

the time must come when the Lord would return to take account with his servants to whom he had committed the kingdom interests, represented by all his goods. The parable then shows that when the Lord does come and take account with his servants he finds two classes. One of these classes he calls "good and faithful" and the other class he calls "wicked".

#### HIS COMING

<sup>29</sup> The text first hereinabove cited, and under consideration in this article, relates to a "faithful and wise servant". The question is propounded: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant?" And then the statement is made: "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh, shall find so doing."

<sup>30</sup> The proof is quite clear and convincing that the second presence of our Lord dates from 1874, and that from that time forward the Lord Jesus has been gathering together those who have made a covenant with the Lord God by sacrifice. (Psalm 50:5) Jesus declared that he would be present in the end of the age and conduct the harvest work, which would mean a gathering work. (Matthew 13:30) The fact that a great harvest work progressed from about 1874 forward is the best evidence of the Lord's presence at that time and since. From that time forward the Lord has been doing a preparatory work. During this preparatory work the great truths that had long been hid from God's people by reason of the action of the enemy were restored to his people.

<sup>31</sup> Among other things, Jesus stated that one of the signs of his presence would be this: "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:27) The word here translated lightning means bright shiner or sun. As the sun arises in the east and travels gradually toward the west, causing one's pathway to increase in brightness, even so has it been during the presence of the Lord. The light upon the pathway of the Christian has increased more and more as the perfect day has approached.—Proverbs 4:18.

<sup>32</sup> The best proof of the time of the fulfilment of a prophecy or prophetic utterance is the physical facts showing its fulfilment. From 1874 forward the truth has been gradually unfolded, the light has increased, and the harvest work has progressed. It will be observed, however, that the question propounded in Matthew 24:45 does not relate merely to the evidence of the presence of the Lord. It will be found that the time, as related to that question, is the same as the time related to the fulfilment of the prophecy concerning the details.

#### COMING TO HIS TEMPLE

<sup>33</sup> The Scriptures show that at the end of the day of God's preparation the Lord Jesus, as God's Messenger, suddenly comes to his temple. The context shows that he comes for the purpose of judgment, and that it will

be a fiery time. (Malachi 3:1-3) The parable of the talents shows that the Lord comes to take account with his servants. The scriptures relative to the Lord coming to his temple show that he comes for the purpose of examination and judgment. Therefore the coming to his temple, and the fulfilment of the parable of the talents, must of necessity synchronize; and they do synchronize.

<sup>34</sup> The presence of the Lord, referred to in the beginning of Matthew 24th chapter, is from the Greek word *parousia*. But the word used with reference to his coming when he finds his Servant faithful and wise is from an entirely different word, to wit, *erchomai*, and means to arrive. Proof has heretofore been submitted in THE WATCH TOWER which it is believed conclusively shows that the Lord came to his temple in 1918. That also synchronizes with the time when the Lord began the fulfilment of the parable of the talents.

<sup>35</sup> The important question now under consideration is, Who is the faithful and wise servant here mentioned? The wise servant is that servant who uses the knowledge he has derived from the Lord according to God's will. One who takes a course of action in harmony with the divine rules is wise. One of the titles given to the Lord Jesus is The Faithful and True. The faithful servant is one who is diligent in using all the faculties with which he is endowed, and all of the opportunities he has, to safeguard and mind the interests of the kingdom of heaven committed unto him.

<sup>36</sup> Let us now consider the words of the Lord Jesus, translating literally the Greek word "coming" where it appears. Jesus had already stated what would be the evidences of his presence, or *parousia*. Then to his disciples he said: "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come [arrive]." This arriving (*erchomai*), it seems, of necessity must relate to the time when the man who has been traveling in a far country returns to his servants and arrives at where they are. The Lord then gives an illustration of how the good man of the house, had he known just when the thief would come, would not have permitted his house to be broken into. The lesson being taught thereby is that the good man should have been watchful; even so now The Servant must be watchful. He then adds: "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh [arrives]. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord, when he cometh [arrives], shall find so doing."—Matt. 24:42, 46.

<sup>37</sup> It does not seem reasonable to apply these verses to the time of the presence of the Lord in 1874. So far as the facts show there was no one at that time who was specially examined and found approved and made ruler over all of the Lord's goods. There was no one in 1874 feeding the household of faith meat in due season. It was after that time that the work of the