

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

*Music
has ever
been
connected
with God's
marvelous
works.*

p. 7

*Where
do you
stand?*

p. 12





From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

Doubting Prophet

The word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me’ (Jonah 1:1, 2). ... As the nature of this commission, with all its difficulties and seeming impossibilities loomed up before Jonah, he began to question the wisdom of the call. As he questioned, he forgot that the God whom he served was all-wise and all-powerful, and he began to doubt whether he should undertake to carry out such a commission. While he hesitated, still doubting, Satan overwhelmed him with discouragement. Seized with a great dread, he ‘rose up to flee unto Tarshish.’ Going down to Joppa, and finding there a ship ready to sail, ‘he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish’ (Jonah 1:3).” *The Review and Herald*, December 4, 1913.

About six weeks later after a most successful evangelistic campaign in Nineveh, “When Jonah learned of God’s purpose to spare the city that had corrupted its ways before him, he should have cooperated heartily in this merciful design. But he yielded to his inclination to question and doubt, and, as the

result, was once more overwhelmed with discouragement, and lost sight of the interests of others in his concern over himself. He felt as if he would rather die than live to see the wicked city spared; and in his dissatisfaction he exclaimed, ‘Now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.’” *Ibid.*, December 11, 1913.

Through some trial of discouragement, is the devil keeping you from doing what God wants you to do and has instructed you to do in His Word?

“Satan attacks us at our weakest points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the attack, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer. ... The hour of man’s necessity is God’s opportunity. He sees our danger and provides help for us.” *In Heavenly Places*, 262.

“God loves His purchased possession, and He longs to see them overcome the discouragement with which Satan would overpower them. Let no thought of unbelief afflict your souls; for unbelief acts as a paralysis upon the spiritual energies. Do not magnify your difficulties, but keep the Lord in your remembrance, watching unto prayer.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 10, 1896. **LM**

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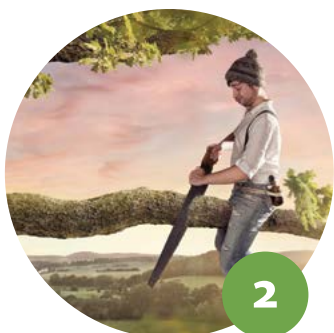
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LANDMARKS is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God’s true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (2 Peter 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.

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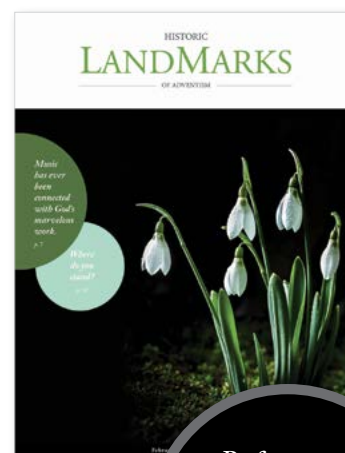
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The Warning

By John J. Grosboll

Because Inspiration tells us that “Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us” (*Selected Messages*, Book 3, 338, 339), we need occasionally to examine those prophecies to determine if and how they apply to us now. In this article, we will examine a series of Old Testament prophecies from the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel said, “Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. And He said to me: ‘Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the LORD GOD.” As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.

“‘And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious. But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.’ Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe” (Ezekiel 2:2–10).

Who is the house of Israel today? Ellen White wrote, “I was shown that those who are trying to obey God and purify their souls through obedience to the truth are God’s chosen people, His modern Israel.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 109.

Ezekiel was to give a message that he knew would not be received. He was told: “But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted. ... Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house” (Ezekiel 3:7, 9).

“So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me. ... Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me” (verses 14, 17). This experience was similar to that of Jeremiah when he decided that he got in so much trouble delivering God’s messages that he would not speak the word of the Lord anymore, but there was a fire in his bones and he couldn’t stop.

The Lord said, “When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give

him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand” (verse 18).

This is also a warning for today. If you are called to be a watchman and refuse to give the warning message, regardless if it is heeded or not, God will require it of you. He will ask why you didn’t give the warning? Would you rather be in trouble with men or with the Lord? Seventh-day Adventists have been given a warning message to share with the world and will be held accountable for how they handled that message.

Ezekiel 5:5, 6 says, “‘Thus says the LORD GOD: “This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her. She has rebelled against My judgments by doing wickedness more than the nations, and against My statutes more than the countries that are all around her; for they have refused My judgments, and they have not walked in My statutes.”’” Have you noticed the word *rebellion* continues to come up?

Everything in this prophecy will happen again in the modern house of Israel just before the close of probation. Read the first verses of Ezekiel 7, the prophet that says the end has come, the day of judgment has come, and the day of doom has come.

In that context, with Ezekiel sitting before the elders, the Lord gave him a vision. God knows everything. He knows all the secret things that are going on in your life, everything that you attempt to cover. Adam and Eve

were the first to attempt to cover their sin by hiding from God and making for themselves fig leaf garments. The very fact that they covered up shows that they were aware that they had done something wrong. So it is with all who attempt to cover their sins.

“

Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us.

In vision, God showed Ezekiel exactly what was going on in the house of Israel that almost nobody knew about. Ezekiel said, “He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit

lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.

“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north.’ So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance.

“Furthermore He said to me, ‘Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations’” (Ezekiel 8:3–6).

The Lord then said it gets worse. “So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall. Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, dig into the wall;’ and when I dug into the wall, there was a door” (verses 7, 8).

Today, this would be referred to as digging up dirt, and if the problem is brought out, the one responsible would be accused of being critical, or of church bashing. But, in reality, those who criticize the watchman are actually criticizing the One who sent him to give the warning message.

The Lord told Ezekiel to dig, to investigate. Because the apostasy was covered up, unless you dig you would not know anything was wrong. So Ezekiel dug,

“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, dig into the wall’; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. And He said to me, ‘Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there.’

“So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls. And there stood before them seventy

men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up” (verses 8–11).

Who were they burning incense to? Ellen White said, “Anciently it was a great sin for the people of God to give themselves away to the enemy, and open before them either their perplexity or their prosperity. Under the ancient economy it was a sin to offer sacrifice upon the wrong altar. It was a sin to offer incense kindled by the wrong fire.” *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 300.

“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, ‘The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.’”

“And He said to me, ‘Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.’ [This is the third time Ezekiel was told to turn and see something worse.] So He brought me to the door of the north

gate of the LORD’s house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz [a Samarian, Babylon deity, the god of vegetation and fertility].

“Then he said to me, ‘Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.’ [The fourth mention of greater abominations.] So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD’s house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east” (Ezekiel 8:12–16).

Pagans worshiped the rising sun in the east. When God instructed His tabernacle to be built, the entrance was situated so that those walking into it faced toward the west. On entering, they would face toward the altar of incense before the veil into the Most Holy Place where God’s holy law was kept within the ark with their backs to the sun. But here Ezekiel saw people at the temple who had turned their backs on the Lord and were facing the rising sun in the east. These people had turned their backs on the cross of Christ and the way of salvation.

What we are reading about here also is to take place just before the close of probation. Ezekiel 9:1–3, *first part* says, “Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, ‘Let those who have a charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand.’ And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer’s inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood before the bronze altar. Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple.”

It is very serious when God leaves His own temple. “And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer’s inkhorn at his side; and the LORD said to him, ‘Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.’ To the

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I was shown that those who are trying to obey God and purify their souls through obedience to the truth are God's chosen people, His modern Israel.

others He said in my hearing, ‘Go after him through the city and kill’ ...” (verses 3, *last part–5, first part*).

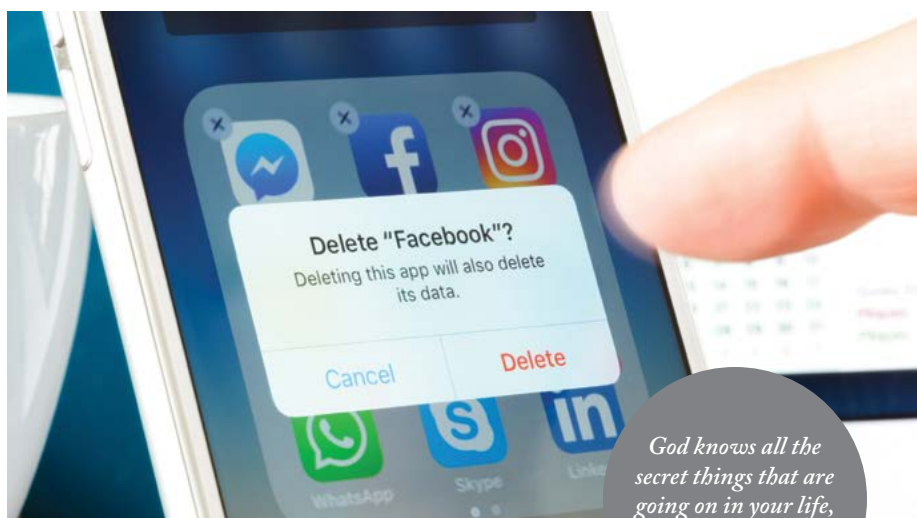
These are the people accused of digging up dirt. They refuse to go along with the mainstream who are not living according to Biblical principles. They recognize there is something drastically wrong and are compelled to speak up. They are not liked because they are not quiet, and if there’s anything that human organizations don’t like it is someone protesting what the majority are doing. These people are not popular because they are “crying out,” they are making a noise.

Look at the context here. It is those who cry out who are marked by the angels with a mark on their foreheads. This mark is the seal of God and is only received by those who protest the apostasy. They are hated by many people who consider them critical and negative. So the first person comes and puts a mark on people, and then after him there are several others who come and kill.

Notice what it says: “‘Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.’ So they began with the elders who were before the temple” (verses 5, *last part*, 6). Notice that it is the ministers who will feel the wrath of God first.

“Then he said to them, ‘Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!’ And they went out and killed in the city. So it was, that while they were killing them, I was left alone; and I fell on my face and cried out, and said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Will You destroy all the remnant of Israel’” ... (verses 7, 8)? Are you not going to have any people left in the world? Are all the people that profess to serve You, are they all going to be killed?

“Then He said to me, ‘The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great, and the land is full of



bloodshed, and the city full of perversity; for they say, “The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!” And as for Me also, My eye will neither spare, nor will I have pity, but I will recompense their deeds on their own head.’

“Just then, the man clothed with linen, who had the inkhorn at his side, reported back and said, ‘I have done as You commanded Me’” (verses 9–11).

This is a Scripture that needs study to understand. We are not to sit by and do nothing when we see wrong done in our families or local church, but be faithful watchmen if we want to receive the mark or seal of God in our foreheads.

Ellen White commented on this Scripture saying, “The Lord reads the heart as an open book.” *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 1303. Nothing escapes His attention.

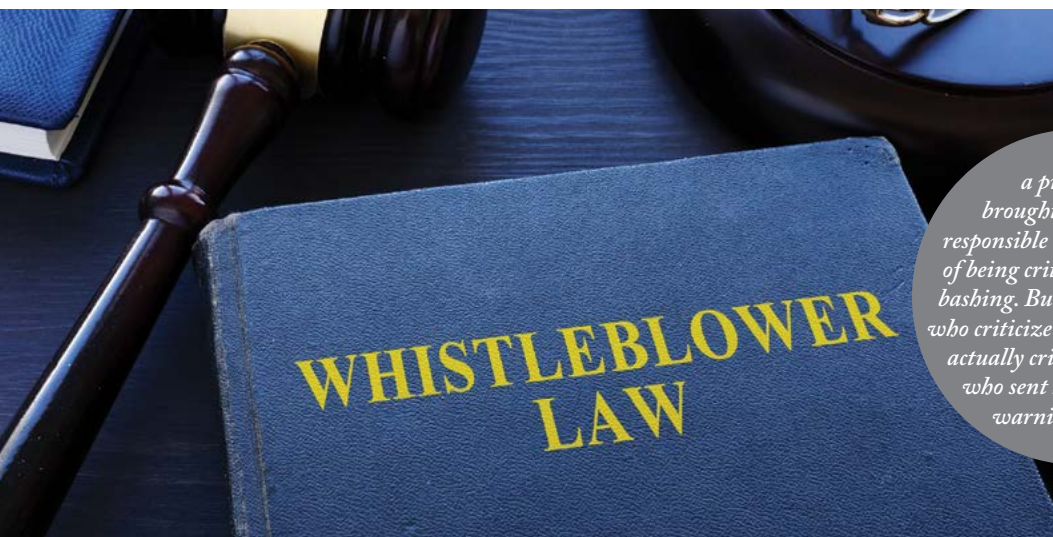
The Lord declares concerning those who are not connected with God and follow their own evil imaginations: “‘They have turned unto Me their back, and not the face, though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them; yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction’ (Jeremiah 32:33). We are amid the perils of the last days, the time will soon come when the prophecy of Ezekiel

9 will be fulfilled; that prophecy should be carefully studied, for it will be fulfilled to the very letter. Study also the tenth chapter which represents the hand of God as at work to bring perfect method and harmonious working into all the operations of His prepared instrumentalities. The eleventh and twelfth chapters [of Ezekiel] also should receive critical, thoughtful attention. Let these prophecies be studied on your knees before God.” *Ibid.*

She says, “... unless you take up the stumbling-blocks which by your own perverse spirit you have laid in the way of many who have been connected with you, God will turn His face utterly from you and your associates.

“True religion is the imitation of Christ. Those who follow Christ will deny self; take up the cross, and walk in His footsteps. Following Christ means obedience in all His commandments.” *Ibid.*, 1303, 1304.

Can we really call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ if we don’t obey His commandments? Jesus Christ is the commander of the heavenly hosts, and a commander must be obeyed. He is a general of the armies of heaven. She says, “Following Christ means obedience



If a problem is brought out, the one responsible would be accused of being critical, or of church bashing. But, in reality, those who criticize the watchman are actually criticizing the One who sent him to give the warning message.

in all His commandments. No soldier can be said to follow his commander unless he obeys orders." Ibid., 1304.

Notice: "Those who do not now appreciate, study, and dearly prize the word of God spoken by His servants will have cause to mourn bitterly hereafter. I saw that the Lord in judgment will at the close of time walk through the earth; the fearful plagues will begin to fall. Then those who have despised God's word, those who have lightly esteemed it, shall 'wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord and shall not find it' (Amos 8:12). A famine is in the land for hearing the Word." *Last Day Events*, 234, 235.

When that time comes, you will not be hearing any sermons like this. "The ministers of God will have done their last work, offered their last prayers, shed their last bitter tear for a rebellious church and an ungodly people." Ibid., 235.

No more sermons, no more prayers, no more tears. It's over. Inspiration says, "Their last solemn warning has been given. O, then how quickly would houses and lands, dollars that have been miserly hoarded and cherished and tightly grasped, be given for some consolation by those who have professed the truth and have not lived it out." Ibid.

No minister of God will then be praying for you or giving you an offer of salvation. At that time the last prayer has been made. All will have received the mark of salvation or the mark of destruction.

O, "for the way of salvation to be explained, or to hear a hopeful word or a prayer or an exhortation from their ministers. But no, they must hunger and thirst on in vain; their thirst will never be quenched, no consolation can they get; their cases are decided and eternally fixed. It is a fearful, awful time." Ibid.

My dear friend, that time has not come yet but we are told that probation will close suddenly and when we are least expecting it. It is dangerous to hold on to something with the intention of overcoming it at some time future. There are many stories where people waited too late and then tragedy struck. Right now is the time of our visitation, not some future time.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on His final journey, He wept, but not primarily for Jerusalem, which would soon be destroyed. He saw a much bigger catastrophe.

Our eyes need to be open to what is happening in Adventism today. As was presented to Ezekiel, we need to

dig and see what has been covered up as the average Adventist has no idea how closely the Seventh-day Adventist Church today is linked up with the papacy. "When the Saviour saw in the Jewish people a nation divorced from God, He saw also a professed Christian Church united to the world and the papacy. And as He stood upon Olivet, weeping over Jerusalem till the sun sank behind the western hills, so He is weeping over and pleading with sinners in these last moments of time." *The Review and Herald*, October 8, 1901.

Dear friend, if you are one of the sinners that Jesus is weeping over and pleading with, now is the time to call upon His name and repent. "Soon He will say to the angels who are holding the four winds, 'Let the plagues loose; let darkness, destruction, and death come upon the transgressors of My law.' Will He be obliged to say to those who have had great light and knowledge, as He said to the Jews, 'If thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes' (Luke 19:42)?" Ibid.

If you have turned your back on the Lord, now is the time to turn around. We all will have to face God one of these days. May God help us all to get the things in our lives into perspective and make sure our sins are blotted out before Jesus returns.

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

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The Song of Deliverance

By Lawrence Nelson

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.”

Revelation 15:3

Music has ever been and will ever be connected with God’s marvelous works. Consider when this world was created. Wouldn’t it have been exciting to watch as the earth came into existence to see the sun appear from nowhere and in the darkness of the first night suddenly the moon appears? Can you imagine watching vegetation develop and seeing hundreds and thousands of varieties of creatures, from the tiny insects to the mighty leviathan, created before your very eyes? And then to see man made in the image of God?

I know you would have joined with the angels to sing with them as they praised God as we read in Job, “The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7)!

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And what about the Saviour's birth some four thousand years later? Mystery of mysteries! The Son of God, the Creator of the universe becomes a helpless babe in a manger; born of flesh to show us how to overcome Satan. Wouldn't it have been thrilling to have been out there watching with the shepherds and suddenly to hear and see thousands of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14)?

And what about Christ's triumphant return to heaven after His crucifixion and resurrection? Oh, how the angels sang as they neared heaven. Death had been conquered. The resurrection of the saints was now assured. Listen as the angels sang as we read in Psalm 24:7-9: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."

Let us consider two other mighty events connected with music. First, we shall consider the song of Moses inspired by the divine deliverance, the mighty deliverance at the Red Sea; and second, the song of the Lamb when the greatest of all anthems will be sung around the throne of God on the sea of glass. It will be a song that the millions of redeemed will sing.

"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for He hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and His rider hath He thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; my Father's God, and I will exalt Him" (Exodus 15:1, 2).

So reads some 16 verses. Every word so full of meaning, of war, of horses, of chariots which are cast into the sea, of a glorious triumph, a song of victory, but in order for us to catch the full significance we must review for a few moments the circumstances. God had revealed to Abraham centuries before that his children would become slaves for exactly

400 years, then they finally would receive the promised home in Canaan.

In Genesis 15:13, 14: "And He said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."

The four hundred years had nearly been fulfilled. Only a fraction of time remained. Notice how God faithfully carries out His promise. Exodus 12:51: "And it came to pass *the selfsame day*, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies." [Emphasis supplied.]

You can count on God who never fails to keep His word. Think of it – only 24 hours remained in the 400-year period. And now God through Moses tells His people: Tomorrow, Pharaoh will let you go a free people. The Scripture says it happened "the selfsame day." Free at last! The Bible states in Exodus 13:20, "And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness." God led the way out of Egypt.

"He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people" (verse 22). What a God! Not only does He direct them by the cloud but He considers every need, even the physical needs. He provides a canopy to protect them from the desert heat of the day, and by night, He provides a burning fiery cloud to give warmth in the desert chill and to provide light in the darkness.

Thus it was that God led them to encamp at the edge of the Red Sea on a vast sandy plain, an area large enough for an encampment of some two million, with all their animals. Here they were surrounded by a rocky defile, the mountains running down into the very edge of the sea. At this spot the sea is some eight miles across. An Egyptian garrison is located just to the north. There is no possible way of escape. Word is brought to King Pharaoh of their situation. We read in Exodus 14:3: "For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They

are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.”

Can you catch the picture as the children are encamped? Suddenly there is a shout of fear. They look behind them and they see 600 chosen chariots plus all the chariots of Egypt coming after them. This was the mightiest army in the world at that time, coming to enslave them once again, forcing them to return to Egypt. Before them is a vast sea of water, eight miles across. There is no bridge, no ships; they are surrounded by rugged mountains obstructing their way. Behind them they see the flashing armor reflected in the sunlight. This army is led by the king himself, guided by the pagan priests of Egypt. Humanly speaking there is positively no way of escape.

But that’s only half the story. What they did not know was the depth of the sea before them. Archaeologists claim to have found the very spot on the Red Sea where the children of Israel crossed. What had never been seen before in modern times were two columns of stone, some 20 feet high, two to three feet across, one on either side of this crossing. And on these stones was discovered the words inscribed by King Solomon who erected these pillars to commemorate the Divine deliverance of the children of Israel.

Terror filled the Israelite’s hearts as they saw the army coming and they cried to Moses. Verse 12 says, “Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.” But Moses knew just what was about to happen.

In *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 283, are these revealing words: “It was revealed to him [Moses] that Pharaoh would pursue them, but that God would be honored in their deliverance.” Let us never forget the promises of God as we near the end when we will be facing impossible situations. In Amos 3:7 we read, “Surely

the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.” Thanks for the Spirit of Prophecy that has given us such wonderful details of what we can expect. And so Moses speaks with positive assurance.

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:13, 14). Immediately, God takes action. That cloudy column rises majestically into the heavens and passes over the Israelites, descending behind them, separating Israel from the enemy. What a surprise! The cloud gives light in the night to Israel but total darkness to the enemy.

And now comes the command. Verse 15: “And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto Me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.”

Imagine! Go forward? How? There’s no bridge, no boats, no rafts, it’s too far to swim, but by faith they did advance

“

Can you imagine watching vegetation develop and seeing hundreds and thousands of varieties of creatures, created before your very eyes?

right up to the very water’s edge. Then Moses lifts his rod. One more step and the leader will be in the water. But wonder of wonders the sea divides before them. A mighty miracle is wrought by God and a path opens before them through the midst of the sea.

Remember, it is night. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 287: “The light from God’s pillar of fire shone upon the foam-capped billows, and lighted the road that was cut like a mighty furrow through the waters of the sea, and was lost in the obscurity of the farther shore.” So, two million people with their flocks and herds follow the lighted path and walk on dry ground. The water stands on either side like a wall. Exodus 15:8: “And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.” According to the Hebrew and Chaldea dictionary that you will find in Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, the word *congealed* means *frozen water*. In other words, God formed two walls of ice, forming a perfectly safe path to cross the watery deep.

The Psalmist has declared in chapter 77, verses 19 and 20, “Thy way is in the sea, and Thy path in the great waters, and Thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest Thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.”

Now the suspense deepens. The Egyptians have pursued the Israelites. As the Israelites are coming up on the other side and are out of the sea, the Egyptians are right behind them when suddenly God’s marvelous black cloud that has been a cloud of protection turns to a pillar of fire.

As morning breaks, the Israelites have safely reached the other side in Arabia. From a night of terrible peril God has brought complete deliverance. Jehovah alone has made Israel’s deliverance possible. Only by faith and faith alone did they go forward.

Now the Spirit of God rests upon Moses. He leads the freed slaves in a triumphant anthem. It’s the song of Moses. “I will sing unto Jehovah, for He hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song” (Exodus 15:1, 2, *first part*). Can’t you just hear two mil-

lion singing such praises? Oh, how they must have sung! They had been freed from 400 years of slavery. Now they are totally free.

“That song does not belong to the Jewish people alone. It points forward to the destruction of all the foes of righteousness and the final victory of the Israel of God. The prophet of Patmos beholds the white-robed multitude that

have ‘gotten the victory,’ standing on the ‘sea of glass mingled with fire,’ having ‘the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb’ (Revelation 15:2, 3).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 289.

Humanly speaking, we too have an impossible ordeal to face. Said the Psalmist in chapter 115:1: “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth’s sake.”

Have we considered lately what God hath done for us? How He has made it possible for us to be delivered from the power of sin if we will only follow the path that He has made for us? “In freeing our souls from the bondage of sin, God has wrought for us a deliverance greater than that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Like the Hebrew

host, we should praise the Lord with heart and soul and voice for

His ‘wonderful works to the children of men’ (Psalm 107:8).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 289.

Our hearts should be filled with the melody of gladness when we consider the daily

blessings of food and clothing and shelter and health and the loved ones that surround us. All of these are blessings from the hand of God.

But above our temporal blessings consider for a moment what the death of Jesus means to you and me personally. He has brought the happiness of heaven within our reach. Because of His matchless love we are now called the children of God. We can look for a

life that never ends all because of His matchless sacrifice on Calvary. Praise Him for a heavenly inheritance! Praise Him for His boundless promises! Praise Him that Jesus lives to intercede in the sanctuary above for us!

“Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me” (Psalm 50:23). All the angels of heaven unite in praising God. Let us begin learning that song that we are going to sing that we may soon join the ranks of the angels. Said the Psalmist, “While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being” (Psalm 146:2). “Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee” (Psalm 67:5).

One of the most beautiful and comforting passages of Isaiah refers to that pillar of cloud of fire revealing God’s care for us in the final struggles just ahead. “In that day [referring to the end of the world] shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain” (Isaiah 4:2–6).

Isn’t it beautiful that we can expect again the Lord to cover us with His glory and take care of us as He did the children of Israel in the coming time of trouble?



But now notice a contrast of those who are within the church today claiming to be Christians but have never surrendered to God. “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by Thy name, to take away our reproach” (Isaiah 4:1). These seven women are not pure women; they are impure. We are told they are taking hold of one man. The one man is Christ. They don’t want to follow His word; they don’t want to accept the Bread of Life. It says, they “will eat their own bread.” They have cooked up their own new theology based on manmade false doctrines upon which they are feeding. They even dress contrary to God’s way, refusing to put on His robe of righteousness which is given only to the obedient. They do not want to obey. All they want is His name, to be called Christians but refusing the clean, white fine linen which is the righteousness of Christ which God will place upon all who overcome every sin before He comes. Righteousness is sinlessness.

God’s saints are commandment keepers. They love Christ. “If ye love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). They are ready to be married to Christ. “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God” (Revelation 19:7–9).

Are we ready for this experience?

God had a purpose in bringing Israel to the Red Sea. He chose this method to test their faith. With the enemy at their back, with mountains on either side, with an impassible sea before them, God gave the command, “Go forward.” What if they had hesitated? What if they had

*Imagine!
Go forward? How?
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the song of Moses.*

not gone forward until their feet reached the water’s edge? The result – God would have never opened up a path in the sea. “By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned” (Hebrews 11:29).

“In marching down to the very water, they showed that they believed the word of God as spoken by Moses. They did all that was in their power to do, and then the Mighty One of Israel divided the sea to make a path for their feet.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 290.

This lesson is for us today. We who are living in this time of the end will find that at times duty seems hard to perform. Both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy picture a coming crisis, humanly speaking, that can only bring bondage and death, yet God speaks, “Go forward.” We must obey His command even though our eyes cannot penetrate the gathering darkness, even though the cold waves are gathering about our feet. We must remember that the obstacles that hinder our spiritual progress will never disappear before a halting and a doubting spirit.

“Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all. Unbelief

whispers, ‘Let us wait till the obstructions are removed, and we can see our way clearly;’ but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things.” *Ibid*.

The cloud of darkness to the Egyptians was to the Hebrews a flood of light. While the world is daily encountering a hopeless darkness in these days the soul trusting in God’s word will be filled with a light of peace. The Lord is about to deliver His people and He alone can give the victory.

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.”

By the grace of God, His people will someday soon sing this song. **LM**

*For more than fifty years, **Lawrence Nelson** served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a church pastor, evangelist, and then in Conference, Union, and General Conference leadership. When God laid upon him the responsibility to “tell it like it is” to alert the people how the church was leading them into the worldwide ecumenical movement, he was forbidden to preach in any church within the Oregon Conference. Elder Nelson passed to his rest on April 18, 2012.*



Where Do You Stand?

By John R. Pearson

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

1 Peter 5:8

The above verse is a familiar one, although it is one that most Christians accept somewhat casually. Indeed, many Christians see this text and others that refer to Satan and his efforts to lead God’s people astray as maybe a bit mythological, viewing Satan’s “alleged” existence as nothing more than an idle tale or the result of pagan influence on early Christians that has survived through the ages.

One woman, who was otherwise very intelligent, became quite upset on being told that Satan was responsible for the existence of the sin and misery that prevail on this earth. Her retort was that neither Satan nor God exists. Both are creations of man that serve as excuses for the various behaviors manifested by humankind.

To believe that way, of course, one cannot believe in any inspired writing, and certainly not the Bible. Regretful though it may seem, it is often best to leave unbelievers with that mindset to stew in their own juices, which they will eventually do, unless they let the light of truth shine into their hearts. Our only hope for these deluded souls is prayer, and lots of it.

However, to those who have read and studied the matter, the existence of a formidable foe is unquestionable. We are all familiar with the Fall of man, explained so clearly in Genesis 3. Man chose to obey “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9), rather than his Creator. As a result, “through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin” (Romans 5:12).

But why did Satan seek to cause man, the pinnacle of God’s creation, to fall? “Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Christ. ... But when God said to His Son, ‘Let us make man in our image’ (Genesis 1:26), Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred.” *Early Writings*, 145.

Satan’s envy, jealousy, and hatred led eventually to rebellion. Subtle at first and executed with the utmost skill, his efforts succeeded in convincing one third of the angels that he deserved the place held by the Son of God. His rebellion is explained clearly and beautifully in the first chapter of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, “Why Was Sin Permitted.” Even though he was a created being, he credited himself for his beauty, talent, and intellect and sought to be equal with his Creator. “‘Shall the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’” (Isaiah 45:9). Satan indeed manifested such a mindset toward his Creator!

The result, of course, was war in heaven—in *heaven!*

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:7–9).

An excellent summary of the conflict that brought about this war is given in this passage from Inspiration:

“Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. ‘I do nothing of Myself,’ said Christ; ‘the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father.’ ‘I seek not Mine own glory,’ but the glory of Him that sent Me (John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18). In these words is set forth the great principle which is *the law of life for the universe*. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, *the law of life*.”

“In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their

homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because

God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world.” *The Desire of Ages*, 21, 22. [Emphasis added.]

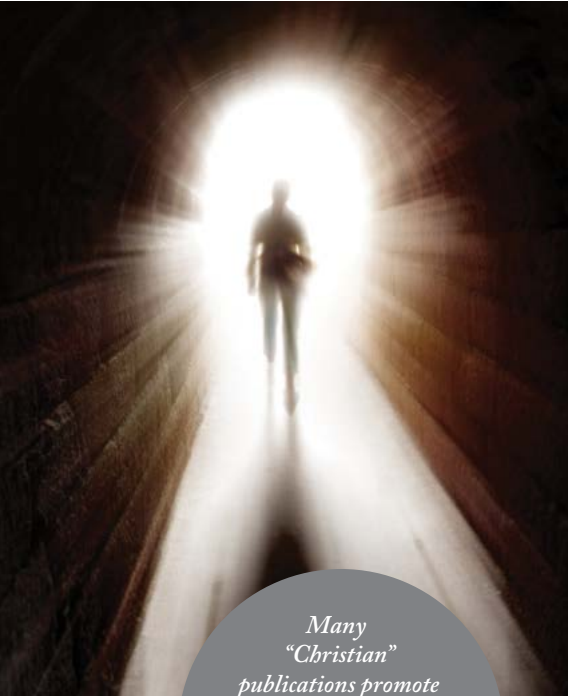
So, Satan effected the Fall of our first parents and claimed the world as his domain. Because he was not privy to the plan of creation, which included provision for the salvation of mankind should he fail to maintain his obedience to his Creator, Satan was certain that he would have complete control over the human race as long as it should last and that man was rightfully his, since he chose to obey him rather than his Creator.

“The fall of man filled all heaven with sorrow. The world that God had made was blighted with the curse of sin and inhabited by beings doomed to misery and death. There appeared no escape for those who had transgressed the law. ...

“But divine love had conceived a plan whereby man might be redeemed.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 63.

It was this plan for man’s salvation, conceived when the Father and Son consulted together regarding the creation of man in their image, that Satan had no knowledge of. If he had known about it, he would have known that

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although he might cause man to fall, there was a plan “whereby man might be redeemed.” Though there would be some who would choose to stand under Satan’s black banner, there would be a blood-stained banner raised that would provide redemption for all who chose to stand under it.

Even with Satan’s acquired knowledge of this fact, for he has now diligently studied the Bible for thousands of years, and the Spirit of Prophecy for more than a hundred, he is determined to cause as many to fall as he possibly can, for he knows now that he does not have to bear the penalty for lost souls. They will each bear their own fate. Satan’s punishment is to bear the penalty for those who have accepted the salvation wrought by the sacrifice of the Son of God. Thus the more he can cause to stand under his black banner, the less punishment he has to bear.

So the question for Satan becomes, How can I bring about the loss of the most souls?

Unfortunately for man, Satan is not bound by the law of God. He can lie, and it is through his lies that he succeeds in persuading so many poor souls to stand in his dark shadow—although many do so unknowingly.

How many has he convinced that their dead loved ones are already in heaven? Even “religious” publications promote that error. One immensely popular “Christian” publication has in almost every issue at least one if not several stories of actions, believed to have been committed by dead relatives, that have brought comfort to their survivors. How could these survivors doubt it when a departed relative, who supposedly has previously provided some comfort in a supernatural manner, leads them to believe that God has changed His mind regarding the day of worship?

In such an instance, those who have not made the Scriptures their safeguard will be deceived by Satan and his evil co-conspirators into believing two of his lies: man’s soul is immortal and the seventh day is no longer God’s Sabbath day of rest. These two lies, by the way, have been and are being promulgated by the vast majority of the Christian world today.

But between now and then, Satan is diligently at work to cause man to have no regard whatsoever for God’s law. He insinuates thoughts into our minds that, unless rejected, will lead to man’s downfall.

“There is no safety for any of us unless we trust fully in God, and take a decided stand, guarding the avenues of the will, resisting the first insinuations of Satan, rejecting his counsel to yield to questionable impulses. This requires watchfulness, perseverance, and continual adherence to the word of God under all circumstances. We are here as probationers and are deciding our own eternal destiny.” *The Signs of the Times*, May 15, 1893.

“Those who would not fall a prey to Satan’s devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest. The heart must be faithfully sentinelled, or evils without will awaken evils within, and the soul will wander in darkness.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 518.

How many are there who fail to “guard well the avenues of the soul”? How many are there who willingly entertain every evil thought that enters their mind, not realizing that Satan slaps his knee in delight because

he is causing another soul to fail of reaching the divine standard? How many fail to realize that they are “deciding their own destiny” and choosing—again, many unknowingly—to stand under the black banner of error?

It is not by chance that so many of the Bible writers have cautioned

“
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truth seekers against letting the mind wander wherever it may. Paul wrote more than once about the necessity of mental discipline.

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (2 Corinthians 10:4–6).

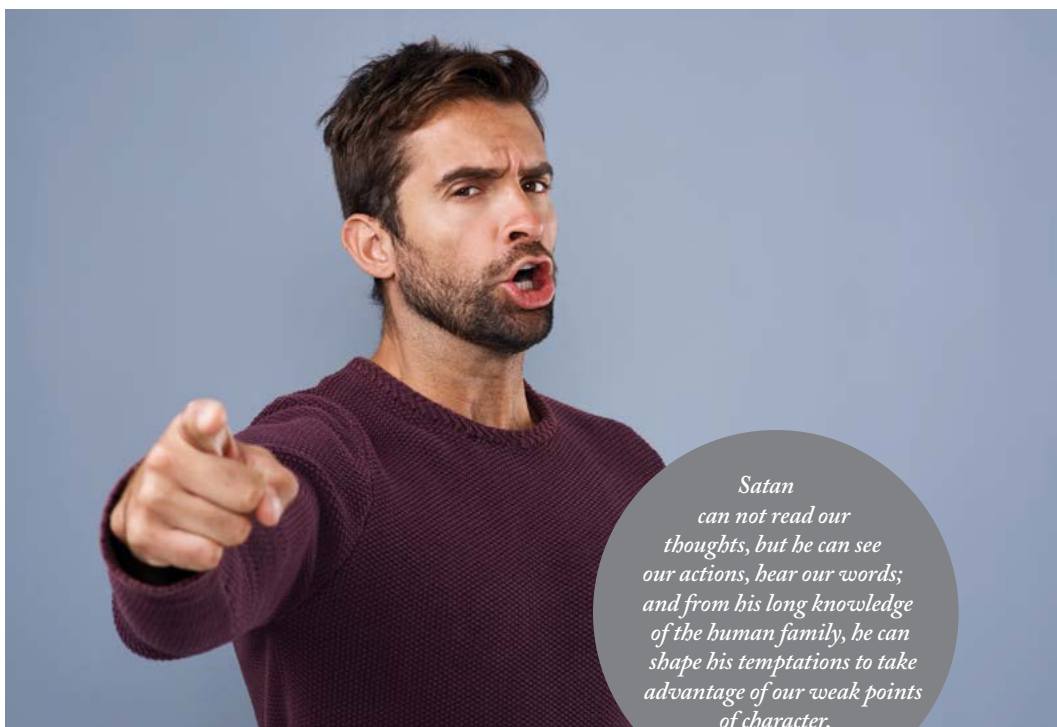
Isaiah and Jeremiah also cautioned their contemporaries about evil thoughts. When Isaiah fulfilled God’s instructions to him to “Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins,” he summed up their faults by concluding that “Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity” (Isaiah 58:1; 59:7).

Jeremiah reached very much the same conclusion when he told the children of Israel, “O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you” (Jeremiah 4:14)?

Inspiration tells us that “In the struggle to reach the highest standard, success or failure will depend much upon the character, and the manner in which the thoughts are disciplined.” *This Day With God*, 66.

“Satan can not read our thoughts, but he can see our actions, hear our words; and from his long knowledge of the human family, he can shape his temptations to take advantage of our weak points of character. And how often do we let him into the secret of how he may obtain the victory over us.” *The Review and Herald*, February 27, 1913.

“There are many who are really troubled because low, debasing thoughts come into the mind, and are not easily banished. Satan has his evil angels around us; and though they cannot read men’s thoughts, they closely watch their



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words and actions. Satan takes advantage of the weaknesses and defects of character that are thus revealed, and presses his temptations where there is the least power of resistance. He makes evil suggestions, and inspires worldly thoughts, knowing that he can thus bring the soul into condemnation and bondage.” *Ibid.*, April 8, 1884.

“Never forget that thoughts work out actions. Repeated actions form habits, and habits form character.” *The Upward Look*, 89.

And character determines where we stand. It is the only thing man possesses that he will carry with him to heaven. Inspiration states, “A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.

“The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 332.

It is Satan’s sole objective to prevent man from acquiring this treasure, “a character formed according to the divine likeness,” and from standing under the blood-stained banner of Christ in this world so that he can stand spotless on the shores of the crystal sea in the next.

How many fail to realize that we do indeed have an enemy who walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour?

[All Bible quotes NKJV unless otherwise noted.] **LM**

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The Boy of Joseph

Clues – Genesis 37 KJV

Across:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| B ₅ | When Jacob saw the bloody coat he had no _____ Joseph was dead | v. 33 |
| B ₁₃ | The brothers _____ Joseph for his dreams | v. 11 |
| D ₂ | Jacob said he'd go here in sorrow over Joseph's death | v. 35 |
| E ₇ | The Ishmaelites used these beasts of burden | v. 25 |
| E ₁₅ | The brothers were _____ with the plan to send Joseph to Egypt | v. 27 |
| F ₄ | The brothers dipped the coat in this | v. 31 |
| G ₉ | Joseph got on his brothers' bad side by giving an _____ report to Jacob | v. 2 |
| H ₁₂ | The brothers _____ Joseph up and out to sell him | v. 28 |
| I ₆ | The brothers hated Joseph for his dreams and his _____ | v. 8 |
| J ₁₃ | Jacob _____ Joseph more than his other sons | v. 3 |
| K ₂ | Judah reasoned that killing Joseph would not _____ them | v. 26 |
| K ₁₉ | Joseph dreamed that even this worshipped him | v. 9 |
| L ₁₀ | The brothers couldn't do this peaceably with Joseph | v. 4 |
| M ₃ | Number of stars in his dream that bowed to Joseph | v. 9 |
| N ₁₀ | The brothers first planned to put Joseph's dead body here | v. 20 |
| O ₅ | Joseph wanted his brothers to hear about his _____ | v. 6 |
| P ₁ | The brothers _____ Joseph into an empty pit | v. 24 |
| P ₁₇ | This brother had more compassion for Joseph than the others | vs. 22, 29 |
| Q ₁₀ | The brothers _____ Joseph of his coat | v. 23 |
| R ₂ | Jacob assumed an evil _____ had killed and eaten Joseph | v. 33 |
| R ₁₈ | What Jacob did over the apparent death of Joseph | v. 35 |
| S ₈ | What the brothers exchanged their brother for | v. 28 |

Down:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|-------|
| A ₃ | The Ishmaelites were taking this to Egypt | v. 25 |
| A ₁₄ | In Jacob's mind he _____ Joseph was dead | v. 33 |
| A ₁₇ | The brothers were incensed that Joseph might _____ over them | v. 8 |
| B ₈ | The brothers were eating this when they saw the Ishmaelites | v. 25 |
| C ₁₀ | First dream: the brothers' _____ bowed to Joseph's sheaf | v. 7 |
| C ₁₉ | Derogatory term used for Joseph when the brothers saw him | v. 19 |
| C ₂₁ | Where Joseph finally found his brothers | v. 17 |
| D ₅ | Jacob sent Joseph to the _____ of Hebron | v. 14 |
| E ₇ | All Jacob's children tried to _____ him over the death of Joseph | v. 35 |
| E ₁₂ | Judah suggested they _____ Joseph | v. 27 |
| E ₁₅ | Jacob made Joseph a _____ of many colors | v. 3 |
| H ₃ | Jacob _____ over the death of Joseph many days | v. 34 |
| H ₁₄ | Joseph's mission: get word about his brothers and the _____ | v. 14 |
| J ₁₇ | Reuben wanted to _____ Joseph to his father | v. 22 |
| K ₅ | In Joseph's first dream all the brothers were here | v. 7 |
| K ₁₁ | In Joseph's first dream his sheaf stood _____ | v. 7 |
| K ₂₁ | Jacob was partial to Joseph because he was born in his _____ (two words) | v. 3 |
| M ₈ | The conspiracy against Joseph began before he was _____ to them | v. 18 |
| M ₁₉ | Jacob _____ Joseph over his dreams | v. 10 |

A	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		15	16		18	19	20	21	A
B																					B
C																					C
D																					D
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S																					S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

O6 When Reuben discovered Joseph gone he _____ his clothes

v. 29

O15 The brothers _____ Joseph more and more

vs. 4, 5, 8

P3 Joseph to a certain man: I _____ my brothers

v. 16

Q10 In Egypt Joseph was _____ again

v. 36

Answer Key:

22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
S			D																		S
R			P	E	W																R
D			K																		D
N			E	U	R																N
O			G	B	E																O
N			A	E	V																N
W			D	R	I																W
L			L																		L
N			O	O	W																N
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"Show Us a Sign from Heaven"

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired Him that He [Jesus] would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times" (Matthew 16:2, 3)?

The sign they asked was a miracle—some wonderful token in the heavens to gratify their curiosity. Signs were frequently given by the prophets; and if He were the Messiah, they argued, He would give some evidence to prove it. Those miracles which included only the relief of human necessities, the healing of the woes of mankind, had no particular interest for them; for they looked upon suffering and distress with hard-hearted, unsympathetic indifference. In relieving the oppressed and suffering, Christ cast a reproach upon them, not only for their careless indifference toward the poor, but because they were themselves the direct cause of much of the misery that existed.

Well had the prophet declared of this people: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me. ... Israel doth not know, My people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children that are

corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. . . . Every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them" (Isaiah 1:2-4, 23). "Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity can not enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey" (Isaiah 59:14, 15, *first part*).

Christ tried to present before the Pharisees their inconsistency. By certain indications in the heavens they professed themselves wise to foretell the weather. "When it is evening," he said, "ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" If these signs in the heavens are sufficient evidence on which to base your faith, why do you not believe the evidence given of My mission? The works that I do, they testify of Me.

The relation of the Jewish nation to God has often been presented as a marriage relation—God the husband, the nation the wife. Their separation from God by wicked works is called adultery. The Jews had been unfaithful to the covenant that God had made with them. Not only spiritually but literally they were transgressors of the law of God. Christ would work no miracle to satisfy the curiosity of the people. "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign," He said, "and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas" (Matthew 16:4).

It was not Christ's mission to exalt Himself as an astrologer. His work was with sinful human beings, whom He came to save from hopeless woe and misery. The angel that foretold His birth declared, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people

from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). And more than six hundred years before, He Himself had declared: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness" (Isaiah 61:1-3). This was His mission.

Even the wicked Herod could perceive the greatness of the works of Christ; but the scribes and Pharisees could not be convinced. The works which they could not explain away they charged to the agency of the devil. The Holy Spirit was sent down to bless this people, but they barred the door of their hearts against His influence. Christ well knew that however strong and uncontrovertible the evidence He might give them, they would not receive it. Therefore He kept steadily at the work which had been planned in the councils of heaven, healing the sick and relieving the oppressed. He knew that in this work He has giving [sic] ample proof of His mission to those who were honest in heart. His heart was grieved by their obstinacy and determined resistance of light and truth. "If I had not done among them the works which none

other man did," He said, "they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father" (John 15:24).

Christ was God manifest in the flesh; in Him dwelt "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). All this glory He longed to pour upon the world, but men refused to receive it. They were given evidence upon evidence; but they bound themselves up in their stubborn unbelief and prejudice. Therefore they were without excuse.

We are to learn a lesson from the sin of this people. Today there are many who have taken their position on the side of unbelief, as if it were a virtue, the sign of a great mind, to doubt. Because the works of God can not be explained by finite minds, Satan brings his sophistry to bear upon them, and entangles them in the meshes of unbelief. If these doubting ones would come into close connection with God, He would make His purposes clear to their understanding.

The position of those who resist light is thus set forth by the apostle Paul: "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the eyes of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4). The operation of the Spirit is foolishness to the unrenewed heart; but to those who are humble, teachable, honest, childlike, and who desire to know the will of the Father, His word is revealed as the power of God unto salvation.

The Youth's Instructor, March 21, 1901. **LM**

“
*The relation of the
Jewish nation to God has
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husband, the nation the wife.
Their separation from God
by wicked works is
called adultery.*”

Vera's Victory

Vera was one of those very lively little girls—you know the kind. Full of high spirits. The kind that makes a mother tired.

That particular afternoon Vera had been a little more lively than usual, and when the time came for her to go to bed, no one was more happy than her mother.

“At last!” sighed Mother, as she went downstairs after tucking Vera into bed and kissing her goodnight. “Now, perhaps I can have a little peace.”

Mother went into the dining room, now quiet and still. Feeling very tired, she decided to lie on the sofa for a little while and take a rest. Gradually she felt herself falling asleep. Then, before her eyes were quite closed, something began to happen.

Very slowly, very softly, the dining room door began to open. A little more, and a little more.

Who could it be? thought Mother, frightened. Had a burglar gotten into the house?

Then, what do you suppose? From behind the door came a white-robed figure. Yes, it was little Vera in her nightie.

Mother did not move. Nor did she say a word. She just pretended to be asleep, and watched.

Vera tiptoed across the soft carpet over to the dining table.

Now, in the middle of the table was a large bowl of apples, oranges, and nuts.

On top of all was a big bunch of grapes. Vera had been looking at this bunch of grapes all day, wishing that it might be hers. Now she reached out her hand, picked up the grapes, and tiptoed out of the room, closing the door very quietly behind her.

Of course she thought that nobody had seen her. But Mother, as usual, had seen everything. Mother always does.

But now Mother felt very sad.

“To think that my Vera, my own little girl would wait till she thought I was not looking and then creep down here to steal that bunch of grapes! Oh, what shall I do! What shall I say to her?”

Then, just as Mother was feeling very much upset, something began to happen again.

Once more the dining room door began to open—very softly, very slowly. From behind it came the same little white-robed figure. It was Vera again, still

in her nightie, and still clasping the bunch of grapes tightly in her hand.

Tiptoeing over to the table, she put the bunch of grapes back in exactly the same place that she had found it. Then, in a big, loud voice, she said, “And there, Mr. Devil, that’s where you get left.”

After that she turned around and started for the door. But before she had reached it, Mother was on her feet and her arms were clasped around Vera’s neck.

“Oh, darling!” she cried. “I’m so glad you won the victory over that temptation!”

What a happy time they both had then!

I like to think of what must have happened on the stairs that evening. All the way up, the voice of the tempter had said, “Go on, Vera; grapes have a lovely taste. Take one. Nobody will ever know. It will be all right. Mother will never find out.”

At the same time another voice inside her had said, “No, don’t, Vera. That would be stealing. That would be wrong. Mother would be disappointed. Do the right thing and take those grapes back! Put them back where you found them.”

Somewhere on the stairs the victory was won. And after that everything turned out happily—as it always does when we fight temptation and win.

Every boy and girl is tempted at some time or other to do something wrong. Sometimes the temptation is very strong indeed. Sometimes you may wonder what *is* the right thing to do. But if you listen to that little voice that speaks within your heart, the voice of conscience, you will not make a mistake. Jesus will give you the victory, if you ask His help.

The Story Book, Character-building Stories for Children, 18–21.

“He has made it possible for every tempted son and daughter of Adam, in every time of temptation, to gain a glorious victory. He has placed the power of heaven within the reach of His children.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, October 3, 1901. **LM**





Cute But Deadly!

I saw a chipmunk in our back yard. How cute—I thought! We put a birdfeeder out and many birds started appearing in our yard for meals. It was entertaining to see this cute little chipmunk out under the feeder, along with little birds, gathering the seeds that had fallen. The birds adjusted to the chipmunk being there without fear.

Then one afternoon I witnessed that little chipmunk carrying off a little bird to his den. What a shock! About an hour later I watched him mingle among the birds before he again attacked another little bird and carried it off! Again I was shocked! I didn't know chipmunks ate birds! Sadly, the chipmunk mingled with the birds that felt safe around him not knowing he was their enemy. Needless to say, we trapped the chipmunk and relocated him.

Many things, like the cute little chipmunk, seem so harmless that we

find ourselves mixing with them until one day we realize we are hooked! That is how the devil works—he eases himself in pretending to be friendly, then watch out!

“He [Satan] bade his angels go and lay their snares especially for those who were looking for Christ’s second appearing, and who were keeping all God’s commandments. . . .

“If you can make them place their affections upon these things, we have them yet. They may profess what they please, only make them care more for money than the success of Christ’s kingdom, or the spread of the truths we hate. Present the world before them in the most attractive light, that they may love and idolize it. We must keep all the means in our ranks we can. The more means they have, the more will they injure our kingdom by getting our

subjects. . . . Cause all the distraction you can. Destroy love for each other. . . . Make covetousness and love of earthly treasures the ruling traits of their character. As long as these traits rule, salvation and grace stand back. Crowd all you can around them to attract them, and they will be surely ours. Not only are we sure of them, but their hateful influence will not be exercised toward others to lead them to heaven.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, 179, 180.

Does this sound familiar? Anything that causes you to give your precious hours of probation over to them may be “cute” but “deadly” and be the cause of losing eternal life unless some life choices are changed.

The innocent birds had no idea their lives would end so suddenly. Be careful to avoid the clutches of the enemy that seem so harmless.

Heavenly Father: Help me to be faithful that I may be part of the earth made new where there will be no death in Your creation at all. Remove this world from my heart that I may be ready for Your kingdom. Grant me spiritual discernment that I may see where Satan has redirected my feet and/or my thoughts. Help me to keep my thoughts on heavenly and not the temporary pleasures of this earth. Save me from the cute but deadly. Amen. **LM**

"I've been looking at *LandMarks* on line for some time and enjoying the content. Love the puzzles and the new format."

—LR, Arkansas

"Enclosed is a donation to help with postage. You do an awesome job. Thank you for all the hard work. The new look of *LandMarks* is wonderful!"

—DH, Nevada

"Thank you for your ministry. There is much confusion in the conference right now. So much so that I cannot make heads or tails of it. I'm glad I have your ministry to turn to. Many blessings."

—CW, North Carolina

"I am enclosing [a donation] to help you reaching searching hearts everywhere. Thank you for *LandMarks* magazine. God bless!"

—CC, Mississippi

February Sermon of the Month

Understanding Revelation

By Marshall Grosboll

The sanctuary service and the book of Daniel are key to understanding the book of Revelation.

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

February 2019

Dear Friend,

On a recent speaking engagement, Evelyn and I were in a large international airport. Every time that I am in these kinds of places I have a recurring thought: Every one of these people is someday either going to have everlasting life or an everlasting death, and if it is death, it will be a most unpleasant death. "Christ felt much as sinners will feel when the vials of God's wrath shall be poured out upon them. Black despair, like the pall of death, will gather about their guilty souls, and then they will realize to the fullest extent the sinfulness of sin. ... If they refuse the heavenly benefit and choose the pleasures and deceitfulness of sin, they have their choice, and at the end receive their wages, which is the wrath of God and eternal death. They will be forever separated from the presence of Jesus, whose sacrifice they had despised. They will have lost a life of happiness and sacrificed eternal glory for the pleasures of sin for a season." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 210.

You have heard of the expression "searching for a needle in a haystack." Although the great mass of people in the world will turn away from the gift of salvation and lose their souls, here and there is one of God's jewels, presently in the bondage of the enemy of God and man, who will respond to an invitation of mercy. Our mission is to find these lost souls. How are we going to find them?

"Our churches are to be aroused to take up aggressive warfare. We are to consecrate soul and body to God. We are to hunt and fish for souls. We are God's witnesses, and every power of the being is to be put to use in His service. Sing His praises. Pray with and for souls." *The Review and Herald*, March 1, 1906. [Emphasis added.]

Your brother in witnessing,



John J. Grosboll

13th Sabbath Offering

Papua New Guinea



Supporting Outreach Efforts

Laymembers Association of Free Seventh Day Adventists



Papua New Guinea is a country in the South Pacific, east of Indonesia, with 7 million inhabitants. Although most of the people are now Protestants, there is lots of indigenous religions still practiced across many ethnic groups, speaking hundreds of languages.

Steps to Life was recently blessed with a visit by Pastor Harold Peiko of the Everlasting Gospel Ministry in Papua New Guinea. During his visit he explained the work of an organization he helped to found in 1994 as a result of several faithful present-truth pastors being expelled from the conference organization.

In 1996 this group officially became the Laymembers Association of Seventh Day Adventists. For several reasons, they have since become Free Seventh Day Adventists.

During the two intervening decades, they have established churches, founded youth groups, conducted street evangelism, held camp meetings, conducted training programs in gospel and medical missionary work, and have helped encourage many Sunday-keeping pastors to accept the truth of God's commandments.

The dedication and outreach efforts of this group are very encouraging. They clearly understand the hard work necessary to take the message to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.

During the first quarter of this new year, we are collecting funds to support the efforts of Pastor Peiko and his fellow pastors and workers in carrying the truth to the shores, plains, and mountains of Papua New Guinea.

To assist us in this effort, please mark your Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings PNG.

from the
Mission Fields



A Report from
Laymembers
Association

Progress in Papua New Guinea

By John R. Pearson

When Brother Harold Peiko visited the ministry last year, he expressed a need for portable sound systems for evangelistic work. Using the funds that were contributed as a result of his appeal, Steps to Life was able to provide him with enough support to buy the equipment he needed.

Because of the extreme geography in Papua New Guinea (PNG), getting the sound systems purchased and delivered proved to be quite interesting. Here is Brother Peiko's account.



Top: Members of the Laymembers Association receive the PA systems provided by Steps to Life.

Right: Harold Peiko (second from left) delivers portable public address systems to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.



"I have been so busy with meetings and also a bit delayed because of three weeks swollen limbs. Finally I went up to Eastern highlands last two weeks ago and helped out with the Laymen of the Highlands and Momase Regions to buy their complete sound system and then flew back to Port Moresby and helped Southern Region youth also to buy their sound system as well. For the New Guinea Islands Youth, I just sent money over to them and they bought theirs.

"On behalf of the Youth Department and the Youth of Papua New Guinea I would like to say thank you to the Steps to Life Ministry for its commitment of US\$4,500 toward buying of the sound systems for the Youth of Papua New Guinea. This was truly their desperate need.

"For the last 10 years they have been aggressive in trying to do personal and public evangelism. They did faithfully have weekend retreats and sent out groups of 10 to 20 to do outreach without speakers. Crowds gathered to hear the message and making the youth heard was hard. Even though the youth

are eager to preach among big crowds, it was difficult with the mini sound systems in the village, market places and public places. Toward purchasing of the speakers system, they tried to raise funds, so they were glad when Pastor Harold appealed to the brethren overseas on their behalf and the Steps to Life Ministry showed its support by sending money. Today, as you see they put on smiles of appreciation and are so enthusiastic to start preaching."

During Brother Peiko's visit he also explained the need for a sturdy four-wheel drive truck, which we explained in our previous magazine. Obtaining one has proven quite a challenge. The government of Papua New Guinea imposes a 120% combined tariff on vehicle imports. So a vehicle with a base price of \$20,000 would end up costing \$44,000.

Praise God for the household of the faithful. Brother Evan Sadler in New Zealand, who also supports the Laymembers Association in PNG, was able to determine that the tariffs on vehicles imported for use in religious

work is only 20%. Brother Sadler has also had experience with obtaining vehicles for ministerial use from overseas sources and has graciously agreed to assist us in this purchase. Please keep this effort in your prayers that all will go smoothly.

Brother Peiko truly has a heart for evangelism, for spreading the three angels' messages, and for supporting the training of youth to carry on the work. His efforts carry him to several different locations in the South Pacific. For example, in December, over a period of more than two weeks, he went to Vanuatu via Solomon Islands, and then to Fiji and on to Samoa.

He continues his efforts as best as he can, using public transportation when available. He looks forward to having reliable transportation to assist the Laymembers Association in their evangelistic work.

Please keep the work in the South Pacific in your prayers. To assist in their efforts, please mark your donations *Papua New Guinea*, or *PNG*. **LM**



Rambunctious Squirrels

Squirrels are familiar to almost everyone. More than 200 squirrel species live all over the world, with the notable exception of Australia. The tiniest squirrel is the aptly named African pygmy squirrel—only five inches long from nose to tail. Others reach sizes shocking to those who are only familiar with common tree squirrels. The Indian giant squirrel is three feet long.

Like other rodents, squirrels have four front teeth that never stop growing so they don't wear down from the constant gnawing. Tree squirrels are the types most commonly recognized, often seen gracefully scampering and leaping from branch to branch. Other species are ground squirrels that live in burrow or tunnel systems, where some hibernate during the winter season.

Ground squirrels eat nuts, leaves, roots, seeds, and other plants. They also

catch and eat small animals, such as insects and caterpillars. These small mammals must always be wary of predators because they are tasty morsels with few natural defenses, save flight. Sometimes groups of ground squirrels work together to warn each other of approaching danger with a whistling call.

Tree squirrels are commonly seen everywhere from woodlands to city parks. Though they are terrific climbers, these squirrels do come to the ground in search of fare such as nuts, acorns, berries, and flowers. They also eat bark, eggs, or baby birds. Tree sap is a delicacy to some species.

Flying squirrels are a third, adaptable type of squirrel. They live something like birds do, in nests or tree holes, and although they do not fly, they can really

move across the sky. Flying squirrels glide, extending their arms and legs

and coasting through the air from one tree to another. Flaps of skin connecting limbs to body provide a winglike surface. These gliding leaps can exceed 150 feet. Flying squirrels eat nuts and fruit, but also catch insects and even baby birds.

Whether they dwell high in a tree or in an underground burrow, female squirrels typically give birth to two to eight offspring. Babies are blind and totally dependent on their mothers for two or three months. Mothers may have several litters in a year, so most squirrel populations are robust.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/squirrels/>

As groups of ground squirrels work together to warn each other of approaching danger with a whistling call, "Our work has been marked out for us by our heavenly Father. We are to take our Bibles and go forth to warn the world. We are to be God's helping hands in saving souls—channels through which His love is day by day to flow to the perishing." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 150. **LM**



Q:

*Do I need to be baptized
if I have received the
Holy Spirit?*

A:

In Acts 10:44–48 the Bible describes the experience of the early church when the Gentiles heard the message of the Gospel: “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days” (NKJV).

“Peter preached Jesus to that company of attentive hearers; His life, ministry, miracles, betrayal, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, and His work in heaven, as man’s Representative and Advocate, to plead in the sinner’s behalf. As the apostle spoke, his heart glowed with the Spirit of God’s truth which he was presenting to the people. His hearers were charmed by the doctrine they heard, for their hearts had been prepared to re-

ceive the truth. The apostle was interrupted by the descent of the Holy Ghost, as was manifested on the day of Pentecost. ‘And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.’

“The descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Gentiles was not an equivalent for baptism. The requisite steps in conversion, in all cases, are faith, repentance, and baptism. Thus the true Christian church are united in one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Diverse temperaments are modified by sanctifying grace, and the same distinguishing principles regulate the lives of all. Peter yielded to the entreaties of the believing Gentiles, and remained with them for a time, preaching Jesus to all the Gentiles thereabout.”
The Story of Redemption, 289, 290. [LM](#)



Serving Portions

for Optimum Health


With a growing [pun intended] population in the Western world, it may be well to consider what and how much people are eating that is causing an epidemic in obesity.

With such a variety of foods needed for optimal health, we need to know what constitutes a healthy serving. Many have come to the conclusion that whatever we put on our plates is a serving. But, if analyzed, our plates are often already overloaded before heading for second and third helpings. Self-control is often lacking and a large class of children are brought up to think that eating at any time and as much as they want is their prerogative. This is the cause of many modern health issues.

In my younger years I remember sitting at meal times with a serving of food on my plate and the plate was still visible beneath the food! After eating what was on my plate I was full and satisfied. Many of the processed, packaged foods freely available and used today are not all healthy or satisfying. The result? People eat more and more. Curiosity led me to research what constitutes serving portions for optimal health.

The following information is a guide to understanding what is considered a healthy daily serving allowance.

“The information in the table is presented as a general guide to serving sizes for moderately active adults. Additional servings may be needed for highly active individuals, and fewer servings may be needed for less active individuals. Our committee reviewed My Vegetarian Plate (General Conference Nutrition Council), Harvard School of Public Health Healthy Plate, and USDA MyPlate, to come up with these suggestions.”

May God give each one the courage and strength that “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV). 

Foods	What counts as a serving?	Daily Servings
Fruits	½ cup fresh, canned, or frozen fruit ¼ cup dried fruit	3–4
Vegetables	½ cup cooked or 1 cup raw vegetables	4–6
Whole Grains	1 slice whole-grain bread 1 cup whole-grain cereal, ½ cup cooked brown rice, pasta, or other whole grains	5–8
Beans, Peas, Lentils, Soy	½ cup cooked beans, peas or lentils ½ cup tofu 1 cup soy milk	3–6
Nuts, Peanuts, Seeds, Peanut/Nut Butters	¼ cup nuts or seeds 2 tablespoons peanut or nut butter	1–3
Herbs, Spices, Plant Oils	Fresh or dried herbs and spices 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil, or other plant oil	Herbs/Spices: Use liberally Plant Oils: Up to 5

<https://oldwayspt.org/programs/oldways-vegetarian-network/recommended-daily-servings-each-level-pyramid>



A New Life in Christ

By John J. Grosboll

Factions have developed among nations and churches claiming to be Christian since the first century, even while the apostles were alive. There are obvious reasons why.

The residents of the city of Alexandria in Egypt in the days of the apostles were noted as some of the most highly educated in the world; in fact, many people among the Jews and from Palestine went to Alexandria to obtain a finished education. The book of Acts records an experience of one such man who had received a high level Greek education. He had heard about the preaching of John the Baptist and had accepted Jesus as His Saviour, although he did not understand the gospel perfectly. In Acts 18, verses 24 to 26 it says, “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit,



“

If you want to be in the kingdom of heaven, you must cooperate with the Holy Spirit to become sanctified – made holy.

he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

There was much that Apollos would learn. He did not know all about the death, the resurrection, the ascension and the intercession of Christ in the sanctuary in heaven for His people, and the promise of Jesus that those who accepted Him would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. However, he boldly taught what he did know. Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers who, when they heard him preach, had opportunity to explain to him the deeper meaning of the gospel. This man, with grateful surprise and joy when he learned more about Jesus, whom the Christians worshiped, began to teach even more boldly in the synagogue, becoming one of the most able defenders of the Christian faith.

We see here an example where a scholarly man who was a brilliant orator learned the way of the Lord more perfectly from a Christian man and woman of humble employment, that of tent-making. Once he accepted and understood the gospel more perfectly, he desired to go to the city of Corinth and teach there. “When he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 18:27, 28).

Many of the Jews who had been expelled from Rome had moved to Corinth. They were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah whom they expected would come soon and elevate the Jewish people above all nations and languages. When Apollos

arrived at Corinth, he showed them conclusively that their expectations of another Messiah to come were in vain. He taught them that the Messiah had already come and that He had suffered a shameful and violent death at the hand of their Jewish teachers.

Apollos became very successful in proclaiming the gospel in Corinth so much so that some of the church members began exalting his labors above that of Paul. Apollos was working in harmony with Paul for the advancement of the cause of Christianity, but a rival factious spirit developed in the church that threatened to greatly hinder the cause of truth.

Paul said, “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me, concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas’ [Peter], ... or ‘I am of Christ.’ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 1:10–13).

Because Apollos was a brilliant orator and scholar, some of the people preferred his preaching so much that they said, “We are under the spiritual leadership of Apollos.” Others said, “No, we’re under the spiritual leadership of Paul.” Others chose to be under the spiritual leadership of Peter, who was intimately acquainted with Jesus Christ.

There were some who thought they had the perfect solution. They claimed to be under the spiritual direction of Christ. So, factions were developing in the church at Corinth and Satan took the opportunity to take advantage of their imaginary differences. In addition to this problem, other factions were developing because of Judaizing teachers who had come into the Corinthian church. These Judaizing teachers taught that the believers who observed the ordinances of the Mosaic law and were circumcised had a closer relationship to God than those who were uncircumcised. They took advantage

of the fact that the apostles allowed diversity within the Christian church and allowed the Jews to keep up with some of their customs that they had received in the old covenant.

Paul had to meet these Judaizing teachers in every church that he founded or visited. Notice what he taught: "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters" (1 Corinthians 7:19).

The Judaizing party looked upon Paul as an apostate and attempted to destroy his influence. They visited every church that Paul had organized and created divisions. They believed the ends would justify the means so they circulated false charges against the apostle.

Paul came to be distrusted and even despised by some Christians in the churches that he had raised up. These divisions in regard to the ceremonial law and the relative merits of different ministers teaching the doctrine of Christ caused him much anxiety and trouble and explains the root underlying the problem that causes factions today among nations, churches, and families.

Notice how Paul addressed this issue in 1 Corinthians 3:1-4: "And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal [fleshly, unconverted], as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, 'I am of Paul,' and another, 'I am of Apollos,' are you not carnal?"

In other words, you are still living in the flesh; you are still unconverted. Paul counsels a lot about this subject through his epistles.

Notice what he wrote to the Romans: "Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the



"Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters".

1 Corinthians 7:19

Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Romans 8:5-7).

Many claim they cannot keep the law of God and that is true, for the carnal mind cannot keep the law of God, is not subject to the law of God, and cannot be. But when you receive the Holy Spirit, Jesus causes you to put to death the deeds of the carnal nature, those deeds of the flesh, and to live a new life in Him.

Paul explained it to the churches in Galatia in this way: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunk-

eness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:16-21).

We see here the problem that is underneath the contention, strife, and all the trouble in the world today. People are not converted. It can happen in the family; it can happen in the church; or it can happen in society, in a school, in an institution, an organization, or even in a whole nation. These factions, variances, and all strife prove that there are people who still hold onto their carnal nature. They are unconverted. Jesus told Nicodemus that unless you are born of water and of the Spirit, there is no chance that you can enter the kingdom of heaven. (See John 3:5.) The only

people who will be fit to enter heaven are those who have been born of the Holy Spirit. All who are born again of the Holy Spirit will live their lives in harmony with God's law (see Romans 8:4) and be fit and ready to be taken to heaven when Jesus returns.

Paul says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh (that is, the carnal nature) with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:22-24).

When Paul came to Corinth, a wicked and idolatrous city, he was dealing with people who had no experimental knowledge of the way of salvation; so he was obliged to present the truth in its most simple form, because their carnal minds could not discern the sacred revelations of God. They were strangers to the manifestation of divine power.

Paul said, "I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus

Christ and Him crucified. ... Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us though His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ... But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”

(1 Corinthians 2:1, 2, 9, 10, 14).

Paul said that the rulers of this world didn't know Jesus when He was on earth “for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (verse 8). But they didn't know Him, for they had no understanding of spiritual things.

As a wise instructor, Paul began to set before the church in Corinth the true object of life, impressing their minds with the lessons of the divine Teacher so that they could come up from their worldliness and sin to a life of purity and eventually immortal life. He did not venture to directly rebuke those who were licentious and immediately show them how heinous their sins were in the sight of a holy God or they would have been crushed. He especially dwelt on practical godliness, the character of holiness necessary for all who will receive eternal life.

There are some Christians today who believe that holiness is just something for certain holy people called saints and that the rest of us have to be saved some other way. This is contrary to the New Testament that teaches that everyone who is saved must be a holy person. Paul wrote about this in his letter to the

Hebrews. He said, “Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14, literal translation).

If you want to be in the kingdom of heaven, you must cooperate with the Holy Spirit to become *sanctified* – *made holy*. We are living in a world where the philosopher turns aside

from the light of salvation because it puts his proud theories to shame. The worldly person refuses to receive the gospel because it would separate him from his earthly idols and draw him to a holier life, which

he finds unattractive in his carnal state. But when Paul went to Corinth, there were people, even among the most sinful, who did accept the truth of the cross of Christ—the truth that Jesus, the Creator of the heavens and the earth and the majesty of heaven, had died to bring salvation to sinners.

Paul says, “Christ died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3). He explained that the wise and elevated people of this world often do not accept the preaching of the cross when he said, “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world

through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are” (1 Corinthians 1:18–28).

Do you understand that spiritual things are spiritually discerned? Do you understand that if you are going to have eternal life, you must receive the Holy Spirit and be transformed in character? Jesus told Nicodemus that unless He was born again, born of the Spirit, he would not enter the kingdom of God. It is time to do some serious soul searching. The level on which you live will determine your eternal destiny.

Jesus is waiting and wants to give you a new heart, a new Spirit, a new mind with new desires. He called it the new birth experience. How is it with you, friend? Have you been born again?

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

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*If you are going to have
eternal life, you must receive
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transformed in character.*”

February 24 – March 2

Becoming Wiser by Experience

Key Text

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).

Study Help: *The Ministry of Healing*, 473, 474; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 706–713.

Introduction

“He [David] learned that only by God’s power could he come to the throne; only in His wisdom could he rule wisely.” *Education*, 152.

Sunday

LEARNING REVERENCE

- a. How had David learned to exercise the utmost care and reverence when transporting the ark the second time? 2 Samuel 6:12, 13. What charge is given to those who hold positions of responsibility in the Lord’s work today? Isaiah 52:11.

Note: “He [David] resolved to make another attempt to remove the ark, and he now gave earnest heed to carry out in every particular the directions of the Lord. Again the chief men of the nation were summoned, and a vast assemblage gathered about the dwelling place of the Gittite. With reverent care the ark was now placed upon the shoulders of men of divine appointment, the multitude fell into line, and with trembling hearts the vast procession again set forth. After advancing six paces the trumpet sounded a halt. By David’s direction sacrifices of ‘oxen and fatlings’ (2 Samuel 6:13) were to be offered.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 706.

“Men and women may be well versed in Bible knowledge, as well acquainted with the Scripture as were the Israelites with the ark, and yet if their hearts are not right before God, success will not attend their efforts. God will not be with them. They

do not have a high sense of the obligations of the law of heaven, nor do they realize the sacred character of the truth they are teaching. The charge is, ‘Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord’ (Isalah 52:11).” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 998.

- b. How was David dressed on this particular occasion, and why? 2 Samuel 6:14, last part.

Note: “The king had laid aside his royal robes and had attired himself in a plain linen ephod, such as was worn by the priests. He did not by this act signify that he assumed priestly functions, for the ephod was sometimes worn by others besides the priests. But in this holy service he would take his place as, before God, on an equality with his subjects. Upon that day Jehovah was to be adored. He was to be the sole object of reverence.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 706, 707.

Monday

SACRED JOY

- a. What should we understand by David’s “dancing”? 2 Samuel 6:14, first part.

Note: “David’s dancing in reverent joy before God has been cited by pleasure lovers in justification of the fashionable modern dance, but there is no ground for such an argument. In our day dancing is associated with folly and midnight reveling. Health and morals are sacrificed to pleasure. By the frequenters of the ballroom God is not an object of thought and reverence; prayer or the song of praise would be felt to be out of place in their assemblies. This test should be decisive. Amusements that have a tendency to weaken the love for sacred things and lessen our joy in the service of God are not to be sought by Christians. The music and dancing in joyful praise to God at the removal of the ark had not the faintest resemblance to the dissipation of modern dancing. The one tended to the remembrance of God and exalted His holy name. The other is a device of Satan to cause men to forget God and to dishonor Him.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 707.

- b. Describe the chorus, procession, and ceremony that accompanied the entrance of the sacred ark into the gates of Jerusalem. Psalm 24:7–10; 2 Samuel 6:17–19.

Note: “When the gates were opened wide, the procession entered, and with reverent awe the ark was deposited in the tent that had been prepared for its reception. ...

“The Spirit of divine inspiration had rested upon the king, and now as the last beams of the setting sun bathed the tabernacle in a hallowed light, his heart was uplifted in gratitude to God that the blessed symbol of His presence was now so near the throne of Israel.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 708.

Tuesday

PRIDE VS. THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

- a. How did Michal, David’s wife, show evidence of having inherited and cultivated the same bitter spirit as her father? 2 Samuel 6:16, 20. Relate how her attitude was displeasing to Heaven as well as to her husband. 2 Samuel 6:21–23.

Note: “The dignity and pride of king Saul’s daughter was shocked that king David should lay aside his garments of royalty, and lay by his royal scepter, and be clothed with the simple linen garments worn by the priest. She thought that he was greatly dishonoring himself before the people of Israel. But God honored David in the sight of all Israel by letting his Spirit abide upon him.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 112, 113.

“In the bitterness of her passion she could not await David’s return to the palace, but went out to meet him, and to his kindly greeting poured forth a torrent of bitter words. Keen and cutting was the irony of her speech: [2 Samuel 6:20 quoted].

“David felt that it was the service of God which Michal had despised and dishonored. ... To David’s rebuke was added that of the Lord: because of her pride and arrogance, Michal ‘had no child unto the day of her death’ (2 Samuel 6:23).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 708–711.

- b. Explain how the deep joy tasted by David, so contrary to the nature of the proud, carnal heart, will be experienced in even greater measure by God’s final remnant when He utters His covenant of peace. Psalm 96:1–6, 9–13; Revelation 14:12, 13; Daniel 12:2.

Note: “David humbled himself, but God exalted him. He sung in an inspired manner, playing upon the harp, producing the most enchanting music. He felt in a small degree that holy joy that all the saints will experience at the voice of God when their captivity is turned, and God makes a covenant of peace with all who have kept His commandments.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 113.

“[Daniel 12:2 quoted.] All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law.” *The Great Controversy*, 637.

“I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were at liberty after a certain time to put them to death. ... God would be honored by making a covenant with those who had kept His law, in the sight of the heathen round about them; and Jesus would be honored by translating, without their seeing death, the faithful, waiting ones who had so long expected Him.” *Early Writings*, 282, 283.

Wednesday

A DREAM DEFERRED

- a. When the throne of David was established and he had rest from all his enemies, what was his greatest aspiration? 2 Samuel 7:1–3.

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- b. What should we learn from the Lord’s message to David in this regard? 2 Samuel 7:4, 5, 12, 13.
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Note: “Our plans are not always God’s plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions, as He did in the case of David. But of one thing we may be assured, He will bless and use in the advancement of His cause those who sincerely devote themselves and all they have to His glory. If He sees it best not to grant their desires He will counterbalance the refusal by giving them tokens of His love and entrusting to them another service.

”In His loving care and interest for us, often He who understands us better than we understand ourselves refuses to permit us selfishly to seek the gratification of our own ambition.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 473.

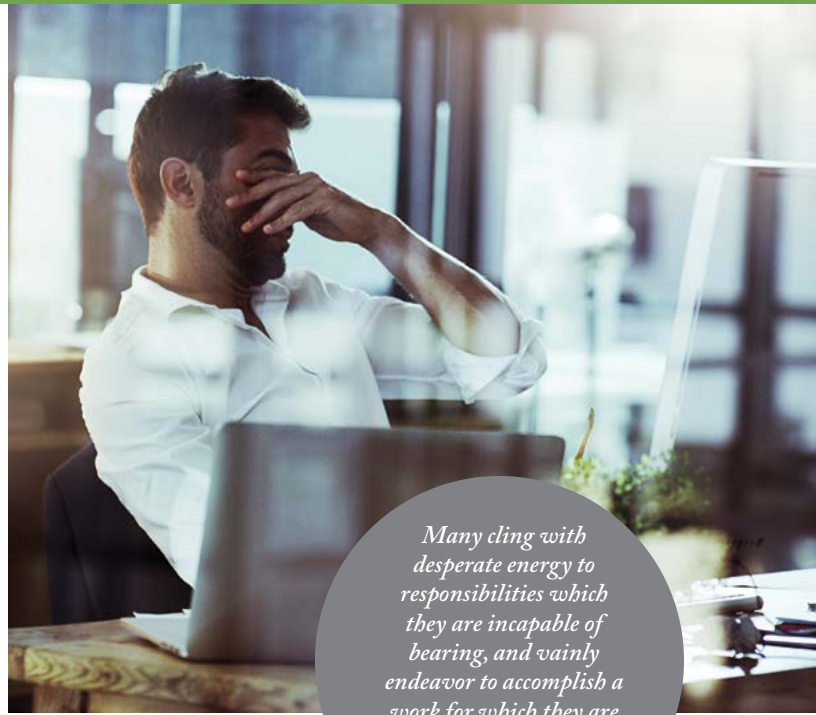
Thursday

THE GRACE OF HUMILITY

- a. Why was David himself not permitted to build the house of God? 1 Chronicles 22:7–10.

- b. What should we learn from David’s attitude in response to the Lord’s declaration? 2 Samuel 7:18–22. Name another servant of God who also manifested this same type of graceful humility. John 3:26–30.

Note: “David knew that it would be an honor to his name and would bring glory to his government to perform the work that he had purposed in his heart to do, but he was ready to submit his will to the will of God. The grateful resignation thus manifested is rarely seen, even among Christians. How often do those who have passed the strength of manhood cling to



Many cling with desperate energy to responsibilities which they are incapable of bearing, and vainly endeavor to accomplish a work for which they are insufficient, while that which they might do, lies neglected.

the hope of accomplishing some great work upon which their hearts are set, but which they are unfitted to perform! God’s providence may speak to them, as did His prophet to David, declaring that the work which they so much desire is not committed to them. It is theirs to prepare the way for another to accomplish it. But instead of gratefully submitting to the divine direction, many fall back as if slighted and rejected, feeling that if they cannot do the one thing which they desire to do, they will do nothing. Many cling with desperate energy to responsibilities which they are incapable of bearing, and vainly endeavor to accomplish a work for which they are insufficient, while that which they might do, lies neglected. And because of this lack of co-operation on their part the greater work is hindered or frustrated.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 712, 713.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What constitutes the bearing of God’s ark with reverence today?
- 2 Contrast David’s religious dancing with today’s celebration movement.
- 3 How is the bitterness of Michal a warning to each of us?
- 4 What should Christians realize, even in establishing worthy aims?
- 5 What can we as Adventists learn from God’s verdict about David’s goal?

March 3 – 9

Secrets of Success

Key Text

“Surely His salvation is nigh them that fear Him; that glory may dwell in our land” (Psalm 85:9).

Study Help: *My Life Today*, 53; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 713–716.

Introduction

“It was regard for the law of God that gave Israel strength during the reign of David.” *Prophets and Kings*, 466.

Sunday

A PROMISE-KEEPER

- a. Give an example which reveals the fidelity and justice of David. 2 Samuel 8:15; 9:1–6.

Note: “David, in his covenant with Jonathan, had promised that when he should have rest from his enemies he would show kindness to the house of Saul. In his prosperity, mindful of this covenant, the king made inquiry, ‘Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake’ (2 Samuel 9:1)? He was told of a son of Jonathan, Mephibosheth, who had been lame from childhood. At the time of Saul’s defeat by the Philistines at Jezreel, the nurse of this child, attempting to flee with him, had let him fall, thus making him a lifelong cripple. David now summoned the young man to court and received him with great kindness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 713.

- b. What missionary lesson can we learn from the way David succeeded in touching the heart of this skeptical grandson of Saul? 2 Samuel 9:7–13.

Note: “The private possessions of Saul were restored to him [Mephibosheth] for the support of his household; but the son of Jonathan was himself to be the constant guest of the king, sitting daily at the royal table. Through reports from the enemies of David, Mephibosheth had been led to cherish a strong prejudice against him as a usurper; but the monarch’s generous and courteous reception of him and his continued kindness won the heart of the young man; he became strongly attached to David, and, like his father Jonathan, he felt that his interest was one with that of the king whom God had chosen.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 713.

“In tender, pitying love, lay hold of the discouraged and helpless ones. Give them your courage, your hope, your strength. By kindness compel them to come. ...

“If the servants of God will walk with Him in faith, He will give power to their message. They will be enabled so to present His love and the danger of rejecting the grace of God that men will be constrained to accept the gospel.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 235, 236.

Monday

A KINDNESS SCORNE

- a. How did Hanun, king of the Ammonites, totally misinterpret David’s gesture of genuine kindness? 2 Samuel 10:1–4.

Note: “They [the Ammonites] could have no conception of the generous spirit that had inspired David’s message. When Satan controls the minds of men he will excite envy and suspicion which will misconstrue the very best intentions. Listening to his counselors, Hanun regarded David’s messengers as spies, and loaded them with scorn and insult.

“The Ammonites had been permitted to carry out the evil purposes of their hearts without restraint, that their real character might be revealed to David. It was not God’s will that Israel should enter into a league with this treacherous heathen people.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 714.

- b. What was Hanun’s immediate action when he considered the potential consequences of the insult he had rendered to Israel? 1 Chronicles 19:6–8.



In tender, pitying love, lay hold of the discouraged and helpless ones. Give them your courage, your hope, your strength.

Note: “The Ammonites, knowing that the insult offered to Israel would surely be avenged, made preparation for war. [1 Chronicles 19:6, 7 quoted.]

“It was indeed a formidable alliance. The inhabitants of the region lying between the river Euphrates and the Mediterranean Sea had leagued with the Ammonites. The north and east of Canaan was encircled with armed foes, banded together to crush the kingdom of Israel.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 715.

Tuesday

A MAJOR VICTORY

- a. What did Joab declare to encourage his people?
1 Chronicles 19:13. How did David inspire them also?

Note: “David, realizing how much dependent upon the result of this contest, took the field in person, and by the blessing of God inflicted upon the allies a defeat so disastrous that the Syrians, from Lebanon to the Euphrates, not only gave up the war, but became tributary to Israel. Against the Ammonites David pushed the war with vigor, until their strongholds fell and the whole region came under the dominion of Israel.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 715.

- b. Although today the weapons of our warfare are not to be carnal, how can we gain strength by considering the outcome of this particular battle in David’s reign? 2 Corinthians 10:3–6; 1 John 5:4, 5.

Note: “The dangers which had threatened the nation with utter destruction proved, through the providence of God, to be the very means by which it rose to unprecedented greatness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 715.

“The kingdom of Israel had now reached in extent the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham, and afterward repeated to Moses: ‘Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates’ (Genesis 15:18). Israel had become a mighty nation, respected and feared by surrounding peoples. In his own realm David’s power had become very great. He commanded, as few sovereigns in any age have been able to command, the affections and allegiance of his people. He had honored God, and God was now honoring him.” *Ibid.*, 716.

Wednesday

DELIVERANCE AND THANKS

- a. What did David realize in considering his remarkable deliverances? Psalms 18:20–22, 35, 46–50; 33:16, 17; 44:4–7.

- b. What opportunities were afforded Israel during this period, and why? Psalm 85:9–13; Proverbs 14:34.

Note: “In the reign of David and Solomon, Israel became strong among the nations and had many opportunities to wield a mighty influence in behalf of truth and the right. The name of Jehovah was exalted and held in honor, and the purpose for which the Israelites had been established in the Land of Promise bade fair of meeting with fulfillment. Barriers were broken down, and seekers after truth from the lands of the heathen were not turned away unsatisfied. Conversions took place, and the church of God on earth was enlarged and prospered.” *Prophets and Kings*, 25.

Thursday

DANGER LURKING

- a. How had a seemingly small sin crept into David’s experience, thus paving the way for worse temptations? Song of Solomon 2:15.

Note: “He [David] often conquered, and triumphed. He increased in wealth and greatness. But his prosperity had an influence to lead him from God. His temptations were many and strong. He finally fell into the common practice of other kings around him, of having a plurality of wives, and his life was imbittered by the evil results of polygamy. His first wrong was in taking more than one wife, thus departing from God’s wise arrangement. This departure from right, prepared the way for greater errors. The kingly idolatrous nations considered it an addition to their honor and dignity to have many wives, and David regarded it an honor to his throne to possess several wives. But he was made to see the wretched evil of such a course by the unhappy discord, rivalry and jealousy among his numerous wives and children.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 86.

- b. What unseen foe was stalking David, just as with each one of us? Ephesians 6:12. What is our only defense? Ephesians 6:13; James 4:7, 8; 1 Peter 5:8, 9; 4:7.

Note: “In the midst of prosperity lurked danger. In the time of his greatest outward triumph David was in the greatest peril.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 716.

“In every soul two powers are struggling earnestly for the victory. Unbelief marshals its forces, led by Satan, to cut us off from the Source of our strength. Faith marshals its forces, led by Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. Hour by hour, in the sight of the heavenly universe, the conflict goes forward. This is a hand-to-hand fight, and the great question is, Which shall obtain the mastery? This question each must decide for himself. In this warfare all must take a part, fighting on one side or the other. From the conflict there is no release. ... We are urged to prepare for this conflict.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 328.

“The work of every soul is to resist the enemy in the power and might of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promise is that the devil shall flee from us. But let all realize that they are in peril, and there is no assurance of safety except as they comply with the conditions of the text. The Lord says, ‘Draw nigh to God’ (James 4:8). How?—By secret, earnest examination of your own heart; by childlike, heart-felt, humble dependence upon God, making known your weakness to Jesus; and by confessing your sins. Thus you may draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.” *Ibid.*, 346.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What can we learn from David’s kindness toward Mephibosheth?
- 2 Why do the heathen often misinterpret a kind act?
- 3 Explain the reason for Israel’s victory over the formidable alliance which rose up against them.
- 4 What should we learn from the prosperity of Israel under David?
- 5 Explain how to have consistent victory in the great controversy.

March 10 – 16

The Exalted Humbled

Key Text

“Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile” (Psalm 32:2).

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 717–726; *Steps to Christ*, 23, 25, 35, 36.

Introduction

“Those who, by pointing to the example of David, try to lessen the guilt of their own sins, should learn from the Bible that the way of transgression is hard.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 724.

Sunday

AT EASE IN THE BROAD WAY

- a. Trace the course which led David to go astray. 2 Samuel 11:1–4. How are we warned against this sin? Hebrews 13:4.

Note: “It was the spirit of self-confidence and self-exaltation that prepared the way for David’s fall. Flattery and the subtle allurements of power and luxury were not without effect upon him. Intercourse with surrounding nations also exerted an influence for evil. According to the customs prevailing among Eastern rulers, crimes not to be tolerated in subjects were uncondemned in the king; the monarch was not under obligation to exercise the same self-restraint as the subject. All this tended to lessen David’s sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. And instead of relying in humility upon the power of Jehovah, he began to trust to his own wisdom and might. ...

“David was surrounded by the fruits of victory and the honors of his wise and able rule. It was now, while he was at ease and unguarded, that the tempter seized the opportunity to occupy his mind. The fact that God had taken David into so close connection with Himself and had manifested so great

favor toward him, should have been to him the strongest of incentives to preserve his character unblemished. But when in ease and self-security he let go his hold upon God, David yielded to Satan and brought upon his soul the stain of guilt. He, the Heaven-appointed leader of the nation, chosen by God to execute His law, himself trampled upon its precepts.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 717, 718.

- b. How did Jesus explain what makes a person vulnerable to sin? John 15:5, *last part*. What admonitions are given to help us in this regard? 1 John 2:15, 16.

Note: “Whatever diverts the mind from God, whatever leads to self-exaltation or to self-dependence, is surely preparing the way for our overthrow. ...

“As soon as Satan can separate the soul from God, the only Source of strength, he will seek to arouse the unholy desires of man’s carnal nature. The work of the enemy is not abrupt; it is not, at the outset, sudden and startling; it is a secret undermining of the strongholds of principle. It begins in apparently small things—the neglect to be true to God and to rely upon Him wholly, the disposition to follow the customs and practices of the world.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 717, 718.

Monday

A DOWNWARD COURSE

- a. What further complicated David’s situation? 2 Samuel 11:5. Explain why God could not prosper David’s attempt to cover his sin. 2 Samuel 11:10–13.

Note: “Every effort which David made to conceal his guilt proved unavailing. He had betrayed himself into the power of Satan; danger surrounded him, dishonor more bitter than death was before him.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 718, 719.

- b. How did David feel when he was induced to add sin to sin? 2 Samuel 11:14–17, 26, 27; Psalm 32:3, 4. What should we remember when tempted by the enemy? Proverbs 14:12; James 2:10–12.

Note: “He [David] had excused his own sinful course to himself, until his ways seemed passable in his own eyes. One wrong step had prepared the way for another.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 86.

“There appeared but one way of escape, and in his desperation he was hurried on to add murder to adultery. He who had compassed the destruction of Saul was seeking to lead David also to ruin. Though the temptations were different, they were alike in leading to transgression of God’s law.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 719.

Tuesday

A SEVERE REBUKE

- a. What message of rebuke did God send to David through Nathan the prophet? 2 Samuel 12:1–9.

Note: “It was when David was pure, and walking in the counsel of God, that God called him a man after his own heart. When David departed from God, and stained his virtuous character by his crimes, he was no longer a man after God’s own heart.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 87.

“God in His mercy did not leave David to be lured to utter ruin by the deceitful rewards of sin.

“For the sake of Israel also there was a necessity for God to interpose. As time passed on, David’s sin toward Bathsheba became known, and suspicion was excited that he had planned the death of Uriah. The Lord was dishonored. He had favored and exalted David, and David’s sin misrepresented the character of God and cast reproach upon His name. It tended to lower the standard of godliness in Israel, to lessen in many minds the abhorrence of sin; while those who did not love and fear God were by it emboldened in transgression.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 720.

- b. Relate the response of David and the immediate mercy of God. 2 Samuel 12:13. Nevertheless, what were to be some of the inevitable consequences of David’s sin? 2 Samuel 12:10–12, 14.

Note: “David awakens as from a dream. He feels the sense of his sin. He does not seek to excuse his course, or palliate his sin, as did Saul; but with remorse and sincere grief, he bows his head before the prophet of God, and acknowledges his guilt.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 86.

“The sentence of death was transferred from David to the child of his sin.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 722.

“David’s transgression had changed his relation to God. The Lord could not in any wise sanction iniquity. He could not exercise His power to protect David from the results of his sin as he had protected him from the enmity of Saul.” *Ibid.*, 723.

“God shows his displeasure at David’s having a plurality of wives by visiting him with judgments, and permitting evils to rise up against him from his own house.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 87.

Wednesday

GENUINE REPENTANCE

- a. Describe the depth of David’s heartfelt repentance. Psalm 51:1–4, 7, 10–14. Through sacred song, what public appeal does he make even to the last generation?

Note: “This experience was most painful to David, but it was most beneficial. ... The conviction of his guilt was the saving of his soul. He saw himself in another light, as the Lord saw him.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1023.

“He [David] did not flatter himself that sin was a matter with which he had nothing to do, and that should not concern him. As he saw the depths of deceit in his heart, he was deeply disgusted with himself, and prayed that God would keep him back by His power from presumptuous sins, and cleanse him from secret faults.” *Ibid.*, vol. 3, 1147.

“Instead of endeavoring to conceal his guilt he desired that others might be instructed by the sad history of his fall.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 725.

b. What evidence did David have that his repentance was not in vain? Psalms 51:16, 17; 32:1, 2, 5–7.

Note: “David did not in despair give over the struggle. In the promises of God to repentant sinners he saw the evidence of his pardon and acceptance.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 725.

Thursday

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

a. What should all realize about sin? Ezekiel 33:12, 13, 18; 1 John 3:4.

Note: “Sin is sin, whether committed by one sitting on a throne, or by one in the humbler walks of life. The day is coming when all who have committed sin will make confession, even though it is too late for them to receive pardon. God waits long for the sinner to repent. He manifests a wonderful forbearance. But He must at last call the transgressor of His law to account. ...

“It is not safe for us to close our eyes and harden our consciences, that we shall not see or realize our sins. We need to cherish the instruction we have had in regard to the hateful character of sin in order that we may repent of and confess our sins.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1147.

b. How can David’s repentance encourage us? Isaiah 55:7; 1 John 1:9.

Note: “Many have murmured at what they called God’s injustice in sparing David, whose guilt was so great, after having rejected Saul for what appear to them to be far less flagrant sins. But David humbled himself and confessed his sin, while Saul despised reproof and hardened his heart in impenitence.

“This passage in David’s history is full of significance to the repenting sinner. It is one of the most forcible illustrations given us of the struggles and temptations of humanity, and of genuine repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Through all the ages it has proved a source of encouragement to souls that, having fallen into sin, were struggling under the burden of their guilt. Thousands of the children of God, who have been betrayed into sin, when ready to give up to despair have remembered how David’s sincere repentance and confession were accepted by God, notwithstanding he suffered for his transgression; and they also have taken courage to repent and try again to walk in the way of God’s commandments.

“Whoever under the reproof of God will humble the soul with confession and repentance, as did David, may be sure that there is hope for him. Whoever will in faith accept God’s promises, will find pardon. The Lord will never cast away one truly repentant soul. He has given this promise: ‘Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me’ (Isaiah 27:5). ‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon’ (Isaiah 55:7).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 726.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What made David and could make us wide open to temptation?
- 2 How does God seek to help us avoid adding sin to sin?
- 3 Why are the sins of leaders especially grievous?
- 4 Name some point of particular significance from Psalm 32 or 51.
- 5 How can we – like David – be believers after God’s own heart?

March 17 – 23

Heartbreaking Consequences

Key Text

“Rejoice not against me, o mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me” (Micah 7:8).

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 737, 738; *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 89–91.

Introduction

“David’s history enables us to see also the great ends which God has in view in His dealings with sin; it enables us to trace, even through darkest judgments, the working out of His purposes of mercy and beneficence.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 738.

Sunday

BITTER EFFECTS OF SIN

- a. How had David’s sin reduced his credibility before his children? Proverbs 6:32, 33.

Note: “There was a great change in David himself. He was broken in spirit by the consciousness of his sin and its far-reaching results. He felt humbled in the eyes of his subjects. His influence was weakened. Hitherto his prosperity had been attributed to his conscientious obedience to the commandments of the Lord. But now his subjects, having a knowledge of his sin, would be led to sin more freely. His authority in his own household, his claim to respect and obedience from his sons, was weakened. A sense of his guilt kept him silent when he should have condemned sin; it made his arm feeble to execute justice in his house. His evil example exerted its influence upon his sons, and God would not interpose to prevent the result. He would permit things to take their natural course, and thus David was severely chastised.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 723.

- b. What is written about Amnon, David’s first-born son? 2 Samuel 13:1, 2, 10–16. Why did David neglect to carry out his convictions regarding Amnon’s violent act? 2 Samuel 13:21; Romans 2:1.

Note: “The shameful crime of Amnon, the first-born, was permitted by David to pass unpunished and unrebuked. The law pronounced death upon the adulterer, and the unnatural crime of Amnon made him doubly guilty. But David, self-condemned for his own sin, failed to bring the offender to justice.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 727.

Monday

BLIND PARENTAL AFFECTION

- a. How was Amnon brought to justice? 2 Samuel 13:28, 29, 32. What warning should parents and church leaders heed from observing the character and outcome of Amnon?

Note: “Like other sons of David, Amnon had been left to selfish indulgence. He had sought to gratify every thought of his heart, regardless of the requirements of God. Notwithstanding his great sin, God had borne long with him. For two years he had been granted opportunity for repentance; but he continued in sin, and with his guilt upon him, he was cut down by death, to await the awful tribunal of the judgment. ...

“When parents or rulers neglect the duty of punishing iniquity, God Himself will take the case in hand. His restraining power will be in a measure removed from the agencies of evil, so that a train of circumstances will arise which will punish sin with sin.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 727, 728.

- b. **How can we avoid the same mistakes David committed in mishandling the case of Absalom? 2 Samuel 13:38, 39; 14:21–24, 28.**
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Note: “The evil results of David’s unjust indulgence toward Amnon were not ended, for it was here that Absalom’s alienation from his father began. After he fled to Geshur, David, feeling that the crime of his son demanded some punishment, refused him permission to return. And this had a tendency to increase rather than to lessen the inextricable evils in which the king had come to be involved.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 728.

“[After being permitted to return to Jerusalem] Absalom lived two years in his own house, but banished from the court. His sister dwelt with him, and her presence kept alive the memory of the irreparable wrong she had suffered. ... It was not wise for the king to leave a man of Absalom’s character—ambitious, impulsive, and passionate—to brood for two years over supposed grievances. And David’s action in permitting him to return to Jerusalem, and yet refusing to admit him to his presence, enlisted in his behalf the sympathies of the people.” *Ibid.*, 729.

Tuesday

CHARISMA, CHARM, AND TREACHERY

- a. **What factors made Absalom attractive to the people, and how did he craftily use these to his advantage when the unsuspecting king had accepted him back into his court? 2 Samuel 14:25, 26; 15:1–6.**
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Note: “With the memory ever before him of his own transgression of the law of God, David seemed morally paralyzed. ... The influence of David’s listlessness and irresolution extended to his subordinates; negligence and delay characterized the administration of justice. Absalom artfully turned every cause of dissatisfaction to his own advantage.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 729.

“Fomented by the artful insinuations of the prince, discontent with the government was fast spreading. The praise of Absalom was on the lips of all. ... The king, blinded by affection for his



When parents or rulers neglect the duty of punishing iniquity, God Himself will take the case in hand.

son, suspected nothing. The princely state which Absalom had assumed, was regarded by David as intended to do honor to his court—as an expression of joy at the reconciliation.” *Ibid.*, 730.

- b. **Relate the hypocritical plot of Absalom. 2 Samuel 15:7–12.**
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Note: “Absalom’s crowning act of hypocrisy was designed not only to blind the king but to establish the confidence of the people, and thus to lead them on to rebellion against the king whom God had chosen.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 730.

Wednesday

REMEMBERING PRIORITIES

- a. **Relate the startling news brought to David, and the strategic steps he took. 2 Samuel 15:13–17. What was his aim in taking this action?**
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Note: “In his great peril David shook off the depression that had so long rested upon him, and with the spirit of his earlier years he prepared to meet this terrible emergency. Absalom was mustering his forces at Hebron, only twenty miles away. The rebels would soon be at the gates of Jerusalem.

“From his palace David looked out upon his capital—‘beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth ... the city of the great King’ (Psalm 48:2). He shuddered at the thought of exposing it to carnage and devastation. Should he call to his help the subjects still loyal to his throne, and make a stand to hold his capital? Should he permit Jerusalem to be deluged with blood? His decision was taken. The horrors of war should not fall upon the chosen city. He would leave Jerusalem, and then test the fidelity of his people, giving them an opportunity to rally to his support. In this great crisis it was his duty to God and to his people to maintain the authority with which Heaven had invested him. The issue of the conflict he would trust with God.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, 731.

- b. In this tragic hour, how was David comforted by the faith of men such as Ittai the Gittite? 2 Samuel 15:18–23.**

Note: “David, with characteristic unselfishness, could not consent that these strangers who had sought his protection should be involved in his calamity. He expressed surprise that they should be ready to make this sacrifice for him. [2 Samuel 15:19–21 quoted.]

“These men had been converted from paganism to the worship of Jehovah, and nobly they now proved their fidelity to their God and their king. David, with grateful heart, accepted their devotion to his apparently sinking cause.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 731, 732.

Thursday

NOBILITY IN SUFFERING

- a. Though David eagerly yearned to keep God’s sacred ark with him, what noble decision did he make? 2 Samuel 15:24–29.**

Note: “As the appointed ruler of God’s heritage he was under solemn responsibility. Not personal interests, but the glory of God and the good of his people, were to be uppermost in the mind of Israel’s king. ... Without divine authority neither priest nor king had a right to remove therefrom the symbol of His presence. And David knew that his heart and life must be in harmony with the divine precepts, else the ark would be the means of disaster rather than of success. His great sin was ever before him. He recognized in this conspiracy the just judgment of God. The sword that was not to depart from his house had been unsheathed. He knew not what the result of the struggle might be. It was not for him to remove from the capital of the nation the sacred statutes which embodied the will of their divine Sovereign, which were the constitution of the realm and the foundation of its prosperity.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 732.

- b. Describe the hope expressed by David in this dark hour. 2 Samuel 15:30; 16:5–12; Psalm 3:1–3. What should we realize from this history? Psalm 89:18–20, 30–33.**

Note: “David utters no complaint. The most eloquent psalm he ever sang [Psalm 3] was when he was climbing Mount Olivet.” *Conflict and Courage*, 181.

“The Lord did not forsake David. This chapter in his experience, when, under cruelest wrong and insult, he shows himself to be humble, unselfish, generous, and submissive, is one of the noblest in his whole experience. Never was the ruler of Israel more truly great in the sight of heaven than at this hour of his deepest outward humiliation. ...

“In the experience through which He caused David to pass, the Lord shows that He cannot tolerate or excuse sin. ... He caused David to pass under the rod, but He did not destroy him; the furnace is to purify, but not to consume.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 738.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did David seem to be in a paralytic stupor?
- 2 How can we avoid repeating the mistakes found in David’s family life?
- 3 What factors can trigger an Absalom in the church?
- 4 Relate some evidences of David’s nobility during this period.
- 5 Why could David trust in God even at this time?

March 24 – 30

A Soul Brought to Peace

Key Text

“Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed Thy strength unto this generation, and Thy power to everyone that is to come” (Psalm 71:18).

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 743–755; *Conflict and Courage*, 186.

Introduction

“Glorious are the promises made to David and his house, promises that look forward to the eternal ages, and find their complete fulfillment in Christ.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 754.

Sunday

REBELLION SQUELCHED

- a. As David prepared for battle, what was his main concern? 2 Samuel 18:1–5. How did Absalom meet his death? 2 Samuel 18:9, 10, 14, 15.

Note: “As the king looked upon the opposing forces, the thought uppermost in his mind was not of the crown and the kingdom, nor of his own life, that depended upon the wage of battle. The father’s heart was filled with love and pity for his rebellious son.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 743.

- b. Relate how Joab had to arrest the reactions which followed this event. 2 Samuel 18:32, 33; 19:1–8.

Note: “Joab was filled with indignation. God had given them reason for triumph and gladness; the greatest rebellion that had ever been known in Israel had been crushed; and yet this great victory was turned to mourning for him [Absalom] whose crime had cost the blood of thousands of brave men. . . . [2 Samuel 19:5–7 quoted.]

“Harsh and even cruel as was the reproof to the heart-stricken king, David did not resent it. Seeing that his general was right, he went down to the gate, and with words of courage and commendation greeted his brave soldiers as they marched past him.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 745.

Monday

BLESSING AND PRESUMPTION

- a. Although the full restoration of David’s kingdom was neither immediate nor easy, what was he able to declare? 2 Samuel 22:1–3, 7, 18–22, 51.

Note: “After the death of Absalom, God turned the hearts of Israel, as the heart of one man, to David.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 91.

- b. What was the next error which David committed? 1 Chronicles 21:1–4.

Note: “It was pride and ambition that prompted this action of the king. The numbering of the people would show the contrast between the weakness of the kingdom when David ascended the throne and its strength and prosperity under his rule. This would tend still further to foster the already too great self-confidence of both king and people. [1 Chronicles 21:1 quoted.] The prosperity of Israel under David had been due to the blessing of God rather than to the ability of her king or the strength of her armies. But the increasing of the military resources of the kingdom would give the impression to surrounding nations that Israel’s trust was in her armies, and not in the power of Jehovah.

“Though the people of Israel were proud of their national greatness, they did not look with favor upon David’s plan for

so greatly extending the military service. The proposed enrollment caused much dissatisfaction; consequently it was thought necessary to employ the military officers in place of the priests and magistrates, who had formerly taken the census. The object of the undertaking was directly contrary to the principles of a theocracy." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 747.

Tuesday

REPENTANCE AND CONSEQUENCES

- a. What did David humbly realize even before the census had been completed? 2 Samuel 24:10. What choices did God offer and what did David choose? 2 Samuel 24:11–14.

- b. Why did so many people have to suffer, and what was the effect of David's intercession? 2 Samuel 24:15–17, 21, 25.

Note: "The taking of the census had caused disaffection among the people; yet they had themselves cherished the same sins that prompted David's action. As the Lord through Absalom's sin visited judgment upon David, so through David's error He punished the sins of Israel." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 748.

"Swift destruction followed. Seventy thousand were destroyed by pestilence. David and the elders of Israel were in the deepest humiliation, mourning before the Lord. As the angel of the Lord was on his way to destroy Jerusalem, God bids him to stay his work of death. A pitiful God loves His people still, notwithstanding their rebellion. The angel clad in warlike garments, with a drawn sword in his hand, stretched out over Jerusalem, is revealed to David, and to those who were with him. David is terribly afraid, yet he cries out in his distress, and his compassion for Israel. He begs of God to save the sheep. In anguish he confesses, 'I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. Let thine hand be against me, and against my father's house, and not upon the people' (2 Samuel 24:17). God speaks to David by his prophet, and bids him make atonement for his sin. David's heart was in the work, and his repentance was accepted." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 92, 93.

Wednesday

ABDICATION

- a. How had David prayed to have special grace in his old age? Psalm 71:9, 18–20. Describe the final trial of David's life, and the action which followed. 1 Kings 1:5, 6, 15–20, 32–35, 39.

Note: "Both by natural endowments and religious character Solomon was better qualified than his elder brother to become ruler of Israel; yet although the choice of God had been clearly indicated, Adonijah did not fail to find sympathizers. ...

"David at once abdicated in favor of Solomon, who was immediately anointed and proclaimed king. The conspiracy was crushed. Its chief actors had incurred the penalty of death. ... Joab and Adonijah were spared for the time, but after the death of David they suffered the penalty of their crime. The execution of the sentence upon the son of David completed the fourfold judgment [2 Samuel 12:5, 6] that testified to God's abhorrence of the father's sin." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 749, 750.

- b. Describe David's deepest concerns at the end of his life, and what he realized more fully. 2 Samuel 23:1–4; 1 Kings 2:1–3; 1 Chronicles 28:9.

Note: "Great had been David's fall, but deep was his repentance, ardent was his love, and strong his faith. He had been forgiven much, and therefore he loved much." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 754.

"The closing years of David's life were marked with faithful devotion to God. ... He manifested an earnestness and devotion in making extensive preparations for the building [temple], and spared neither labor nor expense, but made large donations from his own treasury, thereby setting a noble example before his people, which they did not hesitate with a willing heart to follow.

"David feels the greatest solicitude for Solomon. ... He has learned by experience that the Lord will in no case sanction wrong doing, whether it be found in the loftiest prince, or the humblest subject, but would visit the leader of his people with as much severer punishment as his position is more responsible

than the humble subject's. The sins committed by the leaders of Israel would have an influence to lessen the heinousness of crime on the minds and consciences of the people, and would be brought to the notice of other nations, who fear not God, but who trample upon his authority, and they would be led to blaspheme the God of Israel.

"David solemnly charges his son to adhere strictly to the law of God, and to keep all his statutes." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 94, 95.

"David, in arranging his business, sets a good example to all who are advanced in years, to settle their matters while they are capable of doing so, that when they shall be drawing near to death, and their mental faculties are dimmed, they shall have nothing of a worldly nature to divert their minds from God." *Ibid.*, 96.

Thursday

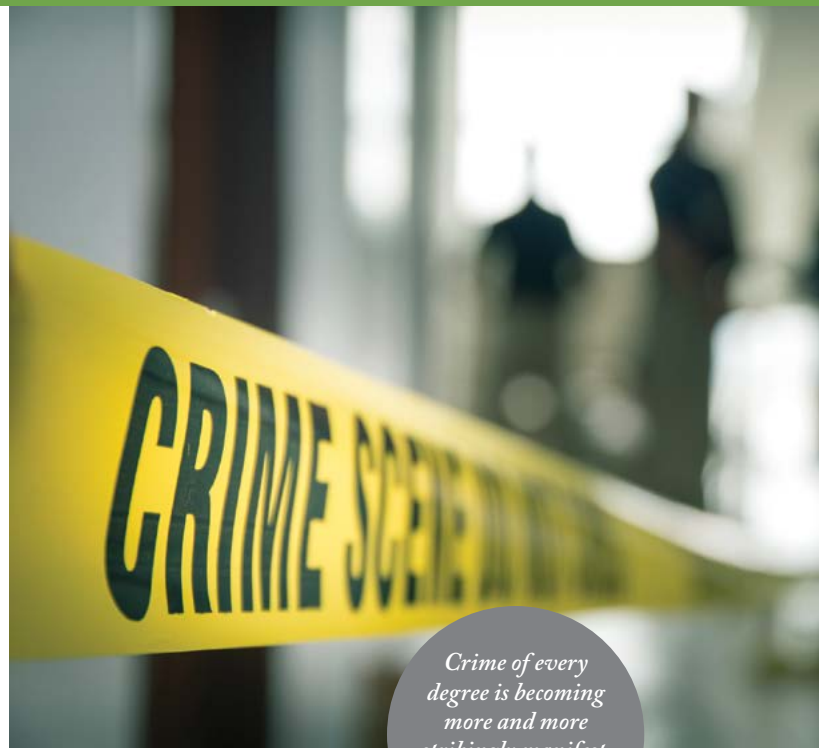
A LEGACY FOR THE LAST DAYS

- a. How are we to understand the promises recorded in 2 Samuel 7:16 and Psalm 110:1-5? Explain the significance of these promises. Luke 1:30-33; Matthew 22:41-45; Acts 2:29-36.

- b. What message penned by David is of particular importance to believers in these last days of earth's history? Psalm 119:17, 18, 33-40, 126, 127.

Note: "It is possible for men to go so far in wickedness, under continual remonstrance, that God sees that He must arise and vindicate His honor. Thus it is at the present period of this earth's history. Crime of every degree is becoming more and more strikingly manifest. The earth is filled with violence of men against their fellow-men.

"What position will the church take? Will those who in the past have had respect for the law of God, be drawn into the current of evil? Will the almost universal transgression and contempt of the law of God, darken the spiritual atmosphere of the souls of all alike? Will the disrespect of the law of God sweep away the protecting barriers? Because wickedness and lawless-



Crime of every degree is becoming more and more strikingly manifest. The earth is filled with violence.

ness prevail, is the law of God to be less highly esteemed? Because it is made void by the great majority of those living on the earth, shall the few loyal ones become like all the disloyal, and act as the wicked act? Shall they not rather offer up the prayer of David, 'It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law' (Psalm 119:126)?" *Ellen G. White Comments, "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1153.

"[Psalm 119:17, 18, 33-40 quoted.] Such prayers as this the Lord's servants should be continually offering to Him. This prayer reveals a consecration to God of heart and mind; it is the consecration that God is asking us to make." *Ibid.*, 1152.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What can we learn from the conversation between David and Joab following the death of Absalom?
- 2 Why was David's census displeasing to God?
- 3 Enumerate the fourfold judgment on David's sons.
- 4 What rules did the Holy Spirit, through David, set up for church leaders?
- 5 What did the Holy Spirit, through David, prophesy about the Messiah that was to come, and appeal to us in the last days?

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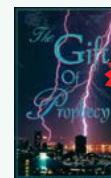
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The Gift of Prophecy

By Carlyle B. Haynes

Leeks

Leeks are closely related to onions—as the similarity in flavor shows—and are distant cousins of asparagus. All three are members of the lily family.

Although leeks probably originated in warm regions of Asia or the Mediterranean, they are now intensely cultivated in temperate to cool climates, particularly in Northern Europe where they are a favorite. In Wales, where leeks are a national symbol, men parade in the streets with leek-bedecked hats on special holidays.

Leeks are surprisingly nutritious, providing an appreciable amount of minerals and fiber together with plenty

of vitamin C. A half cup of chopped, boiled leeks contains only 15 calories but 25mg of vitamin C, as well as 16mg of calcium and a small amount of niacin.

Vegetables in the allium group (leeks, onions, shallots, scallions, chives, garlic) may have a protective effect against cancer, particularly gastric cancer, diabetes and heart disease, and like onions, leeks may help to lower cholesterol. Much of its therapeutic effect comes from its sulfur-containing compounds such as allicin. As allicin digests in the body, it produces sulfenic acid, a compound that neutralizes dangerous free radicals faster than any other known compound.

Leeks are most commonly used to add flavor, particularly to soups and stews. They are delicious in salads, vegetable dishes and quiches. But leeks have a milder, sweeter flavor than onions and a crunchy texture when cooked, which is why they are also delicious served on their own.

Excerpts from *Foods that Harm Foods That Heal*, The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., ©1997, 212, 213.



Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



CORN POTATO LEEK CHOWDER

Ingredients

- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 4-5 cups Yukon potatoes, diced
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups vegetable broth, divided
- 2 cups almond milk, unsweetened
- 3 cups corn, frozen or fresh
- 2 tsp. nutritional yeast, or to taste
- 1 tsp. salt, or to taste
- 1 cup cashews, soaked in water two hours
- 1-2 medium leeks, sliced

Process

In medium stockpot sauté onion and celery in small amount of water or oil for seven minutes. Add potatoes and paprika; sauté seven minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic; cook one minute. Add one cup broth, almond milk, corn, nutritional yeast and salt. Simmer, covered, for 15-20 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Drain and blend cashews and one cup broth until creamy; add to potatoes. For a creamier texture, blend half of potato/corn mixture; add back into pot. Stir in leeks; heat 2 minutes. Warm and satisfying!





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Change Service Requested

For those who can walk... The muscles and veins are enabled better to perform their work. There will be increased vitality, which is so necessary to health. The lungs will have needful action; for it is impossible to go out in the bracing air of a winter's morning without inflating the lungs.

Ellen White