

HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**  
OF ADVENTISM

---



*Be An  
Enoch*

*p. 12*

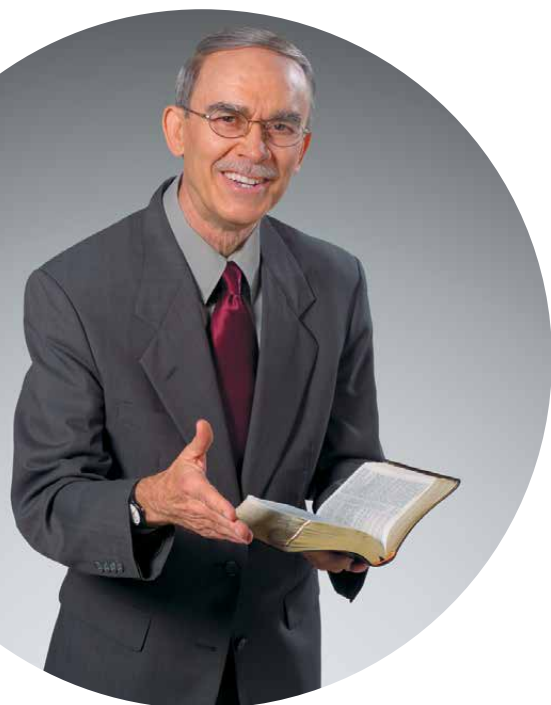
*Angels in the  
Judgment*

*If only our eyes could see how much the  
angels are involved in our daily lives and  
the affairs of this world.*

*p. 2*

*Completeness of Life in Jesus*

*p. 4*



## From the Editor

*John J. Grosboll*

# What If?

**W**hat would happen if every professed Christian decided today that following Jesus Christ in faithful discipleship and willing obedience to His instruction, would be the number one priority in life?

Many people who profess to be Christians are afraid to make this decision although it is a prerequisite to being one of Jesus' followers. The reason is because of the devil's lies. The devil tempts people to distrust God when they are perplexed by circumstances or dealing with poverty or sickness because God has allowed such conditions to exist.

A more enticing temptation is the offer of the kingdom of this world. It was this that caused the fall of the early church in the first few hundred years after Christ. It works like this: "By the one who had revolted in heaven the kingdoms of this world were offered Christ, to buy His homage to the principles of evil; but He would not be bought; He had come to establish a kingdom of righteousness, and He would not abandon His purpose. With the same

temptation Satan approaches men, and here he has better success than with Christ. To men he offers the kingdom of this world on condition that they will acknowledge his supremacy. He requires that they sacrifice integrity, disregard conscience, indulge selfishness. ... While he allures them with the hope of worldly dominion, he gains dominion over the soul." *The Desire of Ages*, 130

But amid all the pretense and false professions by millions of Christians, God has always had a remnant, for whom following Christ in faithful discipleship and in obedience to His word is the first priority in life.

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word." *The Great Controversy*, 464 **LM**

HISTORIC

## LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

### Staff

**Editor:** John J. Grosboll  
**Managing Editor:** Judy Rebarckek  
**Graphic Design:** Martin Bernar  
**Contributing Editor:** Lynette Golia

### Subscriptions

**United States:** 1 year, \$35.00  
**Other countries:** Cost of postage only

If you are unable to purchase a subscription, please request a gift subscription.

### Publisher

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

[facebook](#)

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

[YouTube](#)

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

# In this Issue



## Angels in the Judgment

If only our eyes could see, then we would know just how much the angels are involved in our daily lives and the things that pertain to this world.

By James E. White



## Completeness of Life in Jesus

Only by walking in Christ will we find fulfillment, happiness, and completeness of life.

By Pastor John J. Grosboll



## Perfection

Only God is perfect, we say. Yet, we are told that there is a standard of perfection of character that must be attained in this life in order for us to have eternal life.

By Judy Rebarck



## Be An Enoch

Enoch loved God and kept His commandments. He walked with God, daily seeking purity of heart and conformity to His will.

By Judy Rebarck

## More in this Issue

### 16 Bible Puzzle

1 Timothy

### 18 Story Time

The Sunshine Basket

### 20 Pen of Inspiration

Time of Sealing Soon Over

### 21 Keys to the Storehouse

The Bummer Lamb

### 23 Testimony

The Lifeline

### 24 From the Mission Fields

Mission Report - Panama

### 26 Nature

Land-Building Mangroves

### 27 Question & Answer

How can I be a "man after God's own heart?"

### 28 Health Nugget

It's a Big Job to Run a Body

### 30 Sermon on the Mount

The Broad Road or The Narrow Road

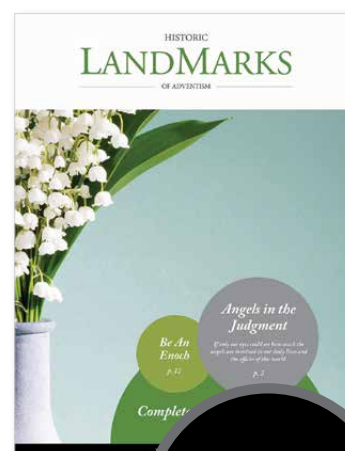
### 33 Bible Study Guide

This We Believe!

### 49 Recipe

Smoothies

All Bible texts, unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, are from the New King James Version.



Prefer a paper magazine? Call 1-316-788-5559 for subscription.



# *Angels in the Judgment*

---

By James E. White

**O**f the final scene of the judgment the prophet Daniel, while an exile in Babylon, writes: “A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court [judgment] was seated, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:10

In this most important of all court scenes, the Judge is represented as having more than a million angels as His assistants, while more than a hundred million are court attendants. The books containing the records of the lives of men are opened, the court is convened, and the judgment is set.

John, in vision on the lonely Patmos, adds important features to this imposing scene: “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened. ... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” Revelation 20:12

At the great judgment day the record books of heaven will be opened, and the future of all will be decided according to what has been written therein by the recording angels.

Of the righteous as they near the end of this world’s history, we read, “Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard

them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for them who feared the Lord and who meditate on His name.” Malachi 3:16

This book of remembrance was written by those heavenly messengers who ministered before Him. It has been shown from the Scriptures that angels are ever present with men; that they minister to the people of God, and deliver them from evil. They behold all the actions of men; they hear every idle word that is spoken. They take notice of everything that will come into judgment. The conclusion is natural, and seems almost unavoidable, that the angels make the record of these things; that the



books of human action are written by them. This belief is so generally accepted that the term, “recording angel,” has become proverbial.

Not only do the angels act as guardians and protectors to the servants of God, but they also execute judgments upon the wicked and disobedient.

When Balaam, the sinning prophet, started on his journey to the land of Moab to curse Israel, God’s anger was kindled against him, and the angel of the Lord met him, “and took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. ... Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand.” Numbers 22:22, 31

Yet so blinded by avarice was Balaam that he still went on his journey, and was finally among the slain in the overthrow of Moab when they fought against Israel. (See Joshua 13:22.)

When David sinned in numbering Israel, it is recorded that “God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. ... Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between the earth and the heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem.” 1 Chronicles 21:15, 16

The eyes of David were opened, and he saw the messenger of destruction. By humility, confession of sin, and strong cries to God the plague was stayed, and the sword of the avenging angel was sheathed.

When Sodom became so wicked that its very presence could no longer be tolerated, two angels came to Lot with the message, “For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.” Genesis 19:13

When Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came against Israel and Jerusalem with an immense army, Hezekiah, king of Judah, cried to the Lord, “Then the Lord sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor ...” 2 Chronicles



32:21. And that night the angel slew 185,000 of the blasphemous host. (See 2 Kings 19:35.)

Coming to our own time, we are led to believe, in the language of another, “that the sudden judgments which frequently overtake evildoers are executed upon them by the angels of God.” Jehovah has not withdrawn His hand from the affairs of the world. The earth today is “filled with violence,” and is far worse than in the days of the visitations of old. Is it not reasonable, therefore, to suppose that God’s methods have not changed, and that His mighty angels have a part to act in some of the punishments of individuals in this life, as well as in the reverses which overtake some of the wicked nations?

Of the great harvest of the world, our Saviour speaks in His parable recorded in Matthew 13:37–39: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy

who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age [world], and the reapers are the angels.”

By these angels the good seed is brought into the garner, but the wicked, represented as tares, will be cast into the furnace of the great burning day.

Just prior to the second coming of Christ seven awful plagues will be sent upon the wicked. (See Revelation 15:1.) These are to be poured out by seven angels selected for that purpose.

When the work of the gospel is finished, our Saviour will come again to this earth to take His faithful people to Himself. On this glorious mission He will be accompanied by all the holy angels. (See Matthew 25:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10.)

Of this glad day the apostle Paul writes, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. This gathering of the saints will be made by the angels. (See Matthew 24:30, 31.)

As the archangel in midheaven sounds the trump of God, the earth trembles, the graves are opened, and the sleeping saints arise, clothed with immortality. The same angel who has watched over that humble saint through life, and has marked his final resting place, now stands by his grave; and as the child of God comes up from his dusty bed, he clasps him in his arms, and bears him away in triumph to their coming Lord. O glorious scene! Victory to the saints! Joyful triumph to the Son of God! And the angels share in the glory and the joy. They have borne an important part in the work of redemption, and they rejoice in its final success.

*Past, Present, and Future*, James Edson White, Southern Publishing Association, ©1909, 84–92. [LM](#)

# Completeness of Life in Jesus



By Pastor John J. Grosboll

**W**e live in a world where many people do not have much of a life. Many others feel that their cup is not even half full. Many people of all ages have been, and still are, desperately searching for completeness, for a satisfaction, a wholeness they cannot seem to find. They search for completeness in the temporary pleasures of sin and think if they could have this or enjoy that, they would then be complete. The devil spreads out so many sinful distractions and temporary pleasures, and the human race is chasing after them, trying to fill some void inside, but they only find misery.

We are aware of so little that goes on in the world, but Jesus said that when

He comes, all things will be revealed. Paul says in Romans 2 that the secrets of men will be judged in that day. If you want to be ready for that day, you need to be in Christ so that your sins can be forgiven and blotted out.

This is a simple, introductory study from Colossians 2 on the subject of forgiveness and the blotting out of sin. It shows us that in Christ, life can be complete. Adam's problem in the Garden of Eden was that he believed his life would not be complete without Eve, so much so that he was willing to sin so that she would remain a part of his life. But the completeness he thought he would have turned into trouble. He and Eve argued and blamed each other and there was

no satisfaction in the life that followed. They did not find the completeness they sought because completeness is only found in Jesus Christ.

So how can we be complete, not half full or half empty? It requires faith in Him who has provided for every deficiency. Colossians 2:6 says, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him." Paul returns again and again to the theme of walking *in* Christ. Walking in Christ is to receive Christ. How do we receive Christ? As we understand God's character and His love more and more, we will learn to accept Christ in our hearts.

The devil has tricked the people of the world into believing that God wants

to restrict their freedom and happiness. They say that God's law is just a list of dos and don'ts that keep them from having a good life. In reality, God's law was given to keep man from doing the immoral, illegal, and unhealthy things that will bring harm to them physically and keep them separated from God. It is important to understand that God has something better to replace anything we lose in this world, including our lives. If we are following Jesus, we will eventually receive something infinitely better than any worldly thing we may give up. God changes our mind about everything in the world, and we will see that keeping God's law and allowing Him to change us will bring us happiness.

So the first step to receiving Christ is realizing how much God loves us and wants us to be happy, and that He is willing to give us all the best things. He has prepared a place of happiness where there is no disappointment, pain, suffering, or loneliness. In fact, Ellen White has written that God created man and woman *for* happiness, so if we follow God and His way, we will find happiness in Him, even if we have problems in this world. We find this assurance in Psalm 16:11, "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

The people of this world love sinning because they continually want, and they believe if only they can have what they want, it will bring them happiness and completeness. But instead, they find only emptiness and sorrow, trouble and misery, incompleteness. They may find a thrill for a time in drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, or other forms of immorality, but none of these things will bring them true satisfaction or completeness.

In 1 Corinthians 15:3, *last part*, the Bible tells us that Christ "died for our sins according to the Scriptures." Studying the cross changes how the mind perceives sin. Sin is no longer desirable, nor



*Walking  
in Christ  
is to receive  
Christ.*

can we believe that it could bring true happiness, because the truth is, sin—our sins—killed Jesus. The more we know, the more we will hate sin because we see what it has done and is doing. When we hate sin, the Bible says we will want to repent, because we understand that continuing in sin makes us as responsible for crucifying Christ as were those who drove the nails into His hands and called for His death. The deeper our repentance becomes, Christ is then able to work miracles in our behalf and we will walk in the way of righteousness, loving and trusting Him more.

Repentance is a change of mind and heart, a recognition that we have been ruined by sin and that there is no hope to be found in this world without Jesus. We must have a new heart, a new spirit, and a new life, but we can only find these in Christ. We must first receive Him so that we can live a Christlike life every day.

Continuing in Colossians 2, we are warned that we must be careful not to let anyone rob us of the prize that God has for us. We cannot allow ourselves to be separated from Christ through worldly philosophy. Paul says in verse 9, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Jesus is not a junior

God. He is the completeness of divinity, and, because of His divinity, He can do for us what no other being can do. Paul, continuing in verse 10 says, "and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." This scripture is written in the present tense, but it will not be completely fulfilled until we are in heaven. God has many things in mind for us and until we have received those things, we are not yet fully complete.

In Colossians 2:11, Paul writes that God wants to take away the body of our humiliation, "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ ..." Circumcision represents the cutting away of sin from the life.

Before we can have a new body we must first have a new spirit and a new mind. This is the work of God. "... [B]uried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses." Colossians 2:12, 13.

Jesus does this work, and when we are baptized and raised again in Him, verse





*The devil has tricked the people of the world into believing that God wants to restrict their freedom and happiness.*

14 says, "... having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He

has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." Something is referred to in this scripture that used to exist, but does

not exist anymore.

What is this thing that no longer exists? It was something against us, written by the hand of man,

an entity called decrees or ordinances. Paul says this entity

was: 1) hostile toward us, 2) taken out of the way by Him [Jesus], and 3) nailed to the cross. Three times he states that this entity no longer exists.

He says that these decrees and ordinances were handwritten, and this is an exceedingly important point, because if they were handwritten, we immediately must see that he is not, in any way, talking about the ten commandments. Man writes using his whole hand. God writes with His finger.

God does not use His hand to write. We find three times in the Bible where God wrote something. John 8 in the last part of verse 6 says: "But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His finger*, as though He did not hear." This verse tells us explicitly that He wrote with His finger.

In Daniel 5:5, we find the account of Belshazzar's feast. "In the same hour the *fin- gers of a man's hand* appeared and wrote ..."

And finally, Deuteronomy 9:10 tells us how God wrote the ten commandments: "Then the Lord delivered to me two tablets of stone written with *the finger of God* ... " Imagine the power it took for God to put His finger on the tables of stone and etch the

words of the law into that stone. This clearly tells us just how permanent He intended His law to be.

As Christians, we believe that we are to let the Bible interpret itself, so let's go to the Bible to see just what was this entity, these decrees or ordinances, written by the hand of man, not by the finger of God, that were nailed to the cross and taken out of the way.

The Bible tells us in Acts 15:10 that these decrees and ordinances were a "yoke on the neck" or a yoke of bondage. Peter says that neither we nor "our fathers" could keep these ordinances. In Galatians 5:1-6, Paul again writes about this yoke of bondage, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." Ephesians 2:14-18 and Hebrews 7:16 refer to these decrees and ordinances, this yoke of bondage, as a law of fleshly commandments, handwritten by man, once against us, but now nailed to the cross.

While on Mt. Sinai, Moses received the ten commandments written by the finger of God, but he also received instruction from God, which he himself wrote by hand, that became what we know today as the ceremonial law. In Galatians 3:19, Paul describes this ceremonial law as having been added because of transgression and this law would exist until the Seed [Christ] should come. The ceremonial law required that if a person sinned, he or she had to bring a sacrifice to the sanctuary to be offered up in their behalf, and Paul said that only a sinner was required to keep the ceremonial law. But if a person was tired of sin and instead committed his or her life to obeying God's commandments and began to live without sinning, they would not have to bring these many sin offerings to the sanctuary.

When Jesus was on earth, He never brought a sin offering to the temple. Why? Because Jesus was sinless. He kept the law and always did the will of His Father.

The book of Leviticus outlines the various aspects of the ceremonial law:

1. Sacrifices
2. Offerings
3. Feasts (set times)



4. Levitical priesthood
5. Earthly sanctuary and its rituals

Paul says in Hebrews 13:14, “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” We have an altar in the heavenly sanctuary at which Paul says the worshipers in the earthly sanctuary did not have a right to worship. Some people still believe that Jerusalem in Israel is where we must go to worship, but that was part of the old covenant. There is no enduring city on earth where we are told to go to worship under the new covenant.

There are large parts of the Torah written by Moses that were not a part of any ceremonial or ritual law; they were simply explanations concerning the ten commandments that were meant to provide us with a better understanding of the ten commandments and to keep us from being easily deceived by the devil’s smooth talk.

An example of this is Leviticus 11 which contains the listing of unclean foods with the admonition that they should not be eaten. Does that have anything to do with the sanctuary? Absolutely not! But it does have to do with the sixth commandment. Two thousand years ago people had to accept this by faith, but today we have science that proves that there are certain foods that will kill you. They don’t all kill you right away or people wouldn’t eat them. It was sinful to eat these foods before the ritual law was given, so these food laws were not part of the ritual law.

If we study Leviticus 18 and 20, we find that they explain the meaning of the seventh commandment. The Bible tells us many times in the New Testament that no fornicator or adulterer or anyone of this nature will be in the kingdom of heaven (see 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Galatians 5:16–21; Revelation 9:20, 21; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 22:15). Leviticus 19 gives additional explanation regarding the second, fifth, and seventh commandments.



After Paul discusses the ceremonial or ritual law, which was added because of transgression, he tells about Jesus’ experience on the cross of Calvary, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:14, 15. The “principalities and powers” Paul refers to here is the devil. Because of the cross, Jesus triumphed over the devil and all his host and it was guaranteed that he and his kingdom would be destroyed.

As long as a person continued in sin, the ceremonial law had to be kept and followed, and sacrifices continued to be made. Hebrews 10:1–4 explains this: “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more

consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”

Colossians 2:16 says, “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths . . . .” People like to argue about this text. Let’s look at the whole context surrounding it. Paul has, in verses 7 and 8, raised the issue of false teachers attempting to control the religious experience of those in the Christian church by teaching the philosophy of the world. When we study church and secular history, we find that there were two apostate groups at work. One was the gnostics and the other judaizers. Gnosticism is a terrible thing. It is so bad that almost all of the New Testament writers wrote against it. Some scholars believe that the gospel of John was written mainly to combat gnosticism in the Christian church. Paul consistently teaches against gnosticism in his epistles, but especially in Colossians 2. Gnosticism taught in part that it did not matter what a person did with their body as long as their mind was pure, however that is not what the New Testament teaches. Imagine, sinning and committing all forms of vile wickedness with the body and expecting to keep the mind pure and holy. The gnostics attempted to convince the early Christians that they could lead them to a higher Christian experience, but Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:5, “[C]asting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” The Bible says that we all will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ and be judged according to the deeds done in the body.

The judaizers taught that you could not be perfect unless you followed all the law of Moses and kept all the Jewish traditions. Based on the types of food and drink outlined in Numbers 6 and 28 and Leviticus 6 and 23 associated

“  
*Have you noticed  
 recently that Christianity  
 as a whole is being opposed  
 more and more by the  
 world? It will get worse.*

with the various feasts and ceremonies of the ceremonial law, these judaizers were judging the members of each new church that Paul established on what they ate and drank. So

Paul is saying in Colossians 2:16 that they were not to let the judaizers pass judgment on them because of the food they ate or what they drank. Nor were they to be judged over the feasts, the monthly ceremonies or the weekly sabbaths associated with certain holy days, which were a shadow of things to come.

What were the festival sabbaths? There were different festival sabbaths (weeks) in the ceremonial law in addition to the seventh-day Sabbath. They were:

- The first day of the Passover week (Exodus 12:15; Leviticus 23:5–7; Numbers 28:17, 18)
- The seventh day of the Passover week (Exodus 12:16; Numbers 28:24, 25)
- The first day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:24, 25; Numbers 29:1)
- The tenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus 16:29–31; 23:27–32; Numbers 29:7)
- The fifteenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:34, 35; Numbers 29:12)
- The twenty-second day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:39)
- The fiftieth day (Pentecost), known also as the “feast of weeks” (Leviticus 23:15, 16, 21; Deuteronomy 16:9, 10)

As with their food and drink, Paul is telling the Christian churches that they were not to allow the judaizers to judge them on the keeping of these festival sabbaths nor the other feasts and ceremonies. Paul is specific that in proper context, all these things are merely shadows [types] of things to come. All of this had to do with the ceremonial law and Hebrews 8:5 and Hebrews 10:1 distinctly state that all of the ceremonial law—food, drink, new moons, sabbaths, feasts, sacrifices—were all connected to the earthly sanctuary and all foreshadowed heavenly things to come.

“[B]ut the substance is of Christ. Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.” Colossians 2:17, *last part*, 18. Paul is telling the early Christians that they were to let no one judge them or dictate to them what their religious experience should be, but rather they should go to the body of Christ. He had already told them in Colossians 1:18, 24 what was the body of Christ, “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. . . . I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.” He is telling them, and us, not to listen to the world, but to go to the church. These worldly teachers would have you believe and follow their doctrines and worldly teachings regardless of whether it contradicts God’s word or not. But if you go to the church, to seek out a godly elder or deacon and ask for spiritual advice, they will tell you to believe what they say only as it is in harmony with the Bible.

The church in Paul’s day, just like the church today, was being attacked. Have you noticed recently that Christianity as a whole is being opposed more and more by the world, and this opposition will increase as we approach the coming of Jesus; so much so that if it were possible, even the elect will be deceived. Do not seek out the world for advice. Do not be consumed by worldly philosophy. Do not be cheated of your reward. Do not go to the world, for neither it nor its teachings will make you complete. Only by walking in Christ are we made complete. He has already fulfilled the promise of a new heart, a new mind, and new spirit. If you know Christ, then you will know the completeness of His life in you. [Emphasis supplied.] LM

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

# Perfection

By Judy Rebarck

How many times have we heard or said “Only God is perfect,” and yet, God calls us to reach perfection of character. I have seen people absolutely horrified at the idea that man could actually be perfect this side of heaven, but Mrs. White says that we are to be as perfect in our sphere as God is in His. We are told repeatedly that we must be overcomers; we must be justified and sanctified.

I want to suggest that we do not have to be afraid of the word *perfect* or any of its derivatives—perfection, perfectionism, perfectionist. And here’s why.

When used as a noun, the word *perfection* means *the quality or condition of being perfect*. But when it is used as a verb, it means *the act or process of perfecting*. As an adjective it means *the highest degree of a quality*. As a philosophy, perfection is a doctrine holding that religious, moral, social, or political perfection is attainable, especially the theory that human moral or spiritual perfection should be or has been attained. A perfectionist is a person who is displeased by anything that does not meet very high standards. And perfectionism is the disposition that regards anything short of perfection as unacceptable.





“  
When the word  
perfect is used as a verb,  
it means the act or process of  
perfecting. As an adjective it  
means the highest degree  
of quality.”

Now it is true that in this world, perfection has been distorted and misused, even abused. But from the perspective of the Bible and what God requires, we should not be afraid of achieving perfection. God means for us to have a perfected character in order to be with Him for eternity and it is a character that must be developed here, before He comes.

“A heavenly character must be acquired upon earth ... or you will never possess it; therefore you should engage at once in the work which you have to do. You should labor earnestly to obtain a fitness for heaven. ...” *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, 430  
“A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 332

Perfection seen as the action or process of improving something until it is faultless is sanctification. Think of what Jesus said to the woman caught in sin, brought to Him by her accusers. Accused of sin by the world, but forgiven by God, He said, “... Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.’” John 8:10, *last part*, 11. Were it not possible to no longer sin, why would Jesus instruct her not to? The more we obey, resist temptation, surrender and submit to do the will of God, then by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit and because of Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf (Hebrews 10:10), one day that is all we will do.

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanc-

tified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a *life of continual obedience*. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.” *The Desire of Ages*, 668

Sanctification is a journey with a very specific destination—a Christlike, perfected character. What is a Christlike character? Jesus said, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” John 6:38. “I can of Myself do nothing. ... I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” John 5:30. “I always do those things that please Him.” John 8:29, *last part*

The Bible says in Psalm 14:3, “They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.” And John 15:5, *last part*, says “without Me, you can do nothing.” It is obvious by these verses and many, many others that alone we are not able to achieve this perfected character. So how is it accomplished?

First Thessalonians 5:23, 24 say, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful who also will do it.”

John 17 says, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ... And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ... I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one” (verses 17, 19 and 23, *first part*). Are we seeing a theme here? Who sanctifies us?

“How can we reach the perfection specified by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ—our Great Teacher? Can we meet His requirement and attain to so lofty a standard? We can, else Christ would not have enjoined us to do so. He is our righteousness. In His humanity He has gone before us and wrought out for us perfection of character. We are to have the faith in Him that works by love and purifies the soul. Perfection of character is based upon that which Christ is to us. If we have constant dependence on the merits of our Saviour and walk in His

footsteps, we shall be like Him, pure and undefiled.

“Our Saviour does not require impossibilities of any soul. *He expects nothing of His disciples that He is not willing to give them grace and strength to perform.* He would not call upon them to be perfect if He had not at His command every perfection of grace to bestow on the ones upon whom He would confer so high and holy a privilege. He has assured us that He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children.

“Our work is to strive to attain in our sphere of action the perfection that Christ in His life on the earth attained in every phase of character. He is our example. In all things we are to strive to honor God in character. In falling day by day so far short of the divine requirements, we are endangering our soul’s salvation. We need to understand and appreciate the privilege with which Christ invests us, and to show our determination to reach the highest standard. We are to be wholly dependent on the power that He has promised to give us.” *That I May Know Him*, 130

This is a commitment, a covenant, God has made with us and we need only to look at the rainbow to know that God keeps His covenants. “[B]eing confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

There is no need to be afraid of being perfect in this world. God has a standard that we are meant to reach in order to spend eternity with Him. We do not know when we reach that standard, but He who has required it is faithful to see that we reach it. We should not be anxious as to whether we can reach it or spend a great deal of time wondering “Am I perfect yet?” The Spirit of Prophecy says, “As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent [that is, all powerful]. Whatever is to be done at His command may be



accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 333. If He bids it, He promises He will make us able and that is really all we need to know. We need only to claim the promise.

Friends, we should not be uncertain of or concerned regarding our ability to reach perfection of character in this life, for Jesus Himself said in Matthew 5:48, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” It should be unacceptable to us not to be doing our part—exercising the faculties of the mind, obeying the requirements of God’s law and cooperating with His will—to reach perfection of character.

“Every living Christian will advance daily in the divine life. As he advances toward perfection, he experiences a conversion to God every day; and this conversion is not completed until he attains to perfection of Christian character, a full preparation for the finishing touch of immortality.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 505

“At this time in the history of the world, we should have but one object in view—to gain eternal life. Every other desire should be subordinate to this. The work of regeneration must go on in every soul until perfection of character is reached; for nothing short of this will meet the mind of God.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 5, 338

I am reminded of a story I once read. I don’t know where the story originated or

even if it is a true story or just a spiritual allegory. While shopping in a store, an elderly man accidentally hit a shelf and many things fell to the floor and were broken. Embarrassed, the man knelt and began trying to pick up the broken pieces, but soon the store manager came, and kneeling beside him he said, “Leave it, we will clean it up.” But the elderly man was so embarrassed and he said, “But I need to pay for all of this.” The manager smiled, helped him to his feet and said, “No sir, we have insurance for this, you do not have to pay anything.”

Imagine God doing the same thing for you! Imagine the broken pieces of your mistakes and failures, your broken heart from the many blows life has thrown at you, all over the floor and you’re trying to collect all the pieces and fix them yourself. Imagine that God comes and kneels down right there beside you and says, “Leave it. I will clean this up for you.”

He loves us that much. He will put all the pieces back together, restore us to that state of perfection we were always meant to have, if we will let Him. With Him we have this assurance. All we have to do is ask Him to save us, forgive us, help and heal us. He is faithful. He has promised. [Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

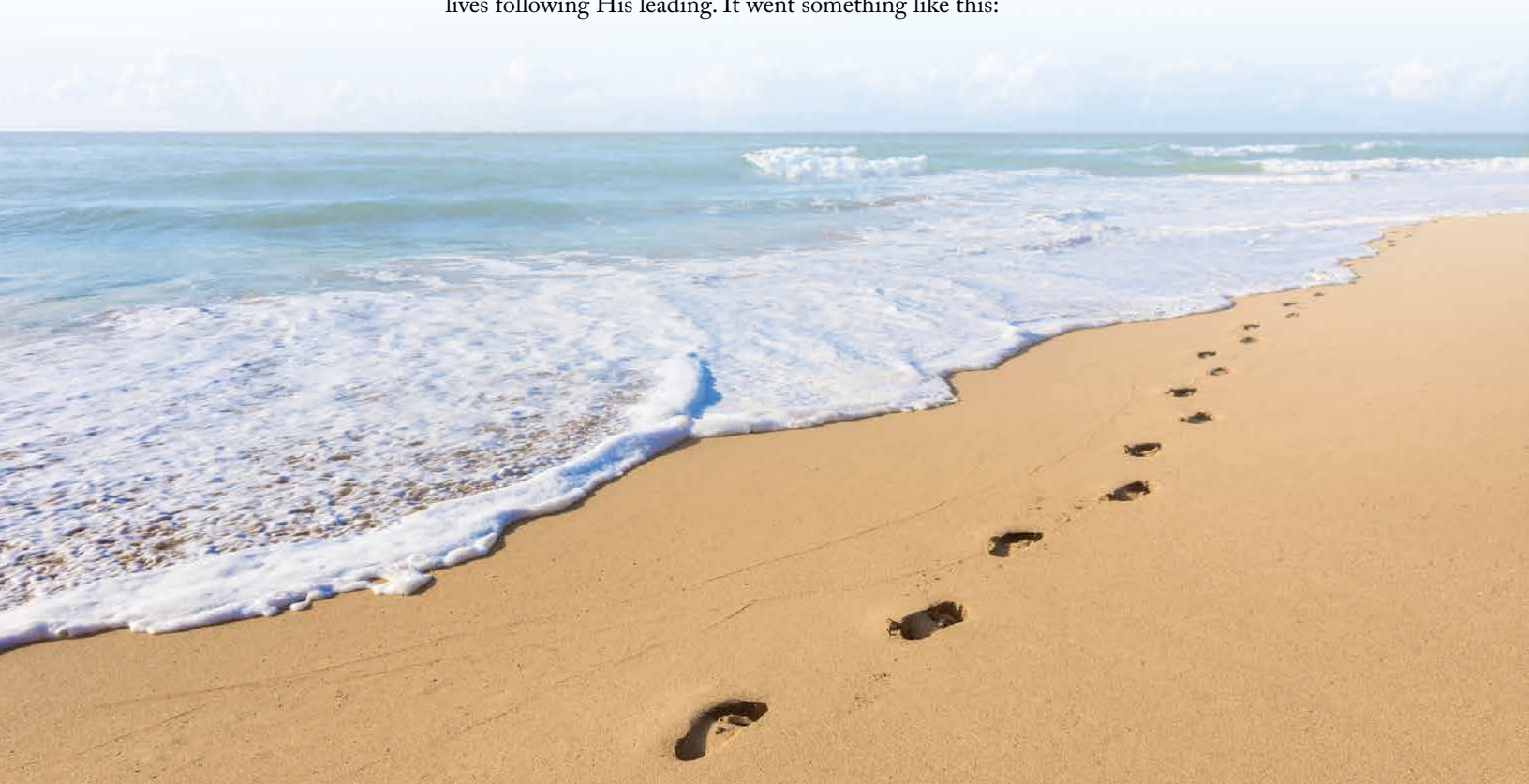
*Judy Rebarchek is a member of the Landmarks team. She may be contacted by email at: [judyrebarchek@stepstolife.org](mailto:judyrebarchek@stepstolife.org)*

# *Be An Enoch*

---

By Judy Rebarchek

**Y**ears ago, I heard a sweet story. I thought it so beautifully represented how the way we walk with Jesus while here on earth shows the depth of our relationship with Him, and the potential outcome for those who will live their lives following His leading. It went something like this:





A teacher was telling the children in her Sabbath School class about Enoch. She asked if any of them remembered what the Bible said about Enoch and how he had “walked with God.” One little girl raised her hand and the teacher motioned for her to stand.

The little girl said that every day Enoch would take a walk in nature. He would study and pray and meet with God there. They would spend time together walking and talking and at the end of the day, Enoch would return to his home and God would return to His. Each day they journeyed together, they would walk farther and farther from Enoch’s home.

Finally, at the end of a particular day, they realized that they had walked together all the way to God’s house, so God said to Enoch, “Stay with Me.” And Enoch said “Yes.” And that is how, at least according to a little girl, God took Enoch to be with Him.

We find the brief story of Enoch in Genesis 5 beginning in verse 18: “Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch.” Picking up in verses 21–24, “Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”

Enoch lived at a time when, because of the longevity of man, there were nine generations living on the earth at the same time. Enoch had the privilege of hearing the history of creation and sin directly from Adam. A line of holy men, ‘preservers of the true faith’ developed over the centuries from the creation and Fall to the Flood. These men loved and feared God and kept His commandments. Theirs was a great and holy mission on this earth—to develop a righteous character and to teach godliness. They preached righteousness, reprov’d sin, and warned of



*Enoch's  
life was one  
of prayer and  
faithful, daily  
communion  
with God.*

a coming judgment. Enoch was one of these men.

For three hundred years, Enoch’s life was one of prayer and faithful, daily communion with God. While he was a preacher to the wicked of the world, he would also, at times, remove himself from their presence because he feared their influence. He was the humblest of men, ever recognizing his own weaknesses and imperfection as he communed with the divine greatness and perfection of God, and his faith grew. He carried the message of God’s love and judgment to the land where Cain had sought refuge from God, as well as to the sons of God.

“For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of soul, that he might be in harmony with heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself. He had stood at the threshold of the eternal world, only a step between him and the land of the blest; and now the portals opened, the walk with God, so long pursued on earth, continued, and he passed through the gates of the Holy City—the first from among men to enter there.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 87

“Enoch’s walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties

of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world. In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord. ... And this holy walk was continued for three hundred years.

“[Enoch] was of one mind with God. ... If we are of one mind with God, our will will be swallowed up in God’s will, and we shall follow wherever God leads the way. As a loving child places his hand in that of his father, and walks with him in perfect trust whether it is dark or bright, so the sons and daughters of God are to walk with Jesus through joy or sorrow.” *Ibid.*, 85

During his life, Enoch sought for purity of heart and conformity to the will of God. He focused on eternal treasures rather than those of this world. As he loved his own child, he grew to understand the unfathomable love of God for His children. Prayer, for him, was the very breath of his soul and he sought for a clearer, deeper knowledge of God. Enoch walked with God, but not just on a physical, daily walk in nature. He walked with a heart devoted to God’s service, with a knowledge of his own need for purity, with a mind, heart, and soul turned heavenward. By communing

with God, Enoch became more and more like Him and reflected that divine image to the world.

“A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next.

Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.

“As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His bid-dings are enablings.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 332, 333

“We are to keep the Lord ever before us. Those who do this, walk with God as did Enoch, and imperceptibly to themselves, they become one with the Father and with the Son. Day by day a change is wrought upon mind and hearts, and the natural inclination, the natural ways, are molded after God’s ways and Spirit. ... They reflect to the world the character of Christ, and abiding in Him, and He in them, they fulfill the mission for which they were called to be the children of God. ...” *Living the Life of Enoch*, 50

“The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To every-one engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.

Satan had said that there was no reward for the righteous and no punishment for the wicked. In translating Enoch, God showed to the universe what He will do for those who keep His commandments. Satan said that man could not keep God’s law, and yet, in the midst of this degenerate time in the world’s history, surrounded by evil that would lead to the destruction of all of mankind with the exclusion of only eight, Enoch lived a perfect life. Enoch is proof that there is a joyful and glorious life awaiting those who love and obey God.

“The Lord draws people close to His side, to walk with them, to work with them, to teach them how He overcame every temptation in humanity, and how, therefore, they may overcome through the provision the Lord has made. With every temptation there is a way of escape, by walking humbly with God. Without faith, ever increasing faith, it is impossible to please God. ...

“In their fallen nature people can do the very things God expects them to do through the help provided for them. They can walk and work and live by faith in the Son of God. ... He designs that they shall possess the character of God by obeying His law, the expression of His divine character. ...” *Christ Triumphant*, 53

“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’, for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Hebrews 11:5

“The follower of Christ must have faith abiding in the heart; for without this it is impossible to please God. Faith is the hand that takes hold of infinite help; it is the medium by which the renewed heart is made to beat in unison with the heart of Christ.” *Messages to Young People*, 103

“In every phase of your character building you are to please God. This you may do; for Enoch pleased Him though living in a degenerate age. And there are Enochs in this our day. ...” *Reflecting Christ*, 299

Be an Enoch. [LM](#)

*Judy Rebarchek is a member of the LandMarks team. She may be contacted by email at: judyre-barchek@stepstolife.org*



*Enoch had the privilege of hearing the history of creation and sin directly from Adam.*

# *Companionship with Jesus*

By Vern Shafer

---

If Jesus came to visit me  
In my house today,  
Surely I would listen  
To what He had to say.

He's my Maker and my Saviour.  
He is my Great High Priest.  
Yet He'll eat the simplest meal with me,  
And it becomes a feast.

If I'm washing dishes,  
He's just as apt to dry.  
If it is a problem task,  
He'll help me if I try.

He joins me in my happiness  
And will smile at what I say,  
Then points to even better things,  
For that is just His way.

He listens to my heartaches  
In His calm unhurried way.  
I crave His rich companionship,  
Wanting Him to stay.

I feel that I can share with Him  
The secrets of my soul.  
I don't know how He does it,  
But He always makes me whole.

In the darkest midnight hours  
When sleep eludes my frame,  
He is there beside me.  
He's always just the same.

He is there to bring me solace,  
To comfort lonely tears,  
To let me know I'm not alone,  
To quiet all my fears.





# I Timothy

## Clues – KJV

### Across:

- B3 Paul was thankful the Lord had put him in \_\_\_\_\_ I:12  
 B12 By going against your conscience you will make \_\_\_\_\_ of your faith I:19  
 D6 Idleness will lead some to be busybodies and \_\_\_\_\_ 5:13  
 D17 Christ Jesus gave Himself a \_\_\_\_\_ for all 2:5, 6  
 E1 We can, like Paul, obtain \_\_\_\_\_ for sins committed in ignorance I:13  
 E13 Some sins are secret, but some are \_\_\_\_\_ beforehand 5:24  
 G1 Some evil people are \_\_\_\_\_ (singular) I:10  
 G6 A prospective bishop or elder must keep these in subjection 3:4  
 I11 Women should wear only modest \_\_\_\_\_ 2:9  
 J4 An attribute of our God I:17  
 K16 Those who are focused on being rich will fall into this 6:9  
 L2 A prospective bishop, elder, or deacon must not be \_\_\_\_\_ for filthy lucre 3:3, 8  
 L9 When Jesus left the earth, He was received into \_\_\_\_\_ 3:16  
 M14 We \_\_\_\_\_ in God, our Saviour 4:10  
 N2 A prospective bishop or elder must rule his own \_\_\_\_\_ well 3:4  
 N9 Some whose conscience is seared speak \_\_\_\_\_ in hypocrisy 4:2  
 N20 An accusation must have at least this many witnesses 5:19  
 P4 A prospective deacon must first be \_\_\_\_\_ 3:10  
 P14 A prospective bishop or elder must be \_\_\_\_\_ 3:3  
 R1 Women should not have braided or plaited \_\_\_\_\_ 2:9  
 R6 The \_\_\_\_\_ is the root of all evil 6:10  
 S17 In humility, Paul declared himself to be \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners I:15

### Down:

- A3 An attribute of our God I:17  
 A6 We should never neglect our \_\_\_\_\_, whatever it is 4:14  
 A9 God desires for everyone to come into knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ 2:4  
 B13 One who does not provide for \_\_\_\_\_ house is worse than an infidel 5:8  
 B15 The goal of correct teaching is love out of a \_\_\_\_\_ I:5  
 B19 Having the basic necessities of life, we should be \_\_\_\_\_ 6:8  
 C21 We should withdraw from those of \_\_\_\_\_ minds 6:5  
 D7 We should pray for those in \_\_\_\_\_ 2:1, 2  
 D11 An attribute of our God I:17  
 F17 We've gained much if we have \_\_\_\_\_ with contentment 6:6  
 G9 Our only security is to trust in the \_\_\_\_\_ God 6:17  
 H5 Christ Jesus came into the world to save \_\_\_\_\_ I:15  
 I12 Women must not adorn themselves with \_\_\_\_\_ 2:9  
 J20 What we should do with Paul's counsel to Timothy 4:15  
 L15 Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ babblings of false scientists 6:20  
 N2 A prospective bishop, elder, or deacon must be the \_\_\_\_\_ of one wife 3:2, 12  
 N9 An example of a good work is to have \_\_\_\_\_ strangers 5:10  
 O18 Paul said women should not \_\_\_\_\_ 2:12

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

## Answer Key:

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



- P<sub>4</sub> We must not join in others' sins, but keep ourselves .....5:22  
 P<sub>11</sub> To lead a quiet and peaceable ..... is good in God's sight .....2:I, 2  
 Q<sub>13</sub> Women must not adorn themselves with .....2:9  
 R<sub>6</sub> This is good if used correctly .....I:8

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1



## *The Sunshine Basket*

Jennie Grant lay on a cot near the window. She had been lying in that same place for many weeks. One of her legs was shorter than the other, and the doctor had fastened a heavy weight to it in order to make it grow. But she must be still all the time.



Every morning before her father went to work, he moved her cot close to the window so she could look out. There was not much to see, for the buildings were high. But she loved to watch the swallows against the sky, and there was a flock of doves that often alighted on the roof across the way. Still she became very tired with nothing to do and no one to play with.

One day Mrs. Brightly came to see if she could help her. On the way home, she was busy thinking about Jennie. Suddenly she said to herself, "I know what I'll do. There are my two little sisters who have plenty of money and hardly ever think of anyone but themselves, and there are some other little neighbors. We will have a little 'Sunshine Band,' and make her happy, and the children will enjoy doing something for someone who needs help. They will find that 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

She wrote notes to the girls, asking them to come to her house Monday afternoon. Then she told them the plan. They decided to fill a pretty basket to stand by Jennie's bed, and take it to her on her birthday. Everything was to be put in packages, so her pleasure would last a long time, and everything was to be something for Jennie to do. Week after week they met and worked on the articles for the basket. They enjoyed it so much that they could hardly wait for Jennie's birthday to come.

In the basket was a little jointed doll, and in the box with her were bits of bright silk and muslin, a little needle-book, thread, needles, and scissors, so that Jennie could make doll's clothes. In another package were a box of paints and a book of pictures to color. They knew that Jennie would like to do something for someone else, so they made some little books of cotton fabric, and all the girls brought pictures for Jennie to cut out and paste in the books. When the books were made, they were to be sent to the hospital for sick children.

One girl brought some sheets of paper dolls for her to cut out. Another brought a puzzle to be put together. They wrote a note to go with each package.

One bright morning when Jennie opened her eyes, she remembered it was her birthday. The first thing she saw was a big basket beside her bed, and on top a label that said, "Reach in and take out a package when you don't know what else to do. From 'The Sunshiners.'"

Just then Jennie's mother came in with her breakfast.

"Oh, Mother!" exclaimed Jennie, "how can I wait till after breakfast before I reach in my hand? What do you suppose is in the basket?"

I am afraid Jennie did not eat much breakfast, but she waited until Mother had washed her face and brushed her hair, and father had moved her cot to the window.

At last the time came when she had "nothing to do." Then she put her hand under the cover of the basket and felt the bundles. She took out the first one she felt; and which do you suppose it was? It was the little box that held the doll. On the top it said, "I am little orphan Arabella, and I am looking for a mamma to dress me."

Jennie had a delightful time cutting out patterns and making clothes for little orphan Arabella. She did not open any more of her bundles for a day or two, for she wanted to make them last. And they did last for several weeks.

The girls enjoyed their giving so much that they decided to be "Sunshiners" all the year round, and they asked Jennie to be a member of the society. She could quickly think of nice things to do. Months later, when the weight was taken off her foot and she was able to walk, she was always finding someone to help and make happy, as every true "Sunshiner" should.

*True Education Reader*, Fourth Grade,  
©1931, 272-275. 



# *Time of Sealing Soon Over*

*"I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day:  
the night cometh, when no man can work."*

John 9:4

**T**he sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.

I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them.

They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus ... throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, "*It is done.*"

I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.

I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter!

When Jesus leaves the sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God. But those that are unjust and filthy will be unjust and filthy still; for then there will be no Priest in the sanctuary to offer their sacrifices, their confessions, and their prayers before the Father's throne. Therefore what is done to rescue souls from the coming storm of wrath must be done before Jesus leaves the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. *Maranatha*, 242 **LM**



# The Bummer Lamb

It doesn't happen often, but sometimes a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. And once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, any attempt to return the lamb to her will fail because she never changes her mind.

As a consequence, the little lamb's spirit is completely broken, and it will hang its head so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. This poor, heartbroken creature is called a "bummer lamb."

The shepherd must intervene or the bummer lamb, rejected and alone, will die. So, the shepherd himself takes the lamb into his home, hand feeds it, and keeps it warm by the fire. He will wrap it in blankets and hold it to his chest so that the lamb can hear his heartbeat.

Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock where it finds its place, but that lamb, even after it is grown, never forgets how the shepherd cared for it when it was rejected.

From that point forward, when the shepherd calls for the flock to come, can you guess who is the first to respond? The bummer lamb immediately recognizes the voice of the shepherd because it intimately knows that voice. The bummer lamb is not loved more by the shepherd, rather, it is that the lamb has simply learned who loves it.

All of us can claim to know what it is like to be a bummer lamb. Rejected, friendless, disrespected by those who are supposed to care for us, there are many reasons a person might feel this way


from time to time. But we have a Shepherd who provides for our every need and holds us close to His heart.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own." John 10:11, 14. Jesus says that He is the Good Shepherd, that He loves His sheep, and that they hear and know His voice.

We may be broken, but we are deeply loved by the Shepherd.

"The relation of Christ to His people is compared to a shepherd. He saw, after the fall, His sheep in a pitiable condition, exposed to sure destruction. He left the honors and glory of His Father's house to become a shepherd, to save the miserable, wandering sheep, who were ready to perish. His winning voice was heard calling them to His fold, a safe and sure retreat from the hand of robbers; also a shelter from the scorching heat, and a protection from the chilling blasts. His care was continually exercised for the good of His sheep. He strengthened the weak, nourished the suffering, and gathered the lambs of the flock in His arms, and carried them in His bosom. His sheep love Him. He goeth before His sheep, and they hear His voice, and follow Him." *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 113, 114

Lord, thank You for Your loving kindness and care. Help us to always hear and heed Your voice.

Adapted from Robbie Boyd at [gospel-focused.com/embracingbrokenness.org](https://gospel-focused.com/embracingbrokenness.org) 





## Your Letters

“Really enjoying *LandMarks*, particularly the testimony ‘God’s Test or Satan’s Temptation.’”

—DO, North Dakota

“I have been blessed with such fellowship with you all through *LandMarks* and its divinely-inspired articles. It is all a good thing and so appreciated during these days of such upheaval all around us.”

—SS, Pennsylvania

“I do love the *LandMarks* so much. The writers, editors, production people, all do such a superior job. I praise God for the caring attention paid to detail by all.”

—JA, Colorado

“Thank you so much for the *LandMarks*!”

—JR, California

“I dearly love our *LandMarks*. The information is so helpful!”

—PF, Tennessee

### March Sermon of the Month

## The Sudden Surprise is Coming

By John J. Grosboll

The Bible tells us that we do not know when the end of the world will come, but it does not have to be a surprise to us, because by the signs and events recorded in the Bible, we can know that the time is near.

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

## From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

### March 2022

Dear Friend,

In the 1980s it was publically proclaimed and eagerly promoted among the hi-tech crowd that we were going to go paperless and become a paperless society. I still receive monthly invitations to “go paperless” for various services. Companies like to get their money instantly and if you pay electronically, as soon as you push the send button, the money is transferred from your bank to their bank.

Some people have thought that electronic transmission is the way to finish God’s work and at Steps to Life we fully believe in using electronic means for communicating the gospel, either through radio and television or through the internet. However the time will never come when hard copy printed literature will not be a primary means of finishing God’s work and we all need to be sure that we are taking advantage of the means that in the end will result in millions of people being saved. How do I know this? From these inspired statements:

“And in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 140


“Years ago the Lord gave me special directions that buildings should be erected in various places in America, Europe, and other lands for the publication of literature containing the light of present truth. He gave instruction that every effort should be made to send forth to the world from the press the messages of invitation and warning. Some will be reached by our literature who would not be reached in any other way.” *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, 87

“I have been shown that our publications should be printed in different languages and sent to every civilized country, at any cost.

“The printed word of truth is to be translated into different languages, and carried to the ends of the earth.” *Christian Service*, 149

“More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.” *Last Day Events*, 213, 214

Sincerely your brother in Christ,



John J. Grosboll

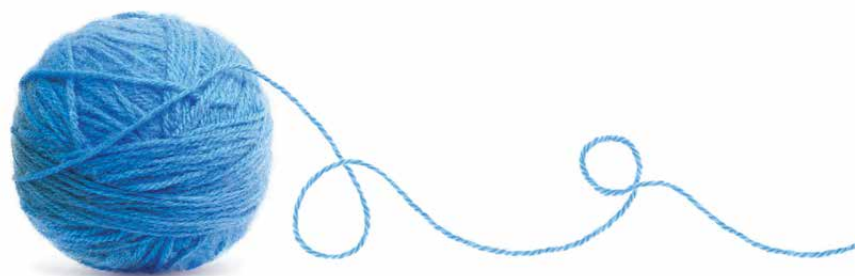
# The Lifeline

Deborah Massey

**H**ere in Maine, as the winter draws near, almost everyone who knits or crochets takes out their needles to begin projects of hats, mittens, shawls, or sweaters.

Sometimes what appears to be a simple pattern can end up a tangled mess if a lifeline isn't used. I have been overconfident many times telling myself, "I don't need that, I'll find my way." What a mistake! A lifeline while knitting provides a foolproof way of knowing where I am in the pattern if I become distracted as to what row I am on, losing my way. However, this can all be avoided. Taking the time to run a colored piece of yarn through all the stitches on the knitting needle every few rows can save the frustration of getting lost. I learned, through much trial and error, that using the lifeline is not an option but a necessity. If I get lost, all I have to do is tear back to the stitches held on the lifeline, pick up those stitches, and I will know what row to begin anew. The stitches held on the lifeline cannot move, nor is one stitch lost until those stitches are picked up on the needle, then, and only then, can the lifeline be pulled through, no longer needed until it is again inserted several rows below to once again secure where I am in the pattern.

Our relationship to Jesus can be illustrated in much the same way. If we are overconfident, carelessly going about our day without taking time to read our Bibles and pray, Satan will make certain we lose our way, as we become lost in our own destructive patterns and old habits we thought we had conquered. We can so easily sin and lose our way by compromising and not paying attention. As the hours and days pass, Jesus, our lifeline, can seem faint and almost invisible, as we travel on our own way in self-confidence without Him. As we become more entangled, life becomes more difficult as we try in our own strength to get back to our lifeline. What seems a few short steps away, can take many steps to return. Jesus is our pattern, our light and strength in every time of need. He is our lifeline, and only He knows the path we must travel to get to the kingdom. He will keep us, through prayer and Bible study, from becoming lost. We should not let distractions interfere in our Christian experience, losing time and distance to our heavenly home. Hold on, my fellow Christian, to Jesus. Hold on to the Lifeline, Jesus Christ, making your salvation sure. [LM](#)





## *Mission Report*

### *from Panama*

**N**ear the border between Panama and Costa Rica is the town of David Chiriquí, Panama. Steps to Life ministry has assisted a group of faithful, present truth believers over the last seven years to establish a church, organized according to the New Testament gospel order. This group became the Four Angels Free Seventh-day Adventist Church. We have also worked with them as they struggle against the many different doctrines that have swept across Panama, even to this small town. This church of faithful believers is determined to reach every house, business, and person in the town of David Chiriquí. Week after week they have knocked on the doors of the town offering Bible studies and Seventh-day Adventist materials such as tracts,

magazines, and books. And over the last two to three years, their efforts have met with such success that their congregation has now grown to a membership of just over 90 faithful souls.

Among these faithful people is a man I became acquainted with about a year ago. Let me share with you his story. During a trip to meet with the brethren in Panama, I was asked by the elders of the church to go with them to visit Antonio Amado Montegro. Antonio had been a Catholic all of his life, and was very unwilling to hear any religious doctrine other than those of the Catholic church. However, the Lord had opened the door for the members of this small church to reach out to him, and this is how I came to have the opportunity to see him. When we came to the

door of his home, he at first would not allow us to come in, still very adamant against anything but Catholic doctrine. So there on his doorstep, I told him that I, too, had been raised a Catholic and that I could sympathize with him because there was a time when I was not interested in hearing anything but what the Catholic church told me. By God's grace, at the age of 13, I had the opportunity to learn of a different doctrine.

I asked Antonio if I and the elders could pray with him and he said yes. After prayer, I told Antonio that we had come because God, in His providence, had brought me to his home and that it was God who was knocking on the door, not only of his house, but more importantly his heart, asking him to let Him come in and dwell there.





**Left page:** Sabbath morning church congregation.

**Top left:** Antonio Montegro at church on Sabbath morning.

**Top middle:** Antonio's baptism.

**Top right:** Antonio accepting his baptismal certificate and Bible.

**Bottom:** Church youth preparing to distribute literature.

Antonio looked straight into my face and invited me into his home so that we could continue to share God's word. He said that he was happy to talk with me and I asked if he would be willing to have Bible studies with one of the church elders and he said that he would.

Now, it is one year later and I was able to again visit the church in Panama. I learned that Antonio had faithfully been studying with Alex Santamaria over the last months and when Antonio learned that I would be at the church again, he expressed a desire to be baptized. I rejoiced at his decision to commit his life to God.

At the Sabbath morning service, the elder asked if there were any special prayers and Antonio stood up and announced that he was going to be baptized that Sabbath. He had invited

his wife and many in his family, and they had all come to witness his baptism. This is but one soul saved for Christ as a result of the efforts and teamwork of the church in David Chiriquí. I know that there will be many other souls who will make the same decision as Antonio did because of the work of these faithful servants of God.

Though the members of the Four Angels Free Seventh-day Adventist Church come from many different religious backgrounds and churches, they have all chosen to follow the Lamb wherever He goes, and have committed themselves to the work of saving souls for God's kingdom. Their young people are dedicated to spreading the gospel and the good news of the second coming of our Lord. They have organized a

team that regularly distributes literature in David Chiriquí.

We need to remember these faithful brothers and sisters in Christ as they do the work the Lord has given them to do in Panama. They very much want to purchase printing equipment and establish a publishing department so that they are able to produce for themselves the outreach materials they will need as they do their evangelizing work.

Your prayers and financial support will provide them with the ability to achieve this ambitious goal, and are greatly appreciated by these faithful Christians. To donate specifically to the work in Panama, please mark your donation as *Missions-Panama*.

Sincerely, your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Domingo Nunez LM

# Land-Building Mangroves



Some shores are built by trees. The unique mangroves grow in places where other trees and shrubs cannot survive—in the wet, salty world of tide-washed tropical and subtropical seas. Along such coasts, mangroves have created virtual jungles on stilts.

Most trees produce seeds that do not sprout immediately, even if they are planted. But one of several mangrove species, the red mangrove, produces exceptional seeds—they sprout while they are still attached to the branch. A root bursts through the fruit and forms a long, dagger-like point that may reach nine inches in length. When the seed finally detaches from the branch, it falls,

often planting itself upright in the soft, muddy bottom.

A mangrove seedling floats horizontally in the water, like a well-designed canoe. (You may see one drifting along a tropical beach.) The seedling can float for months, unaffected by salt water, scorching sun, and battering waves—and even continue to grow. Its sharp root tip turns downward; if the seedling strikes land, it quickly sends roots into the soil. New roots emerge in tiers that extend out and downward from the trunk, forming arches, called prop roots, that resemble umbrella stays. The prop roots may send up new trunks where they touch the ground. Red mangroves are so well braced that they can usually weather hurricanes that flatten other trees.

In 20 or 30 years, the red mangrove reaches its maximum height of about 30 feet. The profusion of prop roots and new tree trunks form a dense, interlacing mesh that traps sediment, plants, and debris. Soon a swamp is formed at the edge of the sea. Gradually, as more mangroves sprout up, new land is created. Every year, the land advances a few inches into the sea.


There is a definite sequence to the seaward march of a mangrove swamp. In the Florida Keys, where mangroves have built vast areas of new land and new islands, you will see the youngest and smallest red mangroves growing next to the water. Their roots are usually submerged, except during the lowest tides. Behind them, washed only by high tide,

are the taller mangroves, which grow to 70 feet. Their thick branches and dark, dense foliage form a nearly solid canopy.

Trees and other plants more typical of the land grow behind the mangroves, but in the swamps, mangroves usually crowd out other vegetation. Numerous animals depend on mangroves for protection and support. Oysters attach themselves to the prop roots, where they are covered by high tides. At night these oyster beds are raided by raccoons. Fiddler crabs burrow in the mud between the roots; starfish move slowly over the muddy surface. High up in the dense canopy, large colonies of pelicans and herons may roost and nest. But even while one mangrove swamp, with its dependent animal life, pushes slowly out to sea, another one may be just beginning where a single seedling washes against a distant shore.

*Joy of Nature*, Reader's Digest Association, ©1977, 132, 133.

---

"The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. It sends down its roots into the earth. It drinks in the sunshine, the dew, and the rain. It receives the life-giving properties from the air. So the Christian is to grow by cooperating with the divine agencies. . . . As the plant takes root in the soil, so we are to take deep root in Christ. As the plant receives the sunshine, the dew, and the rain, we are to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 66, 67. 

Q:

*How can I be  
a “man after  
God’s own  
heart?”*

A:

“I was shown that it was  
*when David was pure,  
and walking in the counsel  
of God*, that God called him

a man after His own heart. When David departed from God, and stained his virtuous character by his crimes, he was no longer a man after God’s own heart. ... God would not justify anyone in transgressing His commandments, but that He will surely punish the guilty, however righteous, and favored of God they might once have been while they followed the Lord in purity of heart. ...” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 87

“[T]he history of David furnishes no countenance to sin. It was when he was walking in the counsel of God that he was called a man after God’s own heart. When he sinned, this ceased to be true of him until by repentance he had returned to the Lord. ...

“Though David repented of his sin, and was forgiven and accepted by the Lord, he reaped the baleful harvest

of the seed he  
himself had sown.

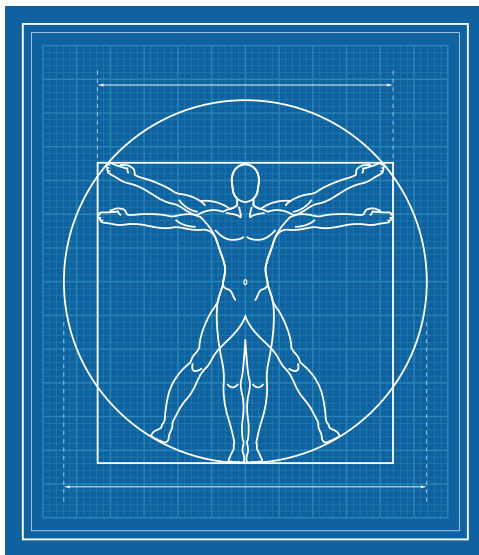
... His authority in his own household, his claim to respect and obedience from his sons, was weakened. A sense of his guilt kept him silent when he should have condemned sin; it made his arm feeble to execute justice in his house. ...

“Those who, by pointing to the example of David, try to lessen the guilt of their own sins, should learn from the Bible record that the way of transgression is hard. Though like David they should turn from their evil course, the results of sin, even in this life, will be found bitter and hard to bear.” *Conflict and Courage*, 180

“When the righteous turn from their righteousness to do evil, their past righteousness will not save them from the wrath of a just and holy God.” *Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, 95

[Emphasis supplied] LM





## *It's a Big Job to Run a Body*

**D**o you ever say, “I’m dog tired—don’t feel like I could do another thing. I’m just too bushed to eat.”

Well, no wonder. In addition to your regular job, if you are an adult of about average weight, it has been estimated that every 24 hours

- You exercise 7,000,000 brain cells
- You speak 7,800 words, not all of them necessary, of course
- Your heart beats 103,689 times
- Your blood travels 168 million miles
- You breathe 23,040 times
- You inhale 438 cubic feet of air
- You eat 3¼ pounds of food
- You drink 2.9 quarts of liquids
- You eliminate 7/8 of a pound of waste
- You move 750 muscles, some of them subconsciously but constantly

Did you ever consider how perfectly your body is timed and controlled? How does it maintain a normal temperature of 98.6 degrees, how is the blood pressure regulated just right, why do you breathe an average of 16 times and your heart beat 72 times a minute? How is food chemically digested and the nutritive part transformed into body tissue—bone and muscle, blood and skin, hair and nails—and properly distributed, while wastes and poisons are eliminated with no ill effects?

Adapted from *Abundant Living*.

“Life is a gift of God. Our bodies have been given us to use in God’s service, and He desires that we shall care for and appreciate them. Our bodies must be kept in the best possible condition physically, and under the most spiritual influences. ...

“A pure, healthy life is most favorable for the perfection of Christian character and for the development of the powers of mind and body. ...

“The harmonious, healthy action of all the powers of body and mind results in happiness; the more elevated and refined the powers, the more pure and unalloyed the happiness.” *My Life Today*, 125

“But now, Oh Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

The human body contains trillions of cells, 78 organs, and over 60,000 miles of blood vessels, if stretched from end-to-end. Amazingly, they all work together to keep you alive.

Each of the 78 organs belongs to one of ten body systems. A body system is a group of parts that work together to serve a common purpose. These systems interconnect and depend upon each other to function. This is known as homeostasis and the process causes all these systems to maintain internal stability and balance. A disease or problem in one body system can disrupt homeostasis and consequently cause trouble in other body systems. For example, the heart does not beat unless the brain and nervous system tell it to, and the skeletal system is dependent on the nutrients gained from the digestive system to enable it to build strong, healthy bones.

The ten body systems are:

1. Circulatory
2. Respiratory
3. Nervous
4. Muscular
5. Skeletal
6. Digestive
7. Endocrine (hormones)
8. Lymphatic, or immune system
9. Reproductive
10. Integumentary (skin, hair)

So let's see how this all works. The circulatory system consists of the heart and a complex network of blood vessels that run throughout the body. The heart pumps blood through the blood vessels and this performs a function that works with other systems. As the blood passes through the digestive system, it picks up nutrients absorbed from your last meal and these are delivered to the skeletal, muscular, and integumentary systems to help make body tissue. Oxygen taken in by the lungs, part of the respiratory system, is absorbed into the blood vessels and is carried back to the heart (because the muscles of the heart cannot function without oxygen), and ultimately to the brain—we all know what happens if there is a lack of oxy-

gen in the brain. The brain regulates heart rate and blood pressure and the position of your bones by controlling the muscles. The circulatory system also carries hormones from the endocrine system and white blood cells from the immune system to help fight off infection. It also picks up waste products, including carbon dioxide, and carries them off to the kidneys and lungs for disposal.

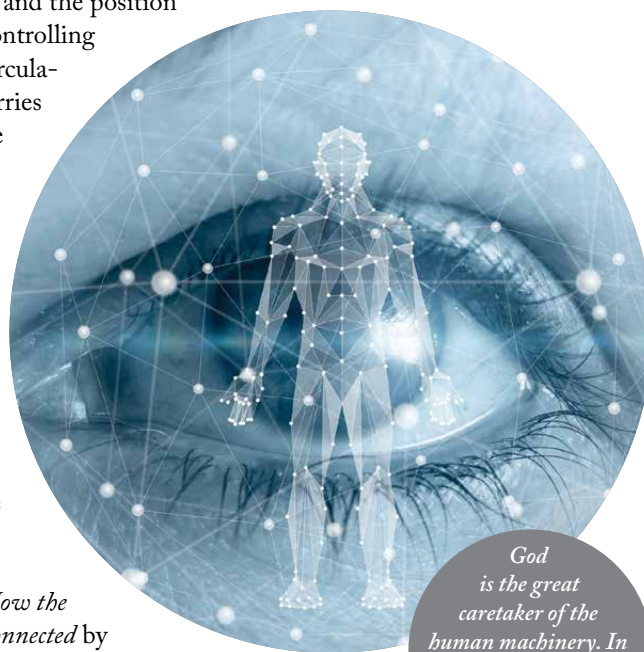
Adapted from *How the Body Systems are Connected* by The Live Better Team at [reverehhealth.com](http://reverehhealth.com)

“Our bodies are a wonderful exhibition of God's incomprehensible skill and unceasing goodness. They are not to be trifled with. With all the power of a sanctified mind and a purified soul, they are to be consecrated to God.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 4, 1900

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.” Psalm 139:14

“We are in a world that is opposed to righteousness and purity of character and to a growth in grace. Wherever we look, we see corruption and defilement, deformity and sin. And what is the work that we are to undertake here just previous to receiving immortality? It is to preserve our bodies holy, our spirits pure, that we may stand forth unstained amid the corruptions teeming around us in these last days. And if this work is accomplished, we need to engage in it at once, heartily and understandingly.” *Counsels on Health*, 44, 45

“God is the great caretaker of the human machinery. In the care of our bodies we must cooperate with Him. Love for God is essential for life and health. In order to have perfect health our hearts must be filled with hope, and love, and joy.” *God's Amazing Grace*, 147 [LM](#)



God  
is the great  
caretaker of the  
human machinery. In  
the care of our bodies  
we must cooperate  
with Him.

# *The Broad Road*

---

or

---

# *The Narrow Road*

---

By John J. Grosboll

**S**ome people believe that it is easier to be saved than to be lost. And others believe that it is easier to be lost than to be saved. Which is it?

We find the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12. Jesus said, “Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them.” Immediately after giving this Golden Rule, He said in verses 13 and 14, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult [restricted] is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” This was surprising to the people when Jesus told it to them, but continues to be just as surprising to people throughout history.

The Golden Rule excludes all pride and self-seeking, attributes that are allowed on the broad road that leads to destruction. If you want to enter into eternal life, you must climb the narrow road. There will be few on the narrow road, because the multitude will choose the broad, downward path.

The broad road is characterized by worldliness, selfishness, pride and self-seeking, dishonesty, and moral abasement. Almost the entire human race can take this road. It has plenty of

room for anyone to have an opinion, doctrine, or teaching that they choose, and enough space to follow any inclination, and whatever their self-love would require. Because of our sinful human nature, there is no need to have to search for the broad road. It seems that we know right where to find it, and the broad road gives us plenty of latitude to do as we please and as our nature leads us to do.

On the other hand, the road that leads to eternal life is narrow and not as easily found. The entrance is narrow and the entire road is restricted and difficult. Clinging to any besetting sin, we will find that the gate is too narrow to go through. Our own ways, our own will, our own inclinations, evil habits and practices must be given up, or we will be unable to follow the narrow road.

If we want to follow the Lord, we cannot serve ourselves. The road to heaven—the narrow road—is too narrow and steep for a person whose life is centered in his or her own ambitions, who seeks the world’s opinion and seeks to follow the world’s standard. It is too steep for the sinful, lovers of pleasure to climb. The Bible says that in the last days there will be people that love pleasure more

than they love God, but those people will not be in the kingdom of heaven.

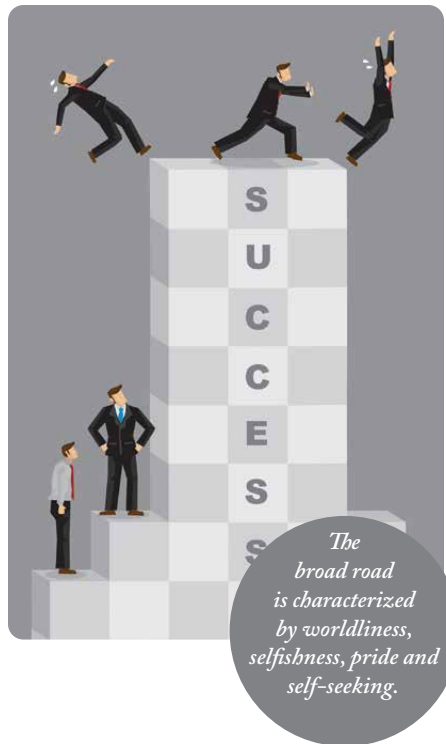
Toil, patience, self-denial, reproach, and poverty were the lot of Jesus Christ when He was here on this world. He endured what the Bible calls “such hostility from sinners against Himself.” (Hebrews 12:3), and it is this same walk that we must walk on the narrow road if we are to enter into the paradise of God.

However, while it appears that the narrow road is the difficult path and the broad road is the easier path, we must remember that the broad road is deceptive. It is a road that leads to death, with much pain and grief, and many penalties, sorrows, and disappointments. Because we feel “free” when we walk the broad road, free to do what we want, say what we want, be what we want, we heedlessly march down the broad road with a purpose. But because of God’s love for us, He has made it hard for the headstrong to obviously destroy themselves. Satan makes the broad road seem attractive, exciting, but remember that he is a liar and deceit is his specialty. The longer one walks the broad road he or she will soon find bitter remorse, cankering care, pain, and sorrow. It may seem that our selfish plans will achieve flattering prospects

and that life is one enjoyment after another, but it will soon become clear that happiness is poisoned and because of the sin in our lives, everything will be wrecked. Thus, that which started out as joyful becomes despairing. Notice what the Bible says in Proverbs 13:15, *last part*: “But the way of the unfaithful is hard.” Isaiah said, “‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’” Isaiah 57:21. How often do we think one way, but discover it is not what we thought it would be? The Bible says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Proverbs 16:25. The broad road seems more attractive at the beginning. There is nothing to give up to travel that road, but eventually it leads to a terrible destination.

But concerning those who choose to go up the narrow way, Proverbs 3:17 says, “Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.” The Christian life seems restricted at the start. “[This] life is a life of constant conflict. . . . Every act of obedience, every deed of self-denial, every trial bravely endured, every temptation resisted, every victory gained, is a step forward in the march to eternal triumph.” *Ye Shall Receive Power*, 357. The Lord has made the road that leads to eternal life plain so that even a terrible sinner need not miss it. The person who is willing to practice righteous and holy living can walk up the narrow road because they are willing “to lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets” him or her (Hebrews 12:1). Access is secured for all who want to go through and no soul need ever say, “God does not care about me.” If we take Christ as our guide, laying aside our sins and walking through the narrow gate, He will lead us safely.

The person not yet on the road to eternal life may see it as a rough and steep climb. There may be pitfalls. He or she will have to toil and fight when there is no fight left in them. They may become discouraged, but if they are following Jesus and obeying His word, they will not fail of reaching the desired



haven at last. You see, Jesus Himself walked up that way and has smoothed the path for all who follow in His steps. All the way there are wellsprings of joy to refresh the weary and one can find peace, even in difficulty and tribulation. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 7:4, *last part*, “I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful . . . .” Why? Because, the One whom the soul loves, the One that we follow, walks unseen beside us, and at each upward step, we can discern more distinctly the touch of His hand. “The path of the just is like the shining sun [star], that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.” Proverbs 4:18

The Jews thought that the Messiah would come and give them victory over the Roman Empire and set them up as a great nation, but Jesus disappointed their hopes in the Sermon on the Mount. He had not come to overthrow the world’s great kingdoms or to make Israel a great, worldly kingdom. He told them that He had come to reveal to them the character that is the true glory of His kingdom, offering them not the promise of earthly dominion, but to place before them

the opportunity to be one with Him in character and love. He assured them that it would be their supreme desire and worth their sincere effort. He was not calling them to battle against the Roman Empire, but rather to fight the battle against self and to win. He said, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many . . . will seek to enter and will not be able.” Luke 13:24

Yes friends, there will be many people who will seek salvation, but will not find it. Many will be lost, while hoping and desiring to be saved. Paul encourages us in 1 Timothy 6:12 to “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.” And Philippians 1:30 says, “Having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.”

“The Christian life is a battle and a march. In this warfare there is no release; the effort must be continuous and persevering. It is by unceasing endeavor that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. Christian integrity must be sought with resistless energy and maintained with a resolute fixedness of purpose.

“No one will be borne upward without stern, persevering effort in his own behalf.” *Reflecting Christ*, 312

The field of battle is the human heart. We must struggle against evil within—sinful thoughts and desires, actions and words. *The greatest battle that has ever been fought by any man, is the surrender of self to the will of God*, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love. The victory over self must be gained if we are to enter the kingdom of heaven. The Bible promises salvation only to those who overcome, but while we must overcome the wickedness that is our natural nature, it is by grace alone that we receive salvation. Salvation can be enjoyed only by those who have been forgiven of their sins and have received the grace of Christ. You must have not only a title to heaven, which the sacrifice on the cross of Calvary provided for you, but you must be fit for heaven and being



made fit is the result of this great battle with self. That is why the Bible says that without holiness, no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14, *last part*). Victory, then, is gained by our choice, but not by human power.

The old nature, the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up. If we determine that we are going to enter this spiritual kingdom, then we find that the powers and passions of the unregenerate nature, aided by the forces of the kingdom of darkness are arrayed against us. Selfishness and pride rise up in the heart and attempt to make us stand against anything that would show them to be sinful. We cannot of ourselves conquer these evil desires and habits that strive for the mastery inside. We cannot overcome the mighty enemy who holds us captive. Only God can give us the victory. The Lord desires us to have the mastery over ourselves, to be in control over our own wills and our own ways, but He cannot work in our hearts and change us without our consent and cooperation.

“The victory is not won without much earnest prayer, without the humbling of self at every step. Our will is not to be forced into cooperation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted. . . . The will must be placed on the side of God’s will. You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are ‘willing to be made willing,’ God will accomplish the work for you . . . . For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 142, 143

Second Corinthians 10:5 says, “[C]asting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” Is our every thought brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ? “Therefore, my beloved, as

you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12, 13. This is the reason that so many people who want to take the narrow road do not make it; they turn away from the conditions by which alone they would be able to go through the narrow gate.

There are many today who are traveling down the broad road, but they are not fully satisfied with the path they are walking on, wishing they could break away from the slavery of sin. They look toward the narrow gate and try in their own strength to break some of their evil habits or sinful practices, but because of their weak but sinful nature, selfishness, love of the world, pride, and unsanctified ambition, they hesitate, falter, and turn back. They would have to renounce their own will, their chosen objects of affection, but this they cannot do. They desire to do good, they even make some effort to do it, but they do not have a settled purpose to secure eternal life, because it would cost them everything.

The only hope for us is to choose to surrender our will to God’s will, hour by hour and day by day. We must be willing to be made willing. We must choose to cooperate with Him. We cannot retain our natural, sinful self and expect to enter into the kingdom of God. If we ever wish to attain holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the receiving of the mind of Christ. Pride and self-sufficiency have to be crucified. So the question is simply this: Are you willing to be brought into perfect conformity with the will of God and make the necessary sacrifice to go through the narrow gate and up the narrow road to salvation? The Bible says, “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” Amos 3:3. If there is a point on which we and God do not agree, whose mind should be changed?

The Bible tells us of Jacob who came to the great crisis in his life and turned aside to pray. He was filled with one overmastering purpose—he wanted to be transformed in character. He knew that he had lived a very sinful life, and we can read about many of these sins in the Bible. We are told that while he was pleading with God, it seemed to him that an enemy came, placed his hand upon him, and all night he wrestled and fought with what he thought was an enemy who he believed intended to take his life. When his strength was nearly spent, just before the dawn of the day, it was revealed that he had been fighting “the Angel of the covenant.” The Angel put forth His divine power and, at one touch, Jacob was disabled. He was wounded and helpless, but he fell upon the breast of the Angel, pleading for a blessing. He said, “. . . I will not let You go unless You bless me!” Genesis 32:26, *last part*. He received the answer to his prayer because he was persistent and determined. He was willing to give up everything so that his prayer could be answered. The Bible says, “Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.” Isaiah 27:5

We must be determined and commit our whole heart if we are going to be saved in the kingdom of heaven. We must pray, “Lord, I choose to surrender myself to You, and to follow You all the way.” God will answer your prayer just as He did Jacob’s. God will provide you with the power needed to enter at the narrow gate and walk the narrow road all the way to eternity. Decide now.

“Lord, whatever happens, I surrender my will to You. I choose to follow You all the way, and seek always to do Your will.” [Emphasis supplied.] [LM](#)

---

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

March 27 – April 2, 2022

# The Godhead

## Key Text

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

**Study Help:** *Early Writings*, 54, 55, 125–127

## Introduction

“There are three living persons of the heavenly trio ... the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” *Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 7, 63

## Sunday

### 1 THE FATHER

1.a. What does the Bible say about God the Father? John 16:27, *first part*

**Note:** “God cannot be compared with the things His hands have made. These are mere earthly things, suffering under the curse of God because of the sins of man. The Father cannot be described by the things of earth. The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight.” *Evangelism*, 614

“The beautiful things of nature reveal His [God’s] character and His power as Creator. They are His gift to the race, to show His power and to show that He is a God of love. But no one is authorized to say that God Himself in person is in flower or leaf or tree. These things are God’s handiwork, revealing His love for mankind.” *Medical Ministry*, 94

“Nature is not God, nor was it ever God. The voice of nature testifies of God, but nature is not God. As His created work, it simply bears a testimony to God’s power.” *The Review and Herald*, November 8, 1898

1.b. How is God’s character revealed? Romans 1:20–25; John 17:5, 6

**Note:** “Christ came as a personal Saviour to the world. He represented a personal God.” *The Review and Herald*, November 8, 1898

## Monday

### 2 JESUS CHRIST

2.a. What was the mission of Jesus before and after the fall of man? 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 3:5

**Note:** “After the fall, Christ became Adam’s instructor. He acted in God’s stead toward humanity, saving the race from immediate death. He took upon Him the work of mediator between God and man. In the fullness of time He was to be revealed in human form. He was to take His position at the head of humanity by taking the nature but not the sinfulness of man.” *The Signs of the Times*, May 29, 1901

“In thought, word, and act Jesus was sinless. Perfection marked all that He did.” *In Heavenly Places*, 166

2.b. With what words does John introduce Christ? John 1:1–4. As the Son of Man, did Christ ever cease to be God? Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13, 14

**Note:** “Although Christ’s divine glory was for a time veiled and eclipsed by His assuming humanity, yet He did not cease to be God when He became man. The human did not take the place of the divine, nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of godliness. The two expressions ‘human’ and ‘divine’ were, in

Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a distinct individuality. Though Christ humbled Himself to become man, the Godhead was still His own. His Deity could not be lost while He stood faithful and true to His loyalty." *The Signs of the Times*, May 10, 1899

"Jehovah is the name given to Christ." Ibid., May 3, 1899

"In speaking of His preexistence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God." Ibid., August 29, 1900

"'In Him was life; and the life was the light of men' (John 1:4). It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The Word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life. ... In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 296

"If Christ made all things, He existed before all things. The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore." *The Review and Herald*, April 5, 1906

## Tuesday

### 3 THE INCARNATION

3.a. What were some of the purposes of the incarnation of Christ? John 3:16; 1 John 4:9, 10; 3:8

**Note:** "The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, should give Himself an offering for sin. And in giving Christ, God gave all the resources of heaven, that nothing might be wanting for the work of man's uplifting. What line can measure the depth of this love? God would make it impossible for man to say that He could have done more." *The Review and Herald*, May 2, 1912

"The great condescension on the part of God is a mystery that is beyond our fathoming. The greatness of the plan cannot be fully comprehended, nor could infinite Wisdom devise a plan that would surpass it. It could only be successful by the clothing of divinity with humanity, by Christ becoming man, and suffering the wrath which sin has made because of the transgression of God's law. Through this plan the great, the dreadful God can be just, and yet be the justifier of all who believe in Jesus, and who receive Him as their personal Saviour." Ibid., October 22, 1895

3.b. What was the purpose of the incarnation in regard to the future of man, of Satan, and of the law? Luke 19:10; Hebrews 2:14, 15; Isaiah 42:21

**Note:** "Jesus Christ has taken the position of one who came to seek and to save that which is lost." *The Review and Herald*, June 30, 1896

"Blessed is the soul who can say, 'I am guilty before God: but Jesus is my Advocate. I have transgressed His law. I cannot save myself; but I make the precious blood that was shed on Calvary all my plea. I am lost in Adam, but restored in Christ.'" *The Youth's Instructor*, November 8, 1894

"Christ came to vindicate the sacred claims of the law. He came to live a life of obedience to its requirements and thus prove the falsity of the charge made by Satan that it is impossible for man to keep the law of God. As a man He met temptation and overcame in the strength given Him from God. As He went about doing good, healing all who were afflicted by Satan, He made plain to men the character of God's law and the nature of His service. His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God." *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 207, 208

## Wednesday

### 4 THE HOLY SPIRIT

4.a. What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit whom He would send to the world? John 16:13; 14:16, 17

**Note:** "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 Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient." *In Heavenly Places*, 336

"The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He [Jesus] could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and with-

out this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.”

*The Desire of Ages*, 671

“The Holy Spirit is not only to sanctify but to convict. No one can repent of his sins until he is convicted of his guilt. How necessary, then, it is that we should have the Holy Spirit with us as we labor to reach fallen souls.” *The Review and Herald*, July 16, 1895

4.b. What biblical proof do we have that the Holy Spirit is a divine person? Acts 5:3, 4. What other evidence shows that the Holy Spirit has a personality? Acts 13:2; Romans 8:16, 26, 27; 1 Corinthians 2:10

---

---

---

---

---

**Note:** “The Holy Spirit is a person; for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. ...

“The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. ‘For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God’ (1 Corinthians 2:11).” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 20, 68, 69

## Thursday

### 5 THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL

5.a. What is the only means by which we may receive eternal life both here and in the hereafter? John 3:36; 6:47; 17:3

---

---

---

---

**Note:** “It is not enough to believe *about* Christ; we must believe *in* Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.” *The Desire of Ages*, 347. [Emphasis author’s.]

5.b. What is Jesus’ deep desire in regard to His followers on earth? John 6:37–40; 14:1; 17:24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Note:** “Through sincere prayer we are brought into connection with the mind of the Infinite. We may have no remarkable evidence at the time that the face of our Redeemer is bending over us in compassion and love, but this is even so. We may not feel His visible touch, but His hand is upon us in love and pitying tenderness.” *Steps to Christ*, 97

“The heart of God yearns over His earthly children with a love stronger than death. In giving up His Son, He has poured out to us all heaven in one gift. The Saviour’s life and death and intercession, the ministry of angels, the pleading of the Spirit, the Father working above and through all, the unceasing interest of heavenly beings—all are enlisted in behalf of man’s redemption.” *Ibid.*, 21

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Christ performs certain specific functions which are necessary for a person to be saved. What are these necessary functions?
- 2 The Holy Spirit performs certain specific functions which are necessary for a person to be saved. What are these necessary functions?
- 3 Why was it necessary for Christ, our Creator, to come to earth as a man?



April 3 – 9, 2022

# The Holy Scriptures

## Key Text

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

**Study Help:** *Education*, 185–192

## Introduction

“Only he who receives the Scriptures as the voice of God speaking to himself is a true learner. He trembles at the word; for to him it is a living reality.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 59

## Sunday

### 1 THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

1.a. What does the apostle Paul say about the origin of the Holy Scriptures? 2 Timothy 3:15–17

---



---



---

**Note:** “Our only safety is in receiving the whole Bible, not taking merely detached portions, but believing the whole truth. Your feet are upon sliding sand if you depreciate one word that is written. The Bible is a divine communication, and is as verily a message to the soul as though a voice from heaven were heard speaking to us. With what awe and reverence and humiliation should we come to the searching of the Scriptures.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 18, 1893

1.b. What did Jesus say about the writings of the Old Testament? John 5:39; Luke 24:27, 45. What will be the result of constantly studying and obeying the Scriptures? Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 3:15

---



---



---

**Note:** “Those who continually feed upon the word of God will not turn aside, as did Adam and Eve, and disobey God’s law. The word of God will give them grace and strength.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 5, 1895

“If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute.” *Christ Objects Lessons*, 100

## Monday

### 2 THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE SCRIPTURES

2.a. What did the apostle Paul understand to be the central theme in the preaching of the gospel of salvation? 1 Corinthians 2:1, 2

---



---



---

**Note:** “The crucified Messiah is the central point of all Christianity. The most essential lessons for teachers and students to learn are those which point, not to the world, but from the world to the cross of Calvary.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 23, 24

“The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God.” *Education*, 125

2.b. In all sermons presented, what is the main point which should be presented? 1 Corinthians 1:23, 24; 15:3; Ephesians 2:20

---



---



---

**Note:** “Put Christ into every sermon. Let the preciousness, mercy, and glory of Jesus Christ be dwelt upon; for Christ formed within is the hope of glory.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 158

“In plain, simple language, tell every soul what he must do to be saved. God is your helper; He calls upon you to make known the hidden, unsearchable riches of the grace of Christ. Preach not your fancies, but preach Christ. Let the light of His righteousness shine into your hearts, and be revealed in your teaching. Living faith in Christ must be the very warp and woof of every sermon, the very sum and substance of every

discourse; it must be woven into every appeal and every prayer.” *Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers*, Nos. 7, 8, 9

“There is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures—Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme. It is only in the light of the cross that we can discern the exalted character of the law of God. The soul palsied by sin can be endowed with life only through the work wrought out upon the cross by the Author of our salvation.” *That I May Know Him*, 208

## Tuesday

### 3 THE INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD

3.a. Why is it so important to study the word of God and put into practice its teachings? Psalm 119:105, 116, 133; Proverbs 2:1–5

---



---



---

**Note:** “To all, old and young, the word of the Lord is: Let the truth of God be inwrought in mind and soul. Let your prayer be, ‘O Lord, preserve my soul, that I shall not dishonor thee.’ Let your prayers ascend to God, that He may sanctify the soul in thought, in word, in spirit, in every transaction. Plead with God that not one thread of selfishness shall be woven into the fabric of your character. Let the prayer be offered: ‘Sanctify my heart through the truth. Let Thy angels keep my soul in strict integrity. Let my mind be impressed with the simple, searching maxims in Thy word, given to guide me in this life as a preparation for the future, eternal life.’” *The Review and Herald*, July 19, 1906

“The grand principle maintained by these [English] Reformers—the same that had been held by the Waldenses, by Wycliffe, by John Huss, by Luther, Zwingli, and those who united with them—was the infallible authority of the Holy Scriptures as a rule of faith and practice.” *The Great Controversy*, 249

3.b. What is assured about the infallibility of Bible prophecies and predictions? Isaiah 34:16; 55:10, 11

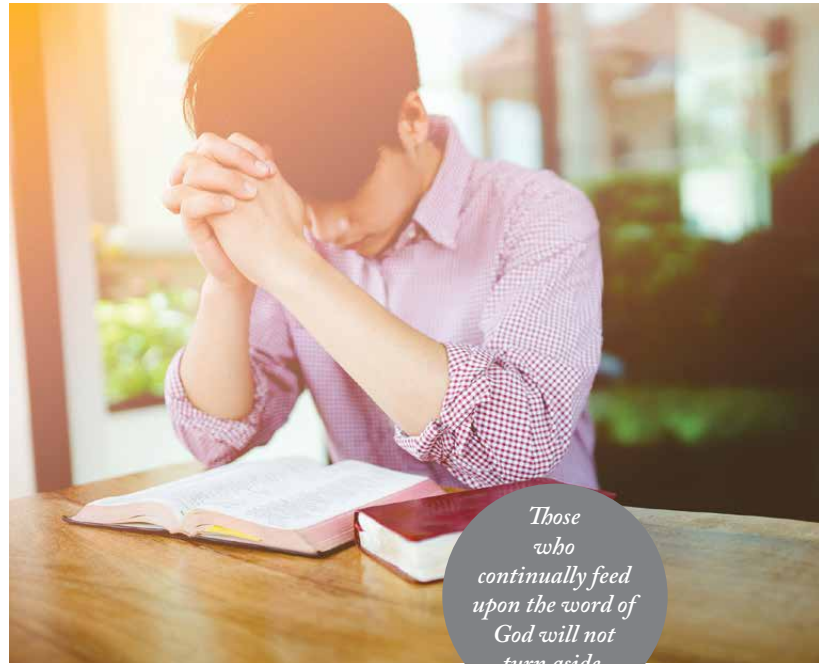
---



---



---



**Note:** “In His word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 198

“The word of the only true God is infallible. Infinite wisdom, holiness, power, and love are blended in pointing us to the standard by which God measures character. God’s word so plainly defines the laws of His kingdom that none need to walk in darkness. His law is the transcript of His character.” *In Heavenly Places*, 137

“All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.” *Education*, 178

## Wednesday

### 4 HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

4.a. What method of Bible study is recommended to those who wish to learn the truth? Isaiah 28:9, 10, 13; Acts 17:10, 11

---



---



---

**Note:** “The Bible is its own expositor. One passage will prove to be a key that will unlock other passages, and in this way light will be shed upon the hidden meaning of the word. By comparing different texts treating on the same subject, viewing their bearing on every side, the true meaning of the Scriptures will be made evident.” *Christian Education*, 85

“The rich gems of truth do not lie on the surface. You must dig for them. Take your Bible, and compare passage with passage, and verse with verse, and you will find the precious jewels of truth. You should put the precious gems of light in a beautiful setting, and hang them in memory’s hall.” *The Review and Herald*, April 16, 1889

“Open the Bible to our youth, draw their attention to its hidden treasures, teach them to search for its jewels of truth, and they will gain a strength of intellect such as the study of all that philosophy embraces could not impart. The grand subjects upon which the Bible treats, the dignified simplicity of its inspired utterances, the elevated themes which it presents to the mind, the light, sharp and clear, from the throne of God, enlightening the understanding, will develop the powers of the mind to an extent that can scarcely be comprehended, and never fully explained.” *Messages to Young People*, 254, 255

#### 4.b. What important factor is necessary to comprehend the truths of the Bible? James 1:5–8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Note:** “We should come with reverence to the study of the Bible, feeling that we are in the presence of God. All lightness and trifling should be laid aside. While some portions of the word are easily understood, the true meaning of other parts is not so readily discerned. There must be patient study and meditation, and earnest prayer. Every student, as he opens the Scriptures, should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit; and the promise is sure that it will be given.” *Messages to Young People*, 261

“If you come to the study of the Scriptures in humility, with earnest prayer for guidance, angels of God will open to you its living realities.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 18, 1893

## Thursday

### 5 STUDY WHILE YOU CAN

#### 5.a. What is written of those who do not study the Bible? 2 Timothy 4:2–4

**Note:** “The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.” *The Great Controversy*, 595

“‘Sound doctrine’ is Bible truth—truth that will promote piety and devotion, confirming God’s people in the faith.” *Gospel Workers*, 311

#### 5.b. In the time of trouble, what will happen to those who are neglecting to study God’s truths now, in this probationary time? Amos 8:11, 12

**Note:** “Those who had not prized God’s word were hurrying to and fro, wandering from sea to sea, and from the north to the east, to seek the word of the Lord. Said the angel, ‘They shall not find it. . . . Day after day have they slighted salvation, prizing earthly riches and earthly pleasure higher than any heavenly treasure or inducement. They have rejected Jesus and despised His saints. The filthy must remain filthy forever.’” *Early Writings*, 281, 282

“Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father.” *Ibid.*, 71

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the result of failing to obey all that God has written?
- 2 What is the most important theme in all the Scriptures?
- 3 Why is prophecy encouraging to the soul?
- 4 What attitude is necessary if we are to successfully learn from the Bible what God would have us know?
- 5 Why is it highly essential right now that we take Bible study seriously?

April 10 – 16, 2022

# The Origin of Sin

## Key Text

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” Isaiah 14:12–14

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 33–43

## Introduction

“Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and who stood highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven.” *The Great Controversy*, 493

## Sunday

### 1 AN EXALTED ANGEL

1.a. Using the figure of the king of Tyre, how does the prophet Ezekiel describe Lucifer? Ezekiel 28:13, 14

**Note:** “Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God’s presence. He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God’s purposes to the universe.” *The Desire of Ages*, 758

“Though all his [Lucifer’s] glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 35

1.b. Although he had already such an exalted position, what was Lucifer’s ambition? Isaiah 14:13, 14

**Note:** “Had Lucifer really desired to be like the Most High, he would never have deserted his appointed place in heaven; for the spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry. Lucifer desired God’s power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place.” *The Desire of Ages*, 435, 436

## Monday

### 2 SEDITION AND REBELLION

2.a. What argument was used by Lucifer to persuade the angels to join him? Psalm 55:21

**Note:** “Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he [Lucifer] ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 35

“The discord which his own course had caused in heaven, Satan charged upon the law and government of God. All evil he declared to be the result of the divine administration. He claimed that it was his own object to improve upon the statutes of Jehovah.” *The Great Controversy*, 498

2.b. After Lucifer convinced a great part of the angels about the need of change in God’s government, what happened to those angels? Revelation 12:4, *first part*

**Note:** “Satan in his rebellion took a third part of the angels. They turned from the Father and from His Son, and united with the instigator of rebellion.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, 115

“Lucifer had presented the purposes of God in a false light—misconstruing and distorting them to excite dissent and dissatisfaction. He cunningly drew his hearers on to give utterance to their feelings; then these expressions were repeated by him when it would serve his purpose, as evidence that the angels were not fully in harmony with the government of God. While



claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes in the order and laws of heaven were necessary for the stability of the divine government. Thus while working to excite opposition to the law of God and to instill his own discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he was ostensibly seeking to remove dissatisfaction and to reconcile disaffected angels to the order of heaven. While secretly fomenting discord and rebellion, he with consummate craft caused it to appear as his sole purpose to promote loyalty and to preserve harmony and peace." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 38

## Tuesday

### 3 GOD'S LAW UNCHANGEABLE

3.a. What does the Bible say about God's law? Psalms 19:7; 111:7, 8; Romans 7:12. What did Lucifer suggest about it?

---

---

**Note:** "Satan grew bold in his rebellion, and expressed his contempt of the Creator's law. This Satan could not bear. He claimed that angels needed no law but should be left free to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty; and that to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did." *The Story of Redemption*, 18, 19

"Satan could use what God could not—flattery and deceit. He had sought to falsify the word of God and had misrepresented His plan of government, claiming that God was not just in imposing laws upon the angels; that in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, He was seeking merely the exaltation of Himself. It was therefore necessary to demonstrate before the inhabitants of heaven, and of all the worlds, that God's government is just, His law perfect. Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 42

3.b. What did Jesus say about God's law? Matthew 5:17, 18; Luke 16:17. What is the greatest proof of the immutability of God's law? Psalm 89:34; James 1:17; 1 Corinthians 15:3

**Note:** "The death of God's beloved Son on the cross shows the immutability of God's law. His death magnifies the law and makes it honorable, and gives evidence of its changeless character." *The Signs of the Times*, August 7, 1879

"Christ did not, by bearing the sinner's guilt, release man from his obligation to obey the law; for if the law could have been changed or abolished, He need not have come to this world to suffer and die. The very fact that Christ died for its transgressions attests the unchanging character of the Father's law." *Ibid.*, August 25, 1887

"Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin. The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. It would testify that with the existence of God's government and His law is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made." *The Great Controversy*, 499

## Wednesday

### 4 WAR IN HEAVEN

4.a. What took place in heaven between Christ and Lucifer, and what was the outcome? Revelation 12:7–10; Luke 10:18

---

---

**Note:** "To the very close of the controversy in heaven the great usurper continued to justify himself. When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator's law. He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law; that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state of existence." *The Great Controversy*, 499

"In the banishment of Satan from heaven, God declared His justice and maintained the honor of His throne. But when man had sinned through yielding to the deceptions of this apostate spirit, God gave an evidence of His love by yielding up His only-begotten Son to die for the fallen race. In the atonement the character of God is revealed. The mighty argument of the cross demonstrates to the whole universe that the course of sin which Lucifer had chosen was in no wise chargeable upon the government of God." *Ibid.*, 500, 501

## 4.b. In reality, what was the target of Lucifer's attack?

Isaiah 14:13, 14

---



---



---

**Note:** "Satan, ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of Jesus, was insinuating against the government of God." *Early Writings*, 145

"Satan has originated fables with which to deceive. He commenced in heaven to war against the foundation of God's government, and since his fall he has carried on his rebellion against the law of God." *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 342

"It was pride and ambition that prompted Lucifer to complain of the government of God, and to seek the overthrow of the order which had been established in heaven. Since his fall it has been his object to infuse the same spirit of envy and discontent, the same ambition for position and honor, into the minds of men." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 403

## Thursday

## 5 HEAVEN LIBERATED FROM EVIL

## 5.a. What was the fate of Lucifer and his followers, and why? Revelation 12:9; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6. What was his next plan? 1 Peter 5:8

---



---



---

**Note:** "Though he [Lucifer] had forsaken his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator's wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God's great plan, he would have been reinstated in his office. But pride forbade him to submit. He persistently defended his own course, maintained that he had no need of repentance, and fully committed himself, in the great controversy, against his Maker." *The Great Controversy*, 496

"When Satan refused to exert his influence on the side of truth, heaven must no longer be his home. He gathered with him in rebellion an army of angels who had swerved from their allegiance. With these sympathizers he was cast out of heaven." *The Review and Herald*, April 16, 1901



## 5.b. What took place in heaven when Christ died on the cross? Revelation 12:10; Luke 10:18

---



---



---

**Note:** "By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he [Satan] had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken." *The Desire of Ages*, 761

## Friday

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 After his fall from heaven, what became the aim of Lucifer, and why?
- 2 How is the scene of Lucifer's campaign reenacted by many today?
- 3 What is often the false claim of those who tear down God's law?
- 4 When were the loyal angels freed from all doubts regarding Satan?

April 17 – 23, 2022

# The Creation of the World

## Key Text

“Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: ‘Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; and concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. I have made the earth, and created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, and all their host I have commanded.’” Isaiah 45:11, 12

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 44–51

## Introduction

“As it came from the Creator’s hand, not only the Garden of Eden but the whole earth was exceedingly beautiful. No taint of sin, or shadow of death, marred the fair creation.” *Education*, 22

## Sunday

### 1 IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED

1.a. What does the Bible say about the days of creation week? Genesis 1:1, 5; Exodus 20:11; 31:17

---



---



---

**Note:** “Just how God accomplished the work of creation in six literal days He has never revealed to mortals. His creative works are just as incomprehensible as His existence.” *Lift Him Up*, 52

“Each of these periods [of creation week] Inspiration declares to have been a day consisting of evening and morning, like every other day since that time.” *Education*, 129

1.b. How has God revealed the fact that He is the creator of the heavens and the earth? When did the weekly cycle of seven days originate? Romans 1:20; Genesis 1:31–2:4

---



---

**Note:** “The first week, in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day, was just like every other week. The great God, in His days of creation and day of rest, measured off the first cycle as a sample for successive weeks till the close of time.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 85

## Monday

### 2 SEVEN LITERAL DAYS

2.a. In the Bible reckoning, how long did it take for God to create the earth and everything that is in it? Exodus 20:11

---



---



---

**Note:** “Human philosophy declares that an indefinite period of time was taken in the creation of the world. Does God state the matter thus? No; He says, ‘It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days [not six indefinite periods of time; for then there would be no possible way for man to observe the day specified in the fourth commandment] the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.’ Please read carefully the fifth chapter of Deuteronomy.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 135

“The sophistry in regard to the world being created in an indefinite period of time is one of Satan’s falsehoods. God speaks to the human family in language they can comprehend. He does not leave the matter so indefinite that human beings can handle it according to their theories.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 3, 307

2.b. What is the record about the end of the first week at creation? Genesis 2:1–4

---



---



---

**Note:** “Of each successive day of creation, the sacred record declares that it consisted of the evening and the morning, like all other days that have followed. At the close of each day is given the result of the Creator’s work. The statement is made at the close of the first week’s record, ‘These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created’ (Genesis 2:4). But this does not convey the idea that the days of creation



*At  
creation,  
the whole earth  
was exceedingly  
beautiful.*

were other than literal days. Each day was called a generation, because that in it God generated, or produced, some new portion of His work.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 112

“The first six days of each week are given to man for labor, because God employed the same period of the first week in the work of creation. On the seventh day man is to refrain from labor, in commemoration of the Creator’s rest.” *Christian Education*, 190

“Like the Sabbath, the week originated at creation, and it has been preserved and brought down to us through Bible history. God Himself measured off the first week as a sample for successive weeks to the close of time. Like every other, it consisted of seven literal days. Six days were employed in the work of creation; upon the seventh, God rested, and He then blessed this day, and set it apart as a day of rest for man.” *Ibid.*

## Tuesday

### 3 HIS POWER IN CREATION

3.a. How was the earth and all things in it created? Psalm 33:6, 9; Isaiah 40:26; Hebrews 1:3. How is the earth and all things in it maintained?.

---

---

---

**Note:** “No amount of reasoning or explanation can tell the whys and wherefores of the creation of the world. It is to be understood by faith in the great creative power. By faith we must believe in the mighty creative power of God through Jesus Christ.” *The Southern Watchman*, April 24, 1902

“When men leave the word of God in regard to the history of creation, and seek to account for God’s creative works upon natural principles, they are upon a boundless ocean of uncertainty.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 88

3.b. In addition to creating the earth, what else does the Lord do in connection with this and other planets? Psalms 33:13, 14; 47:2; 65:9–13

---

---

---

---

**Note:** “God has finished His creative work, but His energy is still exerted in upholding the objects of His creation. It is not because the mechanism that has once been set in motion continues its work by its own inherent energy that the pulse beats and breath follows breath; but every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the all-pervading care of Him in whom we live and have our being. It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth produces her bounties and continues her motion around the sun. The hand of God guides the planets, and keeps them in position in their orderly march through the heavens. It is through His power that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear and the flowers bloom. His word controls the elements, and by Him the valleys are made fruitful.” *The Signs of the Times*, March 20, 1884

“As we sow the seed and cultivate the plant, we are to remember that God created the seed, and He gives it to the earth. By His divine power He cares for that seed.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 186



## Wednesday

### 4 THE CROWNING ACT OF CREATION

4.a. What is the Bible record about the creation of man and woman? Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7

**Note:** “God created man a superior being; he alone is formed in the image of God and is capable of partaking of the divine nature, of cooperating with his Creator and executing His plans.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 311

“As Adam came forth from the hand of his Creator he was of noble height and of beautiful symmetry. He was more than twice as tall as men now living upon the earth, and was well proportioned. His features were perfect and beautiful. His complexion was neither white nor sallow, but ruddy, glowing with the rich tint of health. Eve was not quite as tall as Adam. Her head reached a little above his shoulders. She, too, was noble, perfect in symmetry, and very beautiful.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 25

4.b. For what purpose was the earth and all things in it created? Isaiah 45:18; Psalm 37:29; Revelation 4:11. When will God’s purpose be truly fulfilled? Revelation 21:1–5

**Note:** “God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God’s purpose to re-populate heaven with the human family, if they would show themselves obedient to His every word. Adam was to be tested, to see whether he would be obedient, as the loyal angels, or disobedient. . . . His mind and thoughts would have been as the mind and thoughts of God.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 344

“Not all the conditions of that first school of Eden will be found in the school of the future life. No tree of knowledge of good and evil will afford opportunity for temptation. No tempter is there, no possibility of wrong. Every character has withstood the testing of evil, and none are longer susceptible to its power.

“‘To him that overcometh,’ Christ says, ‘will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God’ (Revelation 2:7). The giving of the tree of life in Eden was conditional, and it was finally withdrawn. But the gifts of the future life are absolute and eternal.” *Education*, 302

## Thursday

### 5 EXCEEDINGLY BEAUTIFUL

5.a. When the creation of the earth and everything on it was completed, what was it like? Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 3:11

**Note:** “As it came from the Creator’s hand, not only the Garden of Eden but the whole earth was exceedingly beautiful.” *Education*, 22

“The entire landscape outvied in beauty the decorated grounds of the proudest palace. The angelic host viewed the scene with delight, and rejoiced at the wonderful works of God.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 44

5.b. What points are significant about the environment where Adam and Eve were placed? Genesis 2:8, 15

**Note:** “Had happiness consisted in doing nothing, man, in his state of holy innocence, would have been left unemployed. But He who formed man knew what would be for his best happiness, and He no sooner made him than He gave him his appointed work. In order to be happy, he must labor.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, 77

“God prepared for Adam and Eve a beautiful garden. He provided for them everything that their wants required. He planted for them fruit-bearing trees of every variety. With a liberal hand He surrounded them with His bounties. The trees for usefulness and beauty, and the lovely flowers, which sprung up spontaneously, and flourished in rich profusion around them, were to know nothing of decay. Adam and Eve were rich indeed. They possessed Eden. Adam was lord in his beautiful domain.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 38

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How do we know that the earth was created in six literal days?
- 2 Why is each day of creation referred to as a “generation” in Scripture?
- 3 How is nature able to maintain its continual course of activity?
- 4 What is God’s ultimate purpose for the human race?
- 5 What should we learn from God’s choice of environment for Adam?

April 24 – 30, 2022

# The Origin of Adam

## Key Text

“[T]he son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.” Luke 3:38

**Study Help:** *The Great Controversy*, 467, 533, 646–648

## Introduction

“The genealogy of our race, as given by inspiration, traces back its origin, not to a line of developing germs, mollusks, and quadrupeds, but to the great Creator. Though formed from the dust, Adam was ‘the son of God’ (Luke 3:38).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 45

## Sunday

### 1 A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS

1.a. How is the creation of human beings described in comparison with angels? Psalm 8:4, 5

---

---

---

**Note:** “God created man a little lower than the angels and bestowed upon him attributes that will, if properly used, make him a blessing to the world and cause him to reflect the glory to the Giver.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, 50

“God created man in His own image, after His likeness, free from sin, and with organs well developed. The earth was to be populated with intelligent beings who were only a little lower than the angels. But God would first prove the holy pair, and test their obedience; for He would not have a world filled with beings who would disregard His laws.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 23, 1879

1.b. What is written about the creation of Adam? Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7

---

---

---

**Note:** “There is no ground for the supposition that man was evolved by slow degrees of development from the lower forms of animal or vegetable life. Such teaching lowers the great work of the Creator to the level of man’s narrow, earthly conceptions. Men are so intent upon excluding God from the sovereignty of the universe that they degrade man and defraud him of the dignity of his origin.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 45

## Monday

### 2 A HELPMATE—A COMPANION

2.a. Describe the creation of Eve. Genesis 2:21–23. What lesson should we derive from this text? Ephesians 5:28, 29

---

---

---

---

---

**Note:** “Adam was perfect in form—strong, comely, pure, bearing the image of his Maker. God gave him a companion, a wife, to share with him the beauties of nature. In order for this holy pair to continue to be happy, God gave them something to do. The fact that they were holy did not debar them from working. God is never idle. To every one of the angelic host is given an appointed task.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 10, 326

“God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided ‘an help meet for him’—a helper corresponding to him—one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self; showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation. ...

“God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. ‘Marriage is honorable’ (Hebrews 13:4); it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the fall, Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise. When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man’s social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 46

2.b. After the creation of Eve, what did Adam recognize, and for how long is the law of marriage (verse 24) valid? Genesis 2:23, 24

---



---



---

**Note:** “As the Creator joined the hands of the holy pair in wedlock, saying, A man shall ‘leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one’ (Genesis 2:24), He enunciated the law of marriage for all the children of Adam to the close of time.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 63, 64

“Every marriage engagement should be carefully considered, for marriage is a step taken for life.” *The Adventist Home*, 340

## Tuesday

### 3 THE FIRST DOMINION

3.a. What privilege and responsibility was given to our first parents in paradise? Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:6–8

---



---



---

**Note:** “Adam was crowned king in Eden. To him was given dominion over every living thing that God had created. The Lord blessed Adam and Eve with intelligence such as He had not given to any other creature.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1082

“When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan’s dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God’s, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan’s hands, Christ still remained the rightful King. Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, ‘The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will’ (Daniel 4:17). Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits.” *The Desire of Ages*, 129, 130

3.b. Though the first dominion was snatched from Adam by the usurper, what promise is given by God? Micah 4:8; Daniel 7:27

---



---



---

**Note:** “By yielding to temptation, he [Adam] was brought under the power of Satan, and the dominion which he held passed to his conqueror. Thus Satan became ‘the god of this world’ (2 Corinthians 4:4). He had usurped that dominion over the earth which had been originally given to Adam. But Christ, by His sacrifice paying the penalty of sin, would not only redeem man, but recover the dominion which he had forfeited.” *The Signs of the Times*, November 4, 1908

“The earth originally given to man as his kingdom, betrayed by him into the hands of Satan, and so long held by the mighty foe, has been brought back by the great plan of redemption. All that was lost by sin has been restored.” *The Great Controversy*, 674

“The divine Intercessor presents the plea that all who from among the fallen sons of men have overcome through faith in His blood, be forgiven their transgressions, that they be restored to their Eden home, and crowned as joint heirs with Himself to the ‘first dominion’ (Micah 4:8).” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, 309

## Wednesday

### 4 A WEDDING GIFT

4.a. What did the Creator give to Adam and Eve as a gift? Genesis 2:8

---



---



---

**Note:** “God is a lover of the beautiful. He has given us unmistakable evidence of this in the work of His hands. He planted for our first parents a beautiful garden in Eden.” *The Adventist Home*, 27

“In this [Eden] garden were trees of every variety, many of them laden with fragrant and delicious fruit. There were lovely vines, growing upright, yet presenting a most graceful appearance, with their branches drooping under their load of tempting fruit of the richest and most varied hues. It was the work of

Adam and Eve to train the branches of the vine to form bowers, thus making for themselves a dwelling from living trees covered with foliage and fruit. There were fragrant flowers of every hue in rich profusion. In the midst of the garden stood the tree of life, surpassing in glory all other trees. Its fruit appeared like apples of gold and silver, and had the power to perpetuate life.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 47

4.b. What happened to that beautiful garden that was once Adam and Eve’s delight? Revelation 2:7; 22:1, 2

---



---



---

**Note:** “The Garden of Eden remained upon the earth long after man had become an outcast from its pleasant paths. The fallen race were long permitted to gaze upon the home of innocence, their entrance barred only by the watching angels. At the cherubim-guarded gate of paradise the divine glory was revealed. Hither came Adam and his sons to worship God. Here they renewed their vows of obedience to that law the transgression of which had banished them from Eden. When the tide of iniquity overspread the world, and the wickedness of men determined their destruction by a flood of waters, the hand that had planted Eden withdrew it from the earth. But in the final restitution, when there shall be ‘a new heaven and a new earth’ (Revelation 21:1), it is to be restored more gloriously adorned than at the beginning.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 62

“In the earth made new, the redeemed will engage in the occupations and pleasures that brought happiness to Adam and Eve in the beginning. The Eden life will be lived, the life in garden and field.” *Prophets and Kings*, 730, 731

## Thursday

### 5 RESTORED INTO GOD’S FAMILY

5.a. By the plan of redemption, what privilege is given to those who accept God’s free gift of salvation? Luke 19:10; John 1:12; 1 John 3:1, 2

---



---



---

**Note:** “The Son of God was given to redeem the race. At infinite suffering, the sinless for the sinful, the price was paid that was to redeem the human family from the power of the destroyer and restore them again to the image of God. Those who accept the salvation brought to them in Christ will humble themselves before God as His little children.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, 283, 284

5.b. What prophetic description is given about Adam and the host of the saved when they will finally be introduced to Eden restored? Revelation 5:13

---



---



---



---



---

**Note:** “Transported with joy, he [Adam] beholds the trees that were once his delight—the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored, more lovely now than when he was banished from it. The Saviour leads him to the tree of life and plucks the glorious fruit and bids him eat. He looks about him and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the paradise of God. Then he casts his glittering crown at the feet of Jesus and, falling upon His breast, embraces the Redeemer.” *The Great Controversy*, 648

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Does this fallen planet actually belong to Satan or to God, and why?
- 2 To what can the fallen sons and daughters of Adam look forward?
- 3 What will be the fortune of the redeemed throughout eternity?

©2000, Reformation Herald Publishing Association, 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24019-5048, U.S.A.



# Spring! SALE



## STARTER VEGETABLE GARDENS

Barbara Pleasant

Twenty-four easy to follow, no-fail plans for small organic gardens.

PB 179 pgs.....\$19.95

## HIGH-YIELD VEGETABLE GARDENING

**NEW**

Colin McCrate & Brad Halm—  
Founders of *The Seattle Urban Farm Co.*

Grow more of what you want in the space that you have!

SB 319 pgs.....\$18.95

## THE VEGGIE GARDENER'S ANSWER BOOK

**NEW**

Barbara W. Ellis

Solutions to every problem you'll ever face, answers to every question you'll ever ask. 100% organic.

HB 431 pgs.....\$14.95

## SAVING VEGETABLE SEEDS

**NEW**

Fern Marshall Bradley

Become more self-sufficient! Harvest, clean, store, and plant seeds from your garden.

PB 89 pgs.....\$8.95

## DON'T THROW IT, GROW IT!

Deborah Peterson & Millicent Selsam

It's kitchen magic! Grow 68 windowsill plants from kitchen scraps.

PB 153 pgs.....\$14.95

## THE COUNTRY WAY

Lloyd E. Eighme

This book is for anyone who wants to live the country life, whether it is on a suburban lot or deep in the wilderness.

SB 182 pgs.....\$14.95

## HEALTHFUL LIVING

Ellen G. White

Spirit of Prophecy compilation on the subjects of health, health reform and related matters.

PB 330 pgs.....\$17.95

## STEPS TO NATURAL GARDENING

Ron Arnold

Learn the many aspects of successful organic gardening in eight sessions on four DVDs.

DVD.....\$19.95

## COUNSELS ON DIET AND FOODS

Ellen G. White

A treasure chest of practical and healthful information on the principles of health reform.

PB 336 pgs.....\$9.95

**SB:** Spiral Bound

**PB:** Paperback

**HB:** Hardback

Prices good while supplies last.

**BUY 2**  
and receive

**10%  
Off**

**BUY 3+**  
and receive

**15%  
Off**

**To order, call:**

**1-316-788-5559**

*Shipping and handling  
will be added.*

# Smoothies

Smoothies are a type of cold drink made from a liquid such as milk, fruit juice or water, crushed ice or ice cubes, or frozen fruit and a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables that typically reflect each individual's taste. I like bananas, pineapple, peaches and strawberries. Popular vegetables include kale, spinach, carrots, celery, and beets, to name a few.

Smoothies are easily adapted to a vegetarian or vegan diet by substituting soy, coconut, or almond milk for cow's milk. Fruit juices without added sugars can be chosen since the fruits themselves have their own natural sweetness. Other flavors can be included by adding honey, carob powder, and maple syrup, and additional fiber by adding wheat bran or flax seed powder.

Smoothies are blended in an electric blender until the fruit and ice are liquified. I prefer to use at least some frozen fruit so I don't have to use ice. [LM](#)



Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## ROASTED BLUEBERRY AND COCONUT SMOOTHIE BOWLS

### Ingredients

1 pint blueberries  
2 Tbsp. honey  
1/4 tsp. sea salt  
1 cup plain soy or almond yogurt (can use vanilla or strawberry)  
1 large banana  
1/4 cup coconut cream  
1 cup ice

#### Toppings:

Coconut flakes, miniature bananas, alfalfa sprouts, carob chips, crushed graham crackers, or granola.

### Process

- Heat your oven to 400° and place the blueberries on a cookie sheet (one with a rim so the berries don't roll off) and drizzle the honey on top. Sprinkle with the salt.
- Roast the blueberries for about 10 minutes.
- Remove the berries from the oven and strain off as much juice as you'd like. If you keep all of the juice, it will give your smoothie a thinner consistency.
- Place the berries, yogurt, banana, coconut cream, and ice in a blender and blend on high until smooth.
- Pour the smoothie into a bowl and cover with desired toppings.





PO Box 782828  
Wichita, KS 67278

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Wichita, Kansas  
Permit # 1590

Change Service Requested

## Health Benefits of Blueberries

- *High in nutrients*
- *King of antioxidant foods*
- *Protect Against Aging and Cancer*
- *May lower blood pressure*
- *May help prevent heart disease*
- *Help maintain brain function*
- *May have anti-diabetes effects*

<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/10-proven-benefits-of-blueberries>

