

# HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

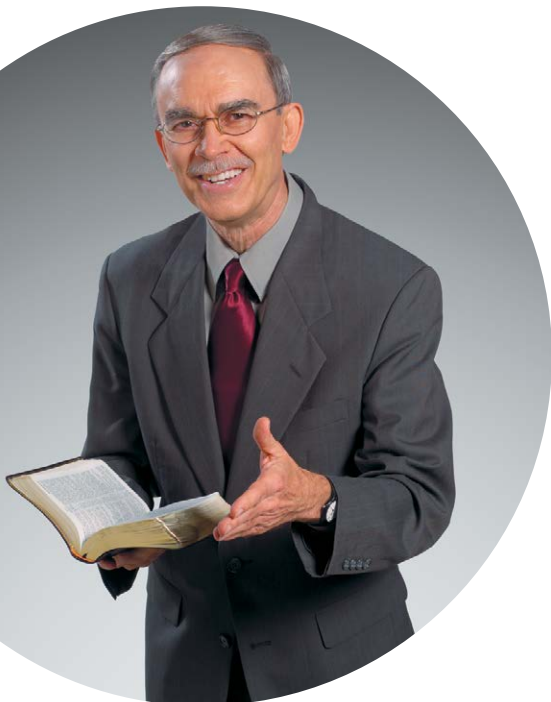
## *Faith That Works*

*It is popular today  
to embrace a passive  
religion, assuming that  
Christ does everything  
and you need do nothing  
to receive eternal life.*

*p. 2*

## *The Easy Yoke*

*p. 13*



## From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

# A New Creature

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

**J**ust as a good tree will bear good fruit, so will the tree that is actually planted in the Lord's garden produce good fruit unto eternal life. Besetting sins are overcome; evil thoughts are not allowed in the mind; evil habits are purged from the soul temple. The tendencies which have been biased in a wrong direction are turned in a right direction. Wrong dispositions and feelings are changed, new principles of action supplied, and there is a new standard of character. Holy tempers and sanctified emotions are now the fruit borne upon the Christian tree. An entire transformation has taken place. This is the work to be wrought.

"We see by experience that in our own human strength, resolutions and purposes are of no avail. Must we, then, give up our determined efforts? No; although our experience testifies that we cannot possibly do this work ourselves, help has been laid upon One who is mighty to do it for us. But the only way we can secure the help of God is to put ourselves wholly in His hands, and trust Him to work for us. As we lay hold of Him by faith, He does the work. The believer can only trust. As God works, we can work, trusting in Him and doing His will." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, 1080.

"The cross of Calvary challenges, and will finally vanquish every earthly and hellish power. In the cross all influence centers, and from it all influence goes forth. It is the great center of attraction; for on it Christ gave up His life for the human race. This sacrifice was offered for the purpose of restoring man to his original perfection. Yea, more, it was offered to give him an entire transformation of character, making him more than a conqueror." *Ibid.*, 1113.

"Christ declares, 'I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy

first love' (Revelation 2:4). Many are holding on to the truth with only the tips of their fingers. They have had great light and many privileges. Like Capernaum, they have in this respect been exalted to heaven. But unless they put away their pride and self-confidence, in the time of trial that is approaching they will become apostates. Unless they have an entire transformation of character, they will never enter heaven." *Review and Herald*, February 11, 1904.

"The mighty power of the Holy Spirit works an entire transformation in the character of the human agent, making him a new creature in Christ Jesus. ...

"We may talk of the blessings of the Holy Spirit, but unless we prepare ourselves for its reception, of what avail are our works? Are we striving with all our power to attain to the stature of men and women in Christ? Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us—the perfection of His character? When the Lord's people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, 'It is finished' (John 19:30)." *Ibid.*, June 10, 1902. **LM**

HISTORIC

## LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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**LANDMARKS** is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God's true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (2 Peter 1:12)—those historic doctrines espoused by Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the nineteenth century. Its purpose is to help all of God's remnant people to press together in unity, holding high the banner on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This magazine is designed to help believers to defend the faith and to expose the flood of false doctrine by which the truth is being assailed in these last days. It is the goal of **LANDMARKS'** editors to present articles based on truth from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Viewpoints of writers and/or contributors expressed outside of articles printed in this publication are not necessarily the views of this magazine's editors and are not endorsed by Steps to Life Ministries.

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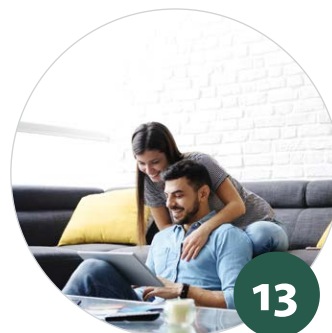


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# *Faith That Works*

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By John J. Grosboll

**W**e know there is coming a great time of trouble before Jesus returns. Some of us might be in prisons, in mountain caverns, or in the woods somewhere. At that time, it will be comforting to remember the things that we have studied while there was freedom.

In an article by Elder Robinson in *The Review and Herald* in 1931, he wrote, “There can be no doubt in the mind of any true Seventh-day Adventist that the supreme need of God’s remnant people is true vital godliness as a preparation for the advent of Christ and for the tests that are to come upon them before that event. This need places upon the ministry the solemn responsibility of giving to the flock of God, in a clear, tangible, and definite way, such instruction as will help them to understand how to obtain the experience that will bring into their lives complete victory over sin. On the one hand we see the great success of the enemy in deceiving earnest souls by causing them to depend in a greater or lesser degree upon some works of their own, at least as a partial means of salvation.”

That paragraph records one of the great battlefields between the sixteenth century reformers and the Roman Catholic church, which, in fact, has never changed its position. One day I turned the radio on in my car and listened to a Catholic program. The person speaking was actually attacking Protestantism by trying to prove that salvation came by faith *and* works. Martin Luther said that no, salvation does not come by faith and works. Works have no merit of any kind to gain any part of your salvation. Ellen White said that if you said to the angels that our works had something to do with our salvation, they would consider it treason against the government of God.

James 2 is used by Roman Catholics in a powerful way to try to prove that salvation comes by faith and works.

Elder Robinson continued in his article, “On the other hand, is there not danger that the minister, in order to emphasize the truth that these deluded souls need, will, while presenting the riches of the grace of Christ in affording a full and complete salvation, fail to make equally clear the part every man himself must act in cooperation with



God in order to receive the benefits of the atonement?

“The minister himself may understand this, and his life may be consistent. He may not in the course of his exposition of the doctrine of the righteousness by faith completely ignore the effort that is necessary to maintain a Christian experience. Yet if by dwelling disproportionately upon one side of the question, he leaves his hearers or readers to feel they may enter into a life of victory in which they are more or less passive, trusting Jesus to do everything for them without active, vigilant cooperation on their part, he has seriously failed to bring effective righteousness into their lives.”

That belief is very popular today, even among Seventh-day Adventists. People want a passive religion where Christ does everything and they do nothing, expecting to simply sit in a comfortable seat and allow Jesus to drive them to heaven.

Quoting Matthew 11:28–30 to prove their point, people have often said that it is easier to be saved than lost. Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your

souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

It says, “My yoke is easy.” However, if you look at the Greek word that is used there, it does not mean *easy*. The word *easy* is actually a dynamic equivalence in translation. If you translate it literally it would read “My yoke is kind.”

Though this text is used to try to show that it is easier to be saved than be lost, it is not true. You do not have to do anything to be lost.

Ellen White says, “This is an age famous for surface work, for easy methods, for boasted holiness aside from the standard of character that God has erected. All short routes, all cutoff tracks, all teaching which fails to exalt the law of God as the standard of religious character, is spurious. Perfection of character is a lifelong work, unattainable by those who are not willing to *strive for it* in God’s appointed way, *by slow and toilsome steps*. We cannot afford to make any mistake in this matter, but we want day by day to be growing up into Christ, our living Head.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 500. [Emphasis in original.]

When you are a young person growing up in a Christian home, it is very easy to assume that if you work at it you will attain perfection of character.

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*Perfection of character is a lifelong work, unattainable by those who are not willing to strive for it.*

However, attaining perfection of character takes a lifetime of slow, toilsome steps. She says, “We cannot afford to make any mistake in this matter, but we want day by day to be growing up into Christ, our living Head.” Ibid.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” (Ephesians 4:14, 15).

Christ is our living head. Concerning Him, Ephesians 1:22 says that “He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.”

At the Minneapolis General Conference in 1888, the subject of righteousness by faith was presented. This message was preached by Jones and Waggoner all over the country, but it was rejected by many Adventist leaders. However, in 1893 Ellen White sent to Elder A. T. Jones a caution concerning his preaching. She said, “I was attending a meeting, and a large congregation were present. In my dream you were presenting the subject of faith and the imputed righteousness of Christ by faith. You repeated several times that works amounted to nothing, that there were no conditions. The matter was presented in that light that I knew minds would be confused, and would not receive the correct impression in reference to faith and works.” *Notebook Leaflets*, vol. 1, chapter 21.

It was the way in which the message was presented that was in error, in a way that minds would be confused, and not the message itself. The result was that the relationship between faith and works would not be understood correctly.

Elder Robinson in this article went on to write, “Surely such a caution should be passed on so that our ministry today may

have the benefit of it. In order to make apparent this danger [of not understanding the balance between faith and works] there follow a few of these quoted statements of Mrs. White, pointing out the worthlessness of man’s efforts as being in themselves meritorious as a means of salvation.”

Our works have absolutely no merit in gaining salvation; we are saved on the basis of the merits of Jesus Christ. If you believe that you are saved by both faith and works, Ellen White says the devil knows that he will overcome you.

Elder Robinson writes, “Following each of these quotations in shorter lines are other statements taken from the same article which cannot be ignored if a balanced presentation is to be assured. These statements are designated by the letters A and B, A presenting one side of the question, B the other side of the question. For the sake of brevity, a few typical instances are given, and these are limited to *The Review and Herald* articles, immediately following the Minneapolis conference.”

“There are many who seem to feel that they have a great work to do themselves before they can come to Christ for His salvation. They seem to think that Jesus will come in at the very last of their struggle and give them help by putting the finishing touch to their life-work. It seems difficult for them to understand that Christ is a complete Saviour, and able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. (See Hebrews 7:25.) They lose sight of the fact that Christ Himself is ‘the way, the truth, and the life’ (John 14:6).” *The Review and Herald*, March 5, 1889.

The truth is that you need Christ’s help at the beginning of your Christian journey and all along the way. Ellen White says that we cannot keep ourselves from sin for one moment without Jesus (see *The Ministry of Healing*, 180).

It is in our weakness that Jesus can keep us from falling. When Peter walked on water to reach Jesus provides an illustration of living the Christian life. The impossible becomes possible when we fix our eyes on Jesus, and He is ever willing to help all who call on





*If you are  
fully satisfied with  
your own peculiar ways,  
so that you feel justified  
in complaining of your  
brethren, you will never  
reach heaven.*

Him. He said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5, *last part*). We must not feel that we have to do something first and then Jesus will help us from then on.

In this same article Ellen White says, “Sabbath afternoon I had freedom in presenting to the people the necessity of obeying the law of God. It is not enough to say that we believe. We must have that genuine faith which works by love, and purifies the soul. God has given us a perfect standard of righteousness in His law.” ...

“When the Spirit of God begins to work upon the hearts of men, the fruit is seen in confession of sin, and restitution for wrongs. All through the meetings, as the people sought to draw nearer to God, they brought forth works meet for repentance by confessing one to another.” *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, Chapter 30.

Here Ellen White talks about fruits meet or appropriate for repentance, referring to the statement made by John the Baptist to the Jewish leaders found in Matthew 3:8. She also talks about the faith that works by love. “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircum-

cision avails anything, but faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6). We are not saved by faith and works. However, we are saved by faith that works. Works are the result of faith and not the cause of any merit of our salvation.

“We thank the Lord with all the heart that we have precious light to present before the people, and we rejoice that we have a message for this time which is present truth. The tidings that Christ is our righteousness has brought relief to many, many souls, and God says to His people, ‘Go forward.’ The message to the Laodicean church is applicable to our condition.” ...

“We thank God that there are souls who realize that they are in need of something which they do not possess—gold of faith and love, white raiment of Christ’s righteousness, eye-salve of spiritual discernment.” *The Review and Herald*, July 23, 1889.

Christ is our righteousness. Paul says, “But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). We see from this that Jesus is to us “righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

In this same article is the following statement: “When the Lord gives us a work to do, if we do it in His fear, it will be wholly acceptable to God. Not one jot or tittle of His promises will fail to those who act their part with fidelity, who live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. We are to believe and obey the commandments of God.” *The Review and Herald*, July 23, 1889.

Not only are we to believe but we are to obey. To be perfect means to have the love of God within. Those who truly love God will want to obey His word.

“All who profess to believe the Lord is soon coming, should reveal their faith by corresponding works. ... diligent zeal must be manifested to set the truth before the people by personal work. But the most enthusiastic zeal will accomplish nothing without the co-operation of God. Divine power must combine with human effort.” *Ibid.*, August 13, 1889.

“The doctrine of justification by faith has been lost sight of by many who have professed to believe the third angel’s message.” *Ibid.*

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works.”

“Divine power must be combined with human effort.” Ibid., September 8, 1896.

“If Satan can succeed in leading man to place value upon his own works as works of merit and righteousness, he knows that he can overcome him by his temptations, and make him his victim and prey. Lift up Jesus before the people. Strike the doorposts with the blood of Calvary’s Lamb, and you are safe.” Ibid., September 3, 1889.

Well does the devil know that by believing human works have some merit makes you an easy prey. Salvation is completely of grace. The struggle we do have is to learn to live by faith.

“There is indeed a narrow way in which we must walk; the cross is presented at every step. We must learn to live by faith; then the darkest hours will be brightened by the blessed beams of the Sun of Righteousness. ...

“Earthly blessings cannot be obtained without toil, and can we expect that spiritual and heavenly blessings will come without earnest effort on our part? ...

“Those who believe that God for Christ’s sake has forgiven their sins, should not, through temptation, fail to press on to fight the good fight of faith. Their faith should grow stronger until their Christian life, as well as their words, shall declare, ‘The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth me from all sin’ (1 John 1:7, *last part*).” Ibid.

We are told, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).

How would you explain the fight of faith? I have discovered that within Seventh-day Adventist circles there are many differences of opinion on this subject.

In 1890 Ellen White wrote an article in *The Review and Herald* in which she has some interesting statements about the law and the gospel. She says, “Do not stand as many of you have done, apparently wavering

between dependence upon the righteousness of Christ, and dependence upon your own righteousness. Deception has come upon some minds until they have thought that their own merits were of considerable value. Their minds are confused and perplexed where all is clear and plain. The end is near! We have no time to halt between two opinions.” Ibid., May 27, 1890.

Now is not the time to remain confused. Our dependence is not on anything that we can do. Our dependence is on Christ alone.

Paul presents this same dichotomy in writing to the Philippian church. He says, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12, 13). [Emphasis supplied.] Here Paul makes it clear that although it sounds like you are working it out, actually, it is God working in you.

In an article recorded in *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 383, Ellen White was shown a panoramic view of the judgment of the entire world, but more specifically, concerning those who profess to be Seventh-day Adventists.

As she looked, she was particularly concerned about certain people. She said, “They had presumed too much upon the mercy of God.” Ibid., 385. They had not cooperated with the Holy Spirit to develop a perfect character. It is something I believe we should study often so that we don’t become lackadaisical and settle down accepting a passive, easy religion that is so common today. The Bible predicted this to be a problem in the last days. In 2 Timothy 3:5, it says the people will have a “form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away.” Those described here are professed Christians.

Are you aware of the fact that as we approach the end of the world’s history there is going to be a revival such as the world has never seen? It is going to look as if the whole world has been converted. Inspiration tells us that they are going to come to the Seventh-day Adventists and say that the whole





“  
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 result of faith and not  
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 of our salvation.*”

world has been converted. If you would just cooperate, the millennium could begin. But because there are a few people who refuse to deny their faith and cooperate with the masses, a decision will be made to introduce a death decree and get rid of the non-conformists.

“We must unite with Christ. There is a reservoir of power at our command, and we are not to remain in the dark, cold, sunless cave of unbelief; or we shall not catch the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.” *The Review and Herald*, January 24, 1893.

“Satan is now working with all his insinuating, deceiving power, to lead men away from the work of the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with mighty power. When the enemy sees that the Lord is blessing His people, and preparing them to discern his delusions, he will work with his masterly power to bring in fanaticism on one hand and cold formalism on the other, that he may gather in a harvest of souls. Now is the time to watch unceasingly. Watch for the first step of advance that Satan may make among us.” Ibid. Whenever there

is a revival and reformation movement, the devil tries to destroy it by bringing in fanaticism on one hand and cold formalism on the other.

“Some will not make a right use of the doctrine of justification by faith. They will present it in a one-sided manner, making everything of faith, and belittling works. Others will seize the points that have a leaning toward error, and will ignore works altogether. Now, genuine faith always works by love; it supplies a motive power. Faith is not an opiate, but a stimulant. Looking to Calvary will not quiet your soul into nonperformance of duty, but will create faith that will work, purifying the soul from all selfishness. In laying hold of Christ by faith, we but just begin our work. Every man has corrupt and sinful habits that must be overcome through vigorous warfare. Every soul must fight the fight of faith. He who is a follower of Christ, cannot deal deceitfully; he cannot be hard-hearted and devoid of sympathy. He cannot be coarse in speech. He cannot be a surmiser of evil, an accuser of the brethren. He cannot

be full of pomposity and self-esteem. He cannot be overbearing, using harsh words, and censuring and condemning those around him. ...

“To be a Christian requires more than a profession of faith. There must be an earnest effort to conquer through the grace freely given of God.” Ibid.

Today, our prayer should be: “Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 159.

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

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## *The True Vine*

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By Ivan Plummer

Nine years ago, after we had started our self-supporting daughter church in the parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica, West Indies, the then President of the East Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at a convention notified his members and leaders about our off-shoot church. He stated that we were not Seventh-day Adventists and therefore they should be aware of us! Certainly, this did something to the minds of the sincere members and leaders who truly love their church. They were now put on guard against us by this president who had never spoken to me on the matter. We were now viewed as their enemies because we were presented to them as antagonistic towards the SDA church. It was conveyed to these honest SDAs that we have left “the church” and “the truth.”

Consequently, from that day forward, the majority of Seventh-day Adventists and especially those in the area where we operate despise us, while the others just tolerate us! All because of the irresponsible attitude of one husbandman.

To help you to see the far-reaching effect of this president's action, I will connect another incident with this one which occurred on a Sabbath evening several years ago when an elder and I decided to pay a visit to an evangelist friend of mine who was conducting a meeting in the same vicinity where our daughter church is located. When we arrived on the site where the tent was erected, it was evident that there was a break in meetings so we went to the back of the tent to see the evangelist but were told by three women who were seated there that he had left for a baptism service at another location.

Interestingly, one of the ladies, who apparently recognized us, asked a very strange question: "Did you come here to be re-baptized?" What really prompted this poor lady to ask us such a question? Evidently, it had to do with what was told to her and others by the conference leadership; that we have apostatized from "the truth" and we are not "under the conference," therefore we are no longer a part of God's church.

This experience demonstrated that there exists a great degree of ignorance among many Seventh-day Adventists, members and leaders alike, concerning the phrase "off-shoot," and equally, who or what is the true source of salvation and what are the qualifying characteristics of a true Seventh-day Adventist Christian! Sadly, this was the very same condition of the Jewish church in the time of Christ.

Isaiah says, "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes" (Isaiah 5:1, 2).

Israel was a vine planted by God for a special reason—that of being Jeho-



*Christ was hated by evil men because His character was spotless, His works righteous.*

vah's representatives, fruitful in every good work.

"God's law must be exalted, His authority maintained; and to the house of Israel was given this great and noble work. God separated them from the world, that He might commit to them a sacred trust. He made them the depositories of His law, and He purposed through them to preserve among men the knowledge of Himself. Thus the light of heaven was to shine out to a world enshrouded in darkness, and a voice was to be heard appealing to all peoples to turn from idolatry to serve the living God." *Prophets and Kings*, 16.

Israel was God's choice vine, planted by Him to be the avenue to Christ—"the true vine"—the only source of salvation for the nations of earth. But ancient Israel did not fulfill God's purpose. She failed to reflect the lovely character of Jesus to those in darkness. So the Lord reasons, "Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto Me" (Jeremiah 2: 21)?

Through Hosea God said of His church, "Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath

increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images" (Hosea 10:1).

In disappointment the Lord asked, "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt Me and My vineyard. What could have been done more to My vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ... and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry" (Isaiah 5:3-7, *last part*).

Israel, the church in the wilderness, was an off-shoot of "the vine" by God's special favor and faithfulness, and by His goodness He made her into a choice vine. This the Jews should never have forgotten. An off-shoot by definition is a branch or lateral shoot from a main stem of a plant. So then, an off-shoot is not a different species from the parent



stock. It has in itself the same nature and features like that of the parent stock from which it springs.

The Jews should always have remembered that they were but an off-shoot of “the vine” as was stated by God through their prophet Jeremiah: “Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto Me” (Jeremiah 2:21)? The phrase *right seed* according to the Hebrew means *a vine-shoot of the genuine sort*. This is how an off-shoot comes about!

According to Ellen White, this choice vine that God planted was His church, His true representative on earth.

“The Lord planted His church as a vine in a fruitful field.

With tenderest care He nourished and cherished it, that it might bring forth the fruits of righteousness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 240.

This choice vine was a representation of “the true vine” that God Himself planted in a manger in Bethlehem. Ellen White reveals what Jesus meant by these words, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman” (John 15:1). Our Heavenly Father planted on earth a goodly vine, whose fruit would impart to the children of men eternal life. But this precious plant appeared to human eyes as a root out of dry ground, seeming to have no form nor comeliness. When it was claimed to be of heavenly origin, the men of Nazareth became enraged, and cast it from them. The inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem took this vine of God’s own planting, and bruised it, and trampled it under foot, hoping thus to destroy it forever. But now the Husbandman removed his precious vine, and planted it in his own garden, beyond the spoiler’s reach. The stock and root were concealed from human sight, but still ‘the branches run over the wall’ (Genesis 49:22). Thus grafts could be united to the vine, and, partaking of its nourishment, these became branches, and flourished and brought forth fruit.

“

*The best gift of Heaven  
was slighted and spurned.  
Christ was “a man of  
sorrows, and acquainted  
with grief.”*

“This figure of the vine is a perfect symbol. God sent His Son from the heavenly courts to a world seared and marred with the curse. In Christ was righteousness, peace, life—every blessing necessary for man’s happiness. But the world hated the Son of the infinite God. The world saw nothing attractive in Him. The best gift of Heaven was slighted and spurned. Christ was ‘a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief’ (Isaiah 53:3). Yet ‘He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed’ (verse 5). Christ was hated by evil men because His character was spotless, His works righteous. He came to be the Redeemer of the world, yet He was taken by wicked hands, and shamefully entreated, and crucified.” *The Review and Herald*, September 20, 1881.

The Holy Scriptures state, “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not” (John 1:11). “But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him” (Matthew 21:38, 39).

Ellen White continues her explanation, “God raised Him from the dead, and He ascended to Heaven to present His blood as the propitiation for our sins.

“Though hidden from mortal sight, Christ still lives as the world’s Redeemer, the representative of man in the heavenly courts, and the medium through whom all blessings flow to the fallen race. ... In this vine is all spiritual life. From Christ’s fullness alone can we obtain nourishment unto eternal life. The vine stock is unseen; but the branches—members of His body—are visible.” *The Review and Herald*, September 20, 1881.

We see here that Jesus Christ is “the True Vine” and His presence constitutes the church! He alone is the source of salvation for whosoever will!

#### **Whom do the branches represent?**

Jesus said to His disciples, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5).

“The branches” Ellen White wrote “represent the believers in Jesus Christ. Those who truly believe, will do the same works that He did. They are united to Christ by the faith that works by love and purifies the soul.” *The Southern Work*, 52.

It is evident from this next quotation that the branches (Christians) comprise the church and hence are nourished by Jesus Christ, the True Vine. “The branches do not sustain the vine, but the vine supports and nourishes the branches. The church does not support Christ, but Christ, by His vital power, supports the church.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 344.

**How do the branches stay connected to the vine?** In John 15:8, 9, Jesus said, “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples. As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love.” “Every branch of the vine, subjected to the pruning of the wise Husbandman, will bring forth clusters of precious fruit. ‘The fruit of the Spirit is love’ (Galatians 5:22). . . . The branch can maintain its connection with the living vine only on condition that it bear fruit. Said Christ, ‘If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love’ (John 15:10). . . .

“Love to God and love to our neighbor is the sum and substance of true piety. Those who are destitute of this love, and yet claim high attainments in spiritual things, may for a time deceive their fellow-men, but they cannot deceive God. Says the True Witness, ‘I know thy works’ (Revelation 2:2, *first part*). And in the great day of final accounts, God ‘will render to every man according to his deeds’ (Romans 2:6).” *The Review and Herald*, September 20, 1881.

Ellen White on another occasion explained the importance of unity in relation to this fruit of love that the branches must bear in order to stay connected to Christ. She wrote, “Unity, fellowship with one another and with Christ—this is the fruit borne on every branch of the living vine.” *In Heavenly Places*, 72. Unity is not a distinct, separate fruit that the branches



*Self, self, self, is cherished, and is striving for the supremacy.*

must bear; it is an offspring of love. This is what the servant of the Lord explains: “The golden chain of love, binding the hearts of the believers in unity, in bonds of fellowship and love, and in oneness with Christ and the Father, makes the connection perfect and bears to the world a testimony of the power of Christianity that cannot be controverted.” *Our High Calling*, 173.

The Jewish church was destitute of the love of Jesus and the unity that it produces! Is the SDA church destitute of God’s love and unity? We get our answer from an article in *The Review and Herald* dated February 25, 1902, under the topic “The Need of a Revival and a Reformation.” It states, “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent’ (Revelation 2:4, 5).

“I am instructed to say that these words are applicable to Seventh-day Adventist churches in their present condition. The love of God has been lost, and this means the absence of love for one another. Self, self, self, is cherished, and is striving for the supremacy. How

long is this to continue? Unless there is a reconversion, there will soon be such a lack of godliness that the Church will be represented by the barren fig tree. Great light has been given to her. She has had abundant opportunity for bearing much fruit. But selfishness has come in, and God says, ‘I will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.’”

Also, with reference to unity among SDAs, this is what she wrote: “There is a great and solemn work to be done by Seventh-day Adventists if they will only be converted. The great trouble is the lack of unity among them. This is a sin in the sight of God—a sin which, unless God’s people repent, will withhold from them His blessing.” *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 7, 1903.

Like so many SDA leaders and members today, the Jewish leaders and people failed to realize that their church was not “the true vine” but a choice vine, an off-shoot of “the true vine” – Jesus Christ. It was because of their constant refusal to understand this important truth that they rejected Christ and consequently were severed from “the vine.”

The Seventh-day Adventist church is, without question, God’s true church, just as the Jewish church was God’s true

church in Christ's time. The rejection of Christ and the path of rebellion and disobedience that the Jewish church took following that rejection led down the very same path the SDA church organization is pursuing. If she fails to repent, then a similar fate—final rejection by God—will be meted out to her that the Jewish church experienced.

It was out of this whole experience that Christ was forced to establish the new Christian church. In the book, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 231, 232, we see how this all happened. "If the leaders in Israel had received Christ, He would have honored them as His messengers to carry the gospel to the world. To them first was given the opportunity to become heralds of the kingdom and grace of God. But Israel knew not the time of her visitation. The jealousy and distrust of the Jewish leaders had ripened into open hatred, and the hearts of the people were turned away from Jesus.

"The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ's message and was bent upon His death; therefore Jesus departed from Jerusalem, from the priests, the temple, the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message, and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations.

"As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ's withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the estab-

lished church; but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth. In our day few of the professed followers of the Reformers are actuated by their spirit. Few are listening for the voice of God, and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often

those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience."

If there is one reason for the existence of independent SDA churches or self-supporting SDA churches, this would be it: the desire to render loving obedience to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, the question must be asked, Is God opposed to self-supporting SDA churches or ministries? The answer is obvious: No, He is not! The evidence is clear.

"That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel, the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today. He has 'let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen,' even to His covenant-keeping people, who faithfully 'render Him the fruits in their seasons' (Matthew 21:41). Never has the Lord been without true representatives on this earth who have made His interests their own. These witnesses for God are numbered among the spiritual Israel, and to them will be fulfilled all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people." *Prophets and Kings*, 713, 714.

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*The love of God has  
been lost, and this means  
the absence of love for  
one another.*”

Let us never forget these words written in 1903: "The Lord Jesus will always have a chosen people to serve Him. When the Jewish people rejected Christ, the Prince of life, He took from them the kingdom of God and gave it unto the Gentiles. God will continue to work on this principle with every branch of His work. When a church proves unfaithful to the word of the Lord, whatever their position may be, however high and sacred their calling, the Lord can no longer work with them. Others are then chosen to bear important responsibilities. But if these in turn do not purify their lives from every wrong action, if they do not establish pure and holy principles in all their borders, then the Lord will grievously afflict and humble them, and, unless they repent, will remove them from their place and make them a reproach." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, 102.

Jesus appeals to you and to me, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. ... If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:4, 6). The fruit that we all must bear to prove that we are connected to Christ is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is love (Galatians 5:22).

This is what the Jewish leaders and people failed to produce because from the very beginning they rejected the True Vine! Your prayer and my prayer should be, Lord, let this not be my attitude! Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). The question that Jesus is asking you and me today is "Lovest thou Me" (John 21:15)? **LM**

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# *The Easy Yoke*

By Elder W. D. Frazee

*“Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let Him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”*

Matthew 16:24

Ellen G. White makes an interesting comment on Matthew 11:28. She says, “The yoke and the cross are symbols representing the same thing—the giving up of the will to God.” *Our High Calling*, 100. Christ says, “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me ... and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30). Here we find the yoke and the cross are symbols representing the same thing: the giving up of the will to God.

“Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let Him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). Taking the yoke and taking up the cross represent the same thing: entering into fellowship with Christ in His life of self-sacrifice and self-denial.



“

*The yoke and the cross are symbols representing the same thing—the giving up of the will to God.*

Now the question is, How in the world could that truth be called an easy yoke? Luke records the Savior's words nearly the same as how Matthew wrote them but in Luke there is an additional word: "And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). The extra word is *daily*. That means every day. It means Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and each of the remaining days. It does not mean the first day of the month or once a year, but *daily*. The easy yoke then is not a life of ease. Let me make that clear. The easy yoke that Christ offers us is not a life of ease; it is a life of self-denial.

You may ask How could that be an easy yoke? That is one of the paradoxes of the Bible. It is a paradox but it is the truth. The fact is that this is not one of many ways to be free from worry and fear and anxiety, and useless burdens; it is the only way. Since sin entered this world there is no way to live a life free from the worries and the cares and the heavy burdens that afflict the people in life in general unless you accept the life that Jesus offers in fellowship with Him, and that is the life of the cross.

So Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16). A life of ease? No. An easy yoke? Yes.

Now this is like many other things – it is known only by those who experience it. There are many things in life that way. Do you know what a watermelon tastes like? If you do it is because you have experienced it. If you have never tasted a watermelon you do not know what it tastes like. You may have read books, you may have studied seed catalogs, you may have looked at the pictures,

you may have heard other people talk about its sweetness, but you do not know what it tastes like. So it is with this experience. The easy yoke that Jesus offers is understood and known only by those who experience it.

Few people really enter with Jesus into this easy life. The majority of the people in this world are not even interested in Christ's yoke at all; they're just carrying their own program, wanting to live their own life, do their own thing. But even among those who have chosen to follow Christ, few there are who enter fully into this experience. They are either afraid of the cross or they are afraid to trust themselves with Jesus.

In *The Ministry of Healing*, 480, 481, we find these inspiring words: "Many who profess to be Christ's followers have an anxious, troubled heart because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him, for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender they cannot find peace."

Here is a man who is trying to quit cigarettes and we say to him, Friend, why do you want to quit cigarettes? Well, I'm afraid I might get lung cancer. Or I'm afraid I might have a heart attack. Or I'm afraid I might get an ulcer of the stomach. A dozen other reasons could be given. But he says, it seems so hard to quit cigarettes. As far as a man's feelings are concerned who, day by day, is in the grip of a cigarette habit, is it easier to quit or easier to go on? It's easier to go on for most people and that is why most people do it. There are millions of people who would quit tonight if it wasn't so hard. But tell me, is that the yoke of Christ? Is that what makes it hard? Why, no. The hard part is getting away from the yoke of sin, the yoke of slavery to that evil habit.

Christians who never smoked cigarettes do not feel that not smoking is a heavy burden. They do not feel sorry for themselves because they don't smoke. It is not a burden or a load to carry – it is easy. But the poor fellow who is in the grip of the tobacco habit, tell him that, and he may say, Yes, I wish I had never started, but believe me, it's hard to get out. Now Christ is willing to

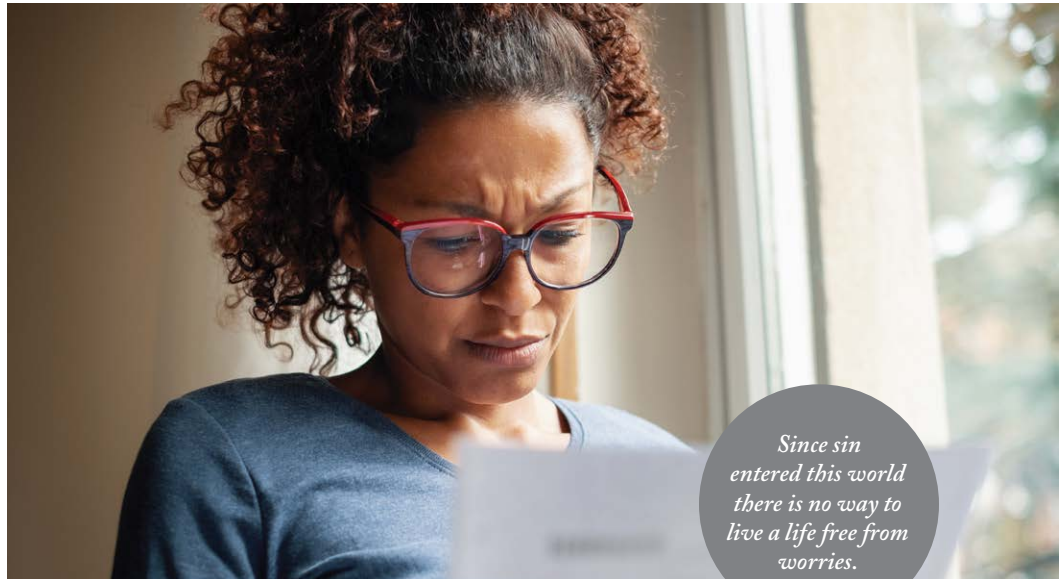
help him. But the way out is the way of self-denial. The way out is the way where the man by faith in Jesus chooses to say no to that craving. “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and every selfish, sinful lust and craving. Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.” There is no other way. Is it worth it?

Smoking cigarettes is just an example of a hundred things that are troubling people, things that keep people from having real peace, things people are hanging on to. Christians, you saints of God, what is it that is keeping you from having abundant life, abounding peace and joy in the Lord? The Holy Spirit will talk to your heart about it while using this example of the cigarette habit.

Now here’s our man. He’s been smoking three packs a day and he says, I do want to quit but this is so hard. I think I’ll cut down tomorrow to two and a half packs. I’ll try that for a week. If I can make it with that then I think I’ll try just two packs a day, and maybe a year from now I’ll be only smoking one cigarette a day and finally I’ll come to the day when I’ve smoked my last one. Is that a good program? Will it work?

My friends, don’t miss the next point. Even if this method would work, it is not the easiest way to overcome this habit but instead it is the painful way. Some people try to cut sin out of their lives a little at a time. So, they have to go through the pain and the agony and the struggle over and over and over and over again.

Your problem may be something else. When the Spirit of God begins to deal with your soul, when the pruning knife of God’s word is applied, do you cry out, Oh, would you take *that* out of my life? Why, I have a hard enough time as it is, and if you take *that* out, what will I do? I’ve got to have a few cigarettes or else I can’t live with myself and the family can’t live with me. I’ve got to have something. That is not the easy yoke, friends—that’s the hard way.



*Since sin entered this world there is no way to live a life free from worries.*

It is the same with every other sin, every other indulgence, every other form of turning away from Heaven’s best program. You apply it to your problems. Why not give yourself soul and body for life or death to Jesus to be everything, all for Him without any reserve of any kind? Put everything on the altar, not holding back anything, not trying to do it on the installment plan. Right now. Everything for God.

When you make that surrender you may not know all that it involves. Tomorrow or six months from now God may bring to your mind something that He wants to come out of your life that you don’t even know about today. But you’ve made the decision now and everything is on the altar. After all, Jesus gave everything for you so that you might be redeemed. The cross of Calvary represents a sacrifice made so that others may be redeemed. Jesus took that cross for you and as you take that cross for Him it means that you link up with Him in giving your life in service for others.

Concerning John the Baptist, Jesus said, “He was a burning and a shining light” (John 5:35). If a candle shines, it burns, and what happens to the candle?

In Westminster Abbey where one of the saints of God lies buried is a candlestick, and the candle is burned clear down. There in the granite are chiseled these words: “Burned out.” Would you burn out for God? Would you give your life in service for Him? Or would you seek to consider your desires, your whims, your ambitions, your plans, your purposes, the things that please you? But somebody says, Didn’t you say that God wants to please us? Yes, hence the paradox. The only way you can ever be pleased yourself is to forget all about yourself.

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it” (Luke 9:24). If you are just trying to look after your desires, your plans, what you like, you will never even satisfy yourself. But if you will forget about yourself, put your all on the altar and let Jesus link you in service with Him, taking His yoke, then you will find the real joy and meaning of life.

Paul did it. On the Damascus road he met Christ and from that moment on there was just one thing for him. He summed it all up in those immortal words, “For to me to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21, *first part*). “For me to live is

*Continued on page 34*



# David and Goliath

## Clues – Based on 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17 KJV

### Across:

- B<sub>5</sub> David's oldest brother .....v. 13  
 B<sub>11</sub> What David did early to check on his brothers (two words).....v. 20  
 B<sub>18</sub> Saul put this coat on David to fight Goliath.....v. 38  
 D<sub>2</sub> What all the soldiers did at the words of Goliath .....v. 24  
 D<sub>13</sub> David kept this "souvenir" from Goliath in his tent .....v. 54  
 E<sub>6</sub> Goliath was this of the Philistine army.....v. 4  
 F<sub>2</sub> David brought this part of Goliath to Saul .....v. 57  
 F<sub>14</sub> David acknowledged God had \_\_\_\_\_ him from a lion and bear.....v. 37  
 G<sub>8</sub> What David used to attack Goliath .....v. 49  
 H<sub>5</sub> David to Goliath: I will do this to you .....v. 46  
 H<sub>17</sub> Jesse to David: Go and see how your brothers \_\_\_\_\_ .....v. 18  
 I<sub>1</sub> Goliath to David: Come here and I will give your flesh to beasts of this .....v. 44  
 I<sub>11</sub> He thought David was too young to fight the giant .....v. 33  
 J<sub>15</sub> In his trust and confidence in God David said their army would become these .....v. 46  
 K<sub>3</sub> Goliath had the advantage of one carrying this before him .....v. 41  
 K<sub>10</sub> How many cheeses did Jesse send to the soldier's captain? .....v. 18  
 M<sub>4</sub> The staff of Goliath's spear was as big as a weaver's \_\_\_\_\_ .....v. 7  
 M<sub>11</sub> Which brother was Eliab to David?.....v. 28  
 N<sub>7</sub> David announced that this is the Lord's.....v. 47  
 O<sub>16</sub> Saul had promised to do this to whomever killed Goliath .....v. 25  
 P<sub>1</sub> David left these with another keeper to check on his brothers.....v. 20  
 P<sub>7</sub> Goliath was one of these (singular) .....v. 1  
 R<sub>4</sub> David to Goliath: I come in the name of the God you have \_\_\_\_\_ .....v. 45  
 R<sub>16</sub> Goliath was offended that David was so young and this .....v. 42  
 S<sub>9</sub> Saul asked him to find out whose son David was.....v. 55

### Down:

- A<sub>5</sub> David returned home to do this to the sheep.....v. 15  
 A<sub>8</sub> David put five smooth stones into this.....v. 40  
 A<sub>19</sub> What David did toward the army and Goliath.....v. 48  
 B<sub>3</sub> Eliab talking down to David: What about the sheep you left in the \_\_\_\_\_?.....v. 28  
 B<sub>13</sub> Goliath's height was this much over six cubits .....v. 4  
 B<sub>16</sub> Who answered David's questions about Goliath? .....v. 27  
 B<sub>21</sub> Jesse sent ten of these with David for the brothers .....v. 17  
 D<sub>9</sub> David told Saul he had done this to a lion and bear.....v. 35  
 D<sub>11</sub> David killed a \_\_\_\_\_ for trying to take a sheep.....v. 34  
 E<sub>19</sub> David was incensed that Goliath had cast this on Israel and God .....v. 26  
 F<sub>5</sub> Goliath \_\_\_\_\_ David when he realized he was a youth .....v. 42  
 G<sub>8</sub> When Goliath fell David did this upon him.....v. 51  
 H<sub>13</sub> How Jesse wanted David to get to the army's camp and his brothers .....v. 17  
 I<sub>11</sub> Goliath's coat of mail weighed five thousand \_\_\_\_\_ (singular) .....v. 5  
 I<sub>21</sub> David was from this town .....v. 15  
 J<sub>16</sub> Who David announced would know that there is a God in Israel (three words) .....v. 46  
 K<sub>7</sub> A lion and bear tried to take one from David's flock .....v. 34

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

- K14 Goliath's challenge: If I \_\_\_\_\_ against one of you, you'll serve us .....v. 9  
L2 Where David's stone struck Goliath .....v. 49  
M12 Goliath even had armor on these .....v. 6  
M18 What David did with Saul's sword.....v. 39  
N9 In confidence David told Goliath God would deliver him when? (two words).....v. 46  
O4 The Philistine army fled when they saw Goliath was this .....v. 51  
P7 Eliab accused David of having this .....v. 28  
P11 Measure of weight for Goliath's spear's head .....v. 7  
R19 Goliath thought David was treating him like a \_\_\_\_\_ .....v. 43

Answer Key:

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



# *An All-Powerful Saviour*

Shall we choose darkness rather than light because the light shows us our sins and reproves us? Shall we refuse to come to the light, lest our deeds shall be made manifest? When the truth controls the life, there is purity, freedom from sin. The glory, the fulness, the completeness, of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life. The light of truth irradiates the soul-temple. The understanding takes hold of Christ. The light is not hated because it reproves and warns, but it is accepted and rejoiced in.

Christ declared, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" (John 12:32). If man's will is submitted to the will of God, the man, though a sinner, will be drawn to Christ. He will realize something of the love manifested by God when He gave His Son to die on Calvary's cross, to bring life and immortality within the reach of men. The acceptance of the Saviour brings perfect peace, perfect love, perfect assurance. The beauty and fragrance of the Christ-life, revealed in the character, testifies that God has indeed sent His Son into the world. No other power could bring about so marked a change in a man's words, spirit, and actions.

Without Christ the heart of man is cold. But when one feels his need of the Sun of Righteousness; when he comes to Jesus, saying, Lord, I am sinful, unworthy, helpless; save me, or I perish, he

is accepted in the Beloved, and his heart is warmed by the rays of divine love. By this sincere coming to Christ, he opens the door to Him who has long been saying: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). He is accepted, and he knows what it means to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. God says, Let there be light; and there is light (Genesis 1:3). The soul possesses an abiding Christ, who is the light of life.

Christ humbles the proud heart by giving it a view of Himself, His generosity, His great love. He desires to save us, soul, body, and spirit, by uniting us to Himself. He desires us to behold His glory, as the glory of the only begotten of the Father. Then we can say, "Of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace" (John 1:16). He who shows that he appreciates the grace he receives, by imparting it to others, receives increased grace, in proportion to the grace he imparts. And he is so full of joy that he exclaims, "Thy gentleness hath made me great" (Psalm 18:35, *last part*)!

The one great lesson all must learn—the poor sinner, dead in trespasses and sins, as well as the professed Christian, who has known the truth, but has clung to his unsanctified traits of character—is that God will save to the uttermost all

who come to Him. "Him that cometh to Me," He says, "I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). The poor, the suffering, the sinful, may find in Christ all they need. As soon as they receive Jesus as a personal Saviour, the cries of distress and woe are changed to songs of praise and thanksgiving.

All may share Christ's grace if they will confess to the great sin-bearer, whose work it is to take away the sins of all who believe. You have the assurance that as you renounce your own righteousness, you will be clothed with His righteousness. Christ invites you, saying, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me" (Isaiah 27:5). The door is opened to all. No one is turned away. God proffers to all a priceless treasure—His peace—a peace that the world can neither give nor take away. The everlasting gates of pearl will not open to those who come with the symbols of power, but they will open wide to the trembling touch of the meek and lowly. To be great in the kingdom of God is to be as a little child in simplicity and love. The Lord is able and willing to work in our behalf, and He will work if we come to Him as children. He will lead us by the hand, upholding us that our feet shall not slip.

*The Youth's Instructor*, September 28, 1899. **LM**



## Accept a Boost!

**H**ave you considered the energy and all the activity that is going on in heaven on our behalf? All this energy is over and above the sacrifice that God has made for us. What an amazing thought!

“Oh, let us contemplate the amazing sacrifice that has been made for us! Let us try to appreciate the labor and energy that Heaven is expending to reclaim the lost, and bring them back to the Father’s house. Motives stronger, and agencies more powerful, could never be brought into operation;

- the exceeding rewards for right-doing,
- the enjoyment of heaven,
- the society of the angels,
- the communion and love of God and His Son,

- the elevation and extension of all our powers throughout eternal ages.” *Steps to Christ*, 21.

These are the most wonderful incentives and encouragements to give our hearts to the loving service of our Creator and Redeemer. Read that list again. What a wonderful future may be ours if we are loyal in the heavenly way now to God’s glory.

We make choices every moment: “On the other hand, the judgments of God pronounced against sin,

- the inevitable retribution,
- the degradation of our character, and
- the final destruction,

are presented in God’s word to warn us against the service of Satan.” Ibid., 21, 22.

Let each one cherish God’s mercy. Let us take advantage of all He has provided “... that we may be transformed into His likeness, and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son.” Ibid., 22.

Remember, through Christ, earth is linked with heaven—in Him, we are individually linked to heaven. What a thought—linked to heaven! This earth is wearing out. God is giving us that extra boost so that through incentives and encouragements we may make it to that heavenly country and in the meantime be able to sit in heavenly places with Him through our Saviour. Accept that boost offered and look forward to fellowship with heavenly beings in the presence of our Lord. [LM](#)

*Father in heaven: Thank You for all of the incentives which are laid out for our encouragement and comfort and hope. Though this earth is drear, my heart is lifted heavenward as I contemplate the wonderful future that is prepared for us. Thank You for allowing us to sit in heavenly places amidst the whirlwinds of earth. Thank you for Your longsuffering and mercy. Continue to “Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not” (Psalm 17:5). Amen.*





## *How Grandma Came for Christmas*

**A**t last the day had come to open the money boxes! How long it had taken to fill them! What hard work it had meant, what careful saving, what giving up of candy and nice ribbons and special treats! To Hilda and Mona it had seemed as though they would *never* be allowed to open them, and sometimes they had even said it wasn't worthwhile putting the money in.

But at last the day had come! It was a week before Christmas, and of course everybody was wanting all the money he could find for presents and new dresses and things. How glad the children were that they had heeded their mother and had kept the boxes unopened till now! Mother was right, after all.

Click! went the key in Mona's little cash box, and there inside she saw the

pile of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and one half dollar. What joy! She counted it all up, and Hilda counted it afterward, just to make sure it was right. Four dollars and fifty-one cents! What a lot of money for a little girl!

"Now you open yours," said Mona. "I wonder how much you have saved."

Hilda's was a strange looking money box, and it certainly held money tightly. It was such a job to get it out. She had to use a knife, but as she poked it in, out came the pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and two half dollars. It was a lovely sight.

"Oh," said Mona, "you have more than I!"

"It looks like it," said Hilda. "Let's count it up. One, two, three. Why, I believe there's more than five dollars!"

And so there was. It came to \$5.28. How happy they were! Never had they had so much money to spend all at once.

Then came the big question. What should they spend it on? Soon they realized how little they had really saved.

There were so many things they wanted to buy, and most of them cost more than they had saved.

Mona thought she would like to get a pretty dress, but how far would \$4.51 go? Hilda's first thought was for a beautiful handbag, the kind with two pockets in the middle and a mirror. But again, how far would \$5.28 go? Then they talked of other things they would like—so many things—but try as they would they could not stretch their money nearly far enough to cover all their desires.

"I'm getting tired of trying to decide," said Hilda. "This money is a bother."

"Do you know," said Mona, "I wonder whether the trouble is that we are trying to spend it all on ourselves?"

Hilda sat very quiet and still. "Perhaps it is," she said.

"Just for fun," said Mona, "let's try to think how we could spend it on some other people."

"Mom, for instance," said Hilda.

"Yes, or Grandma," said Mona.

"All right. You write down what you would buy for them and I'll do the same."

So they both found pencil and paper and began to write. Hilda soon made a long list—long enough to use up her \$5.28 many times over.

"You don't seem to have put down much, Mona," she said, looking at her paper.

"No," said Mona, "but I've got an idea! I've thought of something that would be a beautiful present for both Mom and Grandma."

"Oh, tell me," said Hilda.

"Well," said Mona, "you know how Mom has been longing to have Grandma come down here to stay with her for a while? Well, the only reason Grandma doesn't come is that she can't afford the fare and Mom can't afford to send it to her. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were to send Grandma her fare ourselves, and invite her down to surprise Mom?"

"Mona, you are a genius!" said Hilda. "I should enjoy that much more than a new handbag. Let's do it right now."

"Isn't it just lovely?" said Mona. "I'm so glad you like the idea. I'd much rather see Mom happy than have a new dress. Let's get a pen and some writing paper. You'll write the letter, won't you?"

"All right," said Hilda. "You tell me what to say."

So together they wrote to Grandma:

"Our dear Grandma,

"We all want you very much to come down here for Christmas. Mona and I have been saving up for a long time, and we want to pay your fare. You will find

it in this letter. Please be sure to come soon. We shall expect you next week.

"With lots of love from Hilda and Mona."

"Oh, Mona," said Hilda when she had finished writing; "whatever will Mom say when Grandma comes?"

"Oh, that's part of the joy.

She'll be so pleased and surprised she won't know what to do with herself."

Picking up their money and putting on their coats, the two went down to the post office, bought a postal money order for \$9, and mailed it to Grandma. Chuckling all over and enjoying their secret immensely, they returned home to await the big surprise.

For the next few days the girls could not settle down to anything. Every footstep made them jump, and every creak of the front gate gave them a start. They felt inside themselves that they had done something big and beautiful, and they just couldn't keep still.

Every now and then they would burst out laughing, for no apparent reason whatever. Mother wondered what could have gone wrong with them. They often had innocent little secrets they tried to keep from her, but this was rather mysterious.

Then at last came a different knock at the door.

"Hilda, there's someone at the door," called Mother. "Please go and see who it is."

But Hilda guessed that the great moment had come, and she wanted Mother to have the surprise they had planned so long. "Do please go yourself, Mom," she said.

So Mother hurried to the door, thinking it was the postman or the milkman. She opened the door—and there stood

Grandma, with her handbags and trunk, as though she had come to stay a month.

"Mother!" cried Mom. "Whoever—whatever! Isn't this wonderful! But how did you come? Who could have dreamed you would be here for Christmas!"

"Why, didn't you expect me?" said Grandma, equally surprised.

There was a loud giggle in the background.

"Those girls!" said Grandma.

"I guess they are at the bottom of this."

Then came the explanations, and everyone was happy.

After the excitement

had died down, Grandma called the girls to her and, slowly and mysteriously, opened her trunk.

"I'm not too old to use my fingers yet," she said, pulling out a couple of packages. "Here's a little dress I've been making for you, Mona, and for you, Hilda, I've got a wee handbag."

"Oh, no!" cried the girls together, looking at each other in amazement.

"Why, don't you want them?" asked Grandma.

"Want them! They are just perfect," said Hilda. "But how did you know? They are the very things we were going to buy for ourselves with the money we had saved in our boxes."

"Were you!" exclaimed Grandma.

"Do you know, girls," she said, "I believe the Bible is right when it says, 'He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will He pay him again'" (Proverbs 19:17). **LM**

*The Storybook*, Character Building Stories for Children, R & H Publishing Association, ©1989, 72–78.





## Your Letters

"Hi. Still enjoy *LandMarks*. It is a great blessing to read and study."

—DO, North Dakota

"Thank you for all your prison ministry has been doing for us. STL has been such a huge help in grounding me to the truth, especially through the *LandMarks* magazine."

—KJ, Virginia

### December Sermon of the Month

## Fulfilled in the Last Days

By John J. Grosboll

Receive the Holy Spirit and your thoughts and feelings will reflect those of Jesus.

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

## From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

### December 2019

Dear Friend,

A few days ago, a pastor who is in charge of several churches made contact with questions regarding the Adventist faith. He requested that someone visit with him to discuss the convictions that are developing in his mind before he says anything to his congregation. What a wonderful opportunity to share our faith with this influential man who is seeking more truth.

The Apostle Peter wrote, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).

The time is coming when you may be required to do this. "Through the inculcation of spiritual truth we are to prepare a people who shall be able, in meekness and fear, to give a reason for their faith before the highest authorities in our world." *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 70.

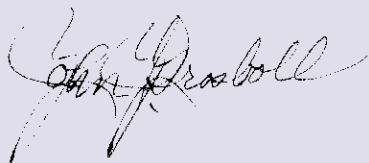
"The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 463.

"Now is the time to prepare." *Ibid.*, 216.

"In plainness, in faithfulness and love, we must appeal to the people to prepare for the day of God. Some will need to be entreated with earnestness before they will be moved. Let the labor be characterized by meekness and humility, yet by an earnestness that will make them understand that these things are a reality, and that life and death are for them to choose. The salvation of the soul is not a matter to be trifled with." *Ibid.*, vol. 2, 507.

May the Lord make you one of His faithful witnesses in these closing years of earth's history.

Sincerely, your brother in witnessing,



John J. Grosboll

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering



*Construction continues on a sanitarium and office complex that will serve as the center of outreach in Nigeria, an effort supported in part by your donations.*

## *A Letter from Nigeria*

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Greetings in Jesus' blessed and Holy name.

The Lord be praised for all the instructions and guidelines given to help organize the Nigeria mission. Our earnest prayers are for the Holy Spirit to help us to humbly cooperate with the heavenly intelligences as we carry on the work of soul saving.

- The Nigeria Board had its first meeting in Makurdi and we decided thus: A list of all churches and members in Nigeria division should be compiled. All physical property belonging to the churches must be documented. Each local church will contribute 20% of income received monthly, and 10% will be designated to the local Board and the other goes to the division. This commenced September 2019.
- A temporary office is located at the Health Center in Gboko. The Board will report and provide an accounting of all receipts and distribution for review at the next Board meeting scheduled for November 2019, as well as any other items of importance.

In the Makurdi area two of the Pentecostal pastors have begun the Training Program for Ministers and Church leaders and were provided the book *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers* by Steps to Life. At the same time they are also studying the *Conflict of the Ages* series. One of the churches has begun evening Sabbath fellowships with their congregation. I have preached in two of the Pentecostal churches. At the time of writing, the third Pentecostal pastor called to request his lessons. Keep them in your prayers.

We are very thankful to God and know that all this has been made possible through God's blessing and the prayers and support of Steps to Life. We pray that you will be encouraged by this report and continue to pray for dispensation of the Gospel here in Nigeria.

Blessings to you all,  
*Daniel Terence*



## *Surprising Success in Mexico*

*Sharing the Light of the Gospel through Radio*

**Y**ou may recall that through your donations we have been supporting an outreach project in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, for almost two years. That project continues to bear fruit, as confirmed by the accompanying photos.

We recently received an update from Brother Aguilar that we would like to share with you.

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Warm greetings from your brethren at “Radio La Verdad Presente” broadcasting from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. We continue to praise God the Father for His blessing and privilege to broadcast the last warning message to folks of all faiths, to the multitudes residing in Guadalajara as well as its surrounding areas.

Through the Lord’s blessings bestowed we have been able to continue the weekly broadcasts as well as to deliver and distribute *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ* to callers requesting these free book offers. The huge gratitude expressed brings great joy to us, as it would to you, when we are able to fulfill a request for large print Bibles. Our broadcasting schedule is also advertised in a widely distributed local newspaper. Since our last news update, we have begun to explore internet TV presentations. We stream our services through this new avenue and are very excited for this new possibility.

Each broadcast, listeners are invited to join us for worship, and we have had a few respond to our invitation. The lack of a more centrally located meeting place has discouraged some from attending due to lack of dependable public transportation. We are petitioning our Lord to provide such a place for easier access for those desiring to attend Sabbath meetings. Such a meeting place could also be used for lectures, seminars, and teaching healthful cooking. We ask that you pray along with us for the continued support and guidance of the Lord’s work here in Guadalajara.

From all of us at Radio La Verdad Presente, may the Lord continue to bless you and keep you.

*Jadial Aguilar*

Coordinator, Bible Worker





The radio program "La verdad presente" (The Present Truth) is advertised on the front page of the newspaper.

The success of the effort is inspiring. Mexico is predominately a Catholic country. It is uplifting that the workers conducting this outreach effort are receiving as many responses as they are. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will remove the scales from the eyes of those who have been steeped in the errors of Catholicism and Sunday keeping so that when the final call to come out of Babylon goes forth, the faithful souls in Mexico will heed the call.

To support this outreach effort in Guadalajara, please mark your donations **Mexico**. **LM**



# The Fascinating World of Worms



**B**end down and upturn a clod of soil or disturb a layer of leaf litter, and you have entered the fascinating world of worms.

Take a closer look at a humble earthworm, and you will notice that its body is constructed of ringed segments that look like a row of miniature doughnuts bunched tightly together. Each segment is powered by two groups of muscles. One group, just below the skin, forms a ring around the worm. Beneath this layer, the second group stretches along the worm. The worm moves by expanding and contracting these opposing muscle groups, flexing segment after segment in a rhythmic pulse that ripples down its body.

When placed in your hand the earthworm will writhe and wriggle because its body is bristling with sense organs—as many as 1,900 on just one segment. These receptors give the worm a sense of touch, the capacity to taste, and the ability to detect light.

The worm grips the soil with the aid of small, hairlike projections called setae. Each segment of the worm has sets of setae that act somewhat like the oars

of a rowboat. The worm plunges them into the soil, pulls itself along, and then retracts them. The worm can “paddle” in either direction using one set of setae at a time or, if startled, can anchor one end of its body while rapidly retracting the other end.

If a bird nips off a worm’s tail segments, some species of worms simply regrow them—but they never regrow more segments than are lost. It seems that each segment generates a tiny electrical charge and that worms regrow lost segments until a preset maximum charge is regained.

The thousands of sense organs and the complex muscle systems are all wired into the cerebral ganglion, located at the mouth end of the worm. Experiments have shown that in addition to their physical talents, worms have a limited capacity for memory and can even learn to avoid danger.

The slimy surface of the worm actually allows the little creature to breathe. The worm’s skin is porous, and blood vessels close to the skin absorb oxygen from the air or from oxygenated water while releasing carbon dioxide. But these gases can interchange only if the skin is moist. If a worm dries out, it will slowly choke to death.

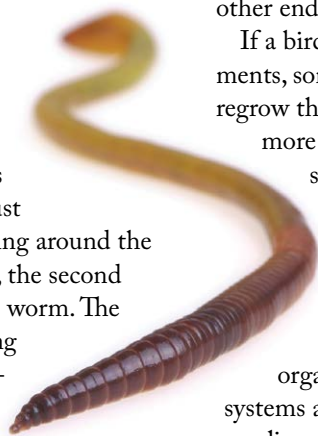
On the other hand, if a worm is trapped in its burrow during heavy rain, the oxygen supply in the water will be quickly exhausted. This is one reason why worms crawl to the surface after a downpour. If they don’t evacuate, they will suffocate.

As worms squirm through the earth’s surface, they act like miniature plowmen. Munching their way through manure, soil, and decaying vegetation, they produce a waste product called worm castings—a product they manufacture in enormous quantities. As worms till the soil, it becomes better aerated and more water absorbent and increases in fertility.

Scientists have discovered that the worm’s digestive system converts nutrients into forms that plants can absorb, so worm castings are bursting with plant food. In addition, many harmful microorganisms found in rotting manure and vegetation are destroyed as they pass through a worm’s gut. Thus, worms clean the soil as they feed. An ideal recycling machine, they thrive on waste while manufacturing nutritious food.

<https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/102003327>

“What amazing love, that sinners, worms of earth, may be allied to Omnipotence!” *The Review and Herald*, December 11, 1883. **LM**





## Q: *What is the meaning of sackcloth?*

# A:

**"S**ackcloth" – Strong's Exhaustive concordance of the Bible, #4526–New Testament = sackcloth—material or garments made to be worn as a sign of grief; #8242–Old Testament = coarse, loose clothing used in mourning.

"There should be, not a clothing of the body with *sackcloth*, as in ancient times, *but a deep humiliation of soul*. We have not the first reason for self-congratulation and self-exaltation. We should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. He will appear to comfort and bless the true seekers." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 126. [Emphasis supplied.]

"We are not to make crosses for ourselves, by wearing *sackcloth*, by pinching our bodies, or by denying ourselves wholesome, nourishing food. We are not to shut ourselves in monasteries, away

from the world, and do no good to our fellow beings, thinking this is the cross of Christ; neither are we required to expose health and life unnecessarily, nor to go mourning up the hill of Christian life, feeling it a sin to be cheerful, contented, happy, and joyful. These are all self-made crosses, but not the cross of Christ." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 626.

"When the Bible was proscribed by religious and secular authority; when its testimony was perverted, and every effort made that men and demons could invent to turn the minds of the people from it; when those who dared proclaim its sacred truths were hunted, betrayed, tortured, buried in dungeon cells, martyred for their faith, or compelled to flee to mountain fastnesses, and to dens and caves of the earth—then the faithful witnesses prophesied in sackcloth. Yet they continued their testimony through-

out the entire period of 1260 years. In the darkest times there were faithful men who loved God's word and were jealous for His honor. To these loyal servants were given wisdom, power, and authority to declare His truth during the whole of this time." *The Great Controversy*, 267, 268.

"The knowledge of the way of the Lord is increasing, and will continue to increase. Heresy and superstition are clothing the world in the *sackcloth* garments of rebellion and transgression. Literature and cheap fiction of every order is circulated like the leaves of autumn, and the minds of thousands are so taken up with irreligious, cheap trash that there is no place in the mind for solid reading. The word of God and all that would elevate man from his degradation is passed by with indifference." *This Day With God*, 131. **LM**





# RAW

*is Not New*

Eating raw food is not a new idea or a new fad. It is an old idea which has again resurfaced to redirect people to a better way of life by replenishing their diets with raw along with cooked. It really is a forgotten art. Let's look at a little bit of history.

“

*Enzyme-rich raw foods helped them regain their health.*



“As early as World War I, leaders in the field of nutrition were unearthing the dangers of processed and packaged foods as well as the powers of raw foods. During that time, a German food scientist named Werner Kollath conducted a test of a processed food diet on lab animals. On the outside, these animals looked relatively healthy, but as they grew older, they developed a number of health complications. Further, it was found upon performing an autopsy after their death that their insides were filled with disease. At the time, there weren't any available vitamins to give sickly animals for them to regain their health. What Kollath found instead was that a diet filled with leafy greens, vegetables and cereal germs – all enzyme-rich raw foods – helped them return to their normal levels of health, explained Dr. Donaldson.”

*“Enzyme-rich raw foods helped them regain their health.”*

“Later, physician Max Bircher-Benner found the answer in living foods through his own illness. He eventually

opened a clinic in Zurich, Switzerland, that helped heal a number of individuals with whole, raw food – one of the first of its kind. Dr. Max Gerson was another physician who experienced his own ailments, primarily migraines. After trying several different diets, he found that the living food diet, derived from that of monkeys, worked to alleviate their severe headaches. He then found that these raw foods could help a number of other diseases, including cancer.

“Another man who accidentally discovered the power of a raw food diet was Norman Walker, who found the answer in juicing: Fresh carrot juice and a living diet helped Norman overcome his nervous breakdown. Meanwhile, a woman named Ann Wigmore took what she learned from her grandmother's natural treatments during WWI and began eating grass and flowers when she developed gangrene. She was soon healed. In her mission to find the best grasses for health, Wigmore would go on to promote cereal grass and wheat grass.”

Excerpts from: [www.myhdiet.com/healthnews/health-news/key-takeaways-from-the-raw-food-webinar](http://www.myhdiet.com/healthnews/health-news/key-takeaways-from-the-raw-food-webinar)

There are many other writers who also agree that including more raw foods for nourishment and health into our diet would be a great idea. Many already know that eating processed and cooked foods for most of their diet is not the best for their health. It is not strengthening to the immune system because most of the vitamins and minerals have been cooked to death and being devoid of nutrition are no longer of use to the body. Processed foods purchased in stores truly have been processed to death.

The main object of healthy eating is to keep our bodies in tip-top shape for the Lord's service. So why not build up your immune system and do your part to restore and prolong your health. In this way you will give glory to God by the choices you make in what you eat.

Onward Christian Soldiers! [LM](#)



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By John J. Grosboll

If you were writing a letter to friends, you would probably not offend them by telling them that they were bewitched. But did you know that Bible writers told their readers that they were under the control of evil spirits?

In his second letter, the apostle Peter makes the following comment about the letters in the New Testament, written by the apostle Paul. He says, “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures” (2 Peter 3:15, 16, literal translation).

Notice, there are some things that Paul wrote that are hard to understand, but Peter warns us to be careful, if mental instability permits you to twist it to your own destruction. We must never interpret the Scriptures in a way that make them contradict what the writer says.



There are a few statements that are often twisted to people's own destruction. In Romans 6:14, it says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." Some people have interpreted this to mean that since they are not under law, but under grace, they can live in whatever way they please, having no need to keep the law.

Before we investigate this more carefully, let's notice what the apostle Paul says in Romans 3:19: "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." Every single person in the world is under the law and is guilty before God. All have sinned, and there is only one way that you can escape from your guilt—by receiving the grace of Jesus Christ when you put your trust in Him. For that reason, Paul says in verse 24, "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

The only way to escape guilt is by the grace of Jesus. If you have received His grace, then you are no longer under the condemnation of death by the law. Romans 6:14 says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace." The Bible is very clear about what sin is, both in the Old and in the New Testaments. "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). Sin is breaking God's law.

Now let's go back to Romans 6 and read verses 14 and 15, and every time the word *sin* occurs insert the definition which is *breaking God's law*. Here is the way it would read: "For breaking God's law shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we break God's law because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!" Notice, he says, "Because we are not under the law but under grace, now, as Christians, shall we break the law? Absolutely not."



If the same definition is inserted in verses 1 and 2, it would read: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in breaking God's law that grace may abound?" In other words, shall you break it more so you can receive more forgiveness? "Certainly not! How shall we who died to breaking God's law live any longer in it?" So, as Christians we are not under the law, we are under grace. If we are under the law, we are going to die.

The only people in this world who will escape eternal death are those who are under the grace of Jesus Christ. But this grace does not give us license to go and break the law again. It delivers us from the guilt of our past sins. In fact, Paul states, "Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed" (Romans 3:25). So, the Lord gave you grace for the sins that you have previously committed. He didn't give this grace so that you could go on and live in sin. He gave you this grace so that you could die to sin and cease in breaking His law, so that

you could become a loyal citizen of the government of heaven.

To the Corinthians Paul wrote about something very similar that trips people up. He said, "The love of Christ constrains us ... we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 7, literal translation). Then he says, "Who [God] also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life" (2 Corinthians 3:6).

People say that they do not want to have anything to do with the law because the law kills, and the Spirit gives life. Let's examine why that is. The letter, which is the law that kills, is the ten commandments that were engraven in tables of stone. In Romans 6:23, Paul says that "the wages of sin is death." Sin is breaking the law and the consequence of that is death.

Paul says that Jesus died to pay the penalty of our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3). It is not only the law that cannot be changed; it is also the penalty for breaking God's law that cannot be changed. Because of His great love for man, Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin.

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 by the law.*”

In Romans 3:23 KJV, it says that “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Since all have sinned and the wages of sin is death, all are doomed to die, for the letter kills. There is only one way a person can escape death and that is through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you surrender your life to Him and accept Him as your Lord and Saviour, He will remove your guilt by the merits of His blood, His righteousness, the blood atonement that He made on the cross. If you receive Him as your Saviour, He has promised to give to you a Helper.

Jesus said, “I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:5–8).

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—[even] the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:15–17).

The promise Jesus made was to send the gift of the Holy Spirit which would be a special help to those who chose to follow Him. Jesus told Nicodemus that to be able to enter the kingdom of heaven you must be born again, born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5). So, receiving the Holy Spirit is being born again, or converted.

In Romans 8:4, Paul says, “That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” If you are walking according

to the Spirit, the righteous requirement of the law is going to be fulfilled in your life. The Holy Spirit is going to give you the power to keep God’s commandments, to do His will. Though Jesus promised a helper, there are people who say they cannot keep God’s commandments because they don’t have enough self-control to do it. They don’t want to break the law, but just do it anyway. If that is your case, it proves that you are not yet converted and have not received the Holy Spirit. Paul goes on to say, “Because the carnal mind [the unconverted person] is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (verse 7).

It is impossible for a person who has not received the Holy Spirit to keep God’s law in his own strength. It is the sinful nature that impels and controls him that brings him into slavery. The one who commits sin is a slave of sin.

However, if you receive the Holy Spirit, He will give you the power to keep God’s law. If you keep God’s law, your guilt and your past transgressions have been forgiven. You are no longer under condemnation because you are walking in the Spirit. Paul says, “Who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6). The letter kills those who do not come under grace and they will die eternally. The Spirit gives life because when you receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour and receive His Spirit, you receive the power to keep God’s law and to do His will.

O friend, do not twist the Scripture to try to make the New Testament teach that you can live like the devil and yet still go to the kingdom of heaven because you confess your sins every night. The Bible does not teach that. The New Testament does not teach that. The gospel is not just a way that you can keep asking forgiveness of your sins throughout your life and keep sinning and asking forgiveness. The gospel

involves divine power, not only to take away your guilt, but to give you the Holy Spirit so that you will receive the power to live a new life that is in harmony with God's law.

James says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty [see James 2:8–12] and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22–25).

Paul's accusation that there were some Christians who had been bewitched according to the definition that he gives is also a wakeup call to Christians today who believe the same lies and unbeknown to them are under the control of evil spirits. Paul says, "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified" (Galatians 3:1)?

Paul here is writing to Christians who know the truth but are not obeying it. How can a person know something as wonderful as the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and then not obey? Paul gives the reason: they are bewitched, under the control of evil spirits.

How is it with you, friend? Are you living up to the principles of truth? Peter said, "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (1 Peter 1:22, 23).


O friend, the devil and his evil spirits know what the truth is; but they are not going to be saved, they do not obey it. How is it with you? Are you born again and rejoicing in the freedom that God gives or struggling with the evil spirits that try to influence your mind, so that even though you know the truth, you don't do it? O, friend, if this is the condition you are in ask the Lord to deliver you from this Satanic power over your mind.

Paul notes that the righteousness of the law will be fulfilled in the life of the Christian who is walking in the spirit. He says that it is the carnal man, the man who has not been converted, who does not obey God's law and cannot obey it, because he is not under the control of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:1, 4–7). Those who have received the Holy Spirit walk in harmony with the Spirit and in harmony with God's laws and are accounted as one of God's children.

"As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Romans 8:14). This condition is available for all who desire to fully commit to Jesus. The Holy Spirit is waiting to give you the power to do His will. You may be suffering now with some disease or dealing with some terrible difficulties or trials in this life but because of God's everlasting love for His children you have the assurance that if you have chosen to follow Him, through this suffering, the Lord is going to bring you to glory.

Paul says in verse 28, "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." When you receive the Holy Spirit, your life will be purified, and the love of God is your absolute certainty and assurance that you are going to have eternal life.

O, friend, Paul says nothing can separate you from the love of God unless you decide to separate yourself. Surrender your life today to the control of the Holy Spirit and ask that you receive the new life that goes on forever.

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

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*The grace of Jesus Christ does not give us license to go and break the law again. It delivers us from the guilt of our past sins.*





*Continued from page 15*

Christ.” That’s all I have to live for, just Jesus. If He wants me to suffer, if He sees that is the best way to advance His cause, that’s all right. If He wants me to die, that’s all right. When

Paul appeared before Nero, that cruel monster on the throne of the world’s greatest empire, he wasn’t afraid. He knew that his life was on the altar and if the time had come for the sword to cut his head off, it was all right. He knew that his life was hid with Christ in God and that “When Christ who is our life, shall appear, he would appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:4). Friends, a Christian cannot lose. “... to live is Christ, and to die is gain”

(Philippians 1:21, *last part*). This makes a Christian fearless.

One of the early Christian witnesses for God was taken before a Roman provincial governor. It was a time of persecution, and the governor said to this Christian, “Listen, if you don’t give up this Christian religion we are going to take all your goods.” He said, “I have no goods; I gave them all to Christ.” The governor looked at him and said, “If you don’t give this up we’ll take your life!” He said, “I have no life; I gave it all to Christ.”

Oh friends, what is your answer? Is there anything too precious to withhold from Jesus? It is this half and half business that makes people miserable. Too good for hell but not good enough for heaven. One hand with Christ, the other hand with the world and the devil. Why go that way?

Somebody says, Well, I don’t want to go to extremes. What do you mean, extremes? An extremist is someone who goes to the right or to the left farther than God said. You can never be an extremist doing what God said. If you try to do more than He said that’s being extreme. If you do what He says, there’s nothing extreme about that. That is what He expects. “If ye love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).



*Christians who never smoked do not feel sorry for themselves because they don't smoke. It is not a burden or a load to carry – it is easy.*

People talk about the middle of the road. The question is, Which road? There is a road that’s broad and leads to death and nearly everybody is going on it. The middle of that road will only take you to hell just like the right hand or the left of it will. There’s only one place to be in the middle of the road and that’s the narrow road and that road is just as wide as one man, the man Christ Jesus. The only way you can get extremes on that road is to get off the road. There’s a ditch on either side and that’s extremes. Do not worry about being an extremist if you just do what Jesus says. That will keep you busy. There’s plenty to do just to do what He says. You don’t have to invent things. We are warned not to invent crosses of our own. We’re not to deny ourselves of nourishing food. There’s no call to get off a comfortable bed and lie down on the floor or on spikes in order to prove we can take it. There are plenty of things that the devil would like to get us into to show that we are sacrificial, but Christ has not called for it.

“Many who profess to be Christ’s followers have an anxious, troubled heart because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him, for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender they cannot find peace.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 480, 481.

I said to somebody one day, “Will you do something for me?” They responded, “That depends on what it is.” That’s all right to treat me that way but that is not the way to treat God. I might make a mistake. I might ask you to do something you couldn’t do or didn’t want to do. But when God says, Will you do something for Me, there is only one right answer — YES. God appreciates that.

“There are many whose hearts are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world’s standard. They have chosen its service, accepted its perplexities, adopted its customs. Thus their character is marred and their life made a weariness. The continual worry is wearing out the life forces.” *Ibid.*, 481.

The family next door just got a boat. Well, I better get a boat too. If they have a boat,

then we've got to get a boat. People up at the corner, they just bought a brand new car. They already have two others but now they have another one. Daddy had better get busy. Somebody had better get busy. Mother may have to go out and work, take a job along with Father to bring in more money to keep up with the neighbors. There are a thousand variations on that same tune. There are a thousand ways to wear your life out just by trying to keep up with what other people are doing.

Take the matter of dress. The idolatry of dress is costing the professed people of God millions of dollars every year – millions of dollars – and at the Judgment somebody will have to give an account. Somebody starts some new fad and the daughters and sons of Zion have to follow along. Some follow right up close; some follow at a respectable distance. But oh to be so linked with Jesus that we don't have to spend time and money with the shifting fashions, some of which are immodest, some of which are positively indecent, some simply vain, shallow, and unnatural. That is not the way to wear the yoke of Christ. It will wear you out. The men and women who plan the fashions are in it for money and money demands a change of model frequently. The automobile folks know that. So, no matter how bad a fashion is, that fashion won't last. No matter how good a style may be, it won't last always, if the fashion makers can have their way. And back of the fashion makers is the devil.

What is the devil trying to do with fashion? He is trying to promote immodesty, indecency, and immorality. He has succeeded. He is trying to promote disease by bringing in all kinds of unhealthful fashions. He is trying to promote vanity and pride. People show themselves off like vain peacocks. They do all kinds of things from the hair on their head to the shoes on their feet just to show off. But underneath it all

there is another purpose of the enemy. He wants to wear people out. He wants their minds to be filled with "What shall we eat?" or, "What shall we drink?" or "Wherewithal shall we be clothed" (Matthew 6:31)? Jesus advises that we study the lilies of the field, how they grow; ... even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 6:28, 29).

If you want the yoke of Christ, which is easy, do not study the fashion plates of this world. Do not try to keep up with Paris or New York or Hollywood or anything else. Try to keep up with Jesus. This doesn't mean being sloppy; it doesn't mean being careless. For Christ's sake, whose witnesses we are, we should seek to make the best of our appearance but that doesn't take a lot of wearing toil. It doesn't take a lot of unnecessary expenditure either of money or of time or of thought. Natural simplicity is the way of true beauty. It is the easy yoke that Christ is talking about. So it is with every other phase of life.

Take the matter of food—how people today are spending money and time and thought to create some new sensation to tempt the appetite. Why? Not because they are hungry. Their appetites have been so perverted that they do not know what natural hunger is. Many of them eat all day and into the night. They come to the table with very little genuine appetite so somebody has to be busy thinking up concoctions, all sorts of things to tempt the appetite. This calls for time and money and thought that could be devoted to something better. And again, as on dress, so on diet, the answer is not to be sloppy and slovenly. Just throw the food on the table and let people eat like the cattle from the manger. No, no. God wants us to present the food in a beautiful and attractive way. This reminds me of the Eden that was and the Eden that is to be. And the food that God gave our first parents is still the most delicious, the most palatable and the most nutritious.

Do you notice, friends, that the nearer we get to that program, the more time and thought we have to devote to the spiritual side of life? The food itself contributes to that and it doesn't call for those hours and hours of toil in preparation that the worldly program does.

Someone may say, today we don't have to spend much time in preparation. We just run down and buy these TV dinners and just sit at the TV and eat. Mother doesn't have to cook. I believe that is also a heavy yoke.

What was that word Luke used in Luke 9:23? *Daily*. What a wonderful experience it can be to be alone with God to settle this question. All on the altar. He has got a blessing for you in fellowship with Him. He wants you to be all alone when you enter into this because He has some things to tell you He won't tell anyone else. "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant" (Psalm 25:14).

Lord, tell us what to cut out of our lives so that we'll have more time, more money, more thought, more love for the things that are worth the most. Teach us how to sense our privileges, to lay aside the yokes of bondage, to accept Thy yoke which is easy and Thy burden which is light. **LM**

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Dec. 29, 2019 – Jan. 4, 2020

## Courageous Leadership

### Key Text

“Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD” (Psalm 31:24).

**Study Help:** *The Ministry of Healing*, 497–502.

### Introduction

“You may reach God’s ideal if you will resolve that self shall not be woven into your work. To know that you are striving in spirit and in works to be Christlike, will give you strength and comfort and courage.” *Gospel Workers*, 164.

## Sunday

### THE VALUE OF A FAITHFUL LEADER

- a. How did Israel respond to the death of Moses? Deuteronomy 34:7, 8; Psalm 112:6.

**Note:** “The Israelites deeply mourned for their departed leader, and thirty days were devoted to special services in honor of his memory. Never till he was taken from them had they so fully realized the value of his wise counsels, his parental tenderness, and his unswerving faith. With a new and deeper appreciation they recalled the precious lessons he had given while still with them.

“Moses was dead, but his influence did not die with him. It was to live on, reproducing itself in the hearts of his people. The memory of that holy, unselfish life would long be cherished, with silent, persuasive power molding the lives even of those who had neglected his living words.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 481.

- b. What should the loss of faithful workers make us consider? Psalm 116:15.

**Note:** “Satan is constantly working through his agents to dishearten and destroy those whom God has chosen to accomplish a great and good work. They may be ready to sacrifice even their own life for the advancement of the cause of Christ, yet the great deceiver will suggest doubts, distrust, jealousy, concerning them, that if entertained will undermine confidence in their integrity of character, and thus cripple their usefulness. Too often he succeeds in working through their own brethren, to bring upon them such sorrow and anguish of heart that God graciously interposes to give his persecuted servants rest. After the hands are folded upon the pulseless breast, after the voice of warning and encouragement is silent, then death may accomplish that which life has failed to do; then the obdurate may be aroused to see and prize the blessings they have cast from them.” *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 232.

## Monday

### CULTIVATING APPRECIATION

- a. Why is it important to respect God-fearing leaders? Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17.

**Note:** “The names of God’s chosen servants have been handled with disrespect, and in some cases with absolute contempt, by certain persons whose duty it is to uphold them. The children have not failed to hear the disrespectful remarks of their parents in reference to the solemn reproofs and warnings of God’s servants. They have understood the scornful jests and depreciatory speeches that from time to time have met their ears, and the tendency has been to bring sacred and eternal interests, in their minds, on a level with the common affairs of the world. What a work are these parents doing in making infidels of their children even in their childhood! This is the way that children are taught to be irreverent and to rebel against Heaven’s reproof of sin. ...

“There are many who find special enjoyment in discouraging and dwelling upon the defects, whether real or imaginary, of those who bear heavy responsibilities in connection with the institutions of God’s cause. They overlook the good that has been accomplished, the benefits that have resulted from arduous labor and unflinching devotion to the cause, and fasten their attention upon some apparent mistake, some matter that, after it has been done and the consequences have followed, they fancy could have been done in a better manner with fairer results, when the truth is, had they been left to do the work, they would either have refused to move at all under the attending discouragements of the case, or would have managed more



indiscreetly than those who did do the work, following the opening of God's providence." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 195, 196.

- b. How can we demonstrate respect and care for church leaders today? Hebrews 12:12, 13; Job 4:4.

**Note:** "The words of criticism that have been spoken have at times had a very discouraging effect. But again and again in their necessity, the Lord sent them the word to go straight ahead, to follow their Leader. I have been instructed to lift up the hands that hang down and to strengthen the feeble knees, to encourage the faithful laborers with words from the Lord." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, 409.

## Tuesday

### THE SUCCESSOR OF MOSES

- a. Who was appointed to be the visible leader of Israel after Moses' death? What were his qualifications? Deuteronomy 34:9.

**Note:** "Joshua was now the acknowledged leader of Israel. He had been known chiefly as a warrior, and his gifts and virtues were especially valuable at this stage in the history of his people. Courageous, resolute, and persevering, prompt, incorruptible, unmindful of selfish interests in his care for those committed to his charge, and, above all, inspired by a living faith in God—such was the character of the man divinely chosen to conduct the armies of Israel in their entrance upon the Promised Land. During the sojourn in the wilderness he had acted as prime minister to Moses, and by his quiet, unpretending fidelity, his steadfastness when others wavered, his firmness to maintain the truth in the midst of danger, he had given evidence of his fitness to succeed Moses, even before he was called to the position by the voice of God." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 481, 482.

- b. What characteristics contributed to Joshua's success? Isaiah 57:15; 66:2.



**Note:** "It was with great anxiety and self-distrust that Joshua had looked forward to the work before him." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 482.

- c. What was God's plan for the successful conquest of Canaan? Joshua 1:1-5, 9.

**Note:** "Joshua was a wise general because God was his guide." *Conflict and Courage*, 116.

"The Lord promised Joshua that He would be with him as He had been with Moses, and He would make Canaan an easy conquest to him, provided he would be faithful to observe all His commandments. Joshua had been anxious concerning the execution of his commission to lead the people into the land of Canaan; but this assurance removed his fears." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 156, 157.

## Wednesday

### COURAGE THROUGH CONSECRATION

- a. What did God repeatedly tell this new leader? Why? Joshua 1:6, 7.

**Note:** “Do you think that all these charges would have been given to Joshua if there had been no danger of his being brought under misleading influences? It was because the strongest influences were to be brought to bear against his principles of righteousness that the Lord in mercy charged him not to turn to the right hand or to the left. He was to follow a course of strictest integrity. ... If there had been no peril before Joshua, God would not over and over again have charged him to be of good courage. But amid all his cares, Joshua had his God to guide him.

“There is no greater deception than for man to suppose that in any difficulty he can find a better guide than God, a wiser counselor in any emergency, a stronger defense under any circumstance.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 993.

**b. How was Joshua to be prepared in order to fulfill God’s plans? Joshua 1:8. What can we learn from this?**

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**Note:** “While Bible religion embodies the principles of activity in service, at the same time there is the necessity of asking for wisdom daily from the Source of all wisdom. What was Joshua’s victory? Thou shalt meditate upon the Word of God day and night. ...

“Those holding the positions of counselors should be unselfish men, men of faith, men of prayer, men that will not dare to rely upon their own human wisdom, but will seek earnestly for light and intelligence as to what is the best manner of conducting their business. Joshua, the commander of Israel, searched the books diligently in which Moses had faithfully chronicled the directions given by God—His requirements, reproofs, and restrictions,—lest he should move unadvisedly. Joshua was afraid to trust his own impulses, or his own wisdom. He regarded everything that came from Christ, who was enshrouded by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, as of sufficient importance to be sacredly cherished.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 993, 994.

## Thursday

### COURAGE FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

- a. What assurance do we have as we seek to be of good courage in doing our part in the Lord’s vineyard?  
Psalm 31:24; Isaiah 41:10.

**Note:** “As the standard-bearers are fainting and falling, who are coming up to take their place? ... Are there not men who will dedicate themselves to God, soul, body, and spirit, to go forth and enlighten others? ...

“The torch of truth must be carried into the dark places of the earth. While the angels are holding the winds, we must work as Christ worked. ...

“If we had toiled with fidelity, patience, and love, we should have had one hundred workers where there is one. Unimproved opportunities are written against us in the same book that bears the record of envy and rebellion against God.” *The Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885.

“This world is God’s great field of labor; He has purchased those that dwell on it with the blood of His only-begotten Son, and He means that His message of mercy shall go to everyone. Those who are commissioned to do this work will be tested and tried, but they are always to remember that God is near to strengthen and uphold them. He does not ask us to depend upon any broken reed. We are not to look for human aid. God forbid that we should place man where God should be. ... The Lord Jehovah is ‘everlasting strength’ (Isaiah 26:4).” *Reflecting Christ*, 352.

“Be of good courage in the Lord. Remember how merciful and kind He is, how great has been His keeping power over you. That which men have failed to do, God has done. Honor Him. Be an example of piety to all with whom you are connected. Let God do all judging. Your work is to love and serve God and to be a help to others.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, 151.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What should the Israelites have considered while Moses was still alive?
- 2 How may I be at risk of undermining the effectiveness of faithful leaders?
- 3 Explain the secrets of Joshua’s success from the very beginning of his work.
- 4 How was Joshua able to develop courage?
- 5 What should motivate us to cultivate the quality of courage?

January 5 – 11, 2020

# Cooperating for Success

## Key Text

“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace” (Hebrews 11:31).

**Study Help:** *Prophets and Kings*, 369, 370, 375–378.

## Introduction

“In wicked Jericho the testimony of a heathen woman was, ‘The Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath’ (Joshua 2:11). The knowledge of Jehovah that had thus come to her, proved her salvation.” *Prophets and Kings*, 369.

## Sunday

### GUIDELINES FOR EFFICIENCY

- a. What shows that Joshua planned efficiently, as a man of action? Joshua 1:10–15. How should this inspire us today?

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**Note:** “Well-defined plans should be freely presented to all whom they may concern, and it should be ascertained that they are understood. Then require of all those who are at the head of the various departments to cooperate in the execution of these plans. If this sure and radical method is properly adopted and followed up with interest and good will, it will avoid much work being done without any definite object, much useless friction.” *Evangelism*, 94.

“Let companies now be quickly organized to go out two and two, and labor in the Spirit of Christ, following His plans. Even though some Judas may introduce himself into the ranks of the workers, the Lord will care for the work. His angels will go before and prepare the way. Before this time, every large city should have heard the testing message, and thousands should have been brought to a knowledge of the truth. Wake up the churches, take the light from under the bushel.” *Medical Ministry*, 303.

## Monday

### WINNING CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT

- a. How did the tribes on the east side of the Jordan assure Joshua of their confidence and support? Joshua 1:16, 17. What can we learn from this?

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**Note:** “Christ would have His followers brought together in church capacity, observing order, having rules and discipline, and all subject one to another, esteeming others better than themselves. Union and confidence are essential to the prosperity of the church. If each member of the church feels at liberty to move independently of the others, taking his own peculiar course, how can the church be in any safety in the hour of danger and peril? The prosperity and very existence of a church depend upon the prompt, united action and mutual confidence of its members. When, at a critical time, one sounds the alarm of danger, there is need of prompt and active work, without stopping to question and canvass the whole subject from end to end, thus letting the enemy gain every advantage by delay, when united action might save many souls from perdition. ...

“Confidence in our brethren is essential to the prosperity of the church; union of action is important in a religious crisis. One imprudent step, one careless action, may plunge the church into difficulties and trials from which it may not recover for years. One member of the church filled with unbelief may give an advantage to the great foe that will affect the prosperity of the entire church, and many souls may be lost as the result.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 445, 446.

- b. How did the people encourage Joshua? Joshua 1:18. How can we be inspired by this support of leadership?

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**Note:** “Let us not discourage one another. Let us take hold unitedly to make every line of the Lord’s work a success. If someone comes to you and talks discouragingly about the work in one or another of our institutions, telling you that they are extravagant beyond measure, say to them, ‘I am sorry if that is so, but let us help them out if they are in difficulty.’ If you will speak thus you may avoid much of the evil that might result



were you to withdraw your sympathy, and should you refuse to help those who, possibly, may have been misrepresented. Let us never discourage even those who have done wrong, by treating them as if they had committed against us an unpardonable sin.” *Counsels on Health*, 243.

## Tuesday

### ASSESSING THE CHALLENGE

- a. What step did Joshua take when facing the first obstacle in the journey? Joshua 2:1, *first part*.

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**Note:** “The Israelites were still encamped on the east side of Jordan, which presented the first barrier to the occupation of Canaan. ‘Arise,’ had been the first message of God to Joshua, ‘go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them’ (Joshua 1:2). No instruction was given as to the way in which they were to make the passage. Joshua knew, however, that whatever God should command, He would make a way for His people to perform, and in this faith the intrepid leader at once began his arrangements for an advance.

“A few miles beyond the river, just opposite the place where the Israelites were encamped, was the large and strongly fortified city of Jericho. This city was virtually the key to the whole country, and it would present a formidable obstacle to the success of Israel. Joshua therefore sent two young men as spies to visit this city and ascertain something as to its population, its resources, and the strength of its fortifications.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 482.

- b. Explain the state of mind of Jericho’s inhabitants and the protection given by Rahab at the peril of her life. Joshua 2:1, *last part–9*.

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**Note:** “The terrible judgments of God which were visited upon the idolaters in the lands through which the children of Israel passed caused a fear and dread to fall upon all people living on the earth.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 994.

- c. What did Rahab recognize as the key to Israel’s strength? Joshua 2:10, 11.

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**Note:** “Through the teaching of the sacrificial service, Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, and all who would look unto Him should live. All who, like Rahab the Canaanite, ... turned from idolatry to the worship of the true God were to unite themselves with His chosen people.” *Prophets and Kings*, 19.

## Wednesday

### A HEATHEN SOUL CONVERTED

- a. By what process did Rahab protect the men of God and in turn receive protection herself as well? Joshua 2:12–20. What does this teach us?

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**Note:** “Those who are watching for souls, who devote themselves most fully to the salvation of the erring, are most surely working out their own salvation.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 607.

- b. What did the woman do to signify her agreement? Joshua 2:21. How important is cooperation in the work of God?

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**Note:** “There is much said concerning the inefficiency of human effort, and yet the Lord does nothing for the salvation of the soul without the cooperation of man.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 217.

- c. What should we learn from the caution exercised by the spies? Joshua 2:22.

**Note:** “There are those who have a reckless spirit, which they term courage and bravery. They needlessly place themselves in scenes of danger and peril, thus exposing themselves to temptations out of which it would require a miracle of God to bring them unharmed and untainted. ...

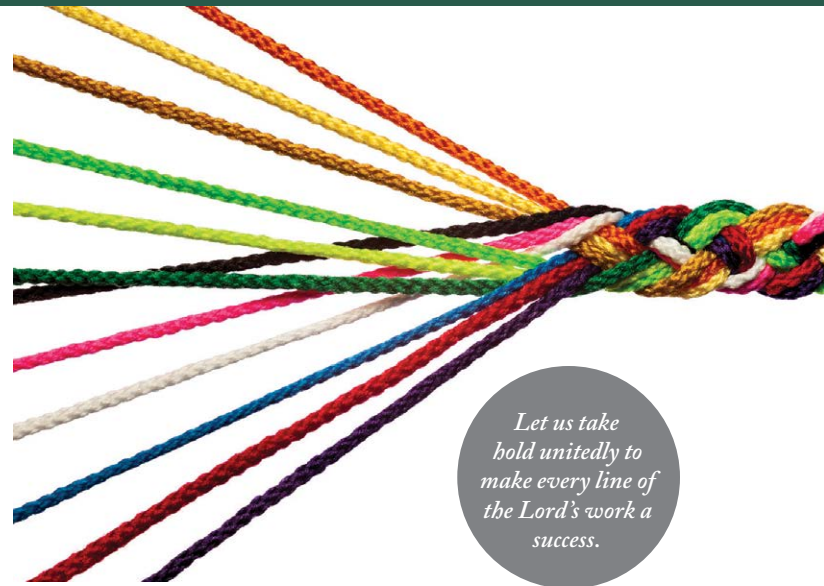
“God’s precious promises are not given to strengthen man in a presumptuous course or for him to rely upon when he rushes needlessly into danger. The Lord requires us to move with a humble dependence upon His providence. ‘It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps’ (Jeremiah 10:23, *last part*). In God is our prosperity and our life. Nothing can be done prosperously without the permission and blessing of God. He can set His hand to prosper and bless, or He can turn His hand against us. ... We should exercise prudence, caution, and humility, and walk circumspectly toward them that are without.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 482.

## Thursday

### HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- a. When the spies returned to the camp of Israel, what did they report to Joshua? Joshua 2:23, 24. How important is it to use encouraging words?

**Note:** “The bright and cheerful side of religion will be represented by all who are daily consecrated to God. We should not dishonor our Lord by a mournful relation of trials that appear grievous. All trials that are received as educators will produce joy. The whole religious life will be uplifting, elevating, ennobling, fragrant with good words and works: The enemy is well pleased to have souls depressed, downcast; he desires unbelievers to gain wrong impressions regarding the effect of our faith. But God desires the mind to take a higher level. He desires every soul to triumph in the keeping power of the Redeemer.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1183.



*Let us take  
hold unitedly to  
make every line of  
the Lord's work a  
success.*

- b. When Jericho was later destroyed, how did the Israelites treat Rahab and her family? Joshua 6:21–23, 25. What shows the victory possible through faith, regardless of whatever sin we may have indulged? Hebrews 11:31.

**Note:** “The stronghold of sin is in the will. Put your will on God’s side of the question; place yourself no longer in the position of a sinner, a harlot. You may not see clearly how you will obtain deliverance from the sins which have been cherished, and strengthened with repetition. The only way is to confess your sins, forsake them, and believe that Jesus will pardon you.” *Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, 140, 141.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 In my missionary efforts, how can I imitate the efficiency of Joshua?
- 2 How can I imitate the support that the tribes gave to Joshua at the Jordan?
- 3 What is God’s plan for the “Rahabs” we may encounter on a daily basis?
- 4 Why are caution and prudence important virtues in perilous times?
- 5 How can my speech become more like the report the spies brought back?

January 12 – 18, 2020

# Clinging to God's Presence

## Key Text

"And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it" (Joshua 3:3).

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 483–486; *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 645–653; *Early Writings*, 32.

## Introduction

"Study carefully the experiences of Israel in their travels to Canaan. Study the third and fourth chapters of Joshua, recording their preparation for and passage over the Jordan into the promised land." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 994.

## Sunday

### EYES FOCUSING IN FAITH

- a. What distinct command did Joshua give regarding the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God's presence in Israel? Why? Joshua 3:2–4.

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**Note:** "The ark of God was a sacred chest, made to be the depository of the ten commandments, which law was the representative of God himself. This ark was considered the glory and strength of Israel. The token of Divine presence abode upon it day and night." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 101.

- b. How is the ark of the covenant in heaven equally significant for us today? Hebrews 8:1, 2; 9:3–5.

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**Note:** "Satan has laid every measure possible that nothing shall come among us as a people to reprove and rebuke us, and exhort us to put away our errors. But there is a people who will bear the ark of God." *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 411.

## Monday

### PREPARING TO SEE AMAZING THINGS

- a. Before the Israelites could experience God's presence in a miraculous way, how did Joshua tell them to prepare themselves? Joshua 3:5.

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- b. What is God's promise in regard to the purification of His people? Titus 2:14; Matthew 16:24.

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**Note:** "True sanctification comes through the working out of the principle of love. ...

"Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 560.

"Genuine sanctification ... is nothing less than a daily dying to self and daily conformity to the will of God. ... Paul's sanctification was a constant conflict with self. Said he: 'I die daily' (1 Corinthians 15:31, *last part*). His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did the will of God, however unpleasant and crucifying to his nature." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 299.

"True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His character." *Ibid.*, vol. 6, 350.

"Here is Bible sanctification. It is not merely a show or outside work. It is sanctification received through the channel of truth. It is truth received in the heart, and practically carried out in the life." *Ibid.*, vol. 1, 339.





*The ark was  
considered the  
glory and strength  
of Israel.*

- c. Who were commanded to be the first to potentially risk life and safety for the sake of the people? Joshua 3:6–8.

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**Note:** “The priests obeyed the commands of their leader, and went before the people carrying the ark of the covenant. Orders had been given for the multitude to fall back, so that there was a vacant space of three-fourths of a mile about the ark. The immense hosts watched with deep interest as the priests advanced down the bank of the Jordan. They saw them with the sacred ark move steadily forward, toward the angry, surging stream, till the feet of the bearers seemed to be dipping into the waters.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 7, 1881.

## Tuesday

### THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PRESENCE

- a. What promise was fulfilled to the consecrated men of God who bore the sacred ark in the face of danger? Isaiah 43:2.

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**Note:** “Four heavenly angels always accompanied the ark of God in all its journeyings, to guard it from all danger, and to fulfill any mission required of them in connection with the ark.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 102.

- b. What did the Lord promise with regard to the bearing of the ark at the tremendous swelling of the river Jordan? Joshua 3:9–13.

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- c. What hope does God extend to every burden bearer who faithfully presses forward to “bear the ark” to-day, spreading the present truth often under difficult and trying circumstances? Psalm 126:4–6.

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**Note:** “There are times when it seems to the servant of God impossible to do the work necessary to be done, because of the lack of means to carry on a strong, solid work. Some are fearful that with the facilities at their command they cannot do all that they feel it their duty to do. But if they advance in faith, the salvation of God will be revealed, and prosperity will attend their efforts. He who has bidden His followers go into all parts of the world will sustain every laborer who in obedience to His command seeks to proclaim His message.

“In the upbuilding of His work the Lord does not always make everything plain before His servants. He sometimes tries the confidence of His people by bringing about circumstances which compel them to move forward in faith. Often He brings them into strait and trying places, and bids them advance when their feet seem to be touching the waters of Jordan. It is at such times, when the prayers of His servants ascend to Him in earnest faith, that God opens the way before them and brings them out into a large place.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 357.

## Wednesday

### THE HAND OF GOD AT WORK

- a. What amazing result followed when the priests implicitly obeyed the command that God gave through Joshua? Joshua 3:14–17; 4:18.

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**Note:** “The priests obeyed the commands of their leader and went before the people, carrying the ark of the covenant. The Hebrew hosts took up the line of march and followed this symbol of the divine presence. The wide column filed down the bank of Jordan, and, as the feet of the priests were dipped in the brim of the river, the water was cut off from above, and the volume below rolled on, leaving the bed of the stream dry. The priests passed on, bearing the ark of God, and Israel followed in the rear. Halfway over Jordan the priests were commanded to stand still in the channel of the river till all the Hebrew host had crossed over. This was to impress upon their minds more forcibly the fact that the power which stayed the waters of Jordan was the same that enabled their fathers to cross the Red Sea forty years before.

“Many who passed through the Red Sea when they were children, now, by a similar miracle, crossed over Jordan, men of war, equipped for battle. After the host of Israel had all passed over, Joshua commanded the priests to come up out of the river. When they, bearing the ark of the covenant, stood safe upon the farther shore, God removed His mighty hand, and the accumulated waters rushed down, a mighty cataract, in the natural channel of the stream. Jordan rolled on, a resistless flood, overflowing all its banks.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 157, 158.

- b. How and why was this miracle to be kept in memory? How did this affect the surrounding nations? Joshua 4:4–9, 21–24; 5:1.

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**Note:** “Jesus the Son of God, followed by heavenly angels, went before the ark as it came to Jordan, and the waters were cut off before His presence. Christ and angels stood by the ark and the priests in the bed of the river until all Israel had passed over Jordan.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 102.

“When the tidings that God had stayed the waters of Jordan before the children of Israel, reached the kings of the Amorites and of the Canaanites, their hearts melted with fear.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 485.

## Thursday

### ENTERING INTO A NEW EXPERIENCE

- a. Why had the practice of circumcision been suspended, and why was it now restored? Joshua 5:2–9.

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**Note:** “The suspension of the rite of circumcision since the rebellion at Kadesh had been a constant witness to Israel that their covenant with God, of which it was the appointed symbol, had been broken. And the discontinuance of the Passover, the memorial of their deliverance from Egypt, had been an evidence of the Lord’s displeasure at their desire to return to the land of bondage. Now, however, the years of rejection were ended. Once more God acknowledged Israel as His people, and the sign of the covenant was restored. The rite of circumcision was performed upon all the people who had been born in the wilderness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 485.

- b. What else marked the victorious condition in which the Israelites now found themselves after the miracle at the Jordan? Joshua 5:10–12.

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**Note:** “The Lord had now signally manifested His power and favor by leading His people over Jordan on dry land, and their enemies could no longer reproach them. The manna, which had continued up to this time, now ceased; for as the Israelites were about to possess Canaan, and eat of the fruits of that goodly land, there was no more need of it.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 159.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the significance of the priests’ willingness to walk into the Jordan?
- 2 What does the Spirit of Prophecy mean when it says “... people who will bear the ark of God”? *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 411.
- 3 Why was the rite of circumcision vital at the entrance to the promised land?
- 4 Why should we keep in remembrance God’s provisions for us?
- 5 What happens when “holy hands hold the ark no longer”? *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 77.

January 19 – 25, 2020

# Victory at Jericho

## Key Text

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days” (Hebrews 11:30).

**Study Help:** *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 159–164.

## Introduction

“Christ and angels attended the circuit of the ark around Jericho, and finally cast down the massive walls of the city, and delivered Jericho into the hands of Israel.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 102.

## Sunday

### AN AWESOME ENCOUNTER

- a. While Joshua was near Jericho, meditating and praying, whom did he see, and what question did he ask? Joshua 5:13.

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**Note:** “As Joshua withdrew from the armies of Israel to meditate and pray for God’s special presence to attend him, he saw a Man of lofty stature, clad in warlike garments, with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua did not recognize Him as one of the warriors of Israel, and yet He had no appearance of being an enemy.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 159.

- b. Who was the warrior of lofty stature and commanding presence that stood before Joshua? What instructions were given? Joshua 5:14, 15.

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**Note:** “[Joshua 5:13–15 quoted.]

“This was no common angel. It was the Lord Jesus Christ, He who had conducted the Hebrews through the wilderness, enshrouded in the pillar of fire by night, and a pillar of cloud by day. The place was made sacred by His presence, therefore Joshua was commanded to put off his shoes.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 61.

## Monday

### THE TIME IS RIPE

- a. What are we told about Jericho and why its gates were kept shut? What assurance did God give to Joshua? Joshua 6:1, 2.

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**Note:** “One of the strongest fortresses in the land—the large and wealthy city of Jericho—lay just before them [the Israelites]. ... On the border of a fertile plain abounding with the rich and varied productions of the tropics, its palaces and temples the abode of luxury and vice, this proud city, behind its massive battlements, offered defiance to the God of Israel. Jericho was one of the principal seats of idol worship, being especially devoted to Ashtaroth, the goddess of the moon. Here centered all that was vilest and most degrading in the religion of the Canaanites. The people of Israel, in whose minds were fresh the fearful results of their sin at Beth-peor, could look upon this heathen city only with disgust and horror.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 487.

- b. Explain the instructions God gave through Joshua for the overthrow of the city. Joshua 6:3–8. How did united discipline boost the faith of all?

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**Note:** “The very plan of continuing this ceremony through so long a time prior to the final overthrow of the walls afforded opportunity for the increase of faith among the Israelites.

“They were to become thoroughly impressed with the idea that their strength was not in the wisdom of man, nor in his might, but only in the God of their salvation. They were thus to become accustomed to putting themselves out of the question and relying wholly upon their divine Leader.



“Would those who today profess to be God’s people conduct themselves thus under similar circumstances? Doubtless many would wish to follow out their own plans and would suggest other ways and means of accomplishing the desired end. They would be loath to submit to so simple an arrangement and one that reflected upon themselves no glory save the merit of obedience. They would also question the possibility of a mighty city being conquered in that manner. But the law of duty is supreme. It should hold sway over human reason. Faith is the living power that presses through every barrier, overrides all obstacles, and plants its banner in the heart of the enemy’s camp.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 163.

## Tuesday

### THE MYSTERIOUS DISPLAY

- a. What did Israel do for the first six days in their compass of Jericho? Joshua 6:9–14. How did the city react to the mysterious display?

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**Note:** “In obedience to the divine command Joshua marshaled the armies of Israel. No assault was to be made. They were simply to make the circuit of the city, bearing the ark of God and blowing upon trumpets. First came the warriors, a body of chosen men, not now to conquer by their own skill and prowess, but by obedience to the directions given them from God. Seven priests with trumpets followed. Then the ark of God, surrounded by a halo of divine glory, was borne by priests clad in the dress denoting their sacred office. The army of Israel followed, each tribe under its standard. Such was the procession that compassed the doomed city. No sound was heard but the tread of that mighty host and the solemn peal of the trumpets, echoing among the hills and resounding through the streets of Jericho. The circuit completed, the army returned in silence to their tents, and the ark was restored to its place in the tabernacle.

“With wonder and alarm the watchmen of the city marked every move, and reported to those in authority. They knew not the meaning of all this display; but when they beheld that mighty host marching around their city once each day, with the sacred ark and the attendant priests, the mystery of the scene struck terror to the hearts of priest and people. Again they would inspect their strong defenses, feeling certain they could successfully resist the most powerful attack. Many ridiculed the thought that any harm could come to them through these singular demonstrations. Others were awed as they beheld the procession that each day wound about the city.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 488.

- b. What happened on the seventh day? Joshua 6:15, 16, 20; Hebrews 11:30.

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**Note:** “How easily the armies of heaven brought down the walls that had seemed so formidable to the spies who brought the false report! The word of God was the only weapon used. ... The work was left to the Almighty.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 161.

## Wednesday

### THE EXTREME DOOM—AND ITS CAUSE

- a. What did God command about Jericho, its inhabitants, and its goods? How was Joshua’s curse in Joshua 6:26 fulfilled? Joshua 6:17–19, 24, 26; 1 Kings 16:34.

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**Note:** “The Israelites had not gained the victory by their own power; the conquest had been wholly the Lord’s; and as the first fruits of the land, the city, with all that it contained, was to be devoted as a sacrifice to God. It was to be impressed upon Israel that in the conquest of Canaan they were not to fight for themselves, but simply as instruments to execute the will of God; not to seek for riches or self-exaltation, but the glory of Jehovah their King. Before the capture the command had been given, [Joshua 6:17, 18 quoted].

“All the inhabitants of the city, with every living thing that it contained ... were put to the sword. ... The city itself was burned; its palaces and temples, its magnificent dwellings with all their luxurious appointments, the rich draperies and the costly garments, were given to the flames. ... The very site of the city was accursed; Jericho was never to be rebuilt as a stronghold; judgments were threatened upon anyone who should presume to restore the walls that divine power had cast down.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 491, 492.

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*God will help His believing children in every emergency if they will place their entire confidence in Him.*



**b. Why did God pronounce such doom upon Jericho?**  
Deuteronomy 7:2–10; 20:16–18.

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**Note:** “[Deuteronomy 7:2; 20:16 quoted.] To many these commands seem to be contrary to the spirit of love and mercy enjoined in other portions of the Bible, but they were in truth the dictates of infinite wisdom and goodness. God was about to establish Israel in Canaan, to develop among them a nation and government that should be a manifestation of His kingdom upon the earth. They were not only to be inheritors of the true religion, but to disseminate its principles throughout the world. The Canaanites had abandoned themselves to the foulest and most debasing heathenism, and it was necessary that the land should be cleared of what would so surely prevent the fulfillment of God’s gracious purposes.

“The inhabitants of Canaan had been granted ample opportunity for repentance.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 492.

## Thursday

### GOD KNOWS BEST

**a. What are we to learn from the conquest of Jericho?**  
Romans 15:4.

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**Note:** “As a people we lack faith. In these days few would follow the directions given through God’s chosen servant as obediently as did the armies of Israel at the taking of Jericho. The Captain of the Lord’s host did not reveal Himself to all

the congregation. He communicated only with Joshua, who related the story of this interview to the Hebrews. It rested with them to believe or to doubt the words of Joshua, to follow the commands given by him in the name of the Captain of the Lord’s host, or to rebel against his directions and deny his authority. They could not see the host of angels, marshaled by the Son of God, who led their van; and they might have reasoned: ‘What unmeaning movements are these, and how ridiculous the performance of marching daily around the walls of the city, blowing trumpets of ram’s horns meanwhile! This can have no effect upon those strong towering fortifications.’ ...

“He [God] will help His believing children in every emergency if they will place their entire confidence in Him and implicitly obey Him. ...

“God works mightily for a faithful people who obey His word without questioning or doubt. The Majesty of heaven, with His army of angels, leveled the walls of Jericho without human aid. The armed warriors of Israel had no cause to glory in their achievements. All was done through the power of God. Let the people give up self and the desire to work after their own plans, let them humbly submit to the divine will, and God will revive their strength and bring freedom and victory to His children.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 162–164. [Emphasis author’s.]

## Friday

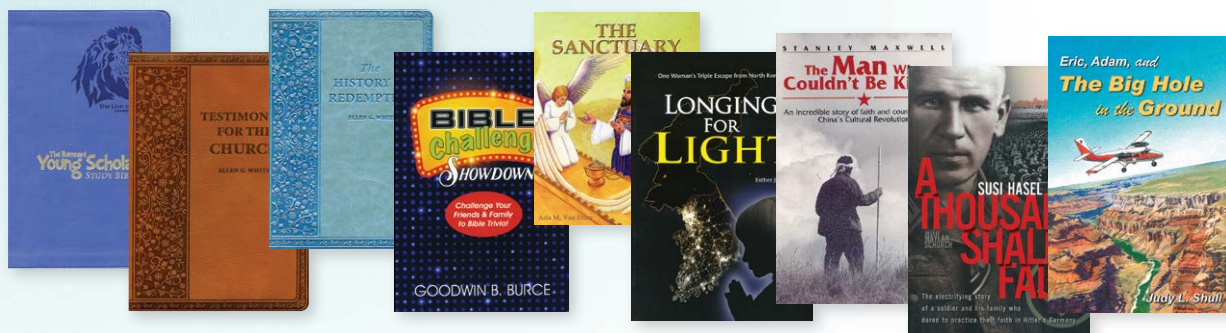
### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How was Joshua strengthened in advance to carry out a specific strategy?
- 2 If Jericho had not been destroyed, how might the rest of history been affected?
- 3 Explain the mysterious way in which God won the battle of Jericho.
- 4 Why did Israel need to burn everything and give the metals to the treasury?
- 5 What might be preventing me from experiencing the success God can give?

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## *The Next Turmeric?*

**T**urmeric has been the go-to spice for years. This golden spice has been the focus of many headlines, stating that it fights anything from common flu to depression. However, there is another healing spice worthy of high status.

Known as the Queen of Spices, cardamom is a nutritional powerhouse, typically used in the western hemisphere to flavor food. However, it is now becoming notorious for its medicinal purposes, including combating a variety of ailments, counteracting digestive problems, reducing inflammation in the stomach lining, while calming heartburn and nausea naturally. It also contains high levels of minerals and vitamins

such as calcium, magnesium, iron, riboflavin, niacin and vitamin C and can freshen your breath. <https://healthprep.com/living-healthy/is-this-super-spice-the-next-turmeric/>

This pungent spice clears the bronchi and lungs of mucus, thereby cleaning the respiratory tract. It helps prevent and relieve symptoms of cold, cough, flu and bronchitis and is considered to be highly beneficial for asthma patients. It also acts as a natural remedy for whooping cough and bronchitis.

Cardamom helps dispel nausea, hiccups, and relief from other involuntary muscle spasms, like stomach and intestinal cramps.

As a diuretic and fiber-rich spice, cardamom significantly lowers elevated blood pressure levels and stimulates bowel movements, thereby protecting from constipation. Cardamom prevents dangerous blood clots by preventing platelet aggregation and platelets from sticking to the artery walls.

Studies are showing promise that cardamom protects against, inhibits growth of, and even kills some cancers.

[www.curejoy.com/content/26-aromatic-facts-of-the-spice-cardamom/](http://www.curejoy.com/content/26-aromatic-facts-of-the-spice-cardamom/)

Kitchen royalty, this versatile spice has earned its title medicinally and culinarily. **LM**

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## BANANA BLUEBERRY BARS

### Ingredients

1 cup medjool dates, pitted and diced  
 1½ cups apple juice (or water)  
 1 cup oat flour (oats ground fine in blender)  
 2 cups rolled oats  
 ½ tsp. cardamom  
 3 medium ripe bananas, diced  
 1 tsp. vanilla extract  
 ¾ cup blueberries, frozen or fresh  
 ½ cup walnuts

### Process

- Soak dates with apple juice in small bowl for at least 20 minutes.
- Line bottom and sides of a 9x9 baking dish with parchment paper.
- Combine oat flour, oats, and cardamom in large bowl; set aside.
- In blender place bananas, vanilla extract, apple juice and dates; blend until creamy.
- Pour banana mixture into dry ingredient bowl; mix with fork. Fold in blueberries and walnuts.
- Pour batter into lined baking dish; smooth top.
- Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes or until light brown. Use toothpick to test for doneness.
- Let cool 5–10 minutes. Serve.





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*In order to know what are  
the best foods, we must study  
God's original plan for man's  
diet. He who created man and who  
understands his needs appointed  
Adam his food. ... Grains, fruits, nuts,  
and vegetables constitute the diet chosen  
for us by our Creator.*

*Ellen White*