

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

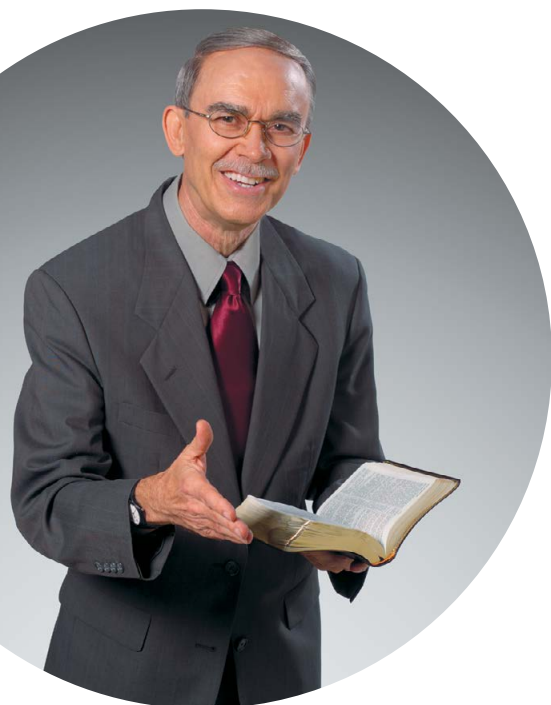
**NEW
LOOK
SAME
TIMELESS
TRUTHS**

*Can you
stand up
for your
faith? Be
ready*

p.3

*Testimony:
Only Weak
People Need
God*

p.19



From the Editor

John J. Grobsoll

The Abomination of Desolation

One of the major themes of the book of Daniel (chapters 8:10–13; 9:26, 27; 11:29–35; 12:8–13) is the abomination of desolation. Jesus told His disciples to understand what it meant when Daniel said it would stand where it should not (Mark 13) or in the Holy Place (Matthew 24).

Adventists have understood this abomination as referring to events in past history—the destruction of Jerusalem and His church being trampled for 42 months—but it also refers to events in the future. See the following quotes by Ellen White:

“As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 464, 465.

“Satan sees that he is about to lose his case. ... He makes one last desperate effort to overcome the faithful by deception. He does this in personating Christ. He clothes himself with the garments of royalty which have been accurately described in the vision of John. ...

“There was one object before the praying ones—the final and eternal salvation of their souls. This object was before them constantly—that immortal life was promised to those who endure unto the end. Oh, how earnest and fervent had been their desires. The judgment and eternity were in view. Their eyes by faith were fixed on the blazing throne, before which the white-robed ones were to stand. This restrained them from the indulgence of sin.” *Last Day Events*, 164, 165.

“One effort more, and then Satan’s last device is employed. He hears the unceasing cry for Christ to come, for Christ to deliver them. This last strategy is to personate Christ, and make them think their prayers are answered.” *Ibid.*, 165.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS OF ADVENTISM

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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 (2 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. This magazine is designed to help believers 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.

In this Issue



Be Ready to Give an Answer

The whole church is involved in providing convincing evidence from the Bible for their beliefs.

By John J. Grosboll



Escaping the Corruption of the World

Peter describes the almost unbelievable results of a successful climb to partake of the Divine nature.

By John R. Pearson



Present Position and Work

In the short period of probation remaining, lay up treasure in Heaven.

By James White

More in this Issue

17 Bible Puzzle

The Fall of Man

19 Testimony

Only Weak People Need God

21 Pen of Inspiration

The Future

22 Keys to the Storehouse

Finding Favor

24 13th Sabbath Offering

Are You Involved in Missions?

25 From the Mission Fields

Stand in Defense of Truth

27 Nature

The Electric Eel

28 Question & Answer

Why Cast Demons into the Swine?

29 Health Nugget

Just Push a Button

31 Life Sketches

God's Unchangeable Law

36 Story Time

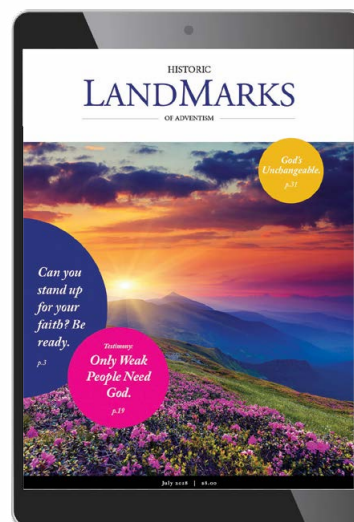
Robert Bruce and the Spider

37 Bible Study Guide

Behold, I Come Quickly

50 Recipe

Blueberries



Be Ready to Give an Answer

By John J. Grosboll

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Those who are faithful to the ten commandments are going to meet with religious intolerance from the majority of Christian churches.

Before Jesus returns, those who are faithful to the ten commandments are going to meet with religious intolerance from the majority of Christian churches. At that time, faithful ministers and leaders will mostly be in jail or possibly hiding in a cave somewhere. The common people are going to be arraigned in front of courts and legislatures to give a reason for their faith.

I am disturbed as I visit with different brothers and sisters around the country that so many are unprepared for that time. I wonder how they will be able to tell a court what they believe. All should be able to give a simple Bible study about the cardinal features of their faith, and be able to do it succinctly in a few minutes.

Every Seventh-day Adventist should be able to give a Bible study on the seal of God and the mark of the beast. However, before these subjects can be understood there are a few other topics that need to be explained in preparation. First, it is helpful to know who the beast is in Revelation 13:1–10, and who the little horn is in Daniel 7. To understand the mark of the beast, it is first necessary to identify the beast.

In giving an interesting Bible study, often less is best. When Adventists first started giving Bible studies in the late 19th century they used a hundred to a hundred fifty texts to prove their point. Soon they found out that this was way too much material and caused overload. To keep a person's interest, studies must be kept simple.

The Seal of God

1 The seal of God is found in His law. Isaiah 8:16 says, “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples.” The law is the Ten Commandments, so the seal of God must have something to do with His law. It says, “seal the law.”

Some former Adventists believe that the seal of God is the Holy Spirit. However, the New Testament teaches that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not the seal. The seal of God has to do with the law.

2 The words *sign* and *seal* are used interchangeably in the Bible. Romans 4:11 says, “And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while

still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also.”

3 The Sabbath has always been the sign of the true worshipers of the God of heaven.

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: “Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a *sign* between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a *sign* between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.” And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets

of stone, written with the finger of God” (Exodus 31:12–18).

4 The Sabbath is a perpetual covenant between God and His people. “Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant” (Exodus 31:16).

The Sabbath commandment has all the identifying characteristics of the seal of a covenant, which authenticates the following:

- a) the name of the covenanter
- b) the covenanter’s position
- c) his jurisdiction: the area that person governs or has authority over

The fourth commandment identifies:

- a God—the covenanter
- b Creator of the heavens and the earth—His position
- c Heaven and earth—His jurisdiction

The Sabbath is a perpetual covenant between God and His people.

5 The Sabbath commandment has always distinguished God’s people from the rest of the world. “Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths to be a *sign* between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them” (Ezekiel 20:12).

This sign is mentioned again in verse 20: “Hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a *sign* between Me and

you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.”

6 Breaking the Sabbath commandment is likened in the Bible to spiritual adultery. “They have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them. Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths” (Ezekiel 23:37, 38).

7 God’s children in the last days are especially pointed out in prophecy as commandment keepers. “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who *keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*” (Revelation 14:12).

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who *keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*” (Revelation 12:17).

This is an important point to remember, as most of our Protestant friends believe they are keeping the commandments while neglecting the fourth. But James makes it very clear when he says, “Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty” (James 2:10).

This text points out that you cannot be called a commandment keeper while breaking even one. It is clear that James is referring to the ten commandment law, because he mentions both the sixth and seventh commandments. It points out that the ten commandment law is the standard for the judgment. To have a clear conscience, one must keep the

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seventh day Sabbath, regardless of what the state says, or the popular churches say. Nowhere in Scripture can we find that the Sabbath was changed from the seventh to the first day of the week. Peter said, "We ought to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

In less than 15 minutes the seal of God can be explained. It is an important subject to know because it is only those who have received the seal who will be under divine protection from the time of trouble that lies ahead.

Seventh-day Adventists have been given the light of the three angels' messages to share with the world. The third angel's message is a warning against the worship of the beast, its image, and its mark.

The Beast and the Little Horn

Once the "beast" and the "little horn" are identified it will not take a long time to explain the mark of the beast.

- 1 Scripture indicates that the beast power and the little horn power represent the papacy by pointing out the special characteristic of this. "He shall speak great words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law" (Daniel 7:25, literal translation).
- 2 The papacy has deliberately attempted to change God's law. J. F. Snyder of Bloomington, Illinois, once asked a Catholic clergyman this question: "Does the Catholic church claim to have changed the Sabbath?"

In response, C. F. Thomas said, "Of course the Catholic church claims that the change was her act, and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." *Sentinel*, May 21, 1995, Number 22.

The Bible says in Daniel 7:25 that changing "times and law" is a special characteristic of this power and the Catholic church openly claims to have done

just exactly that. However, it is often a terrible shock for Roman Catholics to find out this truth, but it is better to be shocked now rather than be shocked when Jesus comes and find out they have been supporting the wrong side of the battle between Christ and Satan.

The Mark of the Beast

- 1 Those who receive the mark of the beast will also be the recipients of God's wrath. "A third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation'" (Revelation 14:9, 10).

This has been described by Ellen White to be the most fearful threatening in the whole Bible. (See *Early Writings*, 254.) That being the case, shouldn't we be interested in knowing how to avoid it and warning others as well?

- 2 Only those who refuse to obey the truth but obey unrighteousness receive God's wrath. "But to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath" (Romans 2:8).

There are many, including Christians, who are ignorant of present truth and have never heard the last warning message to the world found in Revelation 14.

- 3 "All unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:17, *first part*).
- 4 "Sin is the transgression of God's law" (1 John 3:4, literal translation).
- 5 The mark of the beast involves the transgression of one or more of the

ten commandments. We know that because if you receive the mark of the beast, you are going to receive the wrath of God. Nobody receives the wrath of God except those who obey unrighteousness (break God's law). We read that in Romans 2:8.

- 6 The mark of the beast is a special characteristic or feature or teaching of the beast power that leaves its mark, something that is seen.

The proclamation of this truth today is often criticized as being hateful toward the Catholics – an accusation that could not be further from the truth. It is because of God's love for Catholics and other Protestants that have been deceived that this warning is given. He is not willing that any miss out on

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In giving an interesting Bible study, often less is best. To keep a person's interest, studies must be kept simple.

eternal life and has raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church to give this last message of mercy before He comes in the clouds of heaven.

Before He returns every person on earth will make a decision that will determine their eternal destiny. All will be marked with one or the other. Either they will receive the seal of God, or they will receive the mark of the beast.

This mark is not a literal mark, but is the manifestation of a decision that is

made. The deciding factor will be when Sunday observance is enforced by pain of law in the United States. At that time, all people will have to decide whom they will follow—man or God, and this decision will determine their eternal destiny.

Ellen White describes God's people in the end time as a little company. Those who followed Jesus when He walked out of Jerusalem after His resurrection are also described as a little company. On the day of Pentecost the followers of Christ are also described as a little company. Over and over, in the Spirit of Prophecy, God's true followers are called a little company.

At Christ's first coming, there was a multitude of people who believed in a coming Messiah, but out of those millions of people there was only a little company who truly believed in Him enough to follow Him. In Luke 12:32, KJV, Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock." At that time there were only a handful of people left that were following Him. The 5,000 that had been fed on the mount had walked away. He said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Isaiah said, "For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return" (Isaiah 10:22). A remnant will be saved.

Dear friend, you must not be discouraged if it seems you are all alone in your belief, or the church you attend is small with only a handful of faithful believers. You must say, Lord, show us what to do to get this message out. It would be wonderful if all of God's people could give a simple answer for what they believe on all of our beliefs.

Remember, it does not have to be complicated with numerous proof texts. The truth is straightforward and should be simply stated. God is going to have a little company and we want to be part of it.

We are told that for a little time it will appear as though the devil has won the great controversy. It looked that way at



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Jesus' first coming so we must be ready for that and not be discouraged.

I have tried to analyze this over and over again. It is the most ironic, paradoxical thing that I have ever thought about in my life that when Jesus was crucified on the cross, He did not die from the wounds of crucifixion. We often say that it was our sins that killed Him and, in a sense, that is almost true. Jesus said, "No one takes it [My life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father" (John 10:18). Jesus willingly chose to lay down His life so you and I could live. This love is beyond our understanding.

Throughout eternity the redeemed will study about God's gift to man, His only begotten Son, and what He did for us to be saved. We are told that angels also long to look into these things. This study will never be exhausted throughout eternity.

Before we can go to heaven, we have a work to do. Ellen White says this work is never going to be finished by minis-

ters alone. The whole church must be involved in the outreach. All should have the experience and joy of being part of someone's conversion story and witness them giving their lives to Jesus.

Ellen White wrote, "The plan of holding Bible readings was a heaven-born idea. There are many, both men and women, who can engage in this branch of missionary labor. ... He will crown with success every humble effort made in His name." *Gospel Workers*, 339.

Pray about getting involved. We all need to be involved in some kind of outreach. There are many resources that can be used for Bible studies but the best one is the one you understand yourself.

[All emphasis supplied.]

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

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Escaping the Corruption of the World

Claiming the Promises

By John R. Pearson

Peter's second epistle opens with an incredible statement that on the surface seems simple and straightforward, but upon careful examination reveals a depth of spiritual insight that we may not fully understand until we receive the light of eternity.

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as

1. His divine power
2. has given to us
3. all things
4. that pertain to life and godliness,
5. through the knowledge of Him
6. who called us by glory and virtue,
7. by which have been given to us
8. exceedingly great and precious promises,
9. that through these
10. you may be partakers of the divine nature,

11. having escaped the corruption
12. that is in the world through lust."

2 Peter 1:2-4 NKJV

Let's look at these verses phrase by phrase and try to gain at least a cursory understanding of the love the Lord has for us and the provisions that God has made for our salvation that Peter clearly understood and is attempting to share with the recipients of his second letter.

This letter was written "To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:1). Surely that includes today's children of Israel—Modern Israel.

In commenting on Peter's second epistle, Inspiration makes the following statement:

"The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress,

every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ's ideal for us. Thus He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 530.

Clearly the most notable aspect of Peter's letter is Peter's ladder, the ascension of which develops in us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. However, let's examine closely what Peter wrote as an introduction to that wonderful key to salvation. In the opening lines of his letter, Peter actually states the result of our faithful climb before stating how to achieve those results.



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The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God.

In verse 3, Peter states that what we accomplish is done through “His divine power.” It isn’t perfectly clear if the antecedent of “His” is “God” or “Jesus our Lord,” as stated in verse 2, but it really doesn’t matter. Both entities are divine and both long for the salvation of mankind. As Jesus said in John 10:30, “I and My Father are one.”

Then Peter states that this power has given us some very precious gifts. We did nothing to deserve these gifts—else they would not be gifts. But what precious gifts they are: *all* things; but note that there is actually a qualifier for the “all things” that He has given us: it is indeed “all things” but *only* those things that pertain to life and godliness—not just *some* of the things that we need, but *all* things.

It is worthwhile to note, by the way, that twice in these verses, Peter notes the fact that the things we need for salvation are gifts. In verse 3 he tells us how we have been given these gifts: through divine power (which, you should remember, is infallible); and in verse 4 he confirms that it is through divine glory and virtue that we have been so lovingly gifted.

Then Peter explains how we obtain these things. Understand that a gift is not a gift until it is accepted by the receiver. Thus we obtain these gifts “through the knowledge of Him”—and note that it isn’t just anybody who has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, but it is “Him who has called us by glory and virtue.” And who is this “Him” who called us? Again, it doesn’t matter whether the antecedent is God or Christ. Jesus made it clear in John 8:19 (“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also”) and 14:9 (“He who has seen Me has seen the Father”) that their characters are exactly identical, and to know one is to know the other. Obviously we acquire that knowledge through a continuing, consistent, and thorough study of His word—in all of its manifestations.

Then comes other gifts in verse 4: “exceedingly great and precious promises.” Surely our hearts thrill with gratitude when we recognize that



the pathway to heaven is open to us through these promises. In case we have difficulty grasping the assurance of these promises, Paul confirmed their significance in Hebrews 6:17, 18 when he wrote, “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.”

That hope exists because (1) God cannot lie; (2) He deems us as heirs of His promises; (3) those promises and His counsel are immutable and unchangeable; (4) and He confirmed those promises by an oath “in which it is impossible for God to lie.”

The harmony of the truths expressed by the different Bible writers can be overwhelming sometimes.

Then Peter gives us two incredible results of the working of those promises in our lives when we accept and act on them.

First we become partakers of the divine nature. Just as Christ combined His divinity with humanity through the mystery of the incarnation, we have the incredible privilege of combining our humanity with His divinity and thereby being partakers of the divine nature.

In explaining the assumption of humanity by divinity, Inspiration wrote: “The doctrine of the incarnation of Christ in human flesh is a mystery, ‘even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations’ (Colossians 1:26). It is the great and profound mystery of godliness. ‘The Word was made flesh, and dwelt

among us’ (John 1:14).” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 246.

Then explaining the assumption of divinity by humanity, Inspiration wrote: “Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ; for he is made a partaker of the divine nature, and thus divinity and humanity are combined.” *Faith and Works*, 94.

Second and equally incredible, we are thus enabled—or given the power—to escape the corruption that is in the world through unsanctified desire, a longing for that which is forbidden, or lust.

Peter continues here a theme expressed in his first epistle in which he warned the sojourners and pilgrims on the narrow way to “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).

After explaining the almost unbelievable results of a successful climb—the reality of being partakers of the divine nature—Peter then provides the progression necessary to achieve those results in verses 5 through 7—a passage that we are all familiar with:

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love” (2 Peter 1:5–7).

By claiming and acting on the promises given us through the Word, we have assurance confirmed by the oath of God Himself that salvation is within our reach. We *can* escape the corruption of the world and we *can* manifest the character of Christ perfectly. **LM**

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Do We Live It?

2 Timothy 4:8

We know He is coming—we read and believe it:
Earth's signs and the Bible agree.
We sing it and teach it—and yet, do we live it?
That those all about us may see.

We talk it—but do our lives show we are caring
For this truth we're claiming to know?
Or do they show that, like the world, we're preparing
For long years ahead here below?

We know He is coming, and e'en make confession
That surely His coming is nigh.
But ah, of what good is a mere word profession,
If actions our teachings belie?

Oh, let us be earnest! We know He is nearing—
Our Maker, our Saviour, our King;
But only to those who have loved His appearing
Salvation His coming can bring!

Through the Waters, Pearl Waggoner Howard, 61.

Present Position and Work

By James White

Seventh-day Adventists are charged with making the Sabbath a test. And some will have it that we denounce and reject all who do not believe as we do. It is true that we teach that God is testing the people by His law. But we deny the charge that we denounce and reject those who differ from us. Our course toward all men whom we can reach with our publications, our sermons and our entreaties, proves the charge false. We beseech all men, without respect to profession of religion, color, or rank in society, to turn from their sins, keep God's commandments and live. And we manifest a zeal and earnestness in this matter somewhat in proportion to the importance of the testing message we bear. And because our testimony is pointed and earnest, condemning those who choose to pass along with the popular current and violate the law of God, some are disturbed, and with feelings of retaliation, falsely charge us. It is not our work to test, condemn, and denounce, the people. It is not in our hearts to unnecessarily injure the feelings of any. But with our present convictions of truth and duty, we should do great violence to our own consciences, and sin against God, should we cease to declare to the people the purpose of God in testing the world by His law, just before the day of wrath. ...



But if the Sabbath is not a test, it is not worth our while to go to the trouble of teaching and observing it in the face of decided opposition. If we can be as good Christians while breaking the fourth commandment, as while keeping it, should we not at once seek to be in harmony with the rest of the Christian world? Why be so odd as to obey the commandment of God, if one can be as good a Christian while living in violation of it? And there are frequent inconveniences, and pecuniary sacrifices, to be suffered by those who are so particular concerning the observance of the fourth commandment. If the Sabbath is of so little importance as not to be a test of Christian fellowship and eternal salvation; if men who break the Sabbath should be embraced in our fellowship the same as if they observed it; and if they can reach Heaven as surely in violating the fourth commandment as in keeping it; why not abandon it at once, and cease to agitate the public mind with a question of no real importance which is so unpleasant and annoying.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that in the restoration of the Bible Sabbath, under the last message of mercy, God designs to make it a test to the people. Hence many of them labor with earnestness to teach it, and are ready to make any sacrifices in order to observe it, and do their duty in teaching it to others. Convince them that it is not a test, and they will not trouble the people nor themselves longer with it. But should they give the people to understand that they regard the Sabbath of so little importance as not to be a test, “the sword of the Spirit,” on that subject at least, would become in their hands as powerless as a straw. They could not then convict the people upon this subject. Indeed their position before the people, in earnestly calling their attention to a subject that is of so little importance as not to constitute a test of Christian character, and which would subject them to a heavy cross, much inconvenience,

sacrifice, and reproach, would be but little less than solemn mockery. With our present view of the importance of the subject, we have a sufficient reason for earnestly urging the claims of the fourth commandment upon our fellow-men.

The remarks of Elder J. N. Andrews in reference to the Sabbatharians of England in the seventeenth century, have so direct a bearing upon this subject that I give the following from his *History of the Sabbath*, pp. 335, 336:

“The laws of England during that century were very oppressive to all dissenters from the established church, and bore exceedingly hard upon the Sabbath-keepers. Yet fine, imprisonment, and even capital punishment, would not have proved sufficient to suppress the Sabbath. It was in the house of its own friends that the Sabbath was wounded. In the seventeenth century eleven churches of Sabbatharians flourished in England, while many scattered Sabbath-keepers were to be found in various parts of that kingdom. Now but three of those churches are in existence. It was not the lack of able men among the Sabbath-keepers to defend the truth, not the fierce assaults of their persecutors, that has thus reduced them to a handful. The fault is their own, not indeed for any disgraceful conduct on their part, but simply because they made the Sabbath of no practical importance, and lowered the standard of divine truth on this thing to the dust. The Sabbath-keeping ministers assumed the pastoral care of first-day churches, in some cases as their sole charge, in others they did this in connection with the oversight of Sabbatharian churches. The result need surprise no one; as both ministers and people said to all men, in thus acting, that the fourth commandment might be broken with impunity, the people took them at their word.”

Seventh-day Adventists have nothing to boast of. God has often reproved and chastised us for unfaithfulness. And when we have returned to Him,

and humbly and faithfully battled for the truth, amid reproaches and persecutions, He has greatly blessed us. Nothing is so much to be dreaded as that calm which is the result of tempering unpopular, testing truth to the ears of the people so as not to offend. Rather let the reproach come, and the storm rage, if it be the result of speaking the truth of God in love.

As a people we have had our difficulties to surmount, our trials to bear, and our victories to gain. We are gathered from Methodists, Regular Baptists, Freewill Baptists, Seventh-day Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Dutch Reform, Disciples, Christians, Lutherans, United Brethren, Catholics, Universalists, Worldlings, and Infidels. We are composed of native Americans, English, Welsh, Scotch,



Fine, imprisonment, and even capital punishment, would not have proved sufficient to suppress the Sabbath.



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In the seventeenth century eleven churches of Sabbatarians flourished in England.

Irish, French, Germans, Norwegians, Danes, Swedes, Poles, and others. To bring together a body composed of such material, affected more or less by the religious sentiments, and forms of the several denominations, with all their national peculiarities, has called for much patient, and persevering toil. And it is by the grace of God that we are what we are. And let His name be praised that in our darkest hours, when we have humbled ourselves, He has ever come to our aid.

From their past brief history Seventh-day Adventists may learn much as to their present work and future prospects. When in humility they have borne a decided testimony in the fear of God, their labors have been signally blessed. When they have been willing to bear the cross of present truth, and sacrifice time, convenience and means to advance the work, they have shared the approving smiles of Heaven. They have seen that nothing can keep the body in a healthy condition but the plain and pointed testimony. This will do the work of purification, either by purging their sins, or separating from them the unconsecrated and rebellious. Let the

result be what it may, such testimony must be borne, or this people will fall as others have fallen. And terrible would be their fall, after having so clear light, and having had committed to them so sacred a trust as the last message of mercy to sinners.

From the past we may also learn what to expect in the future, in the line of persecution. Satan has been angry because this people have been seeking for the “old paths,” that they might walk therein. He has been especially disturbed as they have plead for the restoration of the Sabbath, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If the people be taught that God is testing them upon the Sabbath, and that they should listen to the testimony of Jesus, in the spirit of prophecy, which reproves their sins, and calls on them to consecrate themselves and what they possess to the Lord, we may depend upon it, the ire of the dragon will be stirred. This we have witnessed and suffered in proportion to our faithfulness in the work. When we have borne a pointed testimony, we have been the especial objects of the wrath of the dragon; but with it have also shared largely the blessing of God. When we have been unfaithful, the dragon has been comparatively quiet, but we have

suffered leanness of soul. And thus we may expect it will be for time to come.

The position of suspense is not the most happy one. Those who wait for the return of the Lord in uncertainty as to the definite period of His second advent, are in danger of becoming restless. Hence the application of certain texts to this time, and to the people who are waiting for their Lord. "Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:36). "Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8). "Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

In such a position, how natural the often-repeated inquiry, "How long before the Lord will come?" But no definite answer can be given to this inquiry. And it is best that this question cannot be definitely answered. Definite time has answered the purpose of God. It brought the Advent people to the waiting time, requiring great patience. Throughout this entire period of the patience of the saints, the only safe position is to keep the coming of Christ ever before us, and to regulate all our acts in full view of the terrible realities of the Judgment. To put off the coming of the Lord, and view that event in the distance, and enter into the spirit of the world, would be dangerous in the extreme. It is true that there are prophecies to be fulfilled, just prior to the coming of the Lord; but their fulfillment is of such a nature that it can be realized in a short time. Unbelief may suggest that as the time has continued longer than the waiting ones expected, it may still continue many years. But saving faith takes the safe position, and views the event at the door. This fact should ever be borne in mind, that while we have no means of showing that the Lord will come at an immediate definite point, no one can prove that He may not very soon come. And while it cannot

be proved that the Lord will not very soon come, I will call attention to the following facts which show that the second advent cannot be a distant event.

1. The three messages constitute a solemn warning to the world to prepare for the coming of Christ. The closing division of this great warning is a test to the world and ripens the harvest of the earth. Those who receive the warning and prepare for the coming of the Lord, are ripened by it for immortality. Those who reject it, are ripened for the day of slaughter.
2. The warning given by Noah, the manner his message was treated, and the wrath of God in a flood of water, illustrate the closing events of the present state of things (Matthew 24:37). God did not call this preacher of righteousness to warn the next to the last generation before the flood, but the very last. The very generation which drank the waters of the flood, saw Noah build the ark, and heard his warning voice. How absurd the supposition that Noah built the ark, and gave his warning message in the

time of next to the last generation, so that those who heard his message and saw his work, passed into the grave, and the ark went to decay, and their children came upon the stage of action to witness unwarned terrors of the flood.

3. The last great warning was to be given to the last generation of men. The very ones who hear it, receive it, obey it, and are waiting for the Lord, will exclaim, as the Son of man shall return with His angels down the blazing vault of heaven, "Lo! this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us" (Isaiah 25:9). And the very men who reject the warning, and justly merit the wrath of God, will also witness the second advent in flaming fire with terror and anguish. This warning is not given to next to the last generation, but to the very last. Then, as certain as the great warning, illustrated by the three messages of Revelation 14 has been, and is being given in our day, just so certain the generation that has heard the warning will witness the day of wrath, and the revelation of the Son of God from Heaven. One of two things is certain; either Seventh-day



“
*Seventh-day
Adventists are
comprised of people
from various
religions.*”



The warning given by Noah, the manner his message was treated, and the wrath of God in a flood of water, illustrate the closing events of the present state of things.

Adventists are wrong in the application of the messages, or Christ is very soon coming. If they are correct in their application of the great warning, then the very men who hear it will witness its terrible realities.

“Verily I say unto you,” says Christ, “this generation shall not pass away, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:34, 35). We do not believe that the word *generation* marks any definite number of years. The Lord designed to teach that the people who should live at the time of the fulfillment of the last sign mentioned (falling stars of 1833), and should hear the proclamation of the coming of Christ, based partly upon the fulfilled signs, should witness the scenes connected with His

coming. God has raised up men to give the solemn warning to the world at the right time. The signs were fulfilled at the right time to give force to the warning. And the very generation of men that live after the three great signs are fulfilled, and who hear and reject the warning message, will drink the unmingled cup of the wrath of God.

And those of this very generation who receive the message, suffer disappointment and endure the trails of the waiting position, will witness the coming of Christ, and exclaim, “Lo! this is our God, we have waited for Him.”

Dear reader, if watchful and faithful to duty, we shall very soon enter the harbor of eternal rest. Keep a good look-out. Oh, be not deceived, and overcome by the world, the flesh, and the Devil. True faith forbids your looking into the future, and laying plans for the benefit of the next generation. It shuts you up to the

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There are prophecies to be fulfilled, just prior to the coming of the Lord; but their fulfillment is of such a nature that it can be realized in a short time.”



Look to the history of truly good and great men. Have they sprung up amid wealth? Or have they come from families trained in the school of poverty and want?

present. But it is to be feared that those who are employing their physical and mental forces to accumulate wealth for their children, while they are neglecting their duty to the cause of present truth, and do not give themselves and families time to seek and serve God, are making a terrible mistake. They not only fail to help the cause, and fail to walk with God, and fail to exert the best influence in their own families, but their influence in professing so solemn and definite a position as that the present is the period for the third and last solemn warning, while in works they deny their faith, is decidedly against the cause.

The world exhibits madness in grasping for wealth. A spirit of insanity has taken hold of men upon the subject of worldly gain; and many who profess present truth are more or less imbued with it. With those who do not fear God and keep His commandments, and are not looking for the soon coming of His Son, this is what might be expected. But with Seventh-day Adventists there is no excuse. With them it is insanity and madness. Why should they accumulate wealth for their children? Should the Lord remain away a hundred years, wealth handed down to them would be

their almost certain ruin. Look to the history of truly good and great men. Have they sprung up amid wealth? Or have they come from families trained in the school of poverty and want? Read the histories of the early lives of Martin Luther and Abraham Lincoln. Both were poor boys. But they both became great men, by facing want, grappling with poverty, and overcoming those obstacles ever lying in the path of want. Such a struggle in early life gave them experience, and was the safeguard of their purity. While the names of these good men are embalmed in the memory and affection of the people, those of hundreds, who received riches from their parents, have rotted, because money was in the way of their doing what they should have done, and being what they might have been. Setting aside the coming of the Lord, there is no more certain ruin to the children than for them to look to, and lean upon, their parents' wealth.

But what can be said of the influence of those brethren who profess to believe that the last great warning to the world is being given, yet devote their entire energies to accumulating wealth for their children? What can be the influence upon

their children? Is it not to lead them to love this world? to put off the coming of the Lord? to neglect the necessary preparation? Are they not taking a course directly to shut them out of the kingdom of Heaven? And is there any hope of the salvation of either parents or children while pursuing such an inconsistent course? Without the faith of the soon coming of the Lord, they are pursuing a course to secure their ruin. With this faith, while pursuing a course to deny it in work, they are making that ruin certain.

The short period of probation remaining should be improved in laying up treasure in Heaven, and seeking that preparation necessary to its enjoyment in the next life. Parents, I entreat you, live out the precious Advent faith before your children. Lead them to Jesus, and teach them by your faith and works to secure a preparation for His coming. Let your influence in favor of truth and holiness extend to all around, that it may be said of you, "Well done, good and faithful servant; ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:23).

Life Incidents in Connection with the Great Advent Movement, 332–342. [LM](#)

The Fall of Man

Clues – Genesis 3 & 4 (KJV)

Across:

B1 Adam and Eve hid themselves from this	3:8
C8 Man would sweat until doing this to the ground	3:19
C15 What Abel's blood did to God	4:10
E11 Cain was this of the ground	4:2
E18 Prophecy: Satan would "bruise" this of Jesus	3:15
F2 They guarded the emptied garden	3:24
G15 Eve thought she saw that this was good for food	3:6
H2 God's first question after sin (three words)	3:9
H19 This world's first "good" grandson	4:26
I13 Land east of Eden where Cain lived	4:16
J8 Because of sin Adam was to do this to Eve	3:16
J16 After sin God sent Adam forth _____ the garden	3:23
K4 Satan said they'd be as _____	3:5
L13 After sin they _____ God's voice in the garden	3:8
M6 Eve said she was beguiled and did this	3:13
M10 After sin God called out to _____	3:8
N1 God to Eve: what have you _____?	3:13
O19 Identification put on Cain	4:15
P2 After sin God _____ out Adam and Eve	3:24
P13 Because of sin these would come from the ground	3:18
Q6 God asked Cain why he was this	4:6
Q19 God warned Cain - if... _____ lieth at the door	4:7
S1 When Adam realized he was naked he was this	3:10
S9 God asked Adam if he had done this	3:11
S15 The most subtle creature in Eden	3:1

Down:

A8 How wroth was Cain at his rejected offering?	4:5
A17 Satan said they could know this	3:5
A19 Eve was this to all living	3:20
B3 Cain complained of being a fugitive in this	4:14
B6 Satan's first lie: ye shall _____ (three words)	3:4
B11 God said, you are this and will return to this	3:19
B15 God told Cain by doing right he could be _____	4:7
F4 Satan implied God did not want these open	3:5
F17 Eve thought the tree was this for wisdom	3:6
G11 Abel kept these animals	4:2
G13 Cain complained that this was too severe	4:13
G21 The earth opened this for Abel's blood	4:11
H2 Angels guarded the _____ to tree of life	3:24

A	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		18		20	21	A
																					B
C																					C
D																					D
E																					E
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1	2	3		5	6	7	8		10	11		13	14	15	16		18		20		22

H9 Eve falsely said that God said not to do this
H19 God promised this between mankind and Satan
K4 Adam's excuse was that Eve _____ to him
K15 God walked in the cool of this
L2 Flaming weapon of determent
M11 The serpent's curse is for all the _____ of its life
M21 The ground would no longer give Cain of its _____
N9 What God did to Adam and Eve with skins
N17 Cain named a city after his _____
O6 What Adam and Eve did with fig leaves
O15 What God made for them with skins
Q12 The promise to Eve was for all her _____ also
Q19 What Cain did to Abel in a field
R4 Eve to Satan: we _____ eat of the fruit of trees
R17 God to Cain: "Why _____ thou wroth?"

3:3
3:15
3:12
3:8
3:24
3:14
4:12
3:21
4:17
3:7
3:21
3:15
4:8
3:2
4:6

Answer Key:

22	H	20	M	18	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
S	T	N	E	P	R	E	S	N	E	T	V	E	D	I	V	A	F	R	V				
R	G	L	V	T							H												
D	N	I	S		V			S		H	O	R	M							O			
P	E		S	N	R	O	H	T		S	O			E	V	O	R	D		P			
K	R	A	W	O	C	N	V	L												K			
N	T			S				E	V	C										N			
M	S		V				W	V	A	D	V	T		E	V					M			
L	T			D	V	E	H				H			I	V					L			
K	H	I		E	D		S		P		C	S		D	O	G				K			
J	T		W	O	R	F		I		E	L	R	V							J			
I	U	N	I		O	N		E		O				L		S				I			
S	O	N	E		E	U	O	H	T	T	A	R	T		E	R	E	H		S			
G	W			E	R	T		P		S				R		V				G			
F				E	R	T		P		S				R		V				F			
E	L		E	H	E	R	L	L	I	T		S								E			
D			H		L		C		S					V						D			
C			H		T		E	T	H											C			
B			O		V		A							D		C	E	S	E	N			
A			21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Only Weak People Need



By D. Campbell

“
I became dissatisfied with my lifestyle and felt inclined for the first time in my life to search for something beyond myself.”

“Only weak people need God.” That’s what I used to tell my Christian friends when I was a young man. I perceived Christians as too weak to stand on their own two feet, needing the “crutch” of religion to sustain them in life. I mocked my Christian friends and ridiculed those who tried to witness to me of God’s love. You see, I grew up an atheist, having no belief in God. Both of my parents were from large families, so I had many aunts and uncles and cousins, all professing to be Christians. But it didn’t take long to realize that what they professed on Sunday morning was far from how they lived the rest of the week.

And so I concluded that Christianity was just a charade. And if the Christian life was not real, then how could God be real? I married my wife in 1969, and we moved to San Diego to begin our lives together.

We lived an indulgent, rebellious life there until 1986, when we moved to the Pacific Northwest. I became dissatisfied with my lifestyle and felt inclined for

the first time in my life to search for something beyond myself. I decided to read the Bible, and then attended a Revelation seminar held in the town where I lived. I soon responded to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and after almost 20 years of selfish indulgence, I laid my sins of drugs and alcohol upon the altar of Christ.

Miraculously, my victory was immediate and complete, never having the desire nor inclination to take them up again. In 1988, I was baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I was ordained as a deacon in 1989. I was asked to serve as an elder in 1990. And in 1992, I was asked to serve as the head elder, which I faithfully did for the next 21 years. In 2012, several members of our church became uncomfortable with some of the doctrines that were being taught by a young pastor that was now leading our church. I soon found myself at odds with this pastor with regard to the humanity of Christ, victorious living, and the character of the 144,000.

We found neither support nor cooperation from our local conference leaders.

Their support for their pastor was firm and we were told to cease our resistance and to move in harmony with the church. Finding ourselves unable to do so with a clear conscience before God, and no longer feeling welcome in our own church, we decided to separate from the church we loved and to start a home church. Having been in church leadership for so many years, it was natural that I should lead out in worship.

As our numbers grew, it became evident that we needed some structure in our church, and so we decided to rent a local Grange Hall every Sabbath. For legal reasons, we called ourselves the Little Flock Advent Church, and for the past 6 years it has been my privilege to serve as the shepherd of our little flock. In 2015, we contacted Steps to Life to inquire about becoming a part of the Free Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We soon realized that we were historic Adventists and that the doctrines and principles which we embraced were in common with the teachings of the Free Seventh-day Adventists. We were overjoyed to find that there were still many who had not bowed the knee to Baal! Today, we proudly bear the name Little Flock Free Seventh Day Adventist Church. I immediately enrolled in the Training Program for Ministers and Church Leaders offered by Steps to Life, to prepare me to serve as a pastor.

What a wonderful program this is. I highly recommend it, not only for church leaders, but for all who desire to better understand God's purpose for His church and to experience His guidance that will lead us into His kingdom. The church has been warned that the last great deception of Satan would be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God (*Selected Messages*, Book 1, 48). We are seeing the fulfillment of this prophecy today.

This training program brings to light the counsel that God has given to guide

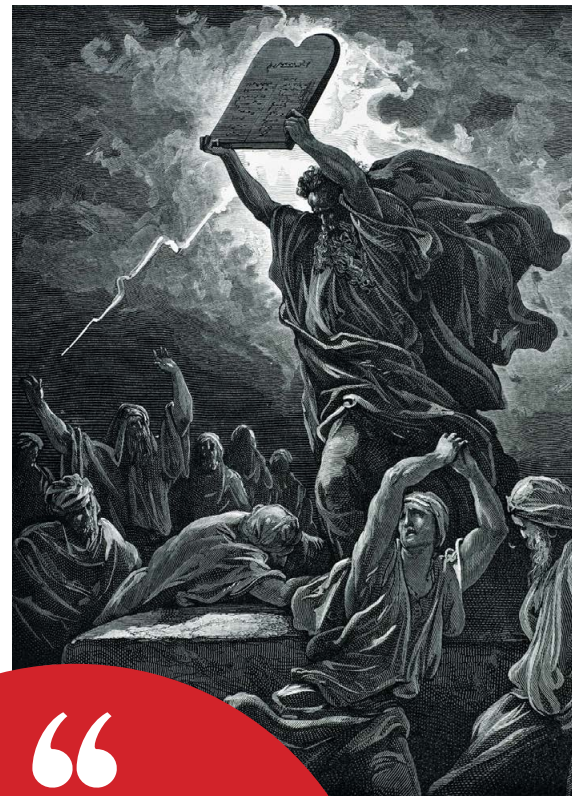
His church through the time of trouble. It is Satan's desire that the Spirit of Prophecy should go unheeded and that the church lose confidence in its counsel. Brothers and sisters, we cannot allow this to happen! Those who refuse to be guided by the testimony of Jesus will not fit the description that God has given of His remnant people in Revelation 12:17. Therefore they will not be among those who make up that happy throng.

I met Pastor Grosboll and Pastor Nunez last year when they were conducting a crusade south of Seattle. I have spoken with many over the phone at Steps to Life, and we now feel that we are a part of a much larger family.

Today, our average Sabbath attendance is about 25 souls. We are thankful to have a comfortable place to worship where we are surrounded by the beauty of the Olympic Mountains and plenty of trees and wildlife.

In late March of this year, Pastor Nunez traveled from Wichita, Kansas, to the Olympic Peninsula to meet with our church. On Sabbath, March 24, one day after my 69th birthday, it was a privilege to be ordained as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. It is the desire, as well as the delight of my heart, to serve the Lord and His church until the day He comes to take us home.

By the signs of the times, that day is not too far off. It is my purpose to be a good and faithful shepherd, so that you will meet me, as well as every other member of the Little Flock Free Seventh-day Adventist Church without the loss of one, on the day we stand together around the sea of glass. May the Lord find us faithful until that day. Amen. [LM](#)



“

You will not find any argument anywhere in the New Testament about whether or not God's law must be kept.



The Future

At the transfiguration Jesus was glorified by His Father. We hear Him say, “Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in Him” (John 13:31). Thus before His betrayal and crucifixion he was strengthened for His last dreadful sufferings.

As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, “the time of Jacob’s trouble,” they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attends the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel.

I saw that God would in a wonderful manner preserve His people through the time of trouble. As Jesus poured out His soul in agony in the garden,

they will earnestly cry and agonize with Him day and night for deliverance. The decree will go forth that they must disregard the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and honor the first day, or lose their lives; but they will not yield, and trample under their feet the Sabbath of the Lord, and honor an institution of Papacy. Satan’s host, and wicked men, will surround them, and exult over them, because there will seem to be no way of escape for them. But in the midst of their revelry and triumph, there is peal upon peal of the loudest thunder. The heavens have gathered blackness, and are only illuminated by the blazing light and terrible glory from Heaven, as God utters His voice from His holy habitation.

The foundations of the earth shake, buildings totter and fall with a terrible crash. The sea boils like a pot, and the whole earth is in terrible commotion. The captivity of the righteous is turned,

and with sweet and solemn whisperings they say to each other, “We are delivered. It is the voice of God.” With solemn awe they listen to the words of the voice. The wicked hear, but understand not the words of the voice of God. They fear and tremble, while the saints rejoice. Satan and his angels, and wicked men, who had been exulting that the people of God were in their power, that they might destroy them from off the earth, witness the glory conferred upon those who have honored the holy law of God. They behold the faces of the righteous lighted up, and reflecting the image of Jesus. Those who were so eager to destroy the saints, could not endure the glory resting upon the delivered ones, and they fell like dead men to the earth. Satan and evil angels fled from the presence of the saints glorified. Their power to annoy them was gone forever.

Spiritual Gifts, vol. 4b, 112–114. **LM**



Finding Favor?

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Luke 2:52

It is our desire to be in favor with both God and man! That may not always be possible today, especially if you are serious about wanting to remain in favor with God. So, the searching question is: whose favor is first in your life? Is it your children? Is it your spouse? Is it your taste buds? Or maybe you favor appearances? What is your desire in finding favor?

“They [the children of Israel] desired something which they could look upon to resemble God. The gods of the Egyptians were in their minds, and Satan was improving this opportunity, in the absence of their appointed leader, to tempt them to imitate the Egyptians in their idolatry. They suggested that if Moses should never return to them, they could return into Egypt, and find favor with the Egyptians, by bearing this image before them, acknowledging it as their god.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 274, 275.

Are you “bearing this image” of television, movies or the way you dress, to find favor with the world? “I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. ... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me” (Psalm 101:2, 3).

“... and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 273.

We are living in the tarrying time—waiting for our Lord to return. During this time many would like to be “part of” or “accepted by” the Egyptians—the world, the “house of bondage.” God said to each of us: “I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” (Exodus 20:2).

Why would you choose to return to the house of bondage—the worldly ways from which you were delivered? Why would you want to eat, drink and be merry with those who are not walking with your Lord? Are you looking to be friends with the world because your Lord has not yet returned? Many have lowered the Christian standards of dress, diet, and lifestyle, to “find favor” with and fit in the world.

Tragically, mingling with the world will cause many to lose favor with the Lord. Will you be called a “stiff-necked people” having lost your piety and consecration to God, and forfeit His protection? (see *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 282.)

While we tarry, focus on the preparation of our hearts and minds for the soon coming of our Lord. We want to find favor with God and not with fallen man.

“... choose you this day whom ye will serve ...” (Joshua 24:15). **LM**

Heavenly Father: Preserve us from the ways of this world which lead us away from Thee. Give us the strength to stand for right and to not be moved by any attractions that may beckon us to return to Egypt from whence You have rescued us. We choose to find favor with Thee. We choose not to be a stiff-necked people. “Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not” (Psalm 17:5). Thank you Lord. Amen.



Do you want to form your appearance to find favor with the world?

Your Letters

"I most definitely do want to continue receiving the sermon DVDs—such a blessing, as is *LandMarks*."

—GC, Tennessee

"We give *LandMarks* out to SDAs who enjoy receiving them. One lady works in the office for Honda cars, and after she reads them, she puts them in the waiting room. She knows some people do read and take them. We love the articles and use some to form the basis for my husband's sermons."

—MH, New Zealand

"Thanks so much for your ministry! We love your DVDs and *LandMarks*. They are a blessing to us. God bless!"

—J & D H, Kansas

July Sermon of the Month

Stepping Stones

By Marshall Grosboll

The trials of this life on earth are the instruments used to develop a character that is fit for heaven. Whatever is allowed to enter the mind shapes the character making us who we are.

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

From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

July 2018

Dear Friend,

Elder Spicer at 16 years old was first employed as a callboy at Battle Creek Sanitarium later becoming secretary to the medical superintendent of that institution, Dr. J. H. Kellogg. He was directly involved in the establishment of Solusi Mission on 12,000 acres of land obtained from Cecil Rhodes and later was President of the General Conference from 1922 to 1930. Although I did not know him personally, it was reported to me that he never owned an automobile and that in his extensive travels he always had a pencil and paper to write. He wrote many books, some of the most well-known ones being *Miracles of Modern Missions* and *The Hand that Intervenes*.

Elder Spicer lived before the day of the personal computer, cell phones, wireless communications, international travel by jet planes, and scores of other things that people think of as common place today. But Elder Spicer had a vision of a finished work.

He often reported on his many mission experiences, when between 1900 and 1940 he traveled internationally almost every year. He believed the Adventist work of taking the three angels' messages to the world could be finished in three months if every Adventist would tell one other person every day and that person do the same. Do you get the picture?

"The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers." *Gospel Workers*, 352.

At the end the only people who are left in the church will be those who have been active in sharing their faith. Will you be one who uses the talent given you? (See *Christ's Object Lessons*, 364, 365).

Your brother in praying for a finished work,



John J. Grosboll

13th Sabbath *Offering*

The Mission Field

How are you involved?



Zambia



Malawi

Both Scripture and inspired writings make it clear that the members of the church are to become involved in mission work, one way or another.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ Amen” (Matthew 28:18–20).

“Not all can go as missionaries to foreign fields, but all can live the Christlife where they are. All can give of their means for the support of workers in foreign fields.” *The Review and Herald*, November 23, 1905.

This quarter, our thirteenth Sabbath offering appeal is in support of the mission field. During the quarter, we will provide updates on work that is continuing in the foreign mission field, work that is funded by assistance from supporters of this ministry.

We will begin with a report from the combined fields of Malawi and Zambia. The brother who is coordinating this work, Henry Mwesa, was a speaker and children’s instructor at our 2018 camp meeting.

We cannot let the work be bound up because of our lack of participation.

“The mission field is as broad as the world, and yet the work is bound by those who are not giving to the Lord his own portion, designed to be used in just this kind of work.” *Ibid.*, February 19, 1889.



“

The mission field is as broad as the world, and yet the work is bound by those who are not giving to the Lord his own portion.



From the
**Mission
Fields**



Zambia



Malawi

2017 Camp Meeting

Stand in Defense of Truth and Righteousness

By Henry Mwesa

The goal of the 2017 Zambia and Malawi camp meeting was to organize an event that would promote the historical doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist church and present truth. Pastor Nunez from Steps to Life Ministry was invited to be the main speaker.

The theme for the camp meeting was *Stand In Defence of Truth and Righteousness*. Our need to be spiritually prepared to receive the latter rain was presented. The messages were reviving and solemn and awakened our need of a sin pardoning Saviour. Many of those attending realized that the churches they had come from had departed from the foundation and pillars of our faith. Desiring to start a new journey and recommit their lives to God, many humbled themselves and requested rebaptism. A solemn atmosphere characterized the scene as elders of the church were among those seen stepping into the water, being immersed to die

to their old self with their Lord and be resurrected in the newness of life.

The experience strengthened them in their resolve to move as a united front under the blood stained banner of Prince Immanuel.

There were some attendees who were threatened with being chased from their homes but still chose to suffer for the sake of the truth. This was reminiscent of the three Hebrew worthies in Daniel 3 who stood on the plain of Dura, unshaken when cast into the fiery furnace where Christ stood with them and protected them.

The Holy Spirit was present and a new home church, spearheaded by Brothers Joseph Chimfwembe and Mungulube, has been raised in Kitwe, Zambia. Both brothers are now training as gospel workers using the Training Program for Ministers and Church Leaders and are zealously sharing what they are learning. May God continue to guide this movement in Zambia.





By Milton Kampini

In the early hours of August 20, 2017, a delegation of 12 from Malawi set out to attend the 2017 historic camp meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, which was organized by Zambia-Malawi Division of Free Seventh-Day Adventists. Unexpected challenges were experienced when the exchange rate was contrary to our expectations leaving us short for our return journey.

We were greeted with a wonderful brotherly reception in Zambia which made our travel difficulties and disappointments quickly fade. Arriving late

in Lusaka-West we missed the opening ceremony led by Pastor Henry Mwesa, the hosting minister.

Our experience at this camp meeting has left an indelible mark in our hearts that words are lacking to express. The theme *Standing in Defense of Truth and Righteousness* sums it all. Each presentation was calculated to prepare the little flock of God for the impending final conflict against the powers of darkness.

Those present did not merely come to listen but to impart, as well evidenced by active participation in all the strategic

programs made to uplift Jesus' ministration in the Most Holy Place—the present truth for today. The days passed too quickly and soon it was the preparation day, Friday.

As it had been the year before in Malawi, people experienced a new death to sin and many, felt their former baptism did not satisfy, freely desiring again to be buried with Christ in rebaptism that they may rise to walk in newness of life.

Sabbath, August 28, was the climax of the camp ending the historic camp meeting on a very high note. In one day there was a dedication of children; the ordination of deacons, elders and pastors; a baptism; and finally, the Lord's supper.

The Church has been edified and being the first Zambia-Malawi joint camp meeting we felt the empowering bond being cemented in brotherhood. We are ever looking forward.

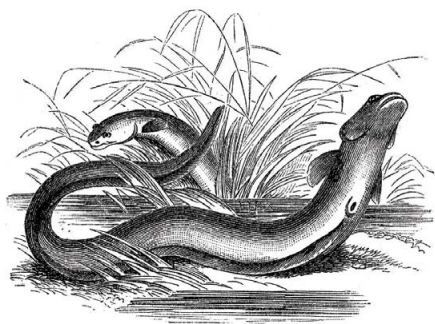
The brethren from Zambia came to our rescue and generously donated funds for our return home. Words cannot express our gratitude. Only God should bless the hand that giveth. **LM**

The Electric Eel

“

Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickening, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy-stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness.

God's Amazing Grace, 312



Electrical Eel (*Gymnotus electricus*).

All living things produce electricity. In most animals and plants, the pulses of electric current are so tiny that special instruments are needed to detect them. But some fishes are able to produce enormous amounts of electricity—enough to stun or even kill.

The most powerful of these electric fishes is the electric eel. It can discharge up to 650 volts—enough to kill a person on contact. (The electric current used in houses in U.S. is usually 120 volts.)

Electric eels live in the shallow, muddy waters of the Amazon and Orinoco rivers of South America. They are not related to other kinds of eels and resemble them only in their snakelike shape. The electric eel has no dorsal or tail fins, as other fish do. It swims with the aid of a long anal fin, which runs nearly the whole length of the underside of its body. It can swim backward, forward, up and down, with equal ease. These eels are air-breathers and must come up to the water's surface frequently, approximately every 10 minutes or so.

The electric eel is like a living storage battery. All of its normal body organs are crowded into the front fifth of its body. The remaining four-fifths is packed with more than 5,000 tiny electric generators.

The electric eel uses its electricity in several ways. When it swims, a small “battery” in its tail sends out weak electric pulses at a rate of 20 to 50 a second. They bounce off objects and come back

to special pits in the eel's head. It uses electric “echoes” in much the same way that bats and whale sharks use sound to navigate. Scientists believe the eel may use these pulses to communicate with other eels.

It is fortunate that the electric eel has this ability to navigate by electricity. As it grows older, its eyes are damaged by its own electricity, and it becomes blind. Actually, eyesight is not too useful in the dark and muddy waters in which it lives.

If an enemy threatens the electric eel, or a frog or some other possible prey is in the water nearby, the eel acts promptly. It turns on the powerful “main battery” that fills most of its body. Discharges lasting about 0.002/second are sent out in quick succession. The eel can continue discharging at a rate of up to 150 pulses/second without showing any signs of tiring. Fishes and frogs are killed by the eel's strong electric shocks. A larger animal—even a horse that has come down to the water to drink—may be stunned and drown. But except for the gradual damage to its eyes, the eel does not seem to be affected by the electricity, with vital organs located in the front of their bodies and the rest covered by fatty tissue which acts as an insulator.

Young eels produce very little electricity. The larger they grow, the more powerful their electrical shocks become.

Excerpts from *Nature's Champions*, Alvin and Virginia Silverstein, © 1980, 16, 17. [LM](#)

Q:

Why did Jesus allow the demons to destroy a herd of swine?

A:

“And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea” (Mark 5:13).

“Jesus asked, ‘What is thy name?’ And the answer was, ‘My name is Legion: for we are many.’ Using the afflicted men as mediums of communication, they besought Jesus not to send them out of the country. Upon a mountainside not far distant a great herd of swine was feeding. Into these the demons asked to be allowed to enter, and Jesus suffered them. Immediately a panic seized the herd. They rushed madly down the cliff, and, unable to check themselves upon the shore, plunged into the lake, and perished.” *The Desire of Ages*, 338.

“He [Jesus] allowed the evil spirits to destroy the herd of swine as a rebuke to those Jews who were raising these unclean beasts for the sake of gain. Had not Christ restrained the demons, they would have plunged into the sea, not only the swine, but also their keepers and owners. The preservation of both the keepers and the owners was due alone to His power, mercifully exercised for their deliverance. Furthermore, this event was permitted to take place that the disciples might witness the cruel power of Satan upon both man and beast. The Saviour desired His followers to have a knowledge of the foe whom they were to meet, that they might not be deceived and overcome by his devices. It was also His will that the people of that region should behold His power to break the bondage of Satan and release his captives. And though Jesus Himself departed, the men so marvelously delivered, remained to declare the mercy of their Benefactor.” *The Great Controversy*, 515. [LM](#)



The Scriptures counsel us not to be hypocritical and make a living producing products that we would not use ourselves.



Just Push a Button



A thought question: What need have we for brains or muscles?

As I was sitting in our living room looking out the window, my eyes focused on a young man with a leaf blower. I was really fascinated with watching him trying to corral leaves into one pile. After a long while, I began to laugh. I thought about when we were younger and my brothers and sister and I would go out and rake our back yard and end up with a huge pile of leaves and then jump into them or hide under them. Oh, those were the fun times. This person lost out on the exercise of raking those leaves in less time than that machine took to blow them into a pile.

Did you notice I said “rake” those leaves? It is sad that man has created wonder machines that do all the work and rob us of health building exercises. There is a machine for everything that we don’t have time to do ourselves, which means we can add more activities and then need more machines. There is a robot for everything.

Less personal contact with children

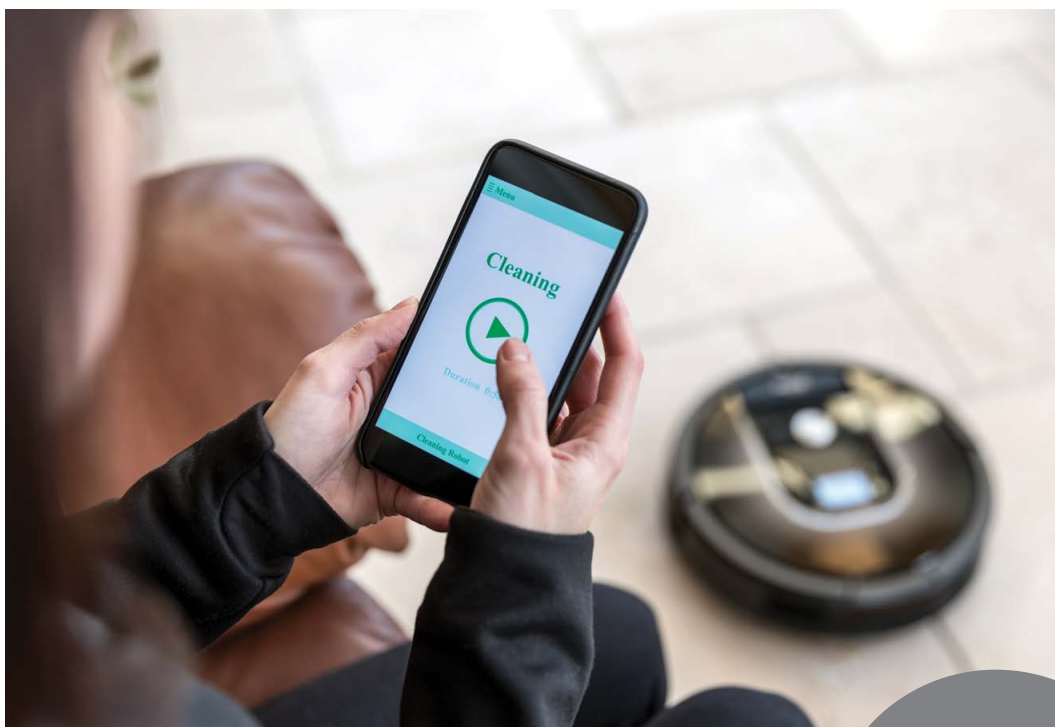
– Therapy robots are already used in classrooms to help kids with autism learn social skills, but they're also used to help kids who aren't on the spectrum learn art and other subjects. Other personal assistant robots currently in use in China can help your toddlers re-read their favorite book for the rooth time. Through a tablet, you can check in on your 3–8-year-old kids with a baby-cam feature.

No need to cook meals – One robotics company is in the midst of developing a robotic cook that can cook with the flair of a celebrity chef, reproducing the dexterity and skill of human cooks and will come with touchscreen controls and a glass enclosure that will protect your kitchen from any stray splashes from the cooking process.

No need to tend your garden – If you don't have a naturally green thumb, robots can help. One open-source farming robot can do everything but harvest your vegetables: it plants seeds, waters them on a schedule, monitors their growth, and destroys weeds. You just log into the video game-like app and arrange your plants in the desired configuration, and the robot does the rest. On a smaller scale, smart sprinkler systems can monitor weather and soil conditions to figure out just how much water each of the plants in your yard need at any given time, and distribute it accordingly.

No need to carry your groceries – A robot butler that's part hoverboard, part assistant with facial recognition, speech recognition, autonomous navigation, and more can follow you around the house, or you can ride it around the yard. And unlike smaller personal robots, it can carry things for you, ferrying your grocery bags to the kitchen.

No need to keep people company – For people who can't get out of the house easily, there are robots, like interactive dogs, cats, and seals that



The luxuries of this world are destroying us. God has given us bodies that have been designed to work.

make noise and respond to touch much like real animals would. Other robots specifically designed for older adults who live alone can detect falls, remind users of appointments, and connect to video-chat programs and social media.

No need to keep track of your health – Health robots can keep you feeling your best, even if you're not great at remembering your medications. One pill-dispensing robot can hook up to your activity trackers and even re-order your vitamins and medications when you're about to run out. You can ask the cute pill-bot health questions and set it up to recognize the faces of you and the other members of your family.

Excerpts from: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/88813/10-surprising-ways-robots-can-make-your-life-easier>

The luxuries of this world are destroying us. God has given us bodies that have been designed to work, but the most used part of our body is often the finger which pushes the buttons! Why not

- have more personal contact with our children/family
- tend to our own gardens
- cook our own meals
- carry our own groceries
- keep track of our own health
- visit the shut-ins

Exercise and keep fit the body that God has given you. It is true that if you don't use it, you will lose the use of it. The devil is trying to destroy us physically, mentally and spiritually. God said in Genesis 3:19: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." There are very many who do not do much sweating!

Do not follow after the world and destroy yourself through the luxuries of living with a button and a finger to push it. Choose to use your own body and strength and not rely on a machine. **LM**



God's Unchangeable Law

By John J. Grosboll

The suns, the galaxies, the solar system and everything in space is held in position by the word of His power.

There is a question that has been argued by antinomians since the time of the apostles: "If you become a Christian, are you then free to break the law of God?" The New Testament addresses this question after the death and resurrection of Christ.

There is a law that is unchangeable, that is unalterable, that will remain as long as this universe remains. Jesus said, "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail" (Luke 16:17). A tittle is a word referring to just a part of a Hebrew letter. Jesus here used strong language, for it says in the New Testament that it was Jesus Christ who created everything in the universe (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17), and He is the One who upholds everything by the word of His power (Hebrews 1).

Everything—the suns, the galaxies, the solar system and everything in space—is held in position by the “word of His power” and He who created it all said that He would destroy the whole universe and start over again before allowing a part of a letter of His law to fail.

Many years after the cross, the apostle James tells us that this law is the standard of the judgment. Every person in the world must face this law at some time. Notice what it says in James 2:10–12: “Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.”

All will be judged by this law which James calls the law of liberty. If everybody on earth kept this law there would be no need for prisons, no need for locks on your house, or car, or the necessity to store your possessions in some secure place. How wonderful this world would be if everybody kept God’s law. James makes it clear which law people will be judged by because he quotes the sixth and seventh commandments.

It will not be enough to come to the Lord pleading that you have kept part of it and expect a good pass. James tells us that if you break any point of it you are a transgressor and will be judged by it.

God’s people in the last days will be keeping His commandments. John wrote, “The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). God’s people are also described in Revelation 14:12: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Later in his book, John wrote, “Blessed are those who do His com-



*If everybody
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could leave the keys in
your car's ignition
walk away.*

mandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral [those who break the 7th commandment] and murderers [those who break the 6th commandment] and idolaters [those who break the 2nd commandment], and whoever loves and practices a lie [those who break the 9th commandment]” (Revelation 22:14, 15). We see here that the commandment keepers will be inside the city and saved while the commandment breakers will be outside the gates of the city and eternally lost.

However, in spite of all these very plain declarations, there are still people who are confused, saying, “Doesn’t the New Testament say that the law was

abolished or done away with?” When the law was given in Exodus, it says, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them’” (Exodus 24:12). There were commandments, a law that God Himself wrote with His finger on tablets of stone. It was God Himself, who spoke and He called it a law. “These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me” (Deuteronomy 5:22). In addition to this law, because God’s people had been in slavery for many years, God gave Mo-



ses minute instructions so that people would understand the principles of the law that God had written on stone.

You would think it was so plain that nobody could misunderstand. For example, God spoke the 7th commandment, “You shall not commit adultery” and then told Moses to spell it out so that no one would make a mistake as to its meaning. If you read Leviticus 18, and 20, and Deuteronomy 22 you will find that there are people even today who are unwittingly breaking the 7th commandment, not understanding the principle behind it that was explained by

Moses in his writings.

Consider the 8th commandment, stealing. There are many ways a man can steal.

God wanted to be sure His people understood how abhorrent it was to steal from another human being. He said, if a person kidnaps somebody else and then sells

him as a slave somewhere, that person is a thief and breaks the 8th commandment.

The penalty is death. (See Exodus 21:16.)

The 5th commandment predicts that in the last days children will be disobedient to their parents (Exodus 21:17). In ancient times the penalty for cursing your father or your mother was death. The same remains true in the final judgment of souls. Many people will be surprised at the record God has of their lives in that day. Moses wrote in a book the principles surrounding the ten commandment law spelling it out in detail. That book was put in the outside of the ark, which held the tables of stone on which God had written His law.

As well as the explanations of the moral law, Moses also recorded many ceremonial laws that were given to the people and designed to point them to a coming Messiah. Those who are living after Jesus Christ came into the world look back to His birth in Bethlehem, His 33 year life, His crucifixion, death and resurrection on the third day and His ascension 40 days later. However, if you lived before Christ came to earth you would have looked forward in faith to His incarnation.

There is only one plan of salvation. Those who lived before the cross of Christ, that will be saved, are saved by the very same merits of Jesus Christ as those who have lived after the cross. The apostle Paul explains that there were some ceremonial laws that would no longer be in effect after Christ came.

He said, “Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary” (Hebrews 9:1). The first covenant that no longer exists had ordinances of service, religious rituals and services and an earthly sanctuary. Under the new covenant, there is no longer an earthly sanctuary and we look toward what Christ is doing for us as our High Priest in the sanctuary in heaven (Hebrews 8 and 9).

Referring to the old covenant, Paul said, “Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was yet standing” (Hebrews 9:6–8).

“It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience—concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and

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Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder."

James 2:10, 11

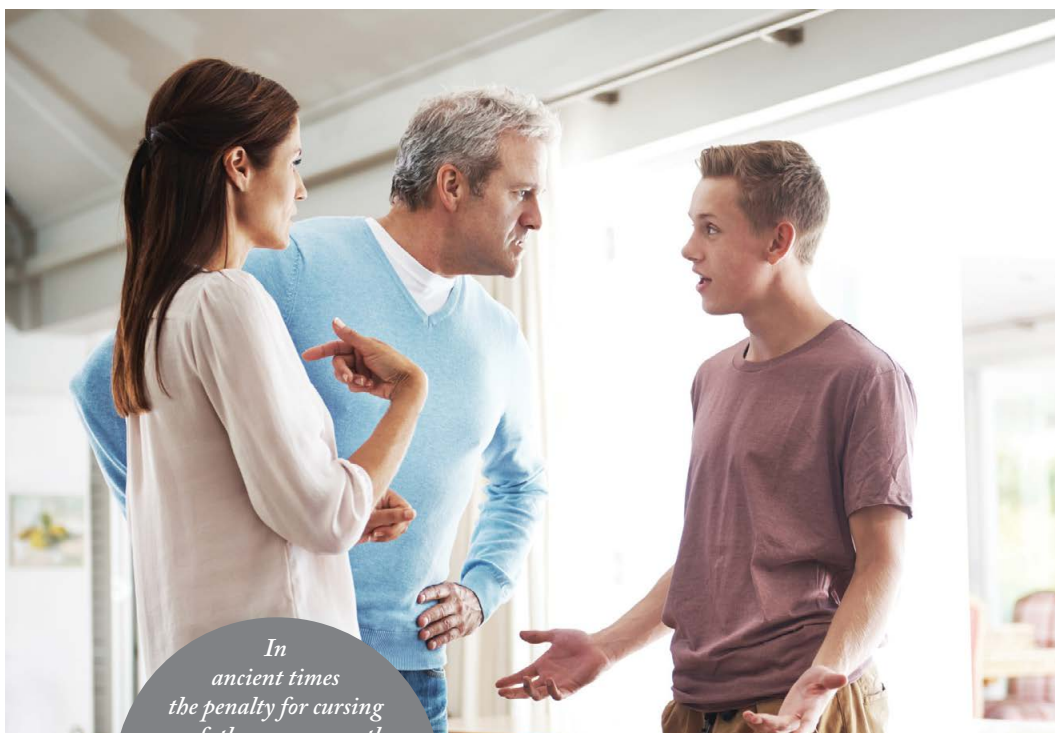
fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation” (verses 9, 10). He goes on to say that it is through the sacrifice of Christ and His mediation in the sanctuary in heaven that the people from Old Testament times are saved (verse 15).

Notice, “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” (Hebrews 10:1-4).

If it were possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins, then Jesus Christ would not have needed to come and die on the cross. But the Jewish people had been practicing this now for fifteen hundred years before Jesus was here. If you have a custom or a ritual or a practice that has been in vogue, and has been practiced not only by you, but by your father, your grandfather, and back for fifteen hundred years, that custom would have become firmly entrenched. Even the apostles, who were also Jews, were slow to learn that these ceremonies did not need to be followed anymore.

This fulfilment and therefore discontinuance of the ceremonial law resulted in a huge conflict within the Christian church in the first century. After Paul had been stoned at Lystra and returned to Antioch at the end of his first missionary journey, a tremendous conflict arose. “Certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved’” (Acts 15:1).

There was no argument amongst them about the need of keeping the commandments. In fact, you will not find any argument anywhere in the New Testament about whether or not God’s



In ancient times the penalty for cursing your father or your mother was death. The same remains true in the final judgment of souls. Many people will be surprised at the record God has of their lives.

law must be kept. All were agreeable to that fact. They understood that the commandments are not alterable and will be the standard of judgment for all time. Even in the last days, God’s people will be keeping them as they were written and will be saved while those who break them will be eternally lost.

The argument in the early church was never about the moral law which all will meet again in the judgment. The argument was about circumcision, a ceremonial law. The Jewish Christians believed that unless the Gentiles were to keep all of the ceremonies that were enjoined in the old covenant they could not be saved.

When this happened, Paul and Barnabas had a huge argument with these people. 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. So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. 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” (verses 2-4).

“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’” (verse 5). A big controversy was developing from the sect of the Pharisees who had become Christians. At that time,

as a result of the missionary journeys of Paul and Barnabas, many Gentiles were becoming Christians. Certain Jews from Judea had raised this consternation in the church in Antioch about circumcision saying, "Nobody can be saved unless they are circumcised." Paul and Barnabas opposed this position, which resulted in a great controversy.

There was much discussion and want of harmony in the Christian church; so Paul and Barnabas went up to Jerusalem to the council to see how it could be resolved. However, the Jews were not generally prepared to move as fast as the Providence of God led the way. The Jews saw that the Gentiles would eventually far exceed the number of Jews who were Christians. They believed that if the ceremonies and restrictions they had under Jewish law were not made obligatory upon the Gentiles, then the national peculiarities of the Jews would pass away.

The Jews had prided themselves upon the fact that they had divinely appointed worship services and ordinances. That was true, and nobody could successfully argue otherwise. They thought that which had kept them distinct from all the world would finally disappear from those who are Christians. They concluded that since God had once specified the Hebrew manner of worship, it was impossible that God would ever authorize a change in any of the specifications of divine worship. So, they decided that Christianity must connect itself with Jewish laws and ceremonies.

The Jewish Christians were slow to discern the end of that which had been

abolished by the death of Christ and that all of their sacrificial offerings had only prefigured the death of the Son of God in type. When Jesus died on the cross, type had met antitype. So, the divinely appointed ceremonies that were part of the Jewish religion and involved the sacrificing of animals, a

human priesthood, and an earthly sanctuary, which were all part of the Jewish religion, were no longer in effect. In fact, Matthew records the events just prior to Jesus dying on the cross that signified the end of the ceremonial services. He said, "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split" (Matthew 27:50, 51).

The veil of the temple was not just like some curtain that you may have in your house. This veil was more like a solid tapestry, thick like a rug. It was something that no human being, unless you were Samson, could ever tear apart. But divine power tore that veil in two from the top to the bottom giving a message to the human race that it was no longer necessary to come with animal sacrifices to an earthly sanctuary for the forgiveness of sins.

That system is no longer in effect, since the veil into the earthly Holy of Holies has been torn in two. We are now able, by a new and living way, to approach God by faith in the heavenly Holy of Holies, in the heavenly sanctuary where our High Priest ministers in our behalf.

We can have a Most Holy Place experience; we can go into the courtyard,

this earth where Jesus was crucified, and enter by faith into the first apartment where we partake of the showbread—the word of God and become the light of the world. We offer our prayers to our heavenly Father that are fragrant by the Holy Spirit. We then enter behind the torn veil where we see our Saviour before the throne of God. Now there is a new and living way by which we may approach God.

However, these Jews did not understand that. They were dealing with a custom that had been going on for over fifteen hundred years. Paul himself had been very strict in following all of these customs. He had been a strict Pharisee, but after he met Jesus on the Damascus road and was converted, he understood the significance of the former dispensation of the old covenant and the difference between living faith and a dead formalism. Paul still claimed to be one of the children of Abraham and kept the ten commandments in spirit and letter, just as he had done before his conversion to Christianity.

All of the typical ceremonies and ordinances of service of the old covenant had only shadowed forth something that was to happen in the future. Now the light of the gospel was shed upon the world offering a new and better way.

The big question today is, Do you clearly understand what law was abolished by Christ's death on the cross? Have you gone by the new and living way and approached Jesus as your High Priest and asked Him to deliver you from the guilt and power of sin, and to make you His child so that you can be saved?

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

Pastor John J. Grosboll is Director of *Steps to Life* and pastors the *Prairie Meadows Church* in Wichita, Kansas. He may be contacted by email at: historic@stepstolife.org, or by telephone at: 316-788-5559.

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*And it is easier for
heaven and earth to
pass away than for one
tittle of the law to fail.*

Luke 16:17

Robert Bruce

— and the —

Spider

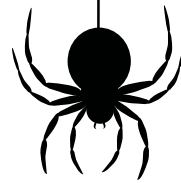
More than six hundred years ago, the people of Scotland made up their minds that they did not want to be ruled by the king of England. They wanted to rule themselves. This led to war between the two countries.

Again and again, the English army defeated the Scotch. At last, Robert Bruce was made leader of the Scotch army. Six times Bruce led his brave little army against the great army of England. Six times he was driven back. Then his army was scattered, and he had to hide in order to save his life.

Sometimes he hid in the woods. Sometimes he hid in the mountains, and sometimes in the huts of poor peasants. The English soldiers tried to find and capture him. He had to flee one hiding place to another.

At last he was almost ready to give up. It seemed to him there was no use trying to do anything more. That night he lay down on a heap of straw in an old hut. But he could not sleep. He was thinking about his failures.

At last morning came. As he lay on his bed of straw, he was greatly discouraged. Would his country ever be free?




Just then he saw a spider trying to swing herself by her thread from one beam of the roof to another. She failed, and the thread swung back to its starting place. She tried again, and again it fell back. She made another effort, only to fall back a third time. But the little spider had started to weave a web, and she never thought of giving up. Six times she tried to throw her frail thread across. Six times it fell short.

For a moment Robert Bruce seemed to forget about his own failures. He watched the little spider with deep interest. He hoped she would not give up. He wanted to see her succeed.

The seventh time she swung herself out on her slender line. Would she fail again? No! This time the thread was thrown safely across, and fastened to the beam.

Bruce was almost ashamed of himself. If a little spider would not give up, why should he? He, too, would try the seventh time. With new courage he left his hiding place. He got his friends together. He told them of his plans. He sent them out to encourage his soldiers.

Soon another army of brave Scotsmen were around him. Another great battle was fought, and this time the English were completely defeated. They fled into their own country. Scotland was made free, and Robert Bruce was its king.

Balloons, True Education Series, 44, 45. 

July 29 - August 4

Jesus Really Is Coming Again!

Key Text

"I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

Study Help

Early Writings, 13–18, 285, 286.

Introduction

"One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ's second coming to complete the great work of redemption." *The Great Controversy*, 299.

Sunday

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING!

- a. According to the Bible, what will Jesus' coming be like? Acts 1:11.

Note: "The most precious fact to the disciples in the ascension of Jesus was that He went from them into Heaven in the tangible form of their divine Teacher. The very same Jesus, who had walked, and talked, and prayed with them ... had ascended to Heaven in the form of humanity. And the heavenly messengers had assured them that the very same Jesus whom they had seen go up into heaven, should come again in like manner as He had ascended. This assurance has ever been, and will be till the close of time, the hope and joy of all true lovers of Christ." *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 3, 254.

- b. To whom will Jesus' appearing be visible? Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:30.

Note: "Those who mocked and smote Him will be there. The priests and rulers will behold again the scene in the judgment hall. Every circumstance will appear before them, as if written in letters of fire. Then those who prayed, 'His blood be on us, and on our children' (Matthew 27:25), will receive the answer to their prayer. Then the whole world will know and understand." *The Desire of Ages*, 739, 740.

Monday

AN AMAZING HOPE

- a. What is the purpose of Jesus' coming, and how should our confidence in this awesome, unsurpassed event be affecting us? John 14:1–3.

Note: "Those who really love the Saviour cannot but hail with joy a message founded upon the word of God, the He in whom their hopes of eternal life are centered is coming again, not to be insulted, despised, and rejected, as at His first advent, but in power and glory, to redeem His people. The proclamation of Christ's coming should now be, as when made by the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem, good tidings of great joy. There can be no more conclusive evidence that the churches have departed from God than the irritation and animosity excited by this Heaven-sent message.

"It is those who do not love the Saviour that desire Him to remain away, and such eagerly receive the testimony borne by unfaithful servants, 'My Lord delayeth His coming' (Matthew 24:48). While they refuse to search the Scriptures to learn if these things are so, they grasp every fable which will put off the coming of Christ into the distant future, or make it spiritual, fulfilled at the destruction of Jerusalem, or taking place at death." *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 216, 217.

- b. Describe the sweetness of this hope, and with what it is to be closely connected? Philippians 3:20, 21.

Note: "The truths of prophecy are bound up together, and as we study them, they form a beautiful cluster of practical Christian truth. All the discourses that we give are plainly to reveal that we are waiting, working, and praying for the coming of the

Son of God. His coming is our hope. This hope is to be bound up with all our words and works, with all our associations and relationships.” *Evangelism*, 220.

“Those who have loved Him and waited for Him, He will crown with glory and honor and immortality. The righteous dead will come forth from their graves, and those who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. They will hear the voice of Jesus, sweeter than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying to them, Your warfare is accomplished.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 34.

Tuesday

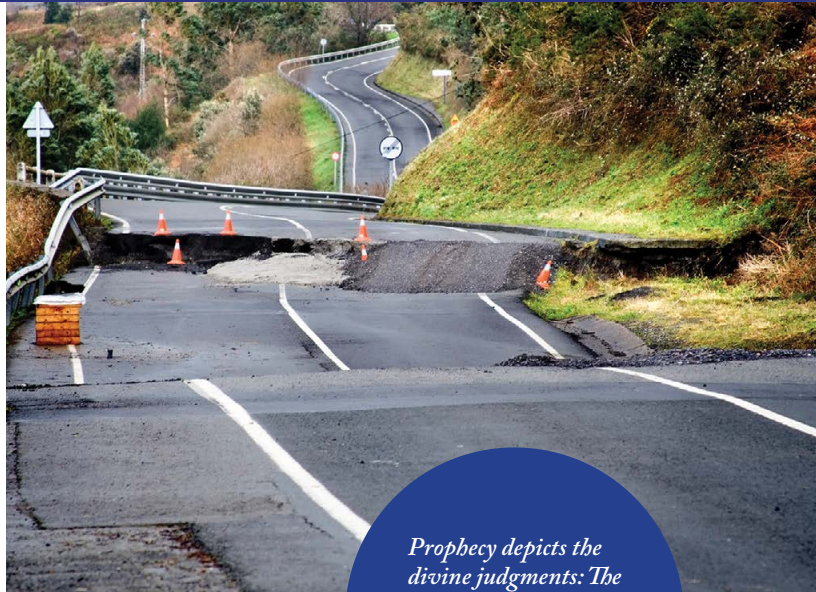
A GLORY BEYOND DESCRIPTION

- a. What sign in the heavens will indicate Jesus’ coming?
Mark 13:26.

Note: “Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared about half as large as a man’s hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer, and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over it.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, 32.

- b. Explain the threefold glory at Christ’s return—**noticing where He will meet His redeemed ones. Will His feet touch the ground at His second coming?**
Luke 9:26, *last part*; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

Note: “On it [the cloud] sat the Son of man, on His head were crowns, His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders. His feet had the appearance of fire, in His right hand was a sharp sickle, in His left a silver trumpet. His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out, Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless? Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke, Those who have clean hands and a pure heart shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you. At this, our fac-



Prophecy depicts the divine judgments: The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up.

es lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sung again while the cloud drew still nearer the earth. Then Jesus’ silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven and cried, Awake! Awake! Awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise. Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, Hallelujah! as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. We all entered the cloud together.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, 32, 33.

- c. What is different about Christ’s third coming after 1,000 years, in contrast to His second coming?
Zechariah 14:4. (See also *Early Writings*, 17, 18.)

Wednesday

WITH POWER AND AUTHORITY

- a. What will happen in nature at Jesus' second coming, and why? Revelation 6:14; Isaiah 24:1–6.

Note: “God would have His people clearly understand that they will be visited according to their obedience or transgression. Wickedness and disease have increased with every successive generation. The land has labored under the curse which man has brought upon it because of continued disobedience.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 123.

“The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place.” *The Great Controversy*, 641, 642.

- b. How does prophecy depict the divine judgments that are soon to fall upon the world at His coming? Isaiah 24:17–23.

Note: “The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: ‘It is done’ (Revelation 16:17).”

“That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, ‘such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great’ (verse 18). The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of a hurricane like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters.” *The Great Controversy*, 636, 637.

Thursday

THE FULFILLMENT OF LONG-HELD HOPES

- a. Describe the joy of the holy angels with Jesus at His return. Jude 14.

Note: “With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him [Jesus] on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands’ (Revelation 5:11). No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor.” *The Great Controversy*, 641.

- b. What task are the holy angels to perform (based on the investigative judgment which will already be over), and what will the earth's inhabitants ultimately realize? Matthew 13:41, 49; 25:32; Romans 7:12.

Note: “The trumpet of the Archangel will soon startle the living and wake the dead. At that day the wicked will be separated from the just, as the shepherd divides the goats from the sheep.” *Child Guidance*, 561.

“Christ would have all understand the events of His second appearing. The judgment scene will take place in the presence of all the worlds; for in this judgment the government of God will be vindicated, and His law will stand forth as ‘holy, and just, and good’ (Romans 7:12). Then every case will be decided, and sentence will be passed upon all. Sin will not then appear attractive, but will be seen in all its hideous magnitude. All will see the relation in which they stand to God and to one another.” *The Review and Herald*, September 20, 1898.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Explain what groups of people will witness the second coming of Christ.
- 2 Why is Jesus returning, and what should this event make us consider?
- 3 Why should we know whether or not Christ's feet will touch the ground?
- 4 How will the huge upheaval in creation relate to the moral law of God?
- 5 With this joyful yet solemn hour ahead, what should we deeply consider?

August 5 – 11

With Great Power and Glory

Key Text

“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation” (Isaiah 25:9).

Study Help

The Great Controversy, 479–484; 641–645.

Introduction

“The black, angry clouds that covered the firmament are parted, and like Stephen they [the people of God] look up steadfastly into heaven and see the glory of God and the Son of man seated upon His throne.” *The Great Controversy*, 636.

Sunday

INCREDIBLE WOE, WOE, WOE

- a. When Christ arrives, what reveals the fearful reaction to come upon those who have despised His offer of salvation? Revelation 6:15–17; Nahum 2:10.

Note: “Upon the rejecters of God’s mercy falls the terror of eternal despair.” *The Great Controversy*, 641.

“When sinners are compelled to look upon Him who clothed His divinity with humanity, and who still wears this garb, their confusion is indescribable. The scales fall from their eyes, and they see that which before they would not see. They realize what they might have been had they received Christ, and improved the opportunities granted them. They see the law which they have spurned, exalted even as God’s throne is exalted. They see God Himself giving reverence to His law.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, 1069.

- b. What will actually happen to them, and why? 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10; 2:8.

Note: “The light of the glory of God, which imparts life to the righteous, will slay the wicked.” *The Desire of Ages*, 108.

Monday

THE SPECIAL RESURRECTION

- a. From among all who, throughout history, went to their graves trusting in God, which category of believers will have already been raised just before Christ’s arrival? Revelation 14:12, 13; Daniel 12:1, 2.

Note: “Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law.” *Early Writings*, 285.

- b. Who from among the wicked will be resurrected just prior to Christ’s return? Matthew 26:62–64; Revelation 1:7.

Note: “Those who derided His [Christ’s] claim to be the Son of God are speechless now. There is the haughty Herod who jeered at His royal title and bade the mocking soldiers crown Him king. There are the very men who with impious hands placed upon His form the purple robe, upon His sacred brow the thorny crown, and in His unresisting hand the mimic scepter, and bowed before Him in blasphemous mockery. The men who smote and spit upon the Prince of life now turn from His piercing gaze and seek to flee from the overpowering glory of His presence. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet, the soldier who pierced His side, behold these marks with terror and remorse.

“With awful distinctness do priests and rulers recall the events of Calvary.” *The Great Controversy*, 643.



Day by day
God is testing
and proving
His people.

- c. How is this special resurrection distinct from the resurrections that take place at the voice of Jesus? John 5:28, 29. Compare with Daniel 12:2 (“many” versus “all”).

Tuesday

UNSPEAKABLE AWE

- a. What will be the initial response of all mortals—including God’s faithful few—as they first behold the arrival of the awesome Creator of the universe seated on His throne in majestic splendor? Jeremiah 30:6.

Note: “The righteous cry with trembling: ‘Who shall be able to stand?’ The angels’ song is hushed, and there is a period of awful silence.” *The Great Controversy*, 641.

- b. What heart-warming assurance promptly comforts those genuinely longing for their Lord’s appearing? 2 Corinthians 12:9, *first part*.

Note: “Then the voice of Jesus is heard, saying: ‘My grace is sufficient for you’ (2 Corinthians 12:9). The faces of the righteous are lighted up, and joy fills every heart. And the angels strike a note higher and sing again as they draw still nearer to the earth.” *The Great Controversy*, 641.

- c. What will Christ’s followers say at the return of Him in whom their hopes have centered, and how should this motivate us now? Isaiah 25:9.

Note: “To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven; for they have heaven in their hearts.

“With uplifted heads, with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shining upon them, with rejoicing that their redemption draweth nigh, they go forth to meet the Bridegroom.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 421.

“Are we preparing to meet the Saviour in peace, or are we absorbed in worldly business and pleasure? Shall we not strive to be among the number who will welcome Christ?” *The Signs of the Times*, April 17, 1901.

Wednesday

HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM EARTH

- a. Describe the amazing miracle to occur at the resurrection of the just. 1 Corinthians 15:51–55.

Note: “The Son of God ... looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: ‘Awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!’ Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live.” *The Great Controversy*, 644.

- b. How does this relate to the investigative judgment that had accounted them worthy of eternity, and what should this make us pause to consider? 1 Peter 4:17–19; Luke 20:35, *first part*, 36.

Note: “As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. ...

“All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.” *The Great Controversy*, 483.

- c. What happens to the righteous—both those who are alive when Jesus returns plus those who are resurrected at His voice? 1 Corinthians 15:49.

Note: “At the voice of God they [the living righteous] were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air.” *The Great Controversy*, 645.

Thursday

THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTIONS

- a. Explain the timing of the general resurrection of the just, and describe the joy of it. Revelation 20:1–6 (compare again 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

Note: “Until that triumphant hour, when the last trump shall sound and the vast army shall come forth to eternal victory, every sleeping saint will be kept in safety and will be guarded as a precious jewel, who is known to God by name. By the power of the Saviour that dwelt in them while living and because they were partakers of the divine nature, they are brought forth from the dead.” *The Faith I Live By*, 185.

- b. We studied how the wicked guilty of crucifying Christ are raised up at the special resurrection; but when do the rest of the wicked dead face their Maker before their final destruction, and why is this a sobering thought? 1 Corinthians 6:3, *first part*; Revelation 20:4, 5, 12–15.

Note: “At the close of the thousand years, Christ again returns to the earth. He is accompanied by the host of the redeemed, and attended by a retinue of angels. As He descends in terrific majesty, He bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. ... What a contrast to those who were raised at the first resurrection! The righteous were clothed with immortal youth and beauty. The wicked bear the traces of disease and death.” *The Faith I Live By*, 355.

“Day by day God is testing and proving His people. The inspired Word plainly declares that by our works we are deciding our eternal destiny.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 278.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Who is instantly slain when Christ comes in the clouds, and why?
- 2 For whom is the special resurrection, and what is its twofold purpose?
- 3 Am I focusing on the Isaiah 25:9-moment, or am I hoping He will delay?
- 4 Why must the investigative judgment occur before Jesus arrives?
- 5 Why must the thousand years occur before the wicked face their doom?

August 12 – 18

Waiting and Watching

Key Text

“He [our Saviour Jesus Christ] gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14).

Study Help

Christ's Object Lessons, 353–365.

Introduction

“He [Christ] showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 325.

Sunday

CALLED FOR SERVICE

- a. What parable did Jesus present in connection with His return? Matthew 25:13–15.

Note: “The man traveling into a far country represents Christ, who, when speaking this parable, was soon to depart from this earth to heaven. The ‘bondservants’ (RV), or slaves, of the parable, represent the followers of Christ. ...

“Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service—service to God and to their fellow men.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 325, 326.

- b. With what were the talents compared, and how are they significant? 1 Corinthians 12:7–11.

Note: “All gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual ... are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and

ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 328.

Monday

A RIGHT USE OF ENTRUSTED GOODS

- a. In view of the seriousness of our times, what should we learn from Christ's parable about the use of the talents entrusted to us? Matthew 25:16–18.

Note: “The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, What am I doing with that which I have? The development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men. No one who is not growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 329, 330.

- b. What can be achieved by a right use of our gifts? Matthew 25:19, 20, 22.

Note: “He [the Lord] does not supernaturally endow us with the qualifications we lack; but while we use that which we have, He will work with us to increase and strengthen every faculty. By every wholehearted, earnest sacrifice for the Master's service our powers will increase. While we yield ourselves as instruments for the Holy Spirit's working, the grace of God works in us to deny old inclinations, to overcome powerful propensities, and to form new habits. As we cherish and obey the promptings of the Spirit, our hearts are enlarged to receive more and more of His power, and to do more and better work. Dormant energies are aroused, and palsied faculties receive new life. ...

“Through faith in the power of God, it is wonderful how strong a weak man may become, how decided his efforts, how prolific of great results. He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 353, 354.



All gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual ... are to be employed in Christ's service.

Tuesday

GRATEFUL OR GRUMBLING?

- a. How was the unfaithful servant reproached for having misused his talent, and why is such an attitude a warning for us? Matthew 25:24–28.

Note: “There are many who in their hearts charge God with being a hard master because He claims their possessions and their service. But we can bring to God nothing that is not already His. ... All things are God’s, not only by creation, but by redemption. All the blessings of this life and of the life to come are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary. Therefore the charge that God is a hard master, reaping where He has not sown, is false.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 362.

- b. How does Inspiration depict our tendency to complain and make excuses for ourselves, and why should we heed the Master’s earnest desire for every one of us before His return? Proverbs 30:15, 16; Isaiah 29:24.

Note: “Fretting, faultfinding, and making strong statements must be given up. What time have you set to gain the victory over your perverse will and the defects in your character? With the advancement you now make, your probation may close before you have made the determined efforts essential to give you the victory over self. You will, in the providence of God, be placed in positions where your peculiarities, if existing, will be tried and revealed.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 341, 342.

“Many decide to serve themselves and Satan by not making determined efforts to overcome their defects of character. While many are petting sinful propensities, expecting to be overcomers sometime, they are deciding for perdition. ... In the name of Jesus Christ you may be victorious even now ‘in this thy day’ (Luke 19:42). Do not plan and study for self. You cannot be wholly the Lord’s while encouraging any degree of selfishness. Such great love as the Redeemer has shown you should be received with great humility and continual rejoicing. In order to be happy, you must control your thoughts and words. It will require a masterly effort on your part; nevertheless it must be done if you are to be the acknowledged children of God. Be not weary in your efforts. Satan is battling for your souls, and he must be disappointed.” *Ibid.*, 344.

Wednesday

UNMASK THE DECEPTION AND FLEE FROM IT!

- a. How does the Son of God's example refute the false accusations of the archenemy of our souls? Genesis 3:4, 5; Philippians 2:5–8.

Note: “Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.” *Steps to Christ*, 11.

“Satan represents God's law of love as a law of selfishness. He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts.” *The Desire of Ages*, 24.

“Could our eyes be opened, we should see forms of evil angels around us, trying to invent some new way to annoy and destroy us. And we should also see angels of God guarding us from their power; for God's watchful eye is ever over Israel for good, and He will protect and save His people, if they put their trust in Him. ...

“Said the angel, ‘Remember, thou art on the enchanted ground.’ I saw that we must watch and have on the whole armor and take the shield of faith, and then we shall be able to stand, and the fiery darts of the wicked cannot harm us.” *Early Writings*, 60.

- b. What reveals God's eager willingness to help us overcome our defects and slothfulness? Psalms 20:1, 2, 7–9; 94:17, 18.

Note: “Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God, is noted in the books of heaven.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 361.

“The Lord desires His people to reach the highest round of the ladder that they may glorify Him by possessing the ability He is willing to bestow. Through the grace of God every provision has been made for us to reveal that we act upon better plans than those upon which the world acts. ...

“Those who have not a large endowment of gifts need not become discouraged. Let them use what they have, faithfully guarding every weak point in their characters, seeking by divine grace to make it strong.” *Ibid.*, 358.

Thursday

VICTORIOUS LABORERS WITH GOD

- a. As we prepare for our Lord's return in full surrender to His service, what is our main interest, and His? Titus 2:13, 14; Luke 17:10; Psalm 145:10–12.

Note: “When the Lord takes account of His servants, the return from every talent will be scrutinized. The work done reveals the character of the worker.

“Those who have received the five and the two talents return to the Lord the entrusted gifts with their increase. In doing this they claim no merit for themselves. Their talents are those that have been delivered to them; they have gained other talents, but there could have been no gain without the deposit. They see that they have done only their duty. The capital was the Lord's; the improvement is His. Had not the Saviour bestowed upon them His love and grace, they would have been bankrupt for eternity.

“But when the Master receives the talents, He approves and rewards the workers as though the merit were all their own. His countenance is full of joy and satisfaction. He is filled with delight that He can bestow blessings upon them. For every service and every sacrifice He requites them, not because it is a debt He owes, but because His heart is overflowing with love and tenderness.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 360, 361.

“Our heavenly Father requires no more nor less than He has given us ability to do. He lays upon His servants no burdens that they are not able to bear. ‘He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust’ (Psalm 103:14). All that He claims from us we through divine grace can render.” *Ibid.*, 362.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is often misunderstood about God's purpose in giving talents?
- 2 Although you may be weak and faulty, what is God's plan for helping you?
- 3 Compare the servant with one talent to typical human behavior of today.
- 4 How can we bypass the enemy's strategy to try to block our sanctification?
- 5 Explain how we can gain the victory to become real, active agents for God.

August 19 – 25

A Personal Relationship With Jesus

Key Text

“Therefore 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).

Study Help

The Ministry of Healing, 81–85; *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 40–48.

Introduction

“When we turn toward the Sun of Righteousness, when we come in touch with Christ, the whole soul is aglow with the brightness of the divine presence.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 40.

Sunday

LIGHT SHINES AMID THE DARKNESS

- a. How does Scripture depict our hopeless state? Job 14:4; Romans 3:23; 8:7.

Note: “It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them.” *Steps to Christ*, 18.

“Many are unhappy because they are unholy. Purity of heart, innocence of mind, only can be blessed of God. When sin is cherished, it can in the end produce nothing but unhappiness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 53.

- b. In His great love and mercy, what has God revealed to us in the last days, and how is it to affect our life in a practical way? Romans 3:24–26; 8:1–4.

Note: “Our Lord and Saviour laid aside His dominion, His riches and glory, and sought after us, that He might save us from misery and make us like Himself. He humbled Himself and took our nature that we might be able to learn of Him and, imitating His life of benevolence and self-denial, follow Him step by step to heaven.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 170.

Monday

GOD’S LOVE FOR US

- a. Explain the completeness of the plan of salvation. 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:19–21.

Note: “Christ gave Himself, an atoning sacrifice, for the saving of a lost world. He was treated as we deserve, in order that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. ‘With His stripes we are healed’ (Isaiah 53:5).

“Christ was tempted in all points like as we are, by the one who once stood in loyalty by His side in the heavenly courts. Behold the Son of God in the wilderness of temptation, in the time of greatest weakness assailed by the fiercest temptation. See Him during the years of His ministry, attacked on every side by the forces of evil. See Him in His agony on the cross. All this He suffered for us.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 208, 209.

- b. Who can experience the blessings of God’s love? Matthew 11:28; John 6:37.

Note: “Coming to Christ does not require severe mental effort and agony; it is simply accepting the terms of salvation that God has made plain in His Word. The blessing is free to all. ...

“In the name that is above every name, the only name given among men whereby men can be saved, claim the promise of God, saying, ‘Lord, forgive my sin; I put my hands into Thy hand for help, and I must have it, or perish. I now believe.’” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 333, 334.



Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life.

“A deep sense of our need and a great desire for the things for which we ask must characterize our prayers, else they will not be heard. But we are not to become weary and cease our petitions because the answer is not immediately received. ‘The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force’ (Matthew 11:12). The violence here meant is a holy earnestness, such as Jacob manifested. We need not try to work ourselves up into an intense feeling, but calmly, persistently, we are to press our petitions at the throne of grace.” *That I May Know Him*, 272.

Tuesday

A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

- a. What new attitude and behavior become apparent as we trust in Jesus? 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:6; Philippians 2:12, 13.

Note: “The faith which avails to bring us in vital contact with Christ expresses on our part supreme preference, perfect reliance, entire consecration. This faith works by love and purifies the soul. It works in the life of the follower of Christ true obe-

dience to God’s commandments; for love to God and love to man will be the result of vital connection with Christ.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 334.

“Nothing but divine power can regenerate the human heart and imbue souls with the love of Christ, which will ever manifest itself with love for those for whom He died. . . . When a man is converted to God, a new moral taste is supplied, a new motive power is given, and he loves the things that God loves. . . .

“But those who are waiting to behold a magical change in their characters without determined effort on their part to overcome sin will be disappointed. We have no reason to fear while looking to Jesus, no reason to doubt but that He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto Him; but we may constantly fear lest our old nature will again obtain the supremacy, that the enemy shall devise some snare whereby we shall again become his captives.” *Ibid.*, 336, 337.

- b. What deep desire is to continually fill the heart of every believer, and how is this to affect us on a consistent basis? John 15:4, 5, 10; Romans 6:6, 10, 11.

Note: “Union with Christ, once formed, must be maintained. . . . This is no casual touch, no off-and-on connection. . . .

“Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service.” *The Desire of Ages*, 676.

“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*, 48.

Wednesday

GROWTH IN GRACE

- a. When the heart is surrendered to Christ with prayer for His enlightenment, what change occurs in the character? Galatians 5:22, 23; Psalm 119:18.

Note: “By beholding we are to become changed; and as we meditate upon the perfections of the divine Model, we shall desire to become wholly transformed, and renewed in the image of His purity. It is by faith in the Son of God that transformation takes place in the character, and the child of wrath becomes the child of God. He passes from death unto life; he becomes spiritual and discerns spiritual things. The wisdom of God enlightens his mind, and he beholds wondrous things out of His law. As a man is converted by the truth, the work of transformation of character goes on. He has an increased measure of understanding. In becoming a man of obedience to God, he has the mind of Christ, and the will of God becomes his will.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 338.

- b. Why is open-hearted study and meditation on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy an important key in this process? Psalm 119:24–27.

Note: “It is not alone those who openly reject the *Testimonies*, or who cherish doubt concerning them, that are on dangerous ground. To disregard light is to reject it.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 680.

“Says the psalmist, ‘Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path’ (Psalm 119:105). But this is not the case when it is left unopened and unread.” *The Review and Herald*, January 4, 1881.

“By looking constantly to Jesus with the eye of faith, we shall be strengthened. God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to the soul as a Comforter. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature. Love takes the place of hatred, and the heart receives the divine similitude. This is what it means to live ‘by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God’ (Matthew 4:4). This is eating the Bread that comes down from heaven.” *The Desire of Ages*, 391.

Thursday

REFLECTING THE LIGHT

- a. What is the most pressing need of this dark world? Matthew 5:14–16.

Note: “It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour’s love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 419.

- b. What is to be the focus of our life, and what results will be achieved through this? Galatians 2:20; Isaiah 60:1–3.

Note: “Abiding in Christ is choosing only the disposition of Christ, so that His interests are identified with yours. Abide in Him, to be and to do only what He wills. These are the conditions of discipleship, and unless they are complied with, you can never find rest.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 110.

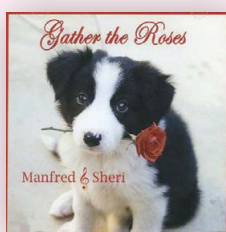
“Through the Holy Spirit, God’s word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver. By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. The light of His glory—His character—is to shine forth in His followers.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 414.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

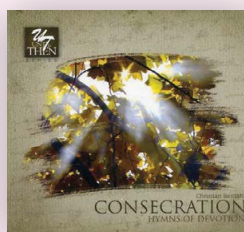
- 1 Explain the predicament of the human race, and what can be done about it.
- 2 Why is a casual connection with Christ insufficient?
- 3 What would you tell a person who is disappointed with the gospel?
- 4 What role do the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy have in our sanctification?
- 5 Explain how your influence can become a source of refreshment to others.

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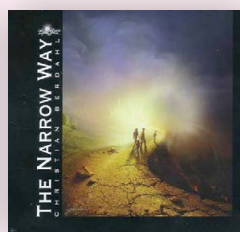
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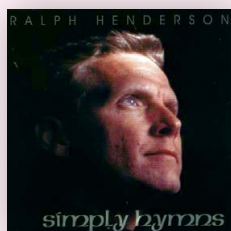
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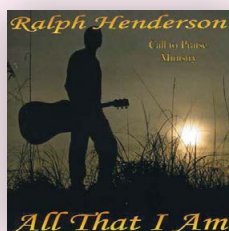
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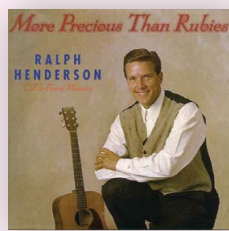
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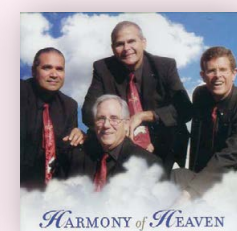
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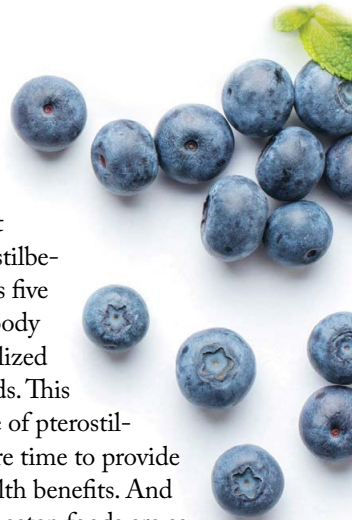
Members of the blueberry family are found throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, and Southern Canada, as well as England where are grown a distant cousin called bilberries. More than 40 varieties of blueberries are native to North America.

Among the first to appreciate these succulent fruits were Native Americans who consumed them fresh, cooked and dried, adding berries to winter soups and stews. In addition, they used them in dyes, food preservatives and medicines,

made a tea from the leaves or bark to ease labor pains, as a tonic after miscarriage, or blueberry syrup as a remedy for coughs and diarrhea. They gave blueberries to the new settlers, enabling them to make it through their first winter. Indians held the blueberry sacred because of its five-pointed star-shaped crown. They believed blueberries were a gift of God to feed their starving children.

“Blueberries provide us with two unique anti-inflammatory and antioxidant phytonutrients belonging to the group of compounds known as stilbenoids. These two members of the stilbenoid family are resveratrol and pterostilbene. ... What has been most exciting in recent studies has been the discovery of better bioavailability of pterostilbene

than resveratrol in some foods, including blueberries. One study has shown that once absorbed pterostilbene spends as much as five times longer in our body before being metabolized into other compounds. This longer-lasting nature of pterostilbene may give it more time to provide us with its many health benefits. And since few commonly eaten foods are as rich in pterostilbene as blueberries, we may be looking at a fruit that is even more unique than previously believed in terms of its ability to support our health.” www.whfoods.com/genpage.php?tname=foodspice&dbid=8 LM



Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



QUINOA PORRIDGE WITH WARM BLUEBERRY SAUCE

Ingredients

½ cup quinoa
 ½ cup water
 ½ cup dairy free milk
 1 star anise or ½ tsp. anise seeds, crushed
 3 green cardamom pods or ½ tsp. ground cardamom
 1 pinch salt
 2 Tbsp. almonds, chopped
 2 Tbsp. dried apricots, sliced
 ¾ cup blueberries, fresh or frozen
 coconut flakes for garnish

Process

- Rinse quinoa. Bring quinoa, water, and milk to a boil.
- Add anise, cardamom, salt, almonds and apricots.
- Simmer 20 minutes until liquid is absorbed.
- Remove pods and star (if using).
- In separate pan, simmer blueberries until thickened, about 5 minutes.
- Spoon quinoa into bowl or glass.
- Pour on milk and blueberry sauce.
- Sprinkle with more almonds and apricots; add coconut flakes.





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detrimental to health. Use
simple, wholesome food.
Fruit is excellent, and
saves much cooking.*

Ellen White

