

The High Priest

DAY 10—THE BELLS AND POMEGRANATES

Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near. (LUKE 21:28)

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE PRAYER TIME

Praise

- Lord, we thank You that You have revealed to us the signs of Your second coming.
- We praise You that Jesus is coming again to take us to be with Him forever.

Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin

- Lord, please show us which sins to confess openly and which to confess privately. We claim Your victory over those sins.
- Forgive us for becoming too comfortable in this world and failing to notice the signs of Your coming.
- Thank You that You forgive us according to 1 John 1:9

Supplication and Intercession

- Lord, we pray for the people around us who do not realize You are coming soon. Please awaken their hearts.
- Please show us the things in our lives that are not surrendered to You. We give these things to You and ask You to change our hearts.
- Please continue to shape our characters and prepare us for Your coming.
- Lord, draw close to people who are afraid of Your second coming. May they surrender their lives to You.
- Please use each of us to tell others the good news of Your coming.
- Show us how to meet the practical and spiritual needs of refugees. May our church be known for our love of all people, no matter who they are or where they come from.
- We especially pray for refugees from countries that are closed to the gospel. As we meet their needs and lead them to know You, please open doors so they can return to their countries and share God's love with others.
- Father, please give us a heightened sense of urgency in our work for You. Let us live with daily hope that Jesus is coming soon to make all things well.
- Lord, bless the work of Seventh-day Adventist educators worldwide. Strengthen our schoolteachers, parents, youth leaders, and Sabbath School teachers as they prepare a generation of youth for Your service.
- We ask You to bless the work of Special Needs Ministries. Give us compassion as we meet the needs of those who are deaf or blind and those who have physical or mental challenges.
- Lord, we pray for the seven (or more) people on our individual prayer lists. May they see their need and open their hearts to the Holy Spirit.
- We also pray for the personal needs of those gathered here.

Thanksgiving

- Lord, thank You for Your promise: "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).
- Thank You that You have people in every city who are hopefully looking to heaven.
- Thank You that You are working in the hearts of the people we are praying for.

SUGGESTED SONGS TO SING

"Joy By and By" (SDA Hymnal #430); "I Shall See the King" (SDA Hymnal #426); "The Glory Song" (SDA Hymnal #435); "How Far from Home" (SDA Hymnal #439); "I'm a Pilgrim" (SDA Hymnal #444); "Lo, What a Glorious Sight Appears" (SDA Hymnal #446); "O, When Shall I See Jesus" (SDA Hymnal #448).

The Bells and Pomegranates

Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near. (LUKE 21:28)

The bells on the garment of the High Priest gave the people an audible sign that he was alive and interceding for them in the Most Holy Place. As Christ intercedes for us in the Most Holy Place, even though we cannot hear the bells on His garment, we should pay attention to signs that He is about to finish His work as High Priest and come back as a Judge and King.

Only once a year could the high priest enter into the most holy place, after the most careful and solemn preparation. No mortal eye but that of the high priest could look upon the sacred grandeur of that apartment, because it was the especial dwelling-place of God's visible glory. The high priest always entered it with trembling, while the people waited his return with solemn silence. Their earnest desires were to God for his blessing. Before the mercy-seat, God conversed with the high priest. If he remained an unusual time in the most holy, the people were often terrified, fearing that because of their sins, or some sin of the priest, the glory of the Lord had slain him. But when the sound of the tinkling of the bells upon his garments was heard, they were greatly relieved. He then came forth and blessed the people. (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, pp. 274, 275)

As Jesus moved out of the most holy place, I heard the tinkling of the bells upon His garment; and as He left, a cloud of darkness covered the inhabitants of the earth. There was then no mediator between guilty man and an offended God. (*Early Writings*, p. 280)

Christ had bidden his people watch for the signs of his advent, and rejoice as they should behold the tokens of their coming King. "When these things begin to come to pass," he said, "then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." He pointed his followers to the budding trees of spring, and said: "When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." (Luke 21:28, 30, 31.) (*The Great Controversy* [1888], p. 308)

Christ on the Mount of Olives had spoken to His disciples of His second advent to the world. He had specified certain signs that were to show when His coming was near, and had bidden His disciples watch and be ready. Again He repeated the warning, "Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Then He showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent not in idle waiting, but in diligent working. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 325)

There are in the world today many who close their eyes to the evidences that Christ has given to warn men of His coming. They seek to quiet all apprehension, while at the same time the signs of the end are rapidly fulfilling, and the world is hastening to the time when the Son of man shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven. Paul teaches that it is sinful to be indifferent to the signs which are to precede the second coming of Christ. Those guilty of this neglect he calls children of the night and of darkness. He encourages the vigilant and watchful with these words: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 260)

We feel deeply over the present state of the church whose members have long possessed a knowledge of those events which are to transpire near the close of time in fulfillment of prophetic history. Christ is coming in power and great glory, and the dead are to be "judged out of those things which are written in the books, according to their works." The One who has stood as our intercessor; who hears all penitential prayers and confessions; who is represented with a rainbow, the symbol of grace and love, encircling his head, is soon to cease his work in the heavenly sanctuary. Grace and mercy will then descend from the throne, and justice will take their place. He for whom his people have looked will assume his right,—the office of Supreme Judge. "The Father . . . hath committed all judgment unto the Son. . . . And he hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man." It was he, says Peter, who was ordained to "judge the quick [the living] and the dead." "He hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained." (*Review and Herald*, Jan. 1, 1889, par. 1)