

God's Foresight.

Isa. 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 ***Declaring the end from the beginning***, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. 9 Behold, ***the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare***: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Based on God's Intelligence.

When the plan of salvation had been formed, and Christ had elected to give his life for the redemption of men, he was then, already, in the intent and purpose of that plan, the offered victim, and is spoken of as the “Lamb slain”—“slain from the foundation of the world” (*kosmos*), or from the time when the redemptive economy was established. Revelation 13:8. It will be noticed that he is not said to have been slain *before* the foundation of the world, implying that the fall of man and redemption by the death of Christ, were events fixed and foreordained before the world was formed, and man created. This would place too powerful a weapon against the divine government, in the hands of the skeptic. LUJ 49.2

But the disbeliever asks with an air of expected victory, Did not God foreknow that man would sin? Was it not therefore a settled fact that he would sin? And did not God, therefore, when he made man with that certainty before him, become responsible for the entrance of sin into this world?—So it might look from that point of view, and with that method of reasoning. But as ***the Scriptures do not so express it***, it is not necessary to formulate it to such a conclusion. God made man, as he must make all intelligences who are to serve him, a free moral agent, that such service may not be mechanical and constrained, but voluntary and free. As such, he could obey or disobey; could maintain his rectitude or fall into sin. His course was to be determined by his own choice. God did not force him to sin, nor did he intend that he should sin. On the other hand, he made every possible inducement (short of constraining his free will) to keep him in the path of obedience. Being free, of course God knew that he *might* sin; but ***this would be a very different thing from saying that he know that he would sin***. LUJ 49.3

And is not this as far as it is necessary to go? ***To God's omniscience, every possible course that Adam might take as a free spirit, with a free choice, and every possible contingency that might arise from his uncoerced action, was open and plain***. So, also, every step necessary to meet that contingency would be provided for should it occur. But, it will be asked, does not Peter (1 Peter 1:20)

say that Christ was foreordained to his work *before* the foundation of the world? —No; not “foreordained,” as in the common version, but *foreknown* (*prognomenou*). Christ could be foreknown, in God’s plan, as a redeemer, to meet a possible contingency of that nature that might arise, without being foreordained to meet a known necessity already in existence. Man chose to sin; then that One foreknown in the counsels of eternity, to meet such a contingency should it arise, entered upon his work, and in the fulness of time was, as Peter says, manifested to the world. LUJ 50.1

This view of the subject does not restrict the attribute of God’s foreknowledge, but greatly enhances it; it leaves man a free moral agent, as he was; and it leaves the skeptic without a case. Christ could, therefore, properly be spoken of only as slain *from* the foundation of the world, just as the Scriptures do speak of him; for it would be as manifestly inconsistent to speak of him as slain *before* the foundation of the world, before the course of man called for such a sacrifice, as it would have been to introduce a type of Christ in the garden of Eden, previous to the fall of man, before a redeemer had become a necessity. LUJ 51.1

Note: And just so was it with King Saul. God had chosen him to lead Israel yet Saul having all that we have to be successful failed to take advantage of Gods blessings. 1Sam. 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee. 15:11 ***It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me,*** and hath not performed my commandments. . . . 26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. And so it is with us today.

Gen. 11:5 And the LORD ***came down to see the city and the tower,*** which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Gen. 18:20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 ***I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.***

Jer. 7:11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even ***I have seen it,*** saith the LORD. 12 But go ye now unto

my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

Luke 2:46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. 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. 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?** 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. John 15:22 **If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.** Luke 19:42 Saying, **If thou hadst known,** even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but **now they are hid from thine eyes.** 43 **For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,** 44 **And shall lay thee even with the ground,** and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; **because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.** . . . 45 And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; 46 Saying unto them, **It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.** 47 And **he taught daily in the temple.** Matt. 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. 37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.** 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Eze. 8:6 He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, **that I should go far off from my sanctuary?** but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.

Eze. 8:5-16; 2Chron. 32:31; Isa. 14:12-15; 2Thess. 2:3,4.

Note: As in the New Testament if God had not left the Temple for the: Rejecting His word, Preaching false theories, Disobeying His Commandments, Mingling with the tares, None of this could happen. The 1st 1Kings 14:25,26—Shishak; 2nd 1Kings 15:18—Ben-hadad; 3rd 2Kings 12:18—Hazeal; 4th 2Kings 14:14—Jehoash took the last pieces/vessels Moses had made; 5th 2Chron. 24:7—

Athaliah's sons; 6th 2Kings 16:7,24—Tilgath-pilnesser; 7th 2Kings 18:15,16—Sennacherib, 8th 2Kings 21:4,5,7—Manasseh 9th 2Kings 24:13;25:13-17—Nebuchadrezzar. Not to mention Eze. 8. 10th John 2:13-17. 13th Luke 19:45,46. These never stopped Jesus's ministry.

Job. 23:8 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: 9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: 10 But he knoweth the way that I take: ***when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.***

Ps. 11:4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, ***his eyelids try***, the children of men. 5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

Ps. 21:8 Thine hand ***shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.*** 9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

Ps. 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and ***prove me; try my reins*** and my heart.

Ps. 33:15 He fashioneth their hearts alike; he ***considereth*** all their works.

Ps. 35:15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are ***open unto their cry.***

Ps. 66:10 For thou, O God, ***hast proved us: thou hast tried us***, as silver is tried. 11 Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins. 12 Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

Ps. 105:17 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: 18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: 19 Until the time that his word came: ***the word of the LORD tried him.***

Ps. 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: ***try me***, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Pro. 5:21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ***pondereth*** all his goings.

Pro. 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, **beholding** the evil and the good.

Pro. 17:3 The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: **but the LORD trieth the hearts.**

Pro. 21:2 **Every way of a man is right in his own eyes:** but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Pro. 24:12 **If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it?** and he that keepeth thy soul, **doth not he know it?** and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Isa. 43:12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, **when there was no** strange god among you: therefore **ye are my witnesses**, saith the LORD, that I am God. 1Cor. 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

2Chron. 32:31 . . . God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart.

Jer. 12:3 But thou, O LORD, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and **tried mine heart toward thee:** pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter.

Jer. 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 **I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.**

Lam. 3:40 Let us **search and try our ways**, and turn again to the LORD. 1Cor. 11:28 But let a man examine himself, . . . 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 2Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

Dan. 12:35 And some of them of understanding **shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white**, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.

Zech. 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and **will try them as gold is tried:** they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is

my God.

1Cor. 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, ***because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.***

1Thess. 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

1Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning ***the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*** 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, ***that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*** 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. . . . 12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

John 16:30 Now are we sure ***that thou knowest all things,*** and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. 31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? 32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. 33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, ***Lord, thou knowest all things;*** thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

The Cross and its Shadow

S N Haskell 1914

THE THREE BOOKS OF JUDGEMENT

1. Book of Life

Luke 10:20. Names written in heaven.

Luke 10:19, 20. To be enrolled in the book of life is the highest honor given mortals.

Phil. 4:3, Names of faithful workers recorded.

Ex. 32:33, The names of those that cling to sin will be removed.

Rev. 3:5. Names of the faithful retained.

Rev. 13:8;17:8. Wicked are not recorded.

Rev. 20:15. None will be saved whose names are not recorded in the book of life.

Isa. 4:3, margin.

Ps. 69:28; Eze. 13:9.

Heb. 12:23; Dan. 12:1.

2. Book of Remembrance

Mal. 3:16. Records every word.

Matt. 12:36, 37. Idle words.

Ps. 56:8. Tears of repentance.

Ps. 87:4-6. Birthplace and environments.

Eccl. 12:13, 14. Every secret act.

1 Cor. 4:5. Counsels of the heart.

3. Book of Death

Jer. 17:13. Those that forsake God are written in the earth.

Jer. 2:22. Sins all recorded.

Job 14:17. Sins sealed up.

Deut. 32:32-36. The sins of the wicked are all "*laid up in store*" until the day of judgment.

Hos. 13:12. Sin bound up.

Eccl. 12:14 For ***God shall bring every work into judgment***, with every secret thing, whether it be ***good***, or whether it be ***evil***.

Heb. 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." This principle taken at the time of temptation illustrates the time of need is before we fall. *James 1:13-16; Eph. 6:11-14; Heb. 12:4,2;5:9.*

Note: Apply this view of God to Prophecy He thought it out in detail. In Genesis chapter 1 we read of creation God saw that it was good. Forethought to fit a world for a specific purpose to provide every need and comfort for man. Some will think as many do this phrase expresses the reaction of surprise—wow that came out

really good. This does not so imply. Saw; to command or decree:—

Ps. 148:5 “Let them praise the name of the LORD: for *he commanded,*” (*creation to be good*) “*and they were created.*” Pro. 8:22 “The LORD possessed me” (wisdom) “in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.”

Saw: a command or decree. Commanded or Decreed it to be good. Gen. 1:4 God **saw** the light, that it was good:; verses 10,12,18,21,25, God **saw** that it was good:; 31 And God **saw every thing** that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

Note: At each fork in our road societal influence or circumstance we choose to turn one direction or another. Right or wrong, truth or error, that God before the earth was created thought out. Foreseeing in every human, man’s inhumanity to his fellow man, every act of unselfish love—He knew You! But we, will we know Him, will we be like Him. This choice will decide our destiny. Will we make the purpose of His will our only interest? The era in which we live is recognized by a sequence of events in prophecy not time. It is by knowing the events that we can see the end of all things is near. The history of the 7 churches, the 7 seals, The beasts of Rev. 12 and 13, of 17 and 18 all cover the same events but with different details, collectively to guide our way.

The temptations to which Christ was subjected were a terrible reality. As a free agent, *He was placed on probation*, with liberty to yield to Satan's temptations and work at cross-purposes with God. *If this were not so*, if it had not been possible for Him to fall, *He could not have been tempted in all points as the human family is tempted*. (YI Oct. 26, 1899). {5BC 1082.5} Rev. 3:21.

The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, *cannot inherit* the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits, *must be given up*; for grace is not inherited. The new birth consists in having *new motives, new tastes, new tendencies*. *Those who are begotten unto a new life* by the Holy Spirit, have *become partakers of the divine nature*, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ. When men who claim to be Christians retain all their natural defects of character and disposition, *in what does their position differ from that of the worldling?* They do not appreciate the truth as a sanctifier, a refiner. They have not been born again (The Review and Herald, April 12, 1892). { 6BC 1101.1 }

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. Rom. 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; John 1:14 And the Word was made

flesh, and dwelt among us, Jer. 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: John 6:53.

In the councils of heaven before the creation of the world, when it was planned that man should people the earth, there arose the question, *What if man should sin*, as Satan has sinned? Christ answered this question. The infinite Son of God pledged Himself that *if man should sin*, He would give Himself, His life, as a ransom for the fallen race, taking upon Himself the transgression of humanity. The Innocent would bear the sins of the guilty, and stand before God to make intercession in behalf of the transgressor. {2SAT 229.4}

In the *councils of heaven*, before the world was created, the Father and the Son covenanted together that *if man proved disloyal* to God, Christ, one with the Father, would take the place of the transgressor, and suffer the penalty of justice that must fall upon him (MS 145, 1897). {6BC 1070.4}

His followers were seeking him, and he aroused himself and, assuming a look of defiance, informed them of his plans to wrest from God the noble Adam and his companion Eve. *If he* could in any way beguile them to disobedience, God would make some provision whereby they might be pardoned, and then himself and all the fallen angels would be in a fair way to share with them of God's mercy. If this should fail, *they could* unite with Adam and Eve, for when once they should transgress the law of God they would be subjects of God's wrath, like themselves. Their transgression would place them, also, in a state of rebellion, and *they could* unite with Adam and Eve, *take possession of Eden*, and hold it as their home. And *if they* (*Satan and his angels*) could gain access to the tree of life in the midst of the garden, their strength would, they thought, be equal to that of the holy angels, and even God Himself could not expel them. {SR 27.3}

Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that *Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss*. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." Rev. 5:12. {DA 131.3}

The angels of God were commissioned to visit the fallen pair and inform them that although they could no longer retain possession of their holy estate, their

Eden home, because of their transgression of the law of God, yet their case was not altogether hopeless. They were then informed that the Son of God, who had conversed with them in Eden, had been moved with pity as He viewed their hopeless condition, and had volunteered to take upon Himself the punishment due to them, and die for them that man might yet live, through faith in the atonement Christ proposed to make for him. Through Christ a door of hope was opened, that man, notwithstanding his great sin, should not be under the absolute control of Satan. Faith in the merits of the Son of God would so elevate man that he could resist the devices of Satan. **Probation would be granted him in which, through a life of repentance and faith in the atonement of the Son of God, he might be redeemed from his transgression of the Father's law, and thus be elevated to a position where his efforts to keep His law could be accepted.** SR 46.3

Heb. 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, **he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;**

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Ps. 119:29 . . . grant me thy law graciously.

Pro. 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

1:9 ***For they shall be an ornament of grace*** unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. Pro. 3:22;

4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

4:8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

4:9 She shall give to thine head an ***ornament of grace:*** a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Jer. 31:2 Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

The grace of God is always reformatory. Every human being is in a school, where he is to learn to give up hurtful practices, and to ***obtain a knowledge of what he can do for himself.*** Those who ignore these things, who take no precautions in

regard to getting pure air to breathe and pure water to drink, cannot be free from disease. Their systems are defiled and the human structure injured. MM 226.2

Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above, are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. ***Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil.*** While the investigative Judgment is going forward in Heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14. GC 425.1

10 (Eph. 1:6, 2:8-10; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:14; 3:5; James 2:22).

Good Works No Plea for Salvation.--Our acceptance with God is sure only through His beloved Son, and *good works are but the result* of the working of His sin-pardoning love. They are no credit to us, and we have nothing accorded to us for our good works ***by which we may claim a part in the salvation of our souls.*** Salvation is God's free gift to the believer, given to him for Christ's sake alone. The troubled soul may find peace through faith in Christ, and his peace will be in proportion to his faith and trust. He cannot present his good works ***as a plea for*** the salvation of his soul. {5BC 1122.1}

But are good works of no real value? Is the sinner who commits sin every day with ***impunity***, regarded of God with ***the same favor*** as the one who through faith in Christ tries to work in his integrity? The Scripture answers, "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." In His divine arrangement, through His unmerited favor, the Lord has ordained ***that good works shall be rewarded.*** We are accepted through Christ's merit alone; and the ***acts of mercy, the deeds of charity, which we perform,*** are the fruits of faith; and ***they become a blessing to us; for men are to be rewarded according to their works.*** It is the fragrance of the ***merit of Christ*** that makes our good works acceptable to God, and it is ***grace that enables us to do the works for which He rewards us.*** Our works in and of themselves have no merit. When we have done all that it is possible for us to do, we are to count ourselves as unprofitable servants. We deserve no thanks from God. We have only done what it was our duty to do, and our works could not have been performed in the strength of our own sinful natures. {5BC 1122.2}

The Lord has bidden us to draw nigh to Him and He will draw nigh to us; and drawing nigh to Him, ***we receive the grace by which to do those works which will be rewarded at His hands*** (RH Jan. 29, 1895). {5BC 1122.3}