

CHARLES T. RUSSELL
“THAT WISE AND FAITHFUL STEWARD” - Luke 12:42-44.
Br. August Swanson

His personality, his office, and his ministry are shown in the following scriptures:

Matt. 24:45-47 - (Greek text) “THE FAITHFUL and prudent Servant.”
Luke 12:42-44 - “That faithful and wise steward.”

The above scriptures are identified with Christ’s return in 1874, and their fulfillment becomes one of the many strong proofs of Christ’s second presence (*parousia*).

Ezek, Chapter 9 - “The one man...clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side:...”
Rev. 1:16; 2:1 - “One of the seven stars” in the “right hand” of Christ.
Rev. 3:14 - “The angel [messenger] of the church of the Laodiceans”
Rev. 10:7 - “The seventh angel” [messenger].
Rev. 11:14-19; 1 Cor. 15:51,52 - Identified with sounding of the “last trumpet.”
Rev. 18:4 - “...voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her [Babylon], MY PEOPLE.”
Rev. 22:8, 9 - “...the angel which showed me these things.”

Concerning Luke 12:37 we quote, “The Lord promised He would cause His people to sit down to a bountiful repast of spiritual food and that He will be their servant and bring forth to them ‘things new and old.’ All who recognize these things must recognize these STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES as being identified with the fulfillment of that promise.” (R.4709, col. 2, par. 5—same quote found in “Exceeding Great and Precious Promise” book page 59, bottom and page 60, top.)

Again we quote, “Those who have come to an understanding of the PLAN OF THE AGES recognize it as of DIVINE and NOT HUMAN origination.” (R.1867, par. 5 and 6—same quote found in “Precious Promise” book, page 50, top.)

For ten years, Brother Russell endured harassment, opposition, obstruction without his own family—all the while doing a prodigious work of faithful ministry.

Only when it became necessary for the defense and service of the Truth did he divulge these trials to the brethren. The account of this is found in Reprint 3808 and on through to page 3819. Here, amid attendant circumstances, his conduct and character are completely vindicated.

In speaking of “good looking” people, we usually say that a man is “handsome” and a woman is “beautiful.” Brother Russell was both handsome and beautiful. The nobility of his character shone out from his face, figure, bearing actions. The secret of this is expressed in the Manna text and Comment for Sept. 9th.

All that we know of God’s merciful character and PLAN (with its times and seasons, including “the mysteries of the Kingdom” hidden from the multitude - Matt. 13:10-17; Luke 8:9, 10) has come to us by Brother Russell’s faithful ministry, directly or indirectly.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to God and to His “faithful servant” whom we believe our present Lord “made ruler over His goods” appointing him to “Gather MY saints together unto ME; those that have made a covenant with ME by SACRIFICE,” (Psa. 50:5) We have witnessed this gathering together since 1878, and are obeying God when we “Render to all their dues:...honour to whom honour [is due].” Rom. 13:7 and “...esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.” 1 Thess. 5:13.

THE SERVANT - ONE INDIVIDUAL - ONE CHANNEL

“Since the servant mentioned is to dispense food to the other members of the body, his fellow-servants, the term seems to be limited to some particular individual.” (R.3356, par. 2, lines 14 to 16)

“The steward through whom the Lord will dispense present truth in this ‘harvest,’ will, if found vigilant, humble, faithful, be continued in the stewardship and be used of the Lord more and more in the service of the household—down to the close of the harvest.” (R.3556, col. 2, par. 1, last 5 lines)

STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, Vol. 4, page 613 - ONE CHANNEL.

May the Lord add His blessing.
August Swanson, Chico, Calif.

The foregoing paper was sent to us by a sister in North Central California, and we thought it worthy of our careful consideration. Brother Swanson was deeply respected by all of the Lord’s people who had the privilege of knowing him intimately.