



Our Firm Foundation

Volume 15, Number 1

January 2000

**Consecration, Spiritualism
and the Terrible Ordeal**

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God promises, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” Isaiah 43:2.

God has a remnant church in this world that keeps His commandments. Yet this remnant church will be shaken until only the true and faithful are left in Zion. Sister White wrote, “The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat.” *Maranatha*, 203.

We are not to have any fears or doubts about God finishing the work. He is at the helm of this great Advent movement. Everything that is now in disorder He will put in order. Even now, while the Omega of Apostasy continues to develop within the church, there is a great movement—a work of revival—going forward among God’s people.

However, a terrible crisis is coming to God’s Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sister White

wrote, “As trials thicken around us [God’s remnant church], both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. . . . This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. . . . Then will come the times which will try men’s souls; for the confederacy of apostasy will demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah, and repudiate the truth of His Word. Then will the gold be separated from the dross, and it will be made apparent who are the godly, who are the loyal and true, and who are the disloyal, the dross and the tinsel.” *Maranatha*, 202–204.

Only those who place themselves under God’s divine guidance will discern the steady tread of events taking place that point to the

soon return of Christ. Only those under His guidance will stand in that time when the terrible crisis hits our church. The remnant that remains will be united. They will go forth with self-denying efforts to save the lost. The third angel’s message will swell into a loud cry, and the faces of God’s people will shine with the light of Heaven. While companies leave the remnant church, tribes will come in. Then will come the fulfillment of Isaiah 60:1–2: “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.”

When darkness covers the earth and the terrible ordeal hits our church, the remnant will arise and shine! The Holy Spirit will guide them. God will take the work into His own hands. And we will all be amazed by the simple means God will use to finish His work in righteousness. So be of good cheer—Christ has overcome the world! ✠

Jeff Wehr, Associate Editor

About Hope International . . .

Hope International is a special ministry assisting in the God-given work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe this Remnant Church of Bible prophecy has been brought into existence by the calling of the Lord, and we look for its final triumph in purity at the second coming of Christ. That the church does not now perfectly reflect the will of our Lord is cause for sorrow, but not for discouragement. The Word of God stands pledged that all within her borders will be sifted and tried, and though the greater portion will fail the test, there will yet remain a remnant to honor the Lord by their obedience to all His commands. Therefore, Hope International urges upon all the duty of supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in every way possible, insofar as is consistent with the principles of the government of God and the leading of His Holy Spirit upon the heart.

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —Editors

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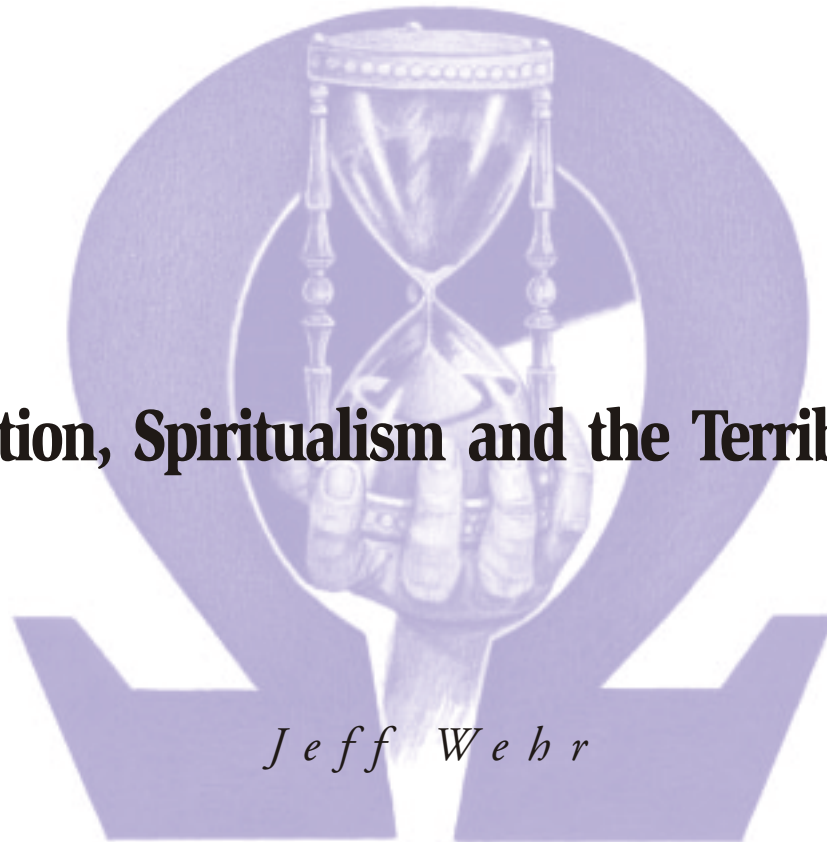
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Consecration, Spiritualism and the Terrible Ordeal

Jeff Wehr

Brothers and sisters, we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Soon a crisis will come to the Seventh-day Adventist Church that will cause both separation and unity. At the time of this terrible ordeal, companies will leave and tribes will come in.

What is the context of this terrible exodus from the church and the tremendous influx into the church? What will be some of its main characteristics? I believe we shall discover that: (1) *consecration*, or the lack thereof, is at the center of this crisis, while (2) *spiritualism* serves as its catalyst. Let us consider the following quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy:

Unity and Separation Under the Loud Cry

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them,

will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith. But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd’s voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say: ‘I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas.’ The testimony of one and all will be: ‘I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Saviour.’ ” *Maranatha*, 202.

Notice that as “trials thicken around us,” there will be *both* separation and unity among the members of God’s remnant church. Those who will leave will not have “received the love of the truth.”

Tragically, they will have been disputing over “who shall be accounted greatest,” while failing to improve on the precious light they had already received. While their Laodicean condition will have prepared them for their exodus from the remnant, it will be spiritualism that will deceive them and prepare them for their departure. “Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith.”

On the other hand, those who had been going about their Father’s business will present to the world “a united front.” There will be no disputing among them over who is the greatest. They will be united in earnest prayer to God, and then He will lead them to choose leaders of their own who have never sought for positions. As they pray for power from on high, they will receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which will enable them to go fearlessly into all the world to proclaim the last message of mercy to the world.

Then will be fulfilled the prophecy: “Arise, shine; for thy light

is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.” Isaiah 60:1–2. At the darkest moment of earth’s history, when the greatest persecution comes from within and without, God’s people will shine all the brighter!

The Church Appears As About to Fall

“Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. . . . The remnant that purify their souls by obeying the truth gather strength from the trying process, exhibiting the beauty of holiness amid the surrounding apostasy.” Ibid., 203.

The time is coming when the church will go through “a terrible ordeal.” At that time the “church may appear as about to fall.” Sinners in Zion will be sifted out, while those who had been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb will remain. These overcomers will be found to be loyal and true followers, “without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths.” Those who will be sifted out will have desired to be forgiven, but not cleansed. Tragically, they will have chosen to hang on to some cherished sin or sins.

Again, we find spiritualism as the context of this terrible ordeal and the separation within the remnant church. “Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall.” Satan’s miracle-working power will deceive multitudes of Seventh-day Adventists who have not made the necessary heart preparation. While they do not believe in the immortality of the

soul, they fail to believe in the power of the gospel to sanctify them wholly. This failure to cooperate with God in the work of sanctification makes them easy targets for Satan’s masterpiece of deception.

The Purification of the Church

“The time is upon us when the miracle-working power of the

with the powers of earth and hell” and will “demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah.” Under this pressure, there will be a great separation in the church; the gold will “be separated from the dross.” Those who will be “blown away with the fan of God” are those who have not centered their life in Christ. By trusting in their own righteousness

Satan’s miracle-working power will deceive multitudes of Seventh-day Adventists who have not made the necessary heart preparation.

archdeceiver will be more decidedly revealed. And his deceptions will increase in their delusive attraction, so that they will perplex, and if possible, deceive, the very elect. . . .

“An apostate church will unite with the powers of earth and hell to place upon the forehead or in the hand, the mark of the beast, and prevail upon the children of God to worship the beast and his image. They will seek to compel them to renounce their allegiance to God’s law, and yield homage to the Papacy. Then will come the times which will try men’s souls; for the confederacy of apostasy will demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah, and repudiate the truth of His Word. Then will the gold be separated from the dross, and it will be made apparent who are the godly, who are the loyal and true, and who are the disloyal, the dross and the tinsel. What clouds of chaff will then be borne away by the fan of God! Where now our eyes can discover only rich floors of wheat, will be chaff blown away with the fan of God. Every one who is not centered in Christ will fail to stand the test and ordeal of that day. While those who are clothed with Christ’s righteousness will stand firm to truth and duty, those who have trusted in their own righteousness will be ranged under the black banner of the prince of darkness. Then it will be seen whether the choice is for Christ or Belial.” Ibid., 204.

The time is nearly upon us when “an apostate church will unite

they will have failed to put on Christ’s righteousness.

Again, we find that the time of this terrible ordeal is couched in the context of spiritualism, when “the miracle-working power of the archdeceiver will be more decidedly revealed.” His satanic delusions will become so deceptive, that, if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect of God.

God’s People Brought to the Test

“We need not to be deceived. Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ.” Ibid., 209.

Those who have had great light, but have failed to walk in the light, will fall in that day when Satan’s wonder-working powers will “bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test.” By not becoming one with Christ and failing to stand on the living Word of God, they will be deceived when Satan makes people sick and then suddenly lifts his satanic power over them to make it appear to be a miraculous healing.

Not long ago, at one of our meetings, a brother from South

America shared with me the following account of a false healing: He was in the hospital when a very ill young lady was admitted. The doctors performed all kinds of tests on her, but could not ascertain the cause of her sickness. After every test failed, a spiritualist came in and performed some sort of ritual. In a matter of moments the lady rose up in perfect health.

have “declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them, and walked with them, that great power, and signs and wonders were performed among them, and this was the Temporal Millennium, which they had been expecting so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law.” *Maranatha*, 209.

that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come.” *Ibid.*, 200.

With the church purified, even under these troublous times, God will reveal that He is in control of the situation. The Bible says, “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.” Revelation 18:1.

“The prophecies in the eighteenth of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel’s message, ‘another angel’ is to ‘come down from heaven, having great power,’ and the earth is to be ‘lightened with his glory.’ The Spirit of the Lord will so graciously bless consecrated human instrumentalities that men, women, and children will open their lips in praise and thanksgiving, filling the earth with the knowledge of God, and with His unsurpassed glory, as the waters cover the sea.

“Those who have held the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end will be wide-awake during the time that the third angel’s message is proclaimed with great power. During the loud cry, the church, aided by the providential interpositions of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere.

“There is to be, at this period, a series of events which will reveal that God is Master of the situation. The truth will be proclaimed in clear, unmistakable language. . . . Through most wonderful workings of Divine Providence, mountains of difficulties will be removed, and cast into the sea. The message that means so much to the dwellers upon the earth will be heard and understood. Men will know what is truth. Onward, and still onward the work will advance, until the

Satan will then use some members in the apostate churches to perform false “miracles of healing.” These apparent miracles will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test.

Satan Pretends to Be the Great Medical Missionary

In these last days, thousands, if not millions, will come down with sudden illness. Satan will then use some members in the apostate churches to perform false “miracles of healing.” These apparent miracles will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Those Adventists who have *not* faithfully prayed, studied, and applied God’s Word will reason that these other churches could not possibly then be part of Babylon and will be deceived because of all these false miracles of healing.

Sister White wrote, “Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.

“Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer.” *The Great Controversy*, 588–589.

In that day of spiritualistic frenzy, these apostate churches will

These lying wonders and false miracles of healing will take the world captive, thus deceiving them into believing that the “long-expected millennium” of peace on earth has begun or is near at hand. At this time, “Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the *great medical missionary*. He will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men to prove that he is God.” *Ibid.*, 208. (All emphasis supplied by author unless otherwise noted.)

The Remnant That Remains

At that critical moment, when multitudes of fellow believers will be leaving the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there will still stand a remnant. “We shall be attacked on every point; we shall be tried to the utmost. We do not want to hold our faith simply because it was handed down to us by our fathers. Such a faith will not stand the terrible test that is before us. We want to know why we are Seventh-day Adventists, what real reason we have for coming out from the world as a separate and distinct people.” *Ibid.*, 217.

While God’s remnant church will be shaken during those times of tremendous stress and lying wonders, the process of the sealing of God’s people will have already been set in motion. “Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark

whole earth shall have been warned. And then shall the end come." Ibid., 218.

While it saddens my heart to think of the millions who will leave the ranks of our beloved church, I am yet thankful for those who by God's grace will take their stand for truth. These faithful ones will be empowered by the latter rain—the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit—to lighten the world with the precious message for this time.

However, it is now that we must get ready for the time of trial ahead. Each one of us must have an individual experience in walking with God. We cannot rely on others for our spirituality. Daily we must grow in Christ by: (1) treasuring up in our hearts the very promises of God, (2) contemplating the altogether lovely life of Jesus, (3) establishing a strong prayer life of communion with God, (4) increasing our abilities for service, and (5)

choosing to be converted every day. Then will come the time when the "Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers." Ibid., 256. ✝

IMMORTALITY & SPIRITUALISM

Much of the professed Christian world today believes that man has an immortal soul, and that when he dies his soul goes to heaven—or perhaps hell. This belief was handed down to us from paganism, and, as with most heathen beliefs, there is no truth in it.

While the belief in the immortality of the soul seems to many to be an innocent philosophy, it lays the foundation for a whole false religion—spiritualism. It opens an unobstructed line of communication through which Satan, with his confederate evil angels, can communicate soul-destroying errors to the unsuspecting.

The following inexpensive books are excellent to share personally or door-to-door with friends, family, neighbors, or by bulk mail to your whole Zip code area:



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The Immortality of the Soul and Spiritualism 65¢ each

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Ellen G. White

As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

Says the great deceiver: "We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man's salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

"The Sabbath is the great question which is to decide the destiny of souls. We must exalt the sabbath of our creating. We have caused it to be accepted by both worldlings and church members; now the church must be led to unite with the world in its support. We must work by signs and wonders to blind their eyes to the truth, and lead them to lay aside reason and the fear of God and follow custom and tradition.

"I will influence popular ministers to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their minister's explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will.

"But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbathkeepers. We must excite popular indignation against them.

We will enlist great men and worldly-wise men upon our side, and induce those in authority to carry out our purposes. Then the sabbath which I have set up shall be enforced by laws the most severe and exacting. Those who disregard them shall be driven out from the cities and villages, and made to suffer hunger and privation. When once we have the power, we will show what we can do with those who will not swerve from their allegiance to God. We led the Romish church to inflict imprisonment, torture, and death upon those who refused to yield to her decrees; and now that we are bringing the Protestant churches and the world into harmony with this right arm of our strength, we will finally have a law to exterminate all who will not submit to our authority. When death shall be made the penalty of violating our sabbath, then many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side.

"But before proceeding to these extreme measures, we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who

Upcoming Events

honor the true Sabbath. We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall.

“Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here and fix their affections upon earthly things. We must do our utmost to prevent those who labor in God’s cause from obtaining means to use against us. Keep the

strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.

“Until the great decisive blow shall be struck, our efforts against commandment keepers must be untiring. We must be present at all their gatherings. In their large meetings especially our cause will suffer much, and we must exercise great vigilance, and employ all our seductive arts to prevent souls from hearing the truth and becoming impressed by it.

“I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present who

They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall.

money in our own ranks. The more means they obtain, the more they will injure our kingdom by taking from us our subjects. Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom and the spread of the truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God’s people.

“Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we can gain many who would otherwise do us great harm. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no

will express doubts in regard to the Lord’s messages of warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning, and we shall secure them in our ranks at last. God will not permit His words to be slighted with impunity. If we can keep souls deceived for a time, God’s mercy will be withdrawn, and He will give them up to our full control.

“We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate.” ❄

The Spirit of Prophecy, book 4, 337–340. For further study, see *The Great Controversy*, chapter 32.

**Week of Prayer
with Danny Vierra**
Eatonville, WA
March 13–18, 2000

**Camp Meeting
Hope International**
Portland, TN
May 25–28, 2000

**Camp Meeting
Hope International**
Eatonville, WA
July 25–30, 2000

**Camp Meeting
Hartland Institute**
Rapidan, VA
August 1–6, 2000

**Camp Meeting
Hope International**
Angelus Oaks, CA
September 7–10, 2000

**Camp Meeting
Hope International**
Angwin, CA
September 14–17, 2000

The Snare of Spiritualism

How to mark your Bible and know God's Word better

We present this study with the desire that it will encourage you, our readers, to pursue a deeper examination of God's Word. The warning has been given us that "none but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." The Great Controversy, 593–594. It is our suggestion that you use this study personally, in group settings, or with your family. We also encourage you to add other Scriptural references to this study as you proceed in your own personal, attentive scrutiny of God's Word.

The Editors

Bible Marking Directions

1. In this month's study our Bible marking key letters are SS, which represent "The Snare of Spiritualism."
2. On the blank flyleaf at either the beginning or the end of your Bible, write in the key letters followed by the first Scriptural text. This month's beginning entry should appear as follows:
1 SS Genesis 3:1-5.
3. Turn to the first reference and, in the margin near it, write the second reference. Then turn to the second reference and, in the margin near it, write the third reference, and so on to the end of the lesson. When you come to the last reference write "End SS."

1SS: Genesis 3:1–5.

In the Garden of Eden we have the first manifestation of spiritualism. Through the medium of the serpent Satan spoke to Eve. Eve by entering into dialogue with the serpent, ventured upon forbidden ground, and thus was ensnared by Satan's bewitching sophistries.

Satan questioned God's authority: "Yea hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" The lies that Satan told then are the very foundation of spiritualism: "Ye shall not surely die . . . Ye shall be as gods." These falsehoods have become cornerstones of not only pagan religions but also of much of what is called Christianity.

2SS: Ecclesiastes 9:5.

The Scripture is very plain regarding the state of the dead: "The dead know not anything." The dead have no part in anything done among the living. The dead have no reward given to them until the resurrection. Both the righteous and the wicked remain in their graves awaiting either everlasting life or everlasting destruction.

3SS: Isaiah 8:19.

The Scripture plainly states that we should seek God for our answers—not the dead. In spite of this warning, many have bought the lie of Satan regarding death, and have entered into communication with demons purporting to be the spirits of dead people. The doctrine of the natural immortality of the soul has opened a floodgate of error upon our world. Key among these errors is

the falsehood that when people die they become ministering spirits who return to comfort the living.

God commanded His ancient people, upon pain of death, that they should not attempt to communicate with the dead. See Leviticus 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:10–14.

4SS: Hebrews 1:14.

In contrast to the erroneous doctrine that the dead are ministering spirits, the Scripture is very plain that the holy angels are the ministering spirits who minister to the saints.

5SS: 1 Samuel 28:7–19.

In the latter years of Saul's reign, he departed more and more from the Lord. When facing an especially difficult war with the Philistines, and seeing that the Lord did not answer him, he consulted a woman who had a familiar spirit. This woman through her sorcery called up a "spirit" who appeared to look like the prophet Samuel. However, that which was supposedly Samuel was in reality an evil angel. Saul, because of his disobedience to God's clear commands, died in battle. See 1 Chronicles 10:13–14. The lesson we learn from this story is that those who appear to be deceased people are in reality Satan's angels.

6SS: Revelation 13:13–14.

The Bible declares that in the final moments of time, the miracle-working power of spiritualism will be manifest. The agents of Satan will even call fire down from heaven. These events will be more than mere impostures—Satan's agents will

perform real miracles. Part of the great test—which will determine whether men will receive the mark of the beast—will be if they can see through Satan’s supernatural manifestations. This deception of miracles will be almost irresistible unless we are kept by the Spirit of God.

7SS: Isaiah 8:20.

Our only safety in the last days will be in a “thus saith the Lord.” The Bible must be our Guide—not feelings or impressions. We must meet all of Satan’s deceptions as Christ met them when He was upon the earth. Christ’s response was always, “It is written,” and our answer should be the same.

8SS: Revelation 16:13–14.

Satan has been orchestrating his plans to deceive the nations for

many years. Through spiritualistic manifestations Satan will deceive almost all of the people of the earth, joining them in one universal alliance. A confederacy will be formed between Catholicism, Protestantism and the pagan religions.

The foundation that Satan laid in Eden will soon be fully developed into his masterpiece of deception. Christ, the apostles, Mary and other people will be personated by Satan and his evil angels. This error of spiritualism will soon reach its most deceptive and powerful stage. Unless we are kept by God’s power, we will be deceived. See Matthew 24:24.

9SS: 2 Thessalonians 2:10–12.

Even those who are the professed children of God—including Seventh-day Adventists—

but who have no love for the truth will also be deceived by these powerful manifestations of spiritualism. The Scripture states that they will receive a strong delusion and believe a lie.

10SS: Isaiah 28:17–18.

God has declared that there is coming a time when with judgment He will sweep away the refuge of Satan’s lies. And this work of unmasking Satan’s deceptions refers especially to the state of the dead and spiritualism.

But before that day, God has allowed us to have a part in warning the world. Our commission is contained in the second angel’s message of Revelation 14. We are to unmask the errors of Babylon, exposing her deadly wine. Let us do our part to awaken those in darkness. ✚

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Is Jesus Really Coming Soon?

Dennis Priebe

Do you believe that Jesus is coming soon? Was this exact question asked of Seventh-day Adventists in 1950? In 1910? In 1890? Of Millerites in 1844? Yet we are still here, asking the same question a century and a half later. Hasn't something gone tragically wrong? Could our sons and grandsons be asking the same question of future Adventists fifty years down the line? What is to prevent that from happening? What guarantee do we have that Jesus is really coming soon? The shocking reality is that we have no guarantee. Jesus may not be coming soon. I am unable to say unequivocally that Jesus will return within the next ten or even twenty years.

Revelation 7:1-3 describes the period of time in which we live. "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the

east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

The four angels have been holding the winds of destruction for a long time now. They have been specifically ordered to keep holding the winds until God's final sealing work could be finished. This tells us two things. First, the sealing work is not yet finished. Second, we will not see an end to this world's suffering until the sealing work is finished, even if that should be decades in the future. Do you see why we have no guarantee that Jesus' coming will be soon?

God's Will for Adventism

Having said that we have no guarantee that Jesus is coming soon, may I hasten to add that I believe that the possibility is that Jesus may come very, very soon. It seems that there are certain periods when God moves events in the world and the church

toward an impending climax, and then waits to see if His people are ready to move with Him.

In 1844 He moved mightily through the Millerite movement, and if His people would have hung together in faith after the Great Disappointment, the sealing work could have been finished rather quickly. But the great Millerite movement fractured apart after the Disappointment, and God could not finish His sealing work.

Then things went into a sort of plateau for forty years until God began to move things in the world and the church toward another climax point in 1888. Once again God watched hopefully to see if His people would catch the vision and get serious about going home. Once again God's desires were thwarted, this time by selfish, fault-finding, power-seeking Seventh-day Adventist men and women.

So we went into another plateau of ninety years. It is my considered judgment that we are moving toward another of those

rare climax points in history, when God is moving events once again into a final countdown. And once again He is hoping that His people will catch the vision of eternity and join with Him in bringing an end to the sin problem. Will they do it this time? Will we do it this time? If we decide that we are ready to get serious about our chosen name—Seventh-day Adventists—then the history of sin could be over in a very short time. On the other hand, if we keep sleeping along, and congratulating ourselves about our beautiful churches and our fine organs and the surging number of baptisms in parts of the world other than North America, then this climax point will pass just like others have done, and this tired old world will go on struggling for survival, while you and I will go to our graves in disappointment.

God's Chosen People

Back in the time of Christ, the Jews had some treasured statements which they loved to quote when things looked dark for them. One was Jeremiah 31:35–37: “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: if those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.” Speaking of Jerusalem in verse 40, the Lord said, “It shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever.”

God told the Jews that as long as the sun and moon and stars remained in the sky, Israel would remain as His chosen nation. He promised that, just as surely as no one could ever measure the heavens or the depth of the earth, He would never cast off Israel as His chosen people. Ellen White comments, “These words the Jews applied to themselves; and because God had shown them so great favor and

mercy, they flattered themselves that, notwithstanding their sins and iniquity, He would still retain them as His favored people, and shower especial blessings upon them. This has been the danger of the people of God in all ages; and especially is this the danger of those living near the close of time. . . . If they shut

overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.” Verses 1–2.

“The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.” Verse 9.

God is moving events once again into a final countdown. And once again He is hoping that His people will catch the vision of eternity and join with Him in bringing an end to the sin problem.

their eyes, as did the Jews, to their own corruption, and choose their own ways, the Lord will give them up to blindness of mind, and hardness of heart, that they cannot discern the things of the Spirit of God.” *Redemption*, vol. 1, 38–39.

But doesn't the promise we just read sound absolute, and weren't the Jews justified in believing that Israel would stand forever as God's chosen people? Are we not likewise justified in believing that our church will go through when we read that, though it appears to fall, it will not fall? Or have they and we both forgotten another crucial principle found in the same book [of scripture]? “And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; if it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.” Jeremiah 18:9–10.

Any promise which God ever makes to an individual or a people concerning their relationship to Him and their future is always conditional on their response to His declared will. Moses laid it all out in Deuteronomy 28: “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and

“And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.” Verse 13.

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.” Verse 15.

“The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.” Verse 20.

“Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee.” Verse 45.

Moses clearly warned Israel that they faced the possibility of total destruction if they proved to be intransigently disobedient to God's commandments. Ellen White says very succinctly, “It should be remembered that the promises and the threatenings of God are alike conditional.” *Evangelism*, 695.

Do you know that we are in danger of forgetting this principle just as the Jews were in the time of Christ?

Warnings for Us

Perhaps we need to look at some inspired statements which are not read very often in Seventh-day Adventist circles:

“Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending on God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord, to be brought down to the ground.”

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people . . . our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. . . . And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders. The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 217.

“The whole body is sick because of mismanagement and miscalculation.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 397.

“Some power has cut the cable . . . [we] are drifting away to sea, without chart or compass.” *Review and Herald*, July 24, 1888.

“You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. . . . Your neglect to follow the light will place you in a more unfavorable position than the Jews upon whom Christ pronounced a woe.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 75–76.

“Unless the church, which is now being leavened with her own backsliding, shall repent and be converted, she will eat of the fruit of her own doing, until she shall abhor herself.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 250.

“It pains me to say, my brethren, that your sinful neglect to walk in the light has enshrouded you in darkness. You may now be honest in not recognizing and obeying the light; the doubts you have enter-

tained, your neglect to heed the requirements of God, have blinded your perceptions so that darkness is now to you light, and light is darkness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 71.

“Oh, what privileges are granted to us as a people! And if God spared not His people that He loved, because they refused to walk in the light, how can He spare the

people whom He has blessed with the light of Heaven in having opened to them the most exalted truth ever intrusted to mortal man to give to the world? . . . Internal corruption will bring the denunciations of God upon this people as it did upon Jerusalem. . . . My brethren, we know not what is before us. . . . God will work with us and for us if the sins which brought His wrath upon the old world, upon Sodom and Gomorrah and upon ancient Jerusalem, do not become our crime.” Letter to Butler and Haskell, December 8, 1886, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 320–322.

“What would the Saviour do if He should come to us now as He did to the Jews? He would have to do a similar work.” *Review and Herald*, vol. 2, 308.

“Jerusalem is a representation of what the church will be if it refuses to walk in the light that God has given. . . . These are no idle tales, but truth.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 67–68.

“If we imitate their [Israel’s] example of transgression and depart from God we shall fall as surely as did they.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 609.

“Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending on God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord, to be brought down to the ground. Let a people glory in wealth, intellect, knowledge, or in anything but Christ, and they will

soon be brought to confusion.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 127.

These are extremely sobering statements from Inspiration. They should make us aware that the principle of conditional prophecy applies to us just as much as it did to Israel of old. We are also on trial, to see what we will do with the commandments of God. Will we obey and receive all the blessings of the covenant, or will we by disobedience place ourselves outside the boundaries of God’s covenant promises?

The ship that will go through is you and I, not some entity outside of us which will carry us through if we just hang on to it. And the ship of Adventism will go through only if you and I dedicate our entire energies to learning and living God’s will for this crisis time. In other words, it is our decisions that will determine what happens to this church.

A word of caution may be in order here. I am not suggesting that we can best do God’s will by separating ourselves from the organized church. In fact, I am afraid that if all God’s faithful ones would separate from the church, then the church would surely be doomed to destruction, and we might indeed miss the magnificent opportunity we have to usher in the Second Coming quickly. We might even face the unpleasant prospect of going to our graves in disappointment. What I am saying is that we dare not be too complacent in our belief that the church is going through automatically, and we will make it too if we just hang on. Hanging on is just not good enough. Our only hope lies in study and prayer such as none of us has ever experienced before.

What Is the Remedy?

How can we be sure that we will not make the mistakes of the Jews and lose our position as God’s remnant? How can we go through ourselves and make it possible for Jesus to end this planet’s suffering in the very near future? May I suggest that we are never so blind as when we ignore the past and assume that past failures can never happen to us? We have had a dramatic demon-

stration of God's will, and man's ability to thwart that will, within our church. If we have the slightest chance to be God's final remnant today, we must understand as completely as is humanly possible what happened between 1888 and 1900. That was our most recent opportunity to go home, and we must know why it never happened. May I urge you to make that subject a top priority on your list of topics for study and prayer.

What is the divine analysis of the 1888 message? "The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones." *Testimonies to Ministers*, 91. "This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will lighten the earth with its glory." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 166; *This Day With God*, 314. That is the language of the loud cry of the third angel's message. We can conclude that God was intending to prepare His people and to give a final warning to the world through the 1888 message. But what happened?

"By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. . . . The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 234-235. In other words, by quibbling and jealousy and open opposition, men succeeded in delaying the second coming of Christ for one hundred years.

"God has given Brother Jones and Brother Waggoner a message for the people. . . . When you reject the message borne by these men, you reject Christ, the Giver of the message." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 1353.

During the presentations at Minneapolis in 1888, Ellen White sat on the front row and was heard to say over and over, "Amen, there is much light here." On one occasion she said that Dr. Waggoner was able

to present righteousness by faith in a way that she could not.

In recent years there has been a major attempt to prove that, while some of the leading brethren rejected the message in 1888, most accepted it, and even the opposers later repented and came into line. As a result, we have been told, our church eventually accepted the 1888 message of righteousness by faith, and we have been teaching it ever

importance of the message of righteousness by faith, and because thereby she seemed to be upholding these brethren (Waggoner and Jones), contrary to their judgment, it grew into a spirit of rejection of the testimonies of Sister White." A. V. Olson, *Thirteen Crisis Years*, 332. Could our present plague of attacking or ignoring Sister White's writings have its roots in the years following 1888?

Could our present plague of attacking or ignoring Sister White's writings have its roots in the years following 1888?

since. This attempt is seriously flawed. First, if we had accepted the message, we would have been in the kingdom long before now. Our presence on this earth shows that there is still a problem. Second, the historical evidence shows continued rejection of the message well after 1888. I will go one step further. I don't believe that we, as a church, have understood, taught, or lived the 1888 message from that time to this. We have either been trapped in legalism or the gospel of unrighteousness by presumption.

In 1926 Elder A. G. Daniells, former General Conference President, wrote, "The message has never been received, nor proclaimed, nor given free course as it should have been in order to convey to the church the measureless blessings that were wrapped within it." *Christ Our Righteousness*, 47.

In 1898 Ellen White was still speaking of stubborn defiance, disunion, and rejection of light. In 1902 she said, "I have been instructed that the terrible experience at the Minneapolis Conference is one of the saddest chapters in the history of the believers in present truth." Letter 179, 1902; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 142.

W. C. White, her son, wrote, "But the most serious feature of the disaffection was the fact that, because Sister White urged the

Perhaps the heart of the whole problem is found in these comments by Ellen White in 1901: "Enough has been said over and over and over again, but it does not make any difference; they go right on just the same, professedly accepting it; but they do not make any change." Talk in Battle Creek College library, April 1, 1901. Professedly accepting but making no changes will never finish God's work, even in a thousand years. Could this be what has confused certain historians into assuming that lip service meant heart acceptance? Could the same thing be our problem today?

Inspiration tells us that the leaders of the 1901 General Conference "closed and bolted the door against the Spirit's entrance. . . . The doors were barred against the heavenly current that would have swept away all evil." Letter from Elmshaven, August 5, 1902; *The Kress Collection*, 95. "The result of the last General Conference has been the greatest, the most terrible sorrow of my life. No change was made." Letter from Elmshaven, January 15, 1903; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, 122.

What Is the 1888 Message?

Now, if it is really true that God was going to finish His work on earth through the 1888 message, and, if it is true that we have never

really heard the message since that time, with isolated exceptions; what is the message that could have produced the latter rain and the loud cry then, and will produce it today if we will accept it? The message can be summed up in one Bible verse—“Christ *in you*, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27. (All emphasis supplied.) The 1888 message was focused on preparing God’s people for translation; thus it

is to be in us, just as God was in Him. . . . It is the cooperation of the Divine and the human—the mystery of God in you and me . . . that is the third angel’s message.” Jones, *1893 General Conference Bulletin*, 207.

“In Jesus Christ as He was in sinful flesh, God has demonstrated before the universe that He can so take possession of sinful flesh as to manifest His own presence, His power, and His glory, instead of sin

divided on whether Christ took our fallen, or Adam’s unfallen nature. We are even advising our people not to discuss it at all. We are pretty sure that perfection is a bad word, and that sinless living is a fanatical extreme. Satan has done a masterful job of closing our minds to the only message which can prepare us for the Second Coming. But Satan hasn’t done his job well enough. In spite of his best efforts to destroy this message, it is alive and well, and more and more people are waking up to its importance.

I believe that God’s people will not let this golden opportunity pass them by again. I see an awakening among church members, and I don’t think that Satan will be able to put them all to sleep again. But mark one thing. This awakening is happening among a small minority of church members. The majority continue to sleep on in a death sleep, assuming that, as long as they keep coming to church, they are safe. What a tragic awakening it will be when, too late, most Seventh-day Adventists will realize that they have the mark of the beast. If you want to avoid this tragedy, and, if you want to see Christ return to this earth very soon, then I plead with you to reorder your lives if necessary. Make the study of the 1888 message your top priority, and spend more time in study and prayer than ever before in your lives.

Listen to God’s appeal to us through His inspired messenger: “Light is flashing from the throne of God, and what is this for?—It is that a people may be prepared to stand in the day of God. You who have devoted time and money to the adornment of your apparel and to the decoration of your homes, I would ask you, ‘Is Christ formed within you the hope of glory?’ It is too late in the day to be taken up with the frivolous things of the world—too late for any superficial work to be done. It is too late in the day to cry out against men for manifesting too much earnestness in the service of God; to say, ‘You are excited; you are too intense, too positive.’” *Review and Herald*, March 4, 1890. ✨

Only in the 1888 message do we hear about power to keep from sinning, and this victory over sin is always linked with the fallen nature of Christ.

had much to say about how to be perfect in Christ and thus ready for the close of probation. The message was not about personal assurance of salvation, but about vindicating and glorifying God’s name.

Perhaps some brief excerpts from the messages of Jones and Waggoner might be helpful:

“Christ took upon Himself the flesh, not of a sinless being, but of a sinful man, that is, that the flesh which He assumed had all the weaknesses and sinful tendencies to which fallen human nature is subject.” Waggoner, *Christ and His Righteousness*, 26–27.

“In all our Christian experience we have left little loopholes along here and there for sin. We have never dared to come to that place where we would believe that the Christian life should be a sinless life. We have not dared to believe it or preach it. But in that case we cannot preach the law of God fully. Why not? Because we do not understand the power of justification by faith.” Waggoner, *1891 General Conference Bulletin*, 159.

Right here is the difference between justification as taught by Evangelicals and justification in the 1888 message. Only in the 1888 message do we hear about power to keep from sinning, and this victory over sin is always linked with the fallen nature of Christ.

“Christ is to be in us, just as God was in Him, and His character

manifesting itself. . . . Then God will so take us and so use us that our sinful selves shall not appear to influence or affect anybody, but God will manifest His righteous self, His glory, before men, in spite of all ourselves and our sinfulness. . . . And that is the mystery of God, ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory.’ God manifest in sinful flesh.” Jones, *1895 General Conference Bulletin*, 303.

“Now the flesh of Jesus Christ was our flesh, and in it was all ‘that is in our flesh—all the tendencies to sin that are in our flesh were in His flesh, drawing upon Him to get Him to consent to sin.’” Jones, *Ibid.*, 328.

“Perfection, perfection of character, is the Christian goal—perfection attained in human flesh in this world. Christ attained it in human flesh in this world and thus made and consecrated a way by which, in Him, every believer can attain it.” Jones, *The Consecrated Way to Christian Perfection*, 84.

“But before probation ends, there will be a people so complete in Him that in spite of their sinful flesh, they will live sinless lives. They will live sinless lives in mortal flesh, because He who has demonstrated that He has power over all flesh, lives in them—lives a sinless life in sinful flesh.” Waggoner, *1901 General Conference Bulletin*, 147.

Don’t you agree that this is a rare message today? Instead of studying this message and learning how to live this message, we are very

German Churches Oppose Sunday Business

News Item: Berlin—"They are dancing with the golden calf," was Manfred Kock's cryptic comment on the events last Sunday in three German cities, namely Halle, Dessau, and Berlin. Kock is president of the Council of German Lutheran Churches. The offending cities had open stores, large fully stocked supermarkets as though it was normal weekday.

"In Berlin, even the regulations set down for the event were ignored. Kaufhof, a department store located in the famous Alexanderplatz, did not limit itself to selling tourist items, a concession made to it by the local administration, but, instead, put its whole line of products on sale. Kaufhof announced it will repeat its action this weekend, despite a threat of fines, given the great results of its sales." *Zenit*, August 10, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: "And he [the United States] exerciseth all the power of the first beast [the Papacy] before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast [the Papacy], whose deadly wound was healed." Revelation 13:12.

"As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the Papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 18.

Already the controversy regarding Sunday is being agitated in foreign lands. We await only the final movements by our nation to bring the world to the test.

Lutheran-Catholic Agreement Is "Baby Step" Toward Unity

News Item: Augsburg, Germany—"Putting aside five centuries of differences in theology," Roman Catholic and Lutheran Church leaders embraced at a service Sunday where they signed a declara-

tion ending a dispute over salvation that sparked the Protestant Reformation and led to the Thirty Years War.

"During the Augsburg service, Bishop Christian Krause, president of the Lutheran World Federation, also spoke of the agreement's importance.

"For the first time in centuries we are walking on common ground together," Krause said." *Associated Press*, October 31, 1999.

"Pope John Paul has hailed a doctrinal accord between the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches as a milestone on the difficult path towards Christian unity." *BBC News*, October 31, 1999.

"Pat Keifert, theology professor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, called the agreement a 'baby step,' but said that even a baby step is significant." *National Catholic Register*, October 31–November 6, 1999.

"Lutherans and Catholics are vowing to continue the dialogue, hoping for a reconciliation that will lead to 'full communion' which literally would allow followers of each faith to share communion Mass together." *Ventura County Star*, Friday, October 8, 1999.

"The agreement is significant beyond the dispute over doctrine that it resolves. It has deep implications for future relations among Catholics and Protestants, said theologians and church leaders. Many said the accord gives added promise to the ideal their denominations champion—of full communion, or merger, between the churches." *The [Tacoma] News Tribune*, November 1, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: "Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us. For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this

people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid." Isaiah 8:9–12; see also Isaiah 54:15.

At this very hour the spirits of devils are going forth to "gather" the nations for the last great conflict. See Revelation 16:14.

But the message for God's people is "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." 2 Corinthians 6:17.

Is England "Coming Home" to Rome?

News Item: Birmingham, England—"It may come as a surprise to some but pre-Reformation England was one of the most devout Catholic countries in Europe.

"A series of speakers at a Path to Rome Conference held here in October made just that point and speculated that the country is quietly becoming Catholic once again.

"One of the common experiences [expressed in the stories of recent English converts] is the sense of coming home," said Dwight Longenecker, a former Anglican minister. "No matter what the person's background, no matter what the previous denomination, it was this sense of fulfillment" that convinces the convert to enter the Church. . . .

"The 1990s has seen a new wave of high-profile converts which even included members of the extended royal family, academia, the media and the world of politics.

"The late Cardinal Basil Hume, archbishop of Westminster, openly talked of 'the conversion of England,' and few would disagree that conversions to Catholicism is a major factor in English religious life that cannot be ignored or dismissed as a passing fad." *National Catholic Register*, November 7–13, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: "Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side. See the increasing number of her churches and chapels in Protes-

tant countries. Look at the popularity of her colleges and seminaries in America, so widely patronized by Protestants. Look at the growth of ritualism in England and the frequent defections to the ranks of the Catholics. These things should awaken the anxiety of all who prize the pure principles of the gospel.” *The Great Controversy*, 566.

Sadly, England has for many years been departing from the purity of the gospel. Today there is hardly a voice of true Protestantism to be heard in all of the British Isles. May we pray that the God of heaven will raise up faithful souls to once again hold high the standard of truth in this once-strong Protestant nation.

An Eve Haunted by a Pagan Past

News Item: Mashpee, Mass.—“’Tis the season when the line between Christian and pagan practices seems to blur.

“Halloween, derived from All Hallowed’s Eve, refers to the night before All Saints’ Day. But it comes from the Celtic pagan feast Samhain, when spirits from the Otherworld (which should not be confused with either heaven or hell) were most able to enter the regular world through a fairy mound, called in Irish ‘sid.’ On this day, Nov. 1, more than any other the Celts believed they were most likely to be accosted by foreign spirits, who could influence their lives.

“This feast, though probably older than Christianity, lent itself to the Christian idea of communing with the dead through prayer and sacrifice, now especially marked by the Church on All Saints’ Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls’ Day on Nov. 2. . . .

“Union with the dead was reaffirmed by the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*. “This most sacred Synod accepts with great devotion the venerable faith of our ancestors regarding this vital fellowship with our brethren who are in heavenly glory or who are still being purified after death.” (No. 51). . . .

“Father Benjamin Luther, pastor of St. John the Evangelist

parish in Paducah, Ky., said many funerals nowadays are framed in the language of unofficial canonizations, with nary a mention of purgatory.

“ ‘People don’t pray for the dead,’ Father Luther said. ‘And of course, it’s a big mistake.’ . . .

“What the Church once borrowed from the pagans to make a point can still be useful, the priest said, but that requires making the point.

“ ‘We need to complete the process of truly Christianizing the observance,’ Father Luther said.” *National Catholic Register*, October 31–November 6, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: “Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen.” Jeremiah 10:2.

“And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.” Leviticus 20:23.

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?” Isaiah 8:19.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

We have been warned in the Scriptures regarding the Roman Catholic power. She has “a golden cup in her hand full of abominations.” Revelation 17:4. Rome’s teaching regarding the dead has made the people of this earth spiritually drunk. May God give His people the courage to raise the cry: “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4.

Cursed Vineyards Hit by Fungus

News Item: “ ‘Black goo’ may sound like some funky ’50s horror flick, only it’s winemakers—not teenage movie-goers—who are getting the creeps. Turns out that black goo is the nickname for a

puzzling new disease plaguing vineyards worldwide, especially those in California, where about 1 percent of the state’s 900,000 acres of wine grapes have been hit. Experts say the disease, if not stopped, could destroy millions of dollars worth of California’s grapevines, as well as those in New York, Virginia, and Rhode Island where black goo has struck. The blight is also attacking vineyards in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and winemakers say if it continues the disease could bankrupt some growers and decrease the wine supply at a time when the \$17 billion industry is experiencing a consumer boom, sending wine prices up. . . .

“Some 120 scientists from 20 countries gathered in Siena, Italy, last month to wrestle with black goo, a form of which was first identified in 1912. The American Vineyard Foundation has allocated \$50,000 to finding a cure and UC–Davis is on the case, but there’s no solution in sight.” *U.S. News & World Report*, November 8, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: The following interesting report was taken from the audio tape *I Knew Sister White*, by Sister Alma McKibben. In this tape Sister McKibben shares a most fascinating account of how Ellen White became the instrument God used to pronounce a curse upon the wine grower’s vineyards of California over one hundred years ago.

In the summer of 1891, before going to Australia, Sister Ellen White spoke at the Healdsburg camp meeting. As always on Sunday, the last day of the camp meeting, she spoke on temperance. The meeting was largely attended by the people of Healdsburg. A large crowd sat in their carriages outside the meeting place listening to Sister White.

Sister McKibben relates the following story:

“On the road leading north out of Healdsburg and west out of Healdsburg were large wineries. The town itself had eleven saloons, and



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the country beyond the valleys and the hills were covered with vineyards—wine grapes.

“And as she [Ellen White] was speaking, looking out, she said, ‘O beautiful, beautiful Healdsburg, how I love you! But,’ and she stopped, ‘but the curse of God is on you. You have taken the benefits of Heaven, the beautiful fruit that God gave you, that was to cheer the heart of man, and have made of it a poison that destroys both body and soul.’

“I shall never forget the calm that fell over the people, and, sitting where I did, I almost forgot to breathe. Soon the meeting was over, and that fall she left for Australia and was gone nine years.

“Soon after that I left Healdsburg and was gone for five years. When I returned, the first Sabbath that I was back again, a friend Ms. Amelia Heald took me out for a ride. And as we rode out through Healdsburg toward the west, I said, ‘Amelia, what is the matter with all the vineyards?’

“‘Oh,’ she said, ‘hadn’t you heard? You know the phylloxera—that’s a disease of the vineyards—got into all the vineyards in Sonoma County. You know Sonoma County is the greatest wine-growing county in the United States of America. The phylloxera got in and it’s killing all the vineyards.’

“‘Amelia,’ I said, ‘do you remember what Sister White said in that last sermon that she preached to the camp meeting?’

“‘Why yes,’ she said, ‘I believe I do. I hadn’t thought of it before. She [Ellen White] had said, ‘The curse of God is on you.’’

“And I said: ‘And it is!’

“Did men take heed of it?—No, they had done everything in the wide world they knew to do to destroy the phylloxera. And when they didn’t succeed they sent a committee to Italy. There they would get the best information, you know, about what to do for vineyards. And there they found that there was a resistant vine, a vine that would resist phylloxera. And

they had ordered a large number of shoots—roots.

“‘Now,’ Amelia said, ‘when fall comes, they are going to tear out all of these vineyards.’

“And they did, and burned them and the smoke went up to heaven for months and months. Just a pall of smoke hung over us. And they disinfected that land. And they planted the resistant vines. And they established a great Italian colony at Asti [just north of Healdsburg], and built the largest winery in America.

“But I never forgot what the prophet of God had said, ‘The curse of God is on you.’ ”

I believe that the curse of God is also following the modern-day winemaker’s vineyards. In the judgments falling on modern-day vineyards we can see the Creator’s displeasure as truly as when the prophet pronounced the curse on them over 100 years ago. I believe that God in His mercy is sending this blight to restrain the evils of the alcohol industry in this our day. ✠



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The Gospel in Type and Antitype

S. N. Haskell

Much of the service and many of the customs of ancient Israel were designed to call out questions from the children, that the spiritually minded parents might instruct them in the ways of God.

After speaking of the peculiar manner in which the Passover should be eaten, God adds, “Your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service?” (Exodus 12:26), showing that He intended that it should call forth questions from children of all ages, and thus the children become acquainted with the saving blood of the great Passover Lamb.

The sight of the pile of stones by Jordan was to arouse inquiries in the minds of the children of future generations, which, if answered properly, would acquaint them with the mighty power of God. The same was true of the whole Jewish service.

Cedar, Scarlet, and Hyssop

The leper that sought cleansing was to bring two birds alive and

clean, and cedar wood and scarlet and hyssop. The priest commanded that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel, over running water. The live bird, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop were all dipped in the blood, and the leper was sprinkled with the blood; then the live bird was let loose in the open field. It flew through the air, bearing on its feathers the blood, which was a type of Christ’s blood that will purify the air, and remove from it all the germs of sin and death. Now death comes in at our windows, but the blood of Christ will give us a new atmosphere.

Earth, air, and water are the elements which compose our planet. All are tainted by sin. The earthen dish containing the blood held over the running water typified the time when earth, air, and water would be freed from the curse of sin by the blood of Christ. The cedar wood and hyssop represented the two extremes in vegetation, from the giant of the forest to the hyssop on the wall. They were dipped in the blood, thus teaching Israel that Christ’s blood

would free the entire vegetable world from the curse, and again clothe the earth in Eden beauty.

It might seem to man that the curse was so deeply marked upon the earth, air, and sea that it could never be removed; but the little piece of scarlet wool, dipped in the blood with the live bird, the cedar, and hyssop, was a pledge that the blood of Christ would remove the deepest marks from the sin-cursed earth.

We have the real Sacrifice to study as well as the shadow. Type met antitype. The blood of Christ has been shed; the price has been paid that will restore the purity of earth, air, and sea. The sin-cursed earth received the blood of Christ as He prayed in the garden. “From His hands and feet the blood fell, drop by drop, upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross.” *The Desire of Ages*, 760. Thus through the air passed the precious blood. From the wound in His side “there flowed two copious and distinct streams, one of blood, the other of water.” *The Desire*

of Ages, 772. The blood of Christ was brought in contact with earth, air, and water. The two extremes in vegetation also met at Calvary. The cross was made of wood taken from the trees of the forest; "and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth." John 19:29.

Was there an antitype of the scarlet while His blood was trickling from those cruel wounds?—Yes. In Jesus as He hung upon the cross, bruised, mocked, and bleeding, the thief beheld the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. Hope kindled in his soul, and he cast himself upon a dying Saviour. With full faith that Christ would possess the kingdom, he cried, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Luke 23:42. In a soft, melodious tone, full of love, the answer was quickly given: "Verily I say unto thee to day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43. As these words were spoken, the darkness around the cross was pierced with living light. The thief felt the peace and joy of sins forgiven. Christ was glorified. While all thought they beheld Him conquered, He was the Conqueror. They could not rob Him of His power to forgive sins.

Type has fully met antitype; the price has been paid; the blood of the world's Redeemer has been poured upon the ground. It has dropped through the air from the cruel cross. It has flowed with water from the wound of the cruel spear. The extremes of vegetation also came in contact with it, and he whose sins were as scarlet, experienced the peace of having them made white as snow by the precious blood, even while it was flowing from the open wounds.

The various feasts throughout the year typified different phases of the gospel. The Passover was a type of Christ in an especial sense. Christ is our Passover. The first fruits offered the third day after the Passover lamb was slain, taught the resurrection of Christ. Type met antitype, and was fulfilled when Christ, the first fruits of them that slept, came forth on the third day, and presented Himself before the Father.

Throughout the varied service of the year, everything pointed forward to the Lamb of God, while it also taught the lesson of cleansing the body, and keeping the temple pure for the Spirit of God.

The Day of Atonement

In the autumn, on the tenth day of the seventh month, came the crowning service of the year. All

They thought on their ways, and made haste, and delayed not to keep the commandments. The period of the investigative judgment opened in 1844 when every character would be measured by the standard of God's law. As the work opened in heaven, it was the will of God that on earth His people should test their lives by the law of God, and come into harmony with

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other services were a preparation for this. Day by day the sins of the people had been transferred in type and shadow to the priest and the sanctuary, and once each year these were to be cleansed, and the sins forever removed.

Gabriel revealed to Daniel the antitype of the time of cleansing the earthly sanctuary. "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14. This period of cleansing, we have found in the study of the ninth chapter of Daniel, began in 1844. The cover of the ark in the heavenly sanctuary was then lifted, and the law of God was seen by the people, not broken, but entire. In the midst of the law they traced the words, "The seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." Exodus 20:10. They awoke to the fact that they had been resting upon the first day of the week instead of the seventh. As they gazed at the law, a halo of light seemed to encircle the fourth commandment, which for so many years had been trampled underfoot. Reverently they listened to the words, "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD." Isaiah 58:13-14.

its holy precepts. The day of atonement was the type of the judgment. This was the most solemn day of the year to ancient Israel.

When the sun gilded the western hills of the land of Judea, on the ninth day of the seventh month, the trumpet was blown throughout Israel. The solemn warning of the trumpet produced a marked effect in every home. All work was laid aside, and quiet reigned. It was not the ordinary rest of the weekly Sabbath, for no evening meal was spread. There was not the usual baking and seething customary on the preparation for the Sabbath. No food was prepared, for this was not a feast, but a fast day. The father of the household gathered his family about him, and read from the Sacred Scroll: "Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls." Leviticus 23:31-32. With prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart the day was spent by the Israel of God. With solemn awe they repeated, "Whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people." Verse 29.

In the Gentile homes around them were eating and drinking and all the busy activities of daily life, but quiet reigned in the homes of Israel. In the temple court all was activity.

The bullock without blemish was brought, and the high priest laid his hands on its head, confessing his sins and the sins of his household. Then it was slain, and with the blood he made an atonement for himself and his household, that he might be prepared to perform the solemn service of the day.

When he came out, after presenting the blood of the bullock before the Lord, two goats were brought, lots were cast, and one was chosen for the Lord's goat, while the other, Azazel, the scapegoat, represented the evil one. The Lord's goat was slain. With its blood and the golden censer, the priest entered within the second veil of the sanctuary. As he neared the mercy seat with the glorious light of the shekinah shining above it, he sprinkled "much incense" upon the coals in the censer, "that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not." Leviticus 16:13. Then with his back toward the sun rising, he sprinkled the atoning blood seven times above and before that broken law within the ark. He paused in the holy place, and made atonement for it, and for the tabernacle of the congregation. The golden altar, that had so often during the year witnessed to the sins of Israel by the scarlet spots upon its horns, was now cleansed from all defilement by the blood of the Lord's goat. The people without listened attentively to the sound of the bells on his robes, as he moved about within the sanctuary.

"When he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat." Verse 20. The work of reconciliation ended, God and man were one. The at-one-ment had been made in figure. The separating sins had been removed. The people rejoiced in God that He had accepted them, and that their sins were all removed from before the Lord.

As they beheld the high priest lay his hands on the head of the scapegoat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the

head of the goat, and sending him away "by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness" (verse 21), their hearts filled with the peace that passeth understanding. They praised God for the wonderful gift of His love in giving His Son to die for sinful man, delivering him from sin and death. It was not until the goat was sent away into the barren wilderness that this peace filled the hearts of the people, and they felt that they were forever free from their sins.

That was the type. What does the antitype mean to us? Since 1844 the world has been living in the great antitypical day of atonement. The investigative judgment has been in session in heaven. In the type the people were to control their appetites, and to hold their own business interests secondary to the worship of God. This was shown by the Day of Atonement in the type being a rest and fast day.

We are living in the time when our great High Priest is cleansing the heavenly sanctuary, removing the sin records. We are admonished to repent and be converted, that our sins may be blotted out "when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19. When the reconciling is completed, and the last case is decided in the final judgment of Heaven, the Saviour will pronounce the decree: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Every case will be decided for eternity. Satan, the great instigator of all evil, the antitypical scapegoat, will then come in for his part of the service.

In the type the sins were laid upon the scapegoat in the presence of the congregation; in the antitype, the Saviour, in the presence of the Father, the angels of God, and all the redeemed host, will lay the sins of the righteous upon the head of Satan, and a mighty angel will lead him away to the desolate earth, where he will remain a thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, he will go into the fire which destroys the earth. Type will fully meet antitype when all the sins of

the righteous are burned up with Satan. Nothing remains but the ashes in "a clean place." Leviticus 6:11. It will then be seen that "Satan bore not only the weight and punishment of his own sins, but also the sins of the redeemed host, which had been placed upon him; and he must also suffer for the ruin of souls which he had caused." *Early Writings*, 294-295.

The sins of Israel will never again be found. The former things will not be remembered nor come into mind. Throughout eternity joy and peace will forever reign. The prophet says, "He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9.

Type must meet antitype. The great High Priest in heaven is now performing His service. Are you performing your part? In homes scattered all over the earth, faithful children of God *will* carry out the antitype in the way God directed the Israelites to spend the typical Day of Atonement.

The priest might have performed his part of the service perfectly in the temple; but unless the people in their homes fasted, rested, and prayed, the work was of no avail for them. Every Israelite who ate and conducted himself like the Gentiles around him on the Day of Atonement was cut off from among the people of God.

Is your home a place where the appetite is controlled? Do you hold your business interests secondary to the work of God? Are you heeding the Saviour's words, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [eating to excess], and drunkenness [partaking of improper food], and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares"? Luke 21:34. There will be one hundred and forty-four thousand who will heed the warning, and in the fear of God will fulfill the antitype. While Christ in heaven is faithfully interceding for them, they will present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, that God may be glorified. ❀

S.N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, 144-153.

Shedding the Winter Bulge

Ways to keep that unnecessary weight off

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” 1 Corinthians 3:9.

“I am going to loose this weight.” “I will start my exercise program soon.”

Sound familiar? 71% of Americans are at risk for health difficulties resulting from excess weight. Many are very concerned about it and want to shed the extra weight.

One of the first steps to lose weight should be to drink lots of water. Water suppresses your appetite, rids the body of toxic wastes, relieves constipation, and reduces fat deposits. Water also prevents fluid retention problems because your body realizes that it does not need to save fluid when it is getting a consistent supply. When maintaining weight, eight cups of water should be drunk daily, but when cleansing, ten or more is very helpful. Optimally, the urine color should be very pale, or clear; if it is dark, you are not drinking enough water.

Diet also plays a big role in losing weight. Those who can eat only fresh fruits and vegetables for one to two weeks will have definite cleansing and weight loss results. After the first two weeks, it is important to eat mostly fresh foods, with the addition of some low-fat carbohydrates such as bread, oatmeal, and pasta. You should eat mainly of foods that will fill you up, but will not add much fat; in this way, you will not feel underfed, but can still be losing weight. Nuts and seeds should be used sparingly; processed oils should be avoided. When the ideal weight is reached, you may add in more nuts and seeds, but still be very careful in eating processed foods.

The saying, “Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a queen, and supper like a pauper,” has a great deal of truth in it. Just by eating the right amount at the right time you

can make a big difference in your weight control. Making breakfast the largest meal of the day gets your calories into the body so that they can be utilized during the day. Eating a medium-sized lunch helps to maintain energy and re-fuel the body. Eat nothing in between meals,

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation

The saying, “Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a queen, and supper like a pauper,” has a great deal of truth in it. Just by eating the right amount at the right time you can make a big difference in your weight control.

as this puts a lot of stress on your stomach. Supper, if eaten, should be light, because this is the food that will be in your stomach while you sleep. Ideally, a light, early supper, could be digested before bedtime and could give the stomach a rest.

Exercise is essential to weight loss. The safest and best exercise is walking; with swimming as a close second. Speed is not the goal; what counts is the total distance covered and the duration of the activity. Those who are losing weight should walk or exercise at least 30–60 minutes daily.

To reach an ideal weight is the goal of many people, but it should definitely be the aim of all those who follow Christ. We have given ourselves to Him; we have presented our bodies for His service, and He requests that they be a fit offering. He has provided the power for us to be overcomers in this area—we must take hold of His strength.

When you are tempted to give in to the call of appetite, think of the following verses:

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.

also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

You may consider memorizing these scriptures to use when the temptation of appetite is strong—they will help!

May you resolve to allow Christ to work in you and use your body as His dwelling place! ✨

This article is an excerpt from a newsletter published by Preventive Health Care, the ministry of Dr. Phil Collins. Preventive Health Care offers a variety of services:

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The Law and the Prophets

Kent Millard

The Biblical theme of the “law and the prophets” is the foundational theme of the entire Bible. What the prophets have declared and the law has revealed, embraces and gives expression to all other subjects of Divine Inspiration.

Christ Himself declared in His Sermon on the Mount, “Think *not* that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: *I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*” Matthew 5:17. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

In this statement, Jesus was not only referring to all that is revealed in the law and the prophets but also to Himself. When Christ came to this earth He came as a prophet. See Acts 3:22–23; 7:37. He was also the very embodiment and expression of the law. Christ says of Himself in Psalm 40:8, “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”

Therefore, those who attack the law attack the very heart of Christ. And those who reject the prophets, reject Christ, for He Himself was One of the prophets.

In this article we will discover how Ahab, the king of Israel, rejected the “law and the prophets.” Then we will see how Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, and also the Roman Catholic Church have rejected the “law and the prophets.” Finally, we will see how this same danger exists today for those who claim to be part of God’s remnant church.

As we begin, let us read just a few of the many texts which explic-

itly present this theme. When the apostle Paul was making his defense before Felix, he said, “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.” Acts 24:14.

Solomon wrote, “Where there is no vision [a message from the prophets], the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Proverbs 29:18.

Then in the book of Nehemiah, we read, “Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee.” Nehemiah 9:26.

Ahab, Jezebel, and Naboth

Do you remember the story of Ahab, Jezebel, and Naboth in 1 Kings, chapter 21? Ahab was pouting because he wanted Naboth’s vineyard, but he did not own it. So Jezebel said, “Let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth.” Verse 7.

So Jezebel had Naboth falsely accused, and then murdered by the men of his city. Then Ahab went down to see his new property which he had obtained by theft and murder. The Bible says, “And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou

shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.” 1 Kings 21:17–20.

Ahab was a breaker of God’s law—a murderer and a thief. He also declared himself to be an enemy to Elijah the prophet, saying, “Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?”

This one point always holds true, that those who accept and obey the law will accept and obey the prophets. However, those who reject the prophets will also reject the law, and vice versa.

What then exposes a false prophet? A false prophet is one who teaches disobedience to the law of God. In Revelation 2:20, Jesus said, “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest [you allow] that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” Both fornication and idolatry are violations of God’s law. Therefore, false prophets, like Jezebel, lead people to become transgressors of the law.

Nebuchadnezzar and the Golden Image

Let us now turn to the book of Daniel and examine this same theme. In Daniel, chapter two, Nebuchadnezzar was given a dream of the history of the world—from Babylon to the second coming of Christ. The interpretation of the dream that God gave to Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel is what we call the historical interpretation of prophecy. This method of interpretation follows the line of history from the point of which it begins, and follows the unfolding of history until it reaches its point of conclusion with Heaven’s complete triumph.

In Daniel, chapter two, we saw the rise and fall of empires, begin-

ning with Babylon the head of gold, followed by the Medo-Persia as the silver breast and arms, Greece as the brass belly and thighs, and Rome as the legs of iron, and the feet of iron and clay. For a time, Nebuchadnezzar believed and was awed by this interpretation of his dream. However, as he continued to ponder the dream and realize that it plainly foretold the end of Babylon as the world's superpower, he rejected the prophet Daniel's interpretation.

In Daniel, chapter three, we find the king setting up an image made of all gold on the Plain of Dura, representing his intention to make Babylon an empire that would never end. All that glittering gold below the head of the image was an outright rejection of the prophetic word. But it also represented an outright rejection of God's law, which forbade the worship of idols. Had Nebuchadnezzar accepted the prophetic word, he would never have had the golden image built, and he would not have forced the people to worship it by penalty of death. But in rejecting the prophet, he rejected God's law.

The Catholic Church

Those who follow the historical method of prophetic interpretation have long identified the Roman Catholic Church as being the "little horn" power of Daniel, chapter seven. Concerning this "little horn," the prophetic word declares that he will "think to change times and laws." Daniel 7:25.

How did the Catholic Church think to change "laws"? The *Catholic Catechism* reveals that she thought to get rid of the second commandment of the Decalogue, which forbids the worship of idols. Then, of course, came her attempt to transfer reverence from the seventh-day Sabbath to Sunday. She has clearly admitted that this change has no Biblical foundation, but rests solely upon her own authority.

What then are the "times" that she has thought to change? The answer is found in this same text, namely, Daniel 7:25. "And he [the little horn] shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most

High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

The phrase "time and times and the dividing of time" refers to the 1260-year rule of the Papacy—both civilly and religiously from A.D. 538 to A.D. 1798 [see *The Great Controversy*, 306]. When the Reformers began to identify the Papacy as

rightly or through disuse, are preparing themselves for a real downfall. Most of them will not take a stand for God's law when the Sunday test comes.

The special test for the world in the time of Christ was to accept Him as "that prophet." Acts 3:23. The special test for our time is to accept or reject "the commandments of God." Revelation 14:12.

The special test for the world in the time of Christ was to accept Him as "that prophet." The special test for our time is to accept or reject "the commandments of God."

being the little horn power and the antichrist of Bible prophecy, the hierarchy of the Church of Rome became very alarmed. So during the Council of Trent, two Jesuit priests contrived deviant principles of prophetic interpretation, known today as the preterist and futurist views.

These two intentionally false and erroneous views of interpreting prophecy were the Catholic hierarchy's attempt to derail any interpretation pointing to the Papacy as being the little horn power of Daniel, chapter seven, and the antichrist power. Therefore, the "times" that the Papacy rejected was *prophetic time*. Had she not rejected the law of God she would not have been in the position of rejecting the prophet. But again we see that rejecting the one leads to violating the other.

A Warning to the Remnant

This warning is also for us who compose the remnant church. We cannot afford to play fast and loose with the law or the prophets. Therefore, we must ask, Are some Seventh-day Adventists on dangerous ground? Sadly, we find that some, who have imbibed in the futurist school of interpretation, have already given up the Sabbath and abandoned the faith altogether. Others who currently reject the Spirit of Prophecy, whether out-

As the Psalmist says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3. The answer is, Nothing. That is why, dear friends, we must never let our foundation be destroyed. God has said, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal. The Lord knoweth them that are his." 2 Timothy 2:19.

In closing, I would like to share a quotation from *Prophets and Kings*, 188–189, which shows that this great subject is not only a doctrine, it is also to be our experience in a very real and profound way:

"Among earth's inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law."

So let us all therefore dedicate ourselves to be faithful and true to the "law and the prophets," for by being faithful we will be receiving the joy of the Lord fully! ✨

Shall We Stand Up for Religious

Russell Standish

As we approach the time when our liberties will be taken away, it is natural that this question is being posed in some Seventh-day Adventist circles. While most Adventists who are pondering this question appear to answer in the affirmative, few have actually studied the subject. We are too late in this world's history to draw such a significant conclusion without the evidence of a plain "thus saith the Lord" to verify that conclusion.

A few Adventists are forming alternative conclusions. Some believe that this is a political issue and that we should have nothing to do with any potential breach of our religious liberty apart from praying for God's care. Others see any attempt to delay that which Scripture plainly foretells, as being equivalent to an effort to postpone the coming of our Lord.

So what does Inspiration have to say? Does it settle this matter, or is it open to other interpretations? The answer is that Inspiration plainly and unequivocally settles the issue. In this brief study, we will ask some questions relevant to the issue and examine God's answers.

1. When religious liberty is threatened, is prayer sufficient?

"We as a people have not accomplished the work which God

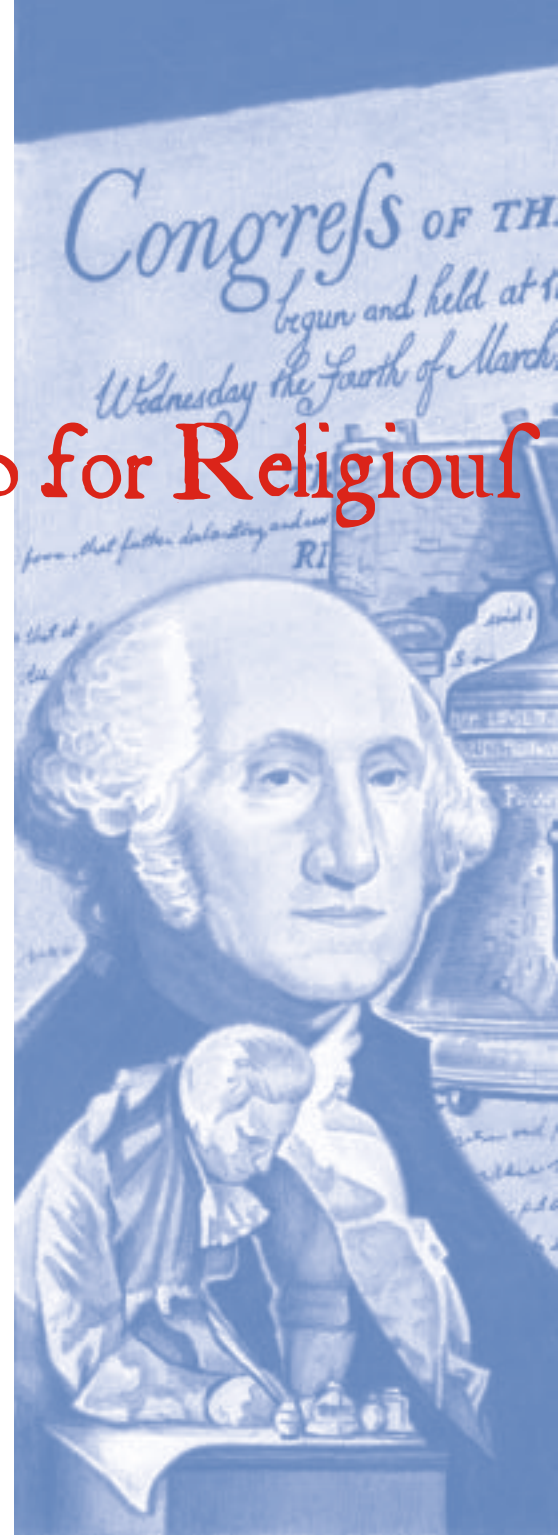
has committed to us. We are not ready for the issue to which the enforcement of the Sunday law will bring us. It is our duty, as we see the signs of approaching peril, to arouse to action. Let none sit in calm expectation of the evil, comforting themselves with the belief that this work must go on because prophecy has foretold it, and that the Lord will shelter His people. *We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience.* Fervent, effectual prayer should be ascending to heaven that this calamity may be deferred until we can accomplish the work which has so long been neglected. Let there be most earnest prayer, and then *let us work in harmony with our prayers.*" *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 713–714. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

2. Why should we act to protect religious liberty?

"It may be that a respite may yet be granted for God's people to awake and let their light shine. If the presence of ten righteous persons would have saved the wicked cities of the plain, is it not possible that God will yet, in answer to the prayers of His people, hold in check the workings of those who are making void His law?" *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 714.

3. Should we be inactive in the situation?

"If our people continue in the listless attitude in which they have been, God cannot pour upon them His Spirit. They are unprepared to cooperate with Him. They are not awake to the situation and do not realize the threatened danger. They should feel now, as never before, *their need of vigilance and concerted action.*" *Ibid.*



Liberty?

4. Is the defense of religious liberty present truth?

“When the National Reformers began to urge measures to restrict religious liberty, our leading men should have been alive to the situation and should have labored earnestly to counteract these efforts. It is not in the order of God that light has been kept from our people—the very *present truth* which they needed for this time.” *Ibid.*, 715.

5. In defending religious liberty, are we neglecting the preaching of the third angel’s message?

“Not all our ministers who are giving the *third angel’s message* really understand what constitutes that message. The National Reform movement has been regarded by some as of so little importance that they have not thought it necessary to give much attention to it and have even felt that in so doing they would be giving time to questions distinct from the *third angel’s message*. May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the *very message for this time*.” *Ibid.*

6. Is the Papacy involved in this matter?

“Any movement in favor of religious legislation is really an act of concession to the Papacy.” *Ibid.*, 711.

7. Should we protest our cause to the people?

“God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord’s people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith.” *Ibid.*, 452.

8. What should we do with the banner of religious liberty?

“The banner of truth and religious liberty which these Reformers held aloft has in this last conflict been committed to us. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His Word.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 402.

“This principle [“In matters of conscience the majority has no power”] we in our day are firmly to maintain. The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God’s witnesses during the

centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 68–69.

9. Before whom should we plead the cause of religious liberty?

“We may have to plead most earnestly before legislative councils for the right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience. Thus in His providence God has designed that the claims of His law shall be brought before men in positions of highest authority.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 375.

10. What are we to do just prior to the time of trouble?

“So should the followers of Christ, as they approach the time of trouble, make every exertion to place themselves in a proper light before the people, to disarm prejudice, and to avert the danger which threatens *liberty of conscience*.” *The Great Controversy*, 616.

This matter of religious liberty is poorly understood among God’s people, despite the fact that we know the future. It is only through a knowledge of this truth that we will serve our God faithfully in this regard. This is the time to spread our message by every means possible in the South Pacific and throughout the world. This is the time to preach the three angels’ messages—of which religious liberty is a crucial part:

“Thus will the message of the third angel be proclaimed. As the time comes for the loud cry to be given, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of a *union of Church and State*, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 424. ❖



Satan's Devices

Ellen G. White

The great controversy between Christ and Satan, that has been carried on for almost six thousand years, is soon to close. And yet how few have their attention called to this matter; how few realize that we are living amid the closing scenes of earth's history! Satan is working diligently, binding his sheaves preparatory to gathering in his harvest. He is uniting the elements of his kingdom for the final struggle. Since his fall, he has been the great adversary of God and man, and has shown a masterly activity in trying to defeat our Saviour's efforts in our behalf. He thinks that because so many readily yield to his temptations and believe his lies, he may yet gain some advantage over Christ, who left the royal courts of Heaven that he might defeat this wily foe on his own battlefield, and open a way whereby man might escape from his cruel power.

He is called in the Bible, Satan, Beelzebub, the serpent, the deceiver, a liar, the accuser of the brethren, the prince of the power of the air, the prince of darkness, and

the god of this world. Frightful names, infernal agencies! This fallen spirit, so malignant and subtle, is walking about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. When there is no special effort made to resist his power, when profound indifference prevails in the church and in the world, he is not concerned; for he is in no danger of losing those whom he is leading captive at his will. But when the attention is called to eternal things, and souls are inquiring, "What shall I do to be saved?" he is on the ground, seeking to match his power against the power of Christ, and doubling his efforts to counteract the influences of the Holy Spirit. Angels of God, with Jesus at their head, are present to press back the powers of darkness; but no one is forced to accept Jesus, and no one can be compelled by Satan's power to reject Him.

Satan is at your side when you least suspect it, watching to find a weak spot in your armor, where he can introduce his darts, and wound your soul by betraying you into sin.

He has access to minds that are open to receive his suggestions, and by long experience he has learned how to apply his temptations to the best advantage. His first effort is to keep as many minds as possible in a state of careless indifference. He will invent every imaginable excuse to keep people away from meetings where they might receive benefit from hearing the truth. He will especially work to make of none effect these morning meetings, where the Spirit of God is at work; and when he cannot keep persons away, his next effort will be to fill the mind with unimportant matters, thus preventing them from treasuring up the truths they hear.

This work Satan is engaged in at every meeting. He has different temptations prepared for different minds, and souls are continually yielding to his suggestions. He will adopt any means by which he may gain control of the thoughts and purposes of the heart. He will work to divert the mind from Heaven and heavenly things by the absorbing cares of this life. He will produce

temporary indisposition to keep you away from meetings where testimonies from Heaven will be borne, and your hearts would be impressed with the deep movings of the Spirit of God. If you attend the meetings, and your heart is impressed, he will tempt you to engage in unprofitable conversation on trivial things, so that you will forget the words spoken.

Circumstances will arise to divert the mind. Visitors, relatives, or worldly friends, or some temporal matter, will engage the attention; and then “cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.” Luke 8:12. These friends will make demands upon your time and strength, and thus God is robbed of the service due Him. Yet you flatter yourselves that you cannot do otherwise; for how can you displease your friends? God will not bring a curse upon you for thus robbing Him, but your own course of action brings its sure result. But however alluring Satan’s temptations, however natural and unavoidable they may seem to the mind that is not clear and sharp in spiritual discernment, you must not be lulled to carnal security. However dear your friends may be, if they lead you away from God they are emissaries of Satan, who works through the children of disobedience, speaks through human organs.

God will not work a miracle to change natural causes which you can control. If you place yourself and family in the current of the world, you and your children will be borne downward by it. Be wise and discriminating in regard to spiritual advantages, and gather about yourselves and your children correct influences. We may have a beautiful and fertile country; but surrounding influences may be weaving a spell upon our souls that will sink us to perdition, and our children may be lost to the cause of God because we did not place them where they would cultivate a love for divine things. We may save our own souls, as did Lot when he fled from Sodom; but the habits and customs with which we have become familiar may cling to us, and we may find that we have assimilated to them more than we were aware. This is a

risk that we cannot afford to run. We might better lose every worldly advantage than to lose Jesus, or dishonor Him by our careless inattention to His requirements. It is best to obey God at any sacrifice.

Another way that Satan comes in between God and your soul is to lead you to criticize the defects of your brethren and sisters, to watch their mistakes and talk about them.

injunction of the apostle to esteem others better than yourself.

By beholding we become changed. If you allow your mind to dwell upon the imperfections and moral deformities of others, you will be changed into the same image. You will become deformed in character, and mentally one-sided and unbalanced. Let the mind dwell upon the perfect life of

However alluring Satan’s temptations, however natural and unavoidable they may seem to the mind that is not clear and sharp in spiritual discernment, you must not be lulled to carnal security.

You think it is right to grieve over their errors; but the enemy takes advantage here, and hurls his poisoned darts through the defective places in your armor. You let bitterness into your soul, then jealousy and evil-surmising, and you do not realize it. Your heart becomes hardened against your brethren, and you speak evil of them. You do not know that you are doing the work of Satan, but you are; and you are growing spiritually weaker and weaker, and darker and darker.

The right course for you to pursue is marked out in the Bible, and you should follow it strictly. Go to your brother, and with your heart filled with tender, pitying love—just such love as inspired Jesus in His efforts to save a fallen race—tell him his fault between you and him alone. If you fail, do not let this depress you. It will do you harm, and not good, to let your mind dwell upon the mistakes and errors of others. Learn from their weakness to be strong yourself. Avoid their failures. Because Jesus is grieved by their faults, try the harder to honor Him yourself by a well-ordered life and godly conversation. If you think your neighbor or brother is defective in character, make him a special subject of prayer; but do not lift up your soul unto vanity by saying, “I am not like him. In contrast with him, I am righteous.” This is not obeying the

Christ. If the thoughts are centered upon Him, and the conversation is on heavenly themes, you will be “changed into the same image from glory to glory.” 2 Corinthians 3:18. You will become “partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4.

The way to eternal life is a battle and a march. The great adversary of souls is continually seeking to insinuate himself between you and the Source of your strength. If you allow your mind to be taken up with worldly cares, he will manage to have these cares so varied in character, and press so continually upon you, that you can find no time for the spiritual and the eternal. Worldly acquaintances introduce subjects that are of the greatest importance to them; you listen and are attracted, and these things of minor consequence absorb the mind and affections. You give time and attention, skill and inventive faculties, to outward ornamentation, to the neglect of the inward adorning of the soul. Time is worse than lost which should be devoted to the searching of the Scriptures and to earnest prayer for divine guidance; you rob your own souls of grace and power, and others of the light that should be reflected through you to the world.

But few know the real power of religion. They do not appreciate its

refining and elevating influence on the character; they do not partake of its joys nor enter into its spirit. We need constant communion with Jesus just as much as we need daily food to nourish the body. If there is a moment when we are in no danger of being deceived by the enemy, then for that moment we may dispense with divine aid. If there is any moment when we are not dependent on God for our breath, then there is a time when we need not obey the injunctions of His Word.

We should be sanctified by the truth. The conscience and the understanding, the words, the deeds, and the thoughts, should be controlled by truth, and not error. The principle of truth and righteousness implanted in the heart, will be revealed in the life, and especially in the family circle. God estimates a man by what he is in the bosom of his family. Fix the mind on things that are pure and holy. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are

just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think of these things." Philippians 4:8. And the life will be clothed with the beauty of holiness even here; but who shall tell what it will be, when the great controversy between sin and righteousness is forever closed, and we appear in "the beauty of the LORD our God"? Psalm 90:17. ✨

Signs of the Times, May 8, 1884.

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AB, Georgia



Thank you for the inspiring magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. It is very encouraging when truth is written straight and plain.

I especially like News Watch. Prophecy is fulfilling rapidly!
CH, Oregon

We have really been blest reading *Our Firm Foundation*!

Our prayer is that God will continue to bless you and your coworkers in your ministries.

JD, Arizona

Praise God! And thank you so very, very much in the name of Jesus for the Seventh-day Adventist Study Bible. May God, our Father, and Jesus forever bless you for this true gift you have given me.

I pray that someday I will be able to see and meet with some of you at a conference.

Oh, I just really and truly wish to thank you sincerely for the Bible which I will treasure until I die!

DW, Oregon

From Overseas

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I have to express my thanks and appreciation for what the Lord has done for us through you. Many souls have been won to Christ! Many plans have been made to carry the message to unentered areas. Continue to pray for us.

May God bless you. Thanks.
BK, Nigeria

You will be surprised to hear from an unknown brother. I am Pastor _____, a minister of a small group of brethren in Ghana, believing the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Again you would inquire, how did I happen to get one of your books, *The Lord's Day and A National Sunday Law*, and in fact I was impressed in reading it.

I would like to know more about your ministry and your interest in Afri-

can missions. Your brother has interest in warning the inhabitants of the impending conflict and the Third Angel's Message. My work is mostly concentrated in the rural areas which are often neglected by most religious groups.

The time in which we live calls for more intensive warning since time waits for no man and the people of God should come together and give the trumpet specific sound. God has blessed me with the talent of preaching publicly and my little effort is greatly blessed. I wish to get counseling materials, and your prayers are needed to help in my little outreach programs.

Ending with many Christian greetings. Yours in the service of Christ.

BN, Ghana

Greetings in the name of our King and Lord Jesus Christ! Our Lord has given me the wonderful opportunity to write to you this letter of request for some religious books like *Gospel Workers*, *Gospel Herald*, *Acts of the Apostles*, just to name a few for free distribution even old ones.

We have started our own lending library which has only eleven books. Please kindly help us. Your support is much needed by us who are in the small country where most people believe in spirit mediums and idols. I hope in Jesus name my humble application will receive your urgent attention.

May the God of Heaven bless you abundantly for what you are doing and may your loving kindness and sacrifices be richly blessed. Keep on with the good work. Amen!

Pastor SC, Zimbabwe

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to you for sending me the Holy Bibles and the other tracts. In fact, I was really, really happy to see the twenty-two Bibles and the number of tracts. I have distributed some of the Bibles and the tracts to my students. They have enjoyed reading the tracts and I am sure sooner or later some of them will write for more copies. Please

continue sending me more copies so that I can extend the distribution to other non-Adventist schools.

The *Seventh-day Sabbath and a National Sunday Law* book will be of immense help to the non-Adventists. There are some of the students who will not even listen to your preaching but when books are given to them they will find time to read at least once in their life time. God can, through His miraculous ways, change these students with a glance at some of the pages!

Your appeal for sponsorship for the printing of subsequent editions has well been taken and we are planning to give the little that we can. Our problem is the postage of the money to you since we in Ghana use the cedi which is about three thousand cedis to one dollar.

However, our prayers can do even more without money. We always pray for you so that God will replenish your treasury with abundance so that you can extend the same facility to other peoples elsewhere.

Please do everything within your means to help me win many of my students for Christ. Many of them have understood the truth about the Sabbath. But just because their parents are Catholics, there is the fear that if they accept the truth and be baptized as we Adventists do it, their parents will stop taking care of them.

I have about ten students in my school whose parents have stopped taking care of them because of their new found faith. I pay their fees and give them pocket money every morning from my own resources. I am not worried because I know this is what I can do to spread the gospel to these young souls and to win them for Christ.

Some of them are not even allowed to read the Bible at home. So I have given them one in the school which they read during break time. At least fifteen of them have joined the baptismal class to experience baptism by immersion.

JA, Ghana

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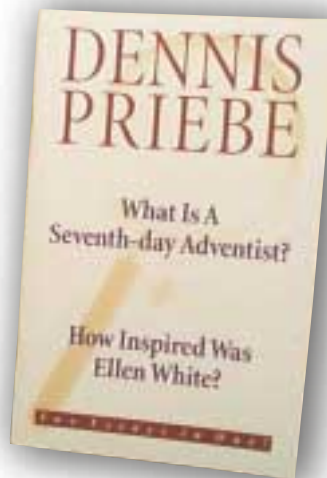


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