

DISPENSING OF FOOD TO THE HOUSEHOLD

—Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46—

“Who then is the faithful and prudent servant, whom his Master has placed over his household to give them food in due season? Happy that servant whom his Master, on coming, shall find thus employed! Indeed I say to you that he will appoint him over all his stores of provisions.” Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46

The intimation here seems to be, that at the particular time indicated by the prophecy—namely, during the Lord's *presence*, and at the time of the gathering of the elect—our Lord, the great Servant of his people, will make choice of *one channel* for dispensing the meat in due season, though other channels or “fellow-servants” will be used in bringing the food to the “household.” But the servant is merely a steward, and liable to be removed at any moment, should he fail to fully and duly acknowledge in every particular, the Master—the great Servant of God and his people—“the Messenger of the Covenant”—Christ.

Faithfulness on the part of said steward (both to the “Master” and to “his fellow-servants” and “the household”) will be rewarded by his continuance as steward; so long as he serves faithfully, he may continue, and may serve the household of faith with things new and old—meat in due season—to the end; bringing forth all the precious things of divine provision. But if unfaithful he will be deposed entirely and put into outer darkness, while presumably another would take the place, subject to the same conditions.

To our understanding this would not imply that “that servant” or steward, used as a channel for the circulation of the “meat in due season,” would be the *originator* of that meat, nor *inspired*, nor *infallible*. Quite to the contrary, we may be sure that whoever the Lord will so use, as a truth-distributing agent, will be very humble and unassuming, as well as very zealous for the Master's glory; so that he would not think of claiming authorship or ownership of the truth, but would merely dispense it zealously, as his Master's gift, to his Master's “servants” and “household.”