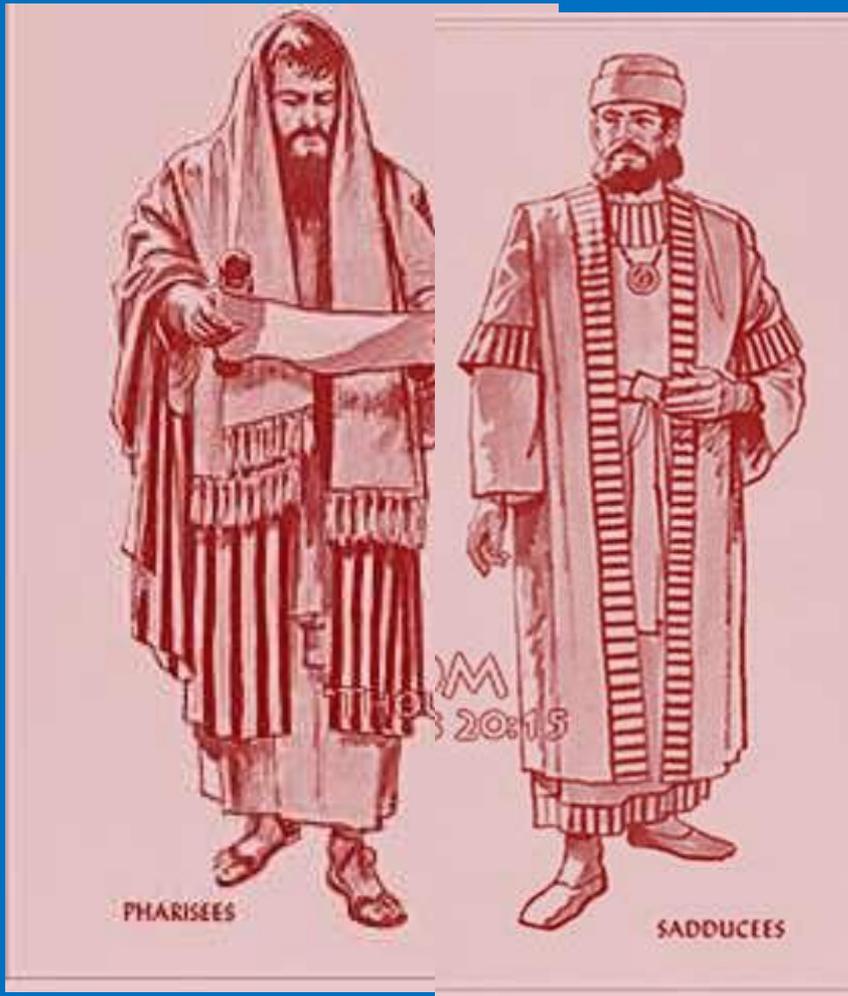
The Warning of Gamaliel



But so long as Jesus remains man's intercessor in the sanctuary above, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is felt by rulers and people. It still controls to some extent the laws of the land. Were it not for these laws, the condition of the world would be much worse than it now is. While many of our rulers are active agents of Satan, God also has His agents among the leading men of the nation. The enemy moves upon his servants to propose measures that would greatly impede the work of God; but statesmen who fear the Lord are influenced by holy angels to oppose such propositions with unanswerable arguments. Thus a few men will hold in check a powerful current of evil. The opposition of the enemies of truth will be restrained that the third angel's message may do its work. When the final warning shall be given, it will arrest the attention of these leading men through whom the Lord is now working, and some of them will accept it, and will stand with the people of God through the time of trouble. {GC 610.3}

The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel. {GC 611.1}

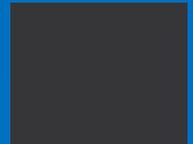
The Warning of Gamaliel



The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the "former rain" was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the "latter rain" will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. "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." Hosea 6:3. "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain." Joel 2:23. "In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh." "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:17, 21. {GC 611.2}

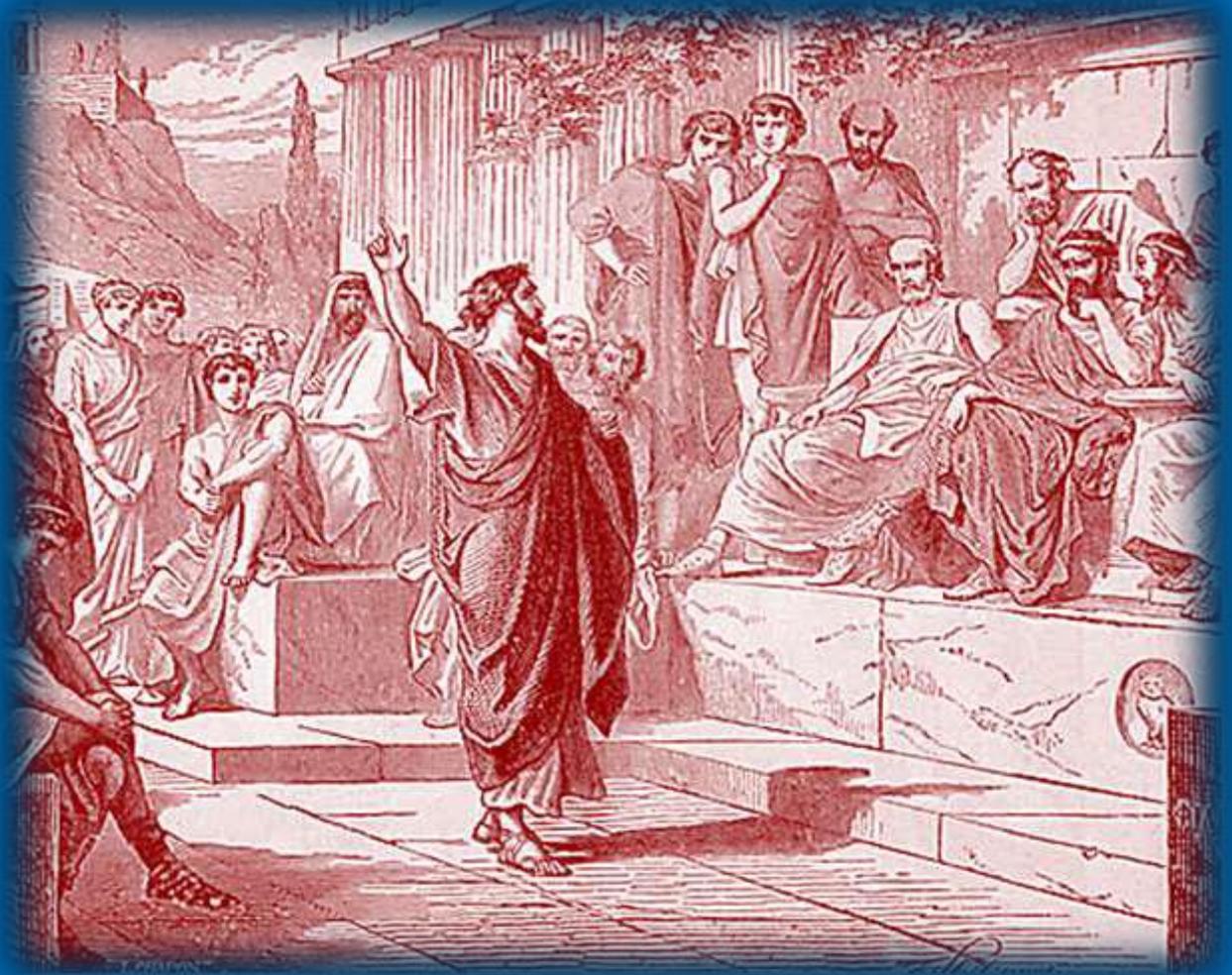
The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus." Acts 3:19, 20. {GC 611.3}

Stephen



6:1-7. Responsibilities in God's Work to Be Shared.--
The Lord here gives us an example of the care that should be exercised when choosing men for His service. In this case, one man was not made the only burden bearer of great responsibilities. Seven men were chosen, and they were to be closely united in their work (MS 91, 1899).

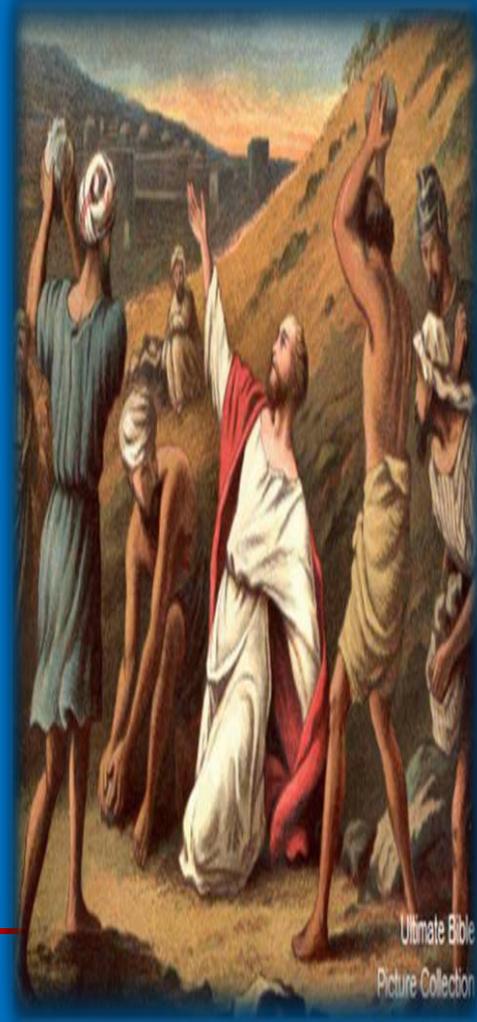
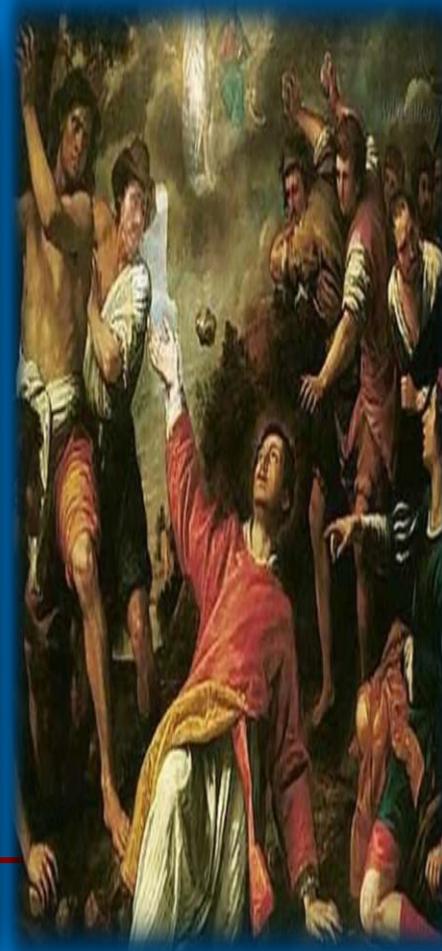
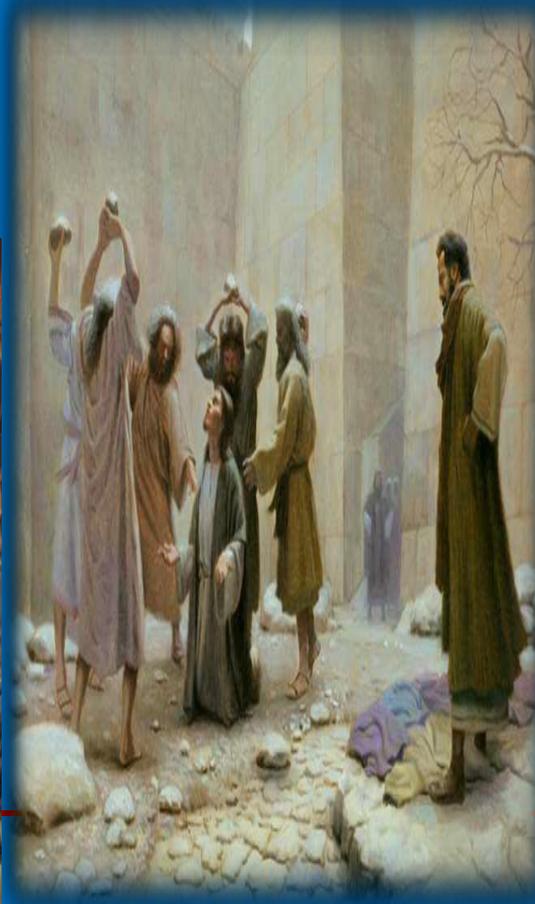
Acts 6:8 **“And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.”**



Stephen was brought before the High Priests of the Hellenistic Jews, called the “Synagogue of the Freedmen”

Stephen, empowered by the Holy Spirit, recounted Old Testament history and truths, and called his accusers “stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, resisting the Holy Spirit as your fathers did.”

Stephen would be stoned to death by the mob.



The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges. {5T 463.2}

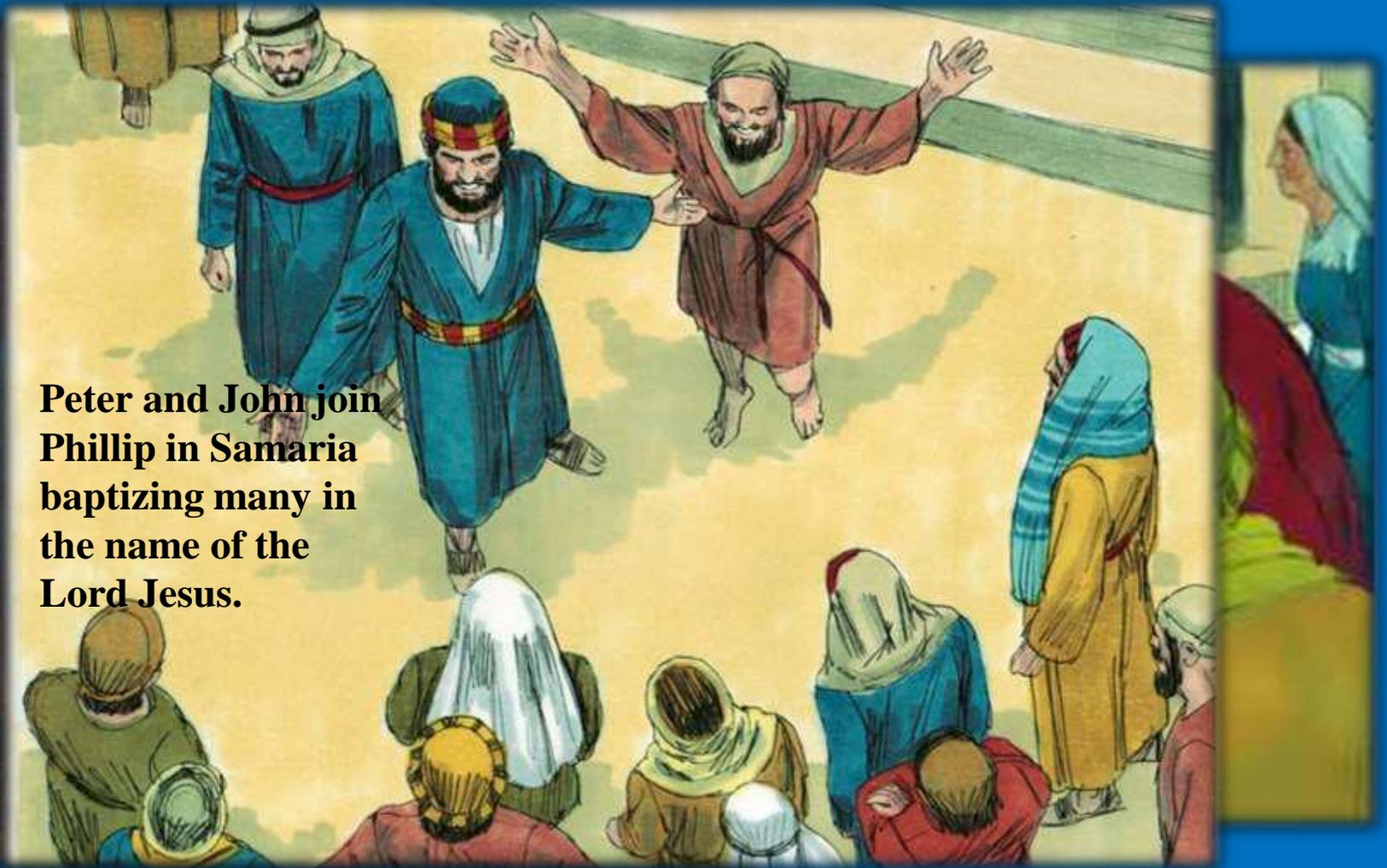
And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe, but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith, and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God, and a turning to men, putting human wisdom in place of divine. {CW 39.3}

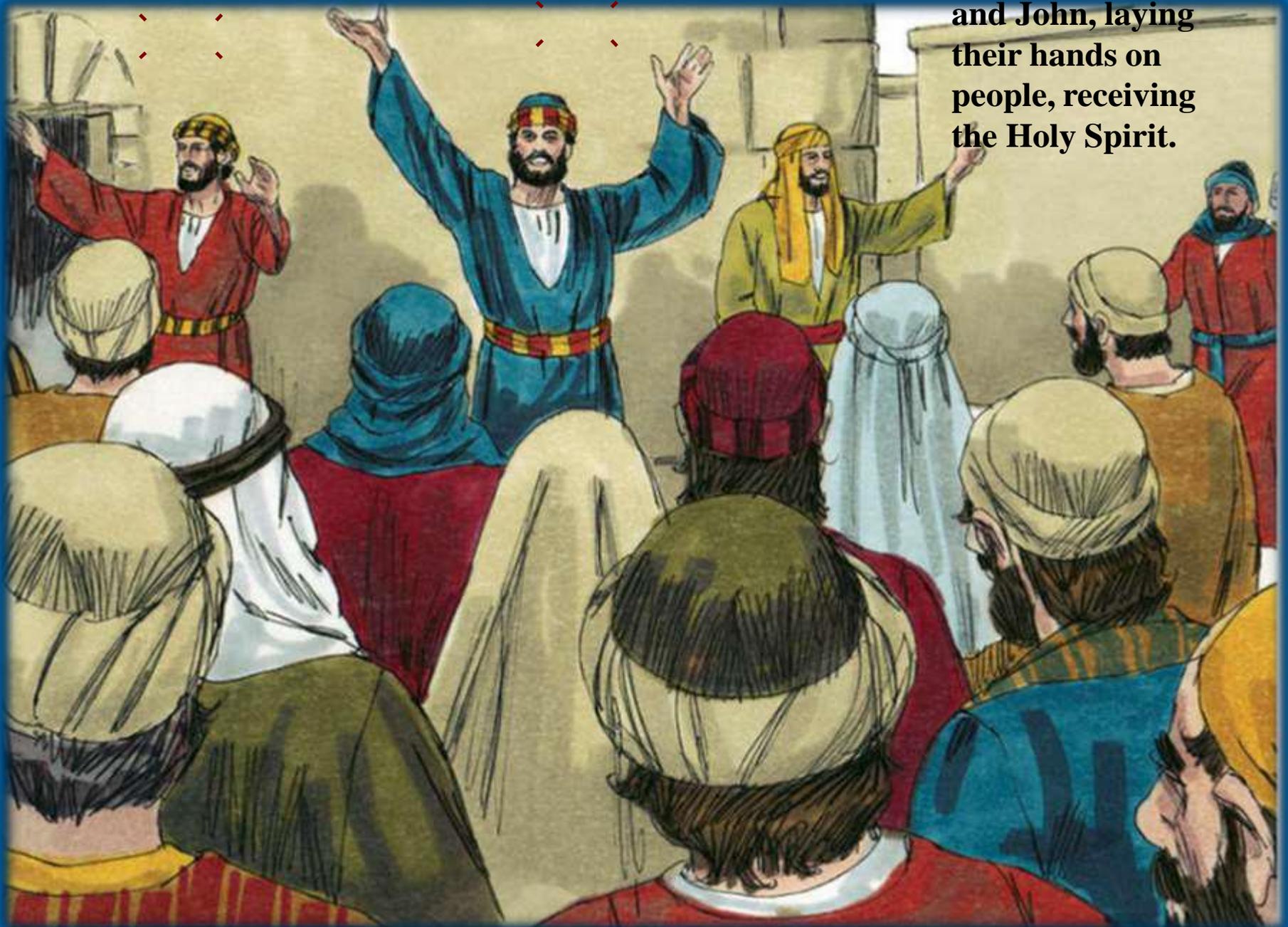
The time is coming when we shall be separated and scattered, and each one of us will have to stand without the privilege of communion with those of like precious faith; and how can you stand unless God is by your side, and you know that He is leading and guiding you? Whenever we come to investigate Bible truth, the Master of assemblies is with us. The Lord does not leave the ship one moment to be steered by ignorant pilots. We may receive our orders from the Captain of our salvation.--Review and Herald, March 25, 1890.

Phillip in Samaria

He proclaimed Jesus

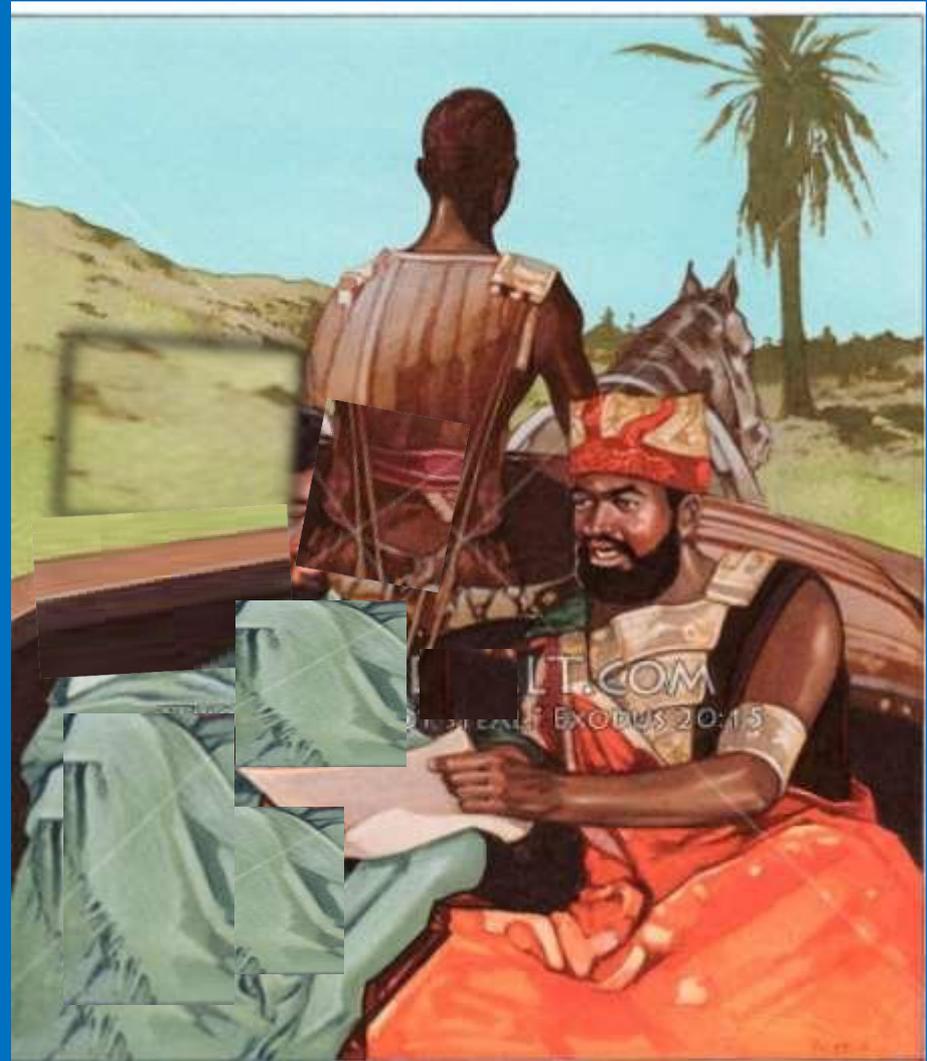
**Peter and John join
Phillip in Samaria
baptizing many in
the name of the
Lord Jesus.**

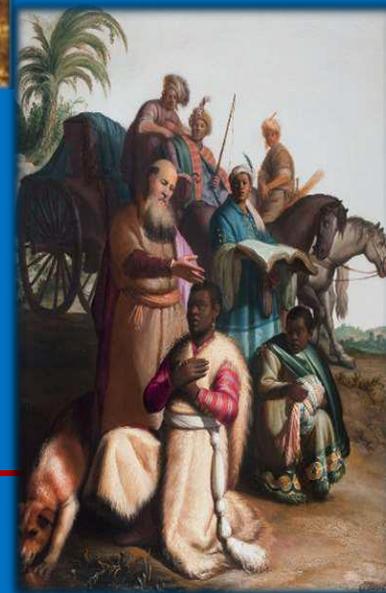
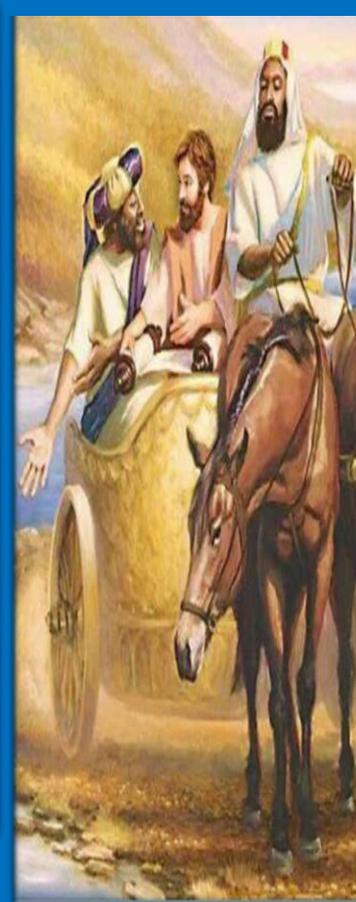




and John, laying their hands on people, receiving the Holy Spirit.

The Ethiopian Eunuch





When God pointed out to Philip his work, the disciple did not say, "The Lord does not mean that." No; "he arose and went." He had learned the lesson of conformity to God's will. He realized that every soul is precious in the sight of God, and that angels are sent to bring those who are seeking for light into touch with those who can help them. Today as then angels are waiting to lead men to their fellow men. . . . In the experience of Philip and the Ethiopian is presented the work to which the Lord calls His people (RH March 2, 1911).

The time is coming when we shall be separated and scattered, and each one of us will have to stand without the privilege of communion with those of like precious faith; and how can you stand unless God is by your side, and you know that He is leading and guiding you? Whenever we come to investigate Bible truth, the Master of assemblies is with us. The Lord does not leave the ship one moment to be steered by ignorant pilots. We may receive our orders from the Captain of our salvation.--Review and Herald, March 25, 1890.