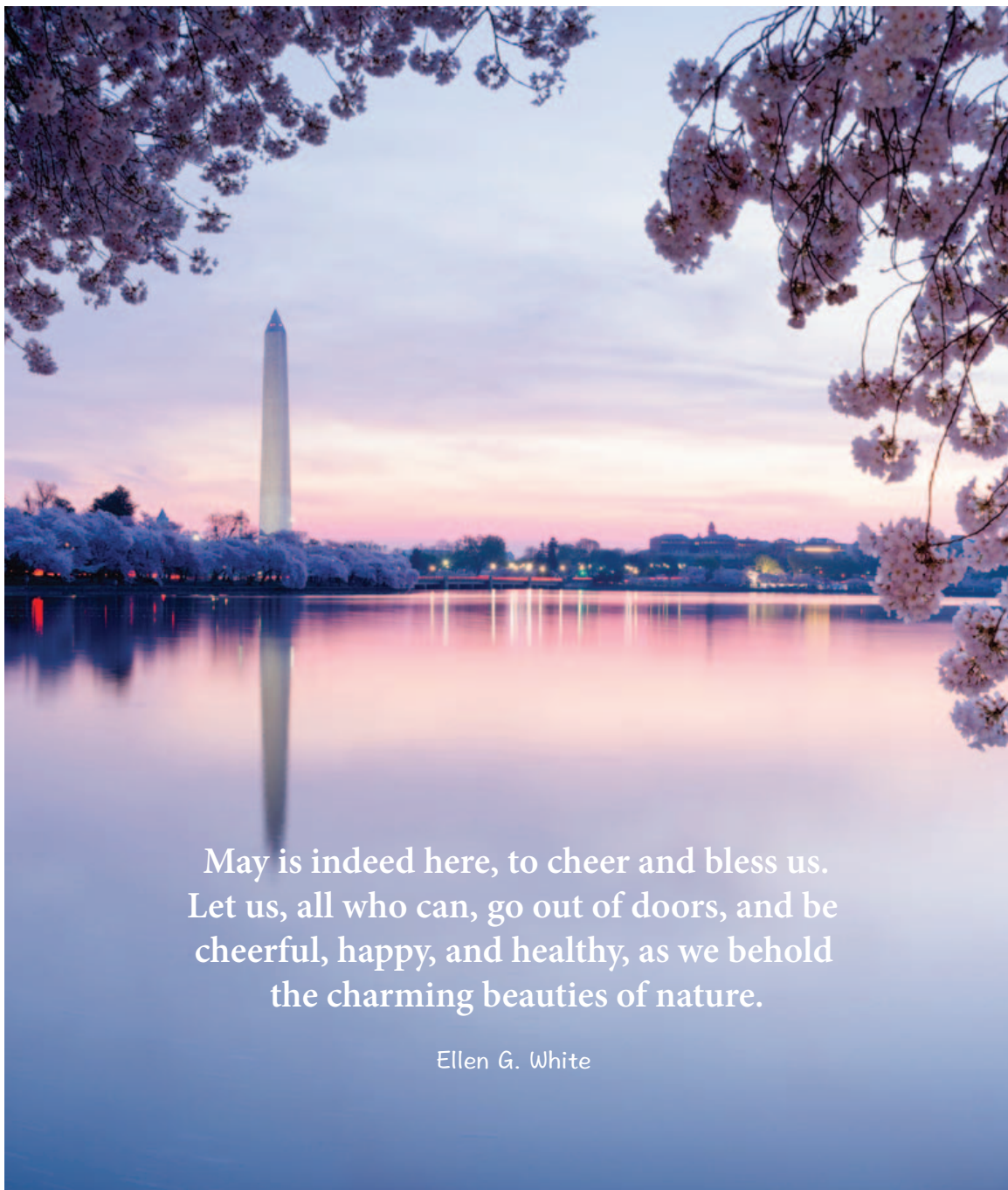


HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM



May is indeed here, to cheer and bless us.
Let us, all who can, go out of doors, and be
cheerful, happy, and healthy, as we behold
the charming beauties of nature.

Ellen G. White



Editor's Letter

John J. Grosboll

The Babylonian Captivity

Have you ever had something happen that you previously thought could not happen? When it did happen, did your trust in God waver?

The church has passed through dark days in her long conflict with evil in the past and as we are preparing for the final conflict in the Great Controversy, we need to develop a faith that will not fail when things happen that seem totally unexplainable.

"The darkest hour of the church's struggle with the powers of evil is that which immediately precedes the day of her final deliverance. But none who trust in God need fear; for when 'the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall,' God will be to His church 'a refuge from the storm' (Isaiah 25:4)." *Prophets and Kings*, 725. (See Daniel 12:1, 2 and Jeremiah 30:1–9.)

The prophet wrote, "To Babylon

you shall go. There you shall be delivered" (Micah 4:10).

Ellen White summarized it like this: "Fellow pilgrim, we are still amid the shadows and turmoil of earthly activities; but soon our Saviour is to appear to bring deliverance and rest. Let us by faith behold the blessed hereafter as pictured by the hand of God. He who died for the sins of the world is opening wide the gates of Paradise to all who believe on Him. Soon the battle will have been fought, the victory won. Soon we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. And in His presence the trials and sufferings of this life will seem as nothingness. The former things 'shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.' 'Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have

done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.' 'Israel shall be saved ... with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end' (Isaiah 65:17; Hebrews 10:35–37; Isaiah 45:17).

"Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase. Let this faith guide you along the narrow path that leads through the gates of the city into the great beyond, the wide, unbounded future of glory that is for the redeemed. 'Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh' (James 5:7, 8)." *Prophets and Kings*, 731, 732.

LANDMARKS

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LandMarks is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God's true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (II Peter 1:12)—those historic doctrines espoused by Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the nineteenth century. Its purpose is to help all of God's remnant people to press together in unity, holding high the banner on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Because the powers of darkness have attempted to take control of God's last-day people through infiltration and false signs and teaching which if possible would deceive the very elect, this magazine is intended to help those believers who are contending with professed brethren over the faith once delivered to the saints. Many historic believers have established home churches where they can bring new interests and converts to hear the Three Angels' Messages instead of the New Theology. This magazine is designed to help them to defend the faith and to expose the flood of false doctrine by which the truth is being assailed in these last days.

It is the goal of *LandMarks'* editors to present articles based on truth from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Viewpoints of writers and/or contributors expressed outside of articles printed in this publication are not necessarily the views of this magazine's editors and are not endorsed by Steps to Life Ministries.

Features

May 2018

4 Cleansing the Camp

God calls for a people to be ready to give the last warning message of mercy to a dying world. He is looking for vessels of honor, clean vessels to sound a note of warning. Past wrongs must be repented and as far as possible restitution be made. They must be pure and divested of self, exhibiting the beauty of righteousness, holiness and truth.

By John J. Grosboll

10 The Wise and the Foolish

Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Through the right exercise of the will and constant surrender of the will to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.

By Brenda Douay

16 Testimony—Maine Blizzard

God has so many ways to answer our prayers that we know nothing about. I think He wants us to trust Him, and to be amazed when He answers in ways we cannot even imagine.

By Deborah Massey

18 Light in the Darkness

If the one who longs to know more of Christ and His infinite love, will study the types and symbols of the earthly sanctuary, connecting each with its glorious antitype, his soul will be filled with rapture.

By Stephen N. Haskell

More in this Issue

21 Pen of Inspiration

The Message of the Stars

23 Keys to the Storehouse

Little Sir Echo

24 Story Time

The Best Mother

26 Your Letters

Letters to the Editor

27 Question and Answer

Why Did the Lord Want to Kill Moses?

28 Health

Far Reaching Consequences

30 Life Sketches

A Clean Heart

35 Bible Study Guide

The Life of Abraham

50 Food

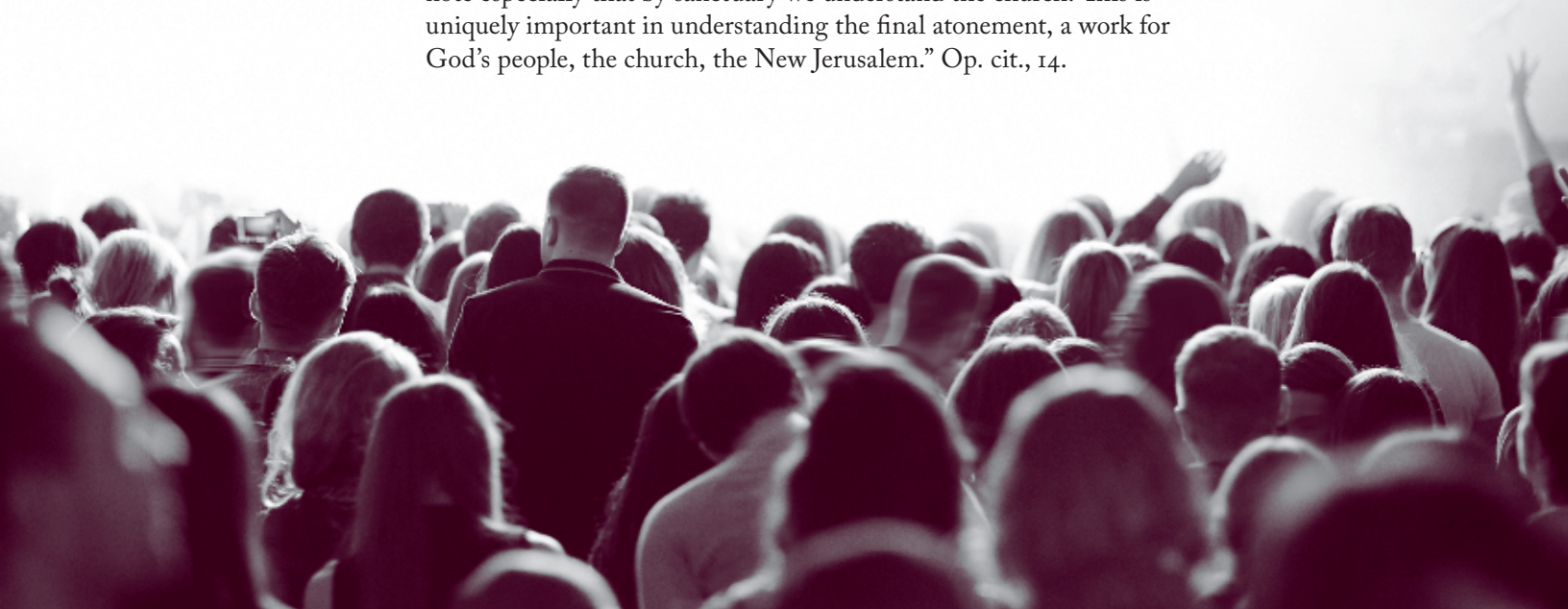
Amazing Little Lentil

CLEANSING THE CAMP

By John J. Grosboll

There are people who do not believe in corporate accountability, or corporate responsibility, or corporate sin; and they believe it is all individual and not corporate. A book that investigates the beliefs of William Miller, called *Then Shall the Sanctuary be Cleansed*, was written in 1958 by Don Short but not published until 1991 investigates the beliefs of William Miller.

Don Short said, “The first proof we have as respects Christ’s Second Coming to time is Daniel 8:14, ‘Unto two thousand three hundred days, then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’ By days we are to understand years. Sanctuary we understand the church. Cleansed we may reasonably suppose means complete redemption from sin, both soul and body.” He then makes the comments, “We should note especially that by sanctuary we understand the church. This is uniquely important in understanding the final atonement, a work for God’s people, the church, the New Jerusalem.” Op. cit., 14.



Short continues on page 20 stating, “The daily ministration was different from the yearly made on the 10th day of the 7th month, in making the former [the daily] the priest went into the holy place. But for the later he went into the holy of holies. The former was for the individual cases. The later was for the entire nation, the corporate body.”

This is something the Seventh-day Adventists have taught since the 19th century. Ellen White addressed this issue very clearly and at some length in a letter she wrote to the general conference president and also to S. N. Haskell in 1886. The entire letter was reproduced in *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, starting on page 318. In this letter, she refers to the term *corporate body* as a group of people that are organized into a church, either local or worldwide.

In paragraph 1 she wrote, “For weeks I have not been able to sleep after half past 3 o’clock. My mind is deeply exercised in regard to our condition as a people. We ought to be far in advance of any other people on the earth because we have greater light and greater knowledge of the truth, which lays us under increased accountability to advance that light and not only profess to believe the truth but to practice it. When we do practice the truth we are then following Jesus, who is the light of the world; and if we as a people are not constantly elevating, becoming more and more spiritually minded, we are becoming like the Pharisees—self-righteous—while we do not the will of God.”

If we are not advancing we are doing just the opposite, going backward. She wrote, “Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ to answer every prayer offered in earnest living faith.” Ibid., 318, 319. It is

wonderfully comforting to know that heaven is watching and waiting to answer earnest prayers.

However, there is such a thing as corporate responsibility and the possibility of corporate rejection. Giving an example of this she wrote, “I think of His [Jesus] great sorrow as He wept over Jerusalem, exclaiming, ‘O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not’ (Luke 13:34)! God forbid that these words

great light and special advantages, for these high and heavenly favors only increase their responsibility.

“The more and increased light God has given makes the receiver more responsible. It does not place the receiver in any safer position unless the privileges are wisely improved, prized, and used to advance God’s glory. Christ said, ‘Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee Bethsaida! for if the mighty works which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes’ (Matthew 11:21).” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 319.

We ought to be far in advance of any other people on the earth because we have greater light and greater knowledge of the truth, which lays us under increased accountability to advance that light.

shall apply to those who have great light and blessings. In the rejecting of Jerusalem it was because great privileges were abused, which brought the denunciation upon all who lightly regarded the great opportunities and precious light that were entrusted to their keeping.” Ibid, 319.

There was no group of people prior to that time that had had a greater revelation of divine truth than the Jews had when Jesus was on earth.

Jesus says in Luke 12:48, “... to whom much is given, much is required” (literal translation). With light and knowledge comes responsibility and accountability. She continued, “Privileges do not commend us to God, but they commend God to us. No people are saved because they have

It was bad for Chorazin and Bethsaida but even worse for Capernaum. Capernaum was known as Jesus’ own city where He probably did more than in any other city. Notice what He said about Capernaum in Matthew 11:23, 24: “And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

In commenting on this Ellen White wrote, “When Jerusalem was divorced from God it was because of her sins.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 319. Peter talks about this principle

when he said, “For if God did not spare the angels ... and did not spare the ancient world ... then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly ... and reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2:4, 5, 9).

Jerusalem was divorced from God because of her sins. “She fell from an exalted height that Tyre and Sidon had never reached. And when an angel falls, he becomes a fiend. The depth of our ruin is measured by the exalted light to which God has raised us in His great goodness and unspeakable mercy. Oh, what privileges are granted

vidual heart, in the household, in the church—there is disorder, strife, variance, enmity, envy, jealousy, because the enemy of man and of God has the controlling power over the mind. But let the truth be loved and brought into the life, as well as advocated, and that man or woman will hate sin and will be a living representative of Jesus Christ to the world.” Ibid., 320.

On the day of judgment, “The people claiming to believe the truth will not be condemned because they had not the light, but because they had great light and did not bring their hearts to the test of God’s great moral

heart searching, for we are in the antitypical day of atonement—solemn hour fraught with eternal results.” Ibid., 378.

Repentance results in a change of heart. The basic meaning of the Greek word means to change your mind. What do you change your mind about? You change your mind about sin. The unconverted person loves sin. If you love sin, you hate the law of God. And if you hate the law of God, you really hate God Himself. Paul refers to this in Romans 8. He says that the carnal man, the unconverted man, is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. He is at enmity with the law. So, how do you begin the work of purification? This begins with repentance, which means, instead of loving our sins, we are sorry enough to quit them.

The root of the sin problem is pride and selfishness. To be purified means to become humble in heart with deep heart searching.

The next instruction is for ministers to be “clean vessels.” Isaiah 52:11 says, “Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of the LORD.” The same instruction is given in the New Testament: for “... each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor” (1 Thessalonians 4:4).

Clean vessels will then be able to sound a note of warning. “Let the men standing as watchmen and as shepherds of the flock proclaim the solemn truth, sound the notes of warning to all people, nations and tongues.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 321.

God never forsakes people either individually or corporately until they first forsake Him. “The neglect to bring purity and truth into practice will grieve the Spirit of God and weaken them because God is not in

No people are saved because they have great light and special advantages, for these high and heavenly favors only increase their responsibility.

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 entrusted to mortal man to give to the world?” Ibid.

God has given the Seventh-day Adventist church more light than any previous group of people since the beginning of the world. However, there is a problem.

“We are far from being the people God would have us to be, because we do not elevate the soul and refine the character in harmony with the wonderful unfolding of God’s truth and His purposes. ‘Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people’ (Proverbs 14:34). Sin is a disorganizer. Wherever it is cherished—in the indi-

standard of righteousness.” *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, 377.

Remember, this letter was written in 1886 to the general conference president, making an appeal to all the Adventist people. The 1888 General Conference was held just before a major Sunday law crisis in the United States. It appears, as I study history, that because the church failed to accept the message of righteousness by faith in 1888, everything in God’s plan for finishing His work was put on hold.

“Let the churches who claim to believe the truth, who are advocating the law of God, keep that law and depart from all iniquity. Let the individual members of the church resist the temptations to practice evils and indulge in sin. Let the church commence the work of purification before God by repentance, humiliation, deep

their midst to bless. Internal corruption will bring the denunciations of God upon this people as it did upon Jerusalem. Oh, let pleading voices, let earnest prayer be heard, that those who preach to others shall not themselves be castaways. My brethren, we know not what is before us, and our only safety is in following the Light of the world. 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." Ibid., 321, 322.

A very sobering thought is that, "The least transgression of God's law brings guilt upon the transgressor, and without earnest repentance and forsaking of sin he will surely become an apostate." Ibid., 322.

This letter that Ellen White wrote to the general conference president was in response to their inquiry about what they should do. They were concerned about the pressure being brought to bear on Seventh-day Adventists to sanctify Sunday. Some Seventh-day Adventists had been put in chain gangs in the southern United States at this time.

She wrote: "I can speak in the fear of God, it is right we should use every power we can to avert the pressure that is being brought to bear upon our people. I know that were our people spiritualized by the truth the greatest love would be maintained.

"[We are] not to provoke those who have accepted this spurious sabbath, an institution of the Papacy, in the place of God's holy Sabbath. Their not having the Bible arguments in their favor makes them all the more angry and determined to supply the place of arguments that are wanting in the word of God, by the power of their might. The force of persecution follows the steps of the dragon. There-



Jesus says in Luke 12:48, "... to whom much is given, much is required" (literal translation).

fore great care should be exercised to give no provocation. And again let us as a people, as far as possible, cleanse the camp of moral defilement and aggravating sins. When sin is making its march upon the people who claim to be elevating the moral standard of righteousness, how can we expect God to turn His power in our behalf and save us as a people that did righteousness?" Ibid., 322.

Notice, she says "as a people," a corporate body. She is not referring to individuals here, but a camp. There was a need to cleanse the camp.

I have tried to think this through, in as unbiased a way as possible, what would be involved in cleansing the whole Adventist camp?

Here are a few things that would have to happen.

- 1 Past wrongs must be repented of, confessed to the appropriate parties, if they are still alive, and then, restitution must be made as far as possible to have genuine revival

and reformation. The first thing the Holy Spirit does is to convict of sin.

- 2 Forsake the wrongs that have been perpetrated.
- 3 Forsake all hierarchical church organization and seek to get back to New Testament church order. Hierarchical church organization is patterned after the kingly power, manifested by the papacy, and what Israel wanted in the days of Samuel, and to which the Seventh-day Adventist church returned in 1903.

After Israel accepted kingly power they were never able to get back to a pure theocracy.

- 4 Cease the infighting among God's professed people.
- 5 Recognize that in 1904 God authorized the self-supporting work and that these self-supporting workers were authorized to eat the showbread.

The corporate structure of Adventism has either fought or attempted to control self-supporting work ever

since it began. Either position is apostasy. Every hand, mind, and heart is needed to finish God's work.

Ellen White wrote, "All the policy in the world cannot save us from a terrible sifting, and all the efforts made with high authorities will not lift from us the scourging of God, just because sin is cherished. If as a people we do not keep ourselves in the faith and not only advocate with pen and voice the commandments of God, but keep them every one, not violating a single precept knowingly, then weakness and ruin will come upon us." Ibid., 323.

Many claim to be commandment keepers, but if they are not actually kept, ruin is going to come upon us. "It is a work that we must attend to in every one of our churches." Ibid.

God is looking for a clean, pure people ready for the return of Jesus Christ. She says, "All the struggles [of those in the southern United

of righteousness, holiness, and truth. The most harmonious theory will not save us." Ibid., 323, 324.

"There are many doctrines current in our world. There is many a religion current that numbers its thousands and tens of thousands, but there is but one that bears the superscription and the stamp of God." Ibid., 324.

Here she speaks of the Seventh-day Adventist religion and then about what is going to happen.

"We are to be ready and waiting for the orders of God. Nations will be stirred to their very center. Support will be withdrawn from those who proclaim God's only standard of righteousness, the only sure test of character." Ibid.

Those are the people who are proclaiming the law of God as still valid. She says, "And all who will not bow to the decrees of the national councils and obey the national laws to exalt the

"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." Ibid.

When this happens, who are the only people who will be left? "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." Ibid., 324, 325.

Though it does matter what church or organization you belong to, the most important thing of all is to learn how to overcome sin by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony. Those who learn this are the only ones that will be left. I want to be among those that are left.

"We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.

"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. ...

"That which God required of Adam before his fall was perfect obedience to His law. God requires now what He required of Adam, perfect obedience, righteousness without a flaw, without shortcoming in His sight. God help us to render to Him all His law requires." Ibid., 325.

God does not want any to be discouraged when reading His requirements. Remember that whoever wants to do His will He gives His power to accomplish it. If God cannot help me to do what He has told me to do, then He would be a liar.

We are far from being the people God would have us to be, because we do not elevate the soul and refine the character.

States at that time] to carry our appeals to the highest authorities in our land, however earnest and strong and eloquent may be the pleas in our favor, will not bring about that which we desire unless the Lord works by His Holy Spirit in the heart of those who claim to believe the truth. ... we shall fail unless the Lord pleads in our behalf. God will be honored among His people. They must be pure; they must be divested of self ... But as a people we need the beauty

sabbath instituted by the man of sin to the disregard of God's holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of popery alone, but of the Protestant world, the image of the beast." Ibid.

And when this Sunday law crisis comes, that is going to be a time when more than ever before, we will see the devil work his miracles. They are going to be so powerful to deceive that it will appear that Adventism has disappeared from the face of the earth.

His throne is staked on His promise that if you choose to trust Him, He will enable you to do His will. It is the devil that keeps telling you that you cannot do it.

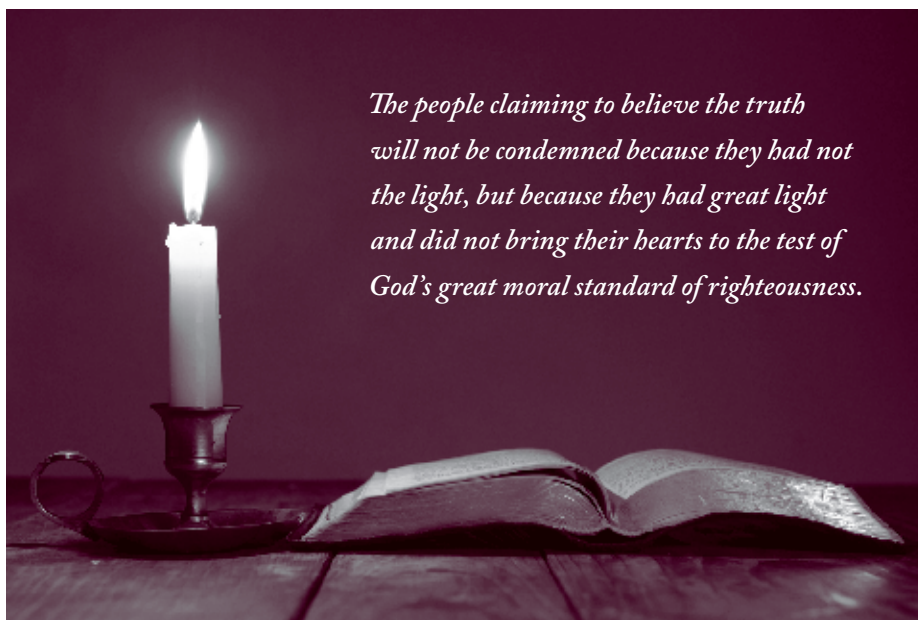
The answer is to be connected. If you have ever tried to raise grapes, there is an external connection which connects the branch to the vine. But there also has to be an internal connection. You cannot see the internal connection, but the living sap; the living current flows from the vine into the branch. It is invisible, but you can see the results, because the branch will be supple and not brittle. It will be alive and put forth leaves.

That is the living connection. The external connection is belonging to a church—being a church member with your name on the books, but that is not enough. What is needed is a living connection with Jesus Christ. He will come into your life and you will receive power from Him to do His will. That is what it means to have salvation. The result is no more struggling among us regarding who is going to be first.

The first struggle began in heaven with Satan who wanted to be like the Most High. The quest for being the best or first has been a huge problem ever since. Anybody who knows anything about church history knows that this has been a huge problem. Study the history of the Roman Catholic church. Study the history of the Adventist church.

“There is no struggling there [heaven] to be first, to have the supremacy; all will love their neighbor as themselves.” Ibid., 326, 327.

So, there is a great crisis coming. “The great issue so near at hand will weed out those whom God has not appointed, and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain.” Ibid., 327.



We must know from God's word where we stand, whether we are going to heaven. Those who will enter through those pearly gates will be people who do not lie or commit abomination, or do that which is unlawful. They are not transgressors of God's law. Transgression must become a thing of the past in our lives.

Remember, when something seems to be whispering in your mind that says it is impossible, it is the devil attempting to cause discouragement. You may fall many times, but get back up and look to Jesus, who is "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

If you come to Jesus, He will pick you up and He will give you strength and power. He will put His life into your life through His Holy Spirit and that is what will give you spiritual life and give you the ability to live a Christian life.

Friend, things are often not what they seem in the religious world. Many may appear outwardly to be getting ready for heaven but it is what is happening inside that counts.

God does not see things the way we see them. In heaven, there will be those whom we didn't expect to be there and many will be missing whom we thought for sure should be. The Lord told Samuel that he looked on the outside. God does not look on the outside. He looks at what is going on in the heart.

We are so near the end of time. We need to pray for each other. We need to pray for our leaders. We need to pray for our fellow church members. We need to pray that the heart work that needs to happen will happen because we each must have that living connection with Jesus if we are going to be saved and be in the Kingdom of Heaven.

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

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THE WISE & THE FOOLISH

THE TEST OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

BY BRENDA DOUAY

There is a differentiating factor between the wise and the foolish virgins. As we read various descriptions of the two classes—the wise and the foolish virgins, see where you might place yourself in the descriptions or illustrations. Be honest with yourself. This is one place where it will be fatal to be self-deceived. “When the foolish virgins reached the banqueting hall, they received an unexpected denial. They were left outside in the blackness of the night.” *The Review and Herald*, October 31, 1899. These foolish virgins felt secure and expected entrance, but they were denied. This is not an experience we want to have.

“We all need to study as never before the parable of the ten virgins. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. This is the holy oil represented in Zechariah. ‘Then answered I again, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the



two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth' (Zechariah 4:11-14). This representation is of the highest consequence to those who claim to know the truth. But if we do not practice the truth, we have not received the holy oil, which the two golden pipes empty out of themselves. The oil is received into vessels prepared for the oil. It is the Holy Spirit in the heart which works by love and purifies the soul." Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1179.

Here is the same definition of the oil, but in different words. "The golden oil represents the grace with which God keeps the lamps of believers supplied, that they shall not flicker and go out. Were it not that this holy oil is poured from heaven in the messages of God's Spirit, the agencies of evil would have entire control over men." *The Review and Herald*, July 20, 1897.

Our Lord describes the foolish, without the oil of God's grace. "The oil of grace gives to men the courage, and supplies to them the motives for doing every day the work that God appoints to them. The five foolish virgins had lamps (a knowledge of Scripture truth), but they had not the grace of Christ. Day by day they went through a round of ceremonies and external duties, but their service was lifeless, devoid of the righteousness of Christ. The Sun of Righteousness did not shine in their hearts and minds, and they had not the love of the truth which conforms to the life and character, the image and superscription, of Christ. The oil of grace was not mingled with their endeavors. Their religion was a dry husk without the true kernel. They held fast to forms of doctrines, but they were deceived in their Christian life, full of self-righteousness, and failing to learn lessons in the school

of Christ, which, if practiced, would have made them wise unto salvation." Ibid., March 27, 1894.

The difference between the wise and the foolish virgins is that the wise virgins accept and cooperate with God in His plan of redemption. They grasp the promise of the new covenant which is, "The restoration in the human soul of the image of God." *Education*, 125. It is "the power of God, 'which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 15:57)." Ibid., 125, 126.

Paul says, "I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God,

the precious jewels of truth with the rubbish of tradition and fable, that it was impossible to distinguish the true from the false. The Saviour came to clear away the rubbish of superstition and long-cherished errors, and to set the jewels of God's word in the framework of truth. 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 in clearing away the rubbish of tradition and ceremony. The Jews were greatly disturbed when he did this work. They had lost sight of the original truth of God, but Christ brought it again to view. It is our work to free the precious truths of

These foolish virgins felt secure and expected entrance, but they were denied. This is not an experience we want to have.

and they shall be to Me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 8:10-12).

The Jews were not only unprepared, unready, not looking for and understanding the first advent of Christ, but fulfilled the very prophecies of Christ's suffering, His rejection, His betrayal and death. This happened because they were driven by self and pride, they had changed their fundamental beliefs, they were foolish virgins.

Some have done the very same thing today. "In the time of the Saviour, the Jews had so covered over

God from superstition and error." *The Review and Herald*, June 4, 1889.

The prevailing popular error that it is impossible to gain victory over sin will lead many to reject Christ by rejecting the Spirit of Prophecy, which explains clearly, in complete agreement with Scripture, that we must overcome not only our sins but our propensity to sin. Many repeat with all the conviction worthy of pure truth that overcoming sin completely is impossible, but this is Satan's lie.

Let's look at this a little more.

All ten virgins have lamps – symbol of light—truth.

All ten are called virgins – they profess a pure truth.

All go out to meet the bridegroom – all believe that Jesus is coming again

for they “go out to meet Him” (Matthew 25:6).

All ten expect entrance at the wedding feast.

All these are good attributes but the key element is missing from the foolish virgins, the oil of grace, the Holy Spirit in their lives. *Steps to Christ*, 58, 59 explains it like this:

“Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, ‘love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance’

“There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. If he restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, confess his sins, and love God and his fellow men, the sinner may be sure that he has passed from death unto life.”

The following two statements are from an article on the parable of the ten virgins entitled “A Solemn Lesson.” “Repentance for sin is the first step in conversion. Repentance is an intense hatred of sin in all its forms. ... He who is truly repentant, he who

causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.

“Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now choose to be Christians.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.” *Steps to Christ*, 47, 48. [Emphasis author’s.]

Here is where the foolish virgins fail. They are not hypocrites. Hear the words of the Lord. “The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit’s working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted

Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."

(Galatians 5:22, 23). They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive [inconspicuous, unremarkable, bland, modest, self-effacing, unassuming]. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure. The vain customs and fashions of the world are laid aside. Christians will seek not the ‘outward adorning,’ but ‘the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit’ (1 Peter 3:3, 4).

is regenerated, hates sin. All manner of selfishness is distressing to him. Indifference to God on the part of those around him grieves him.” *The Signs of the Times*, August 13, 1894. The wise virgins are regenerated. They have been born again.

This experience is no happenstance. It is no accident. It is a conscious choice. Again, *Steps to Christ* describes the path of the wise virgin. “Many are inquiring, ‘How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?’ You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and

their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 411.

This is serious business. "They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him." We learn of God, of Jesus, His character, of His work and purpose for mankind in the holy words of Inspiration.

"The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ, and the Saviour desired to fix the faith of His followers on the Word. When His visible presence should be withdrawn, the Word must be their source of power. Like their Master, they were to live 'by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4).

"As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God's word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the Word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another's mind. We



As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God.

should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word. We should take one verse, and concentrate the mind on the task of ascertaining the thought which God has put in that verse for us. We should dwell upon the thought until it becomes our own, and we know 'what saith the Lord.' " *The Desire of Ages*, 390.

Do you know experientially, "what saith the Lord?" The wise virgins do. They know the voice of their Lord. What about the foolish virgins? We read, "... but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. 'They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness' (Ezekiel 33:31). The

apostle Paul points out that this will be the special characteristic of those who live just before Christ's second coming. He says, 'In the last days perilous times shall come: for men shall be lovers of their own selves; ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof' (2 Timothy 3:1-5)." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 411.

Here it is stated again: the foolish are content with a superficial work. They do not believe that it is possible to overcome. So as long as they keep their sins confessed they will be fine. They believe that Jesus did it all at the cross. All that is necessary now is to believe. This is the overpowering yet fatal deception of today.

The foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work and they do not truly know God. What we need is faith that works by love and purifies the soul.

"Those who have divine enlightenment will see the necessity of overcoming, for they will realize something of the purpose of Heaven in regard to the influence they are to

exert upon others for their salvation. If those who have serious faults to overcome, would rely on God with earnest faith, he would work for them; and the more diligently they devoted themselves to the cultivation of virtue and the discharge of duty, the more grace would they receive to become like the Pattern. With the experience of conversion to Christ, a new life begins. The apostle says, 'If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new' (2 Corinthians 5:17). Whoever accepts Jesus will make determined efforts to overcome through the strength imparted to

powers and passions of the converted man are brought under the control of Christ. His Spirit is a renewing power, transforming to the divine image all who will receive it. It makes me sad to say that this experience is understood by but few who profess the truth. Very many follow on in their own ways and indulge their sinful desires and yet profess to be disciples of Christ. They have never submitted their hearts to God. Like the foolish virgins they have neglected to obtain the oil of grace in their vessels with their lamps. I tell you, my brethren, that a large number who profess to believe and even to teach the truth

The law of God is his delight. Instead of seeking to bring down the divine commands, to accord with his deficiencies, he is constantly striving to rise to the level of their perfection.

"Such an experience must be ours if we would be prepared to stand in the day of God. Now, while probation lingers, while mercy's voice is still heard, is the time for us to put away our sins. While moral darkness covers the earth like a funeral pall, the light of God's standard-bearers must shine the more brightly, showing the contrast between heaven's light and Satan's darkness." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 119, 220.

Don't these words from Inspiration just thrill your soul? Oh, to the soul in love with our Saviour, these words are electrifying, they are life. Obedience is not drudgery.

"The service of Christ is not drudgery to the fully consecrated soul. Obedience to our Saviour does not detract from our happiness and true pleasure in this life, but it has a refining, elevating power upon our characters. The daily study of the precious words of life found in the Bible strengthens the intellect and furnishes a knowledge of the grand and glorious works of God in nature. Through the study of the Scriptures we obtain a correct knowledge of how to live so as to enjoy the greatest amount of unalloyed happiness. The Bible student is also furnished with Scripture arguments so that he can meet the doubts of unbelievers and remove them by the clear light of truth. Those who have searched the Scriptures may ever be fortified against the temptations of Satan; they may be thoroughly furnished to all good works and prepared to give to every man that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them." *Ibid.*, vol. 3, 374.

Another description of the wise virgins from the pen inspired by our God: "When we seek for appropriate

People today believe that Jesus did it all at the cross. All that is necessary now is to believe. This is the overpowering yet fatal deception of today.

him from Heaven; his whole character must and will be transformed. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith, he will go on from grace to grace, from strength to strength, and power will be given him to uproot every evil. ... Faith, living, active faith, works by love and purifies the soul; it becomes an abiding principle in the life. Everyone who has accepted the righteousness of Christ is placed on high vantage-ground. His conversation, his habits, will be of a high, refined character, after the example of his Lord, and then he will not lie against the truth. He will rise above all baser things into the pure atmosphere of heaven." *The Signs of the Times*, October 13, 1890.

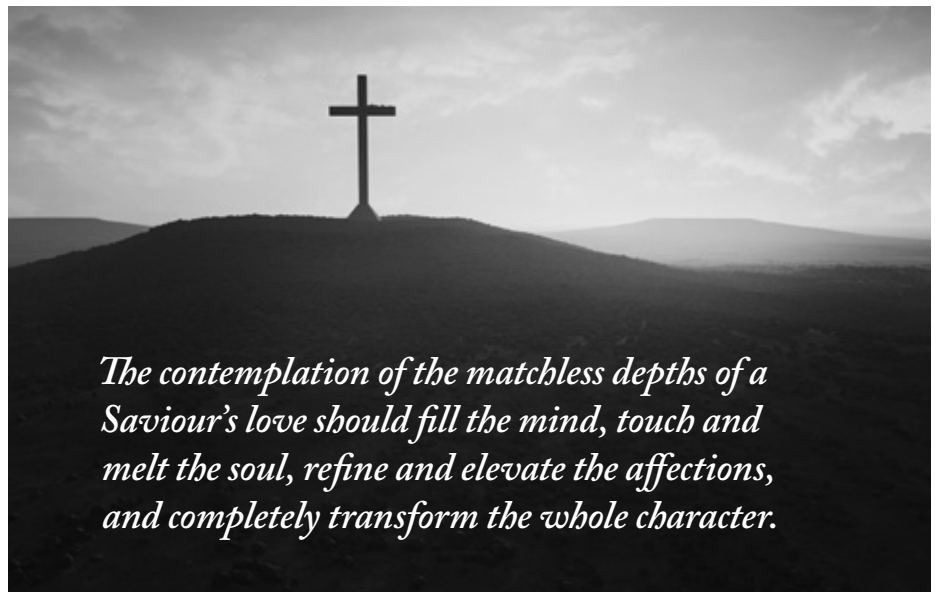
"Genuine faith is followed by love, and love by obedience. All the

are under the bondage of sin. Base passions defile the mind and corrupt the soul. Some who are in the vilest iniquity have borrowed the livery of heaven, that they may serve Satan more effectively.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin' (1 John 3:9). He feels that he is the purchase of the blood of Christ and bound by the most solemn vows to glorify God in his body and in his spirit, which are God's. The love of sin and the love of self are subdued in him. He daily asks: 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?' 'Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do' (Psalm 116:12; Acts 9:6)? The true Christian will never complain that the yoke of Christ is galling to the neck. He accounts the service of Jesus as the truest freedom.

language in which to describe the love of God, we find words too tame, too weak, too far beneath the theme, and we lay down our pen, and say, 'No, it cannot be described.' We can only do as did the beloved disciple, say, 'Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God' (1 John 3:1). In attempting any description of this love, we feel that we are as an infant lisping its first words. Silently we may adore; for silence in this matter is the only eloquence. This love is past all language to describe. It is the mystery of God in the flesh, God in Christ, and divinity in humanity. Christ bowed down in unparalleled humility, that in His exaltation to the throne of God, He might also exalt those who believe in Him, to a seat with Him upon His throne. All who look upon Jesus in faith that the wounds and bruises that sin has made will be healed in Him, shall be made whole.

"The themes of redemption are momentous themes, and only those who are spiritually minded can discern their depth and significance. It is our safety, our life, our joy, to dwell upon the truths of the plan of salvation. Faith and prayer are necessary in order that we may behold the deep things of God. Our minds are so bound about with narrow ideas, that we catch but limited views of the experience it is our privilege to have. How little do we comprehend what is meant by the prayer of the apostle, when he says, 'That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled



with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen' (Ephesians 3:16–21)." *The Review and Herald*, November 17, 1891.

This describes the passion of the wise virgin. The foolish virgins do not thrill to these words. The foolish virgins do not understand these words. The foolish virgins are put to sleep by these words, uninterested in these themes.

"Many who profess to be Christians become excited over worldly enterprises, and their interest is awakened for new and exciting amusements, while they are coldhearted, and appear as if frozen, in the cause of God. Here is a theme, poor formalist, which is of sufficient importance to excite you. Eternal interests are here involved. Upon this theme it is sin to be calm and unimpassioned. The scenes of Calvary call for the deepest emotion. Upon this subject you will be excusable if you manifest enthusiasm. That Christ, so excellent, so innocent, should suf-

fer such a painful death, bearing the weight of the sins of the world, our thoughts and imaginations can never fully comprehend. The length, the breadth, the height, the depth, of such amazing love we cannot fathom. The contemplation of the matchless depths of a Saviour's love should fill the mind, touch and melt the soul, refine and elevate the affections, and completely transform the whole character." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 212, 213.

This is the definition of the wise virgin. Does it fit for you? This is one question where you cannot afford to be self-deceived. "The Lord calls upon His slumbering people to awake out of their sleep. Many who in their ignorance consider themselves to be wise—like the foolish virgins in the parable—do not realize that their lamps are going out. When they awake to their condition it will be too late for them to obtain a fresh supply of oil, and they will be unready to meet the Bridegroom." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, 206. **LM**

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MAINE BLIZZARD

GOD'S ANSWER TO PRAYER

BY DEBORAH MASSEY

Actual residence of Parke and Deborah Massey in Maine. The photo above and on the right shows the snow drifts described in the article.

As it began to snow we almost didn't notice the small floating snowflakes falling from the sky that morning. The weather report had forecasted that by 11:00 a.m. snow would be falling in all of Maine.

In just a few short hours the winds were raging as the snow swirled in unabated fury. As the hours passed the snow grew deeper as the winds picked up speed, creating huge drifts everywhere.

Although reluctant, we knew we had to go out there and remove as much snow as possible from our driveway and the walkway to our front door. We soon realized this blizzard would deliver a massive amount of snow. We remembered last winter not being able to open our front door due to such high snow and drifts. A large snow machine had to come and clear the way.

Our efforts this time were in vain, as so much snow was falling so quickly. Huge, swirling high speed winds of blowing snow made it impossible for us to continue shoveling.

After battling the storm for a few hours, we came inside and prayed that God would somehow deliver us from this blizzard – we were so tired with trying to remove the snow with only shovels, without the help of our large snowblower that was in the shop for repairs. Every 15–20 minutes I still had to go out our front door and remove snowdrifts from our walkway that had accumulated so quickly.

The snow had been blowing and drifting from north to south across the length of our roof onto the sidewalk and driveway all day and evening. Though exhausted, I was ready to continue removal of the snow and drifting into the night, or all night, if necessary. Coming in and out of the front door to the warmth of the

wood stove blazing on the front porch was a short reprieve. All the while I continued to pray, pleading with God, “Lord, please help me in this battle, I must sleep now.”

It was now about 2:30 a.m., and I realized I may have to continue this snow vigil through the night. And then, a very curious thing happened. While the winds were still raging, the next time I looked out the front door, I noticed that the snow had no longer accumulated on the walkway since the last time I had removed it. So, I waited awhile and went back to check, and the same thing: no more snow. The snow had not stopped falling, it just wasn’t falling there anymore.

After checking for the third time, I gratefully thanked the Lord, while not yet realizing what had happened. I started to hear the windows on the front porch clattering loudly. After this began, I understood what happened. The wind that had been

blowing the snow from our roof all day suddenly had changed course completely. It was now blowing across the width of the roof from west to east, totally bypassing the sidewalk and driveway.

Our front porch windows continued to rattle, and as the new direction of the winds took hold I knew that God had answered our prayers. As the high winds continued to rush at the glass windows in a fury, I felt they might break, but I knew in my heart that my God, who could change the direction of the winds, would surely not let those windows break. I finally fell asleep peacefully on the sofa in front of the warm wood stove.

God has so many ways to answer our prayers that we know nothing about. I think He wants us to trust Him, and to be amazed when He answers in ways we cannot even imagine.

This whole experience makes me think of this wonderful old song:

Will Your Anchor Hold? (Last verse)

When our eyes behold, in the dawning light,
Shining gates of pearl, our harbor bright,
We shall anchor fast to the heavenly shore,
With the storms all past forevermore.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll.
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.

Priscilla J. Owens, 1882/William J. Kirkpatrick

We are looking forward to spring – and in the near future, to our heavenly home where spring reigns eternal. **LM**





LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

BY STEPHEN N. HASKELL

To every voyager on the storm-tossed sea of life, the Lord has given a compass which, if rightly used, will safely guide him into the eternal haven of rest. It was given to our first parents at the gate of Eden, after they had admitted sin into this beautiful earth as well as into their own lives. The compass consists of the following words, which were spoken by the Lord to Satan: “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy

seed and her seed” (Genesis 3:15). In every heart God has planted an enmity to sin, which, if heeded, will lead to righteousness and eternal life. Any man, whatever his station in life, who will absolutely follow the divine compass placed in his heart, will accept Christ as his Saviour and be led out into the sunlight of God’s love and approval.

As the result of our first parents’ eating of the forbidden fruit, over all the earth hung the gloom of the

divine decree, “In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17). The marks of death and decay were soon seen in the falling leaves and withered flowers. There was no escaping the decree, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). But a ray of light pierced the darkness when God spoke the following words to Satan: “It (the seed of the woman) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15). These

words revealed the fact that for those who would cherish the enmity against sin which God had placed in the heart, there was a way of escape from death. They would live, and Satan would die; but before his death he would bruise the heel of the seed of the woman. This was necessary in order that the death of Satan might be made sure, and that mankind might escape eternal death.

Before man was placed on trial, the love of the Father and the Son for him was so great that Christ pledged His own life as a ransom if man should be overcome by the temptations of Satan. Christ was “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). This wonderful truth was made known to our first parents in the words spoken by the Lord to Satan, “It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.”

In order that man might realize the enormity of sin, which would take the life of the sinless Son of God, he was required to bring an innocent lamb, confess his sins over its head, then with his own hands take its life, a type of Christ’s life. This sin-offering was burned, typifying that through the death of Christ all sin would finally be destroyed in the fires of the last day.

It was difficult for man, surrounded by the darkness of sin, to comprehend these wonderful heavenly truths. The rays of light which shone from the heavenly sanctuary upon the simple sacrifices were so obscured by doubt and sin, that God in His great love and mercy, had an earthly sanctuary built after the divine pattern, and priests were appointed, who “served unto the example and shadow of heavenly things” (Hebrews 8:5). This was done that man’s faith might lay hold of the fact that in heaven there is a sanctuary whose services are for the redemption of mankind.

The prophet Jeremiah grasped this great truth, and exclaimed, “A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary” (Jeremiah 17:12). David knew of God’s dwelling place in heaven, and when writing for the generations to come, he said, “He (God) hath looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth” (Psalm 102:19). The faithful ones have always understood that when they sought God with all the heart, “their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, even unto heaven” (2 Chronicles 30:27).

temple the ark of His testament” (Revelation 11:19).

It is in this “true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man,” that Christ pleads His blood before the Father in behalf of sinful men (Hebrews 8:2). There is the throne of God, surrounded by myriads of the angelic hosts, all waiting to obey His commands; and from there they are sent to answer the prayers of God’s children here on earth.

The heavenly sanctuary is the great power-house of Jehovah, whence all the help necessary to overcome every temptation of Satan is sent to each one

Christ entered heaven to present His own blood in man’s behalf.

All the worship in the earthly sanctuary was to teach the truth in regard to the heavenly sanctuary. While the earthly tabernacle was standing, the way into the heavenly tabernacle was not made manifest (Hebrews 9:8); but when Christ entered heaven to present His own blood in man’s behalf, God revealed through His prophets much light in regard to the sanctuary in heaven.

To John, the beloved disciple, were given many views of that glorious temple. He beheld the golden altar, on which, mingled with fragrant incense, the prayers of earthly saints are offered up before God. In vision he saw the candlestick with its seven lamps of fire burning before the throne of God. The veil into the most holy was lifted, and he writes, “The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His

who is connected with it by faith.

The heavily laden electric car, with its slender arm reaching up to the wire above, through which it receives strength from the power-house miles away, is a fitting illustration of the Christian. As long as the connection is unbroken, through the darkest night, the car runs smoothly up and down hill alike, not only shedding light on the immediate track ahead, but casting its bright rays of light into the darkness far and near. But the instant the connection is broken, how great is the change! The car remains in darkness, unable to go forward.

So it is that Christ, our great High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, reaches His hand down over the battlements of heaven to clasp the hand of everyone who will reach up by faith and take hold of the proffered

help. The one whose faith lays hold of that help, can pass securely over the steepest hills of difficulty, his own soul filled with light while diffusing light and blessing to others. As long as he by faith keeps a firm hold of God, he has light and power from the sanctuary above; but if he allows doubt and unbelief to break the connection, he is in darkness, not only unable to go forward himself, but a stumbling-block in the way of others.

The one who allows nothing to break his connection with heaven

man body, where God's Spirit rules and reigns; and the earthly temple, with its typical services designed to teach mankind how to receive divine help from the great storehouse above, so that God can honor them by abiding with them continually.

The earthly sanctuary with its types and symbols is like the powerful lenses of the telescope, which make it possible to view heavenly bodies that otherwise would be invisible. To the eye of the ignorant those wonderful lenses appear like ordinary

stones of the valley, to teach that Christ died for the most worthless, for the veriest outcast. Who can gaze on that picture without having his heart filled with love for such a compassionate Redeemer?

Again he views a picture of the destitute sinner, longing to be free from sin; and beholding his wealthy brethren pass with their lambs for sin-offerings, the poor ones with their pigeons and doves, he sinks back into despondency, for he has no living thing to offer. Then the light of hope springs into his face as one tells him, "Only a handful of flour will answer." And as the sinner watches the priest offer the crushed wheat as an emblem of the blessed body to be broken for him, and hears him say, "Thy sin is forgiven," his heart leaps for joy, as did the heart of the poor man by the pool of Bethesda, who had no one to help him, when the blessed Master told him to take up his bed and walk (John 5:2-9).

If the one who longs to know more of Christ and His infinite love, will study the types and symbols of the earthly sanctuary, connecting each with its glorious antitype, his soul will be filled with rapture. Like the lenses of the telescope, they reveal wondrous beauties in the character of our blessed Redeemer, beauties that are revealed in no other way.

There is a separate and distinct heavenly lesson taught by each of the different types and symbols of the earthly sanctuary service; and when they are all viewed together, they form a wonderful Mosaic painting of the divine character of Christ as none but a heavenly artist could portray it.

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To every voyager on the storm-tossed sea of life, the Lord has given a compass which, if rightly used, will safely guide him into the eternal haven of rest.

becomes an earthly dwelling-place for the Most High: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit" (Isaiah 57:15). He who separates from sin and puts it far from him, becomes a temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). God loves to dwell in the hearts of His people (Ephesians 3:17-20), but sin cherished in the heart prevents His Spirit from abiding there. Christ knocks at the door of every heart, inviting all to exchange sin for righteousness, that He may come in and abide with them (Revelation 3:20).

There are three temples brought to view in the Bible—the heavenly temple, the dwelling-place of the Most High, where Christ intercedes in our behalf; the temple of the hu-

glass; but the astronomer, who longs to know of the wonders of the heavens, is filled with rapture as he gazes through them.

In like manner the Christian who will study the typical service of the earthly sanctuary, not as a collection of dry, lifeless relics of ancient worship, but as a wonderful art gallery, where, by the hand of a master-artist, the different parts of the marvelous plan of redemption are portrayed, will be astonished at the beauty revealed. The figures fairly speak to him, as it were, from the canvas. They tell the beautiful story of the Saviour's love until his very soul is filled with rapture as he gazes upon them. He sees the vivid picture of the priest in snow-white robe leading the red heifer out to the rough uncultivated valley, there to offer it a sacrifice for sin. He sees him sprinkle its blood on the rough

THE MESSAGE OF THE STARS

BY ELLLEN G. WHITE

*T*he stars also have a message of good cheer for every human being. In those hours that come to all, when the heart is faint and temptation presses sore; when obstacles seem insurmountable, life's aims impossible of achievement, its fair promises like apples of Sodom; where, then, can such courage and steadfastness be found as in that lesson which God has bidden us learn from the stars in their untroubled course?

"Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth. Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed for I am Thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee" (Isaiah 40:26-29; 41:10, 13).

The palm tree, beaten by the scorching sun and the fierce sand-storm, stands green and flourishing and fruitful in the midst of the desert. Its roots are fed by living springs. Its crown of verdure is seen afar over the parched, desolate plain; and the traveler, ready to die, urges his failing steps to the cool shade and the life-giving water.

The tree of the desert is a symbol of what God means the life of His children in this world to be. They are to

are honored as if its success were due to them alone; but that success required the faithful co-operation of humbler workers almost without number—workers of whom the world knows nothing. Tasks uncommended, labor without recognition, is the lot of most of the world's toilers. And in such a lot many are filled with discontent. They feel that life is wasted. But the little rill that makes its noiseless way through grove and meadow, bearing health and fertility and beauty, is as useful in its way as the

We need to learn faithfulness in making the utmost use of the powers and opportunities we have.

guide weary souls, full of unrest, and ready to perish in the desert of sin, to the living water. They are to point their fellow men to Him who gives the invitation, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink" (John 7:37, *last part*).

The wide, deep river, that offers a highway for the traffic and travel of nations, is valued as a world-wide benefit; but what of the little rills that help to form this noble stream? Were it not for them, the river would disappear. Upon them its very existence depends. So men called to lead in some great work

broad river. And in contributing to the river's life, it helps achieve that which alone it could never have accomplished.

The lesson is one needed by many. Talent is too much idolized, and station too much coveted. There are too many who will do nothing unless they are recognized as leaders; too many who must receive praise, or they have no interest to labor. What we need to learn is faithfulness in making the utmost use of the powers and opportunities we have, and contentment in the lot to which Heaven assigns us.

Education, 115-117. **LM**



Not Fit For Heaven

When the judgment seat is set
And the millions stand before
When heavens books are open
When your name is called up yonder
Will you stand secure

When God sent you corrections
Did you then repent
For you must know each message
For you was heaven sent

Did you live up to all the light
That's given you
Or did you slip and slide
To God have you been true

Will you hear the Master say
Well done my little one
Or will you shrink in shame
For the things that you have done

If you did not your doom is sure
For you the angels will not
Open up the door

The angels standing at the gate
Will not throw it open wide
For if your name is missing from the list
You cannot go inside

With tears he'll nod his
Head from side to side
You cannot enter in he'll say
For you are not my bride

G.S.K.J.



Heavenly Father: Thank You for the warnings You have given in mercy because of Your love toward me. I am so thankful for freedom of choice, but I need the mind of Jesus to work in and through me. I need to recognize the little echo that may be drawing me into evil thoughts or actions. "Lead me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make Thy way straight before my face" (Psalm 5:8). Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Amen.

LITTLE SIR ECHO

BY JUDY HALLINGSTAD

There is a children's song that used to be quite popular many years ago called *Little Sir Echo*. There are good echoes and there are evil echoes. There is an echo which preceded that song which carries with it a spiritual loss, a loss of eternal life for many who believe it. It is an echo from the Garden of Eden, a lying echo. As Eve was questioning God's withholding of the beautiful fruit, we are told: "Eve was surprised and startled as she thus seemed to hear the echo of her thoughts." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 54.

Her thoughts were questioning God's request! It is even now that many will question God's wisdom in withholding foods, etc., and, wonder of wonders, they will hear an echo of their thoughts. Satan cannot read your thoughts but he can tell by your actions, what you are looking at and coveting after and he will make sure, through the voice of friends or family,

that it is okay to question God and to go against His will.

"What is this but an echo of the voice from Eden, 'In the day ye eat thereof'—transgress the divine requirement—'ye shall be as gods' (Genesis 3:5)? Satan claimed to have received great good by eating of the forbidden fruit" Ibid., 55.

Oh how many times we hear that God is love and it will be okay to transgress a little and it tastes so good so it really can't be that bad anyway. Little Sir Echo—the echo that does not tell the whole truth! What was the whole truth?

"... he [Satan] did not let it appear that by transgression he had become an outcast from heaven. Though he had found sin to result in infinite loss, he concealed his own misery in order to draw others into the same position." Ibid., 55.

He concealed his misery! He concealed his loss! Will you be blinded by

following that little echo for temporal pleasure and become an outcast? For Adam, "Love, gratitude, loyalty to the Creator—all were overborne by love to Eve." Ibid., 56. Are you following that little echo through friends and family and choosing them over God's precious Word? Will you be found in that same misery when the books are opened and the Great Judge looks upon your actions? We cannot use the excuse: "the devil made me do it."

God offers you eternal life through Jesus Christ and a life with Him for an eternity of unbelievable happiness. Will you follow the little echo and live for now in disobedience or will you follow on in obedience to the glory of God, and be called to live for eternity with all of the heavenly family?

Do not be like Eve who fell when she listened to the little echo but stand strong in the Lord's army not allowing anything to turn your feet from walking with Him. **LM**



THE BEST MOTHER

He was pruning the plants in the posh gardens of an international school. Heat and dust didn't seem to affect him.

"Ganga Das, Principal Ma'am wants to see you—right now!"

The last two words to the peon had lots of emphasis on them, trying to make it sound like an urgency.

He quickly got up, washed and wiped his hands and headed towards the principal's chamber.

The walk from the garden to the office seemed never ending. His heart was almost jumping out of his chest. He was trying all the permutation and combination, figuring out as to what has gone wrong that she wants to see him urgently.

He was a sincere worker and never shirked from his duties. Knock, knock!

"Madam, you called me?"

"Come inside..." uttered an authoritative voice laced with crispness which made him further nervous.

She had salt and pepper hair, tied neatly in a french knot, a designer sari-sober and very classic, glasses resting on the bridge of her nose. She pointed out towards a paper kept on the table. "Read this."

"B...but Ma'am, I am an illiterate person. I cannot read English. Ma'am please forgive me if I have done anything wrong. Give me another chance. I am forever indebted to you for allowing my daughter to study in this school, free of cost. I could have never ever dreamt of such a life for my child." And he broke down almost trembling.

"Hold on, you assume a lot. We allowed your daughter because she is very bright and you have been our sincere worker. Let me call a teacher in, she will read it out and translate it to you. This is written by your daughter and I want you to read this."

Soon enough the teacher was called and she started reading it, translating each line in Hindi.

It read: "Today we are asked to write about Mother's Day.

"I belong to a village in Bihar, a tiny village where medical and education still seem like a far fetched dream. Many women die every now and then while giving birth. My mother was one of them too, she could not even hold me in her arms. My father was the first person to hold me, or perhaps the only person.

"Everyone was sad as I was a girl and I had 'eaten up' my own mother. My dad was instantly asked to remarry but he refused. My grandparents forced him by giving all logical, illogical and emotional reasons but he didn't budge.

"My grandparents wanted a grandson, they threatened him to remarry else he will be disowned. He didn't think twice. He left everything, his acres of land, a good living, comfortable house, cattles and everything that counts for a good lifestyle in a village.

"He came to this huge city with absolutely nothing – but me in his arms. Life was tough. He worked hard day and night and raised me with tender love and utmost care.

"Now I understand why suddenly he developed a dislike for things that I would love to eat when there was only one piece left in the platter. He would say that he hates eating it and I would finish it considering that he does not like it, but as I grew older I realised the reason and what sacrifice is all about. He gave me the best possible comforts beyond his capacity.

"This school gave him a shelter, respect and the biggest gift—an admis-

sion to his daughter.

"If love and care defines a mother, then my father fits in there.

"If compassion defines a mother, my father fits in well in that category too.

"If sacrifice defines a mother, my father dominates that category.

"So, in nut shell, if a mother is made of love, care, sacrifice, and compassion,

MY FATHER IS THE BEST MOTHER ON EARTH THEN.

"On Mother's Day, I would like to thank my father for being the best parent on earth. I salute him and say it with pride that the hardworking gardener working in this school is my father.

"I know I may fail this test after my teacher reads this – but this would be a very small price one would pay towards an ode to the selfless love of my father. Thanks."

There was a deafening silence in the room. One could only hear soft sobbing of Ganga Das. The harsh sun could not wet his clothes with sweat, but soft words of his daughter had soaked his chest with tears. He was standing there with hands folded. He took the paper from teacher's hands, held it close to his heart and sobbed.

Principal got up, offered him a chair, glass of water and said something, but strangely, the crispness of her voice was taken over by a surprising warmth and sweetness.

"Ganga Das, your daughter is given 10/10 marks for this essay. This is the best essay ever written about Mother's

If a mother is made of love, care, sacrifice, and compassion, then my father is the best mother on Earth.

Day in the history of this school. We are having the Mother's Day gala event tomorrow and the entire School Management has decided to invite you as the Chief Guest for the event.

"This is to honour all the love and sacrifice a man can do to raise his children, to show that you do not have to be a woman to be the perfect parent. And most importantly, this is to reinforce, appreciate, acknowledge the strong belief of your daughter in you to make her feel proud and to make the entire school feel proud that we have the best parent on earth, as stated by your daughter.

"You are a 'true gardener,' who is not only looking after the gardens, but also nurturing the most precious flower of your life in such a beautiful way. So, Ganga Das, will you be our Chief Guest for the event?" **LM**

"I am really receiving a blessing from the *LandMarks* magazines. They are so different from [other publications] ... and so much more spiritually impacting! There is no comparison. ... The *LandMarks* are very rich. I am benefiting from the Bible studies and articles, the crossword puzzles and recipes. ... May God bless your ministry going forward."

—K&A B, Minnesota

"I hope this finds you all well. I want each one of you to know how very much I enjoy and appreciate so much the articles in the *LandMarks* each month. I read them twice as a general rule and love the crossword!"

"Pastor John – How I do LOVE your sermons and the character building you share with all of us. May God bless each one of you is my prayer."

—JA, Colorado

From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

May 2018

Dear Friend,

In this world, we can do many things by proxy. This means we give authority to another person to act for us. We can give an official document that empowers them to act on our behalf while we are absent to cast a vote or express our opinion.

Some people are used to delegating others to act for them in many ways. They hire housekeepers, landscapers, handymen. Others hire secretaries and investment firms to manage their assets.

Nannies are hired to take care of the children while chefs prepare meals. Private aircraft with crews are hired for travel and public relations firms maintain their image in the community. So why can they not hire a doctor to save their body when they get deathly sick? Why can they not hire a minister and religious teachers to save their soul and the souls of others? If I have sufficient money, can I then simply hire ministers and gospel workers to do God's work? Listen to the inspired answer:

"Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations the work of benevolence; they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold. They become self-absorbed and unimpressible. Love for God and man dies out of the soul.

"Christ commits to His followers an individual work—a work that cannot be done by proxy. Ministry to the sick and the poor, the giving of the gospel to the lost, is not to be left to committees or organized charities. Individual responsibility, individual effort, personal sacrifice, is the requirement of the gospel.

"'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in,' is Christ's command, 'that My house may be filled' (Luke 14:23). He brings men into touch with those whom they seek to benefit. ... Through direct contact, through personal ministry, the blessings of the gospel are to be communicated" *The Ministry of Healing*, 147, 148.

Your brother in witnessing,



John J. Grosboll

Mother Animal and Child

By Lynette Golia

A mother's love, like no other, does not discriminate across species lines. Just like humans, animal moms create loving family units, sharing a special bond between mother and child.

Goats

Like many farm animals, goats have amazing lifelong relationships with their offspring, and form intensely strong mother-child bonds early on. Mothers will often call to their young to ensure they stay close by. In 2012, research found that mother goats can remember their babies' voices for years, even after the two have been separated. Much like sheep, kids will stay with their families for life.

Elephants

The bond between a baby elephant and her mother has been described as the closest of any animal on earth. Once a calf is born, the herd gathers around, caressing it with their trunks. The calves are raised and cared for communally, a phenomenon called "alloparenting," with grandmothers, sisters, aunts and other females involved. Elephant mothers nurse their calves for four to six years. After they are weaned, elephants stay with their mothers for about 16 years.

Orcas

Orcas, also known as killer whales, are social, maternal animals. They live in small nuclear and extended families called pods, clans, and communities. After she has given birth, the mother helps her young swim to the surface to take their first breath.

Babies will stay very close to their mothers, saving energy by swimming in her slipstream. The mother and her children, even her adult sons, stay together throughout life. An orca's pod, more than any specific location, is near their home. As orcas can live up to 90 years, this means many generations traveling together.

Orangutans

The bond between an orangutan mother and her young is one of the strongest in nature. During the first two years of life, the young rely entirely on their mothers for both food and transportation. The moms stay with their young for six to seven years, teaching them where to find food, what and how to eat and the technique for building a sleeping nest. Female orangutans are known to visit their mothers until they reach the age of 15 or 16.

Chickens

The relationship between the hen and her chicks is very strong, even before hatching. Hens have been known to 'talk' and cluck to their chicks while they are still in their eggs. As the chicks grow older and develop within the eggs they begin to peep and squeak back to their mother. This routine helps the chicks to create a bond with their mother before they even hatch.

Once hatched, the chicks will stay close to their mother, for one to two months. The hen instructs them

what to eat and protects them from predators. At night, the chicks sleep under their mother's wings.

Octopi

The octopus can lay up to two hundred thousand eggs. In one of the most astounding examples of altruism in the animal kingdom, she lays eggs just once and guards and cares for the clutch ferociously for weeks, months and sometimes as long as a year. Using her siphon, she blows water gently over them to keep them aerated. She constantly waves her arms gently over the eggs which she has stitched into groups, keeping predat-



tors at bay, never leaving, and never eating. All of the energy in her body is slowly consumed by her care. When the eggs hatch, she dies, starving and exhausted. No mother could give more.

To be a mother is a great honor. "The Saviour understood the burden of the mothers who were seeking to train their children. He Himself had drawn them into His presence." *From Heaven with Love*, 342.

Steps to Life

Bible Correspondence School



One encouraging source of students for the Steps to Life Bible Correspondence School (BCS) is the prison population. From the comments we receive with returned answer sheets from our incarcerated friends, we can see that the BCS lessons are a source of hope and inspiration to those who have restricted access to family and friends. Often the answer sheets are returned with prayer requests for spouses, children, and parents who are left alone while the student's sentence is being completed.

We often write words of encouragement and support to those who are obviously hurting, whether emotionally or spiritually, and seek to show them the hope that abides in the heart of anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as the only name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Please join us in our efforts to make these faith-building magazines available to those in prison who have no means to support our work by marking your Thirteenth Sabbath offering *BCS*.



May Sermon of the Month

Fanaticism

By Marshall Grosboll

Throughout history those seeking truth have always had to fight against fanaticism. In his desperation to deceive the masses Satan uses the overzealous and imbalanced to his advantage with their erroneous sentiments and doctrines.

All who have donated in the past month will automatically receive this Sermon of the Month free of charge.



HISTORIC
LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

in

AFRICA

By John Pearson

The thirteenth Sabbath appeal for the first quarter of 2018 was for the support of *LandMarks* magazine, specifically to enable Steps to Life to make it more widely available to those who cannot afford to pay for a subscription.

Perhaps more so in foreign countries than in the U.S., *LandMarks* is considered an extremely valuable resource for both personal and group studies. In various countries in Africa, particularly, *LandMarks* serves as the only source of

spiritual food for many who are hungering and thirsting for the truth. In recognition of that, the editors strive to present articles that hold faithfully to the original teachings of historic Adventism.

We regularly receive letters of appreciation from our readers in the United States, who express their appreciation of our efforts to uphold the banner originally raised by the patriarchs of our faith. Of special note, however, are the expressions of gratitude we re-

ceive from our brethren in foreign lands. We expend great effort and considerable expense to distribute *LandMarks* to several countries in Africa and to the Philippines. It is very reassuring to know that these efforts are not in vain.

Following is a report we received from Henry Mwesa, a gospel worker in Zambia whom we support through your donations. He is a faithful and diligent worker whose work extends beyond the borders of Zambia.



Members of the Zambia-Malawi division of Global Evangelism study the Sabbath School lesson in *LandMarks*.

"We have about 22 churches in the Zambia-Malawi division of Free Seventh-day Adventists who depend on the *LandMarks* as their quarterly for Sabbath school lessons. Apart from using them for Sabbath school lessons, we have derived great blessings from the articles that are shared there. We also share them with Adventists from the conference church, some of whom are in far flung areas. We have to post the magazines to them via the post office. The appreciation that comes from the readers is thrilling. Often these people keep asking when the magazines would arrive.

"In a few cases, we share with non-Adventists, a practice that has resulted in one soul being won to Adventism in the recent past and the commencement of studies yet with another. Some of the features are used for Bible studies, for instance, for the students of the Training Program for Ministers and Church Leaders. Once they find articles on the new covenant, their understanding is greatly helped and they derive great blessings from there.

"The Bible study we will be having this Sabbath is from the *LandMarks* magazine.

"Medical missionaries such as my wife also enjoy reading the health segment at the back.

"The children are not left out either, as each issue contains a children's story that helps explain principles of righteousness on a primary level.

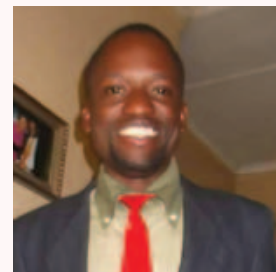
"Previously, I used to share them with the prisoners at maximum prison but with the birth of new churches, the copies are becoming fewer and fewer.

"There are home churches as well that have very few members where sermonizing is not ideal. These use the *LandMarks* for their services. A few individuals in different areas also benefit from the magazines.

"We pray for more copies so we can effectively use them as a tool for evangelism as well. We can only distribute them to so many people because there are limited copies available.

God bless you."

Henry Mwesa
Zambia



Henry Mwesa will attend our 2018 camp meeting to share with us his talents as he encourages the youth in their spiritual growth and reports on his work in Zambia and Malawi.



Question

Why did the Lord want to kill Moses?

Answer

“And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him” (Exodus 4:24).

“As Moses journeyed to Egypt, the angel of the Lord met him and assumed a threatening posture, as though he would slay him. He was fearful of his life. He had yielded to the refusal of his wife to have their son circumcised, and, in compliance with her wishes, had neglected to obey God. His wife, fearful that her husband might be slain, overcame her feelings of undue affection for her son, and performed the act herself. After this, the angel let Moses go. In his mission to Pharaoh, he was to be placed in a perilous position, where his life would be exposed to the will of the king, if God did not by his power, through the presence of his angels, preserve him. While Moses was living in neglect of one of God’s positive commands, his life would not be secure, for God’s angels could not protect him while in disobedience. Therefore, the angel met him in the way and threatened his life. He did not explain

to Moses why he assumed that threatening aspect. Moses knew that there was a cause. He was going to Egypt according to God’s express command, therefore the journey was right. He at once remembered that he had not obeyed God in performing the ordinance of circumcision upon his youngest son, and had yielded to his wife’s entreaties to postpone the ceremony. After he had obeyed the command of God he was free to go before Pharaoh, and there was nothing in the way to hinder the ministration of angels in connection with his work.

“In the time of trouble, just previous to the coming of Christ, the lives of the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of holy angels. Those who come up to that trying time, neglecting to obey God’s commands, will have no security of their lives. Angels cannot protect them from the wrath of their enemies while they are living in neglect of any known duty, or express command of Jehovah.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 195, 196. **LM**





FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES

The food of which we partake has far-reaching consequences to our well-being. Depending on what goes into our bodies, we may have healing and increased good health or we may have a withering up and a tendency toward disease. We all daily have choices to make.

I know there are people who believe food has basically nothing to do with health. But there are some who may be interested in the following information which offers some insights into the effects of eating certain foods.

“Many of the elderly in the United States—and quite a few of the not so elderly—experience terrible pain in their joints. Their fingers may become twisted and swollen, and they may be unable even to button a coat without large doses of anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin. Many come to feel crippled and useless.

“By the age of 35, 35 percent of Americans have diagnosable arthritis in their knees. At least 85 percent of those over the age of 70 have it, and many have it severely. There are 180,000 people in the country today who are bed-ridden or confined to a wheelchair because of this disease.

“The official position of the Arthritis Foundation is that diet and arthritis are not related. But, astoundingly, there has been very little research done to justify this assertion. Up until now, virtually all arthritis research money has gone to test drugs.

“At Wayne State University Medical School, however, there were a few medical researchers willing to investigate the heresy that diet might have something to do with arthritis. They put six rheumatoid arthritis patients on a fat-free diet. The results were startling. In seven weeks, all of the subjects showed total disappearance of their symptoms. When fats were reintroduced into their diets, it took only three days for the symptoms to reappear.

“In 1981, the *British Medical Journal* reported another instance that suggests the Arthritis foundation’s conclusions might be premature. It involved a 38-year-old woman who for 11 years had been suffering from steadily worsening rheumatoid arthritis. Three weeks after doctors removed all dairy products from her diet she showed signs of improvement. In four months, her arthritic symptoms had completely disappeared. She remained free of symptoms until, in the interests of scientific curiosity, she once again ate some cheese and milk. The next day her joints were swollen, stiff, and painful. Fortunately, her symptoms again disappeared as she resumed her abstinence from dairy products.

“In parts of the world where the diets are low in fats and cholesterol and moderate in protein, and where the consumption of processed and junk foods is minimal, even old people who have done hard physical work their whole lives are essentially free of arthritis. This presents quite a contrast to United States, where so many are crippled by the disease that it is rare to find an older person who is not affected.

“One study found not a single case of rheumatoid arthritis in a rural black South African community of over 800 people who ate no meats or dairy products. Another study found that black South Africans who ate significant amounts of meat and other high-fat foods had almost four times the incidence of arthritis as those whose diet was very low in meat and fat. ...

“Gouty arthritis is acknowledged even by the Arthritis Foundation as being diet related. In fact, gout is one of the most easily controlled of all diseases when proper dietary guidelines are followed.

“There are many kinds of arthritis, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout ... The connection with diet and gout is crystal clear, but far more work needs to be done ... The evidence strongly suggests that diets very low in saturated fat, low in protein, high in fiber, and without any cholesterol would be best for the prevention of arthritis and as an important element in treatment.”

Excerpts from *Diet for a New America*, John Robbins, pages 267–269.

What you eat does make a difference on how your body reacts.

There are 180,000 people in the United States today who are bedridden or confined to a wheelchair because of arthritis.

“Gout occurs when uric acid in the body forms needle-like crystals that become deposited in a joint. When that happens, there is severe pain and swelling in a joint, often the big toe.

“Avoiding foods that are high in either purines or protein has been shown to be of enormous benefit to gouty arthritis sufferers. Shellfish, fish, poultry, beef, pork and legumes are all high in purines.

“Some people, particularly Filipinos, are especially susceptible to gout. But on a low-purine, low-protein diet, gout is almost nonexistent, even among those people most genetically disposed toward it. During World War II, when gout sufferers in occupied European countries were suddenly forced to consume fewer meats and dairy products, the incidence of gouty arthritis plummeted.

Spirit of Prophecy states: “The eating of flesh meats has made a poor quality of blood and flesh. Your systems are in a state of *inflammation*, prepared to take on disease. You are liable to acute attacks of disease, and to sudden death, because you do not possess the strength of constitution to rally and resist disease. ...

“Meat eating deranges the system.” *Healthful Living*, 99. [Emphasis supplied.]

Colorful fruits and veggies – the darker or more brilliant the color, the more antioxidants it has. Good ones include blueberries, cherries, spinach, kale and broccoli. Beans are an excellent and inexpensive source of protein. Our Lord has given to us such a wide variety to choose from. Feed your body healthfully and you will have a healthful response. **LM**



CLEAN HEART

BY JOHN GROSBOLL

There are many people today who believe God must be worshiped specifically within a certain protocol to be acceptable. This thought is due to early training in their church.

Amongst the Jews, there was argument with the apostles and early Christians about the Messiahship of Jesus but there was never argument over clean and unclean foods. In fact, there is no record anywhere in the New Testament of the apostles eating anything unclean. The early Christians believed that God had given instruction as to what was acceptable for food in Leviticus 11. Many Christians today believe God has given permission to eat all manner of unclean foods when He gave Peter the vision recorded in Acts 10. However, the Lord was teaching Peter something quite different.

“While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them’ ” (Acts 10:19). So Peter went and met Cornelius who fell down and worshiped him. “But Peter lifted him up, saying ‘Stand up; I myself am also a man.’ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. Then he said to them, ‘You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean’ ” (Acts 10:26–28). Here we see that Peter understood that the vision he saw was not in reference to food but in judging people.

Peter had been taught from birth that the Gentiles were unclean and the common thought was that Gentiles could not be saved. This belief caused many arguments with Jesus who told His disciples that there would be some surprises in the Kingdom of Heaven. He said, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you” (Matthew 21:31).

Today, we all must learn the same lesson as the Jews needed and not look upon any human being as unclean or common. They may be steeped in sin, but if they receive the gospel they could turn around and be saved from the power of their sinful habits. The gospel message is open to every human being and not one is excluded. Jesus made that very clear in Revelation 22:17: “And the Spirit says, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

“Whoever” means that anyone who wants to be saved can come to

Jesus, but some think their lives are so steeped in sin that they would never be accepted. This is Satan’s lie. Jesus said in John 6:37, “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

If you come to the Saviour and commit your life to Him, you will be saved from the guilt and power of your sins. That could happen for you today just as it has happened to Cornelius and his house.

Peter said, “‘God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore I came

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him’ ” (Acts 10:28–35). God shows no partiality. He does not respect a person of one race more than another.

“The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the

If you come to the Saviour and commit your life to Him, you will be saved from the guilt and power of your sins. That could happen for you today just as it has happened to Cornelius and his house.

without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”

“So Cornelius said, ‘Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, “Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.” So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.’

Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him, will receive remission [forgiveness] of sins.” (verses 36–43).

The Scripture says, “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues [languages] and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

cised men and ate with them!’ But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But I said, “Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.”

“Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, “John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?’ When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’” (Acts 11:1-18).

It was a hard lesson for the Jews to learn. God had granted to Gentiles, the people that they had looked down upon all their lives as being common, unclean, and steeped in sin, the same offer of salvation, that if they repented, their sins would be forgiven, and they also could receive the Holy Spirit.

However, the issue did not rest there. Some of the brethren came down to Antioch from Judea and said, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved” (Acts 15:1). The issue of circumcision was agitated yet again. As they saw what was happening in Antioch and other places where many Gentiles were becoming Christians, many of the Jewish Christians were concerned that there would be more Gentiles in the Christian church than Jews.

The Jews became fearful that they would lose their national customs and distinctiveness from other nations as Christians and demanded that these Gentile Christians come into harmony with all Jewish laws and practices. They believed that they all must worship God the way their forefathers did by being circumcised according to the custom of Moses. The issue was not about breaking God’s law, the ten commandments. There was no argument over the Sabbath, idol worship, adultery, theft, dishonesty or anything

The Christian religion is the most spiritual of all religions because it has everything to do with the decision of your mind and not with some formal religious ritual.

Then they asked him to stay a few days” (verses 44-48).

Gentiles, who had never been circumcised, became baptized Christians and received the Holy Spirit. This raised a huge question in the Christian church whether they should be allowed to be part of the church without keeping all the law of Moses with its Jewish rites and ceremonies, including circumcision.

When Peter returned home he found himself in a lot of trouble with the brethren. “The apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, saying, ‘You went in to uncircum-

“ ‘But the voice answered me again from heaven, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, “Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.” And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

forbidden by God, but only those things connected with the ceremonial law, the law of Moses.

To Moses was given ceremonial laws that were a shadow of things to come. They were all representative or prophetic of what would happen when Jesus would come. Paul understood they were temporary until Christ came (Galatians 3:19).

The issue became a hot topic. The Bible says, “Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question” (Acts 15:2).

So, they went up to Jerusalem for a church council. “And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.’

“Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: ‘Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe’ (verses 4–7). Peter here referred to his trip to Caesarea when Cornelius and his family and friends believed and received the Holy Spirit for which he was criticized. He got in trouble for preaching the gospel. He got in trouble for sitting down to eat with an uncircumcised Gentile.

The church at that time was racially prejudiced against the Gentiles. Peter said, “So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them



The gospel message is open to every human being and not one is excluded.

the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them” (verses 8, 9).

God does not make distinctions among people who belong to different churches, different races, different nations, different languages. When Jesus met people He did not ask them about their philosophy or ask what church they belonged to or what they believed. He simply said, “Do you want to be saved? Do you want to have eternal life? Follow Me. I will take away your burden of sin. I will give you a new heart and a new spirit, My Spirit, the Holy Spirit.”

When Nicodemus, a Jewish ruler, came to visit Jesus one night, Jesus told him that unless he experienced change, unless he received the Holy Spirit and was born again of the Spirit, he could not be saved and go to heaven. Nicodemus was shocked at these words of Jesus. He was a religious leader and teacher of the law.

It does not matter whether you are a religious leader. It does not matter even if people consider you to be a holy person. There are a lot of people

who are considered holy because they look that way outwardly, but their hearts are corrupt. That was the condition of the Pharisees in Jesus’ day. Jesus said to them, “You look righteous on the outside, but your heart has not been cleansed. In your heart there is lawlessness and hypocrisy” (Matthew 23:28, literal translation).

God asks, “Are you willing to accept My only begotten Son as the Sovereign of your life and your Saviour from sin? Are you willing to follow Me?” Or, “Are you on the other side of the great controversy and want to run your own life independent from Me?” Everyone makes their own choice.

The Bible says, “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12). That is a simple equation. No one else in the universe can give you eternal life, only God’s Son. Would you like to be saved? Do you want to be saved badly enough to make a commitment to the One that can save you? Peter said, “God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving

them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8, 9).

God does what is impossible for us to do ourselves: He can purify a person's heart. It doesn't matter what language you speak, what race you are, what religion you are, what social class you belong to, high or low, what nation you belong to; none of those things matter to God. All that matters is, "Are you willing to make a commitment?" Jesus said, "If you believe enough to make a commitment, if you will commit to Jesus Christ as the Sovereign of your life, the Ruler

spend this much time in praying, and in meditating, and devotions." The same question must be asked, Has your heart been purified?

O, friend, unless your heart is purified, it doesn't matter what religious ritual, what form of worship you go through. If you are going to be saved at last in the kingdom of heaven, your heart needs to be purified. That is the question that needs to be answered. That is the question you need to pray to God about and ask, "Lord, I want my heart to be purified by faith, not just with ceremonies and outward observances but with a pure purpose."

When Jesus met people He did not ask them about their philosophy or ask what church they belonged to or what they believed. He simply said, "Do you want to be saved? Follow Me."

and Master of your life, the One that you will obey and follow, I will give you eternal life."

The Christian religion is the most spiritual of all religions because it has everything to do with the decision of your mind and not with some formal religious ritual. Sadly, Jesus said of the Jews, "But you are not willing to come to Me that you might have life" (John 5:40), but if you will come, God promises to purify your heart.

Someone may say, "I go to church." But has your heart been purified? Someone may say, "I've studied theology." But has your heart been purified? Another may say, "I read the Bible." But has your heart been purified? And another may say, "I

David said, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit" (Psalm 51:10-12 KJV). This should be our own prayer.

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

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Trust
THE
Lord
and
HIS
Mighty
POWER

- PSALM 105:4 -

May 27 – June 2

Abraham's Saviour

Key Text

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad” (John 8:56).

Study Help: *The Desire of Ages*, 752–760, 785–787.

Introduction

“Through type and promise God ‘preached before the gospel unto Abraham’ (Galatians 3:8). And the patriarch’s faith was fixed upon the Redeemer to come.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 154.

Sunday

1 A FIGURE OF CHRIST

- a. Who was Isaac a figure of? Genesis 22:7–9; Hebrews 11:17–19.

Note: “Isaac was a figure of the Son of God, who was offered a sacrifice for the sins of the world. God would impress upon Abraham the gospel of salvation to man. In order to do this, and make the truth a reality to him as well as to test his faith, He required him to slay his darling Isaac. All the sorrow and agony that Abraham endured through that dark and fearful trial were for the purpose of deeply impressing upon his understanding the plan of redemption for fallen man. He was made to understand in his own experience how unutterable was the self-denial of the infinite God in giving His own Son to die to rescue man from utter ruin.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 369.

- b. How did God reveal to Abraham the day of Christ? Genesis 22:13; John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7.

Note: “He [Abraham] ... was shown that in giving His only-begotten Son to save sinners from eternal ruin, God was making a greater and more wonderful sacrifice than ever man could make.” *The Desire of Ages*, 469.

Monday

2 THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

- a. Describe how God tried to reveal to Abraham the depths of the great sacrifice He was making in giving His only begotten Son. Genesis 22:11, 12, 16; 1 John 4:9, 10.

Note: “Our heavenly Father surrendered His beloved Son to the agonies of the crucifixion. Legions of angels witnessed the humiliation and soul anguish of the Son of God, but were not permitted to interpose as in the case of Isaac. No voice was heard to stay the sacrifice. God’s dear Son, the world’s Redeemer, was insulted, mocked at, derided, and tortured, until He bowed His head in death. What greater proof can the Infinite One give us of His divine love and pity?” *That I May Know Him*, 20.

“The agony which he [Abraham] endured during the dark days of that fearful trial was permitted that he might understand from his own experience something of the greatness of the sacrifice made by the infinite God for man’s redemption.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 154.

- b. Explain how Jesus knew, just like Isaac knew, that it was His Father that was offering Him up as the sacrifice for the whole world. Genesis 22:10; Matthew 26:38, 39; Philippians 2:8.

Note: “Jesus left His home in heaven, and came to this dark world to reach to the very depths of human woe, that He might save those who are ready to perish.” *The Bible Echo*, January 1, 1893.

- c. What was the greatest pain Jesus suffered during His ultimate sacrifice? Psalm 69:18–21; Isaiah 53:4, 10, 12.

Note: “It was the anguish of separation from His Father’s favor that made Christ’s sufferings so acute. ... His terrible anguish, caused by the thought that in this hour of need God had forsaken Him, portrays the anguish that the sinner will feel when, too late, he realizes that God’s Spirit is withdrawn from him.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, 464, 465.

Tuesday

3 FORSAKEN FOR SIN

- a. Why was Christ forsaken and Isaac was not? Genesis 22:12; Matthew 27:42, 43, 46; John 3:17; 12:27; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Note: “The angels of heaven sympathized with their loved Commander. Gladly would they have broken their ranks and gone to His assistance. But this was not God’s plan.” *The Upward Look*, 223.

“Voluntarily our divine Substitute bared His soul to the sword of justice, that we might not perish but have everlasting life.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 322.

- b. What is significant about Abraham’s servants staying behind and only the father and son going to the altar together? Genesis 22:3–5, 8; John 16:32.

Note: “With amazement angels witnessed the Saviour’s despairing agony. The hosts of heaven veiled their faces from the fearful sight. Inanimate nature expressed sympathy with its

insulted and dying Author. The sun refused to look upon the awful scene. Its full, bright rays were illuminating the earth at midday, when suddenly it seemed to be blotted out. Complete darkness, like a funeral pall, enveloped the cross. ...

“In that thick darkness God’s presence was hidden. ... The Father was with His Son. Yet His presence was not revealed. Had His glory flashed forth from the cloud, every human beholder would have been destroyed. And in that dreadful hour Christ was not to be comforted with the Father’s presence.” *The Desire of Ages*, 753, 754.

- c. How do we know that Christ was forsaken but not lost? Isaiah 54:7, 8; Acts 2:22–24, 27; 1 Corinthians 15:55–57.

Note: “Jesus was laid in the tomb. He went into the darkness of the grave, and tasted death for every man. But He did not long remain under the power of the enemy. A mighty angel came from heaven and rolled back the stone from the sepulcher. ... Christ came forth from the tomb a triumphant conqueror, and led forth from their graves a multitude of captives.” *The Signs of the Times*, November 25, 1889.

Wednesday

4 A RISEN SAVIOUR

- a. Describe how Abraham believed in the power of the resurrection. Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:19.

Note: “This son [Isaac] had been unexpectedly given; and had not He who bestowed the precious gift a right to recall His own? Then faith repeated the promise, ‘In Isaac shall thy seed be called’—a seed numberless as the grains of sand upon the shore (Genesis 21:12, *last part*). Isaac was the child of a miracle, and could not the power that gave him life restore it? Looking beyond that which was seen, Abraham grasped the divine word, ‘accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead’ (Hebrews 11:19).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 151, 152.

- b. Explain what Christ's death and resurrection mean to humanity. Hebrews 2:14, 15; 2 Timothy 1:10; Romans 6:5.



Jesus was laid in the tomb. He went into the darkness of the grave, and tasted death for every man.

Note: "Satan cannot hold the dead in his grasp when the Son of God bids them live. He cannot hold in spiritual death one soul who in faith receives Christ's word of power. God is saying to all who are dead in sin, 'Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead' (Ephesians 5:14). That word is eternal life." *The Desire of Ages*, 320.

- c. How important is Christ's victory over death to the believer? 1 Corinthians 15:12–19; 1 Peter 1:3; John 11:25, 26.

Note: "When in most discouraging circumstances, which would have had a depressing influence upon halfway Christians, he [Paul] is firm of heart, full of courage and hope and cheer, exclaiming, 'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice' (Philippians 4:4). The same hope and cheerfulness is seen when he is upon the deck of the ship, the tempest beating about him, the ship going to pieces. He gives orders to the commander of the ship and preserves the lives of all on board. Although a prisoner, he is really the master of the ship, the freest and happiest man on board." *My Life Today*, 334.

Note: "The captives brought up from the graves at the time of the resurrection of Jesus were His trophies as a conquering Prince. Thus He attested His victory over death and the grave; thus He gave a pledge and an earnest of the resurrection of all the righteous dead." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1109.

"He alone ... who is able ... to raise His saints from the grave and clothe them with immortality, giving them everlasting victory over death and the grave, is able now to keep the souls of all committed to His trust against that day, and to deliver them in their perplexities." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, 273.

Thursday

5 THE JOY OF SALVATION

- a. How did Abraham feel when God revealed Christ as the Saviour over sin and death? John 8:56. Why should Christians be the world's most joyful people? Philippians 4:4; Acts 2:25–27; 1 Thessalonians 5:16.

- b. Why is singing and praising the Lord an essential part of our faith? Psalms 98:1–6; 95:1–8; Revelation 15:2–4.

Note: "As the people [of Israel] journeyed through the wilderness, many precious lessons were fixed in their minds by means of song. ...

"Thus their thoughts were uplifted from the trials and difficulties of the way, the restless, turbulent spirit was soothed and calmed, the principles of truth were implanted in the memory, and faith was strengthened." *Education*, 39.

"If more praising of God were engaged in now, hope and courage and faith would steadily increase." *Prophets and Kings*, 202.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 In what ways was Isaac a type of Christ?
- 2 How does Abraham's experience reveal the depths of God's sacrifice?
- 3 Explain why Christ had to experience the feeling of being forsaken.
- 4 What does the resurrection mean to the Christian?
- 5 What is the best cure for depression?

June 3 – 9

Abraham's Patience

Key Text

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalm 27:14).

Study Help: *Steps to Christ*, 93–104; *Our High Calling*, 315–319.

Introduction

"When we are in perplexity, even before we open to Him our distress, He [God] is making arrangements for our deliverance." *Our High Calling*, 316.

Sunday

1 THE DESIRES OF THE HEART

- a. What was Abraham's heart's desire? Genesis 15:1–3. What does God promise to those who believe in Him? Psalm 37:4, 5; Matthew 21:21, 22.

Note: "Every promise in the word of God is for us. In your prayers, present the pledged word of Jehovah and by faith claim His promises. His word is the assurance that if you ask in faith, you will receive all spiritual blessings. Continue to ask, and you will receive exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think. Educate yourself to have unlimited confidence in God. Cast all your care upon Him. Wait patiently for Him, and He will bring it to pass." *In Heavenly Places*, 71.

- b. When we pray for God to fulfill a desire of our heart, what else should we always include with our request? James 4:13–15; Matthew 26:39.

Note: "The consistent course is to commit our desires to our all-wise heavenly Father, and then, in perfect confidence, trust all to Him. We know that God hears us if we ask according to

His will. But to press our petitions without a submissive spirit is not right; our prayers must take the form, not of command, but of intercession." *The Ministry of Healing*, 230.

Monday

2 WAITING LONGER THAN EXPECTED

- a. Explain how God answered Abraham's prayer as soon as he finished his request? Genesis 15:3, 4.

Note: "As Abram had no son, he at first thought that his trusty servant, Eliezer, should become his son by adoption, and his heir. But God informs Abram that his servant shall not be his son and heir, but that he should really have a son." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 100, 101.

- b. Even though God immediately promised Abraham a son, why didn't He reveal at first the date when Abraham's son would be born? Acts 1:6, 7; Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 34:8.

Note: "The Lord intended to prove the firm faith and reliance of Abram upon the promises He had made him." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 101.

"We need not expect all sunshine in this world. Clouds and storms will cluster about us, and we must be prepared to keep our eyes directed where we saw the light last. Its rays may be hidden but they ... still shine beyond the cloud. It is our work to wait, to watch, to pray, and to believe. We shall prize the light of the sun more highly after the clouds disappear. We shall see the salvation of God if we trust in God in the darkness as well as in the light." *Our High Calling*, 318.

- c. When prayer is not answered when we expect it, what are we in danger of? 1 Corinthians 10:9, 10; Hebrews 3:12–14. Where will it lead? Genesis 16:1–6.

Note: “When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall receive the blessing we need most. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire, is presumption. God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly. Then do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the immediate answer to your prayers. Rely upon His sure promise, ‘Ask, and it shall be given you’ (Matthew 7:7).” *Steps to Christ*, 96.

Tuesday

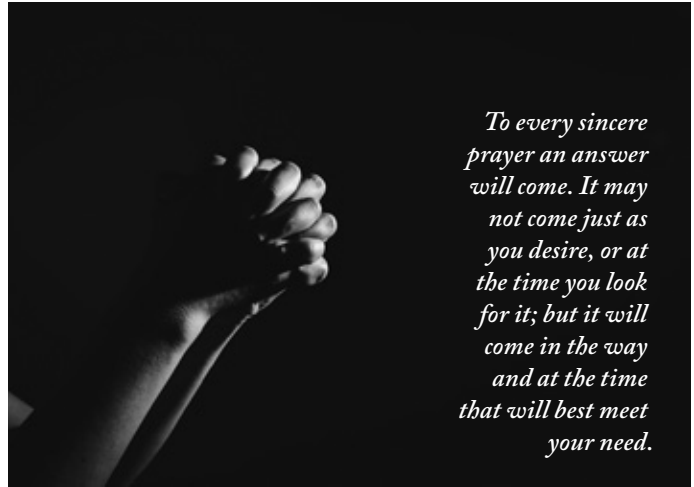
3 A REWARDER OF FAITH

- a. In what two things does God want us to believe? Hebrews 11:6. What was Abraham’s initial demonstration? Genesis 15:4–6.

Note: “We should not present our petitions to God to *prove* whether He will fulfill His word, but *because* He will fulfill it; not to prove that He loves us, but because He loves us.” *The Desire of Ages*, 126. [Emphasis author’s.]

- b. As God rejected Ishmael as the promised seed, describe how time affected Abraham and Sarah’s faith in God’s fulfilling His promise. Genesis 17:15–18; 18:9–12.

Note: “When Abraham was nearly one hundred years old, the promise of a son was repeated to him, with the assurance that the future heir should be the child of Sarah. But Abraham did not yet understand the promise. His mind at once turned to Ishmael, clinging to the belief that through him God’s gracious purposes were to be accomplished.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 146.



- c. What does every answered prayer have attached to it? Genesis 18:14, 21:1, 2. What should we always remember about God’s timing compared to our timing? Habakkuk 2:3.

Note: “To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need. The prayers you offer in loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good.” *Gospel Workers*, 258.

“God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favors He bestowed upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to realize our dependence upon Him and our need of His help.” *The Review and Herald*, March 27, 1913.

Wednesday

4 THE NEED OF PATIENCE

- a. Why doesn’t God always let the fulfillment of a prayer happen immediately? James 1:2–4; Romans 8:24, 25.

Note: “We all desire immediate and direct answers to our prayers, and are tempted to become discouraged when the answer is delayed or comes in an unlooked-for form. But God is too wise and good to answer our prayers always at just the time and in just the manner we desire. He will do more and better for us than to accomplish all our wishes. And because we can trust His wisdom and love, we should not ask Him to concede to our will, but should seek to enter into and accomplish His purpose. Our desires and interests should be lost in His will. These experiences that test faith are for our benefit. By them it is made manifest whether our faith is true and sincere, resting on the word of God alone, or whether depending on circumstances, it is uncertain and changeable. Faith is strengthened by exercise.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 230, 231.

- b. What assurance can we have in God’s promises even though they are not always fulfilled when we think they should be? Hebrews 6:13–18; Isaiah 55:8–11; Psalm 27:14.

Note: “Work in faith, and leave results with God. Pray in faith, and the mystery of His providence will bring its answer. At times it may seem that you cannot succeed. But work and believe, putting into your efforts faith, hope, and courage. After doing what you can, wait for the Lord, declaring His faithfulness, and He will bring His word to pass. Wait, not in fretful anxiety, but in undaunted faith and unshaken trust.” *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 245.

“Wait on the Lord, and again I say, Wait on the Lord. We may ask of the human agents and not receive. We may ask of God and He says, Ye shall receive. Therefore you know to whom to look; you know in whom to trust. You must not trust in man or make flesh your arm. Lean as heavily as you please upon the Mighty One who hath said, ‘Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me’ (Isaiah 27:5). Then wait and watch and pray and work, keeping your face constantly turned to the Sun of Righteousness.” *Reflecting Christ*, 119.

Thursday

5 THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS

- a. What characteristic describes God’s remnant people? Revelation 14:12. Why is love, the highest round of the Christian ladder, unmentioned? 2 Peter 1:5–7; James 5:7, 8.

Note: “It is the steady purpose, the untiring effort, that will gain the victory at last. It is he who endureth to the end that shall be saved. It is they who patiently continue in well-doing that shall have eternal life and the immortal reward. ... All who are engaged in this warfare with Satan and his host have a close work before them. They must not be as impressible as wax, that the fire can melt into any form. They must endure hardness as faithful soldiers, stand at their post, and be true every time.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 101, 102.

- b. Explain how God is using our present trials to prepare us for the return of our Lord. Hebrews 10:35–39; Matthew 25:5; 24:13, 42–44.

Note: “In the religious life of every soul who is finally victorious there will be scenes of terrible perplexity and trial; but his knowledge of the Scriptures will enable him to bring to mind the encouraging promises of God, which will comfort his heart and strengthen his faith in the power of the Mighty One. ... The trial of faith is more precious than gold. All should learn that this is a part of the discipline in the school of Christ, which is essential to purify and refine them from the dross of earthliness.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 81.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Will God give us every desire of our heart?
- How should we react when every prayer is not answered the way we think?
- Why can “time” be the greatest challenge to our faith?
- In a world of instant technology, what trait do we need to cultivate?
- Why will those who fail to develop a patient trust in God’s Word fall away?

June 10 – 16

Pleading for Sinners

Key Text

“He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:20).

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 156–170.

Introduction

“Earnest, self-sacrificing men and women are needed, who will go to God and with strong crying and tears plead for the souls that are on the brink of ruin.” *Gospel Workers*, 26.

Sunday

1 SODOM AND GOMORRAH

- a. What punishment did the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah suffer? Genesis 19:24, 25; Luke 17:29.

Note: “The Lord rained brimstone and fire out of heaven upon the cities and the fruitful plain; its palaces and temples, costly dwellings, gardens and vineyards, and the gay, pleasure-seeking throngs that only the night before had insulted the messengers of heaven—all were consumed.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 162.

- b. To whom is Sodom and Gomorrah an example? 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7.

Note: “The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God’s mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins. ...

“The fate of Sodom is a solemn admonition, not merely to those who are guilty of outbreking sin, but to all who are trifling with Heaven-sent light and privileges.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 162, 165.

Monday

2 ABRAHAM’S PLEA

- a. Where was Abraham’s nephew Lot abiding? Genesis 13:10–13; 19:1.

Note: “Fairest among the cities of the Jordan Valley was Sodom, set in a plain which was ‘as the garden of the Lord’ in its fertility and beauty. Here the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics flourished.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 156.

- b. As the Lord revealed to Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, how did Abraham indirectly plead for Lot’s family? Genesis 18:22–32.

Note: “And the man of faith pleaded for the inhabitants of Sodom. Once he [Abraham] had saved them by his sword, now he endeavored to save them by prayer. ...

“With deep reverence and humility he urged his plea. ... There was no self-confidence, no boasting of his own righteousness. He did not claim favor on the ground of his obedience, or of the sacrifices he had made in doing God’s will. Himself a sinner, he pleaded in the sinner’s behalf. Such a spirit all who approach God should possess. Yet Abraham manifested the confidence of a child pleading with a loved father. He came close to the heavenly Messenger and fervently urged his petition. ... Abraham thought that in that populous city there must be other worshipers of the true God. ... Abraham asked not once merely, but many times. Waxing bolder as his requests were granted, he continued until he gained the assurance that if even ten righteous persons could be found in it, the city would be spared.

“Love for perishing souls inspired Abraham’s prayer. While he loathed the sins of that corrupt city, he desired that the sinners might be saved. His deep interest for Sodom shows

the anxiety that we should feel for the impenitent. We should cherish hatred of sin, but pity and love for the sinner. All around us are souls going down to ruin as hopeless, as terrible, as that which befell Sodom. Every day the probation of some is closing. Every hour some are passing beyond the reach of mercy. And where are the voices of warning and entreaty to bid the sinner flee from this fearful doom? Where are the hands stretched out to draw him back from death? Where are those who with humility and persevering faith are pleading with God for him?" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 139, 140.

Tuesday

3 ANSWERED PRAYER

- a. Explain how God answered Abraham's prayer to spare Lot. Genesis 19:1-3, 12-16, 27-29.

Note: "Stupefied with sorrow, he [Lot] lingered, loath to depart. But for the angels of God, they would all have perished in the ruin of Sodom. The heavenly messengers took him and his wife and daughters by the hand and led them out of the city." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 160.

- b. What ingredient do we always need to mix with our prayers to give them power? Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 17:14-20; Matthew 9:29.

Note: "Pray in faith. And be sure to bring your lives into harmony with your petitions, that you may receive the blessings for which you pray. Let not your faith weaken, for the blessings received are proportionate to the faith exercised. 'According to your faith be it unto you.' 'All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive' (Matthew 9:29; 21:22). Pray, believe, rejoice. Sing praises to God because He has answered your prayers. Take Him at His word. 'He is faithful that promised' (Hebrews 10:23). Not one sincere supplication is lost." *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 274.

"We must lay hold with firmer grasp on the unfailing promises of God. We must have faith that will not be denied, faith that will take hold of the unseen, faith that is steadfast,

immovable. Such faith will bring the blessing of heaven to our souls." *My Life Today*, 8.

- c. How can we have confidence that God will always deliver the righteous? 1 Peter 3:12; Psalm 145:18, 19; 55:22.

Note: "In the darkest hours, under circumstances the most forbidding, the Christian believer may keep his soul stayed upon the source of all light and power. Day by day, through faith in God, his hope and courage may be renewed. ... The Lord will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him. He will give them the wisdom their varied necessities demand." *My Life Today*, 55.

Wednesday

4 PLEADING FOR SOULS

- a. What condition will the world be in just prior to the return of Jesus? Luke 17:28-30; 2 Timothy 3:1-6.

Note: "I was shown the state of the world, that it is fast filling up its cup of iniquity. Violence and crime of every description are filling our world, and Satan is using every means to make crime and debasing vice popular. The youth who walk the streets are surrounded with handbills and notices of crime and sin, presented in some novel or to be acted at some theater. Their minds are educated into familiarity with sin. The course pursued by the base and vile is kept before them in the periodicals of the day, and everything which can excite curiosity and arouse the animal passions is brought before them in thrilling and exciting stories.

"The literature that proceeds from corrupted intellects poisons the minds of thousands in our world. Sin does not appear exceeding sinful. They hear and read so much of debasing crime and vileness that the once tender conscience which would have recoiled with horror becomes so blunted that it can dwell upon the low and vile sayings and actions of men with greedy interest." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 471, 472.

"The multitudes are striving to forget God, and they eagerly accept fables, that they may pursue the path of self-indulgence

undisturbed.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1122.

- b. Explain how we should have the same attitude of prayer as Abraham had. Ezekiel 9:4; James 5:16–20.

Note: “We are not to condemn others; this is not our work; but we should love one another and pray for one another. When we see one err from the truth, then we may weep over him as Christ wept over Jerusalem.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 345, 346.

“Should a brother go astray, then is the time to show your real interest in him. Go to him kindly, pray with and for him, remembering the infinite price which Christ has paid for his redemption. In this way you may save a soul from death, and hide a multitude of sins.” *Ibid.*, 58, 59.

“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God.” *Ibid.*, 211.

Thursday

5 THE PENDING JUDGMENT

- a. From what should we be trying to help souls escape? Revelation 14:7, 10, 11; 15:1.

Note: “Wicked men will not oppose a form of godliness, nor reject a popular ministry which presents no cross for them to bear. The natural heart will raise no serious objection to a religion in which there is nothing to make the transgressor of the law tremble, or bring to bear upon the heart and conscience the terrible realities of a judgment to come. It is the demonstration of the Spirit and the power of God which raises opposition, and leads the natural heart to rebel. The truth that saves the soul must not only come from God, but His Spirit must attend its communication to others, else it falls powerless before opposing influences.” *Gospel Workers* (1892), 66.



Wicked men will not oppose a form of godliness, nor reject a popular ministry which presents no cross for them to bear.

- b. Like Lot's experience, how do we know that many will just barely escape the judgments to come? Genesis 19:17; Luke 17:28–32; 1 Peter 4:17, 18.

Note: “The judgments of God are soon to be poured out upon the earth. ‘Escape for thy life’ is the warning from the angels of God (Genesis 19:17). Other voices are heard saying: ‘Do not become excited; there is no cause for special alarm.’ Those who are at ease in Zion cry ‘Peace and safety’ (1 Thessalonians 5:3), while heaven declares that swift destruction is about to come upon the transgressor. ... Thus it was at the destruction of the old world and when Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed by fire.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 233.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What warning are we given from Sodom's experience?
- 2 What should be the burden of every Christian?
- 3 Explain how a prayer of faith can save a soul.
- 4 What attitude do we need now more than ever?
- 5 Explain why the last warning needs to be given with urgency.

June 17 – 23

Abraham's Inheritance

Key Text

"For he [Abraham] looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

Study Help: *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 346–353; *The Faith I Live By*, 304.

Introduction

"We are only pilgrims and strangers in this world. We are seeking the city which Abraham looked for, whose builder and maker is God." *In Heavenly Places*, 112.

Sunday

1 A PROMISE OF INHERITANCE

- a. What inheritance did God promise to Abraham and his seed? Genesis 17:7, 8; 1 Chronicles 16:15–18; Romans 4:13.

Note: "The gift to Abraham and his seed included not merely the land of Canaan, but the whole earth. ... And the Bible plainly teaches that the promises made to Abraham are to be fulfilled through Christ." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 170.

- b. Of what was the earthly promised land of Canaan a symbol? Hebrews 11:8–10, 13–16; Revelation 21:1–3.

Note: "The voice of God was heard, bidding him [Abraham] not to expect immediate possession of the Promised Land, and pointing forward to the sufferings of his posterity before their establishment in Canaan. The plan of redemption was here opened to him, in the death of Christ, the great sacrifice, and His coming in glory. Abraham saw also the earth restored to its Eden beauty, to be given him for an everlasting possession, as the final and complete fulfillment of the promise." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 137.

Monday

2 HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM

- a. Who is the only true heir of the kingdom of promise? Matthew 21:33–39; Galatians 3:16; Hebrews 1:1, 2.

Note: "Christ was the Father's 'appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds.' He was the 'brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person.' And He upheld 'all things by the word of His power' (Hebrews 1:2, 3). He possessed divine excellency and greatness. It pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell. And Christ 'thought it not robbery to be equal with God' (Philippians 2:6). Yet Jesus exchanged a throne of light and glory which He had with His Father, counting it not a thing to be desired to be equal with God, while man was lost in sin and misery. He came from heaven to earth, clothed His divinity with humanity, and bore the curse as surety for the fallen race. He was not compelled to do this; but He chose to bear the results of man's transgression that man might escape eternal death." *The Signs of the Times*, February 20, 1893.

- b. How can we become heirs with Christ in sharing His inheritance? Romans 4:13–17; Galatians 3:26–29.

Note: "Only those who have appreciated the grace of Christ, which has made them heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus, will rise from the grave bearing the image of their Redeemer." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 259.

"The fulfillment of the promise that we shall be joint-heirs with Christ rests upon our willingness to deny self." *The Upward Look*, 235.

- c. As we declare our faith in Jesus Christ in whom all the promises of God are made, what does He call us? Romans 8:14–17; Galatians 4:4–7.

Note: “The treasures of eternity have been committed to the keeping of Jesus Christ, to give to whomsoever He will; but how sad it is that so many quickly lose sight of the precious grace that is proffered unto them through faith in Him. He will impart the heavenly treasures to those who will believe in Him, look to Him, and abide in Him.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 138.

Tuesday

3 AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM

- a. As sons and daughters of God, through faith, what type of kingdom is promised to us? Daniel 2:44; 7:27; 2 Peter 1:11.

Note: “The Lord’s purposes for His people have ever been the same. He desires to bestow on the children of men the riches of an eternal inheritance. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. When those who choose to become obedient subjects of the Most High are finally saved in the kingdom of glory, God’s purpose for mankind will have been fulfilled.” *The Review and Herald*, December 26, 1907.

- b. How long will believers enjoy this everlasting kingdom? Titus 3:7; 1 John 5:11–13.

Note: “This life is a training school, where we are to be transformed, refined, and made meet for the society of saints in the kingdom of God, with whom we expect to associate throughout the ages of eternity.” *The Bible Echo*, July 29, 1895.

- c. How do we know that God wants everyone to share in this inheritance? 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:32; John 3:16.

Note: “The Lord wills not that any soul should perish. His mercies are without number, and He will not leave His purchased possession that He has given His own life to ransom to become the sport of Satan’s temptations. All Heaven is



This life is a training school, where we are to be transformed, refined, and made meet for the society of saints in the kingdom of God.

given to all those who believe in Jesus Christ as their present personal Saviour.” *The Upward Look*, 150.

“The Light of the world is shining upon us that we might absorb the divine rays and let this light shine upon others in good works that many souls shall be led to glorify our Father which is in heaven. He is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, and it grieves the heart of Jesus that so many refuse the offers of His mercy and matchless love.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, 237, 238.

Wednesday

4 HOLDING OUR CONFIDENCE

- a. What are we admonished to hold on to? Hebrews 3:14; 10:23, 35, 36; Revelation 3:11.

Note: “Decisions may be made in a moment that fix one’s condition forever. ... But remember, it would take the work of

a lifetime to recover what a moment of yielding to temptation and thoughtlessness throws away. ...

“Those who win heaven will put forth their noblest efforts and will labor with all long-suffering, that they may reap the fruit of toil. There is a hand that will open wide the gates of Paradise to those who have stood the test of temptation and kept a good conscience by giving up the world, its honors, its applause, for the love of Christ, thus confessing Him before men and waiting with all patience for Him to confess them before His Father and the holy angels.” *My Life Today*, 322.

- b. Explain how the majority of Abraham’s literal children will be denied an inheritance. Numbers 13:25–33; 14:1; Hebrews 3:18, 19; Jude 5.

Note: “For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.” *Evangelism*, 696.

- c. What should be the number one priority in our life? Matthew 6:33; Luke 12:31–34; Colossians 3:1, 2.

Note: “Look away from this world to the eternal. Put forth your most earnest endeavors to obtain those things upon which God places value, and which Christ gave His precious life that you might secure. His sacrifice has thrown open wide to you the gates of heavenly commerce. Lay up your treasure beside the throne of God, by doing with His entrusted capital the work that He desires done in the winning of souls to a knowledge of the truth.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 225, 226.

Thursday

5 GOD’S ONE UNITED KINGDOM

- a. How many of Abraham’s children will be with him, praising God as he enters into his inheritance? Hebrews 11:39, 40; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Isaiah 66:23.

Note: “We need not despair when we see that others have struggled through discouragements like our own, have fallen into temptations even as we have done, and yet have recovered their ground and been blessed of God. The words of inspiration comfort and cheer the erring soul. Although the patriarchs and apostles were subject to human frailties, yet through faith they obtained a good report, fought their battles in the strength of the Lord, and conquered gloriously. Thus may we trust in the virtue of the atoning sacrifice and be overcomers in the name of Jesus.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 15.

- b. What will every saved believer do when beholding Jesus Christ face to face as Saviour? Philippians 2:9–11; Revelation 7:9, 10. What will Jesus then do? 1 Corinthians 15:24–28.

Note: “All [the redeemed] unite in praising Him [the Lamb] who died that human beings might have the life that measures with the life of God. The conflict is over. Tribulation and strife are at an end. Songs of victory fill all heaven as the ransomed ones take up the joyful strain, Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again, a triumphant conqueror.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 602.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What type of land was Abraham looking for?
- 2 How only can we be partakers of Abraham’s inheritance?
- 3 What is God’s desire for everyone in this world?
- 4 How can we hold our confidence steadfast to the end?
- 5 What types of songs will the redeemed sing together in the heavenly choir?

June 24 – 30

God's Description

Key Text

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Genesis 18:19).

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 125, 140–144.

Introduction

"One well-ordered, well-disciplined family is a greater power in demonstrating the efficiency of Christianity than all the sermons in the world." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, III8.

Sunday

I THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM

- a. How did Abraham order his household? Genesis 18:19; 26:5. What promise was given to him and to us if we follow the same guidelines? Genesis 28:14; Galatians 3:6–9.

Note: "Of Abraham it is written that 'he was called the friend of God' (James 2:23) ... It is God that speaks. He who understands the thoughts afar off, and places the right estimate upon men, says, 'I know him.'" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 140, 141.

- b. What were Abraham and his wife's attitudes? Hebrews 11:8–11.

Note: "Abraham's unquestioning obedience is one of the most striking evidences of faith to be found in all the Bible. ... Relying upon the divine promise, without the least outward assurance of its fulfillment, he abandoned home and kindred and native land, and went forth, he knew not whither, to follow where God should lead." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 126.

- c. How did Abraham lead so many individuals in the right way? Psalm 145:18.

Note: "Abraham, 'the friend of God,' set us a worthy example. His was a life of prayer." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 128.

Monday

2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE WELL-ORDERED?

- a. Describe heaven's first law. 1 Corinthians 14:40.

Note: "Order is heaven's first law, and the Lord desires His people to give in their homes a representation of the order and harmony that pervade the heavenly courts. Truth never places her delicate feet in a path of uncleanness or impurity." *Counsels on Health*, 101.

- b. How do we teach this? Romans 2:21.

Note: "Begin early to teach the little ones. ... This work of teaching neatness and order will take a little time each day, but it will pay in the future of your children, and in the end it will save you much time and care." *Child Guidance*, 111.

- c. If we have not been taught these habits, how can we learn them? James 1:5; Psalm 25:9, 12.

Note: "Help must be given ... to those who seem to have no sense of the meaning and importance of cleanliness. They are to be taught that those who are to represent the high

and holy God must keep their souls pure and clean, and that this purity must extend to their dress and to everything in their home, so that the ministering angels will have evidence that the truth has wrought a change in the life, purifying the soul and refining the tastes. Those who, after receiving the truth, make no change in word or deportment, in dress or surroundings, are living to themselves, not to Christ.” *The Adventist Home*, 22.

- d. What else is included in the concept of godly order? Psalm 108:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:5–8.

Note: “How prevalent is the habit of turning day into night, and night into day. Many youth sleep soundly in the morning, when they should be up with the early singing birds and be stirring when all nature is awake. ...

“If the youth would form habits of regularity and order, they would improve in health, in spirits, in memory, and in disposition.” *Child Guidance*, 111, 112.

Tuesday

3 NEATNESS

- a. What did Jesus teach us about the small details of life? Luke 16:10; 24:1–3, 12; John 20:7.

Note: “They [the disciples] saw the shroud and the napkin, but they did not find their Lord. Yet even here was testimony that He had risen. The graveclothes were not thrown heedlessly aside, but carefully folded, each in a place by itself. ...

“It was Christ Himself who had placed those graveclothes with such care. ... In His sight who guides alike the star and the atom, there is nothing unimportant. Order and perfection are seen in all His work.” *The Desire of Ages*, 789.

- b. Where is this to be implemented? Numbers 24:5–7.

Note: “The home must be kept pure and clean. Unclean, neglected corners in the house will tend to make impure, neglected corners in the soul. ...

“If parents desire their children to be pure, they must surround them with pure associations such as God can approve.” *Child Guidance*, 114.

“Remember that in heaven there is no disorder, and that your home should be a heaven here below. Remember that in doing faithfully from day to day the little things to be done in the home, you are a laborer together with God, perfecting a Christian character.” *Ibid.*, 110.

“The house of God is often desecrated, and the Sabbath violated by Sabbath-believers’ children. In some cases they are even allowed to run about the house, play, talk, and manifest their evil tempers in the very meetings where the saints should worship God in the beauty of holiness. And the place that should be holy, and where a holy stillness should reign, and where there should be perfect order, neatness, and humility, is made to be a perfect Babylon, ‘confusion.’ This is enough to bring God’s displeasure and shut His presence from our assemblies.” *Ibid.*, 540.

“While we are to guard against needless adornment and display, we are in no case to be careless and indifferent in regard to outward appearance. All about our persons and our homes is to be neat and attractive. The youth are to be taught the importance of presenting an appearance above criticism, an appearance that honors God and the truth.” *Counsels on Health*, 102.

Wednesday

4 GOOD DISCIPLINE

- a. What does discipline mean and what is its purpose? Hebrews 12:7–13.

Note: “If you want the blessing of God, parents, do as did Abraham. Repress the evil, and encourage the good. Some commanding may be necessary in the place of consulting the inclination and pleasure of the children.

“To allow a child to follow his natural impulses is to allow him to deteriorate and to become proficient in evil. Wise parents will not say to their children, ‘Follow your own choice; go where you will, and do what you will’; but, ‘Listen to the instruction of the Lord.’ Wise rules and regulations must be made and enforced, that the beauty of the home life may not be spoiled.” *Child Guidance*, 234.

- b. What is the difference between punishment and training? Deuteronomy 21:18–21; Proverbs 22:6.

Note: “Children are the heritage of the Lord, and unless parents give them such a training as will enable them to keep the way of the Lord, they neglect solemn duty.” *Child Guidance*, 229.

“Parents, you should commence your first lesson of discipline when your children are babes in your arms. Teach them to yield their will to yours. This can be done by bearing an even hand and manifesting firmness. Parents should have perfect control over their own spirits and, with mildness and yet firmness, bend the will of the child until it shall expect nothing else but to yield to their wishes.” *Ibid.*, 229, 230.

- c. What is the result if we are unbalanced in our training? Proverbs 13:24.

Note: “The parent or teacher who ... trains the child to self-control will be the most useful and permanently successful. ...

“To direct the child’s development without hindering it by undue control should be the study of both parent and teacher. Too much management is as bad as too little. The effort to ‘break the will’ of a child is a terrible mistake. Minds are constituted differently; while force may secure outward submission, the result with many children is a more determined rebellion of the heart.” *Child Guidance*, 209, 210.

Thursday

5 THE WAY TO GO

- a. How do we know what to do? Jeremiah 33:3; Isaiah 30:21; Proverbs 3:5–7.

- b. Why can we be sure we are not alone in following God’s counsels to train up our children both in the family and in the church? Isaiah 41:10; 40:28–31; Philippians 2:13.

Note: “Your compassionate Redeemer is watching you with love and sympathy, ready to hear your prayers and to render you the assistance which you need. ...

“Parents may understand that as they follow God’s directions in the training of their children, they will receive help from on high. They receive much benefit; for as they teach, they learn. ...

“Parents, are you working with unflagging energy in behalf of your children? The God of heaven marks your solicitude, your earnest work, your constant watchfulness. He hears your prayers. With patience and tenderness, train your children for the Lord. All heaven is interested in your work. ... God will unite with you, crowning your efforts with success.” *The Adventist Home*, 204, 205.

“Even if the character, habits, and practices of parents have been cast in an inferior mold, if the lessons given them in childhood and youth have led to an unhappy development of character, they need not despair. The converting power of God can transform inherited and cultivated tendencies; for the religion of Jesus is uplifting. ‘Born again’, means a transformation, a new birth in Christ Jesus. ...

“He knows that you are doing the best you can, and He will increase your power. He will Himself do the part of the work that the mother or father cannot do.” *Ibid.*, 206, 207.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What can you learn from Abraham regarding family training?
- 2 What is heaven’s first law and what does it include?
- 3 Explain the relationship between the little details of daily life and your spiritual condition.
- 4 What is true discipline?
- 5 How can you accomplish God’s design in your family?

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Amazing Little Lentil

By Judy Hallingstad



I never knew what a lentil was until I became a Seventh-day Adventist and began to change my diet. I soon discovered that this little legume, loaded with nutrition, is truly another nutrition-filled gift from our Lord!

“Lentils are small, disk-shaped brown, reddish-orange, or brownish-green legumes that grow on an annual bush like plant and are native to central Asia. They are used throughout the Mediterranean region and the Middle East and are especially popular in India. In the United States, lentils are often enjoyed in soup. Lentils are dried as soon as they ripen and then sold that way. There are at least fifty varieties of lentils in addition to the brown variety most common in the West, with colors that range from yellow to red-orange to green. Lentils are distinguished from beans in that they don’t contain sulfur and therefore don’t produce gas. So anyone wanting the benefits of high fiber without the social unpleasantness associated with beans would do well to check out this cool little legume.

“But the real claim to fame for lentils is the fact that they are so loaded with fiber, especially soluble fiber. Soluble fiber breaks down as it passes through the digestive tract, forming a gel that traps some substances related to high cholesterol. Soluble fiber also helps control blood sugar by delay-

ing the emptying of the stomach and retarding the entry of sugar into the bloodstream. This is why high-fiber foods like lentils have such a low glycemic load. Because fiber slows the digestion of foods, it can help blunt the sudden spikes in blood sugar and insulin that can cause you to be hungry again an hour after eating a low-fiber meal. Those constant spikes in blood sugar and insulin can also contribute to diabetes and can make weight very hard to take off. High-fiber diets have been consistently associated with better ‘glucose control’ for both diabetics and nondiabetics, and with better management of weight. High-fiber diets also are associated with lower risks for cancer and heart disease.

“A cup of [cooked] lentils contains a nice amount of protein—about 18g. But best of all, that same cup contains

a whopping 16g of fiber. Lentils are also a terrific source of folate and a good source of at least seven minerals. One cup provides 37 percent of the Daily Value of iron and 49 percent of Daily Value for manganese, an important trace mineral that’s essential for growth, reproduction, wound healing, peak brain function, and the proper metabolism of sugars, insulin and cholesterol.

“Worth Knowing: Unlike beans, lentils need no presoaking and are ready in 20 to 30 minutes. Brown and green lentils hold their shape well after cooking and are excellent for salads or other dishes where you want texture. Red lentils cook quicker and work best in purees and other dishes where softness is an advantage.” 150 *Healthiest Foods on Earth*, by Jonny Bowden Ph. D, pgs. 87, 88. **LM**

Recipe

Tasty Lentils

1 ½ cups lentils	½ tsp. basil
3 cups water	1 bay leaf
2 tsp. onion powder	2 cups stewed or canned tomatoes (add last)
1 ½ tsp. salt	

Bring all to boil except tomatoes. Simmer till lentils are tender. When done add tomatoes. Serve as is or over rice.

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