

## KEY

Isaiah 22; Revelation 3:6–10; Luke 11:52; Matthew 16:1–22; Revelation 9:1–3

“A star fell from heaven unto the earth; and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.”

“While the Persian monarch contemplated the wonders of his art and power, he received an epistle from an obscure citizen of Mecca, inviting him to acknowledge Mohammed as the apostle of God. He rejected the invitation, and tore the epistle. ‘It is thus,’ exclaimed the Arabian prophet, ‘that God will tear the kingdom, and reject the supplication of Chosroes.’ Placed on the verge of these two empires of the East, Mohammed observed with secret joy the progress of mutual destruction; and in the midst of the Persian triumphs he ventured to foretell, that, before many years should elapse, victory would again return to the banners of the Romans. ‘At the time when this prediction is said to have been delivered, no prophecy could be more distant from its accomplishment (!) since the first twelve years of Heraclius announced the approaching dissolution of the empire.’” Uriah Smith, *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, 495.

“Of these sins the scribes and Pharisees were guilty; and it was for this that Christ denounced them, saying, ‘Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men.’ And to the lawyers he said: ‘Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.’

“**Knowledge is the only key that will give entrance into heaven.** The inspired John declares, ‘And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.’ A right knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom he has sent is eternal life to all who believe.” *Review and Herald*, February 22, 1898.

“The Jewish teachers had taken away from the people **the key of knowledge**. The rabbis had shut the kingdom of heaven against the poor and ignorant, leaving them to perish. Christ came to proclaim the Gospel to all humanity, high and low, rich and poor, learned and unlearned.

“Christ is the originator of all truth. By the work of the enemy the precious gems of truth had been torn from their setting and placed in a frame-work of error. Christ came to replace the jewels of truth in their rightful position. He rescued them from the rubbish of error, gave them a new power, and bade them stand fast forever. He could use these truths with perfect freedom; for He was their author. He had cast them into the minds of each generation; and when He came to the world, He vitalized and re-arranged the truth which Satan had robbed of life. Clothing them with more than their original freshness and power, He gave them to the world for the benefit of future generations.

“To us has been given the precious legacy of Christ’s teaching. This is recorded in His Word. In order to make it our own, we must search the Word diligently. Many truths are hidden, as the precious ore is hidden in the earth. And we must not only search; we must ask God for wisdom to aid us in searching. The truths essential for us to know are too deeply buried to be discovered by unaided human research.” *Signs of the Times*, May 1, 1901.

“This is an age of signal rejection of the grace God has purposed to bestow upon His people, that in the perils of the last days they may not be overcome by the prevailing iniquity, and unite with the hostility of the world against God’s remnant people. Under the cloak of Christianity and sanctification, far-spreading and manifest ungodliness will prevail to a terrible degree and will continue until Christ comes to be glorified in all them that believe. In the very courts of the temple scenes will be enacted that few realize. **God’s people will be proved and tested, that He may discern ‘between him that serveth God, and him that serveth Him not.’**

“Vengeance will be executed against those who sit in the gate, deciding what the people should have, and what they should not have. **These take away the key of knowledge.** They refuse to enter in themselves, and those that would enter, they hinder. These bear not the seal of the living God. All who now occupy responsible positions should be solemnly and terribly afraid lest in this time they shall be found as unfaithful stewards.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 11, 86.

“While Satan claimed to have received great good by eating of the forbidden tree, he did not let it appear that by transgression he had become an outcast from heaven. Here was falsehood, so concealed under a covering of apparent truth that Eve, infatuated, flattered, beguiled, did not discern the deception. She coveted what God had forbidden; she distrusted His wisdom. She cast away **faith, the key of knowledge.**” *Education*, 25.

“The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. **The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries.** Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give.

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days, and He says, ‘Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.’ Revelation 1:3.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 133.

“**The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, expressed in character,** is an exaltation above everything that is esteemed in earth or in heaven. It is the very highest education. **It is the key** that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God’s purpose that all who put on Christ by baptism shall possess. And it is the duty of God’s servants to set before these souls the privilege of their high calling in Christ Jesus.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 97.

“This experience is the highest evidence of the divine authorship of the Bible. We receive God’s Word as food for the soul, through the same evidence by which we receive bread as food for the body. Bread supplies the need of our nature; we know by experience that it produces blood, bone, and brain. Apply the same test to the Bible; when its principles have actually become the elements of character, what has been the result? what changes have been made in the life?—‘Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.’ In its power, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan, have been transformed into the image of God. The change is itself the miracle of miracles. A change wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. **We can not understand it; we can only believe, that, as declared by the Scriptures, it is ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory.’**

“**A knowledge of this mystery furnishes a key** to every other. It opens to the soul the treasures of the universe, the possibilities of infinite development.” *Signs of the Times*, April 25, 1906.

“Those who commune with God walk in the light of the Sun of Righteousness. They do not dishonor their Redeemer by corrupting their way before God. Heavenly light shines upon them. As they near the close of this earth’s history, their knowledge of Christ, and of the prophecies relating to him, greatly increases. They are of infinite worth in God’s sight; for they are in unity with his Son. To them the word of God is of surpassing beauty and loveliness. They see its importance. Truth is unfolded to them. **The doctrine of the incarnation** is invested with a soft radiance. They see that **the Scripture is the key** that unlocks all mysteries and solves all difficulties. Those who have been unwilling to receive the light and walk in the light will be unable to understand the mystery of godliness, but those who have not hesitated to take up the cross and follow Jesus, will see light in God’s light.” *Southern Watchman*, April 4, 1905.

“In every place God is working to bring men to a knowledge of God and His righteousness. He speaks to them in His Word. **The Bible is the key** which unlocks the mysteries which it is essential for human beings to understand in order to know what they must do to gain eternal life. The Bible is its own expositor. Its bright beams are to shine in all parts of the world that sin may be revealed. The Bible is a chart pointing out the way-marks of truth. Those who are acquainted with this chart will be enabled to tread with certainty the path of duty wherever they may be called to go.” *The Workers Bulletin*, September 9, 1902.

“All who handle the word of God are engaged in a most solemn and sacred work; for in their research they are to receive light and a correct knowledge, that they may give to those who are ignorant. Education is the inculcation of ideas which are light and truth. Everyone who diligently and patiently searches the Scriptures that he may educate others, entering upon the work correctly and with an honest heart, laying his preconceived ideas, whatever they may have been, and his hereditary prejudices at the door of investigation, will gain true knowledge. But it is very easy to put a false interpretation on Scripture, placing stress on passages, and assigning to them a meaning, which, at the first investigation, may appear true, but which on further search, will be seen to be false. If the seeker after truth will **compare scripture with scripture, he will find the key that unlocks the treasure house and gives him a true understanding of the word of God.** Then he will see that his first impressions would not bear investigation, and that continuing to believe them would be mixing falsehood with truth.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 3, 431.

Daniel 12:3, 4, 9, 10; Hosea 4:6

“The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days. The Scripture says, ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased’ (Daniel 12:4). When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, ‘Time shall be no longer.’ (See Revelation 10:6.) The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. By **the increase of knowledge** a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days. . . .

“In the first angel’s message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 105, 106.