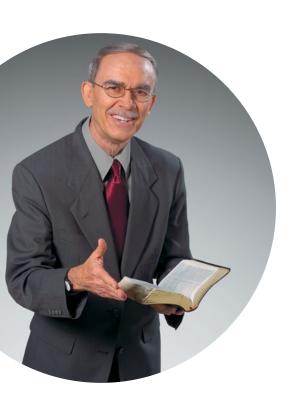
### HISTORIC

# LANDMARKS

**OF ADVENTISM** 





From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

## Help Wanted

ur world is rapidly coming to an end and God is looking for people who want to be involved in His closing work.

Exact fulfillments of Bible prophecy show us that the end of all things earthly is at hand. In these troublous times, God is calling for people to be involved in His closing work. God is going to have people in this world in whose heart is His law (Isaiah 51:7). This real issue in the end is going to be over the law of God. (See Revelation 12–14.) That issue will divide the whole world into just two classes of people. Which group will you be in?

God is looking for people who

- can be depended on because they seek counsel of God and have chosen to live by every word that proceeds out of His mouth.
- 2. will always be found on the right side in times of danger.

- 3. will faithfully war against lawlessness and the lawless one.
- 4. will never take their position with those who trouble the Lord's people.
- 5. will never come to the aid of those who weaken the hands of God's servants
- 6. will never turn their weapons upon those whom God has said should be supported.

The Lord is looking for people who are true as steel to moral principle, who are unselfish and who have the cause of God at heart more than anything earthly. If you choose to be one of these people, the word of the Lord to you is, "If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; and I will give you places to walk among these who stand here" (Zechariah 3:7).

## LANDMARKS OF ADVENTISM

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

### In this Issue



### The Cost of God's Grace

Nothing in this world is ever free, for someone always has to pay. Though God's grace is a free gift to man, heaven paid the ultimate price.

By John J. Grosboll



### **Do You Want Jesus To Come?**

For 6,000 years the consequences of sin have been allowed to play out on this earth. Should it only be when we are suffering or lonely that we long for Jesus to intervene, or do we long for His second coming so we can be in His presence forevermore?

By David Kang



### **The Lovely Son of God**

The Christian life is a battle and a march, the greatest battle ever fought by man, but we are not left to fight alone. God is in the business of saving and has given us our pattern, our example in all things and supplies the tools necessary to fight the enemy of souls.

By Gregg Richards

### More in this Issue

### 14 **Testimony**

Winter in Maine

### 16 Bible Puzzle

Hosea

### 18 Pen of Inspiration

Living Faith Needed

### 20 Story Time

Three Gifts

### 21 Keys to the Storehouse

Nations Gather

### 23 13th Sabbath Offering

Radio Program Mexico

### 24 From the Mission Fields

Growing Church in Nigeria

### 26 Nature

Greyfriars Bobby

### 27 Question & Answer

What Does It Mean to Become as a Little Child?

### 28 Health Nugget

Blood Vessel Health

### 29 Life Sketches

The True Gospel

### 33 Bible Study Guide

Wilderness Wanderings (2)

### 49 Recipe

Zucchini Fritters



# The Cost of God's Grace

By John J. Grosboll

efore modern modes of transport, it was a very rugged trip to cross the United States from the east coast to either Oregon or to California. Many people believed that there were great rewards to be gained in the West and with the desire in their hearts to make life easier for their families, they would set out on their journey to search for gold or other riches. Many were successful, but others were not so fortunate.

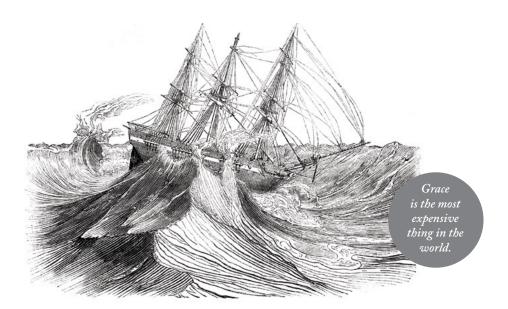
One man who left his wife and his son in the eastern United States and went out to California to seek riches prospered enough that he sent for his wife and son to come and join him. Instead of having them endure such a rugged journey as was involved in traveling on a stagecoach clear across the country, he arranged, as many did in those days, for them to board a ship for their journey. The Panama Canal did not yet exist, so the sea journey to California from New York or South Carolina took you all the way around the bottom of South America and up to Los Angeles or San Francisco. Tickets were purchased for this man's wife and son to board the ship to California.



The straits at the bottom of South America are notorious for the violent storms that arise in that area. Unfortunately, the ship carrying this man's precious cargo was involved in one of these storms and went down. As the ship was sinking, the passengers and crew scrambled to get on lifeboats. Looking desperately to save herself and her son, the mother discovered that there was only one seat left on the lifeboat. Without hesitation she lifted her son into that seat. As he looked up to her for the last time she said to him, "When you get to California tell your father that your mother died for you." In order for him to live, she knew that she would have to die.

**Grace is expensive** – Grace is the most expensive thing in the world. Paul wrote, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Again he says, "You He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:1-9).



Grace is wonderful – Because of grace, your sins and my sins can be forgiven. In fact, Paul said that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (I Timothy I:15). Even if you are the chief of sinners, the worst sinner in this world, your sins can be forgiven. But friend, don't ever forget that the forgiveness of sins came at a great cost.

"We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9). By grace your sins can be forgiven, but that grace is expensive; it cost heaven the greatest sacrifice that has ever been made. The sacrifice was not just one of money, but a sacrifice that involved suffering, separation, and the agonizing death of the dear Son of God.

### **Grace received changes people -**

We can never be the same or live the same after we have received grace.

Why? Because it cost so much to give it to us. The little boy who took the last seat on the lifeboat would never be the same again because he knew that an infinite price had been paid for his life. He would be a different person for he gained life at the expense of another.

Writing to Titus, Paul said, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has

appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly [without being intoxicated], righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works" (Titus 2:11-14). Notice especially verse 14. Jesus did not come to this world and die on the cross so that you could go on and just live the same as you did before. Notice why He did it. It says, "He gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." Receiving God's grace will change you.

"He [Jesus] died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:15). As long as that boy lived, his most treasured memory would be of his mother, who gave her life for him. He could never live in a way that would bring dishonor upon her memory. Jesus died for all, so that we would no longer live for ourselves. Friend, if you're living for yourself, you are living under the banner of the evil one and are still under his control. He claims you as his own (see *The Desire of* 

Ages, 130). The devil knows well that if he can get you to live for yourself then he's got you; you are in his kingdom. Jesus died so that we would no longer live for ourselves, but for the One who died for us.

If that boy had lived his life for himself, lived a sinful life and brought dishonor upon his mother's memory, it would have

been considered a terrible crime. Jesus has died for all and whoever turns

his or her back on Him, choos-

ing to live selfishly commits a heinous crime. The Bible says,

"If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:26–29)? It is an insult; it is an outrage to the Holy Spirit, to go on and live in sin after receiving the grace of Christ and acknowledging His sacrifice.

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears" (Hebrews 12:14–17). Friend, grace is not something that can be trifled with. It is the most wonderful and generous gift in the world. It is expensive; it cost the greatest sacrifice that has ever been made. It shows that God is willing to

save even the chief of sinners, but when a price like that has been paid to make grace available, it must be respected. Unfortunately, that is not what has happened in the Christian world for the last 2000 years.

Jude 4 says, "For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." In other words, it is the thought that because of the abundance of grace available, you can just go on and sin because all you have to do is ask for it to be forgiven. Sin and repent, sin and repent again. This doctrine has overtaken a large part of the Christian world. People think they can deliberately sin and then go and confess it to the priest, or sin and then go and tell the Lord that they are sorry. Friend, that is a dangerous game to play. That is an example of premeditated sin, turning the grace of God into lewdness, making God's grace essentially granting permission to sin. It is not uncommon for people to think that they can sin and then come and ask God for forgiveness. That is what Esau did. He thought he could come and be forgiven at any time, but he found out God was not Someone who could be trifled with.

"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain" (2 Corinthians 6:1). Evidently it is possible to receive the grace of God in vain or we would not have been given this counsel. The grace of God does not only provide forgiveness from sins that are past, but the grace of God brings you the power to make it possible to live a new life, free from sin. If you don't ever live the new life, then the grace of God is in vain for you.

Grace stabilizes a person's life – From the time that little boy arrived in California, he felt duty bound to bring honor to his mother's memory. He would maintain a constant effort to do what is right. Paul says, "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been

46

By grace your sins can be forgiven, but that grace is expensive; it cost heaven the greatest sacrifice that has ever been made.

occupied with them" (Hebrews 13:9). Notice Paul says that grace will establish you; in other words, stabilize you so that you can't be just blown about here and there by every wind of doctrine, till you are not sure what to believe.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (I Corinthians 15:10). Grace stabilizes a person's life so they're always attempting to do what is right.

Grace makes life serious, never a **carnival** – Life is precious because it has been purchased at an infinite price. Grace makes life serious. "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:3). Your neighbor's life is also precious because of the infinite price that was paid for the entire race. Realization of that completely changes the way we regard and deal with each other. This is one of the main differences between Christian and non-Christian nations. Christian nations recognize that a human life is precious and will do anything that they can to preserve it. In non-Christian nations oftentimes life is cheap. Grace makes life more serious. True Christians recognize the infinite price that has been paid, not only for their own life but for the lives of all and affects the way they deal with each other.

A crude illustration is the way two different types of rock are treated. My house used to be on a country road about 300 feet back. To maintain the driveway, we would have dump trucks deliver rock which would be dumped on the driveway which I then smoothed out with the blade of my tractor. The reason the rock was brought in the dump trucks and dumped out and driven over is because that rock was common rock; it was not precious. But there are some rocks



that are precious – a diamond for instance. You would not put diamonds in a dump truck and dump them on a driveway, smooth them out with a tractor and drive on them. Though they would make it a very hard road, diamonds are way too precious for that. Instead, you would place them in a velvet lined box and store them in a secure place, such as a safety deposit box or bank vault. Diamonds would be treated completely differently from the common rocks that you put on your driveway.

If I understand that all lives are precious, how then will I treat you? Some people, like rough diamonds, need their flaws removed and then to be polished. A diamond in the rough is still a diamond. It may need a lot of polishing and grinding in God's workshop, but it's still a diamond. Think about it. How do we treat each other? Do you treat your fellow men like gravel to be picked up and dumped here or there and driven on, or do you treat them like a diamond, though they still may be a bit rough?

Grace changes the way that we speak – There are many texts in the Bible about our speech. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6). "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

In an Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah, it says, "You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever" (Psalm 45:2). A Christian speaks with grace. "He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the King will be his friend" (Proverbs 22:11).

The path of grace leads to character perfection – "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14–16).

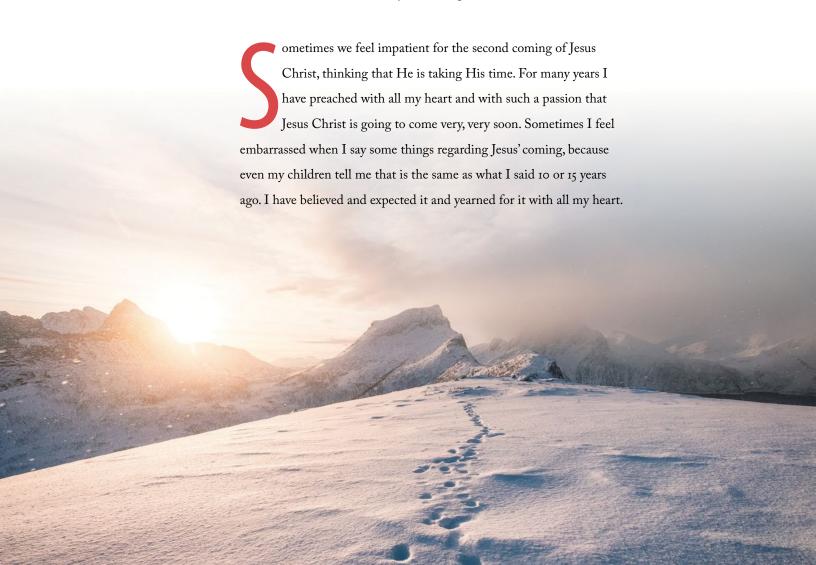
The Lord has promised that before the final outpouring of His judgments on this world, there is going to be a revival of primitive godliness among His people that has not been seen since the time of the apostles. We earnestly pray that we will accept the grace that has been freely offered, hold fast our confession, take up the armor of God and join with Him to take a part in this finishing work before Jesus returns.

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

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## Do You Want Jesus to Come?

By David Kang



I think of Noah who preached for 120 years of a coming flood. He built a big boat in a dry land that had never experienced rain. What a faith he had when it seemed so irrational. How would you understand why God would ask him to build a huge boat with one door on one side? Noah believed God and as he was building the boat for 120 years, he warned the world. His faith, his yearning expectation and fervent hope, believing God's promise, kept him going.

Do you really want Jesus to come? If so, what is your bottom-line reason? Jesus said, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42, 44). Jesus told His followers that His return could be imminent, even in their own generation. He spoke to them as if He were going to come back very soon.

In Revelation 22:20, Jesus said, "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly," to which John the Revelator added, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." God wants His people in every generation to believe that Jesus Christ is coming soon, so they will see the urgency in being ready to meet Him.

Every day some people die, which means for them that day, that very day, is the day of Jesus' second coming, for at the resurrection they will have no knowledge of how long they have slept in their dusty graves. Every day probation closes for some people. They may be alive, eating, drinking, thinking, working, and walking, but they do not realize their probation has been closed against their destiny. It is important to be aware that life as we know it is temporary and that Jesus is coming soon.

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:



and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Certainly, the apostle Paul thought that Jesus Christ was going to come in his own time.

Today, we say exactly the same thing: Jesus Christ is going to come in our time. We believe and say that those who are dead in Jesus Christ will be resurrected and reunited with us and we will all be caught up in the air and see Jesus Christ together. Paul said, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (I Thessalonians 5:6).

God knows that we need to believe that Jesus Christ is going to come in our own generation to help us to watch and be sober. God knows the way our minds work, the way we feel, the way we think, the way we analyze and understand.

Peter also said, "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (I Peter 4:7). Peter was consumed by the expectation of the soon coming of Jesus Christ and gave his life for the salvation of other souls. When we lose this fervent hope of the soon coming of Jesus Christ, our enthusiasm in evangelism will die away. Adventist people in this world should be the most zealous people in evangelism. I am yearning to see Jesus in the air. That

is my hope, my desire, my happiness, and my joy. Everything of my life depends on it. Everything about me hangs on that truth—the second coming of Christ and my hope that I may see His face in my own time.

But Jesus and His disciples said these things 2000 years ago. What about the end time prophet? "The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. ... but they [those who walk in the light] are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it." Testimonies, vol. 5, 209. Ellen White wrote as if Jesus Christ was coming very soon in her own time. She encouraged people to be prepared for the visitation of the Lord.

If you have ever lost this kind of urgency in your heart, then maybe there is something wrong with your spiritual experience. I'm not talking about fanatical experiences or feelings; I'm talking about the deep down, bottom of your heart yearning and hope. Every morning when you get up you may say, Lord, "When are You going to come? I can't wait until I see You in the air." That's the kind of yearning in your heart I'm talking about.

"The coming of Christ is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. The judgments of God are in the land. ...

"But there are many, many in our churches who know little of the real meaning of the truth for this time. I appeal to them not to

disregard the fulfilling of the signs of the times, which says so plainly that the end is near." *Testimonies*, vol.

> 8, 252. This was written more than 100 years ago. The believers had such a fervent hope and yearning heart.

"We are living in the closing scenes of this earth's history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time—not a moment—to lose. Let us not be found sleeping on guard. ... Let the message of

Christ's soon return sound forth in earnest words of warning. Let us persuade men and women everywhere to repent and flee from the wrath to come. Let us arouse them to immediate preparation, for we little know what is before us." Ibid. This too was written more than 100 years ago.

Why were the disciples urging on the people so long ago regarding the closeness of the second coming? I believe they said that for two reasons. They had believed that Jesus Christ was going to come soon. They were so longing to see Him that in every small sign they saw, they thought maybe that's the last sign that Jesus Christ was going to come. They had a tendency to interpret every single sign, believing it to be the last sign for the second coming of Christ because they deeply desired to see Him soon.

After traveling for months over the past 15 years, I really want to go home and have a real vacation in heaven. I want to finish all this evangelism and go home and stay and rest with the Lord. Sometimes, while away from home, I wonder if my wife is going to really expect me to return soon, as she used to. When my children were young, they were always waiting for Dad's coming. My wife would tell them, ten days and he

will be home. They would mark it on the calendar. Seven days later, three days later, two days later, tomorrow! Because of our relationship, they always expected me to come soon. They loved me, I loved them. When they saw me in the airport, Dad! Dad! I'm here! Sometimes when I drive up to our home they burst in laughs, Daddy's here! They cling to my arms, my legs. They are so happy to see me. Sometimes I wonder if my family members still feel the same way as they used to feel?

How long has it been since you have felt that fervent expectation for Jesus Christ's coming? What kind of attitude should we have at this time for the second coming of Christ? The apostles Peter, John, James, and Paul were all anxiously longing to see Jesus in their lifetime, because they loved Him and wanted to be with Him. How much do you love Jesus? How much would you sacrifice for Him? Do you tell Jesus that you want to see Him? The apostles loved to read and recite again the words of Jesus, "I come quickly." Those words sounded like a beautiful melody to their ears because they loved Jesus and longed to see His face. They expected to be delivered from the abuse and sufferings of this world.

Are you separated from your family? Are you being persecuted? Are you being misunderstood or wrongly accused? Are you being treated unfairly by your brothers and sisters? Does the world abuse you? Does the world treat you unfairly? Are you suffering for the sake of the truth and righteousness? Are you lonely and feel solitude? Do you want to be delivered from the suffering of this world?

The consequences of sin have been allowed to be played out for 6000 years in human history. It is when we are suffering that we long for Jesus' second coming. When we are sick, we long for our heavenly home. When we are lonely, we want to see Jesus Christ in the sky. Throughout the inspired writings we see that these servants of God were expecting to be delivered from the suffering and pain of this world and wrote as if Jesus Christ was coming in their own time.

One Christmas, three young people from our China branch went to jail on Christmas

God wants His people
in every generation to
believe that Jesus Christ is
coming soon, so they will see
the urgency in being ready
to meet Him.

Day. These young people, whether they are traveling for evangelism or visiting their families or hometown, always have some tracts or magazines in their backpack to share. Once, as they were passing by a large Catholic Church, they were compelled to go and distribute some of the tracts. Standing before the entrance of the church, they began to distribute a tract about the man of sin and nine points to identify the beast power as the papacy. As these young people were giving out the tracts to the Catholics coming out after the Christmas mass, they were suddenly surrounded. One of the priests who got hold of a tract became very angry; his face turned pale. They woke to the reality that something had gone wrong. The priest called the police, who locked the young men in jail. The accusation against these young people was that they were promoting hatred between the Christians.

Sooner or later, this same accusation will be brought against all those who share the truth of the three angels' messages. These young people went to jail for two weeks. Later, they shared their experience with me. They said they had had a good time in the cell. In the prison they were allowed only one hour each day out in the sunshine. The prison cells were crowded, with a small bucket as a toilet in the corner. It was very difficult to live in that kind of condition for two weeks and yet they said it was like heaven in their hearts. They yearned to see each other during that one hour every day and couldn't wait for that time of reunion.

When they got together for that one hour, they shared the Scriptures they had memorized and said they now understood the importance of the memorization of the Scriptures. They recited Scriptures and just held each other's hands with tears in their eyes. They prayed and sang and studied the Scriptures together in that short period every day. They said that they really began to understand the sweet fellowship



between believers. There was no time for hatred or factions or bad words or bitterness. Nothing like that is possible in that kind of situation. They said that they had been given a taste of heaven, the taste of sweet fellowship of the true remnant church. Friends, if we are really yearning for that kind of experience between God's people, we want Jesus to come soon.

Ellen White wrote, "It is the duty of the people of God to have their lamps trimmed and burning, to be as men that wait for the Bridegroom, when He shall return from the wedding. You have not a moment to lose in neglect of the great salvation that has been provided for you. The time of the probation of souls is coming to an end. From day to day the destiny of men is being sealed, and even from this congregation we know not how soon many shall close their eyes in death and be habited for the tomb." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 189, 190.

We do not know when some of us are going to close our eyes and die, whether we are young or old or little. We do not know of our destiny for tomorrow. So, every day is the day of Jesus Christ's coming. When we realize that, when we warn the world and preach and evangelize the world, our zeal will be doubled. When we say Jesus Christ is going to come soon, that will be the reality every

day in our soul. When we say it, when we give out tracts, when we visit and knock on doors, that realization is going to be real for us every day. Who knows if the man that I meet or the lady I speak to today is being given their final invitation to know the Lord and their probation is about to close? Maybe they will die today or tomorrow.

"We should now consider that our life is swiftly passing away, that we are not safe one moment unless our life is hid with Christ in God. Our duty is not to be looking forward to some special time for some special work to be done for us." Ibid., 190.

Friends, if you long for Jesus Christ—to see His face, if you are longing and expecting to be delivered from the sufferings of this world, if you feel every day that you do not want to stay in this world any longer, if you have that kind of feeling, you are going to expect Jesus to come soon and then your evangelism will be fervent. Do something about that. Don't look forward to some special time for a special work to be done. Do it today. The work Jesus has left us to do, to spread the three angels' messages, is the most important work in the world at this time.

I believe with all my heart that Jesus may come at any time. Sadly, many Adventists have lost their fervent hope "There shall be

signs in the sun, and

stars; and upon the earth

distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the for the soon coming of Jesus Christ. "Our duty is ... to go forward in our work of warning the world; for we are to be witnesses of Christ to the uttermost parts of the world." Ibid.

"There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth

> distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring" (Luke 21:25). No previous generations have had the

kind of distress of nations seen in just about every country as is evident today. Terrorism is rampant everywhere. Every

time we fly, security searches our body, our shoes, and our baggage. People are scared to death of the things that may come soon. They are fearful and in perplexity; men's hearts are failing them for fear. "The sea and the waves roaring" is talking about disasters, especially natural disasters.

"And He spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees" (verse 29). The fig tree represents the Jewish nation, the trees the Gentiles, you and I, because it says in verse 24, "They shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times [plural] of the Gentiles be fulfilled." This means for many years Jerusalem has been trodden by the Gentiles, Roman armies. Also, God's church, spiritual Israel, spiritual Jerusalem, would be trodden under foot by spiritual Rome, which is the papacy. The "times," plural, of the Gentiles were fulfilled. Then, around 1844, God has given the sign of heavenly things that are shaken. At the

end, the nations of earth are going to be distressed and in perplexity when the seas and waves are roaring. We are looking at that right now, at this time. There has been no generation in the past when all these nations were so distressed.

"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled" (verse 32). At the time of Jesus' first coming, the apostles saw Jesus Christ in His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. So, in their generation the signs had been fulfilled.

In 1844, when God raised up the true remnant church, true spiritual Israel saw by faith Jesus Christ going before the Ancient of days, which is God the Father, according to Daniel 7. Jesus Christ went into the Most Holy Place where God the Father was sitting on the throne. Many books were open before Him, and Jesus Christ entered into that room, in the clouds, with the many angels.

So that generation actually saw by faith all the stars fall. They saw that heaven was shaken and then they saw Jesus Christ come in glory into the Most Holy Place.

Now in this generation, when the nations are in distress, with perplexity, natural disasters, and economic distress, Jesus Christ is going to appear. We are going to see Him coming in the clouds with the glory of the angels. We are going to see it. This generation shall not pass away till all these prophecies are going to be fulfilled.

This is the time we really need to have a fervent hope for Jesus Christ's soon return. When we have that kind of urgency in our heart, then our message will be urgent. Then the way we work, the way we evangelize, the way we preach will be different and result in a great harvest of souls ready and waiting for Jesus to come. LM

Pastor David Kang was the director of Light for Life U.S. Ministry operation out of Commerce, Georgia. His sermons are broadcast weekly on New York and Virginia Korean television stations. Pastor Kang passed away in 2016 waiting for the return of His best friend, Jesus, to reunite him with those with whom he labored and tirelessly worked for while he could. He is sadly missed.





By Gregg Richards

e are very fortunate as a people to have a special gift for the hours of these last days. As "holy men of God ... were holy moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21 NKJV), our last day gift is to be Holy Spirit filled to help us be taught spiritual things (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10).

to become flesh for the salvation of man is a miracle (1 Timothy 3:16). The name *Jesus* is defined by the scripture as "Savior from your sins" (Matthew 1:21). Hebrews 2:14 tells us that "... as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself

likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy

The mystery of the incarnation of divinity

him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

The Spirit of God has told us, "The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight.

"The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested. ... "The Comforter that Christ

promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Savior. (See Colossians 2:9; Romans 1:20.)" Evangelism, 614, 615.

John 1:1–4 tells us that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Paul said it this way: "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:3, 4). This deteriorated nature spoken of was after 4000 years of degeneration and of sin.

The prophet of God states in *The Desire of Ages*, 49, that "It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He

accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. ... He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life."

So now we know that we have the Son of God whose name is Jesus, who is in the fullness of the Godhead bodily, dwelling in the flesh. John 1:14 tells us, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

As a review, when was Jesus begotten of the Father? Luke 1:35: "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

Certainly, this was a supernatural birth that we don't know any more about than what is given to us to know. It is called the incarnation. But we do know more about Jesus' humanity. Paul, speaking of Jesus in the synagogue at Antioch said, "We declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee" (Acts 13:32, 33).

The Holy Spirit tells us in *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 244, that "The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. ... This is to be our study. ... We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart. And the study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth."

This divine person, living in deteriorated human nature and having a weakened mind after 4000 years of degeneration, conquered sin in the flesh. However, Jesus said that He could do nothing of Himself. He said, "I live by the Father" (John 6:57), and "I can of mine own self do nothing" (John 5:30).

In *The Signs of the Times*, June 17, 1897, Ellen White wrote, "... while bearing hu-

The Holy Spirit
controlled Jesus' mind and
this is why He can be our
example. We also can have
a sanctified will while
living in sinful flesh.



man nature, He [Jesus] was dependent upon the Omnipotent for His life. In His humanity, he laid hold of the divinity of God; and this every member of the human family has the privilege of doing. Christ did nothing that human nature may not do if it partakes of the divine nature."

Are we getting the beautiful picture yet? Jesus is more than just our substitute for sin, He is also our example of how to live for God and be fitted for our heavenly home. It is true that Jesus was not like us in His humanity because he did not need to be reborn or converted. He never chose to sin even though He lived in the likeness of sinful flesh after 4000 years of weakness. So, how could He be called a Holy thing after being begotten in the flesh?

"He began life, passed through its experiences, and ended its record, with a sanctified human will." *The Signs of the Times*, October 29, 1894. This whole article is well worth reading. The Holy Spirit controlled His mind and this is why Jesus can be our example. We also can have a sanctified will while living in sinful flesh through the process of being reborn of the Holy Spirit. (See John 3:3–5.)

The "new theology" in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as found in the Pentecostal churches, claims that Jesus did everything for you. He couldn't sin, and He came in the same nature as Adam before the fall. So, in that condition, Jesus can only be a substitute and not an example. Since you cannot be like Jesus, there is nothing for you to do regarding your salvation. However, the Bible says, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17).

Words in the Bible are the instructors of what we are to do. (See 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.) With a new sanctified reborn will in your mind, you will be able to discern the difference between sin and righteousness and know what is not of God. You will want to do God's will as

given in the word of God, as Jesus did. Commands of God will no longer be a problem. You will say as Jesus said, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven" (Matthew 6:10). You will fulfill Jesus' words in John 14:10–15 and do greater works than He had done. This is the last generation's calling in life.

"Christ is our pattern, our example in all things. He was filled with the Spirit, and the Spirit's power was manifested through Him." *Reflecting Christ*, 130.

Jesus' sacrifice to come to this world, to live divested of His holy position, weakened, and to die willingly by His own choice is beyond our comprehension. This is true love. All of heaven was poured out in this gift to save man. Nothing more could be given by God.

Will you rededicate your life and ask God in the name of Jesus for the miracle of a sanctified will? By God's grace we can be restored to where Adam and Eve were before their fall. Praise God. He wants to save us. Just remember, "The Christian life is a battle and a march. But the victory to be gained is not won by human power. The field of conflict is the domain of the heart. The battle that we have to fight—the greatest battle that was ever fought by man-is the surrender of self to the will of God, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love. The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up." Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 141. IM

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I would like to give credit for an excellent source material book called *The Truth and The Trident* by Barry Mellor available from Steps to Life bookstore or from us in Bishop, California.



## Winter in Maine

By Deborah Massey

t is October in Maine and the leaves are falling, reaching their peak color soon in the north. As I go over my list of all the myriad tasks that need to be accomplished before winter, I am still amazed at how much more there is to do before the heavy snows arrive. It seems when one is checked off, more are revealed.

This winterizing process all begins anew when the ground finally thaws in May. However, this particular year was different having taken off the month of May to drive across the country to Steps to Life camp meeting. What an adventure and a blessing it was to meet the staff and hear the wonderful sermons. Relatives and friends that we had not seen in years were visited along the way, making our trip all the more memorable.

Although short a month preparing for the coming winter, we knew God would make up the time we missed if we were diligent workers. The first job on arrival home was the grass that appeared unattended and unloved. Nothing looked like it did when we left.

We got busy, there was lots to do before the first snows in November or December. Wood would be needed. Fortunately, we have a lumber company on a nearby road where remnants of hardwood can be bought in huge quantities at a small cost to be stacked high in the garage. We were thankful for the leftover wood from the previous year for our old wood stove, which would see us through another winter. We then also had to purchase a couple of tons of wood pellets, making room for them

too in our small garage. Then there were always the little jobs to do - places to seal, like lower basement windows, as the thawing snows of winter begin to melt, trying to drip inside the basement walls. In August each year, I begin to gather kindling of the many fallen limbs along forest roadsides, collecting only the limbs that break easily and are seasoned. This task takes a number of hours on days when weather permits. I do enjoy this quiet task out in nature, parking here and there along country roads on the fringes of the deep woods. In between all of these tasks, I trimmed rose bushes and mulched them for our neighbors, along with cutting back a very large bush in front of their house, so they could see more of their property. I took out toys and an old bird's nest



at the base and much dead wood and mulched the bush, in anticipation of a beautiful blooming tree in the Spring. Our neighbors emailed stating their appreciation. For busy, working young parents with two small children and one on the way there is not a lot of time left for yard work. This was how we could witness to them in a way that we had been unable to do thus far. Winterizing and waterproofing are huge jobs in these colder climates. While the days become shorter and the cold Fall winds begin to blow in this little town in the woods, there are cracks and holes to be filled and painted with so many other daily tasks to accomplish.

I was reminded during this process of how much more we should be winterizing our souls, taking time out every day, not just to prepare our surroundings, our properties, our car(s) for the coming winter, but for the winter of our souls, for those trying times just ahead. We need to be fortifying our minds and perfecting our characters with the truth of God's word. We should be always striving to help others to spiritually prepare for what is surely to be soon, our last winter on earth. We are assured by the Scriptures that after the last trying days of earth's history, eternal Spring will arrive, and we will be in the Kingdom. But are we ready spiritually to withstand the last winter of this world?

For a couple of weeks last winter, we had a big thaw, and although the snowstorms had left very high snows before that, not much of it was left when another blizzard was forecasted to arrive in early March. I went out to check the grounds of our house almost in disbelief that another blizzard was predicted for that night. We had been feeling quite complacent before this weather forecast, believing we would have an early Spring and the sudden mild temperatures we had experienced were a sure sign. But this huge wake-up blizzard came with a fury.

In many parts of the United States and around the world, unpredictable weather is arriving with storms, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes to shake it up. God is trying to get our attention. We are told that "the last movements will be rapid" (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, 11), and as we live on this planet, with every

This earth is the place of

preparation for heaven.

The time spent here is the

Christian's winter.

passing day, we realize what a short time is left for us to bring our lives into line for our own salvation, as well as making every attempt to insure the salvation of others. We should not be fooled by the lulls in current events.

or that we have more and more time to get ready for Jesus to come. Life is fragile for all, young and old and none know how much time we have left. Grasp every precious hour, holding on to possibly our last earthly moments with Jesus.

When I was about three years old, we lived in a little house in the woods in Southern Maryland. One day a repair man came to our house and while he was fixing the appliance, my mother began to witness to him. He responded by saying he was young, that he had plenty of time to make up his mind about spiritual matters. A couple of weeks later she heard that he had been killed in an accident. Sometimes lives are cut short in an instant, and I must always ask myself if this should happen - am I ready to meet Jesus at that very moment? This may have been the first, and yet the last chance for this young man to know Jesus.

Are we ready to stand in times of great trial? Very soon now Christians

will be tested in courts of law concerning their beliefs.

As the December snows begin anew, I question, am I ready, no matter the adversity, to stand up for Jesus during earth's last winter? If not now, when? When can I say I am so close to the

kingdom that it will be a natural transition from this life to

life everlasting? For every great event in life, it seems the only

way to meet it is
to prepare, prepare, prepare –
and although we
may never feel
good enough, or
worthy enough
– we can grow
more and more like
Jesus, every day becoming new in Christ.
This is surely how Enoch

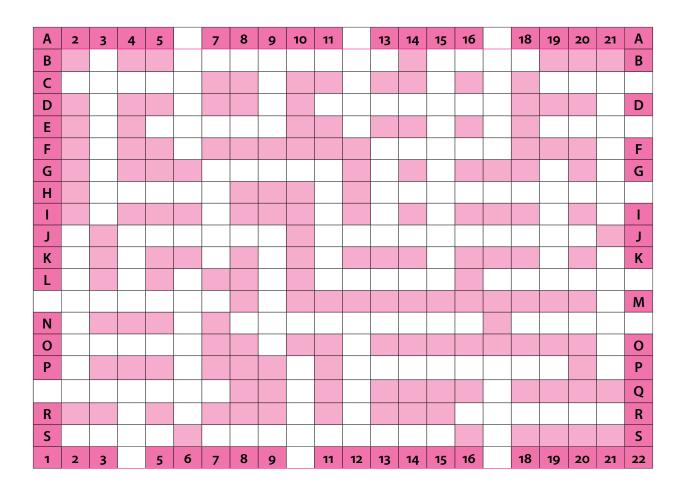
was able to be like Jesus. By beholding Him, Enoch was changed, and God just took him. Isn't this the heavenly goal we should hold so dear to our hearts? Are we the person we think we are? Are we careful to take a daily inventory of our hearts, watching, praying, and studying the scriptures to become more like Jesus?

"This earth is the place of preparation for heaven. The time spent here is the Christian's winter. Here the chilly winds of affliction blow upon us, and the waves of trouble roll against us. But in the near future, when Christ comes, sorrow and sighing will be forever ended. Then will be the Christian's summer. All trials will be over, and there will be no more sickness or death. 'God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away' (Revelation 21:4)." The Upward Look, 311.

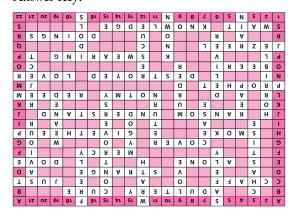
Sorrow and sighing forever ended – then will be the Christian's summer.

### Hosea

Acros	SS:						
B6	A sin of God's people in Hosea's time still common today	4:2					
B15	Heathen nations could not do this for God's people5:13						
$C_2$	All sinners will end up as this						
C19	These people will walk in the ways of the Lord						
D11	Sinners count the great things of God's law as this						
$E_5$	When we become thoroughly joined to sins, God may have to leave us	4:17					
E19	When we do not seek God, we are like a silly	7:10, 1					
F13	God's people reached the place where He would no longer have this	1:6					
$G_7$	God: sinners will one day want the mountains to do this to them	10:8					
$H_3$	Sinners will one day be as this	13:3					
H13	God's aching heart asked, "How shall I (three words)	11:8					
J <sub>4</sub>	God will do this for the repentant from the power of the grave	13:14					
J11	The wise will that a sinner can repent	14:8, 9					
LII	God: those who were " people" will obtain mercy (two words)	2:23					
L <sub>17</sub>	God will do this for the repentant from death	13:14					
Mı	Sinners consider this a fool	9:7					
N8	God is the only hope for those who have done this to themselves	13:9					
N18	Hosea's wife followed after these (singular)	2:7					
$O_2$	Hosea's father	1:1					
P12	A verbal sin of God's people in Hosea's time that is still common today	4:2					
Qı	Hosea's first son	1:4					
R16	We will receive our reward according to our	12:2					
$S_2$	What we must do on God continually	12:6					
S <sub>7</sub>	God's people are destroyed for lack of this	4:6					
Dow							
A6	When sinners repent, God will enable them to live and "lie down"						
A12	God's is incurred when we remove boundaries	_					
A17	When we sinners repent, God will love us						
$B_3$	When we sin, God will do this to us	•					
B9	Hosea was told to do this to an adulteress as God does to His wayward people						
B15	God had this with His people because of their sins						
$C_{21}$	God claims to be our only	<i>J</i> .					
F13	What we can call the Lord after repenting (two words)	_					
$G_7$	Because of Israel's sins, God would cause their kingdom to do this						
G11	God pled with Israel to do this to Himself						
G19	When Hosea's daughter was this, another son was conceived						
J2	Lewdness of the priests was this in the eyes of God						
J <sub>4</sub>	If we sow the wind we will a whirlwind	,					
J9	Priests actually committed this terrible sin	6:9					
K21	If we reject knowledge, God will do this to us						
L6	If God is against us, no one can do this for us						
$N_{12}$	If God is against us, no one can do this to us						
Рю	The spirit of rebellion was in Israel because they had not the Lord						
P17	God's people made these of silver and gold	8:4					
$O_4$	If we repent, God will come on us as this	6:3					



### Answer Key:



"O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God ... I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely." Hosea 14:1, 4



# Living Faith Needed



n this life we must meet fiery trials and make costly sacrifices, but the peace of Christ is the reward. There has been so little self-denial, so little suffering for Christ's sake, that the cross is almost entirely forgotten. We must be partakers with Christ of His sufferings if we would sit down in triumph with Him on His throne. So long as we choose the easy path of self-indulgence and are frightened at self-denial, our faith will never become firm, and we cannot know the peace of Jesus nor the joy that comes through conscious victory. The most exalted of the redeemed host that stand before the throne of God and the Lamb, clad in white, know the conflict of overcoming, for they have come up through great tribulation. Those who have yielded to circumstances rather than engage in this conflict will not know how to stand in that day when anguish will be upon every soul, when, though Noah, Job, and Daniel were in the land, they could save neither son nor daughter, for everyone must deliver his soul by his own righteousness.

No one need say that his case is hopeless, that he cannot live the life of a Christian. Ample provision is made by the death of Christ for every soul. Jesus is our ever-present help in time of need. Only call upon Him in faith, and He has promised to hear and answer your petitions.

Oh, for a living, active faith! We need it; we must have it, or we shall faint and fail in the day of trial. The darkness that will then rest upon our path must not discourage us or drive us to despair. It is the veil with which God covers His glory when He comes to impart rich blessings. We should know this by our past experience. In that day when God has a controversy with His people this experience will be a source of comfort and hope.

It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the

world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:7, 8, 15). We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord's appearing. The world is in darkness. "But ye, brethren," says Paul, "are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (I Thessalonians 5:4). It is ever God's purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul. What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth—these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Go forward, my brethren and sisters. ... Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.

Testimony Treasures, vol. 2, 69-71. LM

So long as we choose the easy path of self-indulgence and are frightened at self-denial, our faith will never become firm.



## Three Gifts

hree beautiful Christmas gifts were given to a baby boy, nearly two thousand years ago. He was just a little baby, and He was in a stable. I'm sure you think that a stable is an

I'm sure you think that a stable is an odd place for a little baby to be, so I'll tell you why this baby was in a stable.

His parents were away from home. They were at a town called Bethlehem. There was no room for them in the hotel, so they had to find lodging somewhere else. They looked here and there, but the only place they could find was a corner in a stable. There they had to stay for several days.

This baby boy's gifts were carried to Him by some grown-up men. They were wise men. The wise men traveled a long, long way to get to Bethlehem. They had never seen the little Child, and they did not know just where He was; but they were led to Him by a bright star.

And they knew that the baby boy was a king!

As they went along the road, they could not always see the star. Once in a while they would ask somebody where the little King was. They would say:

"Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him."

But for a long time, nobody could tell them where the baby King was located.

After a while they came to a city that is only five or six miles from Bethle-

hem. There they stopped and asked the question again:

"Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him."

And somebody said, "In Bethlehem."

Then the wise men set out for Bethlehem; and as soon as they did that, they saw the star again. It showed them just where to go.

When the wise men saw the baby King, they bowed down low before Him, and worshiped Him. Then they gave Him the three gifts that they had brought for Him.

And what do you think those three gifts were?

One was gold. I do not know how much gold there was in the gift, or just what the shape of it was; but it was gold – beautiful, precious, shining gold.

Another gift was frankincense. This is something that has a very sweet odor; it is also very precious – perhaps just as precious as gold.

The third gift was myrrh. Myrrh also has a sweet odor and it is a good medicine. It is good to heal sick people and help make them well.

All these gifts were very precious. They were just the kinds of gifts for a king. The wise men brought them to little King Jesus.

History Stories for Children, John W. Wayland, ©1991, 95–97. ■





## Nations Gather

ill you be ready to be gathered with all the nations of the redeemed to eat the fruit of the tree of life and be completely healed by its leaves?

Revelation 22:2 paints this beautiful picture: "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Amazingly, we are told that eating the leaves of the tree of life starts right here on this earth.

"Must we wait until we are translated before we eat of the leaves of the tree of life? He who receives into his heart the words of Christ knows what it means to eat the leaves of the tree of life....

"The knowledge that comes from God is the bread of life. It is the leaves of the tree of life which are for the healing of the nations. The current of spiritual life thrills the soul as the words of Christ are believed and practiced. Thus it is that we are made one with Christ. The experience that was weak and feeble becomes

strong. It is eternal life to us if we hold the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end." The Upward Look, 224.

Sharing the gospel in our various walks of life, whether we travel overseas to mission fields, or work in health, schools of learning and teaching children, or just in general contact with the public, there is a work to be done for the Lord and in keeping His commandments.

The health message was promoted in the early days of our church history. "The great reason why we have sanitariums [health centers] is that these institutions may be agencies in bringing men and women to a position where they may be numbered among those who shall some day eat of the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations" Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, 227.

We must examine ourselves to see if we love Jesus enough to let go of the love of the world and find the true meaning and purpose in serving Him.

"The redeemed saints who have loved God and kept His commandments

here, will enter in through the gates of the city and have right to the tree of life. They will eat freely of it as our first parents did before the fall. The leaves of that immortal widespread tree will be for the healing of the nations." Maranatha, 325.

What a world of beauty and surprises awaits us! No more divisions among nations. No more wars, fights, bloodshed, pain, crying and separation by death. All is healed.

> Dear Lord, please help us to live each day for Your glory to seek others with whom to share Your truth and love. Oh Lord, we want to be in heaven with You. May we participate in Your plan to heal all nations and may we be ready to meet You very soon. Keep us faithful no matter what may come our way, is our prayer. Amen. IM

### **Your Letters**

"Somewhere I had received some old LandMarks magazines and gave them to Gran – aged 95 – to read as she doesn't do much and likes reading. She read the August 2009 edition and was amazed at it. She said it had certainly opened her eyes. The article was about putting on our raiment."

—SB, England

"I received a LandMarks in the mail and have been feeding off the first article. Praise God? I can't even get to the other articles in the magazine because I am going through highlighting so many things from that opening article. I am not sure how I found Steps to Life, but I am so glad that I did."

-DM, Minnesotta

#### **December Sermon of the Month**

### **Holy Traits of Character**

By John J. Grosboll

Though holiness cannot in itself be seen, it becomes evident in the actions of those who possess it.

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

### From the Desk of Pastor John J Grosboll

### December 2020

Dear Friend,

The day is coming when all Christians all over the world will want to be acknowledged by the Lord as belonging to Him and being part of His family. Unfortunately, Jesus predicted that a large group of professed Christians would not be acknowledged by Him at that day: "Not every one that says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name? and in Your name have cast out devils? and in Your name done many wonderful works?' And then will I profess to them, 'I never knew you: depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matthew 7:21–23, literal translation).

Will you be acknowledged by Him in that day or will He say that He does not know you? Here is a test that you can apply to yourself to see if you are preparing to be acknowledged by the Lord in the final day:

"No one will be registered in the books of heaven as a Christian, who has not a missionary spirit. But we can do nothing without sanctified energy. Just as soon as the missionary spirit is lost from the heart, and zeal for the cause of God begins to wane, the burden of our testimonies and plans is a cry for prudence and economy, and real backsliding begins in the missionary work." The Review and Herald, Aug 23, 1892.

If you are going to be part of the church in heaven, part of the church of the firstborn, then you must be registered there as a Christian. (See Hebrews 12:18-26.) If you are not registered in the books of heaven as a Christian, how do you expect to be ready to go to heaven?

God's work is soon going to be finished, even though there are apparently very few workers to finish it. Would you like to be one of those involved in the final finishing of God's plans for this earth? Now is the time to make your commitment to God and ask Him to show you what He would have you to be doing in the finishing of His work in the world.

Your brother praying for a finished work,

The fleshold

Pastor John J Grosboll

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

# Radio Program La Verdad Presente

Guadalajara, Mexico

reetings from your brethren in Guadalajara and from radio "La Verdad Presente." It is with grateful hearts that we write and greet you with the following experience, which is only one of many rich blessed evidences of the Lord's blessing on the weekly broadcasts.

A caller to the broadcast of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, named Lino Hernández is a fellow believer in the Three Angels Messages. He lives approximately one-and one-half hours away from the radio broadcasting station and we were extremely joyful to learn that he was able to tune into the broadcast at that distance!

When we met Lino, he told us that he had been tuning in for a short time and decided to call and request a copy of *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*. He shared that he had owned a copy of the latter book a long time ago.

Brethren, it is most encouraging to us to meet the listener in person. Their testimonies strengthen our faith and inspire us to continue to faithfully prepare radio programs for the audience that the Lord draws with His infinite wisdom. Only He knows the souls that are scattered within the vast multitudes of this nation that are ready to hear the truth of the Three Angels' Messages.

We are grateful to our God for your continued support to proclaim the Everlasting Gospel via radio broadcasts of "La Verdad Presente." Maranatha! May the Lord continue to guide and direct His work here in Guadalajara and strengthen His workers to continue in His service.

Your brother in Christ, *Jediael Aguilar* 



Radio listener Lino with his requested and delivered books.

To support the work of the brethren in Mexico, mark your donations *Mexico*.

## from the Mission Fields



Nigeria is Africa's most populous country of 214 million inhabitants. About half is Christian, the other half Muslim.

# The Growing Church in Nigeria

Another Outreach Center Underway

By Domingo Nunez

t is common when thinking of Nigeria to think of some obscure government official who has access to millions of dollars and who will gladly split it with you if you will only supply your banking information.

We are pleased to report that there is another kind of effort going forth in Nigeria—not for worldly riches, but for the eternal riches that can only be obtained through a knowledge of and an adherence to God's will.

We reported in the October issue of *LandMarks* about the effort in Eastern Nigeria to establish an outreach center for gospel work. We are very pleased to report that a similar effort is continuing in North Central Nigeria.

In 2018, through the assistance of Steps to Life and savings contributed by the volunteers there who are supported with your donations, a building project was started, with work progressing rapidly until the funds were depleted.

Daniel Terence, our lead volunteer in North Central Nigeria, recently sent us the following appeal so that work can continue:



Outreach center for gospel work under construction in Nigeria. This large building can be constructed for only US \$18,000 with donated labor.

Our desire and plea if the Lord wills is to have this building completed so as to serve the following purpose with the North Central and possibly other northern parts of Nigeria missionary wise.

- An Orphanage through this opening, children will be brought up according to Gospel order to prepare them as eleventh hour workers.
- 2. Medical Missionary Training Centre the building will at the same time serve the purpose of training missionaries through the health message. By so doing, preparing workers to launch out from here to various parts of Nigeria. Our desire is to collaborate with our brethren from the other parts of Nigeria to have young people train even in vocational skills so they can be fitted for the work wherever they may wish to go as the Lord opens up the way.
- 3. With one or two rooms, a health center itself will also locate here for health instructions and hydrotherapy treatment for outpatients.
- 4. The building will also serve as administrative offices for the North central region. That way it will be easier for proper coordination of outreach efforts and monitoring of all missionary efforts.

Any questions you may wish answered will by His grace be responded to.

Thanks, and may the grace of the Lord be with you.

Daniel Terence

Most of the labor will be supplied by volunteers, which keeps the total cost unbelievably low. However, the cost of materials in Nigeria is plagued by significant inflation, due to shortages caused by the corona virus. The estimated cost for materials and what little hire labor is required is approximately US\$18,000.00. Imagine what such a structure would cost in the United States!

To assist the front-line workers in North Central Nigeria achieve their noble goal, please mark your donations *NCNigeria*.

# Greyfriars Bobby

n 1850 a gardener called John Gray, together with his wife Jess and son John, arrived in Edinburgh, Scotland. Unable to find work as a gardener, he obtained employment in the Edinburgh Police Force as a night watchman.

To keep him company through the long winter nights John took on a partner, a diminutive Skye Terrier, his 'watchdog' called Bobby. Together John and Bobby became a familiar sight walking through the old cobbled streets of Edinburgh. Through the years, winter and summer, John and his faithful little friend were inseparable.

The years on the streets took its toll on John, and he contracted tuberculosis. Eventually he died of the disease on the 15th February 1858 and was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard, Scottish for *churchyard*. Bobby, the little pooch, as faithful as can be, followed his master to the grave site and there he remained,

refusing to leave his master's grave, even in the worst wintry conditions. He was as close as he could get, guarding his master's grave, come rain or shine, or the cold blast of freezing winters. He could have stayed in his family home with all the comforts a loving family would provide, but he chose his best

friend's place of rest. The local residents were touched by Bobby's devotion and would offer him food. He would follow William Dow, a local joiner and cabinet maker to the same coffee house that he had frequented with his master, where he was given a meal.

The gardener and keeper of Greyfriars tried on many occasions to evict
Bobby from the Kirkyard. In the end

he gave up and provided a shelter for Bobby by placing sacking beneath two table-

stones at the side of John Gray's grave.

Bobby's fame spread through-out Edinburgh. It is reported that almost on a daily basis the crowds would gather at the entrance of the Kirkyard waiting for the one o'clock gun that would signal the appearance of Bob-

by leaving the grave for his midday meal.

In 1867 a new bylaw was passed that required all dogs to be licensed in the city or they would be destroyed. Sir William Chambers (the Lord Provost of Edinburgh) decided to pay Bobby's license and presented him with a collar with a brass inscription "Greyfriars Bobby from the Lord Provost 1867 li-

censed."This can be seen at the Museum of Edinburgh.

The kind folk of Edinburgh took good care of Bobby, but still he remained loyal to his master. For fourteen years, Bobby kept constant watch and guard over the grave until his own death in 1872.

Baroness Angelia Georgina Burdett-Coutts, President of the Ladies Committee of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), was so deeply moved by his story that she asked the City Council for permission to erect a granite fountain with a statue of Bobby placed on top.

William Brody sculptured the statue from life, and it was unveiled without ceremony in November 1873, opposite Greyfriars Kirkyard. Scotland's capital city will always remember its most famous and faithful dog.

Dear friends, what a beautiful story of faithfulness. The Bible says that "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). We know who that friend is: He gave up everything for us, including His life. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Are we making efforts daily to get close to Him? Do we pray, witness, study and truly live for Him?

Bobby's headstone reads "Greyfriars Bobby – died 14th January 1872 – aged 16 years – Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all".

Yes friends, let us be loyal and devoted to our Master, to the very end.



"Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:2, 3 NKJV

he men who humble themselves even as a little child are the men who will be taught by God. The Lord is not dependent on any man's talents; for He is the Source of all perfect gifts. The very humblest man, if he loves and fears God, is the possessor of heavenly gifts. The Lord can use such a man, because he does not strive to work himself according to his own standard. He works with fear and trembling lest he will spoil the pattern. His life is an expression of the life of Christ." The Faith I Live By, 138.

"There must be a revival of the strait testimony. The path to heaven is no smoother now than in the days of our Saviour. All our sins must be put away. Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious life must be cut off. The right eye or the right hand must be sacrificed if it cause us to offend. Are we willing to renounce our own wisdom and to receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child? Are we willing to part with self-righteousness? Are we willing to give up our chosen worldly associates? Are we willing to sacrifice the approbation of men? The prize of eternal life is of infinite value. Will we put forth efforts and make sacrifices proportionate to the worth of the object to be attained?" Testimonies, vol. 5, 222.

"If you will sincerely humble your hearts before Him, empty your souls of self-esteem, and put away the natural defects of your character, and overcome your love of supremacy, and come to God as little children, He will bestow on you His Holy Spirit." Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 323.

"It was not enough for the disciples of Jesus to be instructed as to the nature of His kingdom. What they needed was a change of heart that would bring them into harmony with its principles. Calling a little child to Him, Jesus set him in the midst of them; then tenderly folding the little one in His arms He said, 'Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.'The simplicity, the self-forgetfulness, and the confiding love of a little child are the attributes that Heaven values. These are the characteristics of real greatness." The Desire of Ages, 437.





# Blood Vessel Health and Cruciferous Vegetables

probably still hear echoes of your mother in your head: "Eat your vegetables." It turns out that your mom knew what she was talking about. Studies continue to prove our moth-

ers right - vegetables offer excellent health benefits. In fact, some of the vegetables we like the least might actually be extremely beneficial in preventing blood vessel disease, lowering the risk of heart events, and boosting liver health.

One new study published in the British Journal of Nutrition discovered that eating more cruciferous vegetables like Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and broccoli is associated with blood vessel disease that's less extensive in aging women. Their discovery has some serious implications for the health benefits of getting those cruciferous veggies daily, particularly since blood vessel disease results in risks for other serious health problems.

### Cruciferous vegetables linked to blood vessel health and lower risk of stroke and heart attack

Blood vessel disease – a problem that affects the veins and arteries - has the potential to reduce blood flow throughout your body. This may be because of the buildup of calcium or fatty deposits on the interior walls of blood vessels, and that buildup may result in adverse heart events like stroke and heart attack.

In previous studies, researchers discovered that a higher intake of cruciferous vegetables was linked to a lower risk of having cardiovascular disease events like stroke and heart attack. However, they weren't sure why. Now, this new study showing how these vegetables are linked to blood vessel health explains those earlier findings.

Researchers looked at a group of 684 older women in Western Australia. Those who consumed a minimum of 45 grams of cruciferous vegetables daily – which equals about ½ cup of raw cabbage or a ¼ cup of steamed broccoli) were 46 percent less likely to deal with extensive calcium buildup in the aorta compared to women eating few to no cruciferous vegetables.

While cruciferous vegetables were the highlight of this study, they're not the only vegetables we should focus on. According to lead researchers, it's essential to eat a wide variety of vegetables daily to enjoy better health.

### Protect your liver health by eating the right veggies

Beyond improving blood vessel health and lowering the risk of heart attack and stroke, studies also show that eating cruciferous veggies can offer significant liver benefits. A study published in the journal Hepatology earlier this year found that indole - found in veggies like broccoli and cauliflower - may help control nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.

Previous research had found that eating broccoli sprouts helped improve overall liver function.

No doubt: from improving blood vessel health to lowering the risk of heart attack to offering liver benefits, cruciferous veggies will provide many health benefits. Along with broccoli, additional cruciferous vegetables you can add to your diet include cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, organic kale, and cabbage.

www.naturalhealth365.com/cruciferous-vegetables-blood-vessel-3553.html



## The True Gospel

By John J. Grosboll

o many people seem to be satisfied with what this world has to offer until something catastrophic happens to them or their loved ones. They cannot endure to know the truth about the controversy between good and evil that is raging behind the scenes, so they usually turn away with disdain and often anger from anyone who dares to speak about it. There has never been a time in history when the situation was different.

From the judgment hall of the Roman Caesar, Paul was returned again to the Mamertine Prison, knowing that he had gained for himself only a brief respite. He knew that his enemies would not rest until they had secured his death, but he knew also that the

truth had triumphed for the time. He was content in the very fact that he had proclaimed a crucified and risen Saviour before that vast throng who had listened to his words. That, in itself, was a victory for the gospel.

A work had begun that day which would increase and prosper and which the emperor of Rome, with all of his pomp and power, would seek in vain to destroy or hinder. The apostle's speech had gained for him many friends and he was visited by some persons of rank. There were some people who accepted the gospel that day as a result of his speech. But there was one friend that the apostle Paul wanted to see more than anybody else during these final days of his life, and that friend

was Timothy. To Timothy had been committed the care of the church at Ephesus, and because of this he had not been with Paul when Paul had made his final voyage to Rome.

There was great affection between this youthful laborer and the apostle Paul. Timothy's conversion had occurred earlier through the labors of the apostle Paul, and the apostle decided that he was going to write a letter to Timothy and ask him to come as soon as possible to Rome.

Paul said to be diligent in coming quickly and not delay. However, in case Timothy did not arrive in time, the apostle decided that he must not delay writing his dying testimony which is recorded in 2 Timothy 4:6-8.



He says, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the

righteous Judge, will give to me on that

Day, and not to me only but also to all those who have loved His

appearing."

It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle [a part of a letter] of the law to fail.

Luke 16:17

In addition to his dying testimony, Paul desired one last time to counsel this young minister and give him the charge that is still repeated today when ministers are ordained in Christian churches. That charge is found in 2 Timothy 4:1-5. It says, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will

judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

Paul predicted that the time would come when Christians will not endure the truth, sound doctrine, and they would get for themselves teachers who would turn away their ears from the truth and be turned aside to fables. It is the duty of a Christian minister to hate and reprove sin and at the same time to manifest pity and tenderness for the sinner. That is a difficult attainment.

While we must be careful that we do not have undue severity toward a wrong doer, at the same time, we need to understand the exceeding sinfulness of sin. We need to have Christlike patience and love toward the erring, but at the same time there is danger of manifesting so great tolerance for error that eventually the person who is living in sin will consider himself undeserving of reproof and will reject it as an uncalled-for hardness.

We need to be careful that toleration of the sinner does not degenerate into toleration of sin. Godliness leads to brotherly kindness, and those who do not cherish the one will surely lack the other. If a person blunts his moral perceptions so that he becomes sinfully lenient towards those whom God condemns, the time will come when he will commit a greater sin by using severity and harshness toward those whom God commends. Paul says that the time is going to come when Christians will not endure sound doctrine. Here he is not talking about people who are atheists, or agnostics, or openly irreligious; he's talking about professed Christians who have indulged inclination until they are enslaved by their own ungoverned passions and led away with various kinds of cravings or lusts (see 2 Timothy 3).

In His ten holy precepts, God has given a rule for man's life, a law in which, Jesus said, not even part of a letter would be changed as long as heaven and earth should last. Jesus said in Luke 16:17, "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle [a part of a letter] of the law to fail." That law is still the Christian believer's rule of life. That law is still, today, the sinner's condemnation. That law is that which Isaiah says the Messiah would come to make honorable and magnify, and Jesus did magnify the law. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus showed that the law of God is based on the broad foundation of love to God and love to man. Jesus showed that obedience to the precepts of that law comprises the whole duty of man. In His own life, Jesus gave a perfect example of obedience to the law of God.

Jesus showed that the requirements of the law extend beyond outward acts. The law takes countenance of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. And if your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for

it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell" (Matthew 5:27–30).

God's law involves not only the actions of the body, but also the thoughts and intents of the heart. Today, we are living in a world where the enemy of all righteousness has taken almost the entire world captive. And he has led those who call themselves Christians to make void the law of God and excuse sin. The popular belief of millions of Christians today is that because we are carnal, we can't help but sin, so we will sin and confess, sin and confess until Jesus comes.

Paul foresaw that people would turn away from the plain, searching truths of God's word and that they would have itching ears and heap to themselves teachers that would present to them the fables that they desire, an easier gospel. These teachers would trample under their feet the fourth commandment and end up trampling the whole moral law.

The Creator of the world is insulted by those who claim to be His children while they transgress His law and Satan laughs at the success of his plot against the human race. We are living in a time when there is a growing contempt for God's holy law. There is an increasing distaste for religion. There is an increase of pride and love of pleasure. Children are disobedient to parents, contrary to the fifth commandment. People are self-indulgent. The thinking people who are watching what is going on in the world are alarmed, asking what can be done to arrest the evils in society.

Paul told Timothy to preach the word whether people will hear or whether they will not, because a transcript of the will of God is contained in the Bible. It reveals the only safe principles of action to reform or to save society. It



is an expression of divine wisdom and opens to the reader's understanding how to solve the great problem of life. Those who listen to it will be directed in the right way.

It is absolute madness and insanity for men to attempt to change or even question that which has come out of the mouth of God. After infinite wisdom has spoken, how could we have any doubtful questions to settle? How can we have any wavering probabilities to adjust if we're interested in eternal life? The only thing to do is ask, "What has God said, and how can I obey?" Obedience is the highest dictate of reason as well as of conscience. But there are millions of people today listening to other voices and willing to follow other guides whose messages have been turned unto fables, and they trust them.

Sadly, on that final day, those who have trusted in fables will meet with infinite loss. How is it with you? Is your life being organized and lived according to the word of God, or are you trusting in popular fables? We are living in a time when fatal errors like deadly poison have so tainted the morals of a large part of the human race that they have no certain hope of eternal life. Can you hear the voice of duty?

In his last letter to Timothy in Ephesus, Paul predicted what would happen in the last days of this earth's history, the time in which we are now living. He said, "Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1-5)!

Paul said there would still be religion and people would have a form of godliness, profess to be Christians and go to church in the end times. Looking at them from the outside, people of the world will believe that they are Christians, but Paul said that while they do seem to have a form of godliness, they deny its power.

What is the power of godliness? Paul explains this clearly in his letter to the Romans. He said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of

God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'" (Romans 1:16, 17).

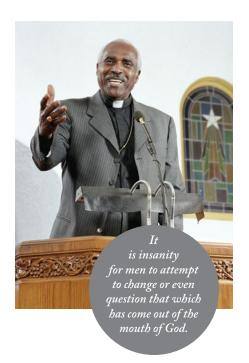
If a person is living by faith after receiving the gospel, his life will change. "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:3, 4). You will know if you are walking according to the flesh or according to the Spirit by the life that you are living. To walk according to the Spirit is to have your life in harmony with the law of God.

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal [unconverted] mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (verses 5–7). It is impossible for the unconverted person to obey the law of God.

Never argue with somebody who says they cannot obey the law of God, for they are right. But what happens if a person is converted? Paul says, "So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (verses 8, 9).

Those who are converted and walk in the Spirit will have the power to obey the law of God. That's what the new birth is all about and it can happen in your life. (See Romans 8 or Romans 6.)

Paul was concerned that there were people in his day who perverted the gospel. He wrote to the Galatians: "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,



which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ" (Galatians 1:6, 7). And then to the Corinthian church, he wrote, "If he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it" (2 Corinthians 11:4)!

The different gospel is the gospel that allows people to live according to the flesh, and still think that they are going to be saved. He said, "The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness [licentiousness], idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:17-21). Those who practice such things, Paul said, will not inherit the kingdom of God. Those who are living like that are not yet converted and have not been born again and do not display the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, but rather the fruit of the flesh.

O, friend, how is it with you? There are millions of Christians today who have a false hope of salvation. They think that they can live in sin, and as long as they just confess their sins in the moment of their death, somehow everything will turn out all right. This was not the teaching of Jesus or His apostles.

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:9–II).

O, friend, have you been washed? Have you been forgiven for your sins and been justified by the Lord Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit? Are you being sanctified and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life so you can be ready to meet the Lord when He comes back to this earth? Don't accept any other gospel that teaches you that you can live in sin, and yet go to the kingdom of heaven. You must choose to renounce sin in all its forms, repent of it, confess it and forsake it if you want to be in God's kingdom. Nothing that defiles will be inside the city (Revelation 21:27).

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

Pastor John J. Grosboll is Director of Steps to Life and pastors the Prairie Meadows Church in Wichita, Kansas. He may be contacted by email at: historic@stepstolife. org, or by telephone at: 316-788-5559. December 27 – January 2, 2021

### A Covenant of Grace

### **Key Text**

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people" (Hebrews 8:10).

**Study Help:** Patriarchs and Prophets, 363–373.

#### Introduction

"The 'new covenant' was established upon 'better promises' the promise of forgiveness of sins and of the grace of God to renew the heart and bring it into harmony with the principles of God's law." Patriarchs and Prophets, 372.

### Sunday

### 1 AN ETERNAL MYSTERY

1.a. For how long has God's covenant of grace exist-					
ed? Romans 16:25.					
<b>Note:</b> "The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed					
in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the					
everlasting covenant." The Faith I Live By, 77.					
evertueling covernance increase in 12000 by, 77.					
1.b. When was the covenant of grace confirmed to hu-					
manity by promise? Genesis 3:15. When was it fully					
established? John 19:30; Romans 3:25.					
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
<b>Note:</b> "The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after					
the fall of man, when a plan was devised for the redemption					
of the guilty race. It then existed in the purpose and by the					

promise of God; and through faith, men could become its

subjects. Yet it was not actually established until the death of Christ. ... When the Saviour yielded up His life, and with His expiring breath cried out, 'It is finished,' then the fulfillment of the plan of redemption was assured. The promise of salvation made to the sinful pair in Eden was ratified. The kingdom of grace, which had before existed by the promise of God, was then established." The Great Controversy, 347, 348.

### Monday

### 2 THE COVENANT BLESSING FOR ALL **NATIONS**

2.a. What blessing did God promise to Abraham under the covenant of grace? Genesis 12:1–3. Who is the promised "Seed"? Galatians 3:16.
Note: "Christ was not alone in making His great sacrifice. It was the fulfillment of the covenant made between Him and His Father before the foundation of the world was laid. With clasped hands They had entered into the solemn pledge that Christ would become the surety for the human race if they were overcome by Satan's sophistry." <i>The Youth's Instructor</i> , June 14, 1900.  2.b. What does God do under this covenant for all who believe in Christ alone for salvation? Galatians 3:8; Romans 5:1.
Note: "The covenant made with Abraham four hundred and thirty years before the law was spoken on Sinai was a covenant confirmed by God in Christ, the very same gospel which is

preached to us." The Signs of the Times, August 24, 1891.

2.c. What promise did God's covenant with Abraham also include, and what will receiving it do for the believer in Christ? Galatians 3:14; Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

Note: "The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth 'the fruits of the Spirit.' Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked. Through the prophet He declared of Himself, 'I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart' (Psalm 40:8). And when among men He said, 'The Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him' (John 8:29)." Patriarchs and Prophets, 372.

### **Tuesday**

### **3 GRACE FOR OBEDIENCE**

3.a. Why did God confirm His everlasting covenant to Abraham by an oath? Genesis 22:16–18; Hebrews 6:13–18.
Note: "This promise [Genesis 22:18] pointed to Christ. So
Abraham understood it (see Galatians 3:8, 16), and he trusted in
Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It was this faith that was ac-
counted unto him for righteousness." Patriarchs and Prophets, 370.
"On Mount Moriah, God again renewed His covenant,
confirming with a solemn oath the blessing to Abraham and to

his seed through all coming generations. ...

"Abraham was human; his passions and attachments were like ours; but he did not stop to question how the promise could be fulfilled if Isaac should be slain. He did not stay to reason with his aching heart. He knew that God is just and righteous in all His requirements, and he obeyed the command to the very letter." Ibid., 153.

b. What shows that obedience to God's law will always be seen in the life of those under the covenant of grace? Genesis 26:5.					

Note: "The covenant with Abraham also maintained the authority of God's law. The Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said, 'I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect' (Genesis 17:1). The testimony of God concerning His faithful servant was, 'Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws' (Genesis 26:5). And the Lord declared to him, 'I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations, for an *everlasting covenant*, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee' (Genesis 17:7)." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 370. [Emphasis author's.]

"The apostle Paul clearly presents the relation between faith and the law under the new covenant. He says: 'Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' 'Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.' 'For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh'—it could not justify man, because in his sinful nature he could not keep the law—'God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit' (Romans 5:1; 3:31; 8:3, 4)." Ibid., 373. [Emphasis author's.]

## Wednesday 4 THE COVENANT AT SINAI

•	•	nant formed at Sinai and w cronomy 4:35–37.		

Note: "In their bondage the people had to a great extent lost the knowledge of God and of the principles of the Abrahamic covenant. In delivering them from Egypt, God sought to reveal to them His power and His mercy, that they might be led to love and trust Him. He brought them down to the Red Sea—where, pursued by the Egyptians, escape seemed impossible—that they might realize their utter helplessness, their need of divine aid; and then He wrought deliverance for them. Thus they were filled with love and gratitude to God and with confidence in His power to help them. He had bound them to Himself as their deliverer from temporal bondage.

"But there was a still greater truth to be impressed upon their minds. Living in the midst of idolatry and corruption, they had no true conception of the holiness of God, of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability, in themselves, to render obedience to God's law, and their need of a Saviour. All this they must be taught." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 371.

4.b. Why is the covenant made with Abraham called a "new" covenant even though it was made before the one at Sinai? Hebrews 9:16–20.

Note: "Though this covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, it could not be ratified until the death of Christ. It had existed by the promise of God since the first intimation of redemption had been given; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a new covenant. The law of God was the basis of this covenant, which was simply an arrangement for bringing men again into harmony with the divine will, placing them where they could obey God's law.

"Another compact—called in Scripture the 'old' covenant—was formed between God and Israel at Sinai, and was then ratified by the blood of a sacrifice. The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, and it is called the 'second,' or 'new,' covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 370, 371.

## **Thursday**

# 5 DELIVERANCE FROM THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE

5.a. What did the Israelites fail to understand when they entered into the covenant at Sinai? Exodus 24:7; Romans 10:2, 3; John 15:5.

**Note:** "The people did not realize ... that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God's law; and they readily entered into covenant with God. Feeling that they were able to establish their own righteousness, they declared, 'All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient' (Exodus 24:7)." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 371, 372.

5.b. How can we be in danger today of making the same mistake the children of Israel made at Sinai? Romans 8:15.

**Note:** "The spirit of bondage is engendered by seeking to live in accordance with legal religion, through striving to fulfill the claims of the law in our own strength. There is hope for us only as we come under the Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus." *The Youth's Instructor*, September 22, 1892.



"All religious service, however attractive and costly, that endeavors to merit the favor of God, all mortification of the flesh, all penance and laborious work to procure the forgiveness of sin and the divine favor—whatever prevents us from making Christ our entire dependence, is abomination in the sight of God. There is no hope for man but to cease his rebellion, his resistance of God's will, and own himself a sinner ready to perish, and cast himself upon the mercy of God. We can be saved only through Christ." *The Signs of the Times*, August 24, 1891.

## Friday

#### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Why is the covenant of grace called an everlasting covenant?
- 2 How am I blessed today by the covenant made with Abraham?
- What does God promise to do for me under the covenant of grace?
- 4 Why is the covenant of grace called a "new" covenant?
- 5 How can I ensure today that I am under the covenant of grace?

## January 3 - 9, 2021

# The Covenant Broken

#### **Key Text**

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves" (Exodus 32:7).

Study Help: Patriarchs and Prophets, 315–319.

#### Introduction

"Feeling their helplessness in the absence of their leader, they returned to their old superstitions. The 'mixed multitude' had been the first to indulge murmuring and impatience, and they were the leaders in the apostasy that followed." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 315, 316.

## **Sunday**

## 1 THE PEOPLE PROMISE OBEDIENCE

ı.a.	After the proclamation of the law, who were called up into the mountain, and who only was told to come near to the Lord? Exodus 24:1, 2.
1.b.	As the people heard all the words of the Lord as related by Moses, what did they answer with one voice? What did Moses then do? Exodus 24:3, 4.
No	te: "The minds of the people, blinded and debased by slav-

enforced, additional precepts were given, illustrating and applying the principles of the Ten Commandments. These laws were called judgments, both because they were framed in infinite wisdom and equity and because the magistrates were to give judgment according to them. Unlike the Ten Commandments, they were delivered privately to Moses, who was to communicate them to the people." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 310.

"[Exodus 24:3 quoted.] This pledge, together with the words of the Lord which it bound them to obey, was written by Moses in a book." Ibid., 312.

## **Monday**

## 2 ISRAEL ENTERS INTO A COVENANT WITH GOD

2.a. When Moses took the book of the covenant and read it in the ears of the people, what did they again promise? Exodus 24:7.

**Note:** "If the Israelites had obeyed God's requirements, they would have been practical Christians. They would have been happy; for they would have been keeping God's ways, and not following the inclinations of their own natural hearts. Moses did not leave them to misconstrue the words of the Lord or to misapply His requirements. He wrote all the words of the Lord in a book, that they might be referred to afterward. In the mount he had written them as Christ Himself dictated them.

"Bravely did the Israelites speak the words promising obedience to the Lord, after hearing His covenant read in the audience of the people. They said, 'All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.' Then the people were set apart and sealed to God. A sacrifice was offered to the Lord. A portion of the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled upon the altar. This signified that the people had consecrated themselves—body, mind, and soul—to God. A portion was sprinkled upon the people. This signified that through the sprinkled blood of Christ, God graciously accepted them as His special treasure. Thus the Israelites entered into a solemn covenant with God." "Ellen G. White Comments," The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, 1107.

2.b. What did the Israelites fail to realize in their decision to enter into a covenant with God? Romans 7:18; John 15:5.

ery and heathenism, were not prepared to appreciate fully the far-reaching principles of God's ten precepts. That the obligations of the Decalogue might be more fully understood and

<b>Note:</b> "God gave them [Israel] His law, with the promise of great blessings on condition of obedience: 'If ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation' (Exodus 19:5, 6).	3.b. What was seen on Mount Sinai? Exodus 24:15–17.
The people did not realize the sinfulness of their own hearts, and that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God's law; and they readily entered into covenant with God. Feeling that they were able to establish their own righteousness, they declared, 'All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient' (Exodus 24:7)." Patriarchs and Prophets, 371, 372.  2.c. What was used by Moses to ratify the covenant made at Sinai? Exodus 24:8.	3.c. How long was Moses upon the mount with God? Exodus 24:18. How did the Lord want to enlighten the world through Israel? How does this apply to us today?
Tuesday 3 MOSES IN THE MOUNT 3.a. For what purpose was Moses again called into the mount? Exodus 24:12; 25:8, 9, 40.	Note: "From a race of slaves the Israelites had been exalted above all peoples to be the peculiar treasure of the King of kings. God had separated them from the world, that He might commit to them a sacred trust. He had made them the depositaries of His law, and He purposed, through them, to preserve among men the knowledge of Himself. Thus the light of heaven was to shine out to a world enshrouded in darkness, and a voice was to be heard appealing to all peoples to turn from their idolatry to serve the living God. If the Israelites would be true to their trust, they would become a power in the world. God would be their defense, and He would exalt them above all other nations. His light and truth would be revealed through them, and they would stand forth under His wise and holy rule as an example of the superiority of His worship over every
	form of idolatry." Patriarchs and Prophets, 314.  Wednesday
	4 THE GOLDEN CALF
<b>Note:</b> "During his stay in the mount, Moses received directions for the building of a sanctuary in which the divine presence would be specially manifested. 'Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them' (Exodus 25:8), was the command of God	4.a. When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, what did they say as they gathered around Aaron? Exodus 32:1.
"Henceforth the people were to be honored with the abiding presence of their King. I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God,' and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory' (Exodus 29:45, 43), was the assurance given to Moses. As the symbol of God's authority and the embodiment of	

His will, there was delivered to Moses a copy of the Decalogue

engraved by the finger of God Himself upon two tables of stone

(Deuteronomy 9:10; Exodus 32:15, 16), to be sacredly enshrined in

the sanctuary, which, when made, was to be the visible center of

the nation's worship." Patriarchs and Prophets, 313, 314.

**Note:** "During this period of waiting, there was time for them to meditate upon the law of God which they had heard, and to prepare their hearts to receive the further revelations that He might make to them. They had none too much time for this work; and had they been thus seeking a clearer understanding

of God's requirements, and humbling their hearts before Him, they would have been shielded from temptation. But they did not do this, and they soon became careless, inattentive, and lawless. Especially was this the case with the mixed multitude. ... There were some who suggested a return to Egypt, but whether forward to Canaan or backward to Egypt, the masses of the people were determined to wait no longer for Moses." Patriarchs and Prophets, 315.

4.b. How did Aaron reveal his weakness? What did the people do? Exodus 32:2–6; Psalm 106:19, 20.
<b>Note:</b> "A few who ventured to denounce the proposed image making as idolatry, were set upon and roughly treated, and in

the confusion and excitement they finally lost their lives.

"Aaron feared for his own safety; and instead of nobly standing up for the honor of God, he yielded to the demands of the multitude." Patriarchs and Prophets, 316, 317.

4.c. What warning does this experience contain for us?

Ι	Corinthiar	1s 10:7.		

Note: "We repeat the sin of Aaron, pacifying, when the eyesight should be clear to discern evil and state it plainly, even if it places us in an unpleasant position, because our motives may be misapprehended. We must not suffer wrong upon a brother or any soul with whom we are connected. This neglect to stand up firmly for truth was the sin of Aaron. Had he spoken the truth plainly, that golden calf would never have been made." "Ellen G. White Comments," The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, 1109.

## **Thursday**

## 5 MOSES PLEADS FOR THE PEOPLE

5.a. Relate the discussion between the Lord and Moses regarding the apostasy in the camp. Exodus 32:7-14.

Note: "As Moses interceded for Israel, his timidity was lost in his deep interest and love for those for whom he had, in the hands of God, been the means of doing so much. The Lord listened to his pleadings, and granted his unselfish prayer. God had proved His servant; He had tested his faithfulness and his love for that erring, ungrateful people, and nobly had Moses endured the trial. His interest in Israel sprang from no selfish motive. The prosperity of God's chosen people was dearer to him than personal honor." Patriarchs and Prophets, 319.

5.b. What does God want us to do when we meet apostasy today? 2 Timothy 4:2, 3.

Note "Of all the sins that God will punish, none are more grievous in His sight than those that encourage others to do evil. God would have His servants prove their loyalty by faithfully rebuking transgression, however painful the act may be. Those who are honored with a divine commission are not to be weak, pliant time-servers. They are not to aim at self-exaltation, or to shun disagreeable duties, but to perform God's work with unswerving fidelity." Patriarchs and Prophets, 323, 324.

## **Friday**

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- How did the additional precepts given to the Israelites relate to the Ten Commandments?
- How can I be a "practical Christian"? Will this make me unhappy?
- How can I help to preserve a knowledge of God in this world?
- Why do we sometimes fail to stand up for what is right? What repercussions can this have?
- What can I learn from Moses' attitude toward those who were outright disobedient and others who were inconsistent in their faith?

## January 10 - 16, 2021

## The Covenant Restored

## **Key Text**

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel" (Exodus 34:27).

Study Help: Patriarchs and Prophets, 319-330.

#### Introduction

"At God's command he [Moses] had prepared two tables of stone, and had taken them with him to the summit; and again the Lord 'wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments' (Exodus 34:28)." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 329.

## **Sunday**

### 1 MOSES BREAKS THE TABLES OF STONE

1.a. What did Moses bring with him when he came down from the mount, and how did Joshua and Moses each interpret the noise that they heard in the camp? Exodus 32:15, 17, 18.

1.b. Describe the reaction of Moses to the idolatry in the camp and Aaron's vain attempt at self-justification. Exodus 32:19-24.

**Note:** "When Moses, on returning to the camp, confronted the rebels, his severe rebukes and the indignation he displayed in breaking the sacred tables of the law were contrasted by the people with his brother's pleasant speech and dignified

demeanor, and their sympathies were with Aaron. To justify himself, Aaron endeavored to make the people responsible for his weakness in yielding to their demand; but notwithstanding this, they were filled with admiration of his gentleness and patience. But God seeth not as man sees. Aaron's yielding spirit and his desire to please had blinded his eyes to the enormity of the crime he was sanctioning. His course in giving his influence to sin in Israel cost the life of thousands." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 323.

## Monday

#### 2 JUDGMENT AGAINST THE OFFENDERS

.a. How offensive was the attitude of Aaron in the eyes
of God? Deuteronomy 9:20.
• •

**Note:** "If Aaron had had courage to stand for the right, irrespective of consequences, he could have prevented that apostasy." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 323.

2.b. What appeal did Moses make after he had rebuked his brother, and what was the result? Exodus 32:26-29.

**Note:** "It was necessary that this sin should be punished, as a testimony to surrounding nations of God's displeasure against idolatry. By executing justice upon the guilty, Moses, as God's instrument, must leave on record a solemn and public protest against their crime. As the Israelites should hereafter condemn the idolatry of the neighboring tribes, their enemies would throw back upon them the charge that the people who claimed Jehovah as their God had made a calf and worshiped it in Horeb. Then though compelled to acknowledge the disgraceful truth, Israel could point to the terrible fate of the transgressors, as evidence that their sin had not been sanctioned or excused.

"Love no less than justice demanded that for this sin judgment should be inflicted. God is the guardian as well as the sovereign of His people. He cuts off those who are determined upon rebellion, that they may not lead others to ruin." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 325.

2.c. What did Moses communicate to those who were sorry for their sin, and how did he later communicate with God in their behalf? Exodus 32:30–35.	watched for some token that his intercessions in their behalf were accepted. If God should condescend to meet with him, they might hope that they were not to be utterly consumed. When the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the entrance of the tabernacle, the people wept for joy, and they 'rose up and worshiped, every man in his tent door' (verse 10)." <i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , 327.
	3.c. What assurance did Moses obtain from the Lord? Ex odus 33:11–17. How can we obtain the same assurance?
Note: "Moses realized how dreadful would be the fate of the sinner; yet if the people of Israel were to be rejected by the Lord, he desired his name to be blotted out with theirs; he could not endure to see the judgments of God fall upon those who had been so graciously delivered. The intercession of Moses in behalf of Israel illustrates the mediation of Christ for	
sinful men. But the Lord did not permit Moses to bear, as did Christ, the guilt of the transgressor. 'Whosoever hath sinned against Me,' He said, 'him will I blot out of My book' (Exodus 32:33)." <i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , 326, 327.	<b>Note:</b> "This experience—above all else the promise that the divine Presence would attend him—was to Moses an assurance of success in the work before him; and he counted it of infinitely greater worth than all the learning of Egypt or all
Tuesday	his attainments as a statesman or a military leader. No earthly power or skill or learning can supply the place of God's abiding
3 GOD ACCEPTS THE PENITENT	presence." <i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , 328. "Go to God and tell Him as did Moses, I cannot lead this
3.a. How did the people react when they heard that the Lord would not lead them to Canaan because of their sin? Exodus 33:1–6.	people unless Thy presence shall go with me.' And then ask still more; pray with Moses, 'Show me Thy glory.' What is this glory?—the character of God. That is what He proclaimed to Moses. Let the soul, in living faith, fasten upon God. Let the tongue speak His praise. When you associate together, let the mind be reverently turned to the contemplation of eternal realities. Thus you will be helping one another to be spiritually minded. When your will is in harmony with the divine will, you will be in harmony with one another; you will have Christ by your side as a counselor." <i>Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers</i> , 499.
3.b. Where did Moses pitch the tabernacle after this	, 199
dreadful experience? What token revealed hope for those who sought the Lord? Exodus 33:7–10.	Wednesday
33.7	4 A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S CHARACTER
	4.a. What further request did Moses make, and what was the Lord's answer? Exodus 33:18, 19. How did the Lord proclaim His name to Moses? Exodus 34:5–7.
Note: "The tent was pitched without the encampment, but Moses called it 'the tabernacle of the congregation' (Exodus 33:7). All who were truly penitent, and desired to return to the Lord, were directed to repair thither to confess their sins and seek His mercy. When they returned to their tents Moses entered the tabernacle. With agonizing interest the people	

**Note:** "It is our privilege to reach higher and still higher for clearer revealings of the character of God. When Moses prayed, 'I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory,' the Lord did not rebuke him, but He granted his prayer. God declared to His servant, 'I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee' (Exodus 33:18, 19).

"It is sin that darkens our minds and dims our perceptions. As sin is purged from our hearts, the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, illuminating His word and reflected from the face of nature, more and more fully will declare Him 'merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth' (Exodus 34:6)." *The Ministry of Healing*, 464, 465.

4.b. After God revealed His glory to Moses, what did Moses pray for, and how did God answer? Exodus 34:8–17, 27.

Note: "Moses was full of confidence in God because he had appropriating faith. He needed help, and he prayed for it, grasped it by faith, and wove into his experience the belief that God cared for him. He believed that God ruled his life in particular. He saw and acknowledged God in every detail of his life and felt that he was under the eye of the All-seeing One, who weighs motives, who tries the heart. He looked to God and trusted in Him for strength to carry him uncorrupted through every form of temptation. ... The presence of God was sufficient to carry him through the most trying situations in which a man could be placed.

"Moses did not merely think of God; he saw Him. God was the constant vision before him; he never lost sight of His face. He saw Jesus as his Saviour, and he believed that the Saviour's merits would be imputed to him. This faith was to Moses no guesswork; it was a reality. This is the kind of faith we need, faith that will endure the test." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 651, 652.

# **Thursday**5 ENTERING THE COVENANT OF GRACE

5.a. What were the children of Israel n ciate about the blessings offered us ic covenant in contrast to their firs God? Psalm 103:8; Hebrews 7:19; J	nder the Abraham at covenant with

Note: "They [the children of Israel] had witnessed the proclamation of the law in awful majesty, and had trembled with terror before the mount; and yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant with God, and bowed down to worship a graven image. They could not hope for the favor of God through a covenant which they had broken; and now, seeing their sinfulness and their need of pardon, they were brought to feel their need of the Saviour revealed in the Abrahamic covenant and shadowed forth in the sacrificial offerings. Now by faith and love they were bound to God as their deliverer from the bondage of sin. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessings of the new covenant." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 372.

saw him? Exodus 34:28–30, 33.

5.b. What did Moses bring down from the mount after

**Note:** "The glory reflected in the countenance of Moses illustrates the blessings to be received by God's commandment-keeping people through the mediation of Christ. It testifies that the closer our communion with God, and the clearer our knowledge of His requirements, the more fully shall we be conformed to the divine image, and the more readily do we become partakers of the divine nature." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 330.

# Friday PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Why do we often despise the one who rebukes sin and admire the gentle, yielding ones?
- 2 Why was the sin of worshiping the golden calf so great?
- What was of more value to Moses than his skill as a statesman or a military leader? Why?
- 4 As Jesus cleanses the heart from sin, what will we see shining from His word and reflected in nature?
- What two things will lead me to become more fully conformed to God's image? How?

January 17 - 23, 2021

## **Unfaithful Priests**

## **Key Text**

"And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean" (Ezekiel 44:23).

Study Help: Patriarchs and Prophets, 359-362.

#### Introduction

"We must abstain from any practice which will blunt the conscience or encourage temptation. We must open no door that will give Satan access to the mind of one human being formed in the image of God." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 360.

## **Sunday**

## 1 THE CONSECRATION OF AARON AND HIS SONS

I.a. Describe briefly the ceremony of consecration of Aaron and his sons for the service of the sanctuary. Leviticus 8:1–9, 12, 13, 24, 30, 33.

**Note:** "All had been done as God commanded, and He accepted the sacrifice, and revealed His glory in a remarkable manner; fire came from the Lord and consumed the offering upon the altar. The people looked upon this wonderful manifestation of divine power with awe and intense interest. They saw in it a token of God's glory and favor, and they raised a universal shout of praise and adoration and fell on their faces as if in the immediate presence of Jehovah." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 359.

1.b. What was required of those who were called to service in the presence of the Lord? Exodus 19:22. What disqualifies men for sacred responsibilities?

**Note:** "If one has not a vital connection with God, his own spirit and sentiments will prevail. These may be well represented as strange fire offered in the place of the sacred." *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 371.

## Monday

#### **2 NADAB AND ABIHU ARE SLAIN**

2.a. What action on the part of Nadab and Abihu
showed that they were not qualified for the sacred
office that was given them? Leviticus 10:1. How do
professed Christians use "strange fire" in our days?

Note: "The converting power of God must come upon men who handle sacred things, yet who are unable, through some cause best known to God, to distinguish between the sacred fire of God's own kindling and the strange fire which they offer. That strange fire is as dishonoring to God as was that presented by Nadab and Abihu. The sacred fire of God's love would make men tender and kind and sympathetic toward those in peril. Those who indulge in sharp, overbearing words, are really saying: I am holier than thou. Do you not see my exalted position?" *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 356.

"Converted men are needed—men who will love and honor God, fearing to move in their own wisdom, and realizing that their efforts can prove successful only as recognized by Him without whose blessing there is no prosperity. Every moment divine power must be combined with human effort, else strange fire will be offered instead of the sacred. ...

"To handle sacred things as we would common matters is an offense to God; for that which God has set apart to do His service in giving light to this world is holy. Those who have any connection with the work of God are not to walk in the vanity of their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of God, or they will be in danger of placing sacred and common things on the same level, and thus separate themselves from God." *The Review and Herald*, September 8, 1896.

2.b. How was their profane behavior punished? Leviticus 10:2.

**Note:** "At the hour of worship, as the prayers and praise of the people were ascending to God, two of the sons of Aaron took each his censer and burned fragrant incense thereon, to rise as a sweet odor before the Lord. But they transgressed His command by the use of 'strange fire.' For burning the incense they took common instead of the sacred fire which God Himself had kindled, and which He had commanded to be used for this purpose. For this sin a fire went out from the Lord and devoured them in the sight of the people." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 359.

## **Tuesday**

#### **3 THE RESULTS OF FAULTY TRAINING**

3.a. As Moses immediately saw the cause of the trouble, what did he say to Aaron? Leviticus 10:3. What made the sin of Nadab and Abihu all the more grievous in the eyes of God?

**Note:** "Next to Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu had stood highest in Israel. They had been especially honored by the Lord, having been permitted with the seventy elders to behold His glory in the mount. But their transgression was not therefore to be excused or lightly regarded. All this rendered their sin more grievous." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 359.

3.b. What principles should Aaron have known in the training of his sons? Proverbs 22:6; 29:21. In what area did he fail?

**Note:** "Nadab and Abihu had not in their youth been trained to habits of self-control. The father's yielding disposition, his lack of firmness for right, had led him to neglect the discipline of his children. His sons had been permitted to follow inclination. Habits of self-indulgence, long cherished, obtained a hold upon them which even the responsibility of the most sacred office had not power to break. They had not been taught to respect the authority of their father, and they did not realize the necessity of exact obedience to the requirements of God." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 360.



"Too much importance cannot be placed upon the early training of children. The lessons learned, the habits formed, during the years of infancy and childhood, have more to do with the formation of the character and the direction of the life than have all the instruction and training of after years." The Ministry of Healing, 380.

3.c. What instruction and warning did Moses give to Aaron and his surviving sons? Why? Leviticus 10:6, 7.

**Note:** "By no manifestation of grief must he [Aaron] seem to sympathize with sin. The congregation must not be led to murmur against God." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 361.

## Wednesday

## **4 A WARNING TO US TODAY**

4.a. What warning did the Lord give against the use of alcoholic beverages? Leviticus 10:8–11. Does this warning extend to us today? Exodus 19:5, 6.

**Note:** "The use of spirituous liquors has the effect to weaken the body, confuse the mind, and debase the morals. It prevents men from realizing the sacredness of holy things or the binding force of God's requirements. All who occupied positions of sacred responsibility were to be men of strict temperance, that their minds might be clear to discriminate between right and wrong, that they might possess firmness of principle, and wisdom to administer justice and to show mercy." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 362.

4.b. What biblical principles show us that the wine provided by Jesus at the marriage feast was unfermented grape juice? Proverbs 20:1; 23:32.	
NI . "I.1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
<b>Note:</b> "It has been declared by some that Christ favored the	
moderate use of fermented wine, in witness whereof they refer	
to His miracle of changing water into wine. But we protest that Christ never made intoxicating wine; such an act would have	
Christ never made intoxicating wine; such an act would have	

4.c. V	Vhat will tho	se do who	are strivin	g for the m	astery
ir	the Christi	an life? 1 C	orinthians	9:25.	

been contrary to all the teachings and example of His life." The

Health Reformer, July 1, 1878.

**Note:** "True temperance teaches us to dispense entirely with everything hurtful, and to use judiciously that which is healthful." *Temperance*, 138.

"The only safe course is to touch not, taste not, handle not, tea, coffee, wines, tobacco, opium, and alcoholic drinks. ...

"Let us never partake of a glass of alcoholic liquor. Let us never touch it." Ibid., 163.

"The youth and children should understand the effect of alcohol, tobacco, and other like poisons in breaking down the body, beclouding the mind, and sensualizing the soul. It should be made plain that no one who uses these things can long possess the full strength of his physical, mental, or moral faculties." *Education*, 202.

## **Thursday**

## 5"HOLY AND REVEREND IS HIS NAME"

5.a. Why was the sin of Nadab and Abihu recorded? Romans 15:4. What can we learn from this incident?

**Note:** "God designed to teach the people that they must approach Him with reverence and awe, and in His own appointed manner. He cannot accept partial obedience. It was not enough that in this solemn season of worship nearly everything was done as He had directed. God has pronounced a curse upon those who depart from His commandments, and put no difference between common and holy things." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 360.

5.b. What kinds of men does the Lord call to occupy positions of sacred responsibility? Titus 1:5-9.

**Note:** "A minister of Christ should be pure in conversation and in actions. He should ever bear in mind that he is handling words of inspiration, words of a holy God. He must also bear in mind that the flock is entrusted to his care, and that he is to bear their cases to Jesus, and plead for them as Jesus pleads for us with the Father. I was pointed back to the children of Israel anciently and saw how pure and holy the ministers of the sanctuary had to be, because they were brought by their work into a close connection with God. They that minister must be holy, pure, and without blemish, or God will destroy them. God has not changed." *Early Writings*, 103.

## **Friday**

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Why is it that we sometimes bring our own opinions and selfish ideas into the work of God?
- 2 What is necessary in order to avoid placing sacred and common things on the same level?
- 3 When is self-control to be learned? Why?
- 4 Why does God want me to be strictly temperate today?
- Why is reverence so important? Where does this begin? How?

January 24 - 30, 2021

# Departing from Sinai

### **Key text**

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:11).

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 374–386.

#### Introduction

"The repeated murmurings of the Israelites, and the visitations of God's wrath because of their transgressions, are recorded in sacred history for the benefit of God's people who should afterward live upon the earth, but more especially to prove a warning to those who should live near the close of time." *The Story of Redemption*, 152.

## **Sunday**

#### 1 TRAVELING THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

<b>Note:</b> "Of this tribe [the Kenites] was the brother-in-law of Moses, Hobab, who had accompanied the Israelites in their travels through the wilderness, and by his knowledge of the country had rendered them valuable assistance." <i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , 628.
1.b. What prayers did Moses offer when the cloud lifted and the ark [of the covenant] set forward and when rested again? Numbers 10:35, 36.

**Note:** "God Himself directed the Israelites in all their travels. The place of their encampment was indicated by the descent of the pillar of cloud; and so long as they were to remain in camp, the cloud rested over the tabernacle. When they were to continue their journey it was lifted high above the sacred tent. A solemn invocation marked both the halt and the departure." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 376.

## Monday

#### **2 COMPLAINING AGAIN**

2.a. Through what sort of land did the people of Israel travel after they left Sinai? Why? Deuteronomy 8:15, 16; Jeremiah 2:6.
Note: "As they advanced, the way became more difficult. Their route lay through stony ravine and barren waste. All around them was the great wilderness—'a land of deserts and of pits,' a land of drought, and of the shadow of death,' a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt' (Jeremiah 2:6). The rocky gorges, far and near, were thronged with men, women, and children, with beasts and wagons, and long lines of docks and herds. Their progress was necessarily slow and toil-some; and the multitudes, after their long encampment, were not prepared to endure the perils and discomforts of the way." Patriarchs and Prophets, 377.
2.b. When the people began complaining about the discomforts along the way, what happened? Numbers 11:1-3.

Note: "After three days' journey open complaints were heard. These originated with the mixed multitude, many of whom were not fully united with Israel, and were continually watching for some cause of censure. The complainers were not pleased with the direction of the march, and they were continually finding fault with the way in which Moses was leading them, though they well knew that he, as well as they, was following the guiding cloud. Dissatisfaction is

contagious, and it soon spread in the encampment." Patriarchs and Prophets, 377.

"They [the people of Israel] had received great light, as they had been witnesses to the majesty, the power, and the mercy of God; and their unbelief and discontent incurred the greater guilt. Furthermore, they had covenanted to accept Jehovah as their king and to obey His authority. Their murmuring was now rebellion, and as such it must receive prompt and signal punishment, if Israel was to be preserved from anarchy and ruin. 'The fire of Jehovah burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp' (Numbers II:I). The most guilty of the complainers were slain by lightning from the cloud." Ibid., 379.

# **Tuesday**3 LUSTING FOR FLESH

3.a. What did the Israelites complain about next, and with whom did the murmuring begin? Numbers 11:4-6; Psalm 78:18-20.

**Note:** "The Israelites, during their bondage in Egypt, had been compelled to subsist on the plainest and simplest food; but the keen appetite induced by privation and hard labor had made it palatable. Many of the Egyptians, however, who were now among them, had been accustomed to a luxurious diet; and these were the first to complain. At the giving of the manna, just before Israel reached Sinai, the Lord had granted them flesh in answer to their clamors; but it was furnished them for only one day.

"God might as easily have provided them with flesh as with manna, but a restriction was placed upon them for their good. It was His purpose to supply them with food better suited to their wants than the feverish diet to which many had become accustomed in Egypt. The perverted appetite was to be brought into a more healthy state, that they might enjoy the food originally provided for man—the fruits of the earth, which God gave to Adam and Eve in Eden. It was for this reason that the Israelites had been deprived, in a great measure, of animal food." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 377, 378.

"The state of the mind has largely to do with the health of the body, and especially with the health of the digestive organs. As a general thing, the Lord did not provide His people with flesh meat in the desert, because He knew that the use of this diet would create disease and insubordination. In order to modify the disposition, and bring the higher powers of the mind into active exercise, He removed from them the flesh of dead animals. He gave them angels' food, manna from heaven." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible* Commentary, vol. 1, 1112, 1113.

3.b. How was their demand for flesh food granted, and what were the results? Numbers 11:31–34; Psalm 78:26–32.

**Note:** "God gave the people that which was not for their highest good, because they persisted in desiring it; they would not be satisfied with those things that would prove a benefit to them. Their rebellious desires were gratified, but they were left to suffer the result. They feasted without restraint, and their excesses were speedily punished." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 382.

## Wednesday

## **4 A LESSON FOR US**

4.b. What other lesson should we learn from the rebellious behavior of Israel in the wilderness? I Corinthians 10:5, 6.

Note "God brought the Israelites from Egypt, that He might establish them in the land of Canaan, a pure, holy, and happy people. In the accomplishment of this object He subjected them to a course of discipline, both for their own good and for the good of their posterity. Had they been willing to deny appetite, in obedience to His wise restrictions, feebleness and disease would have been unknown among them. Their descendants would have possessed both physical and mental strength. They would have had clear perceptions of truth and duty, keen discrimination, and sound judgment. But their unwillingness to submit to the restrictions and requirements of God, prevented them, to a great extent, from reaching the high standard which He desired them to attain, and from receiving the blessings which He was ready to bestow upon them." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 378.

4.c. What do we need to do first to ensure that we do not lust after evil things? Romans 13:14.

Note: "We must fight against the sins that war against the soul. You cannot in your own strength do this work, but come to Jesus in faith. He will help you and strengthen you to put away evil tendencies, and will array you in the true beauty of His character. We are exhorted to put on the Lord Jesus. Simple faith and obedience go hand in hand. Your faith without obedience to God's holy law is of no value, but obedience to God and faith in the Great Sacrifice offered—that His blood was shed for you, and you will accept the righteousness of Christ—will make you an overcomer. Put your trust in Jesus Christ, and He will bring you off more than conqueror." *The Youth's Instructor*, August 18, 1886.

# **Thursday**5 THE POISON OF ENVY

5.a. What happened at Hazeroth, which revealed the characters of Aaron and Miriam in contrast to that of Moses? Numbers 12:1–9.

**Note:** "God had chosen Moses, and had put His Spirit upon him; and Miriam and Aaron, by their murmurings, were guilty of disloyalty, not only to their appointed leader, but to God Himself. The seditious whisperers were summoned to the tabernacle, and brought face to face with Moses. ... Their claim to the prophetic gift was not denied; God might have spoken to them in visions and dreams. But to Moses, whom the Lord Himself declared 'faithful in all Mine house' (Numbers 12:7), a nearer communion had been granted. With *him* God spake mouth to mouth." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 384, 385. [Emphasis author's.]

5.b. How did the Lord show His displeasure, and how was Miriam's punishment mitigated when Moses pleaded for her? Numbers 12:10–16.

**Note:** "Envy is one of the most satanic traits that can exist in the human heart, and it is one of the most baleful in its effects. Says the wise man, 'Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy' (Proverbs 27:4)? ...

"It should not be regarded as a light thing to speak evil of others or to make ourselves judges of their motives or actions. ...

"We are to honor those whom God has honored. The judgment visited upon Miriam should be a rebuke to all who yield to jealousy, and murmur against those upon whom God lays the burden of His work." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 385, 386.

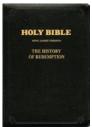
## **Friday**

#### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- I How did God lead His people in their travels? How does He lead us today?
- 2 Why was it so sinful for the Israelites to complain about how Moses was leading them?
- Why does God want us to follow a simple, vegetarian diet today?
- 4 What blessings come from self-denial in appetite?
- 5 How are we sometimes envious in a similar way to Miriam?

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## Zucchini

f left to its own accord, the average zucchini would grow as big as a baseball bat. The biggest one recorded was 7 feet 10 inches long!

The zucchini or ayokonetl originated in the Americas, specifically Mesoamerica. Three centuries later, it was in Italy that the modern-day zucchini finally came to be, where it was dubbed zucchino (little squash). The French call it *courgette*, a name that has been adopted by the English. Britain and Ireland refer to a variety that is slightly larger and plumper as marrow. The colonists of New England adopted the name squash, a word derived from several Native American words which meant "something eaten raw."

Mexico's zucchini origins were an integral part of the ancient diet of maize, beans, and squashes. That pre-Columbian food trio is still the mainstay of Mexican cuisine and is known today as the "three sisters." In Mexico, the zucchini flowers are often preferred over the fruit and are frequently cooked in soups or used for quesadillas.

While pumpkins and winter squash have been popular in the United States since the time of the Pilgrims, the most common squash grown today has only been popular in the US for the last 50 years. It is now grown by more gardeners than any other squash.

Zucchini squash is the favored jewel of all the summer squashes. Its flavor is light and sweet with flesh as delicate as a flower and texture that melts in the mouth. Zucchini's many varieties offer countless opportunities in preparing a varied menu of colorful summer and fall dishes.



**Vegetables** 



## **ZUCCHINI FRITTERS**

## **Ingredients**

3 cups unpeeled zucchini, yellow or green, grated (use large holes of food grater)

¾ cup chickpea (garbanzo bean) flour

- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp. tahini

½ cup green onions (include green portion),

½ tsp. Himalayan salt ½ tsp. dill seed (not weed)

#### **Process**

Whisk together lemon juice and tahini. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients including lemon juice/tahini combination. Allow mixture to sit for 15-20 minutes. Heat a non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Spoon mixture into skillet, using a spatula to flatten into a fritter shape. Cook for 3-4 minutes, until golden. Flip with a spatula, and cook another 2-4 minutes. If fritters are getting too brown, reduce heat to allow centers to cook more fully. Once golden brown and set, remove and serve immediately. Serve with a dollop of vegan sour cream. Delish!





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