

HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**  
OF ADVENTISM

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*What Occupies  
Your Mind?*

*A war is raging between the forces  
of good and evil. There is no time  
for fence-sitting.*

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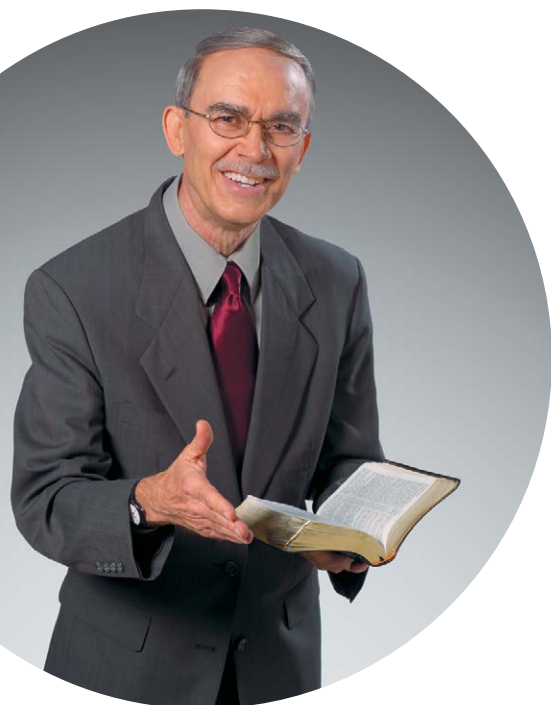
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## From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

# I Am

**A**t the burning bush, Moses asked the Lord what he was to tell the children of Israel as to who had sent him for their deliverance from Egypt, the Lord said to say that “I AM” had sent him (Exodus 3:14).

The word *Jehovah* or *Yahweh* is a derivative of the expression “I AM.” What does the expression “I AM” signify? It was the name of God given to Moses to express the idea of the eternal presence of God (see *The Desire of Ages*, 469, 470). It also signifies that the person bearing this name is self-existent (Ibid).

Abraham wanted to see the promised Saviour of the world. “He offered up the most earnest prayer that he might see Him before he died.” *The Signs of the Times*, May 3, 1899.

His prayer was answered in a way he had not expected. He was asked to sacrifice his only son—a burnt offering to the Lord (Genesis 22).

“This terrible ordeal was imposed upon Abraham that he might see the day of Christ, and realize the great love of God for the world, so great that, to raise it from its degradation, He gave His only-begotten Son to a most shameful death.

“Abraham learned of God the greatest lesson ever given to mortal. His prayer that he might see Christ before he should die, was answered. He saw Christ; he saw all that mortal can see and live. By making an entire surrender, he was able to understand the vision of Christ, which had been given him. He was shown that in giving His only-begotten Son to save sinners from eternal ruin, God was making a greater and more wonderful sacrifice than ever man could make. ...

“The incarnate I AM is our abiding Sacrifice. The I AM is our Redeemer, our Substitute, our Surety. He is the Daysman between God and the human soul, our Advocate in the courts of heaven, our unwearying Intercessor, pleading in our behalf His merits and His atoning sacrifice. The I AM is our Saviour. In Him our hopes of eternal life are centered. He is an ever-present help in time of trouble. In Him is the assurance of every promise.

“Jehovah is the name given to Christ.” Ibid.

He is the one referred to over and over again by Isaiah the gospel prophet, not only in Isaiah 53 but in chapters 9, 11, 12, 26, 32, 42, 43, 50 and 61. **LM**

HISTORIC

# LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

## Staff

**Editor:** John J. Grosboll  
**Managing Editor:** Sandra Mulchin  
**Graphic Design:** Martin Bernar  
**Contributing Editors:** Judy Hallingstad, Lynette Golia

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## Publisher

Steps to Life, Inc.  
P. O. Box 782828  
Wichita, KS 67278

[facebook](#)

Ph: 316-788-5559  
[historic@stepstolife.org](mailto:historic@stepstolife.org)  
[www.stepstolife.org](http://www.stepstolife.org)

[YouTube](#)

**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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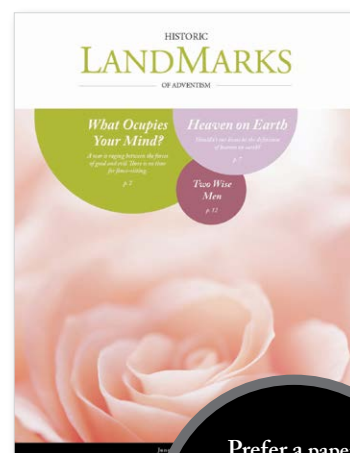
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# *What Occupies Your Mind?*

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By John J. Grosboll

In the space of one week there are one hundred and sixty-eight hours. If you sleep for eight hours each night you will be asleep for fifty-six hours, leaving another one hundred and twelve hours. God claims twenty-four of those hours to be kept as a Sabbath and that leaves you with eighty-eight hours of your own time each week to do as you will. Possibly half of that time is taken up with employment, but how do you spend that free time and what is it that you do to occupy your mind during those hours each week?





The world today, especially the Christian world, seems to be in a condition very similar to that into which Jesus came as a baby. The minds of the people were engrossed in the common place matters of daily life in this world. This was just as Satan had designed to keep people so busy in their temporal affairs that they would not notice the arrival of the One sent from Heaven, who alone could deliver them from sin. Satan well knew that sin and love of the world would have to be expelled from the hearts of the people in order for the love of God to accomplish its work and make a people ready for salvation. For this reason, all manner of distraction has been invented to blind the eyes of the people and for many centuries the devil has had overwhelming success in his evil deeds.

One of the chief purposes of Jesus in coming to this world was to remove from the heart of man his love for material things and his love of sensual pleasure and replace it with a heart of love for God, which had been lost since our first parents sinned in the Garden of Eden. But the world that Jesus came into did not receive Him because His teaching did not harmonize with that of their man-made religion.

The religion of the Jews in the time of Christ consisted of forms and ceremonies and the offering of sacrifices. These sacrifices, intended to prefigure the great sacrifice that would be offered on the cross of Calvary, were an abomination to God, because they had lost their meaning and were not offered with contrition and humility and in faith of the coming Messiah. Instead, their religion was useless. Jesus told them that their religion was in vain and that they taught for doctrines the commandments of men.

Jesus came to bring an adjustment, a transformation, and He foresaw that at the end of the world the situation would be very similar to the way it was at His first coming. He talked to His disciples about this: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with



*Every animal sacrifice represented the fact that someday the real sacrifice, the Son of God, would pay the price for our sins.*

carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly, For it will come as a snare [a trap] on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth, Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34–36).

Some manuscripts read in verse 36, "Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may have strength to escape all these things that are to come, and to stand before the Son of Man."

So, what is it that occupies your mind? The choices you make on a daily basis will determine your eternal salvation. It is not enough to have a shallow experience, expecting your religious belief to save you. Unless your religion changes your heart into the likeness of Jesus, that religion will be a trap and a snare.

The Bible describes those at the end of time as having a marvelous religious experience and having the greatest revival of all time. But the majority will meet with a dreadful disappointment when Jesus comes.

Matthew 7:21 to 23 says, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day,

'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

This passage of Scripture is describing religious people. Remember Cain. He was a religious person. In fact, it was religion that got Cain in trouble. In Genesis 4:3 and 4 it says, "In the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering."

We read in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 62, that Adam and Eve and their children came every Sabbath day, the seventh day, to the entrance of the Garden of Eden. There an angel guarded the way and they were prohibited from entering the garden because of sin. However, they came to the entrance where they conducted their worship service. It was on one of these Sabbath days that Abel brought a sacrificial offering and God had respect to Abel and his offering. However, though Cain brought an offering that was valuable, God did not have respect to his offering. It was easy for Abel to bring a lamb for his offering because he

was a shepherd. His business was keeping sheep. But Cain was a tiller of the soil and he brought produce from his business.

The problem here was that Abel's offering showed that he believed not only that he was a sinner, but that he needed a sacrifice, a blood atonement, to pay the price of his sin. The animal sacrifices all were a figure or type of the coming Saviour. Each time an animal was sacrificed at the hand of the penitent one, he saw that animal die at his own hand. The sacrifice was designed to teach the lesson that though we are all sinners and deserve to die, God has made a way that the price has been paid for us. Every animal sacrifice represented the fact that someday the real sacrifice, the Son of God, would pay the price for our sins.

It was known that animal sacrifices did not pay the price of sin.

Our first parents knew the sacrificial lambs were just representative of the Savior to come. Cain's offering made no confession of his sinful condition or acknowledgment that he needed the sacrifice of Christ for him to be given pardon and eternal life.

Cain determined to worship God in his own way, demonstrating his self-sufficiency. Throughout history, and even today, there are many people just like Cain who look and depend on their own achievements for salvation. The Bible teaches that we are helpless to do anything to save ourselves. Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Our eternal salvation depends on a sacrifice. Before Christ died, the people looked forward to the Saviour to come, Jesus, the true sacrifice. Today, we look back dependent on Jesus, the sacrifice that has been made.

What this sacrifice represents and has achieved and what it has established is a huge subject of study. Ellen White says in the first few pages of *The Desire of Ages* that both the unfallen angels and the redeemed will study the subject of the cross of Christ throughout all of eternity. In fact, she said

that eternity itself can never totally reveal the immensity of this subject. Even though it will never be exhausted, we need to study to understand as much as we can because it establishes some things that we must learn if we are going to be saved.

The cross establishes an immutable accountability of the whole human race. Accountability is an unpopular subject in today's society, but a necessary subject for those preparing for the kingdom of heaven. Because of Christ's sacrifice, all have obligations that cannot be evaded. Paul wrote, "You were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

If we were bought at a price, we no longer belong to ourselves. The whole race was lost and has been bought from the bondage to Satan and sin. "For by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage" (2 Peter 2:19). "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men" (Romans 5:12).

Because of Christ's sacrifice the human race no longer belongs to the devil. We are Christ's possession even if we do not acknowledge the fact. He purchased us so we would no longer have to be slaves to sin. Accountability is needed in this generation. A whole generation of youth and young people are being raised without understanding the concept of accountability. As a result, our country and this world are headed toward a time of trouble like we have never seen or heard of before.

Ellen White wrote in *The Review and Herald*, September 22, 1891, a few things about accountability. She said, "The life He has given us is a sacred responsibility, and no moment of it is to be trifled with; for we shall have to meet it again in the record of the Judgment. In the books of heaven our lives are as accurately traced as in the picture on the plate of the photographer. Not only are we held accountable for what we have done, but for what we have left undone." This should bring us to our knees to ask if there are things that have been neglected.

"We are held to account for our undeveloped characters, our unimproved opportunities." Ibid. God provides people oppor-

“

*The cross establishes an immutable accountability of the whole human race. Accountability is an unpopular subject in today's society.*

tunities which He expects to be taken and used. Remember, “There is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known” (Matthew 10:26, *last part*).

Moses said, “But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). Never think you can sin without meeting it again. No, we are accountable. If you respond to the Holy Spirit and repent and confess your sins and be converted, Jesus Christ will forgive you and your sins will be covered. Later, at the cleansing of the sanctuary, your sins will be blotted out. No sin is ever committed alone in the depth of the night that nobody else in the world knows, for God knows. The wise man said, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

1 Timothy 5:24 says, “Some men’s sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.” Those sins that “follow later” are those that are not confessed, not repented of, and not forsaken. One of the biggest games in this world is the attempt to cover sin.

Sins that are not covered cannot be forgiven and will not be blotted out. They will be met again at the Judgment. That judgment of the lost will occur at the end of the millennium and those sins will be revealed. (See Revelation 20:11–15.) Those who are saved will have already been in heaven for a thousand years.

We have no idea what kinds of books or records God has. In this age we have electronic books ourselves. God’s ways are beyond our imagination, but we can be sure His records are exact and there is a time coming when those who have refused the gospel invitation will give an account. Then they will be without excuse, for the evidence will be overwhelming. Every thought and feeling, every motive and comment, every deed done will be laid bare.



Today is the day to learn the lesson of accountability and take hold of the invitation for salvation. We are not only accountable to God, but also to those whom we have wronged. For some reason to admit to our sins is a really hard lesson to learn.

“We must deny self, take up the cross, and follow Jesus. Not one of us can reach heaven, save by the narrow, cross-bearing way. ...

“The cross is not to please self; it lies directly across the path of the pleasure-lover, and cuts through our carnal desires and selfish inclinations. The cross rebukes all unfaithfulness in your labors. If you bear the cross of Christ, you will not shun responsibilities or burden-bearing. If you are abiding in Christ, learning in His school, you will not be rude, dishonest, or unfaithful. The cross of Christ cuts to the root of all unholy passions and practices.” *The Review and Herald*, September 22, 1891.

Notice that those abiding in Christ and learning in His school will not be dishonest, or rude, or unfaithful. Unfortunately, often a person who finds it necessary to tell the truth about something that is unpleasant for a person to hear is considered rude.

The Bible talks about a person who rebukes sin being considered hateful or an undesirable person. However, the Bible teaches that if you are a follower of

God, not only do you have love in your heart, but you will have a hatred for sin. Solomon said, “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate” (Proverbs 8:13).

“Whatever the nature of your work, you will carry the principles of Christ into your labor, and identify yourself with the task given into your hands. Your interest will be one with that of your employer. If you are paid for your time, you will realize that the time for work is not your own—but belongs to the one who pays you for it. If you are careless and extravagant, wasting material, squandering time, failing to be painstaking and diligent, you are registered in the books of heaven as an unfaithful servant.

“Those who are unfaithful in the least of temporal affairs, will be unfaithful in responsibilities of greater importance.” *The Review and Herald*, September 22, 1891.

Jesus said, “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much, and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own” (Luke 16:10–12)?



Our talents belong to God and should be devoted to His service. If we do nothing for our employer except that which is commanded, knowing that the prosperity of the work depends on extra exertion on our part, we fail in being faithful servants.

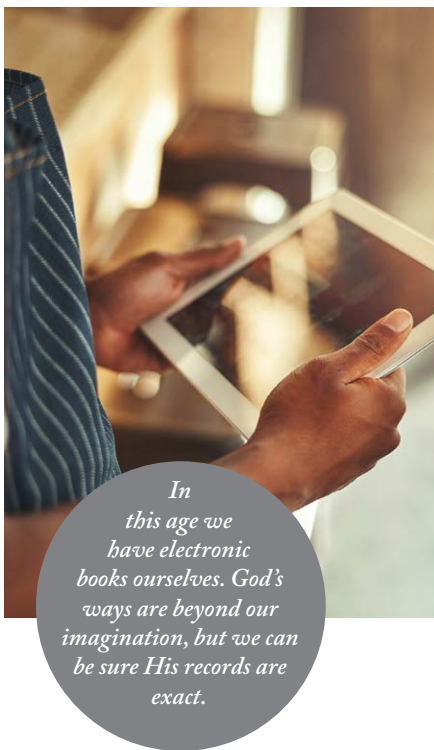
“There are many things not specified that wait to be done, that come directly under the notice of the one employed. Leaks and losses occur that might be prevented if painstaking diligence and unselfish effort were manifested.” *The Review and Herald*, September 22, 1891. Ellen White elaborates on this theme of honesty and how it carries over into a person’s service for God. Ephesians 6:6–8 about servants is quoted: “Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.”

If you are a faithful worker, you will be rewarded by the Lord someday. The real reward is not the wages you may receive in this world, but eternal life. Never forget that you have been bought at an incredibly high price and have an obligation to be a faithful servant.

The question that comes to mind is how will you respond.

Paul’s prayer for the church was, “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power” (Ephesians 1:17–19).

“That He [God] would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to



be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:16–20).

God wants to do something in you that is beyond anything you can ask or think. Do you appreciate what has been done for you and are you willing to respond to His appeal?

It may not look like it at the present time, but the time is soon coming when the cross of Christ is going to triumph over every opposition in this world. When that happens, will you be a soldier of the cross and triumph with it? Notice what Paul says about this in Philippians chapter 2 verses 9 through 11: “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above

every name, That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

There is no neutral ground. Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad” (Matthew 12:30).

There is a war raging between good and evil—righteousness and wickedness. The war is between the government of God and the government of the devil. There are no fence-sitters. Either you are lending your time, your influence, and your money on the devil’s side or putting your energy to the Lord’s side. At the end of time many people will call themselves Christians who will find out when it is too late that they were on the wrong side of the great controversy. You either support God’s side or you are hindering it.

The Christian religion is not a pretend or fairytale religion. It deals with reality every passing moment every day of the week and not only the few hours of worship on Sabbath mornings and at prayer meeting. The religion of Jesus Christ permeates every decision you make and everything you do. When that is your experience you will look forward to the day when Satan, the “accuser of the brethren,” will be silenced and you will hear the words of Jesus, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matthew 25:23).

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

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





# *Heaven on Earth*

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By W. D. Frazee

**W**hile the children of Israel were camped at Mount Sinai, Moses was called up to the mount. God said to him, “Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). A sanctuary is God’s house, a place where He longs to be. He desires that each home be a sanctuary, for He longs to be part of each one’s life and be present in every house.

In the book, *Education*, 258, we read this inspired comment: “It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding place of His glory. It is in the mount with God—in the secret place of communion—that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. Thus we shall be enabled so to fashion our character building that to us may be fulfilled His promise, ‘I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people’” (2 Corinthians 6:16).

We are called up into the mount, as Moses was, to behold the heavenly, because we also have something to build on earth that is like the heavenly pattern – the home, God’s masterpiece as far as an earthly temple is concerned. In the sanctuary of the home God wants to reveal His purpose to dwell with men.

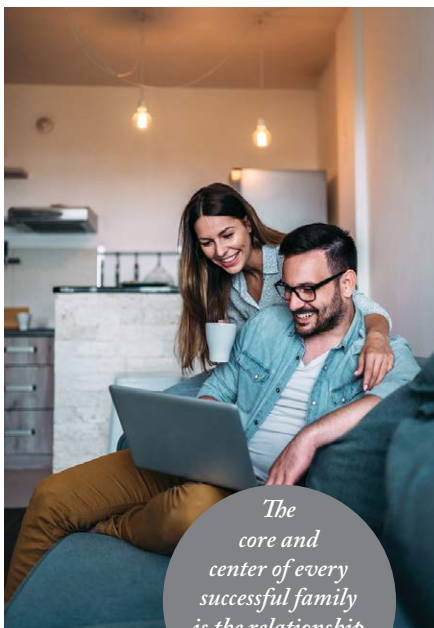
In this mount with God, we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity, but what is humanity made up of? “Society is composed of families.” *The Adventist Home*, 15. Often we think of the world as a whole, but it is divided up among nations. Most governments have their territory broken down into different divisions. We have the states, the counties, the smaller divisions, but as God looks at society, He thinks of it as grouped in families and those families are what the heads of families make them. “‘Out of the heart are the issues of life’ (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household.” Ibid. When we are dealing with the family, we are dealing with something very important and very precious to God.

When Moses was called up to the mount, he saw the temple of God and was told to make a copy of it here in this world. He accomplished that task. God recognized it and dwelt with His people during their wilderness wanderings and His presence was made manifest in that earthly copy of the heavenly sanctuary.

“Home should be made all that the word implies. It should be a little heaven upon earth.” Ibid.

Unfortunately that is not always the case and frequently, too many homes are a hell on earth. Then there are multitudes of homes that in a sense are neither heaven nor hell. The parents are ill-equipped and don’t know the best way to raise their children. Many of these homes are far from hell, but they are a long way from heaven.

We are told it is possible to experience a little heaven on earth; so why not take hold of it. After all, it has been bought and paid for by the death of Jesus. He rose and went back to heaven and is pleading for us in the heavenly sanctuary. Someday those who are faithful are going to heaven, but it will be enjoyed only by those who have already enjoyed heavenly principles on this earth. God offers us a little sample



*The  
core and  
center of every  
successful family  
is the relationship  
between husband  
and wife.*

of it here if we would just taste and see whether we like it or not. If we do like it, He lets us have some more. His grace can provide an endless supply of heavenly principles. No fictitious manifestation from Hollywood or anything that money can buy can help us get there, for no eye has seen what the Lord has prepared for His people.

Though Moses spent many years in Egypt being educated the world’s way, it took another 40 years for God to prepare him to lead the children of Israel out of bondage. Pray that God will make us capable of and willing to cast much of what we have learned into the garbage can where it belongs and have that mountain top experience with Jesus and listen while He speaks and points out the right way. Our pattern is in heaven; that is the pattern of the Christian home. “Home should be made all that the word implies.”

“Every family in the home life should be a church, a beautiful symbol of the church of God in heaven.” *Child Guidance*, 480. Fathers and mothers and children alike are to experience in each home a church life like the church of

God in heaven. “All His [God’s] biddings are enablings.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 333. This experience doesn’t come naturally. It takes effort. To make our home like the pattern, we must behold it and then build just as Moses did. First he beheld and then went to work and built.

God said, “Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). Since “God is love” (1 John 4:8), if God dwells in the sanctuary, love abides there.

“Every home should be a place of love, a place where the angels of God abide.” *The Adventist Home*, 18. On the veil at the entrance of the sanctuary that Moses built, as well as on the veil between the holy and the most holy, were embroidered angels. Angels were represented throughout the sanctuary. Your home also is to be a place where the angels of God abide. The more you sense the presence of the angel watchers, the more you will love what they love and hate what they hate.

God’s great purpose in our reproducing the heavenly plan here on earth is to enable us to know Him better. “And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3). To know God is to have life eternal. We get to know Him through His word, the Bible; we know Him through the life of Jesus, and we know Him through His creation.

There is yet another way to know Him. One of the sweetest statements in Inspiration is in *Steps to Christ*, page 10: “Through ... the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He [God] has sought to reveal Himself to us.” Think of the different human relationships we have. The relationship between parents and children is one of the best. If you had a wonderful mother and father, you would have many good memories. If somehow that pattern was marred through human frailty, remember God’s ideal still stands and can be revealed to you.

The close relationship between parents and children is designed to reveal God.

“His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father” (Isaiah 9:6). God is our Father. God gave the relationship between a father and his child for two reasons. The first is so the child growing up could learn to love his father and thus learn to know God. The second reason is so the father, in loving and training the little child, could learn to know how God feels.

Remember there was a man in the Bible who was especially set forth in that connection. The Bible says that Enoch walked with God 300 years after he begat Methuselah. It is not only the children who learn to know God through being in the home; it is also the parents, both the father and the mother, who learn to know God by being parents. All of us, whether we are men or women, as we think back to our childhood, can appreciate this verse in Isaiah 66:13: “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.” That verse sparks memories of my own mother who so lovingly attended to my hurts with salve and a kiss.

God says, “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.” He uses that picture to reveal Himself to us, using father love and mother love, not just the receiving of it on the part of the children, but the giving of it on the part of the father and mother. Dear parents, every time your heart goes out to your children, every time you are concerned about their behavior, every time you seek to comfort them in sorrow or to guide them in counsel, remember, you are not only to reveal God to that child; in that experience a revelation of God is to come to you. That is the great purpose of families.

This same purpose is true also with other relationships. Take the relationships between brothers and sisters. There are so many precious things in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy about the relation of brother and brother and sister and sister and brother – precious relationships. “There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24). Jesus is set forth as our elder brother and

those who know the joy of sharing in loving fellowship as brothers and sisters have a revelation of the character of God.

However, there is one relationship that is more intimate than any other—the relationship between husband and wife. Basic to the whole pattern of human life, the core and center of every successful family is the relationship between husband and wife. The relationship between parents and children is not the primary relationship. Neither is the sibling relationship. Primary to all other relationships is that between a husband and wife. It was the first relationship that God established on this planet between two individuals, Adam and Eve, who were joined in wedlock by the Creator Himself. The purpose of marriage was, “... to reveal Himself to us through the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know.”

Dear husbands, have you thought it through that the purpose of the marriage relation is to reveal God to you? Do you know that the purpose of the marriage relation is to reveal God to your wife through you? The purpose of marriage is that the husband and the wife shall know God as they could know Him in no other way. There are views of the character of God that you can get as a married man, a married woman, that cannot be understood in any other way. No matter how far up the ladder of achievement in successful married life you are, there is something glorious beyond. I tell you this from experience. I know that this is true.

As I think of my own experience and enter into the experience of any other people in the 40 years I have been in the ministry, this statement sums it up so wonderfully. “To gain a proper understanding of the marriage relation is the work of a lifetime. Those who marry enter a school from which they are never in this life to be graduated.” *The Adventist Home*, 105. You can never graduate from this course while you are alive. We are



*The close relationship between parents and children is designed to reveal God.*

dealing with infinite riches with tremendous possibilities.

This relationship is not mere sentimentalism as is often expressed in many poems and love songs where most are dealing with people who have not made a serious commitment to each other. Today, many people are unable to weather the storms and trials that may arrive and are on their second, third or even fourth marriage. We surely need the guidance of the Lord in choosing our spouse. We need to come up into the mount with God and look at the pattern. After all, how could a carpenter put up a stable building if he never looked at the blueprint?

A healthy marriage takes work and prayer. Both partners must climb the mount and study for themselves what the Lord requires, then go together. Take time down on your knees to behold and then arise and build according to the pattern and you can experience heaven on earth.

Inspiration tells us, "There is not one marriage in one hundred that results happily, that bears the sanction of God, and places the parties in a position better to glorify Him." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 504. Reading this can be discouraging, especially when the devil then whispers, Well that's the trouble, you got the wrong mate. But friends, there is good news. There are glorious possibilities with the companion you have. Do not listen to the devil, for he is a liar.

Inspiration writes about a young woman beloved of God who was held in bondage to a godless youth. Her nervous system was shattered. "Her marriage was a deception of the devil. Yet now she should make the best of it." *The Adventist Home*, 351. Here was a woman who had the word of the living God that her marriage was a deception of the devil, yet now she is to make the best of it. If she could do this, don't you think you can make the best of your situation?

Many people become infatuated and are thus allured into marriage. Very soon they find out that they are incompatible, not realizing that almost everybody who has ever been married since Adam and Eve came out of Eden has been incompatible. One of the great purposes of marriage is to help people learn how to be compatible.

"Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment." Ibid., 106.

Martin Luther used to say, "You can't keep birds from flying over your head but you can prevent them from making nests in your hair." The devil may say that your problem is that you married the wrong person, but never harbor that thought. Don't let it in even if it hollers around outside. Don't open the door and argue with it or pay it any attention. Here is what to do instead.

"Determine to be all that it is possible to be to each other." Ibid. What we learn in marriage is the science of love. Love is not selfishness, but is unselfishness. In marriage we are not to dwell on what I wish my companion would do for me, but how I can be all that is possible to be to my companion. The greater the incompatibility, the more need there is to get down to business and work at this job. This is how to make the best of it.

We are living in an age where it is easy to just throw up things to our partner and complain, but that is from the devil. Make the best of it. This best is not some second-rate thing, but the best. No matter how big a mess you have made of things, or what a miserable failure you or your companion are, the two of you together can have heaven on earth. God guarantees it. "Determine to be all that it is possible to be to each other. Continue the early attentions. ... Study to advance the happiness of each other. ... Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning

of love. The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven." Ibid.

"Remember, my dear brother and sister, that God is love and that by His grace you can succeed in making each other happy, as in your marriage pledge you promised to do." Ibid., 112. God guarantees that you can succeed in making each other happy, but it will take the two of you together.

Men and women can reach God's ideal for them if they will take Christ as their helper. "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children." *Education*, 18. "What human wisdom cannot do, His grace will accomplish for those who give themselves to Him in loving trust. His providence can unite hearts in bonds that are of heavenly origin. ... Heart will be bound to heart in the golden bonds of a love that is enduring." *The Adventist Home*, 112, 113.

Even for those couples who have experienced heaven on earth from the day they were married to the present hour, there is still something more wonderful ahead. Remember, no one graduates from this school of marriage. It is the work of a lifetime.

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" (Ephesians 5:1, 2). Again this is the language of the sanctuary—the fragrant incense. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it" (verse 25). When husbands love their wives, the wives will know better how to fit in to the part they are to play in the relationship. Christ's love to each other is to be manifest in the home.

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:





God gave the relationship between a father and his child for two reasons:

1. *So the child growing up could learn to love his father and thus learn to know God.*
2. *So the father, in loving and training the little child, could learn to know how God feels.*

For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is the great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (verses 28–33). These verses are clearly referring to Christ and His church and husbands and wives.

“In early Christian usage, the term ‘mystery’ did not mean something that could not be understood, as it does today, but something that could be understood only by those who were initiated; that is, those who had the right to know.” *A Commentary on Daniel and Revelation* from *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 740.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery” (Ephesians 5:31, 32, *first part*).

Only married people can understand this mystery, but just being married does not automatically initiate you and reveal this mystery to you. The successful marriage is one in a hundred, so 99 out of 100 couples that get married still do

not know the mystery. Many get caught up with the fluff and bubble of the ceremony and then become disappointed, not realizing that the mystery is only unlocked by having a heart connection.

The challenge is, just as there is something more to the union with Christ than baptism, although it includes baptism, there is something more to the union of marriage than the physical experience of man and woman joined together. Certainly, it includes that, but if all people know is the physical side of marriage then they will miss the greatest blessing.

Jesus said, “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:19). If any two people on earth have the right to claim this wonderful promise, it is the husband and wife.

Alone with God and each other get down on your knees and take this verse. Read it to each other and say, What is it that we want? What is it that we desire? Pick out your hardest problem and your greatest need, pick out your deepest longing and agree together to ask God for a miracle. For it is a miracle when two people can live together in happiness and love and that is what it takes to have heaven on earth. No matter how

much you have already been blessed, why not reach up to get the richer gift and the larger blessing that is being offered and know what it means to be fully, completely blended. For each of us there are heights above that we have never yet reached.

Dear Lord, teach us the science of love, teach us the art of love. We need it for we are naturally selfish but teach us this wonderful experience, not just so we can get along together but so that we can know You, so that we can understand God, so that we can reveal God to our children and to others. Amen. **LM**

**Elder W.D. Frazee** studied the Medical Missionary Course at the College of Medical Evangelists in Loma Linda, California. He was called to Utah as a gospel medical evangelist. During the Great Depression, when the church could not afford to hire any assistants, Elder Frazee began inviting professionals to join him as volunteers. Thus began a faith ministry that would become the foundation for the establishment of the Wildwood Medical Missionary Institute in 1942. He believed that each person is unique, specially designed by the Lord, of infinite value, and has a special place and mission in this world which only he can fill. His life followed this principle and he encouraged others to do the same.

# *Two Wise Men*

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By Gene A. Swanson

**T**his is not the usual story about the three wise men that brought gifts to Jesus at His birth. This is a story of two wise men that I have learned about over many years and with whom I was personally acquainted.



**H.M.S. Richards, Sr.** This man was the first graduate from the grade school at Campion, Colorado, in 1909. After studying religion, he became what I consider to be one of the greatest preachers the Seventh-day Adventist denomination has ever produced. He ended up in California in the early 1920s and began his ministry as an evangelist. Back in those days, he would go to a particular town, set up a large tent, and hold a series of meetings every night for six months which equals 180 meetings. Those who stayed with the program also stayed with the church. Back then, there were none of the quick three-week then dunk them members who, in most cases, do not stay with the church.

In 1930 Elder Richards started a radio program called “The Voice of Prophecy” which he broadcast from a small studio that he had built on the rear of his home in Glendale, California. I have had the privilege of being in that small studio, which doubled as his study.

In 1968, I was in college at La Sierra in California, majoring in theology. At that time, I was taking a class by Professor Wilbur Alexander in homiletics, which is the preparation and delivery of sermons. Arrangements had been made for our class of 13 to spend a day with Elder Richards in his home, so early in the morning we all piled into the van and drove to Glendale. There were no freeways in those days and the trip took three hours to drive the 60 miles to his home.

Our class spent a very enjoyable day with Elder Richards, listening to him tell of his many years in the ministry. This was a man who lived what he believed. He shared a vision Ellen White saw in 1906 on a visit to Loma Linda which she never wrote down. The story went something like this.

Mrs. White had been visiting the site of Loma Linda, which she had previously seen in vision, and had said that the site had been chosen by God for the establishment of a medical school.



*Unconditional forgiveness without consequences diminishes the holiness of God. It diminishes the enormity of the sacrifice of His Son on the cross.*

While on her return to Elmhaven, near St. Helena, California, she was standing on the platform of the small train station at Loma Linda with two physicians who were to accompany her when she was suddenly taken off in vision. It was a short vision, lasting less than five minutes. When she came out of the vision, she relayed it to the two young physicians that were with her who wrote it down giving it the title, “A Storm is Coming.” One of these physicians lived until 1961 in Boulder, Colorado. He related this vision many times and the story never changed.

In the vision Mrs. White saw a large field of grain, ripe, ready for harvest. Suddenly the sky turned dark, the wind began to howl, and an enormous hailstorm followed. Every stalk of grain was flattened, and the entire crop was devastated with not one stalk remaining. As she continued to look, suddenly a stalk of grain popped up, then another and another until the field had many new stalks. When she asked the angel messenger what this meant, she was told that the field represented the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The angel said that “everyone who sought after a position in the organization will not be left standing.” The storm represented

the time of trouble, and the new stalks represented the people who will step in to assume positions of leadership following the devastation of the church during that time. Only a small remnant will remain to carry on until the very end.

When our group was about to leave, Elder Richards said one thing that I remember clearly from that day with him. He turned to us theology students and said, “whatever you do—please do not degenerate into an administrator.” He may have said that as a result of his knowledge of that little vision of Ellen White in 1906.

Another short story about Elder Richards. One time he was asked about the use of makeup. He paused and then said, “If the barn needs painting, paint it!” Most people take that to mean that it is okay to use makeup. However, what Elder Richards really meant was that if you are so big and ugly as an old barn that you need to cover it up with paint, then you should really do something about getting yourself in shape so that you don’t need to cover it up with paint.

This is a story about Elder H.M.S. Richards, Sr. as told to me personally by his son H.M.S. Richards, Jr. when he was a speaker at the Ohio camp meeting in Mt. Vernon in the late ’70s or early ’80s.



“  
Often in the  
churches today there is  
too much emphasis on love  
and forgiveness with no  
mention of consequences.”

When H.M.S. Richards, Jr. was 15, his father bought a new car, a big Chrysler. In those days, Chryslers had a straight-eight engine. For those who do not know what that is, it is an engine with eight cylinders in a straight line. To house the extra-long engine, the hood of the car was as long as the living room couch. Junior wanted to test drive that big car so badly he could taste it. However, he had been informed by his father that he was not to get behind the steering wheel until he had a driver's license for which he had to wait one more year until he would be 16. It came to pass that Junior's parents were spending the day away from home with some friends.

After they left, he thought this would give him a chance to test drive the new car. He would just take it around the block once and reasoned that no one would ever know. So, he got the keys and started very carefully backing out of the driveway into the street. What a thrill it was for him as he drove around the block. Returning to his house he recognized he had a problem; the Richard's house had been built in the days when the only cars on the road were the size of a Model T Ford. The Chrysler was about twice that size and the driveway was very narrow.

On both sides of the entrance to the driveway were two brick pillars about two feet square and six feet high and as Junior navigated his way into the driveway, he managed to scrape a fender against one of the pillars. The damage was done, and nothing could reverse what had happened. He was literally sick!

Sometime later his parents came home and went into the house without saying a word. Father went into his study and began reading while mother began to prepare supper. After some time, mother called that supper was ready, and when all had sat down father asked the blessing. Still nothing was said about the car. All began eating except Junior who was literally sick to his stomach and unable to eat. After some minutes passed

Junior finally blurted out what he had done asking his father if he could ever forgive him. Putting down his fork, his father looked over the top of his thick glasses and replied that he would forgive his son but there would be consequences—Junior would have to pay for the damage. Sin, even forgiven sin, has its consequences. True love is not unconditional.

Often in the churches today there is too much emphasis on love and forgiveness with no mention of consequences. This teaching is exactly what the Roman Catholic Church advocates. The priest in the confessional says, *ego te absolve* which is Latin for *I absolve you*. You have not been forgiven—you have been absolved of your sin—unconditional forgiveness with no consequences. It is a free pass to continue sinning. This is a big difference to the truth.

My father once told a story to illustrate this very lesson. My father was an atheist, but still had a very good conscience. Back in 1927 when he was 21 years old, he lived in Chicago and worked for a chain of restaurants by the name of Geiger's. Each Friday morning, he would drive the company van over to a wholesale meat warehouse to pick up some necessary supplies for the weekend. In this warehouse were large bins full of various prepared meat products such as hamburger, sausages, wieners and the like. My father would load the required amounts on a large scale to be weighed and the appropriate bill was prepared for the purchaser.

Each Friday at the same time he saw another fellow who was there purchasing meat products for several Italian restaurants. It is well known that the majority of Italians are Roman Catholic. While the seller was making out the invoice for this man's produce and not looking, the man would reach into the bin of sausages and throw another 40 or 50 pounds onto his already weighed amount. Bothered by what he witnessed each week, my father enquired of this Italian man, "Doesn't your conscience bother you to be stealing every week?" His answer was, "Not in the least. I go to confession every Friday after work." This gave him a free pass—unconditional forgiveness—no consequences—totally absolved of all responsibility.





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Jesus.*

However, “There are limits even to the forbearance of God.” *The Review and Herald*, August 14, 1900.

“The unconditional pardon of sin never has been, and never will be.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 522.

Every sin, no matter how small (there really are no small sins), has consequences. In the very least, each sin affects our estimation of the importance of not sinning. Unconditional forgiveness without consequences diminishes the holiness of God and how totally repugnant sin is to Him. It diminishes the enormity of the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. To make forgiveness into a *free pass* with no consequences is an abomination to God’s judgment. It presumes upon God’s grace. That is what has been seeping into our church and it is not just the camel’s nose that is under the tent flap—but the entire camel inside!

**Wilbur Alexander** was my professor for a number of different classes in theology. Never a godlier man walked this earth than Dr. Alexander. He taught for a number of years at La Sierra/Loma Linda and then went to teach at the seminary at Andrews University. Wilbur grew up in a typical Adventist home. When he

reached his teen years, he became restless and rebellious (his own words) with the church. His parents couldn’t reason with him and at age 17, he joined the navy to see the world and “sow his wild oats.” And sow them he did! He ended up in the submarine corps during the Second World War in the Pacific.

As was standard procedure for submarines, it would occasionally dock at a port to replenish supplies. Back then there were no atomic submarines that could stay at sea for months to years and when any naval vessel docks, the crew is given shore leave for a few days, known as “liberty,” and liberty is what the crew would take—all sorts of liberties in every aspect of living. Wilbur told his class that they could not name a liberty in which he did not indulge.

After ten years, the Lord finally got hold of him and he was discharged from the Navy at which time he decided to further his education. As such he became a professor of religion in the Adventist school system where I was privileged to meet him.

One time in our class of 13 as we sat in a circle discussing all sorts of things concerning the church, a student asked him about adornment. Wilbur went

through the entire Bible showing us what the Scriptures had to say on the subject. Then it narrowed down specifically to the wedding ring. I am sure in his answer he reflected on his many years in the submarine service. He said that he had learned over many years that invariably in his experience anyone who insisted that they need a wedding ring had a deep-rooted spiritual defect. That defect may not be obvious to human discernment, but visible to God. He described it as a periscope of a submarine. When the periscope is seen sticking up out of the water, you may think that it is just a *little thing*, but, deep down underneath there is something big and rotten! His conviction was never baptize anyone who insisted on wearing a wedding ring.

Considering these men of God who had great wisdom and understanding, who had such an influence on so many lives, it reminds me that we all should endeavor to leave a legacy of faithfulness so that those within our sphere of influence, and whoever come after us, will be encouraged to follow in the way of Jesus. **LM**

*The late Gene Swanson was a retired Adventist physician living in Montrose, Colorado, before his passing in 2019.*

# Isaiah

## Clues – Isaiah 25–35 KJV

### Across:

- C11 A vile one of these will work iniquity in his heart ..... 32:6  
 C18 God sees when we say we're a Christian, but this is not with Him..... 9:13  
 D1 Books in heaven record when people are this ..... 30:8, 9  
 E14 Woe to those who do not take this with God..... 30:1  
 F2 The wisdom of hypocritical "wise" men shall do this ..... 29:13, 14  
 G15 When the plagues are falling on the wicked we will hide behind shut \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 26:20  
 H5 When we get to heaven these shall speak plainly ..... 32:4  
 J1 Jesus must be this in the foundation of our faith (two words) ..... 28:16  
 J13 Present beauties of the earth will be as a \_\_\_\_\_ flower when the plagues fall..... 28:2–4  
 K18 When should we seek for God each day? ..... 26:9  
 L1 God does this for us, and we should do this for Him ..... 30:18  
 L13 In the New Jerusalem these will open for us to enter ..... 26:2  
 M6 In heaven the ears of the deaf shall be this ..... 35:5  
 M17 In the earth made new, God will wipe these all away (singular) ..... 25:8  
 O4 In the day of God's judgment even this shall burn like pitch ..... 34:9  
 O13 After the wicked die they have none of this ..... 26:14  
 P19 In heaven the joy of these shall increase ..... 29:19  
 Q1 At the end the Lord will visit sinners with this kind of fire..... 29:6  
 R13 Sins recorded in the books of heaven are saved for the \_\_\_\_\_ (three words)..... 30:8  
 S2 Woe to those who think that God cannot see what they do here ..... 29:15

### Down:

- A16 To determine correct Bible doctrines, we must compare \_\_\_\_\_ (three words) ..... 28:9, 10  
 A21 The wicked will be burned up in this ..... 33:12  
 B9 If we want eternal life, God's ways must be the desire of our \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 26:8  
 B12 When we are on God's side, He is our shadow from this ..... 25:4  
 B19 In Bible study, compare what's written \_\_\_\_\_ with what's written there ..... 28:10  
 C2 Woe to those who seek this from the world instead of God ..... 31:1  
 C4 Our God is as the shadow of a great rock in a \_\_\_\_\_ land ..... 32:1, 2  
 C7 After the plagues fall these will be useless ..... 33:8  
 C14 When we get to heaven, we will never say we are this ..... 33:24  
 E18 For our God of love and mercy, bringing judgments upon the wicked is this ..... 28:21  
 F11 If we trust in God and keep our mind on Him, we will have this (two words)..... 26:3  
 F21 We all want God to be our salvation in the time of \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 33:2  
 G9 God's people are condemned who want to hear only this (two words)..... 30:10  
 H3 When the time of trouble comes the sinners in the church will be what? ..... 33:14  
 H5 We should read and do what from the book of the Lord? ..... 34:16  
 H13 For His people God is this from the storms of life..... 25:4  
 L6 God invites all sinners to do this unto Him ..... 31:6  
 L14 Though God sometimes gives this "bread," we will eventually understand why ..... 30:20  
 L17 The seven last plagues will be this to the wicked ..... 29:6  
 N21 To fight against God is as futile as the satisfaction of this ..... 29:7, 8

[illegible]

Isaiah 35:10

- 17



# *Walk in the Light*

It was shown that God's people dwell too much under a cloud. It is not His will that they should live in unbelief. Jesus is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. His children are the children of light. They are renewed in His image, and called out of darkness into His marvelous light. He is the light of the world, and so also are they that follow Him. They shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. The more closely the people of God strive to imitate Christ, the more perseveringly will they be pursued by the enemy; but their nearness to Christ strengthens them to resist the efforts of our wily foe to draw them from Christ.





I was shown that there was too much comparing ourselves among ourselves, taking fallible mortals for a pattern, when we have a sure, unerring pattern. We should not measure ourselves by the world, nor by the opinions of men, nor by what we were before we embraced the truth. But our faith and position in the world, as they now are, must be compared with what they would have been if our course had been continually onward and upward since we professed to be followers of Christ. This is the only safe comparison that can be made. ...

With some the knowledge of their true state seems to be hidden from them. They see the truth, but perceive not its importance or its claims. They hear the truth, but do not fully understand it, because they do not conform their lives to it, and therefore are not sanctified through obeying it. And yet they rest as unconcerned and well satisfied as though the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, as token of God's favor, went before them. They profess to know God, but in works deny Him. They reckon themselves His chosen, peculiar people, yet His presence and power to save to the uttermost are seldom manifested among them. How great is the darkness of such! yet they know it not. ... They mistake the form of godliness for the spirit and power thereof. ...

There are some who profess to be Christ's followers, yet put forth no effort in spiritual things. In any worldly enterprise they put forth effort, and manifest ambition to accomplish their object, and bring about the desired end; but in the enterprise of everlasting life, where all is at stake, and their eternal happiness depends upon their success, they act as indifferent as though they were not moral agents, as though another were playing the game of life for them, and they had nothing to do but wait the result. Oh, what folly! what madness! If all will only manifest that degree of ambition, zeal, and earnestness for everlasting life that they manifest in their worldly pursuits, they will be victorious overcomers. Everyone, I saw, must obtain

an experience for himself, each must act well and faithfully his part in the game of life. Satan watches his opportunity to seize the precious graces when we are unguarded, and we shall have a severe conflict with the powers of darkness to retain them, or to regain a heavenly grace if through lack of watchfulness we lose it.

But I was shown that it is the privilege of Christians to obtain strength from God to hold every precious gift. Fervent and effectual prayer will be regarded in heaven. When the servants of Christ take the shield of faith for their defense, and the sword of the Spirit for war, there is danger in the enemy's camp, and something must be done. Persecution and reproach only wait for those who are endowed with power from on high to call them into action. When the truth in its simplicity and strength prevails among believers, and is brought to bear against the spirit of the world, it will be evident that there is no concord between Christ and Belial. The disciples of Christ must be living examples of the life and spirit of their Master.

Young and old have a conflict, a warfare, before them. They should not sleep for a moment. A wily foe is constantly on the alert to lead them astray and overcome them. Believers in present truth must be as watchful as their enemy and manifest wisdom in resisting Satan. ...

The life and spirit of Christ is the only standard of excellence and perfection, and our only safe course is to follow His example. If we do this He will guide us by His counsel and afterward receive us to glory. We must strive diligently and be willing to suffer much in order to walk in the footsteps of our Redeemer. God is willing to work for us, to give us of His free Spirit, if we will strive for it, live for it, believe for it; and then we can walk in the light as He is in the light. We can feast upon His love and drink in of His rich fullness.

*Testimonies*, vol. 1, 405–409. [LM](#)

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*There is too much comparing ourselves among ourselves, taking fallible mortals for a pattern, when we have a sure, unerring pattern.*

# Did Bob Think?



Bob was an old horse on my great-grandfather's farm. He was a very clever horse. But it is not so much for his cleverness as for one thoughtful thing he did that his name has been handed down to us who live so long after him and who never saw him.

Bob was very fond of children. The boys who lived near used to have many a pleasant game with Bob on sunny afternoons, when he was grazing in the fields.

Sometimes the boys chased Bob, and sometimes he chased them. It was a funny sight to see the old horse running after a troop of boys, uttering a peculiar whinny that plainly said, "Isn't this real fun, boys?"

One day Bob was coming slowly through the one long street of the village, dragging a loaded cart behind him. There, right in the middle of the street, a little child was sprawling in the dust. No one noticed it until Bob and the cart were close upon it.

Was the child to be trodden under the horse's feet or crushed beneath the broad wheels of the cart? No; for just as the mother rushed out of the doorway with a shriek, Bob reached down, seized the child's clothing with his teeth, and laid the little one safely on the footpath. It was done tenderly, quietly, and it was over in a minute. Then the wise horse went on as if he had done nothing surprising.

Do you wonder that we keep Bob's memory green? And isn't his thoughtfulness a lesson for children whose excuse for carelessness that injures others is, "I didn't think"? *Bob thought*, and his thinking saved the child's life.

*Balloons*, True Education Series,  
©1976, 48, 49.

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"Think right thoughts, and you will perform right actions." *The Adventist Home*, 54. If we have invited Jesus to live in our heart, we will think His thoughts. Then it will be natural for us to be kind and thoughtful, helping and encouraging others around us. He will help us to think and then do what He would do. **LM**

# Before God Can Use Us

**O**ftentimes there are certain things that need to happen in our lives before God can use us. The same was true in the lives of the patriarchs. Here are some amazing facts that will give us the courage to walk through this life's providences trusting in God.

“‘Come up to Me into the mount’ (Exodus 24:12), God bids us. To Moses,

**BEFORE** he could be God’s instrument in delivering Israel,

- [he] was appointed the forty years of communion with Him in the mountain solitudes.

**BEFORE** bearing God’s message to Pharaoh,

- he spoke with the angel in the burning bush.

**BEFORE** receiving God’s law as the representative of His people,

- he was called into the mount, and beheld His glory.

**BEFORE** executing justice on the idolaters,

- he was hidden in the cleft of the rock, and the Lord said, ‘I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee,’ ‘merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness and truth; . . . and that will by no means clear the guilty’ (Exodus 33:19; 34:6, 7, A.R.V.).

**BEFORE** he laid down, with his life, his burden for Israel,

- God called him to the top of Pisgah and spread out before him the glory of the Promised Land.

**BEFORE** the disciples went forth on their mission,

- they were called up into the mount with Jesus.

**BEFORE** the power and glory of Pentecost,

- came the night of communion with the Saviour, the meeting on the mountain in Galilee, the parting scene upon Olivet, with the angel’s promise, and the days of prayer and communion in the upper chamber.”  
*The Ministry of Healing*, 508.

There will be many “before(s)” for you and for me by the time we make it out of this world. So make it a habit to flee to the mount and spend time with God in preparation for the final battle.

**Father:** Here I am in the mount with You. I come up to spend time in Thy presence; for the peace and comfort that only You can give. Grant me, during this communion, the strength and wisdom needed for today, as tomorrow is not yet here. Today is the only day I have to serve Thee for yesterday is gone and tomorrow is not guaranteed. Only in Thy presence can I find fullness of joy and comfort. Show me my “before” so I can fulfil Your plan for my life. Amen. **LM**



## **LandMarks Magazine Is a Light Source in Nigeria**

Seven church groups in three different states in the eastern Africa country of Nigeria—Imo, Abia, and Enugu—use for their Sabbath School studies the study guide in each month's *Landmarks* magazine. In addition, there are two home churches in which *Landmarks* serves as their Sabbath School study guide and material for the church service. We are very thankful for the many blessings of the *Landmarks*. We sincerely pray for more copies.

The Pentecostal church groups which Pastor Domingo Nunez visited and studied with also use the *Landmarks* magazine, namely Divine Grace Mount Zion Church, Divine Outreach Ministries, and City of Truth Church. *Landmarks* is an important tool here for witnessing.

In addition to the lessons studied in our Sabbath School church services, we receive many benefits from every single page of *Landmarks*, from each of the enriching articles, the section on health, the children's story, the key to the storehouse and the nature object lessons.

May our heavenly Father bless you all.

*Michael Ugorji*  
Nigeria

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### **June Sermon of the Month**

## **Two Spirits**

By John J. Grosboll

Test the spirits. It is possible for those claiming to love God to be praying for the Holy Spirit yet not know which spirit drives them.

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

## **June 2020**

Dear Friend,

Some years ago, I was listening to instructions about advertising. It is well known that large companies spend a lot of money on advertising their products. A product that nobody knows about will not ever be purchased in large quantities. Companies want the general public to know about their product and recognize it when they see it.

The interesting thing about advertising is that you can advertise and advertise and advertise and only a small percentage of the population may know about your product. But, according to advertising experts, after a certain amount of advertising the product crosses a threshold and suddenly you find that about 85% of the population will know about your product.

God wants for you and me to be advertising the most valuable product available—eternal life insurance. He has appointed different people to advertise this product in different ways. This is why things like sanitariums, health food restaurants, missionary training schools, and local churches exist. This is why missionary literature is printed and Bible studies are available for us to study with those people who are interested in finding out the truth. Somebody is going to use these tools and warn the world. If you and I do not do it, God will find and use someone else. If necessary, the rocks will cry out.

Here is what is going to happen: "During the loud cry, the church, aided by the providential interpositions of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere." *The Review and Herald*, Oct. 13, 1904.

Would you like to be a part of that great final work when "the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere"? If so, you and I must be part of the the intensely active agencies who are advertising God's message in every possible way now.

Sincerely, your brother in Christ,



*John J. Grosboll*



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

### *Is Satan at work to hedge up the work?*

**A**t the time of this writing, April 6, 2020, the world is pretty much at a standstill because of the COVID-19 corona virus. Not only is daily life disrupted, but the on-going work to share the gospel is being hindered as well.

Even though your donations have enabled us to provide funding for several projects, little has been able to be accomplished in the mission field recently.

Here is one response we received after sending funds to Daniel Terence in Nigeria to support the work there by funding a printing operation:

“Praise the Lord for everything and your kind gesture. We are almost on a near lockdown in Benue State Nigeria, but as soon as things begin to take shape as the Lord leads, we will purchase the items and send the pictures and write up as requested. We are grateful.”

Daniel

The situation is similar in other areas of the mission field. Please keep these “front-line fighters” in your prayers, praying that the Lord will overrule the efforts of the enemy of souls to hedge up the work.

“We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord’s messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 22.



### *Guerrero, Mexico*

**T**he 13th Sabbath project continues as introduced in the April 2020 issue of *LandMarks*. The second quarter of 2020 offerings will be directed toward assistance for a group of churches in Guerrero, Mexico.

About twenty years ago, a dedicated soul, having converted to the Seventh-day Adventist faith in the United States, resolved to return to his homeland in Guerrero, Mexico, to share the wonderful news of salvation through Jesus Christ that he had learned in the U.S.

Brother Angel who directs the work in Mexico is a good example of what happens when God’s people follow the commission given in Matthew 28. You can read more in the April 2020 issue of *LandMarks*.



*from the*  
**Mission Fields**



*View on Llamas on isla del Sol by Lake Titicaca, Bolivia, a country of 11 million, of whom about 80% are Catholic.*

## *Progress in* **Bolivia**

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By Pastor Domingo Nunez

**B**olivia has a population of almost 11 million souls. The city of Santa Cruz is one of the largest cities there, with a population of 2.5 million. Santa Cruz has its own international airport and roads designed for transport use and commercial traffic, permitting the city to grow constantly in commerce, industry, and urbanization. It was in Santa Cruz that nine years ago, evangelizing and preaching the three angels' messages began.

I would like to share with you how what began as a small group ended up today as an organized church. This is an interesting story. A small group of people arose after a public gathering and emerged from the midst of winds of doctrines with a desire to learn more about the three angels' messages. It was a difficult beginning, as they were hit with winds of doctrines from pastors and other lay groups.



*Ordination ceremony of pastor Jose Luis.*



This group sought help and I agreed to go to Bolivia to teach them and help them become organized, because their lack of understanding of New Testament gospel order had weakened them and led to confusion.

They were about to stop meeting, but decided to wait in faith upon my arrival before making a final decision. It was in these early years, by the grace of the Lord, that I arrived in Santa Cruz. I have been helping them withdraw from erroneous winds of doctrine and teaching them why it is important that their work be organized.

The following quote explains why organized work is necessary.

“Ministers should love order and should discipline themselves, and then they can successfully discipline the church of God and teach them to work harmoniously like a well-drilled company of soldiers. If discipline and order are necessary for successful action on the battlefield, the same are as much more needful in the warfare in which we are engaged as the object to be gained is of greater value and more elevated in character than those for which opposing forces contend upon the field of battle.

In the conflict in which we are engaged, eternal interests are at stake.

“Angels work harmoniously. Perfect order characterizes all their movements. The more closely we imitate the harmony and order of the angelic host, the more successful will be the efforts of these heavenly agents in our behalf. If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined, and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 649.

Today, to the honor and glory of God, the Pillar of Faith Church, as they are now called, works as a well-organized church, preaching the gospel. The church is growing and strengthening in the word of God and in the spirit of prophecy. They are an organized church composed mostly of young people who continue gospel work. The church serves as a training center for Bible workers, evangelists, medical missionaries and lay pastors. Their structuring has been made possible with the support of Steps to Life ministry and Global Evangelism of Free Seventh-day Adventists.

In 10 years, what began as a small group of the faithful has become a church which is working on its own. Several young people are studying at this center, also the Bible worker is working assisting the church.

Jose Luis, who was ordained as a pastor during my last visit to Bolivia, has completed his studies and has been working to help students and giving biblical courses, opening new fields in which special work in the prison with a group of inmates to which spiritual support is provided every Thursday.

So far this year, two souls have been baptized and the pre-baptismal courses will be given to other interested parties. There have been children dedicated and deacons have been ordained.

The church works in the community by handing out flyers in markets, by displaying banners of God’s law, visiting hospitals and prisons, promoting the Seventh-day Adventist message.

We hope in the Lord to continue with the faith and ask for prayers so that this ministry will continue to grow and many more churches will be raised in Bolivia. [LM](#)



# Built-in Ear Plugs

A team of researchers with the University of Antwerp and the University of Ghent, both in Belgium, has uncovered the means by which roosters prevent themselves from going deaf due to their own loud crowing. In their paper published in the journal *Zoology*, the group outlines their study of the birds and what they found.

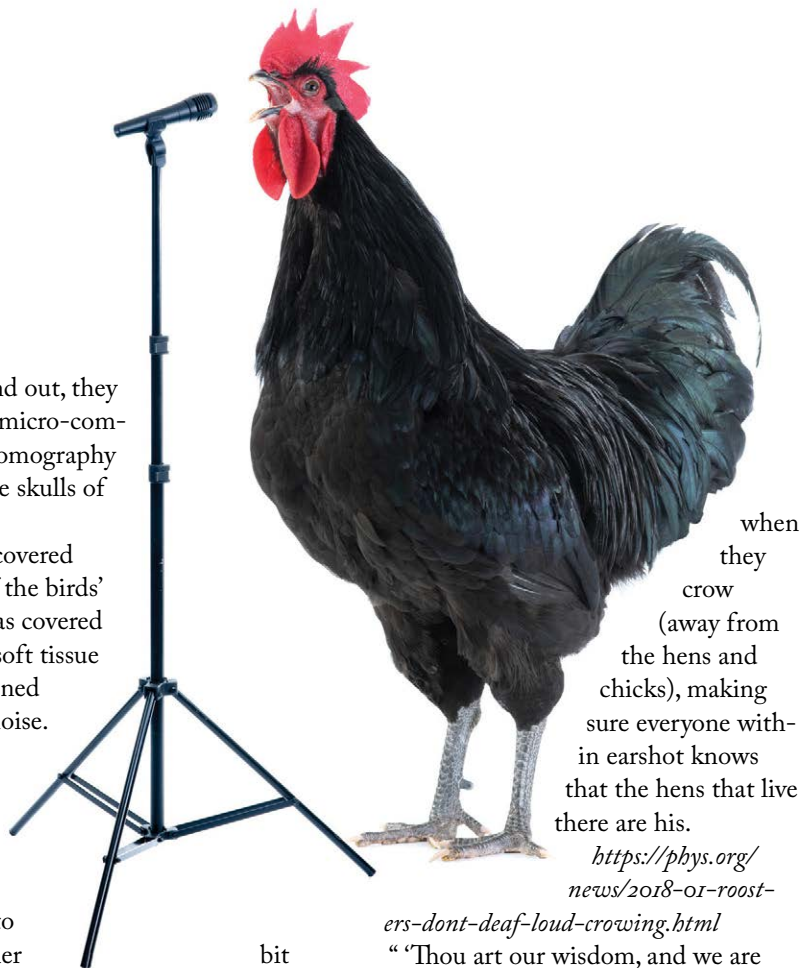
Anyone who has ever lived on a farm has heard the familiar sound of the crowing rooster. Few likely realize, however, just how loud that crowing can be. In this new effort, the researchers sought to measure how loud the crowing is and how the rooster avoids deafness from hearing itself every morning.

The team placed a tiny microphone near the ears of subject roosters to measure how loud the crowing would sound to them. They found it was louder than they had thought—averaging over 100 decibels, which is roughly the same as a running chainsaw. People who regularly use chainsaws without ear protection, it should be noted, go deaf over time due to damage to the tiny hair cells in the inner ear. Chickens of both genders also have such hairs in their ears, and the team wondered why they weren't dam-

aged. To find out, they performed micro-computerized tomography scans on the skulls of the birds.


They discovered that half of the birds' eardrum was covered by a bit of soft tissue that dampened incoming noise.

They also found that when the rooster tilted its head back to crow, another bit of material covered the ear canal completely, serving as a built-in ear plug. Thus, for the rooster, it is as if someone were sticking their fingers in their ears while they are crowing. The researchers noted the birds also have another advantage—unlike humans, birds can regrow damaged hair cells. As for why the hens and chicks do not suffer hearing damage from the male crowing, though not mentioned in the research, it is well known that roosters tend to seek a vantage point offering maximum reach



when they crow (away from the hens and chicks), making sure everyone within earshot knows that the hens that live there are his.

<https://phys.org/news/2018-01-roosters-dont-deaf-loud-crowing.html>

“Thou art our wisdom, and we are never wise until Thou art our teacher. Our ears are deaf to every voice but Thine. The voice of the world and the voice of false teachers may fill the outward ear; but we must henceforth listen only to the voice that speaks within. Oh, come, Thou precious Holy One, and with us ever stay. Let us become acquainted with Thee, and hold Thee ever in the strong embrace of perfect love. Thou art the only desire of my soul, the One altogether lovely.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 11, 1884. 



Q:

*The Bible says that David danced. Is it okay for certain kinds of dancing?*



A:

"And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod" (2 Samuel 6:14).

"Again the long train was in motion, and the music of harp and cornet, trumpet and cymbal, floated heavenward, blended with the melody of many voices. 'And David danced before the Lord,' in his gladness keeping time to the measure of the song." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 707.

"David's dancing in reverent joy before God has been cited by pleasure lovers in justification of the fashionable modern dance, but there is no ground for such an argument. In our day dancing is associated with folly and midnight reveling. Health and morals are sacrificed to pleasure. ... God is not an object

of thought and reverence; prayer or the song of praise would be felt to be out of place in their assemblies. This test should be decisive. Amusements that have a tendency to weaken the love for sacred things and lessen our joy in the service of God are not to be sought by Christians. The music and dancing in joyful praise to God at the removal of the ark had not the faintest resemblance to the dissipation of modern dancing. The one tended to the remembrance of God and exalted His holy name. The other is a device of Satan to cause men to forget God and to dishonor Him." *The Adventist Home*, 517.

Speaking of the night of deliverance from Egypt, Ellen White wrote, "That vast helpless throng—bondmen unused to battle, women, children, and cattle,

with the sea before them, and the mighty armies of Egypt pressing behind—had seen their path opened through the waters, and their enemies overwhelmed in the moment of expected triumph. Jehovah alone had brought them deliverance, and to Him their hearts were turned in gratitude and faith. Their emotion found utterance in songs of praise. ...

"Like the voice of the great deep rose from the vast hosts of Israel that sublime ascription. It was taken up by the women of Israel, Miriam, the sister of Moses, leading the way, as they went forth with timbrel and dance. Far over the desert and sea rang the joyous refrain, and the mountains re-echoed the words of their praise—'Sing ye to Jehovah, for He hath triumphed gloriously.'" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 288, 289. **LM**



## *Are World Pandemics Inevitable?*

**T**he year 2020 will be recorded in history books as the year of the global Coronavirus pandemic. It is not the first pandemic the world has experienced, but consequences of pandemics are more disastrous today because of easy global travel.

Are such pandemics inevitable? While we may never find the exact origin of the 2020 pandemic, most pandemics in recent decades, if not centuries, seem to have a common denominator – they are zoonotic infections, i.e., viruses transmitted from animals to humans. The origins are not from just any animals, they are from the kind that we shouldn't handle in the first place, let alone kill them for food. These pandemics happen as a result of direct violation of dietary and hygienic principles laid out in Leviticus 11.

When reading the book of Leviticus, one is in awe of the knowledge people had thousands of years ago. Yet here we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we violate the basic rules of health left and right.

People point to some Asian countries with wet markets, which are breeding grounds for diseases of all kinds. True, the torture and slaughter of animals we shouldn't even touch are happening there on a large scale. May these horrific places be a warning for our own violations of biblical health principles.

The Bible is very specific on how to avoid animal-borne diseases:

### Land Animals

The beginning of Leviticus 11 clearly states which animals God allowed to be consumed: "You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud" (Leviticus 11:3 NIV). The following verses clarify that both of these requirements are to be met, not just one. There are animals that have split hooves such as the pig, but it does not chew cud. And vice versa; there are animals that do chew cud, but do not have split hooves such as rabbit. Animals who do not meet these two requirements are declared unclean and unfit for human consumption. Their carcasses are not to be touched.

### Water Animals

"Of all the creatures living in the water of the seas and the streams you may eat any that have fins and scales" (Leviticus 11:9 NIV). The same rules apply as in land animals: creatures that do not meet both requirements are not to be consumed and their carcasses not to be handled.

### Birds

Consumption of all vulture birds is forbidden. Eagles, kites, gulls, ravens, owls, bats – all these are specifically named in the Bible as unclean (verses 13–19).

### Insects

We are forbidden to consume all flying and crawling insects. Some may be surprised that consumption of some insects is permitted. The rule: those that have jointed legs for hopping on the ground, such as the grasshopper (verses 20–23).

### Biblical Rules on Handling Animals

There may be situations when people have to remove or handle a carcass of a dead animal. Whether the animal meets the definition of clean or unclean, in such case the person is to wash himself and his clothes and should quarantine himself for the rest of the day. This hygienic rule is not taken from any modern brochure on hygiene. It was recorded thousands of years ago in Leviticus 11:24.

Should any live animal categorized as unclean touch any object that people use, such object is to be thoroughly washed and is not to be used until the next day. The book of Leviticus specifically mentions rats and snakes. The biblical counsel goes to such details as clay pots. These can't be properly cleaned because of their porous nature. Such pots are to be destroyed if any unclean animal touches them. Any food that has come into contact with such a pot or animal is to be discarded (verses 29–35).

What more to add? These rules are so simple, yet most world inhabitants ignore them despite the fact that we have had this knowledge for millennia. We could have avoided the majority of diseases and pandemics if we stuck to these principles. Further chapters of Leviticus 12–15 provide simple principles on how to prevent contamination and infecting others if someone does get sick. These are very simple rules, yet we prefer to ignore them as well.

Most Christians eat creatures that the Bible explicitly forbids to consume. Just to name a few: pigs, shellfish, rabbits, lobsters, crabs, and all kinds of unclean fish (Leviticus 11:5–11). Nothing is off limit, depending on the particular culture of a country.

Christendom had to invent excuses why these principles are no longer binding. A common excuse is that these rules were only for the Jews. If these rules are for our health protection, does the Jewish population have a weaker immune system or perhaps some superior digestive system? It's simple biology, not religion. All races of people are biologically prone to the same infections and diseases.

These unclean animals have a very important role in nature. They keep the environment clean, which prevents the spread of infections and viruses. While



*Should any wild, unclean animal touch our ready-to-eat food, such food should be discarded.*





*Most Christians eat creatures that the Bible explicitly forbids to consume. Just to name a few: pigs, shellfish, rabbits, lobsters, crabs.*

doing this dirty job, these animals carry all kinds of viruses for which they're equipped. Subsequently these viruses don't hurt them. By God's design, these animals are not to come into direct contact with humans, let alone butchered and consumed! Once we violate this God-given principle, we can expect to be afflicted with diseases that our body is not designed to handle.

On land we often think of vultures as the cleaning crew. Think also about the seas. How does the ocean maintain its sparkling-clean water if large animals die and pollute it with digestive waste? Most oceans aren't sparkling clean anymore because we humans have dumped thousands of tons of garbage there. But the ocean is equipped with a self-cleaning mechanism to clean up its own carcasses and animal waste. There are creatures on the bottom of the ocean floor cleaning up everything that falls down. These cleaning crews can be animals as large as sharks or as tiny as shellfish. These animals are not to be consumed because they're toxic. Shellfish are particularly very toxic. Even people who are used to consuming them often get sick. All restaurants in the United States have a mandatory warning on their menus: "Consuming raw seafood may increase the risk of food-borne illness." These animals are clearly categorized as unclean in the Bible and unfit for human consumption. If we violate these Biblical dietary guidelines, disease will prevail.

Many people have in-home pets such as dogs or cats. These animals are categorized as unclean in the Bible. Despite thousands of years of domestication, they maintain their original nature and can carry dan-

gerous pathogens. Therefore, we immunize and treat them for all kinds of infestations. We also don't consume them in the western culture. Yet still, not everyone can keep a cat or dog at home. Some people develop health complications if in close proximity to them.

Especially in third world countries, large populations have parasites. How does it happen? They consume home-grown pigs who have been raised without drugs. The locals proudly say that their pork is better because it's organic. Little do they know that such meat is far more dangerous for human consumption than pork from commercial farms. These naturally grown pigs are full of pathogens and parasites that easily transfer to humans via pork consumption. Entire villages are malnourished, not for lack of food, but because of the presence of parasites in their systems. Many people die once these parasites get into their brain. Entire populations in many sophisticated Latin-American cities are encouraged to de-parasite themselves on a regular basis. These are often wealthy, educated people, yet somehow consuming pork seems natural to them, even while being aware of the risks and being prescribed regular de-parasitation.

Despite being chemically treated, the domesticated pig still maintains its nature and easily consumes its own waste! No matter the chemical treatment, pork has to be cooked at high temperature to prevent health problems in humans. It is dangerous to consume pork, especially when undercooked. Yet most people think nothing of consuming pork chops, pork loin, bacon, or pork ribs.

It should be obvious that God gave these health laws to His people to keep them healthy, not just in their wilderness wanderings, but for all time. Note that these laws were given long before God's people were called Jews. They were simply His chosen people.

Those who claim to be modern Israel today are "His people" in a special sense. As such, these health laws apply to them as well.

The question is, Are we observing them as God intended? If not, we must suffer the consequences. LM





## *My Home*

By Revella Knight

I was born in India to Armenian parents and spent some of my younger years in England before moving to Australia with my parents.

Years later, I was excited when my husband Edmond, a U.S. American citizen, received his Australian citizenship. We attended the ceremony that was held in a large hall of the Council office presided over by the mayor.

The candidates all stood on the podium while I stood watching with my three-year-old Katie standing on the chair next to me. She was so excited to see her daddy and waved to him. The music started playing and everyone stood to sing the national anthem, “Australia all let us rejoice for we are young and free ...” Suddenly, I heard a little voice beside me singing. Katie, maybe thinking she was in church with everyone dressed in suits, started singing with gusto, in tune and on key, “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so ...”

The two songs blended so well, and people were smiling at Katie. As the

anthem continued, “In history’s page, let every stage, Advance Australia Fair,” could be heard,

“Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.”

After the ceremony we met the mayor and found out that he had grandchildren Katie’s age. The mayor took the medalion from around his neck and placed it around Katie’s. She was all smiles and so happy. I will always remember this event with great joy.

My little Katie, so innocent and unashamed to praise Jesus.

“And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:2, 3).

Sixteen years later it was I who stood before the citizenship officials to obtain my American citizenship. With all the candidates, I placed my hand over my heart while the national anthem started to play. I had heard the Stars and Stripes

anthem so many times since living in this country, but that day it was different. Tears welled up in my eyes as I felt such joy, ownership and belonging. I was now accepted into the same citizenship of my family and felt a belonging as never before.

Very soon, Jesus will come to take His children home. The pearly gates will open and we will hear His welcoming words, “Come, ye blessed of My Father” (Matthew 25:34). The national anthem of the redeemed will play and we will sing in melodious tones the song of “Moses and the Lamb.” I have tasted the joy of being welcomed into a new society, but that is nothing compared to the joy the saints will experience when entering at last into the kingdom of heaven where the redeemed will be happier than they have ever imagined.

Oh friend, how wonderful Heaven will be. Let us live to be a blessing to others. After all, very soon our citizenship of Heaven will be a reality. **LM**

# *Today's Choice*

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By John J. Grosboll

**B**ible prophecy predicts that America, as well as the rest of the world, is headed for a gigantic religious crisis, which will result in losing the religious liberty that we have long enjoyed. History has proven that Bible prophecy has an uncanny way of always turning out to be correct.

The Bible says in Romans 14:12 that all are going to give an account of themselves to God. When the apostle Paul was brought before Felix, the governor in Rome, and had the opportunity to reason with him about righteousness, and judgment, and self-control, Felix trembled. Paul told him of the judgment that was coming in the future when every secret of men would be revealed (Romans 2). Jesus said, "There is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and

hidden that will not be known" (Matthew 10:26). At that time, sins that have been covered and unconfessed will be revealed and an account will be required.

Felix realized that if he was to face the judgment with a clear conscience, he would have to confess his sins. To do that would result in severe consequences. After preaching on the subject of confession once, I was told by one man that it made him angry because if he confessed his sins he would have to go to jail. Another woman told me that if she confessed her sins it would break up homes all over town. But friend, whatever the consequences are, those sins will either be confessed now to those we have wronged or be confessed later in the judgment when we must give an account to God.

Though Felix trembled at the thought, he did not yield to his conscience, but put it off saying, he would do it at a more convenient time. That convenient time never came for Felix. How many others will there be like him on the Day of Judgment who planned to become Christians, but waited for that illusive convenient time?

How is it with you? Have you chosen to follow Christ today and be prepared for the coming judgment? Paul said, "It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27 KJV). It does not matter what our background is, what we believe, or don't believe. All will stand before the judgment seat and give an account of their life.

It is critical to confess and repent of your sins and have them covered by the

blood of Christ. The Bible says, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13). Felix neglected to take advantage of the offer of salvation. His tragic story is recorded so that others will not make the same mistake. Felix will not be seen inside the Holy City, but will be on the outside with those who never followed up with what they knew was right.

Concerning the New Jerusalem, it says in Revelation 21:27, “There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of life.” Is your name in that book?

Ironically, two years after Felix had left Paul in prison simply as a favor to the Jews, convinced that he had done nothing worthy of death or of even being in prison, he was removed from his position as governor by the Roman government. Festus, a man who was more competent and morally qualified than Felix was given the job and it was he who was left with deciding what to do with the apostle Paul.

“When Festus had come to the province, after three days he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem. Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him, asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem—while they lay in ambush along the road to kill him. But Festus answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there shortly. ‘Therefore,’ he said, ‘let those who have authority among you go down with me and accuse this man, to see if there is any fault in him.’ And when he had remained among them more than ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day, sitting on the judgment seat, he commanded Paul to be brought” (Acts 25:1–6).

Both Claudius Lysias and Felix had already declared that Paul had done nothing deserving of punishment. How-



*“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”*  
Matthew 24:24

ever, the Jews continued to bring their unsubstantiated charges against him. A third time Paul was brought to answer the Jews’ vehement accusations.

“When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove, while he answered for himself, ‘Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.’ But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, ‘Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?’” (verses 7–9).

The Jews, just as before, brought against Paul the same charges of heresy, of treason against the government, and of sacrilege, but they were unable to sustain the charges. They tried to intimidate Festus, but he would not accede to their demands to do something against Paul without a trial. As Festus looked upon this scene he was disgusted with the Jewish dignitaries, the priests and rulers who, although they had scowling faces and gleaming eyes, had forgotten the dignity of their office in reiterating their accusations until the tribunal rang with their cries of rage. This disgusting scene displayed before the governor while

in contrast to the demeanor of Paul’s humility and self-possession was not lost on Festus.

Festus realized that he had a difficult situation at hand. If he did not accede to the Jew’s demands, there could be an insurrection. So, he thought to compromise—go down to Jerusalem with Paul for a trial there. Paul knew of the dangerous plot, but Festus did not know that the Jews had planned to kill Paul on the way to Jerusalem.

Paul was weary of strife. He was weary of the fierce reiteration of the same charges, having them refuted and then renewed again. He had suffered repeated delays for over two years. Paul’s case was the first for which Festus was to render judgment; so he requested of Paul if he wanted to go down to Jerusalem and be tried there before him. “So Paul said, ‘I stand at Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar’” (verses 10, 11). Today, that would be equivalent to a person saying, “I am appealing to the Supreme Court of the United States.”



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*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.*

*Revelation 22:14*

Then the Bible says, “Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, ‘You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go’ (verse 12)! Festus, oblivious to the conspiracy of the Jews to murder Paul, was surprised at this appeal to Caesar. It was a little bit humbling that the very first case that he should try would get referred to a higher court. Once again, we see that the hatred that is borne of Jewish bigotry and self-righteousness ended up driving a servant of God to turn for protection to a heathen ruler. It was this same hatred that forced the prophet Elijah to flee for help to the widow of Sarepta. It was this same hatred that had forced the heralds of the gospel to flee from Judea and proclaim the gospel message to the Gentiles (Acts 8). And, it is the same spirit that, according to Bible prophecy, the people of God in this age have yet to meet.

The spirit of unrelenting hatred against the heralds of the gospel that was manifested by the Jewish nation in the first century is the same spirit that God’s people in this day and age have yet to meet, according to Revelation 13, and the same spirit that the people of God in the last days will go through. They will then become better acquainted with the experience of the apostle Paul.

Today, among the professed followers of Christ, there is the same pride, the same formalism, the same vain glory, the same selfishness and oppression, that existed then in the Jewish nation. Before the warfare is ended and the victory is won, God’s people will experience trials similar to those of the apostle Paul. They will encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred.

Read Revelation 13, especially the last several verses. Men professing to be representatives of Christ will take a course similar to that taken by priests and rulers in their treatment of Paul. All who would fearlessly serve God according to the dictates of their

own conscience will have to have moral courage, firmness, not only a knowledge of God and His word, but they will have to determine to stand, because persecution will be kindled against those who are true to God. Their motives will be impugned, and their best efforts will be misinterpreted. Their names will be cast out as evil.

And then what Jesus said will come to pass: “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service” (John 16:1, 2). Anyone who attempts to destroy the faithful will think that he is doing God’s service. Then it is that Satan will work with all of his fascinating power to influence the heart, to becloud the understanding and to make evil appear good and to make good appear evil. Jesus predicted that “false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24).

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2, verses 9 to 12, concerning the very last days: “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

It’s coming, friend. Jesus predicted it many times. We read it in Matthew 24 and in John 16. Paul predicted it in 2 Thessalonians 2. John the revelator predicts it clearly in Revelation 13. God wants you to be prepared for the crisis that is coming upon this world. But whether you are prepared or unprepared, you are going to meet it. Only those whose characters are thoroughly disciplined to meet the divine standard will be able to stand firm in that testing time.

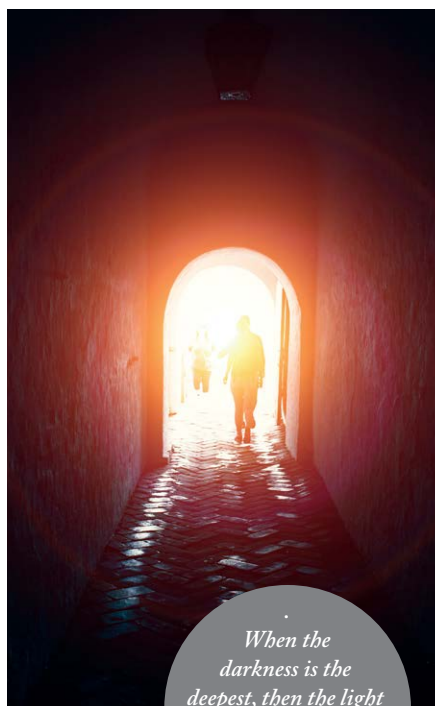
Remember, when there are enemies on every side watching them for evil, the God of heaven will be watching His precious



jewels for good. When the time comes, when secular rulers unite with the ministers of religion to come between God and the conscience of His people, then those who cherish the fear of God will be revealed. When the darkness is the deepest, then the light of a noble God-like character will shine the brightest. When every other trust fails in this world, then it will be seen which people have an abiding trust in God. The stronger and the purer the faith of God's people, the firmer their determination will be to obey Him, and the more will Satan stir up the rage of those who claim to be righteous while trampling on the law of God.

In this coming emergency rulers and magistrates will not interpose in behalf of God's people. The apostle Paul could at least appeal to Caesar, appeal to a heathen ruler to get justice. But in the coming crisis, rulers and magistrates will not interpose in behalf of God's people. There will be a corrupt harmony with all who have not been obedient to the law of God. In that day all timeservers, all who do not have the genuine work of grace in the heart, will be found wanting. It will require the firmest trust and the most heroic purpose to hold fast the faith that was once delivered to the saints, but the Bible predicts that there will be a group of people who will stand that test. It says in Revelation 13 verses 16 and 17, "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on the right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence



*When the darkness is the deepest, then the light of a noble God-like character will shine the brightest.*

of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:9–11).

Those who receive the mark described in Revelation 13:16 and 17, in spite of the warning that is given in the third angel's message, will receive, first of all, the seven last plagues, because it says in Revelation 16:2, "So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image."

At that time, the Bible predicts that there will be some faithful people who will refuse the mark. They will not be able to buy or sell; they will not be able to even buy food unless the Lord works a miracle to preserve them. Even so, they will stay true to the worship of God regardless of the cost.

"I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God" (Revelation 15:2, 3). These people refuse to worship images (Exodus 20:4). They refuse to worship the beast, or the image to the beast, or receive the mark. Revelation 14:12 describes them this way: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

In the very last days of earth's history the whole world will be brought to a decision. Everyone will choose, some to receive the mark of the beast and others to receive the seal of God—marked for destruction or marked for salvation. Which mark will you receive?

In Revelation 22:14 it says, "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."

Friend, life is serious. This life is very short compared with eternity, but it is in this life where the decisions you make determine your eternal destiny. The choice is yours. What will it be, eternal life or eternal death?

The scripture says, "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (verse 17).

God offers eternal life if you are willing to listen, if you are willing to follow, and if you are willing to obey. You must make this decision for yourself; your eternal destiny is up to you.

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

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

June 28 – July 4, 2020

## "Go... Teach"

### Key Text

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

**Study Help:** *The Acts of the Apostles*, 25–34.

### Introduction

"So mightily can God work when men give themselves up to the control of His Spirit." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 49.

## Sunday

### TEACH ALL NATIONS

- a. What commission did Jesus give to His followers? Matthew 28:19, 20.

**Note:** "The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ's kingdom. The disciples were to work earnestly for souls, giving to all the invitation of mercy. They were not to wait for the people to come to them; they were to go to the people with their message." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 28.

- b. How would their work progress, and how far would it extend? Acts 1:8.

**Note:** "Although My people would not come to Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done unto Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God. You have seen that all who come to Me confessing their sins,

I freely receive. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles—to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and peoples. All who believe are to be gathered into one church." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 27, 28.

## Monday

### SLOW TO LEARN

- a. How were the disciples often distracted as Jesus tried to forewarn them of His arrest and crucifixion? Mark 9:31–34; Luke 22:21–24.

**Note:** "On the journey through Galilee, Christ had again tried to prepare the minds of His disciples for the scenes before Him. He told them that He was to go up to Jerusalem to be put to death and to rise again. And He added the strange and solemn announcement that He was to be betrayed into the hands of His enemies. The disciples did not even now comprehend His words. Although the shadow of a great sorrow fell upon them, a spirit of rivalry found a place in their hearts. They disputed among themselves which should be accounted greatest in the kingdom. This strife they thought to conceal from Jesus, and they did not, as usual, press close to His side, but loitered behind, so that He was in advance of them as they entered Capernaum. Jesus read their thoughts, and He longed to counsel and instruct them. But for this He awaited a quiet hour, when their hearts should be open to receive His words." *The Desire of Ages*, 432.

"The disciples clung to their favorite idea that Christ would assert His power, and take His position on the throne of David. And in heart each still longed for the highest place in the kingdom. They had placed their own estimate upon themselves and upon one another, and, instead of regarding their brethren as more worthy, they had placed themselves first." *Ibid.*, 643, 644.

- b. How did these things take them by surprise? Luke 24:13–22.

**Note:** “Strange that the disciples did not remember Christ’s words, and realize that He had foretold the events which had come to pass! They did not realize that the last part of His disclosure would be just as verily fulfilled as the first part, that the third day He would rise again. This was the part they should have remembered. The priests and rulers did not forget this. On the day ‘that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while He was yet alive, After three days I will rise again’ (Matthew 27:62, 63). But the disciples did not remember these words.” *The Desire of Ages*, 796.

## Tuesday

### ANOTHER TEACHER PROMISED

- a. How would Jesus continue to teach the disciples after His ascension? John 16:12, 13.

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- b. How does the Spirit teach and correct us? John 16:8.

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**Note:** “The preaching of the word is of no avail without the presence and aid of the Holy Spirit; for this Spirit is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. Only when the truth is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit, will it quicken the conscience or transform the life. A minister may be able to present the letter of the word of God; he may be familiar with all its commands and promises; but his sowing of the gospel seed will not be successful unless this seed is quickened into life by the dew of heaven. Without the co-operation of the Spirit of God, no amount of education, no advantages, however great, can make one a channel of light. Before one book of the New Testament had been written, before one gospel sermon had been preached after Christ’s ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon the praying disciples. Then the testimony of their enemies was, ‘Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine’ (Acts 5:28).” *Gospel Workers*, 284.



Jesus  
instructed  
us to teach all  
nations of His  
second coming.

- c. What special gift does God give the remnant? Revelation 12:17; 19:10. Where do we find this gift at work today?

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**Note:** “I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several *Testimonies for the Church*, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. ...

“But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the *Testimonies*. You are not familiar with the Scriptures. If you had made God’s word your study, with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not have needed the *Testimonies*. It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God’s inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 605.

## Wednesday

### THE SPIRIT GIVEN

- a. How was the promise of the Spirit repeated? Acts 1:4–9.

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**Note:** “Jesus had opened before His disciples a vast tract of truth. But it was most difficult for them to keep His lessons distinct from the traditions and maxims of the scribes and Pharisees. ... Earthly ideas, temporal things, still had a large place in their thoughts. They did not understand the spiritual nature of Christ’s kingdom, though He had so often explained it to them. Their minds had become confused. They did not comprehend the value of the scriptures Christ presented. Many of His lessons seemed almost lost upon them. Jesus saw that they did not lay hold of the real meaning of His words. He compassionately promised that the Holy Spirit should recall these sayings to their minds. And He had left unsaid many things that could not be comprehended by the disciples. These also would be opened to them by the Spirit. The Spirit was to quicken their understanding, that they might have an appreciation of heavenly things.” *The Desire of Ages*, 670, 671.

- b. What happened when the promise was fulfilled? Acts 2:1–4.

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**Note:** “Under the influence of this heavenly illumination the scriptures that Christ had explained to the disciples stood out before them with the luster of perfect truth. The veil that had prevented them from seeing to the end of that which had been abolished, was now removed, and they comprehended with perfect clearness the object of Christ’s mission and the nature of His kingdom. They could speak with power of the Saviour; and as they unfolded to their hearers the plan of salvation, many were convicted and convinced.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 44.

“What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world. As the disciples proclaimed the message of redeeming grace, hearts yielded to the power of this message. ... Every Christian saw in his brother a revelation of divine love and benevolence. One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ’s character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom.” *Ibid.*, 48.

## Thursday

### TO ALL THE WORLD

- a. How were some early believers gently rebuked for their failure to advance in knowledge? Hebrews 5:12.

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**Note:** “Many who ought to be teachers, have hardly learned the alphabet of the Christian life. They need constantly that one teach them. They do not grow in holiness, in faith, in hope, in joy, in gratitude. Christ opened the way, at an infinite cost, that we might live a Christian life. ... It was by faith in Christ that the great apostle maintained the consistency and beauty of his course. He suffered opposition, insult, persecution, imprisonment, with a firmness and meekness which none but Christ could impart. Our obligations are no less than were his. Our privileges are great, our opportunities abundant. Great light is shining upon us, but it will become darkness to those who refuse to follow its guidance.” *The Review and Herald*, May 30, 1882.

- b. What work is still to be done, and how? Matthew 24:14.

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**Note:** “The Spirit of the Almighty is moving upon men’s hearts, and those who respond to its influence become witnesses for God and His truth. In many places consecrated men and women may be seen communicating to others the light that has made plain to them the way of salvation through Christ. And as they continue to let their light shine, as did those who were baptized with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they receive more and still more of the Spirit’s power. Thus the earth is to be lightened with the glory of God.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 54.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How does the Great Commission challenge me today?
- 2 Why were the disciples taken by surprise by Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion?
- 3 What is the role of the Holy Spirit in education?
- 4 How were the early Christians changed by the outpouring of the Spirit?
- 5 What education is needed by the world prior to the Second Coming?



July 5 – 11, 2020

# Principles of Education

## Key Text

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever” (Psalm 111:10).

**Study Help:** *Education*, 13–19.

## Introduction

“The object for which you are obtaining an education should not be lost sight of for a moment. It should be to so develop and direct your faculties that you may be more useful and bless others to the extent of your ability.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 223, 224.

## Sunday

### THE SOURCE OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

- a. Where is true wisdom found? Proverbs 9:10; Colossians 2:2, 3.

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**Note:** “As the moon and the stars of our solar system shine by the reflected light of the sun, so, as far as their teaching is true, do the world’s great thinkers reflect the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Every gleam of thought, every flash of the intellect, is from the Light of the world.” *Education*, 14.

- b. How does the Lord impart His wisdom to mortals? Proverbs 2:6; Psalm 32:8.

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**Note:** “Whatever line of investigation we pursue, with a sincere purpose to arrive at truth, we are brought in touch with the unseen, mighty Intelligence that is working in and through all. The mind of man is brought into communion

with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite. The effect of such communion on body and mind and soul is beyond estimate.” *Education*, 14.

## Monday

### GOD’S IDEAL

- a. How do God’s ways compare to our ways? Isaiah 55:8, 9. How is this reflected in God’s ideal for us in education?

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**Note:** “Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.” *Education*, 13.

- b. Therefore, what is the goal of true education? Ephesians 3:14–19.

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**Note:** “Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. But his efforts will be directed to objects as much higher than mere selfish and temporal interests as the heavens are higher than the earth.” *Education*, 18, 19.

- c. For what should we be aiming? Jeremiah 9:23, 24.

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**Note:** “The education and training of the youth is an important and solemn work. The great object to be secured should be the proper development of character, that the individual may be fitted rightly to discharge the duties of the present life and to enter at last upon the future, immortal life. Eternity will reveal the manner in which the work has been performed. If ministers and teachers could have a full sense of their responsibility, we should see a different state of things in the world today. But they are too narrow in their views and purposes. They do not realize the importance of their work or its results.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 418.

## Tuesday

### CONNECTION WITH GOD

- a. How was man created? Genesis 1:27. With what potential?

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**Note:** “‘God created man in His own image’ (Genesis 1:27), and it was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image—the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator. ... Had he remained loyal to God, all this would have been his forever. Throughout eternal ages he would have continued to gain new treasures of knowledge, to discover fresh springs of happiness, and to obtain clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the wisdom, the power, and the love of God. More and more fully would he have fulfilled the object of his creation, more and more fully have reflected the Creator’s glory.

“But by disobedience this was forfeited. Through sin the divine likeness was marred, and well-nigh obliterated. Man’s physical powers were weakened, his mental capacity was lessened, his spiritual vision dimmed. He had become subject to death. Yet the race was not left without hope. By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and a life of probation was granted. To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life.” *Education*, 15, 16.

- b. What desire should fill every heart? Psalm 86:11.

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**Note:** “Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do. ... It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men’s thought. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. ...

“Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It strengthens the character, so that truth and uprightness are not sacrificed to selfish desire or worldly ambition. It fortifies the mind against evil. ... As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is re-created in the image of God.” *Education*, 17, 18.

## Wednesday

### SERVICE TO OTHERS

- a. In learning of God, what do we experience? 1 John 4:16, 19.

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**Note:** “Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. This is made plain in the law that God has given as the guide of life. The first and great commandment is, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind’ (Luke 10:27). To love Him, the infinite, the omniscient One, with the whole strength, and mind, and heart, means the highest development of every power. It means that in the whole being—the body, the mind, as well as the soul—the image of God is to be restored.” *Education*, 16.

“In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and ennoble the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around.” *Steps to Christ*, 59.

- b. How does God’s love influence our relationships with others? John 13:34, 35.

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**Note:** “The same interest and tenderness and long-suffering that He [Jesus] has manifested toward us, we are to manifest toward others. ‘As I have loved you,’ He says, ‘that ye also love one another’ (John 13:34). If Christ dwells in us, we shall reveal His unselfish love toward all with whom we have to do. As we see men and women in need of sympathy and help, we shall not ask, ‘Are they worthy?’ but ‘How can I benefit them?’” *The Ministry of Healing*, 162.

“Satan has used the most ingenious methods to weave his plans and principles into the systems of education, and thus gain a strong hold on the minds of the children and youth. It is the work of the true educator to thwart his devices. We are under solemn, sacred covenant to God to bring up our children for Him and not for the world; to teach them not to put their hands into the hand of the world, but to love and fear God, and to keep His commandments. They should be impressed with the thought that they are formed in the image of their Creator and that Christ is the pattern after which they are to be fashioned. Most earnest attention must be given to the education which will impart a knowledge of salvation, and will conform the life and character to the divine similitude.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 127.

## Thursday

### A COMPLETE EDUCATIONAL PLAN

a. What does the plan of God entail? 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

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b. How does Jesus’ childhood illustrate this completeness? Luke 2:51, 52.

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c. How can we have success in education? Romans 12:1, 2.

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**Note:** “All the varied capabilities that men possess—of mind and soul and body—are given them by God, to be so employed as to reach the highest possible degree of excellence. But this



*The purpose of education should be to develop and direct your faculties that you may be more useful and bless others to the extent of your ability.*

cannot be a selfish and exclusive culture; for the character of God, whose likeness we are to receive, is benevolence and love. Every faculty, every attribute, with which the Creator has endowed us is to be employed for His glory and for the uplifting of our fellow men. And in this employment is found its purest, noblest, and happiest exercise.

“Were this principle given the attention which its importance demands, there would be a radical change in some of the current methods of education. . . . The student would seek the development of God’s gifts in himself, not to excel others, but to fulfill the purpose of the Creator and to receive His likeness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 595.

“He who created man has provided for his development in body and mind and soul. Hence, real success in education depends upon the fidelity with which men carry out the Creator’s plan.” *Ibid.*

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Where can we find the source of wisdom?
- 2 What is the purpose of true education?
- 3 What work is to be done within each believer?
- 4 How does education teach us to serve others?
- 5 What parts of our being are included in a complete education?

July 12 – 18, 2020

# The Original Pattern for Education

## Key Text

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

**Study Help:** *Education*, 20–22.

## Introduction

“The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime. As an illustration of its principles a model school was established in Eden, the home of our first parents. The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students.” *Education*, 20.

## Sunday

### A HOME

- a. In what surroundings was man originally placed and what were the instructions given by God? Genesis 2:8; 1:28.

**Note:** “The home of our first parents was to be a pattern for other homes as their children should go forth to occupy the earth. That home, beautified by the hand of God Himself, was not a gorgeous palace. Men, in their pride, delight in magnificent and costly edifices and glory in the works of their own hands; but God placed Adam in a garden. This was his dwelling. The blue heavens were its dome; the earth, with its delicate flowers and carpet of living green, was its floor; and the leafy branches of the goodly trees were its canopy. Its walls were hung with the most magnificent adornings—the handiwork of the great Master Artist. In the surroundings of the holy pair was a lesson for all time—that true happiness is found, not in the indulgence of pride and luxury, but in communion

with God through His created works. If men would give less attention to the artificial, and would cultivate greater simplicity, they would come far nearer to answering the purpose of God in their creation.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 49, 50.

## Monday

### A GARDEN

- a. What occupation did Eden provide for our first parents? Genesis 2:15. Why is this so important for us today?

**Note:** “Families and institutions should learn to do more in the cultivation and improvement of land. If people only knew the value of the products of the ground, which the earth brings forth in their season, more diligent efforts would be made to cultivate the soil. All should be acquainted with the special value of fruits and vegetables fresh from the orchard and garden.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 312.

“Better than any other inheritance of wealth you can give to your children will be the gift of a healthy body, a sound mind, and a noble character. Those who understand what constitutes life’s true success will be wise betimes. They will keep in view life’s best things in their choice of a home. ...

“Go where, apart from the distractions and dissipations of city life, you can give your children your companionship, where you can teach them to learn of God through His works, and train them for lives of integrity and usefulness.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 366, 367.

“To parents who are living in the cities the Lord is sending the warning cry, Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. Get out of the cities as fast as possible.” *Medical Ministry*, 310.

- b. What does God teach us about practical work? 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12.

**Note:** “God appointed labor as a blessing to man, to occupy his mind, to strengthen his body, and to develop his faculties.





*The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students.*

In mental and physical activity, Adam found one of the highest pleasures of his holy existence.” *The Faith I Live By*, 232.

“Practical work encourages close observation and independent thought. Rightly performed, it tends to develop that practical wisdom which we call common sense. It develops ability to plan and execute, strengthens courage and perseverance, and calls for the exercise of tact and skill.” *Education*, 220.

## Tuesday

### A PLACE OF LEARNING

- a. What was among the lessons that Eden’s environment offered? Psalm 19:1, 2.

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**Note:** “The book of nature, which spread its living lessons before them [our first parents], afforded an exhaustless source of instruction and delight. On every leaf of the forest and stone of the mountains, in every shining star, in earth and sea and sky, God’s name was written. With both the animate and the inanimate creation—with leaf and flower and tree, and with every living creature, from the leviathan of the waters to the mote in the sunbeam—the dwellers in Eden held converse, gathering from each the secrets of its life. God’s glory in the heavens, the innumerable worlds in their orderly revolutions, ‘the balancings of the clouds’ (Job 37:16), the mysteries of light and sound, of day and night—all were objects of study by the pupils of earth’s first school.” *Education*, 21.

“Instead of dwelling where only the works of men can be seen, where the sights and sounds frequently suggest thoughts of evil, where turmoil and confusion bring weariness and disquietude, go where you can look upon the works of God. Find rest of spirit in the beauty and quietude and peace of

nature. Let the eye rest on the green fields, the groves, and the hills. Look up to the blue sky, unobscured by the city’s dust and smoke, and breathe the invigorating air of heaven.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 367.

- b. What lessons are presented in the growth of plants? Luke 12:27.

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**Note:** “Working the soil is one of the best kinds of employment, calling the muscles into action and resting the mind. Study in agricultural lines should be the A, B, and C of the education given in our schools. This is the very first work that should be entered upon.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 179.

“Thus while the children and youth gain a knowledge of facts from teachers and textbooks, let them learn to draw lessons and discern truth for themselves. In their gardening, question them as to what they learn from the care of their plants. As they look on a beautiful landscape, ask them why God clothed the fields and woods with such lovely and varied hues. Why was not all colored a somber brown? ... Teach them to notice the evidences everywhere manifest in nature of God’s thought for us, the wonderful adaptation of all things to our need and happiness.” *Education*, 119.

## Wednesday

### A PLACE OF WORSHIP

- a. What senses did Adam and Eve utilize in their garden environment? Genesis 3:8, *first part*.

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**Note:** “In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word that created all things is that which speaks life to the soul.” *The Desire of Ages*, 281, 282.

“In His interest for His children, our heavenly Father personally directed their education. Often they were visited by His messengers, the holy angels, and from them received counsel and instruction. Often as they walked in the garden in the cool of the day they heard the voice of God, and face to face held communion with the Eternal.” *Education*, 21.

“Adam and Eve, in their untainted purity, delighted in the sights and sounds of Eden. God appointed them their work in the garden, ‘to dress it and to keep it’ (Genesis 2:15). Each day’s labor brought them health and gladness, and the happy pair greeted with joy the visits of their Creator, as in the cool of the day He walked and talked with them.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 261.

**b. What lessons can be drawn from worship amidst God’s creation? Romans 1:20; Psalm 104:10–24.**

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**Note:** “Nature is filled with spiritual lessons for mankind. The flowers die only to spring forth into new life; and in this we are taught the lesson of the resurrection. All who love God will bloom again in the Eden above.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 291.

“The children need to be given lessons that will nurture in them courage to resist evil. Point them from nature to nature’s God, and they will thus become acquainted with the Creator.” *Child Guidance*, 49.

“The parents may take their children outdoors to view God in nature. They can be pointed to the blooming flowers and the opening buds, the lofty trees and beautiful spires of grass, and taught that God made all these in six days and rested on the seventh day and hallowed it. Thus the parents may bind up their lessons of instruction to their children, so that when these children look upon the things of nature, they will call to mind the great Creator of them all.” *Ibid.*, 533.

## Thursday

### Mission of the Christian Home

**a. What is the purpose of the Christian home?**

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**Note:** “The mission of the home extends beyond its own members. The Christian home is to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of the true principles of life. Such an illustration will be a power for good in the world. Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives. As the youth go out from such a home, the lessons they have learned are imparted. Nobler principles of life are introduced into other households, and an uplifting influence works in the community.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 352.

“Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. ...

“The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men. And this service, while making us a blessing to others, brings the greatest blessing to ourselves. Unselfishness underlies all true development. Through unselfish service we receive the highest culture of every faculty. More and more fully do we become partakers of the divine nature. We are fitted for heaven, for we receive heaven into our hearts.” *Education*, 16.

**b. What is the mission given to the Christian home? 2 Corinthians 3:2.**

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**Note:** “The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 143.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What characterized the garden of Eden as a home?
- 2 How were Eden’s residents occupied?
- 3 What was Eden’s system of education?
- 4 How did Eden form a place of worship?
- 5 What lessons have you drawn from the first home, school, and church?

July 19 – 25, 2020

# Education in Ancient Israel

## Key Text

“He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye” (Deuteronomy 32:10).

**Study Help:** *Education*, 33–44.

## Introduction

“The men who held fast God’s principles of life dwelt among the fields and hills. They were tillers of the soil and keepers of flocks and herds, and in this free, independent life, with its opportunities for labor and study and meditation, they learned of God and taught their children of His works and ways.

“This was the method of education that God desired to establish in Israel.” *Education*, 33, 34.

## Sunday

### THE PATRIARCHS

- a. Describe Abraham’s example as a patriarch. Genesis 18:17–19; 12:6–8.

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**Note:** “In early times the father was the ruler and priest of his own family, and he exercised authority over his children, even after they had families of their own. His descendants were taught to look up to him as their head, in both religious and secular matters. This patriarchal system of government Abraham endeavored to perpetuate, as it tended to preserve the knowledge of God. It was necessary to bind the members of the household together, in order to build up a barrier against the idolatry that had become so widespread and so deep-seated.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 141.

- b. What lifestyle was pursued by the patriarchs? Hebrews 11:8–10; Genesis 25:27.

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## Monday

### EDUCATION IN THE WILDERNESS

- a. How did the Lord direct the education of Israel in the wilderness? 1 Corinthians 10:1–4; Isaiah 63:9.

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**Note:** “The Lord Himself directed the education of Israel. His care was not restricted to their religious interests; whatever affected their mental or physical well-being was also the subject of divine providence, and came within the sphere of divine law.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 592.

“Even in providing their food, God sought their highest good. The manna with which He fed them in the wilderness was of a nature to promote physical, mental, and moral strength.” *Education*, 38.

“The Hebrew nation were educated during their journeying through the wilderness. They engaged in physical and mental labor. They used their muscles in various lines of work. The history of the wilderness life of God’s chosen people was chronicled for the benefit of the Israel of God till the close of time. ... The Lord did not forsake His people in their wanderings through the wilderness, but many of them forsook the Lord. The education they had had in Egypt made them subject to temptation, to idolatry, and to licentiousness, and because they disregarded the commandments of the Lord, nearly all the adults who left Egypt were overthrown in the wilderness; but their children were permitted to enter Canaan.” *The Review and Herald*, December 17, 1895.

“Everything connected with the pitching of the camp was an object lesson to the children, schooling them in habits of precision and carefulness and order. The children that were old enough were required to learn how to pitch the tents in which they lived, and to observe perfect order in all that they did. ... Constantly they were obtaining an education in regard to heavenly things. Constantly the parents were explaining to their children why the Israelites were traveling in the wilder-

ness; why the law was given at Sinai; and what they expected to do and to be when they reached the Land of Promise.” *Lift Him Up*, 145.

“Israel needed just the experience that God gave to them, and there was no other power that could deal with them as Christ did through all that long journey in the wilderness. The education of Israel was not entrusted to any human agency; they were taught by One who was infinite in wisdom. They were daily learners of what God required His church on earth to be.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 234.

## Tuesday

### GOD’S PLAN FOR ISRAEL

- a. What was God’s purpose for Israel in the settlement of Canaan? Deuteronomy 4:5–10; 11:22–24.

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**Note:** “God chose Israel to reveal His character to men. He desired them to be as wells of salvation in the world. ... In the early days of Israel the nations of the world, through corrupt practices, had lost the knowledge of God. They had once known Him; but because ‘they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, ... their foolish heart was darkened’ (Romans 1:21). Yet in His mercy God did not blot them out of existence. He purposed to give them an opportunity of again becoming acquainted with Him through His chosen people. Through the teachings of the sacrificial service, Christ was to be uplifted before all nations, and all who would look to Him should live.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 14.

“God had placed His people in Canaan as a mighty breast-work to stay the tide of moral evil, that it might not flood the world.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 544.

- b. How did they fare in the implementation of this plan? Judges 2:7, 10–12; 1:28.

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**Note:** “The Lord had faithfully fulfilled, on His part, the promises made to Israel; Joshua had broken the power of the Canaanites, and had distributed the land to the tribes. It only

remained for them, trusting in the assurance of divine aid, to complete the work of dispossessing the inhabitants of the land. But this they failed to do. By entering into league with the Canaanites they directly transgressed the command of God, and thus failed to fulfill the condition on which He had promised to place them in possession of Canaan.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 543.

“Wherever in Israel God’s plan of education was carried into effect, its results testified of its Author. But in very many households the training appointed by Heaven, and the characters thus developed, were alike rare. God’s plan was but partially and imperfectly fulfilled. By unbelief and by disregard of the Lord’s directions, the Israelites surrounded themselves with temptations that few had power to resist.” *Education*, 45.

## Wednesday

### SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS

- a. From references to the existence of the schools of the prophets, what can we learn about their nature and operation? 1 Samuel 19:18–20; 2 Kings 6:1–7.

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**Note:** “The schools of the prophets were founded by Samuel to serve as a barrier against the widespread corruption, to provide for the moral and spiritual welfare of the youth, and to promote the future prosperity of the nation by furnishing it with men qualified to act in the fear of God as leaders and counselors. In the accomplishment of this object Samuel gathered companies of young men who were pious, intelligent, and studious. These were called the sons of the prophets. As they communed with God and studied His word and His works, wisdom from above was added to their natural endowments. The instructors were men not only well versed in divine truth, but those who had themselves enjoyed communion with God and had received the special endowment of His Spirit. They enjoyed the respect and confidence of the people, both for learning and piety.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 593.

“The chief subjects of study were the law of God with the instructions given to Moses, sacred history, sacred music, and poetry. It was the grand object of all study to learn the will of God and the duties of His people. In the records of sacred history were traced the footsteps of Jehovah. From the events of the past were drawn lessons of instruction for the future. The great truths set forth by the types and shadows of the Mosaic law were brought to view, and faith grasped the central object of all that system, the Lamb of God that was to take away the sins of the world.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 97.





*The men who held fast God's principles of life dwelt among the fields and hills. They were tillers of the soil and keepers of flocks and herds.*

- b. What manual training did Jesus receive when He was on this earth? Matthew 13:55. What about the students of the schools of the prophets?

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**Note:** “The pupils of these schools sustained themselves by their own labor as husbandmen and mechanics. In Israel this was not considered strange or degrading; it was regarded a crime to allow children to grow up in ignorance of useful labor. In obedience to the command of God, every child was taught some trade, even though he was to be educated for holy office.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 97.

## Thursday

### NOBLE EXAMPLES

- a. How did God reward Joseph’s integrity and faith, after he had suffered great adversity? Genesis 37:28; 41:41–44. What preparation did he have?

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**Note:** “Pure, active, and joyous, the lad [Joseph] gave evidence also of moral earnestness and firmness. He listened to his father’s instructions, and loved to obey God. The qualities that afterward distinguished him in Egypt—gentleness, fidelity, and truthfulness—were already manifest in his daily life.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 209.

- b. Describe Daniel’s background. How does Daniel’s life reveal the benefit of godly education? Daniel 1:1–6; 6:1–3.

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**Note:** “By their wisdom and justice, by the purity and benevolence of their daily life, by their devotion to the interests of the people—and they, idolaters—Joseph and Daniel proved themselves true to the principles of their early training, true to Him whose representatives they were. These men, both in Egypt and in Babylon, the whole nation honored; and in them a heathen people, and all the nations with which they were connected, beheld an illustration of the goodness and beneficence of God, an illustration of the love of Christ. ...

“The same mighty truths that were revealed through these men, God desires to reveal through the youth and the children of today. The history of Joseph and Daniel is an illustration of what He will do for those who yield themselves to Him and with the whole heart seek to accomplish His purpose.” *Education*, 56, 57.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What lifestyle was chosen by the patriarchs, and why?
- 2 Why did Israel need such extensive education in the wilderness?
- 3 How did God’s plan compare with what Israel actually achieved?
- 4 What important elements were present in the schools of the prophets?
- 5 How did God’s plan for education shine forth in the lives of the noble few?

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# Organic Apples High in Bacteria

**P**ublished in *Frontiers in Microbiology*, a new study shows that organic apples harbor a more diverse and balanced bacterial community, which could make them healthier and tastier than conventional apples.

“The bacteria, fungi and viruses in our food transiently colonize our gut,” says study senior author Professor Gabriele Berg, of Graz University of Technology, Austria.

The researchers compared the bacteria in conventional store-bought apples with those in visually matched fresh organic ones. Stem, peel, flesh, seeds and calyx – the straggly bit at the bottom

where the flower used to be – were analyzed separately.

“Putting together the averages for each apple component, we estimate a typical 240g raw apple contains roughly 100 million bacteria,” says Berg. The majority of the bacteria are in the seeds, with the flesh accounting for most of the remainder. So, if you discard the core, your intake falls to nearer 10 million.

“Freshly harvested, organically managed apples harbor a significantly more diverse, more even and distinct bacterial community, compared to conventional ones,” explains Berg.

Specific groups of bacteria known for health-affecting potential also weighed

in favor of organic apples. Lactobacilli – of probiotic fame – was found in most of the organic apple samples.

For those who can “taste the difference,” *Methylobacterium*, known to enhance the biosynthesis of strawberry flavor compounds, was significantly more abundant in organic apples; here especially on peel and flesh samples, which in general had a more diverse microbiota than seeds, stem or calyx.” Together the studies show that across both bacteria and fungi, the apple microbiome is more diverse in organically grown fruits.

Excerpts from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190724090255.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190724090255.htm) **LM**

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## APPLE ALMOND FLOUR COOKIES

### Ingredients

1 small organic sweet or tart-sweet apple (red delicious, gala, Macintosh, Braeburn)  
1 cup blanched almond flour  
2 tsp. coconut sugar, brown sugar, or maple syrup, optional  
¼ tsp. ground cardamom  
½ tsp. vanilla extract or ⅛ teaspoon almond extract  
⅓ tsp. fine sea salt

### Process

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Scrub and cut apple into chunks; process in a food processor, scraping down sides, until pureed (mixture will look like raw apple sauce). Place the almond flour in a medium bowl. Add the apple puree (1/2 cup only, not packed), sweetener, cardamom, extract, and salt. Stir until completely blended. Using a small cookie scoop or a tablespoon, drop dough in 12 mounds, spacing 2 inches apart, on prepared cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F for 15 to 18 minutes until golden brown and centers feel firm to the touch. Transfer cookies to a cooling rack and cool completely.





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*If you can get apples, you are in a good condition as far as fruit is concerned, if you have nothing else. ... I do not think such large varieties of fruit are essential, yet they should be carefully gathered and preserved in their season for use when there are no apples to be had. Apples are superior to any fruit for a standby that grows.*

*Ellen White*

