

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

Christ Our Helper

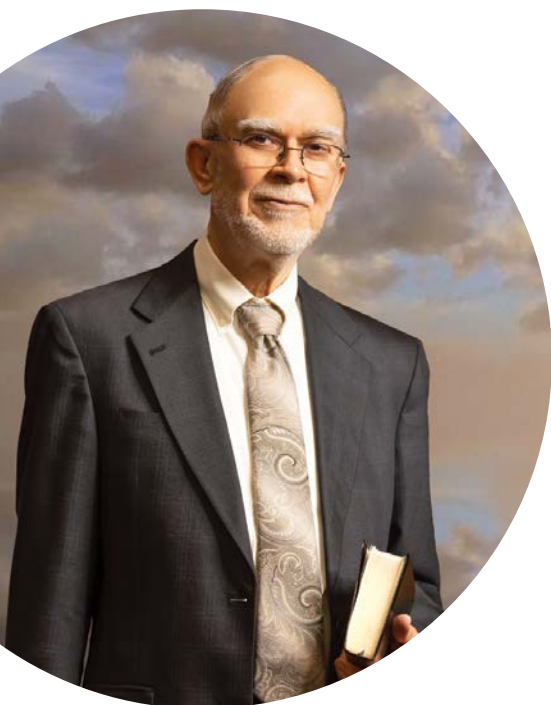
Even the strongest human beings, at some point in their life need help. Only Jesus can provide the help we most need.

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Satan's Most Destructive Device

p. 10





From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

Disappointment Usually Brings Unbelief

“Into the experience of all there come times of disappointment and discouragement, days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earth-born children—days when troubles harass the soul till death seems preferable to life. It is at such times that many lose their hold on God, and are brought into the slavery of doubt, the bondage of unbelief. Could we at such times discern with spiritual sight the meaning of God’s providences, we should see angels of God seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills; and new faith, new life, would spring into being.” *The Review and Herald*, October 16, 1913

Job, in the day of affliction and darkness, said to God, “I wish I’d never been born. All these things have happened to me and my grief and fear are too great for me to bear. My life is pointless and I hate it. Please, my God, let me die, and then I will have peace.” (Job 3:1; 6:2, 8–10; and 7:11, 15, 16)

But God did not let Job die, instead giving him a message of hope. “Job, you are faithful and should not fear to live. Misery and suffering are like water that soon washes away. I will make your life to be like the sunshine in the morning. I will keep you safe.” (Job 11:15–19)

Job’s heart was uplifted with implicit trust in the mercy and power of God, and with triumphant rejoicing he declared:

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him. . . . He also shall be my salvation For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth. And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.” Job 13:15, 16; Job 19:25–27

“The Lord . . . revealed to His servant the might of His power. When Job caught a glimpse of his Creator, he abhorred himself, and repented in dust and ashes. Then the Lord was able to bless him abundantly, and to make his last years the best of his life.” *The Review and Herald*, October 16, 1913 **LM**

HISTORIC

LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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

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Christ Our Helper

By John J. Grosboll

Have you ever felt that you are capable of solving whatever problem may come your way? Many people in the world are so self-sufficient they do not believe that they require help. Yet, all human beings, at some point in their life, will face a problem or situation that forces them to realize their need for help. And as we draw nearer to the end of the world, it will become very clear just how much we will need the Lord's help.

"In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off." *The Desire of Ages*, 121. The truth is, some of the very troubles and trials we will go through will turn out to be the greatest blessings in our

lives because they will lead us to seek divine help and thereby draw closer to God. Now is the time to develop the needed connection with the Source of that help so when the time comes when no earthly help can be found, we will be confident in knowing how and where to obtain it.

On April 15, 1912, with 2,224 souls aboard, having disregarded the multiple reports of heavy ice in the North Atlantic Ocean, the *unsinkable* Titanic struck an iceberg. The resulting gash opened six forward compartments on her starboard side to the incoming sea. If the gash had caused only four of her forward compartments to flood, the Titanic, though crippled, might have managed to make her way to port or

to stay afloat at least long enough for help to arrive. But she had sustained too much damage and she sank in two hours and forty-five minutes, taking with her more than 1,500 lives.

During those terrifying, almost three hours, the Titanic repeatedly called for assistance until the encroaching water made it impossible to continue. The RMS Carpathia was the closest ship to the Titanic at the time she hit the iceberg. The Titanic needed help, but even at top speed the Carpathia was unable to arrive until an hour and a half after the ship that could not sink had already upended and slipped beneath the smooth surface of the sea.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

This is a scripture that God's children will be quoting repeatedly as we near the end of the world. But many people, while they believe God can help, also feel that He is too far away.

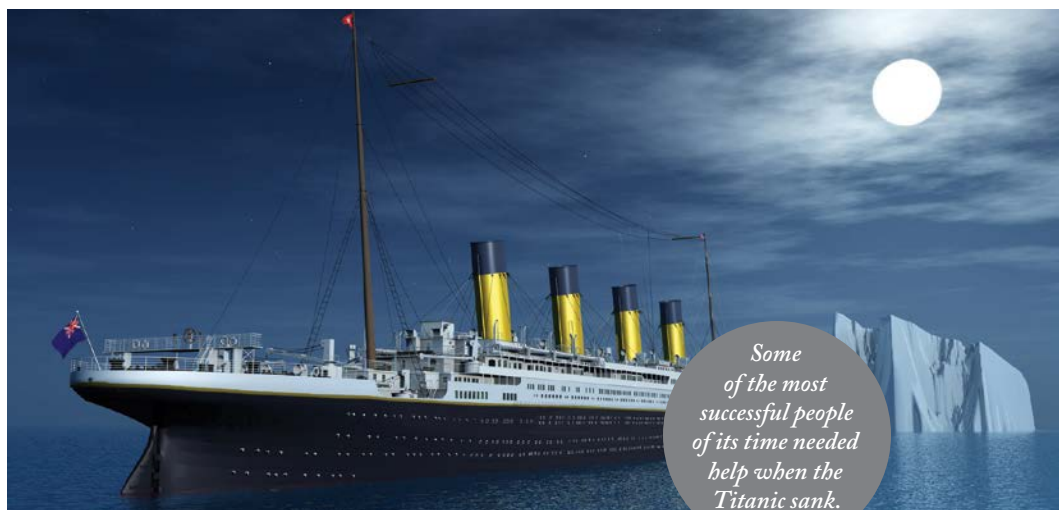
Here, however, is the good news: If you are in trouble, God is not far away. He is very present, very close to give aid. In fact, Acts 17:28 tells us, "In Him we live and move and have our being." That is the kind of help we need in times of trouble.

"Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." Psalm 46:2. The Bible does not deal in fictional poetry. This is real. It hasn't happened yet, but it is going to happen. At the time of the seventh plague, Revelation 16:20 says, "Every island was moved out of its place, and the mountains were not found." And Ellen White said that during the millennium, huge caverns where the mountains had been torn from their foundations would be seen. This is catastrophic destruction.

Mountains, for thousands of years, have been places of refuge where people felt secure during times of persecution. The Waldenses and Huguenots fled to the safety of the mountains. The French king sent armies to destroy them, but they were unable to maneuver their troops through the mountains and therefore could not reach them.

The time is coming when God's people will be hiding in the mountains, but the Bible says that the mountains will disappear, even the mountains in the midst of the sea. Should God's people be afraid? God has a way to protect His own. Our security is not in the mountains but in the God who created them. He says to us, "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10, *first part*

Many of the largest cities in the world are seaport cities—cities that Ellen White says are as wicked as Sodom and Gomorrah. Just before Jesus comes, these seaport cities will be swallowed up



by the angry waters of the sea. What if one of God's children is imprisoned in one of these cities? God is in charge of the safety of His children and He has a way already planned to save them.

The three Hebrew worthies went into the fiery furnace, but the fire did not harm them because God was with them. It will be that way for us, too, if we have been faithful to God. No one else can provide this kind of help, but God can and will. With the mountains disappearing into the sea, the waves roaring and being troubled, seaport cities being swallowed up, nations raging and all gathering together for the battle of Armageddon, "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." Psalm 46:7. God will be our refuge and we will have nothing to fear from mountains or seas or fire.

When Moses first went before Pharaoh to request that the children of Israel be set free, Pharaoh's response was, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go." Exodus 5:2. Most of the world today says, in their hearts at least, this very thing; many loudly declare it. "Who is God that I should obey Him?" They have no regard for the Bible and ignore it or seek to destroy it all together. The people of God, those who live by every

word that proceeds out of the mouth of God are despised and the gospel they try to preach to the world is rejected.

But what happened after Pharaoh's arrogant display of contempt toward God and after the ten plagues had fallen on Egypt? Pharaoh called Moses to him and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said." Exodus 12:31. In fact, the people of Egypt urged the children of Israel to leave before all the Egyptians would die (verse 33).

God saved the children of Israel from out of Egypt and led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to the Red Sea. Compelled by his stubborn, unconverted heart, Pharaoh followed them to bring them back to Egypt. But God parted the sea and led His children to safety on the other side. When the Egyptians followed them, God hindered their ability to retreat and released the sea to close over them and destroy them.

The Bible tells us that we can be as confident of God's power to save us as were the children of Israel, standing on the shores of the Red Sea.

After the seven last plagues have come, after the battle of Armageddon is fought, the devil will finally realize that he will never be able to torment or trou-

ble God's people again. The 144,000 will be sealed in their foreheads and all His children alive or resurrected at His coming will for all eternity be set free from the bondage of sin.

To be ready for this terrible and amazing time, we will need help. Even the strongest person will still need divine help to go through to the end. Jesus has help enough for everyone who seeks it, from the weakest to the strongest.

"The only begotten Son of God came to this world to redeem the fallen race. He has given us evidence of His great power. He will enable those who receive Him to build up characters free from all the tendencies that Satan reveals." *The Signs of the Times*, January 3, 1906. Jesus will help us to develop a character free from all evil tendencies. Naturally tempted by our own sinful nature to do wrong, we are also tempted by the devil and the world. This is specifically expressed in Romans 6, 7, and 8.

Temptations come to us through a number of avenues. We must be responsible to make right choices regarding what we allow to enter. Jesus said in the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation." We cannot deliberately provide for and enter into temptation and expect God to save us in sin, nor work a miracle to save us from sin.

As Christians, we must use spiritual judgment regarding what we listen to, what we watch or read, even what we allow or put into our bodies. Mrs. White says that if the devil can control the appetite, he can control the whole man (*Temperance*, 276). The worldly things we read take us away from the study of the Bible and prayer. The things we listen to can fill our minds with thoughts that will war against the spiritual truths that we find in the word of God. The things we see can encourage us to emulate the world rather than the character of God. We cannot invite the world into our hearts and minds, for when we do, we will have no desire to partake of the strength which Jesus offers to help us overcome sin.

“

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

"We can resist the enemy and all his forces. The battle will be won, the victory gained, by him who chooses Christ as his leader, determined to do right because it is right." *The Signs of the Times*, January 3, 1906. Even if you are the weakest one, you can resist the enemy and all his forces and be victorious.

"Our divine Lord is equal to any emergency. With Him nothing is impossible." Ibid.

The Bible solidly cements this thought. When the angel came to give Mary the news of Jesus' birth, she could not see, from a human point of view, how this could be possible. She said, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One [that holy thing] who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ... For with God nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:34, 35, 37

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You." Jeremiah 32:17

God told Abraham he would have a son and Sarah laughed because she was old, and from a human perspective, this would be impossible. But in God's time, Sarah did have a child and named him Isaac, which means *laughter*. God waited until it was impossible for either Sarah or Abraham to have a son (Romans 4:19) and then worked a miracle to show that nothing is impossible with Him.

In Mark 9:23, we are told of a father who brought his son possessed of an evil spirit to Jesus. Speaking to Jesus he said, "If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.'" This man was afraid that because of his unbelief his son would not be healed, but Jesus told him to believe and all things would be possible (see *The Desire of Ages*, 429).

Speaking of those with worldly wealth Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." It says

that the disciples were exceedingly amazed. They said, “‘Who then can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” Matthew 19:24–26; Mark 10:25–27; Luke 18:25–27. A few days after this exchange, we find the example of Zacchaeus. A wealthy tax collector, Zacchaeus heard the truth preached by Jesus and was converted. He accepted the help Jesus offered and yielded himself to the control of the Holy Spirit, and in doing so he received victory over sin and temptation.

We see also the example of the woman caught in adultery. Jesus delivered her from guilt, but also gave her a new heart and this was the beginning of a new, pure life. This was a mighty miracle, though to the human eye nothing much seemed to have happened. We are more impressed with the physical things we can see happen or can touch. But what Jesus did for this woman was far greater than any physical healing.

“He who commits his soul to Jesus need not despond. We have an all-powerful Saviour. ... In the future life we shall understand things that here greatly perplex us. We shall realize how strong a Helper we had, and how angels of God were commissioned to guard us as we followed the counsel of the word of God.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 3, 1906

“To all who receive Him Christ will give power to become the sons of God. He is a present help in every time of need. Let us be ashamed of our wavering faith. Those who are overcome have only themselves to blame for their failure to resist the enemy. All who choose can come to Christ and find the help they need.” Ibid.

One of our biggest problems is that we tend to look to each other for help when the help we really need is found only in God. Mrs. White says, “Satan and his angels are urging on their warfare against the truth. We must have



*For
thousands
of years,
mountains have
been places of
refuge.*

help. But the help we need will not come from human beings.”

“Trustful dependence on Jesus makes victory not only possible, but **certain**.” Ibid. This brings much courage and comfort to the heart seeking desperately for the help necessary to get through these troublous times. It would be a good statement to commit to memory. We may have all kinds of powerful temptations on the outside and inside that seem impossible to overcome, and we may be the weakest of the weak, a most sinful human being. But if we depend on the strength of Jesus Christ, victory is certain.

“Tho multitudes be pressing on in the wrong way, tho the outlook be ever so discouraging, yet we may have full assurance in our Leader; for ‘I am God,’ He declares, ‘and there is none else.’ He is infinite in power, and able to save all who come to Him. There is no other in whom we can safely trust.” Ibid.

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

Martyrs, on their way to the torture chamber would quote: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:12, 13. We can lean on this same assurance.

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” James 1:2–4

“In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour. Look not to self, but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men is the same mighty Redeemer today. Faith comes by the word of God. Then grasp His promise, ‘Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.’ John 6:37. Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, ‘Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.’ You can never perish while you do this—never.” *The Desire of Ages*, 429

God’s promises can never fail because God stands behind every one. No matter how bad troubles or circumstances might get, we have a divine Lord that is equal to any emergency. Nobody needs to be lost. Everyone who wants it can have eternal life. They need only to place trustful dependence in Jesus. That makes victory not only possible, but certain. [Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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The Plan of Redemption

By James E. White

The angels of heaven were deeply interested in the work of creation as it progressed from day to day. When the first week of earthly time was finished and the completed beauty of the new world was seen, “The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted with joy.” Job 38:7

But all was changed after the Fall. Man had broken his allegiance to his Creator. The earth and the human family had fallen into the hands of Satan and the rebel host, which had been so recently driven from heaven. Angel songs of joy were hushed, and sorrow filled heaven.

The results of the sin of Adam and Eve could not be mistaken or overlooked. Through the fall, man lost dominion over the earth, which had been given him at creation. This dominion was usurped by Satan and the earth and its inhabitants were lost to the loyal universe of God. Satan had secured a kingdom for himself, and unless it were redeemed through the infinite mercy of God, and wrested from the usurper, he would retain it forever.

The heart of the Son of God was touched with pity for fallen man. He knew the malignity which had taken possession of Satan and his rebel host. He knew the woe and suffering that would be the lot of the human race. He knew the depths of sorrow and degradation which the power of evil would bring upon the human family.

But by infinite love a plan had been devised by which man should be redeemed and the lost earth returned to its place in the moral universe of God.

Man had broken the command of God, and stood convicted as a sinner. There was but one penalty for sin—"The wages of sin is death."

There was but One in all the universe who could satisfy the claims of the law, and rescue the race from its impending doom. The Son of God, who was equal with His Father, the Author of the law, would take upon Himself the guilt of the world, and pay the penalty of death in man's behalf.

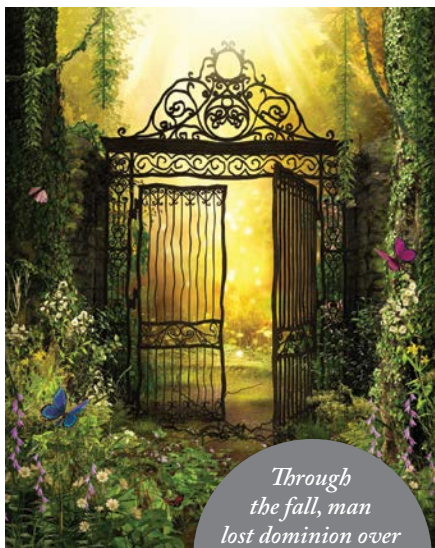
The immutability of every precept of God's law is emphasized by this dire necessity of the sacrifice of Christ. Could that law have been changed, the Son of God need not have died, for then man might have been saved without such an infinite sacrifice.

David has said, "Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name." Psalm 138:2. Speaking to Israel of Christ, Jehovah said, "My name is in Him." Exodus 23:21. Christ alone bears the name of God.

The name of great earthly families is guarded jealously. The name and reputation of the family of God may not be lightly reproached. Yet the name of Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was secondary when compared with the "word," or law, of the Almighty. Christ was to be subjected to a life of sorrow, suffering, and humiliation, and to a death of shame, that God's law might stand vindicated before the entire universe.

Gladly would angels have undertaken the work of atonement, but the death of any created being could not satisfy the claims of the law in behalf of fallen man. The angels themselves are amenable to the law, and, with man, would suffer its penalties should they break it. Hence their lives could not atone for sin.

"And the counsel of peace shall be between them both." Zechariah 6:13.



Through the fall, man lost dominion over the earth, which had been given him at creation.

Christ pleaded with the Father in behalf of the sinner. Between Them the whole plan came in review. Great consequences were involved in the decision. If undertaken, Christ in person would be separated from His Father during His lifetime on earth. He would be a "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." Isaiah 53:3

On earth Jesus would own no possessions; and while here, He said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." Matthew 8:20. He must suffer the displeasure of Jehovah for sin as the sinner must suffer it. And He must die the most ignominious death of the most hardened criminal.

Even this was not all. Do we realize that as a man Christ assumed all the conditions of a man? With the surroundings and tendencies of a man, He must live the holy life of God. Otherwise He could not be the Saviour of the fallen race, or even a fit example for humanity to imitate.

In becoming a man, Christ took upon Himself the awful liability of eternal loss as other men must take it. Day by day He was "in all points tempted like as we

are." Hebrews 4:15. If there was no danger of failure and loss, there could be no temptation, for He would be beyond it.

The very temptation He met and so successfully resisted gave Him experience in the life of man, and prepared Him to "succor them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:18. Paul says, "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered." Hebrews 5:8

The heavenly "counsel of peace" resulted in favor of man, and full provision was made for the salvation of the race. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. What wonderful love! Truly, the love of God "passeth understanding."

Christ did not come to earth in His own divine strength. He left this when He came as a babe in the manger. But, guarded and guided by power from on high, as every human being can be guarded and guided, He lived a life of simple purity such as no other being has lived upon earth, and thus became our perfect example.

God was with His Son in every act of His earthly life, and in His ministry below Jesus represented the Father to the world. Paul, explaining His mission, says, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. Man had become "alienated from the life of God" through sin, and the mission of Christ was to bring him back to a reconciliation with his Creator.

After Adam and Eve had eaten of the forbidden fruit, the Lord met them, and made known to them the consequences of their sin. And to the serpent He said, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15

Naturally there is no enmity between Satan and fallen man. Both "have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. Naturally their interests go hand in hand. Any effort to

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Truly, the plan
of salvation, which to
Paul was ‘the mystery of
godliness,’ is beyond our
comprehension.

draw away from the rule of sin and Satan is contrary to the natural order, and ever results in conflict with the powers of darkness; but the Lord said He would “put enmity” between Satan and the sinner. Hence every desire of man to draw away from evil and toward God, is miraculously put there by the Holy Spirit of God. It is embraced in the plan of salvation as proclaimed in Eden at the fall.

Early in their fallen state man was informed of the plan of redemption. In it was the promise of the Messiah. The promised Seed of the woman (Christ) should bruise the head of the serpent (Satan). Although Christ would be cruelly wounded by Satan, yet the conflict would finally result in the overthrow of the devil, the loss to him of his usurped dominion, his death, and with it the final destruction of all evil.

When Satan heard the words spoken to the serpent in the garden, he knew that a plan for the salvation of man had been formed in heaven, and that it included the final doom of himself and his followers in sin.

“Yet as the plan of salvation was more fully unfolded, Satan rejoiced with his angels that, having caused man’s fall, he could bring down the Son of God from His exalted position. He declared that his plans had thus far been successful upon the earth, and that when Christ should take upon Himself human nature, He also might be overcome, and thus the redemption of the fallen race might be prevented.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 66

Although Satan had failed in his warfare in heaven, he felt sure that he could overcome Christ when He should come to earth as a man, bearing the infirmities of humanity. To this end he bent all his energies of evil and cunning, developed through four thousand years of experience.

But through power from heaven, secured through earnest prayer, the Saviour withstood every attack of the enemy, and when the cry went up from the cross, “It is finished,” Satan realized that he was van-

quished, and that his doom was sealed. The Son of God had overcome all the power of Satan and his host. The sacrifice was complete, and a remnant will at last come forth “more than conquerors through Him that loved us.” Romans 8:37

After our first parents were driven from Eden, they were more fully instructed in the plan of salvation by the angels. With sorrow and remorse they learned of the suffering and death that were to come to the Son of God because of their sin. They bowed in contrition and adoration at the evidence of such wonderful love. Humanity would yet be redeemed from the hand of the enemy. The Eden home which they had lost would someday be restored to the family of Adam.

Until Christ should come as an offering for sin, the lives of innocent animals must be taken and their blood shed as a type of the blood of Christ which was to be spilled for the sins of the world. With every sacrifice made by them, the fact that Christ must die for their sins was brought vividly to their remembrance. Every lamb offered in sacrifice pointed to “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:8


“To Adam, the offering of the first sacrifice was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the first time he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death of man or beast. As he slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God’s dear Son could expiate. And he marveled at the infinite goodness that would give such a ransom to save the guilty. A star of hope illumined the dark and terrible future and relieved it of its utter destruction.

“But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; it was to vindicate the character of God

before the universe. To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man—the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: ‘Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from earth, will draw all men unto Me.’ John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to man, but before all the universe would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin.

“From the first the great controversy had been upon the law of God. Satan had sought to prove that God was unjust, that His law was faulty, and that the good of the universe required it to be changed. In attacking the law he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author. In the controversy it was to be shown whether the divine statutes were defective and subject to change, or perfect and immutable. ...

“It was the marvel of all the universe that Christ should humble Himself to save fallen man. That He who had passed from star to star, from world to world, superintending all, by His providence supplying the needs of every order of being in His vast creation—that He should consent to leave His glory and take upon Himself human nature, was a mystery which the sinless intelligences of other worlds desired to understand. When Christ came to our world in the form of humanity, all were intensely interested in following Him as He traversed, step by step, the blood-stained path from the manger to Calvary. Heaven marked the insult and mockery that He received, and knew that it was at Satan’s instigation. They marked the work of counter agencies going forward; Satan constantly pressing darkness, sorrow, and suffering upon the race, and Christ counteracting it. They watched



*Through
power from
heaven, secured
through earnest prayer,
the Saviour withstood
every attack of the
enemy.*

the battle between light and darkness as it waxed stronger. And as Christ in His expiring agony upon the cross cried out, ‘It is finished!’ a shout of triumph rung through every world, and through heaven itself. The great contest that had been so long in progress in this world was now decided, and Christ was conqueror. His death had answered the question whether the Father and the Son had sufficient love for man to exercise self-denial and a spirit of sacrifice. Satan had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he had ruled the children of men who were under his power, he would have manifested if permitted to control the intelligences of heaven. With one voice the loyal universe united in extolling the divine administration.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 68–70

“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second Man is the Lord from heaven.” 1 Corinthians 15:47

Through the sin of the “first man,” Adam, the dominion of the earth was lost to the race. Through Christ, “the second man, ... the Lord from heaven,” the dominion will be restored. Says

the prophet, “O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion.” Micah 4:8

And Paul tells us of the “redemption of the purchased possession.” Ephesians 1:14. Yes, the possession has been purchased at an infinite cost. And when the great work of redemption is finished, “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” Daniel 7:27

Truly, the plan of salvation, which to Paul was “the mystery of godliness,” is beyond our comprehension. “Who can know the depths of that love which ‘passeth knowledge’? Through endless ages, immortal minds, seeking to comprehend the mysteries of that incomprehensible love, will wonder and adore.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 64

Past, Present, and Future, James Edson White, ©1909, 28–37.

[All scripture taken from the King James Version.] **LM**



Satan's Most Destructive Device

By Judy Rebarchek

Q:

Isn't John 2:10 direct evidence that the wine Jesus made was alcoholic wine? The wedding host states that normally a better wine is served first, and then when the guests are drunk enough, a cheaper wine will do. But at this wedding it was vice versa.

Additionally, I recently spoke to an Adventist pastor who told me that alcohol abstinence cannot be proven from the Bible. It has just been accepted as church tradition. It is certainly a good tradition, but I remember that many Adventists believe that alcohol abstinence is actually a Biblical requirement for Christians.

A: Where to begin. Raised a Seventh-day Adventist, all my life I was taught that Seventh-day Adventists do not drink alcoholic beverages of any kind because the Bible says that we should not. It is true that the Bible does not say “Thou shalt not drink fermented wine or any alcoholic beverage.” However, I can quote many scriptures that describe what the Bible says we should not drink: Ephesians 5:18, Proverbs 20:1, Romans 14:21, Isaiah 5:11, 22, and Proverbs 21:17. And perhaps the most well-known scripture Proverbs 23:31–35, “Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: ‘They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?’” This is not an exhaustive list by any means.

Oinos (Greek) and *Yayin* (Hebrew) are the generic words used in the Bible for wine. Both words can mean either fermented or unfermented juice of the grape. And yet, it seems that it is assumed that these words always mean fermented wine. Why?

Proverbs 31:6 is often used to support the belief that the Bible allows the use of fermented beverages. The Scriptures do give permission to use fermented wine, but only in very specific situations. In Bible times, there was very little chemical means with which to control pain. God does not want anyone to suffer even an hour's pain if there is a way it can be alleviated. The use of a strong alcoholic beverage was permitted in the case of someone in severe pain or to alleviate the pain of someone who was dying.

Another scripture used to support that the Bible allows the use of fermented beverages is 1 Timothy 5:23—“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.”

Just as is still done today, grapes in Bible times were preserved many different ways—they were dried like raisins or the grape juice was boiled until most of the water evaporated leaving a thick grape syrup. Because of the dense concentration of this syrup, it would keep at room temperature without spoiling just as honey or sugar does. This syrup was often added to water when grapes were out of season and the resulting beverage was called wine, though it was not fermented.

Cities in Bible times had the same problem transporting water through a piping system as we do today. If the water is acidic, it will deteriorate the pipe, so either lye or some other alkaline compound must be added to the water. Two thousand years ago, most city water supplies were alkaline just as they are today. If a person had a sensitive stomach or weak digestion, this city water could cause stomach discomfort. This is almost certainly what Paul was talking about to Timothy in this scripture. Timothy was having problems with the drinking water because of its alkaline content. By adding some of this grape syrup, which was readily available, his drinking water would be changed to wine—grape juice with an acidic pH—and his stomach problems would be alleviated.

Now let's consider this compelling scripture found in 1 Corinthians 6:19, “Or do you not know that your body is

the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” How can a person, particularly a Christian, justify putting any substance into their body that causes harm to or

destroys it and still claim to be a temple of the Holy Spirit? How can the Holy Spirit dwell in a temple polluted with alcohol?

Another compelling argument against intoxicating beverages can be found

in what Jesus said in

1 Corinthians 11:25, “In the

same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” How can we believe that any scripture in the Bible would condone the use of fermented wine as a representation of Jesus' blood?

But what I find most compelling of all are the following quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy. Directly addressing John 2:10 and the miracle at the wedding feast, Mrs. White writes: “For the feast the best food that could be secured was provided. *Unfermented* wine was used as a beverage.” *Christ Triumphant*, 229

“The unfermented wine that He [Jesus] provided for the wedding guests was a wholesome and refreshing drink. This is the wine that was used by our Saviour and His disciples in the first Communion.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 333

“The wine created by Christ at this time was the best wine those present had ever tasted. But it was free from all fermentation. Christ Himself had forbidden the use of fermented drink, saying, ‘Do not drink wine nor strong

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*How can we believe
that any scripture in the
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blood?*”



Just as is still done today, grapes in Bible times were preserved many different ways.

drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations: and that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean ...' (Leviticus 10:9-11)." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 10, 200

"We protest that Christ never made intoxicating wine; such an act would have been contrary to all the teachings and example of His life ...

The wine which Christ manufactured from water by a miracle of His power, was the pure juice of the grape." *The Signs of the Times*, August 29, 1878

In addition, Mrs. White says that Jesus meant this miracle as an illustration—actually more than one. "In this miracle, Jesus illustrates the truth that while the world presents its best gifts first, to fascinate the senses and please the eye, He [Jesus] gives good gifts, ever fresh and new unto the end. They never pall upon the taste, the heart never sickens and tires of them. The pleasures of the world are unsatisfying, its wine turns to bitterness, its gayety to gloom. ... But Jesus provides a feast of the soul that never fails to give satisfaction and joy." *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 2, 103, 104

"This donation of Christ to the marriage supper was a symbol of the means of salvation. The water represented baptism into His death, the wine, the shedding of His blood for the purifying of the sins of the world. The provision made for the wedding guests was ample, and not less abundant is the provision for blotting out the iniquities of men." *Ibid.*

Finally, let's address the statement by the Adventist pastor who said that abstinence from alcoholic beverages could not be proved from the Bible. The only reason there is doubt is because man misinterprets the Scriptures for his own benefit. "Some who claim to be Christians clothe them-

selves with fig leaves and feel at liberty to use intoxicating drinks, and they claim to be in harmony with Christ in this particular. But Christ did not set the example they claim to imitate. Be assured that Christ would not have made intoxicating wine on the occasion of His first miracle. He gave to those present a safe drink to give to all humanity—the pure juice of the grape. ...

"Christ looked down the ages and saw in every generation what the use of wine would do for the users. Therefore at this [marriage] feast He set a right example." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 10, 201

"There are those who call themselves advocates of temperance who will yet indulge in the use of wine and cider, claiming that these stimulants are harmless, and even healthful. It is thus that many take the first step in the downward path. Intoxication is just as really produced by wine and cider as by stronger drinks, and it is the worst kind of inebriation. ... A few quarts of cider and wine may awaken a taste for stronger drinks. ...

"Moderate drinking is the school in which men are receiving an education for the drunkard's career. So gradually does Satan lead away from the strongholds of temperance, so insidiously do wine and cider exert their influence upon the taste, that the highway to drunkenness is entered upon all unsuspectingly." *Temperance*, 277, 278

"With the awful results of indulgence in intoxicating drink before us, how is it that any man or woman who claims to believe in the word of God, can venture to touch, taste, or handle wine or strong drink? Such a practice is certainly out of harmony with their professed faith." *Ibid.*, 42

Neither Christ nor His prophets nor His word would ever give leave or even suggest that we are able to drink alcoholic beverages, consume anything or participate in any activity that would cause harm to our relationship with Him. It is only with a transformed, purified heart that we are able to truly serve Him and only from a pure heart are we able to provide for Him a fit dwelling place.

"In the estimation of God a pure heart is more precious than the gold of Ophir. A pure heart is the temple where God dwells,

the sanctuary where Christ takes up His abode. A pure heart is above everything that is cheap or low; it is a shining light, a treasure house from which come uplifting, sanctified words. It is a place where the imagery of God is recognized, and where the highest delight is to behold His image. It is a heart that finds its whole and only pleasure and satisfaction in God, and whose thoughts and intents and purposes are alive with godliness. Such a heart is a sacred place; it is a treasury of all virtue. ..." *My Life Today*, 263

Satan's Most Destructive Device

Satan has at his disposal a vast arsenal of weaponry that he successfully uses against the people of this world, but Ellen White points to one particular device that he uses very effectively. I saw the effects of this device in my childhood home. And I can tell you from this first-hand experience that it is most devastating mainly because so many people do not see it for the danger it is.

Ellen White tells us how Satan went about the creation of this terrible weapon:

"Satan gathered the fallen angels together to devise some way of doing the most possible evil to the human family. One proposition after another was made, till finally Satan himself thought of a plan. He would take the fruit of the vine, also wheat, and other things given by God as food, and would convert them into poisons, which would ruin man's physical, mental, and moral powers, and so overcome the senses that Satan should have full control. Under the influence of liquor, men would be led to commit crimes of all kinds. Through perverted appetite the world would be made corrupt. By leading men to drink alcohol, Satan would cause them to descend lower and lower in the scale." *Temperance*, 12

"Satan is taking the world captive through the use of liquor and tobacco, tea and coffee. The God-given mind,

which should be kept clear, is perverted by the use of narcotics. The brain is no longer able to distinguish correctly. The enemy has control. Man has sold his reason for that which makes him mad. He has no sense of what is right." *Evangelism*, 529

My father was a quiet, handsome, introverted man. But when he drank, he became loud, sometimes funny, if he hadn't yet had too much to drink. But if he drank too much, he was sloppy, unsteady and ugly. He was a hard worker, leaving the house early in the morning every day of the week. But each day after he closed up shop he went to his favorite bar and drank until closing time. Then, with little sleep, he would get up at his usual time the next morning and head to work, basically still drunk.

I'm not writing this article to tell you about my dad except to give you a personal perspective of what alcohol does. I want you to specifically note that this is a definitive *does*, not a may do or could possibly do, but what alcohol *does* to the human body and mind, to the family and society, and why it is such an effective tool of the devil against us. Now someone might say, "I can have a drink and that's it. I don't abuse alcohol." That may be true, but whether a person drinks a little or a lot, alcohol always does harm to the body and the mind. And one man may have a drink once or twice a week and it never goes beyond that, while another takes one drink and cannot stop. The dangerous part is that no one can know which they will do until they take that first drink and then it may be too late.

Let's look at some basic facts and statistics regarding alcohol use. Consumed in excess, alcohol is poisonous and considered to be a drug. Herein lies the danger with consuming alcohol: most people consider drinking alcohol to be just something they do. It's fun. They get a buzz. There are people who shout that they would never smoke marijuana or take heroin and yet, alcohol is as ad-

dictive as any other narcotic drug taken in some other form. It is estimated that 18 million adults, 1 in 12 in the United States, are chronic alcoholics or abuse alcohol to some degree.

Nearly 100,000 Americans die every year as a result of alcohol abuse and it is a factor in more than half of the country's homicides, suicides, and traffic accidents. It also plays a role in domestic problems, missed work, property crimes, and spousal and child abuse.

- 1 in 10 children have one parent who abuses alcohol
- 80% of college students use alcohol, and half of them binge drink
- Alcohol is racist; minorities suffer disproportionately from alcohol diseases
- Rape and sexual abuse are now widely discussed, but alcohol's significant contribution to these abuses is often ignored
- An astonishing 70% of children in America's foster care system suffer from some form of prenatal alcohol damage

Source: *Adventists and Alcohol* by Jack Hoehn 12/1/2020 Adventisttoday.org

Alcohol abuse results in weight gain, depression, chronic gastritis, pancreatitis, high blood pressure, heart failure, and changes to the brain, just to name a few. It also can increase the risk of infection, lead to impotence, damage a fetus, and increase the risk of several types of cancer including cancer of the larynx, esophagus, liver, breast, stomach, pancreas, and the upper gastrointestinal tract.

It also impairs liver function, and as many as one out of five will develop cirrhosis of the liver. The liver actually has about 500 functions, but those we are most familiar with are the removal

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of potentially toxic substances from the body, metabolizing nutrients from food to make energy, making most of the protein needed by the body, helping fight infection, producing most of the substances that regulate blood clotting, and helping to digest fat and absorb needed vitamins such as A and D among others.

Alcohol abuse injures the liver. In an effort to repair itself, scar tissue is formed. This is the cause of cirrhosis of the liver. As cirrhosis progresses and more and more scar tissue is formed, it becomes difficult for the liver to do its job. Advanced cirrhosis is life-threatening, and while early diagnosis and treatment can limit the damage, the damage done by cirrhosis generally cannot be undone.

How is it, then, that one person becomes an alcoholic, but another does not? It seems to be a blend of genetics, physical, psychological, environmental, and social factors. A person's risk of becoming an alcoholic is three to four times greater if a parent is an alcoholic, although there are many children of alcoholics who do not develop a problem with alcohol or even drink at all.

The mental effects of alcohol abuse can include fear, aggression, guilt, discontent, loneliness, anxiety, decreased impulse control, hypomanic behavior, sadness, and suicide.

Alcohol use can also bring about poverty. In the United States alone, as of year-end 2018, consumers spent \$253.8 billion on alcohol. While families struggle to survive, the alcohol abuser throws away the money needed for food and housing for one more drink. Too many today are suffering homelessness, poverty, and mental illness as a direct result of alcohol and drug abuse.

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The Mental and Physical Effects of
Alcohol/Allo House Recovery Centers

As Seventh-day Adventists, we likely feel that alcoholism is a worldly disease, a problem that does not apply to us. After all, we are instructed by Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy that we are to turn away from the consumption of alcohol and other drugs.

“What account will fathers [and mothers] have to give in the judgment? What account for the habits of liquor drinking? What accounts for the habit of tobacco using, the money consumed in lessening physical, mental, and moral power that belongs to God? All of it has been purchased by an infinite price, the price of the Son of God. You do not realize the necessity of sending light to those that are in darkness because your eye is not single to the glory of God. Your whole body is full of darkness, and you treat yourself as a slave, a slave to grant to taste and appetite that which is unwholesome and unhealthy, and which is destroying vitality.” *Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 1, 259

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we should be able to say that alcohol is not a problem for us and I would imagine that would be true for many, probably most. However, alcohol consumption is not a problem confined strictly to the world. Alcohol may not be a temptation for most of us, but it is for some, maybe someone you know, someone you love.

While attending academy and college, many of my friends, as often as they could sneak away to do it, would drink alcohol and take drugs. Some of those same friends today no longer indulge, but for some, these habits persisted into adulthood until their bodies and minds were so permanently affected by the use of these substances that they suffer and struggle still with debilitating illnesses, both physical and mental.

The devil spends a great deal of time and effort preparing us to rationalize doing many things we know are not right. And each time we do something wrong and justify it, it becomes easier to do it again and to find a justification for it.

“The drunkard sells his reason for a cup of poison. Satan takes control of his reason, affections, conscience. Such a man is destroying the temple of God. ...” *Manuscript 130*

The Sanctified Life, 33, tells us that the use of stimulants “deadens the natural sensibilities of both body and mind and renders him [the user] less susceptible to the influence of the Holy Spirit.” He will hunger for what pleases the body, his cherished idol, rather than for righteousness and holiness, making it impossible to glorify God.

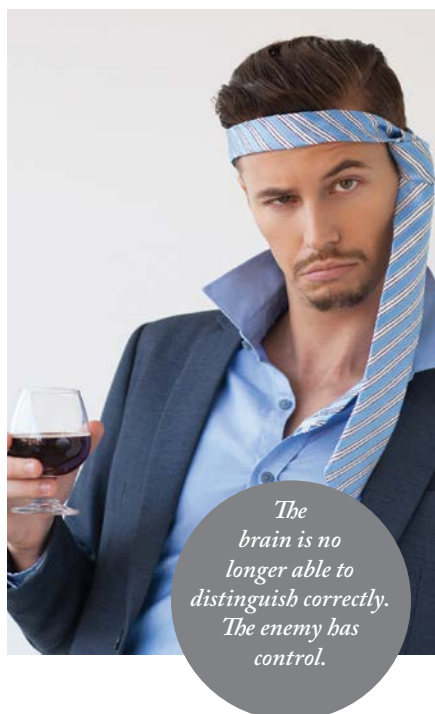
As bad as all the above consequences of alcohol use may be, herein lies the real destructiveness of this insidious weapon of Satan: the more a person drinks, the less interest he or she will have in spiritual matters and a greater inability to respond to the pleading of the Holy Spirit.

“There is in the world a multitude of degraded human beings, who have, by yielding in their youth to the temptation to use tobacco and alcohol, poisoned the tissues of the human structure, and perverted their reasoning powers, until the result is just as Satan meant it to be. The faculties of thought are clouded. The victims yield to the temptation for alcohol, and they sell what reason they have for a glass of liquor.

“See that man bereft of reason. What is he? He is a slave to the will of Satan. The arch apostate imbues him with his own attributes. He is a slave to licentiousness and violence. There is no crime that he will not commit; for he has put into his mouth that which has intoxicated him, and made him, while under its influence, a demon.”

Temperance, 36

Continued consumption of stimulating substances prepares the body for disease, affects the quality and circulation of the blood, and wears out the mind from excited and undue activity. It also affects a person’s moral qualities, and worst of all it creates unsound judgment and the inability to appreciate the value



of spiritual things. The “sensibilities are blunted, and sin does not appear very sinful.” *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 4a, 129

As Christians we have two commissions in this life. The first is the preparation of our own lives to be fit to enjoy heaven and the association of heavenly beings; to strive to attain that perfection of character that God requires and so lovingly provides the ability to achieve.

“The body is the only medium through which the mind and the soul are developed for the upbuilding of character. Hence it is that the adversary of souls directs his temptations to the enfeebling and degrading of the physical powers. His success here means the surrender to evil of the whole being. The tendencies of our physical nature, unless under the dominion of a higher power, will surely work ruin and death.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 130

“Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. ...

If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. ... You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you.” *Temperance*, 113

The second commission is to give the hope of salvation to a dying world.

“Your neighbor may be yielding to the temptation to destroy himself by liquor drinking and tobacco using. He may be burning up his vital organs by fiery stimulant. He is pursuing this course to the ruination of himself and his wife and children, who have no success in trying to stay the feet that are traveling the road to perdition. God calls upon you to work in His vineyard, to do all in your power to save your fellow creatures.”

Manuscript 87, 1898

“As we face these things, and see the terrible consequences of liquor drinking, shall we not do all in our power to rally to the help of God in fighting against this great evil?” *Evangelism*, 265

“When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfilment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory.

“God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 280

It is our responsibility and must be our determined effort to preserve our bodies “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is [our] reasonable service.” Romans 12:1. It is also our responsibility, for we truly are our brother’s keeper, to bring the hope of a transformed life through Jesus Christ to those for whom He died.

[Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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1 John

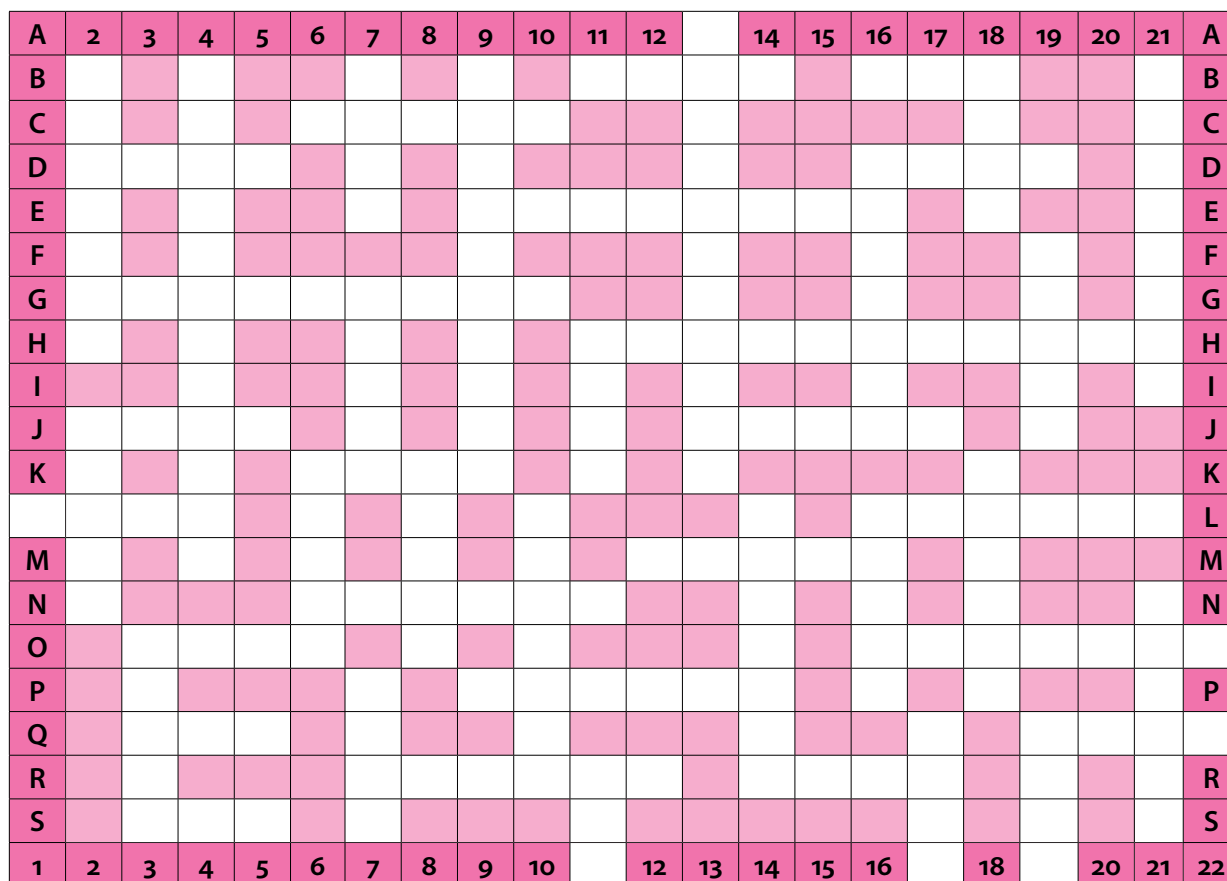
Clues – KJV

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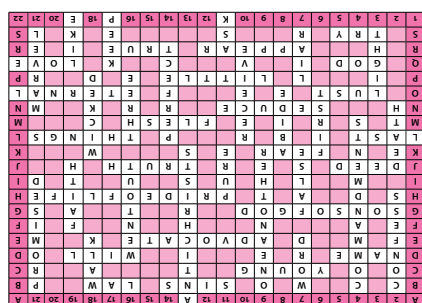
- B11 If we will confess our _____, God will forgive us of them 1:9
 B16 Sin is transgression of the _____ 3:4
 C6 John wrote to _____ men because they had overcome 2:13
 D2 We should believe on the _____ of Jesus Christ 3:23
 D16 We may live forever if we do the _____ of God 2:17
 E9 Jesus is an _____ for those who believe and sin 2:1
 G2 For God's incredible love we can be called _____ (three words) 3:1
 H11 The _____ is of the world, not of God (three words) 2:16
 J2 We have true love when it is revealed in _____ 3:18
 J13 The _____ is not in us if we say we have no sin 1:8
 K6 Having _____ reveals imperfect love and trust in God 4:18
 L1 John believed he was in the _____ time 2:18
 L16 John encourages us to not love _____ of the world 2:15
 M12 The Spirit of God teaches that Jesus came in the _____ 4:2, 3
 N6 John warns us that some would try to _____ us 2:26
 O3 Sometimes _____ is of the flesh 2:16
 O16 God has given _____ life to those who believe on the Son of God 5:10, 11
 P9 John's term of endearment to us: _____ children 4:4
 Q3 Everyone that loves knows _____ 4:7
 Q19 God is _____ 4:16
 R7 We will be like Jesus when He shall _____ 3:2
 R14 What kind of light do we now have? 2:8
 S3 We must _____ every spirit we encounter 4:1

Down:

- A13 We must be on constant guard against _____ 2:18
 B2 We must _____ our sin to receive forgiveness 1:9
 B4 Our love to others and God is revealed by keeping the _____ 5:2, 3
 B7 Jesus is the _____ of life 1:1
 B9 We are to love _____ (two words) 4:7
 B18 We must _____ even as Jesus did 2:6
 B21 Eternal life has been _____ us 2:25
 D16 They [former believers] _____ from us (two words) 2:19
 F19 _____ is the victory that overcomes the world 5:4
 G7 We should be cautious of _____ prophets in the world 4:1
 H11 An attribute of God we should strive for 3:3
 J2 Loving our brethren shows we've passed from _____ 3:14
 K6 We love God because He _____ loved us 4:19
 K8 We have confidence in our salvation if we _____ in Christ 2:28
 K18 We must overcome Satan, the _____ one 2:13, 14
 L10 Keeping His commandments is a condition to _____ what we ask 3:22
 L14 What kind of love casts out fear? 4:18
 L16 Number of individuals in the Godhead 5:7

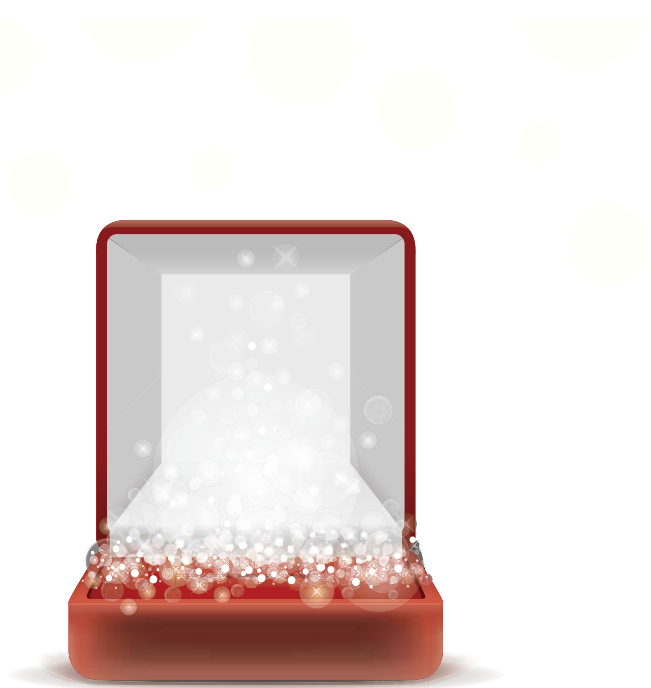


Answer Key:



- N₂₁ Do not _____ if the world hates us 3:13
 O₃ God is 1:5
 P₇ A Christian who does not keep the commandments is a 2:4
 Q₁₇ If we love God, we will _____ His commandments 5:2, 3
 Q₁₉ When Jesus returns we shall be _____ Him 3:2
 R₁₁ We can have confidence to receive when we _____ 3:21, 22





William Miller's Dream

I dreamed that God, by an unseen hand, sent me a curiously wrought casket about ten inches long by six inches square, made of ebony and pearls curiously inlaid. To the casket there was a key attached. I immediately took the key and opened the casket, when, to my wonder and surprise, I found it filled with all sorts and sizes of jewels, diamonds, precious stones, and gold and silver coins of every dimension and value, beautifully arranged in their several places in the casket; and thus arranged they reflected a light and glory equaled only by the sun.

I thought it was not my duty to enjoy this wonderful sight alone, although my heart was overjoyed at the brilliancy, beauty, and value of its contents. I therefore placed it on a center table in my room, and gave out word that all who had a desire might come and see the most glorious and brilliant sight ever seen by man in this life.

The people began to come in, at first few in number, but increasing to a crowd. When they first looked into the casket, they would wonder and shout for joy. But when the spectators increased, everyone would begin to trouble the jewels, taking them out of the casket and scattering them on the table.

I began to think that the owner would require the casket and the jewels again at my hand; and if I suffered them to be scattered, I could never place them in their places in the casket again as before; and felt I should never be able to meet the accountability, for it would be immense. I then began to plead with the people not to handle them, nor take them out of the casket; but the more I pleaded, the more they scattered.

I then saw that among the genuine jewels and coin they had scattered an innumerable quantity of spurious [fake] jewels and counterfeit coin. I was highly incensed at their base conduct and ingratitude, and reproved and reproached them for it; but the more I reproved, the more they scattered the spurious jewels and false coin among the genuine.

I then became vexed in my very soul, and began to use physical force to push them out of the room; but while I was pushing out one, three more would enter, and bring in dirt, and shavings, and sand, and all manner of rubbish, until they covered every one of the true jewels, diamonds, and coins, which were all excluded from sight. They also tore in pieces my casket, and scattered it among the rubbish. I became wholly discouraged and disheartened, and sat down and wept.

While I was thus weeping and mourning for my great loss and accountability, I remembered God and earnestly prayed that He would send me help. Immediately the door opened, and a man entered the room, when the people all left it; and he having a

dirt-brush in his hand, opened the windows, and began to brush the dirt and rubbish from the room.

I cried to him to forbear, for there were some precious jewels scattered among the rubbish.

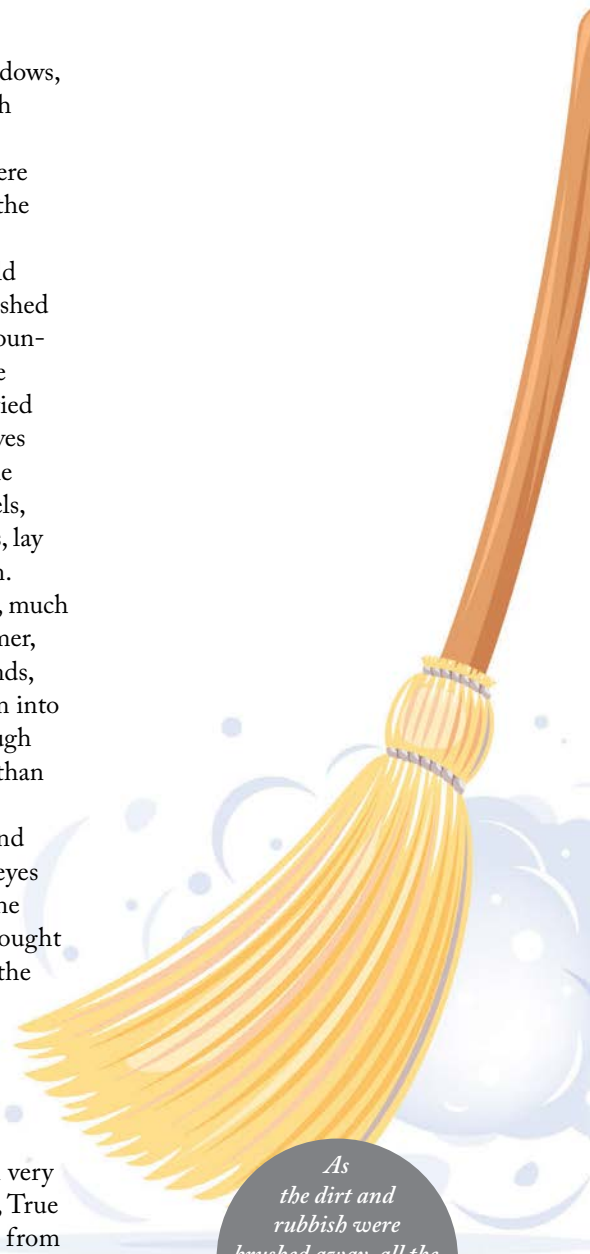
He told me to “fear not,” for he would “take care of them.” Then, while he brushed the dirt and rubbish, false jewels and counterfeit coin, all rose and went out of the window like a cloud, and the wind carried them away. In the bustle I closed my eyes for a moment; when I opened them, the rubbish was all gone. The precious jewels, the diamonds, the gold and silver coins, lay scattered in profusion all over the room.

He then placed on the table a casket, much larger and more beautiful than the former, and gathered up the jewels, the diamonds, the coins, by the handful, and cast them into the casket, till not one was left—although some of the diamonds were not larger than the point of a pin.

He then called upon me to “come and see.” I looked into the casket, but my eyes were dazzled with the sight. They shone with ten times their former glory. I thought they had been scoured in the sand by the feet of those wicked persons who had scattered and trod them in the dust. They were arranged in beautiful order in the casket, every one in its place, without any visible pains of the man who cast them in. I shouted with very joy, and that shout awoke me. *Hurdles*, True Education Series, ©1912, 13–15, taken from *Early Writings*, 81–84

“Not only the wise, the great, the beneficent, will gain a passport into the heavenly courts—not only the busy worker, full of zeal and restless activity. No; the pure in heart, in whose lips there is found no guile; the poor in spirit, who are actuated by the Spirit of an abiding Christ; the peacemaker, whose highest ambition is to do God’s will—these will gain an abundant entrance. They are God’s jewels...” *That I May Know Him*, 123

“And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” Malachi 3:17 **LM**



As the dirt and rubbish were brushed away, all the false jewels rose and went out of the window.



Deportment and Influence

The religion of Christ is not what many think it is, nor what their lives represent it to be. The love of God in the soul will have a direct influence upon the life, and will call the intellect and the affections into active, healthful exercise. The child of God will not rest satisfied until he is clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and sustained by His life-giving power. When he sees a weakness in his character, it is not enough to confess it again and again; he must go to work with determination and energy to overcome his defects by building up opposite traits of character. He will not shun this work because it is difficult. Untiring energy is required of the *Christian*; but he is not obliged to work in his own strength; divine power awaits his demand. Everyone who is sincerely striving for the victory over self, will appropriate the promise, “My grace is sufficient for thee.” 2 Corinthians 12:9. [Emphasis author’s.]

Through personal effort, joined with the prayer of faith, the soul is trained. Day by day the character grows into the likeness of Christ, and finally, instead of being the sport of circumstances, instead of indulging selfishness, and

being carried away by light and trifling conversation, the man is master of his thoughts and words. It may cost a severe conflict to overcome habits which have been long indulged, but we may triumph through the grace of Christ. He invites us to learn of Him. He would have us practice self-control, and be perfect in character, working that which is well-pleasing in His sight. “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20), is His own standard of judging character.

If we are true to the promptings of the Spirit of God, we shall go from grace to grace, and from glory to glory, until we have received the finishing touch of immortality. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:2, 3. Can any earthly promotion confer honor equal to this—to be sons of God, children of the heavenly King, members of the royal family? Man may be ambitious of the honor that his finite fellow man may bestow; but what will it avail?

The nobility of earth are but men; they die, and return to dust; and there is no lasting satisfaction in their praise and honor. But the honor that comes from God is lasting. To be heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, is to be entitled to unsearchable riches—treasures of such value that in comparison with them the gold and silver, the gems and precious stones of earth, sink into insignificance. Through Christ we are offered joy unspeakable, an eternal weight of glory. “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 2:9, 10

We are wanting in simple faith; we need to learn the art of trusting our very best Friend. Although we see Him not, Jesus is watching over us with tender compassion; and He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. No one in his great need ever looked to Him in faith and was disappointed. Brethren, do not express doubt; do not let your lips utter one complaining, repining word. Begin now to fix your minds more firmly upon Jesus and heavenly things, remembering that by beholding we become changed into the same image. *Morning Talks*, 10–12 **LIM**

In the Garden

My mother had a beautiful soprano voice. As a young woman, she worked with an evangelistic team as a Bible worker, but she also sang for the meetings and often on radio. As a young child, it was not unusual for me to sit alone on the front pew on Sabbath morning while she sang in the choir, led the congregational hymns, or had special music.

One of her favorite hymns, one she sang quite often for special music, was “In the Garden.” It has become one of my favorite hymns as well; so much so that I have memorized all the verses and as I contemplate each one, this hymn takes on an even greater significance to me, particularly the chorus.

*He walks with me and He talks with me
And He tells me, I am His own*

Think of it, Jesus telling you that you are His! Mrs. White tells us that there was a “sweet melody” in His voice, full of sympathy and tenderness (*The Publishing Ministry*, 269).

*He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet, the birds hush their singing*

“Jesus’ voice of invitation is heard, Come unto Me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest; take My yoke [not a yoke that you have manufactured] and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [See Matthew 11:28, 29.] Take all your temporal concerns to Jesus. ... You can say, I have laid down all my burdens at the feet of Jesus. I have committed myself without reserve into His care. He has me in charge; I am not my own; I am bought with a price.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 12, 106

It is true that we cannot with our eyes see Him today or physically walk with Him in the way, but with eyes and a heart of faith we can be certain that He is with us, that He speaks to us through the study of His word and through the power of His Holy Spirit.

“[T]he Holy Spirit can strengthen our spiritual eyesight, enabling us to see what our natural eyes cannot see, or our ears hear, or our minds comprehend. By the Spirit which searches all things, even the deep things of God, have been revealed precious truths which cannot be described by pen or voice.

“In all who will submit themselves to the Holy Spirit a new principle of life is to be implanted; the lost image of God is to be restored in humanity. ...

“The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. All who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power.

“Every heart that has been visited by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness will reveal the working of the Spirit of God in voice, mind, and character.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 34

*And the joy we share, as we tarry there,
None other has ever known*

Lord, give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to know Your voice and to feel Your presence every day. **LM**



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June Sermon of the Month

The 7th Trumpet and the Gospel

By John J. Grosboll

What is this mystery of God and how is it to be made known?

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

June 2022

Dear Friend,

One night, Nicodemus came alone to speak with Jesus. In that interview, Jesus unfolded the plan of salvation, and His mission to the world. In none of His subsequent discourses did He so fully explain the work necessary to be done in the hearts of all who would inherit the kingdom of heaven. For a time Nicodemus did not publicly acknowledge Christ, but he watched His life, and considered His teachings. He hid the truth in his heart, but there seemed to be little fruit.

Jesus knew the soil into which He cast the seed. The words spoken that night to Nicodemus were not lost. And when Jesus was at last lifted up on the cross, Nicodemus remembered the teaching he received that night, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." The light given during that secret interview illumined Calvary's cross, and Nicodemus saw in Jesus the world's Redeemer.

Nicodemus told John about that interview, and he recorded it for the instruction of millions. And those same truths are as important today as they were when Nicodemus came to learn them from Jesus, the Teacher of Galilee. (*The Desire of Ages*, 176, 177)

When Jesus was lifted up on the cross it looked as though there were almost no fruit for His years of ministry; and so it, too, may seem as we witness for the Master. But the authorities of heaven do not quit like the devil tempts us to do. If we keep sowing the seed, we have the promise that His word will not return to Him void.

"Let the work of preparing a people to stand in the day of God's preparation be entered upon by all who believe the word. ...

"Every soul that names the name of Christ should be under service. All should say, 'Here am I; send me.'" *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 1651

Your brother in witnessing,

Pastor John J. Grosboll

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.

I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast,
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so,
He will hold me fast.

Words: (vs. 1, 2) Ada Habershon (1861-1918);
new words (v. 3), Matthew Merker



Central Nigeria

Daily Manna Ministry

By Daniel Teryila

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters!

Here at Daily Manna Ministry, it has been, and continues to be, our goal to spread the three angels' messages to our various communities and beyond. Inspiration reminds us of the great role that the medical missionary effort will play in reaching people in these last days.

To that end, we began a medical missionary training program in February 2021 with the aim of equipping students to go out in the field to establish local churches and to help nurture them. By God's grace, 13 individuals will soon be graduating from the program.

We have conducted medical missionary outreach initiatives in selected localities on a quarterly basis since the beginning of 2021. We already have conducted outreach initiatives in four communities, the most recent at Mbaper March 6 through 12, 2022, near the border with Cross River State.

In these outreach efforts, those attending the morning sessions are taught the medical use of herbs. In the evening prophecy and health seminars are presented using PowerPoint presentations

with the main focus being on Jesus and the three angels' messages.

Our medical missionary trainees also work with the Bible workers. Literature, both in the local language and English, is distributed. Praise the Lord for the outcomes so far. These efforts have strengthened our churches with more members and opens the way for the gospel to be preached to so many. During these outreach efforts as many as 120 to 165 persons also receive medical aid.

We thank the Lord for the donations from Steps to Life Ministry, for these donations have enabled us to have our own printing machine where we print the *LandMarks* magazine for use during Sabbath School, as well as for general reading. All our tabloids, including *Behold He Cometh*, *Prophecy and World History*, and the Steps to Life Bible Study lessons, have been translated into the Tiv language. This is the largest ethnic group and most widely spoken language in central Nigeria. Our Bible workers use the translated materials for study.

Our local churches are also encouraged to take up and organize missionary outreach. The Adikpo church recently concluded just such an effort at TseD-zurgba with a nightly attendance of 30 to 40 people. Many appreciated the studies and committed to study more.

In the Makurdi church, literature distribution has been conducted in the various districts of the metropolis especially in the NJ Orth Bank area dominated by Muslims. It was good to share with them literature translated in the Hausa and Arabic languages. The Lord impressed upon the heart of one of our former church members who had once backslidden, but had now returned, to reach out to his community at Mbai-kyor. His efforts have yielded results and he attends church often with his children and one other person from his community, traveling a distance of over 25 kilometers each Sabbath. A Bible worker has been sent to meet with the people whom he has reached out to and they have donated a piece of land for the erection of a church building. Please pray for us as we move forward



Top left: Daniel Teryila and family – Daniel, his wife Ruby and their three sons, Little Daniel, Sabato and William, accompanied by Pastor Domingo Nunez.

Top right: Daniel reading the baptismal vows to two new converts

Bottom: Pictures of the nearly-completed ministry center.

with plans to conduct a prophecy and health seminar in that community.

The Gboko church is not left out as the Bible worker there has extended the work to the outskirts of the town. They number about nine people.

We cannot fully express our gratitude to the Lord and the many thanks to Pastor Nunez and the Steps to Life Ministry for the spiritual and financial support toward the completion of the Ministry Center at Apir near Makurdi and the support of our Bible workers. With the installation and erection of the fence, overhead tanks and construction of the septic tanks, the center is now completed and it will soon be dedicated for use in the Lord's service.

The Center will house our monthly training programs, medical services

and a proposed missionary training program targeting young children. The children who will attend this training program will be housed at the center and given medical missionary training which will provide them with skills to get them ready for the work as they grow.

The center sits on two plots of land and when fully completed, it will have an office, a hydrotherapy room, five bedrooms, a kitchen, a domestic staff room, and a large hall with a courtyard. Relying fully on the Lord, we hope to open a church within the community as soon as the center becomes operational.

Because of the efforts and contributions by the local church members in Igbor, Igyom, Gboko, Mbaper, and

Mbatar, we have seven churches at various degrees of completion.

We have a great need for another projector and an evangelism bus. These will make our outreach efforts much easier and more cost effective.

We praise the Lord and thank Him for all He has done for us. My wife, Ruby, and I, along with our three sons, Little Daniel, Sabato and William, have devoted our lives to the Lord's service here in central Nigeria. We thank you for your continued prayers and financial support as we work to spread the gospel in this part of the world.

To donate directly to the work in central Nigeria, please mark your donation *Missions – Central Nigeria.* **LM**



Creatures of the Air

“Oh that I had wings like a dove! then I would fly, and be at rest.” Psalm 55:6

In the domain of hawk, gull and sparrow, physiology and aerial prowess are synonymous. A bird is simply a masterpiece of engineering—the perfect flying machine—supremely crafted by God and endowed with the attributes for a life in the skies. Its breast muscles, which operate its wings, are enormous, in some birds, comprising 33% of their total body weight. At the same time, a bird’s skeletal system is incredibly light. The bones of a pelican, with a wingspan of nearly six feet, weigh only about five ounces, yet they are strong and flexible enough to withstand the constant stress of maneuverable flight.

Add to this package highly efficient digestive and respiratory systems, a large and powerful heart, and feathers that streamline, insulate, and provide the necessary lift for wings and tail, and it is easy to understand how a bird in the air is described in Proverbs 30:18, 19 as a sight “too wonderful for me.”

The methods and techniques of flight generally fall into a few basic categories. Flapping or power flight involves a strong downward stroke that results in rapid lift and forward thrust. Generally, the larger the bird the slower it flaps its wings. In contrast, the humming-

bird will beat its wings up to 80 times a second while performing what has been called the most versatile display of aerial skill in all of God’s creation. The tiny bird can hover or fly in all directions—forward, backward, or to the side, depending upon its needs. Its rigid wings move in a unique figure 8 motion, powered by exceptionally strong muscles and a flexible swivel joint at its shoulder. The tail works as a rudder controlling the direction of movement. Not surprisingly, the hummingbird expends tremendous amounts of energy and to survive, must consume twice its body weight in food every day.

Gliding and soaring are far less demanding forms of flight, yet once again, the elements of aeronautical design are clearly seen. The turkey vulture soars, riding on air deflected upward from cliffs as its wings work in harmony with the surrounding wind currents, while a heron spreads its enormous wings in a slow approach to its nest. Large primary feathers at the end of each wing offer precise control of both speed and direction. A similar design enables a condor to ride for hours on spirals of warm air. Again, a huge wing surface allows for effortless

gliding as the bird of prey searches the valley floor for food.

But for all the soaring wonder and power that so abundantly fills the skies, perhaps the supreme testimony to the Creator’s gifts of flight and life itself is written on the tissue-thin wings of the Monarch butterfly. Its wings are driven by powerful muscles designed into the insect’s upper body, the thorax, essential for migration. Advancing steadily, they ride on rising columns of warm air that can elevate them thousands of feet. These expert gliders can travel more than 50 miles a day, flying upwards of 3,000 miles to reach their winter home.

God reveals Himself to man through the things He has made. Each day in the wonders of land, sky, and sea He presents us with a vivid picture of His existence and character. It is a continuing revelation, as exciting and diverse as the creatures He has brought into being. In the majestic grace of a bird or a butterfly in flight an eternal truth shines clear—the God of all creation is real and alive, His power and wisdom are without limit, and He cares and provides abundantly for the life that He has made.

Wonders of God’s Creation, Animal Kingdom: Great are Thy Works, ©2004. LM

In the April 2022 *LandMarks* we included a Bible books search activity. We've had a couple of months now to see how many of the 28 books we could find. Below are the answers. How did you do?



There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that

something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God bless. LM

The Benefits of Sunlight

"There are but few who realize that, in order to enjoy health and cheerfulness, they must have an abundance of sunlight, pure air, and physical exercise." *My Life Today*, 138

We are used to being told that too much sun can age and cause damage to the skin, even lead to skin cancer.

Over exposure can also weaken the immune system. But insufficient exposure to sunlight is likely to encourage other forms of cancer, such as colon, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate cancers, and Hodgkin's lymphoma.

There are, however, many benefits to getting an adequate amount of sunlight.

God designed sunlight and darkness to release hormones in the brain. Exposure to the bright light of day increases the brain's release of serotonin, the hormone associated with boosting mood and helping a person to feel calm and focused. The darker light of night triggers the brain to release melatonin, the hormone that helps you sleep.

A lack of serotonin is associated with depression, often seen in seasonal affective disorder (SAD), found particularly when the seasons change and the days become shorter.

Being exposed to bright light as you near time for bed can prevent the release of melatonin and instead keep you awake when you might really want to sleep. This is one reason why it is not good to spend a lot of time gazing at the blue light on your cellphone right before bedtime.

Melatonin also reduces your stress level. Doing something active, like walking outside, can also help reduce stress.

Besides regulating the production of serotonin and melatonin, the sun's rays cause the skin to create vitamin D. Five to 30 minutes in the sun each day, weather permitting, without sunscreen,

is an adequate amount of exposure. Your skin type should be considered when determining how long to stay in the sun.

Vitamin D plays an active role in bone health, helping to prevent diseases such as osteoporosis, osteomalacia, and arthritis, and helps the body maintain adequate calcium levels, all of

which helps to prevent brittle, thin, and misshapen bones.

Since vitamin D also helps to control high blood pressure, the body's creation of vitamin D when exposed to the sun can help with cardiovascular health. Conversely, insufficient exposure to sunlight, resulting in a deficient production of vitamin D, can be bad news for heart health.

Moderate sunlight exposure can also be of benefit in fighting certain skin disorders, such as fungal infections, psoriasis, acne, and eczema.

(Taken from *healthline.com*; *vanity-noapologies.com*; *selecthealth.org*)

It should be remembered that different places around the world have different climates and temperatures. The climate of some locations, like Hawaii, have minimal fluctuation in their hottest and coolest temperatures. Places completely or in part located north and south of the Arctic and Antarctic Circles can experi-

ence both constant sunlight and darkness, sometimes for months at a time. These include Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Greenland, Alaska, and Russia. Antarctica experiences six months of sunlight followed by six months of darkness.

The Spirit of Prophecy speaks a great deal regarding the eight laws of health, one of which is an adequate exposure to sunlight.

"This is one of nature's most healing agents. ...

"Exercise, and a free and abundant use of the air and *sunlight*, ... would give life and strength to the emaciated." *Healthful Living*, 229, 230

"Pure air, *sunlight*, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies.

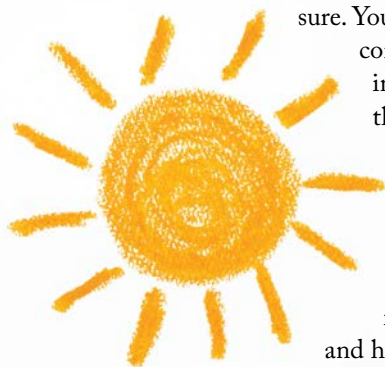
"The things of nature are God's blessings, provided to give health to body, mind, and soul. They are given to the well to keep them well and to the sick to make them well. ...

"Nature is God's physician. The pure air, the glad *sunshine*, the beautiful flowers and trees, the orchards and vineyards, and outdoor exercise amid these surroundings are health giving—the elixir of life." *My Life Today*, 135

"No room in the house should be considered furnished and adorned without the cheering, enlivening light and *sunshine*, which are Heaven's own free gift to man. ...

"If you would have your homes sweet and inviting, make them bright with air and *sunshine*. ... If you have God's presence, and possess earnest, loving hearts, a humble home, made bright with air and *sunlight* ... will be to your family ... a heaven below." *Ibid.*, 138

[Emphasis supplied.] **LM**





peace

When There Is No Peace

By John J. Grosboll

Eighteen hundred years ago, the Bible said that scoffers would say in the last days, “all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” 2 Peter 3:4, *last part*. But actually, the greatest wars, the greatest pestilences and famines, the greatest earthquakes and other disasters, have marked our time, our generation. Scoffers, even today, continue to say that all things will be as they have been from the beginning; but all things, friends, do not continue as they have.



“

Serving God or serving self is what this millennia-long controversy is all about.

In addition to all these natural disasters and calamities and wars that are to occur in the last days, the Bible predicted, in both the Old and New Testaments, that there would be a great international peace movement. Micah 4:1–5 says, “Now it shall

come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come.’”

Notice, the Lord does not say this, the nations of the world are making this call, “‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;

He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of

Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god ...”

In 1899, the World Court System was developed with the idea that war would be outlawed. But this world system did not stop wars from happening.

It’s likely that hardly anyone alive today remembers the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact of 1928. Officially known as the General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy, this international agreement committed the signatory states to not use war to resolve “disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them.” *Wikipedia.com*.

Thirty-one nations signed the agreement on August 27, 1928, and the Pact went into effect on July 24, 1929. Once in effect,

25 additional countries entered into the agreement. The Pact remains in force today, however, it did not stop World War II from happening, though declared wars became rare after the end of World War II in 1945.

We talk of peace all the time and the Bible says that in the last days people would be talking peace and safety, while at the same time, there would be war.

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Isaiah 2:2–4

Notice, in both Micah 4 and Isaiah 2, the peace movement is phrased in terms of religion. The intent of this peace movement will be that we will learn to do what is right and to follow the Lord, and we will no longer war with one another. We will stop making weapons meant to harm and cause destruction. We will learn to live in peace. We have established a world court and entered into agreements. We have established the League of Nations and now the United Nations. But regardless of what the people of the world are saying and doing in the last days, what did the Lord say?

“Proclaim this among the nations: ‘Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, “I am strong.”’ Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord. ‘Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.



Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow—for their wickedness is great.’ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.” Joel 3:9–14

An awesome scripture, the very opposite of what the nations are saying. Let all the mighty men come down. The Bible is very clear that at the end of time the whole world will be gathered for war. While we say we will have peace, there will be war, and multitudes will be in the valley of decision.

So who will we be listening to? “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” Romans 6:16. Have you decided who you belong to and who you will obey?

Many people believe that they belong to the Lord and are obeying Him. They believe they are Christians, Christlike, but when Jesus comes, He will not acknowledge them as His own. They will say they have done all these marvelous things, miracles, healings, prophesies in His name, but Matthew 7:21–23 says that when Jesus comes, He won’t even know who they are. “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” Verse 23

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8. You see, the one that you obey, is the one you belong to, and if you say that you are a Christian, but are living in sin, it is the devil who you really belong to. The Bible calls you the devil’s spiritual child, and it points out in this same chapter what sin is, “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” Verse 4

Today there are multitudes in the valley of decision, trying to understand and make up their minds who they will



serve. Some might believe that they will just serve themselves, but selfishness is the root of all sin. If you serve yourself, then you are sinning and, you are on the devil’s side.

The great controversy, the war between good and evil, has been raging since Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Serving God or serving self is what this millennia-long controversy is all about. Will we do just as we please or will we be loyal to God’s government and His law? Because our natural nature is selfish, we will sin and be sinners until Jesus comes unless we make a choice. If we do not decide, then we will be lost for we will simply follow our natural inclination to sin.

In Noah’s day, all the world stood in the valley of decision, but ultimately their decisions were not to accept Noah’s message and go into the ark and be saved; and as a result, every person, except for eight, lost their life, and worse, their soul. When Jesus comes, the majority of the people alive in the world will be lost, all the while hoping and desiring to be saved, simply because they do not now choose to be Christians.

In a Roman dungeon, a short time before his death as a martyr, Paul wrote a letter to a young minister by the name of Timothy. In 2 Timothy 3:1–4 he said, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

What an awful list of character traits for people to possess! Who would want to live with people like this? Yet, this is exactly why we will be unable to find peace in this world in the last days. No peace in an individual’s heart, in the family, between the races, between the nations. Without Jesus Christ in our hearts and in the world, there simply is no peace, because we all have the natural, selfish inclination to bear any or all of the character traits listed above.

But notice what Paul further says to Timothy. In the midst of the people of the world exhibiting these terrible traits of character, Paul describes the religious atmosphere as “having a form

of godliness.” 2 Timothy 3:5. Outwardly the majority of the people seem to be godly, they make a profession of godliness, they go to church and claim to be Christians, but Paul says they have a “form of godliness, but [are] denying its power” and he tells Timothy to stay away from such people.

Do you know what the power of godliness is? When Jesus was here on earth, He told the Jews that “if you continue in My word ... you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They were quick to reply, having forgotten their slavery in Egypt and their current condition under the authority of Rome, that they had never been in bondage to anyone. But Jesus immediately replied that the one who commits sin is the servant of sin, and the

servant does not remain in the house forever (John 8:31–35), meaning, the person who is living in sin will not have eternal life.

But in Verse 36 we find that “[I]f the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” The gospel promises to set you free from sin, to enable you to live a righteous life. This can happen only as a result of being born of the Holy Spirit, experiencing what Jesus called the new birth. It is receiving from the Holy Spirit a new heart and a new mind, the implanting of a new principle of life within us so that we no longer live for ourselves, but we live to honor God and to help our fellow men.

Jesus said, unless this happens, unless the Son sets us free, then we are slaves. The slave to sin does not have eternal life, but the Son and those He sets free remain forever. That is the power of godliness, the power of divinity to set us free, not just from our guilt, because the Lord wants to do more than set us free from our guilt. He wants to set us free from the power of sin in our lives.

Since we are to turn away from those who simply have a form of godliness, but deny its power, we must be able to identify who they are. The apostle John tells us how we may know who is a follower of the Lord and who

is not. “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.” 1 John 3:7–10

Laodicea, the last-day church of Revelation 3, is described as lukewarm. Paul said that the people of this church would be listening to doctrines of devils while they claimed to be religious, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” 1 Timothy 4:1

Think about it, friends. Do we claim a form of godliness while denying the power of the Holy Spirit? Or have we allowed the Holy Spirit to work the miracle of transformation in our lives so that we are not simply making a claim of godliness, but actually living a life of godliness? Are we the people described by the Bible in Revelation 14:12 as the saints of God, the holy people who keep God’s commandments and have the faith of Jesus? Are we those of whom John wrote, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city”? Revelation 22:14

Today, we all have a decision to make. We must decide to be born again and to commit our lives to Jesus Christ. As promised, He will send the Holy Spirit to give us new hearts and new minds so that we will live new lives in Him, and then go home with Him when He comes. **LM**

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Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

1 John 3:9



June 26 – July 2, 2022

The Divine Law—the Ten Commandments

Key Text

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:7

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 433–450

Introduction

“Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God or of their own guilt and uncleanness.” *The Great Controversy*, 468

Sunday

1 A TRANSCRIPT OF GOD’S CHARACTER

1.a. What is declared about the law of God, the ten commandments, and why is it so important for us? Psalm 119:142, 151, 172

Note: “Christ came to our world to represent the character of God as it is represented in His holy law; for His law is a transcript of His character. Christ was both the law and the gospel. The angel that proclaims the everlasting gospel proclaims the law of God; for the gospel of salvation brings men to obedience of the law, whereby their characters are formed after the divine similitude.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 106

“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. ... His law is the transcript of His character. It is the standard that all must reach if they would enter the kingdom of God. No one need walk in uncertainty.” *In Heavenly Places*, 137

1.b. Since God is immutable, and His law is a transcript of His character, for how long will His law exist? Matthew 5:17, 18

Note: “[T]his law [of God] will maintain its exalted character as long as the throne of Jehovah endures.” *The Review and Herald*, October 10, 1899

Monday

2 SATAN’S ENMITY AGAINST THE LAW

2.a. What is the object of Satan’s hatred which he began in heaven and pursues on earth? Revelation 12:17

Note: “Satan, with all his masterly power, has interposed himself between man and the law of God, that through falsehood and sophistry he may inspire men with the same rebellion against God and His law as actuates himself. Those whom he cannot deceive, he hates.” *The Signs of the Times*, November 14, 1895

2.b. Whom does Satan successfully use to war against the holy law of God? Revelation 3:9; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Timothy 3:13

Note: “Satan has a large confederacy, his church. Christ calls them the synagogue of Satan because the members are the children of sin. The members of Satan’s church have been constantly working to cast off the divine law, and confuse the distinction between good and evil. Satan is working with great power in and through the children of disobedience to exalt treason and apostasy as truth and loyalty.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 16

“There is enmity against the commandments of God in the hearts of those who claim sanctification and refuse to acknowledge the binding obligation of the law. Hatred arises in their hearts as soon as the law is mentioned. They profess to believe that the law is abolished. But if the law is abolished, what is the standard by which we shall be judged before the judgment seat of Christ? This work of belittling the law is the work of the great deceiver. If Satan can persuade men that the God of the universe has no law by which He governs them, then he can set up a standard of his own, and turn men into the path of transgression and destruction.” *The Signs of the Times*, February 10, 1888

“Satan’s work in our world today is to destroy the moral image of God in man, by making void the divine law; and our enemies are inspired by his spirit. By casting aside God’s great standard of character, he can deprave human nature and win men and women to his standard; for, ‘Where no law is, there is no transgression.’ With what triumph, then, he watches the professedly Christian world, as they earnestly do the very work he is doing.” *The Review and Herald*, January 26, 1897

Tuesday

3 THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT

3.a. After many years of experience in transgression, what was the final conclusion of King Solomon? Ecclesiastes 12:13; Proverbs 28:9. What must we realize about the law of God?

Note: “The law of God is a transcript of His character; it is the standard of righteousness. ... Man is required to render obedience to the revealed will of God in the smallest requirement of the law. ...

“The law of God is the foundation of His government, and is exactly what is needed to preserve life and righteousness. Every principle of the law emanates from the Infinite God, and man will fail in his duty to God and his neighbor unless he believes and weaves the principles of the law into his life. Without faith it is impossible to please God, for it is through faith that we may render obedience to the law.” *The Signs of the Times*, February 26, 1894

“The law of God is the great standard of righteousness, and it will measure every man’s profession and progress. It is a mirror which discovers the defects of our characters, and shows us the requirements of God. It is holy and just and good.” *Ibid.*, March 30, 1888

“The ten commandments, Thou shalt, and Thou shalt not, are ten promises, assured to us if we render obedience to the law governing the universe. ‘If ye love Me, keep My commandments’ (John 14:15). Here is the sum and substance of the law of God. The terms of salvation for every son and daughter of Adam are here outlined.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1105

3.b. By what standard will every person be judged in the heavenly court? Ecclesiastes 12:14; James 2:11, 12

Note: “God has a law, and it is the great standard of righteousness. Everyone who has presumed upon the mercy of God, and practiced iniquity, will be judged according to his works. God has warned you to depart from all iniquity. He has commanded you individually to resist the devil, not to entertain him as an honored guest.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 448

“Men may close their eyes to the plainest truths in the word of God, they may trample His law under their feet; but the law, instituted in the beginning, proclaimed from Sinai, and engraven on tables of stone, will judge them in the last day.” *The Signs of the Times*, August 5, 1886

“The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment.” *The Great Controversy*, 482

Wednesday

4 WILLING OBEDIENCE

4.a. When the rich young ruler asked Jesus what to do to inherit eternal life, what condition did the Lord present? Matthew 19:16, 17; Luke 18:18–20

Note: “The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been—just what it was in paradise before the fall of our first parents—perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled.” *Steps to Christ*, 62

“We are to seek for the pearl of great price, but not in worldly marts or in worldly ways. The price we are required to pay is not gold or silver, for this belongs to God. Abandon the idea that temporal or spiritual advantages will win for you salvation. God calls for your willing obedience. He asks you to give up your sins.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 117

4.b. What kind of obedience should be manifested by a true child of God? Isaiah 1:19. How can we demonstrate that we really love God? 1 John 2:3, 4; 5:2, 3

Note: “The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship.” *The Desire of Ages*, 189

“Willing obedience to God’s requirements gives vital energy and power to the soul. A work enduring as the sun is done for the worker as well as for those for whom he labors. However limited the capacity of the one who engages in this work, the labor which he performs in his humble sphere will be acceptable to God.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 613

“Those who dishonor God by transgressing His law may talk sanctification; but it is of the same value, and just as acceptable, as was the offering of Cain. Obedience to the commandments of God is the only true sign of sanctification. ... Our Saviour speaks so plainly that no one need fail to understand that true love will always produce obedience. Obedience is the sign of true love. Christ and the Father are one, and those who in truth receive Christ will love God as the great center of their adoration and will also love one another; and in so doing they will keep the law.” *The Review and Herald*, October 26, 1897

Thursday

5 THE UNCHANGEABLE LAW OF GOD

5.a. What is the greatest proof that God does not change His law? Malachi 3:6, *first part*; James 1:17; Luke 16:17

Note: “Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, that the death of Christ abrogated [overturned] the Father’s law. Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died. But to abrogate the law would be to immortalize transgression, and place the world under Satan’s control. It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross.” *The Desire of Ages*, 762, 763

“If God could have changed one iota of His law, Jesus need not have come to our world and died. But our Saviour, who was equal with God Himself, came into our world and suffered the death upon the cross, to give man another probation.” *The Review and Herald*, June 10, 1890

“It was to atone for man’s transgression of the law that Christ laid down His life. Could the law have been changed or set aside, then Christ need not have died. By His life on earth He honored the law of God. By His death He established it. He gave His life as a sacrifice, not to destroy God’s law, not to



Without the law, men have no concept of the purity and holiness of God or of their own guilt and uncleanness.

create a lower standard, but that justice might be maintained, that the law might be shown to be immutable, that it might stand fast forever.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 314

5.b. Where was the law written, and by whom? What is its meaning? Exodus 31:18; Romans 3:20. How long are its principles to endure? Psalm 89:34

Note: “God’s law is unchangeable; and though by human beings it has been slighted, scorned, and rejected, it will ever stand as firm as the throne of Jehovah.” *The Review and Herald*, September 24, 1901

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How does the law of God provide security and stability to our life?
- 2 What is Satan’s strategy in his rebellion against God and His law?
- 3 Why is there need of a standard in the day of judgment?
- 4 Since we are saved by faith, not works, why is obedience important?
- 5 How does the cross of Christ relate to the law of God?

The Ceremonial Law

Key Text

"[Christ Jesus] having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace." Ephesians 2:15

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

Introduction

"We have the types and the shadows in the ceremonial laws, and these were to last until they should meet the reality." *The Review and Herald*, July 15, 1890

Sunday

1 THE CEREMONIAL LAW ABOLISHED

1.a. Of what was the ceremonial law a shadow or type?
Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 9:9, 10; 10:1; Hebrews 8:5

Note: "Men who claim to be teachers of the people blind the eyes of the ignorant by blending the moral law with the ceremonial, and using the texts which speak of the ceremonial law to prove that the moral law has been abolished. This is a perversion of the Scriptures. There are two distinct laws brought to view. One is the law of types and shadows, which reached to the time of Christ, and ceased when type met antitype in His death. The other is the law of Jehovah, and is as abiding and changeless as His eternal throne. After the crucifixion, it was a denial of Christ for the Jews to continue to offer the burnt offerings and sacrifices which were typical of His death." *The Signs of the Times*, July 29, 1886

1.b. How long was the ceremonial law to be in force?
Galatians 3:19

Note: "But there is a law which was abolished, which Christ 'took out of the way, nailing it to His cross.' Paul calls it 'the law of commandments contained in ordinances.' This ceremonial law, given by God through Moses, with its sacrifices and ordinances, was to be binding upon the Hebrews until type met antitype in the death of Christ as the Lamb of God" *The Signs of the Times*, September 4, 1884

Monday

2 SEVEN CEREMONIAL SABBATHS

2.a. Name the seven days of feasts called "sabbaths."

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

Note: "Anciently the children of Israel were commanded to keep three annual feasts each year: the Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Feast of Weeks." *The Review and Herald*, December 11, 1879

2.b. What does the apostle Paul say about keeping the ceremonial sabbaths which were "a shadow of good things to come"? Colossians 2:14–17

Note: "We have the types and the shadows in the ceremonial laws, and these were to last until they should meet the reality. The sacrificial offerings were continually revealing the fact that Christ was coming to our world, and when type met antitype in the death of Christ, then the sacrificial offerings, typifying Christ, were no more of any value, but the royal law of God could not be changed. ... There is no shadow in the precepts of the decalogue. The ten commandments are not a type." *The Review and Herald*, July 15, 1890

“The Lamb of God was a complete and perfect offering. Types and shadows, offerings and sacrifices had no virtue after Christ’s death on the cross; but God’s law was not crucified with the Saviour.” Ibid., October 10, 1899

“In the death of Christ, the sacrificial offering ceased. The ceremonial law was done away. But by the crucifixion the law of ten commandments was established. The gospel has not abrogated the law, nor detracted one tittle from its claims.” Ibid., June 26, 1900

Tuesday

3 A SHADOW OF THE REALITY

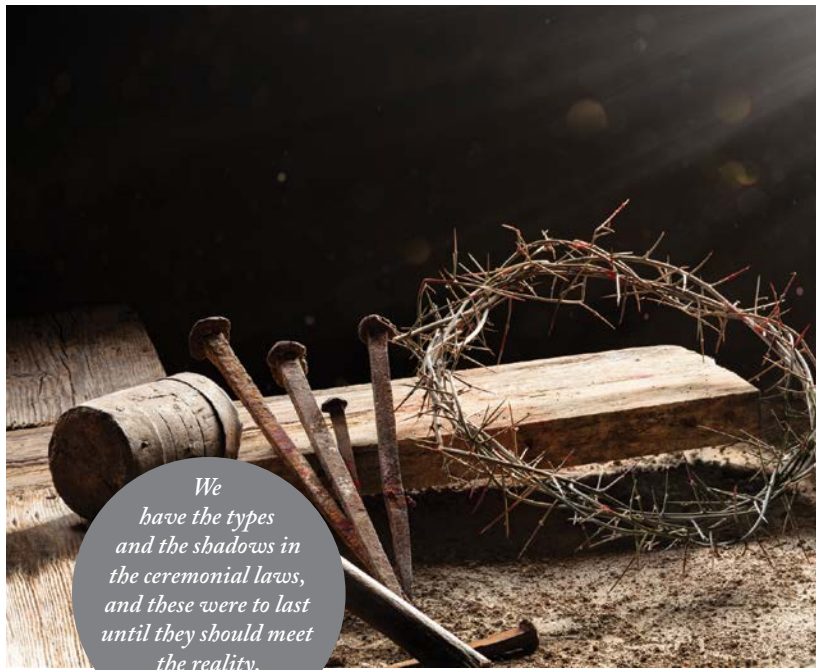
- 3.a. Who was the Saviour of patriarchs, prophets, and holy men in the Old Testament? Isaiah 43:11; Hosea 13:4; John 5:39

Note: “There is no such contrast as is often claimed to exist between the Old and the New Testament, the law of God and the gospel of Christ, the requirements of the Jewish and those of the Christian dispensation. Every soul saved in the former dispensation was saved by Christ as verily as we are saved by Him today. Patriarchs and prophets were Christians. The gospel promise was given to the first pair in Eden, when they had by transgression separated themselves from God. The gospel was preached to Abraham. The Hebrews all drank of that spiritual Rock, which was Christ.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 14, 1882

“The Jewish services all testify of Him [Christ], pointing out the attributes of His divine character. Important truth concerning Him was veiled in types and shadows and symbols, and was to be fulfilled in Christ’s mission and ministry.” Ibid., December 10, 1894

- 3.b. If we were to keep the ceremonial law, offer sacrifices, and keep the feast days, (which were a shadow), what would it mean? Galatians 2:21

Note: “The ceremonial law, given by God through Moses, with its sacrifices and ordinances, was to be binding upon the Hebrews until type met antitype in the death of Christ as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. Then all



*We
have the types
and the shadows in
the ceremonial laws,
and these were to last
until they should meet
the reality.*

the sacrificial offerings and services were to be abolished.” *The Review and Herald*, September 27, 1881

“The ceremonial law was glorious; it was the provision made by Jesus Christ in counsel with His Father, to aid in the salvation of the race. The whole arrangement of the typical system was founded on Christ. Adam saw Christ prefigured in the innocent beast suffering the penalty of his transgression of Jehovah’s law.” Ibid., May 6, 1875

“It was Christ’s desire to leave to His disciples an ordinance [the foot washing and Communion service] that would do for them the very thing they needed—that would serve to disentangle them from the rites and ceremonies which they had hitherto engaged in as essential, and which the reception of the gospel made no longer of any force. To continue these rites would be an insult to Jehovah.” Ibid., June 14, 1898

Wednesday

4 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO LAWS

- 4.a. Where were the ten commandments written, by whom, and where were they placed? Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 10:1, 2. In contrast, who wrote the law of ceremonial commandments, and where was the book placed? Deuteronomy 31:24–26; Galatians 3:10

Note: “In the ark were placed the tables of stone upon which God had engraved with His own finger the ten commandments. It was made expressly for this purpose, and hence was called the ark of the covenant, and the ark of the testament, since the ten commandments were God’s covenant, and the basis of the covenant made between God and Israel.” *The Signs of the Times*, June 24, 1880

“Nothing written on those tables [of testimony] could be blotted out. The precious record of the law was placed in the ark of the testament.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1109

“The ceremonial law was ... given to Moses, and by him written in a book. But the law of ten commandments spoken from Sinai had been written by God Himself on the tables of stone, and was sacredly preserved in the ark.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 365

4.b. Name some of the ordinances contained in the book of the law. Hebrews 9:9, 10; 10:1; 2 Kings 23:21; Ezra 3:2; Nehemiah 8:14

Note: “After the completion of the tabernacle He [God] communicated with Moses from the cloud of glory above the mercy seat, and gave him full directions concerning the system of offerings and the forms of worship to be maintained in the sanctuary.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 364, 365

“Moses completed the work of writing all the laws, the statutes, and the judgments which God had given him, and all the regulations concerning the sacrificial system. The book containing these was placed in charge of the proper officers, and was for safekeeping deposited in the side of the ark.” *Ibid.*, 466

“[D]uring the first Passover celebrated by Hezekiah, provision had been made for the daily public reading of the book of the law to the people by teaching priests. It was the observance of the statutes recorded by Moses, especially those given in the book of the covenant, which forms a part of Deuteronomy, that had made the reign of Hezekiah so prosperous.” *Prophets and Kings*, 392

Thursday

5 THE ONLY TRUE SACRIFICE

5.a. What was the significance of the Passover feast and the slain lamb? Exodus 12:26, 27; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7

Note: “All the ceremonies of the feast [Passover] were types of the work of Christ. The deliverance of Israel from Egypt was an object lesson of redemption, which the Passover was intended to keep in memory. The slain lamb, the unleavened bread, the sheaf of first fruits, represented the Saviour.” *The Desire of Ages*, 77

5.b. What was the meaning of the Day of Atonement, and what is its significance today? Leviticus 23:27–32; Isaiah 22:12–14

Note: “As you come with humble heart, you find pardon, for Christ Jesus is represented as continually standing at the altar, momentarily offering up the sacrifice for the sins of the world. He is a minister of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man. The typical shadows of the Jewish tabernacle no longer possess any virtue. A daily and yearly typical atonement is no longer to be made, but the atoning sacrifice through a mediator is essential because of the constant commission of sin. Jesus is officiating in the presence of God, offering up His shed blood, as it had been a lamb slain.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 343, 344

“We are living in the great antitypical Day of Atonement. We must individually seek God. This is a personal work. Let us draw near to God, allowing nothing to come into our efforts that would misrepresent the truth for this time. Let everyone confess, not his brother’s sin, but his own sin. Let him humble his heart before God and become so filled with the Holy Spirit that his life will show that he has been born again.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, 218

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why was the ceremonial law added?
- 2 Why is it no longer appropriate to keep the ceremonial sabbaths?
- 3 How does God view the keeping of these rituals today?
- 4 What were the main differences between the two laws?
- 5 Explain the Day of Atonement today.

July 10 – 16, 2022

The Sanctuary

Key Text

“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” Hebrews 8:1, 2

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 343–358

Introduction

“The sanctuary in heaven, in which Jesus ministers in our behalf, is the great original, of which the sanctuary built by Moses was a copy.” *The Great Controversy*, 414

Sunday

1 THE PURPOSE OF THE SANCTUARY

1.a. Where, on earth, did God promise to dwell among His people? Exodus 25:8; 2 Chronicles 6:1, 2; Isaiah 66:1

Note: “When Moses was about to build the sanctuary as a dwelling place for God, he was directed to make all things according to the pattern shown him in the mount. ... So to Israel, whom He desired to make His dwelling place, He had revealed His glorious ideal of character. The pattern was shown them in the mount when the law was given from Sinai.” *The Desire of Ages*, 208, 209

“All who love the worship of God and prize the blessing of His sacred presence will manifest the same spirit of sacrifice in preparing a house where He may meet with them.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 344

“The house where Jesus is to meet with His people should be neat and attractive. If there are but few believers in a place, put up a neat but humble house, and by dedicating it to God invite Jesus to come as your guest.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 269

1.b. What has always been God’s purpose in relation to His people? Exodus 29:45; Isaiah 57:15

Note: “From eternal ages it was God’s purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator.” *The Desire of Ages*, 161

Monday

2 THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY

2.a. When Moses received the charge to build the sanctuary, what plan was shown him? Exodus 25:9, 40; Hebrews 8:5. Of what was it all a pattern? Hebrews 8:1, 2

Note: “The question, What is the sanctuary? is clearly answered in the Scriptures. The term ‘sanctuary,’ as used in the Bible, refers, first, to the tabernacle built by Moses, as a pattern of heavenly things; and, secondly, to the ‘true tabernacle’ in heaven, to which the earthly sanctuary pointed. At the death of Christ the typical service ended. The ‘true tabernacle’ in heaven is the sanctuary of the new covenant.” *The Faith I Live By*, 202

2.b. How was the tabernacle divided, and what service was carried on in it daily? Ezekiel 45:4; Hebrews 9:2–5

Note: “The building was divided into two apartments by a rich and beautiful curtain, or veil, suspended from gold-plated pillars; and a similar veil closed the entrance of the first apartment. ...

“Beyond the inner veil was the holy of holies, where centered the symbolic service of atonement and intercession, and which formed the connecting link between heaven and earth. In this apartment was the ark, a chest of acacia wood, overlaid within and without with gold, and having a crown of gold about the top. It was made as a depository for the tables of stone, upon which God Himself had inscribed the ten commandments. Hence it was called the ark of God’s testament, or the ark of the covenant, since the ten commandments were the basis of the covenant made between God and Israel.

“The cover of the sacred chest was called the mercy seat. ...

“Above the mercy seat was the Shekinah, the manifestation of the divine Presence; and from between the cherubim, God made known His will.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 347–349

Tuesday

3 THE SIN OFFERING

- 3.a. What provision was made for sinners who had transgressed the law ignorantly? The priest: Leviticus 4:2–6; the congregation: Leviticus 4:13–15; a ruler: Leviticus 4:22–24; the common people: Leviticus 4:27–29

Note: “Day by day the repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle and, placing his hand upon the victim’s head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. The animal was then slain. ‘Without shedding of blood,’ says the apostle, there is no remission of sin. ‘The life of the flesh is in the blood.’ Leviticus 17:11. The broken law of God demanded the life of the transgressor. The blood, representing the forfeited life of the sinner, whose guilt the victim bore, was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed. By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary. In some cases the blood was not taken into the holy place; but the flesh was then to be eaten by the priest, as Moses directed the sons of Aaron, saying: ‘God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation.’ Leviticus 10:17. Both ceremonies alike symbolized the transfer of the sin from the penitent to the sanctuary.

“Such was the work that went on, day by day, throughout the year. The sins of Israel were thus transferred to the sanctuary, and a special work became necessary for their removal. God commanded that an atonement be made for each of the sacred apartments.” *The Great Controversy*, 418, 419

- 3.b. When was the sacrificial system established, and why? Genesis 4:3–5; Galatians 3:19

Note: “When man fell by transgression the law was not changed, but a remedial system was established to bring him back to obedience. The promise of a Saviour was given, and sacrificial offerings pointing forward to the death of Christ as the great sin offering were established. But had the law of God never been transgressed, there would have been no death, and no need of a Saviour; consequently there would have been no need of sacrifices.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 363

Wednesday

4 THE COMMON PRIEST

- 4.a. Who were called by God to serve as priests of the sanctuary? Exodus 28:1; 29:4. What clear command was given to them? Leviticus 10:9–11

Note: “The priests who burned incense before the Lord were required to use the fire of God’s kindling, which burned day and night, and was never extinguished. God gave explicit directions how every part of His service should be conducted, that all connected with His sacred worship might be in accordance with His holy character. And any deviation from the express directions of God in connection with his holy service was punishable with death.” *Temperance*, 43

“Assisted by his sons, Aaron offered the sacrifices that God required, and he lifted up his hands and blessed the people. All had been done as God commanded, and He accepted the sacrifice, and revealed His glory in a remarkable manner; fire came from the Lord and consumed the offering upon the altar.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 359

- 4.b. How often was the priest to offer the sacrifice? Exodus 29:39. What would this represent in our days? Psalm 55:17



“
The ark of
the covenant was a
depository for the tables
of stone, upon which God
Himself had inscribed the
ten commandments.

Note: “As the priests morning and evening entered the holy place at the time of incense, the daily sacrifice was ready to be offered upon the altar in the court without. This was a time of intense interest to the worshipers who assembled at the tabernacle. Before entering into the presence of God through the ministration of the priest, they were to engage in earnest searching of heart and confession of sin. They united in silent prayer, with their faces toward the holy place. Thus their petitions ascended with the cloud of incense, while faith laid hold upon the merits of the promised Saviour prefigured by the atoning sacrifice. The hours appointed for the morning and the evening sacrifice were regarded as sacred, and they came to be observed as the set time for worship throughout the Jewish nation. And when in later times the Jews were scattered as captives in distant lands, they still at the appointed hour turned their faces toward Jerusalem and offered up their petitions to the God of Israel. In this custom Christians have an example for morning and evening prayer. While God condemns a mere round of ceremonies, without the spirit of worship, He looks with great pleasure upon those who love Him, bowing morning and evening to seek pardon for sins committed and to present their requests for needed blessings.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 353, 354

Thursday

5 THE HIGH PRIEST

5.a. Who was chosen by God to be the high priest in the wilderness sanctuary? Exodus 29:5–7. What was the high priest’s duty? Hebrews 9:25

Note: “Only once a year could the high priest enter into the most holy place, after the most careful and solemn preparation. No mortal eye but that of the high priest could look upon the sacred grandeur of that apartment, because it was the especial

dwelling place of God’s visible glory. The high priest always entered it with trembling, while the people waited his return with solemn silence.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 274, 275

5.b. While the high priest was ministering in the most holy place on the Day of Atonement, what were the people to do? Leviticus 23:27–32. When did the Day of Atonement begin in heaven? Daniel 8:14; Isaiah 22:12–14, 20–22 (cf. Revelation 3:7, 8)

Note: “In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment. ... [W]hen the work of atonement was performed by the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary, the people were required to afflict their souls before God, and confess their sins, that they might be atoned for and blotted out. Will any less be required of us in this anti-typical Day of Atonement, when Christ in the sanctuary above is pleading in behalf of His people, and the final, irrevocable decision is to be pronounced upon every case?” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 125

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Moses saw a pattern of God’s character (the ten commandments) and pattern of His dwelling. How are the two connected?
2. How did the sacrificial system operate in ancient Israel, and how does it operate today?
3. What happens when we neglect to have morning and evening worship?
4. Why is it important to understand the Day of Atonement?

July 17 – 23, 2022

The Day of Atonement

Key Text

“Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; and you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.” Leviticus 23:27

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 479–491

Introduction

“Once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, the priest entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary. The work there performed completed the yearly round of ministration.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 355

Sunday

1 ATONEMENT FOR SIN

1.a. What gracious provision was made to atone for Adam’s sin? Genesis 3:15, 21

Note: “The instant Adam yielded to Satan’s temptation, and did the very thing which God had said he should not do, Christ, the Son of God, stood between the living and the dead, saying: ‘Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man’s place. Give him another trial.’ Transgression placed the whole world under the death sentence. But in heaven there was heard a voice saying, ‘I have found a ransom.’ He who knew no sin was made sin for fallen man.” *The Signs of the Times*, June 27, 1900

1.b. What system was ordained by God after man sinned? Galatians 3:19. How did Adam feel when he had to offer the first sacrifice for sin?

Note: “As he [Adam] slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God’s dear Son could expiate.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 68

Monday

2 THE DAILY MINISTRATION

2.a. What was the daily duty of the common priests in the sanctuary? Numbers 28:4; Hebrews 10:11

Note: “The ministration of the earthly sanctuary consisted of two divisions; the priests ministered daily in the holy place, while once a year the high priest performed a special work of atonement in the most holy, for the cleansing of the sanctuary. Day by day the repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle and, placing his hand upon the victim’s head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. The animal was then slain.” *The Great Controversy*, 418

“Every morning and evening a lamb of a year old was burned upon the altar, with its appropriate meat offering, thus symbolizing the daily consecration of the nation to Jehovah, and their constant dependence upon the atoning blood of Christ. God expressly directed that every offering presented for the service of the sanctuary should be ‘without blemish.’ Exodus 12:5. The priests were to examine all animals brought as a sacrifice and were to reject every one in which a defect was discovered.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 352

2.b. Before the priests would enter the sanctuary, what were they ordained to do? Exodus 30:18–21; 40:30–32

Note: “Between the altar and the door of the tabernacle was the laver, which was also of brass, made from the mirrors that had been the freewill offering of the women of Israel. At the laver the priests were to wash their hands and their feet whenever they went into the sacred apartments, or approached

the altar to offer a burnt offering unto the Lord.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 347, 348

“So the priests were not to enter the sanctuary with shoes upon their feet. Particles of dust cleaving to them would desecrate the holy place. They were to leave their shoes in the court before entering the sanctuary, and also to wash both their hands and their feet before ministering in the tabernacle or at the altar of burnt offering. Thus was constantly taught the lesson that all defilement must be put away from those who would approach into the presence of God.” *Ibid.*, 350

Tuesday

3 THE MOST HOLY PLACE

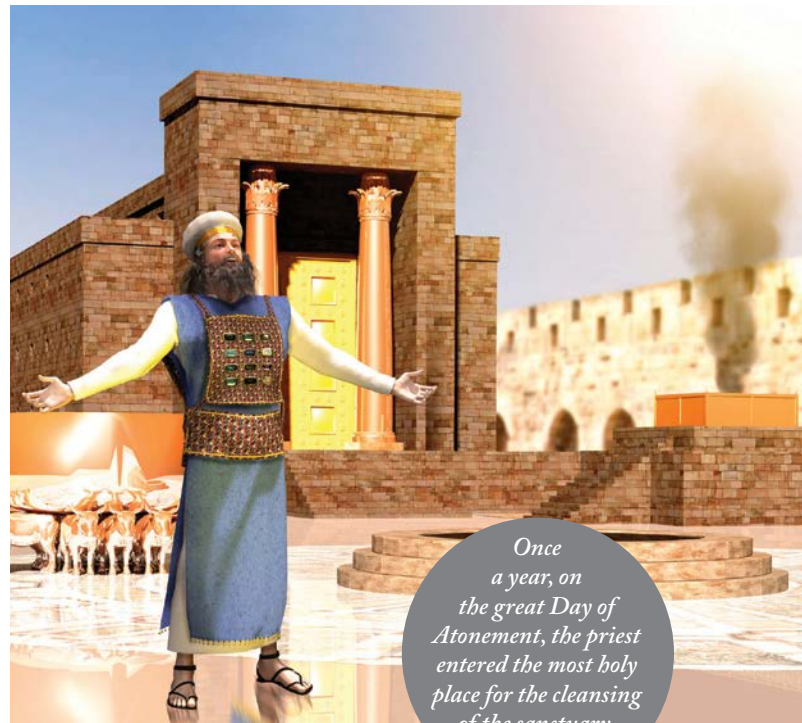
- 3.a. What separated the two apartments, and what object was placed in the most holy place? Exodus 26:31–34; Hebrews 9:3–5

Note: “The gorgeous curtain which formed the ceiling, inwrought with figures of angels in blue and purple and scarlet, added to the beauty of the scene. And beyond the second veil was the holy Shekinah, the visible manifestation of God’s glory, before which none but the high priest could enter and live.” *The Great Controversy*, 414

“All the furniture of this [first] apartment looked like purest gold, and reflected the image of the one who entered that place. The curtain which separated these two apartments looked glorious. It was of different colors and material, with a beautiful border, with figures of gold wrought upon it, representing angels.” *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 1, 159

- 3.b. How did God manifest His presence among the children of Israel, especially in the sanctuary? Exodus 40:34, 35; Leviticus 16:2

Note: “Within the second veil was placed the ark of the testimony, and the beautiful and rich curtain was drawn before the sacred ark. This curtain did not reach to the top of the building. The glory of God, which was above the mercy seat, could be seen from both apartments, but in a much less degree from the



Once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, the priest entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary.

first apartment. Directly before the ark, but separated by the curtain, was the golden altar of incense. The fire upon this altar was kindled by the Lord Himself, and was sacredly cherished by feeding it with holy incense, which filled the sanctuary with its fragrant cloud day and night. Its fragrance extended for miles around the tabernacle. When the priest offered the incense before the Lord, he looked to the mercy seat. Although he could not see it, he knew it was there; and as the incense arose like a cloud, the glory of the Lord descended upon the mercy seat, and filled the most holy place, and was visible in the holy place; and the glory often so filled both apartments that the priest was unable to officiate, and was obliged to stand at the door of the tabernacle.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 273, 274

“Above the ark, and forming the cover to the sacred chest, was the mercy seat, a magnificent piece of workmanship, surmounted by two cherubim, one at each end, and all wrought of solid gold. In this apartment the divine presence was manifested in the cloud of glory between the cherubim.” *The Great Controversy*, 412

Wednesday

4 THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST

- 4.a. What special event took place on the tenth day of the seventh month? Leviticus 16:29–31; Numbers 29:7

Note: “Once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, the priest entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary. The work there performed completed the yearly round of ministration.” *The Great Controversy*, 419

“On the tenth day of the seventh month the high priest entered the inner apartment, or most holy place, which he was forbidden, on pain of death, to enter at any other time. The cleansing of the sanctuary then performed completed the yearly round of service.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, 263

“Under the Mosaic system the cleansing of the sanctuary, or the great Day of Atonement, occurred on the tenth day of the seventh Jewish month (Leviticus 16:29–34), when the high priest, having made an atonement for all Israel, and thus removed their sins from the sanctuary, came forth and blessed the people.” *The Great Controversy*, 400

4.b. Before entering the most holy place, what was the high priest commanded to do? Leviticus 16:2–6, 16

Note: “Before the mercy seat God conversed with the high priest. If he remained an unusual time in the most holy, the people were often terrified, fearing that because of their sins or some sin of the priest, the glory of the Lord had slain him. But when the sound of the tinkling of the bells upon his garments was heard, they were greatly relieved. He then came forth and blessed the people.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 275

“In the holy of holies the great I AM took up His abode, and no human being was permitted to enter there except by divine appointment. There, above the mercy seat, overshadowed by the wings of the cherubim, dwelt the Shekinah of His glory, the perpetual token of His presence; while the breastplate of the high priest, set with precious stones, made known from the sacred precincts of the sanctuary the solemn message of Jehovah to the people. Wonderful dispensation, when the Holy One, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, thus manifested His glory, and revealed His will to the children of men!” *The Review and Herald*, March 2, 1886

Thursday

5 THE TWO GOATS

5.a. What was the meaning of the two goats taken on the Day of Atonement, and what was done to the goat chosen to be a sin offering? Leviticus 16:7, 8, 16

Note: “On the Day of Atonement two kids of the goats were brought to the door of the tabernacle, and lots were cast upon them, ‘one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat’ (Leviticus 16:8). The goat upon which fell the lot for the Lord was to be slain as a sin offering for the people.” *The Great Controversy*, 419

5.b. What happened to the scapegoat—Azazel—that was left alive? Leviticus 16:20–22. What did each of the two goats symbolize?

Note: “Christ’s work for the redemption of men and the purification of the universe from sin will be closed by the removal of sin from the heavenly sanctuary and the placing of these sins upon Satan, who will bear the final penalty.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 358

“When the ministration in the holy of holies had been completed, and the sins of Israel had been removed from the sanctuary by virtue of the blood of the sin offering, then the scapegoat was presented alive before the Lord... . In like manner, when the work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary has been completed, then in the presence of God and heavenly angels and the hosts of the redeemed the sins of God’s people will be placed upon Satan; he will be declared guilty of all the evil which he has caused them to commit. And as the scapegoat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness.” *The Great Controversy*, 658

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Explain the atonement in type and antitype.
- 2 Name some facts showing the sacredness of the sanctuary service.
- 3 What was in the second apartment of the sanctuary, the holiest of all?
- 4 What reveals the great mercy of God in the sanctuary service?
- 5 What did the two goats represent?

July 24 – 30, 2022

The Spirit of Prophecy

Key Text

“Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

Study Help: *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 24–39

Introduction

“God is either teaching His church, reproving their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 230

Sunday

1 IN THE BEGINNING

1.a. In the beginning, after God ended the work of creation, how did He communicate with Adam and Eve? Genesis 3:8, 9. How did He communicate with the patriarchs?

Note: “The holy pair [Adam and Eve] were not only children under the fatherly care of God, but students receiving instruction from the all-wise Creator. They were visited by angels, and were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between.” *Christian Education*, 207

“Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses understood the gospel. They looked for salvation through man’s Substitute and Surety. These holy men of old held communion with the Saviour who was to come to our world in human flesh; and some of them talked with Christ and heavenly angels face to face.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 366

1.b. How did God communicate His will to Moses, the great leader of Israel? Exodus 33:11; Numbers 12:7, 8

Note: “Moses was the greatest man who ever stood as leader of the people of God. He was greatly honored by God, not for the experience which he had gained in the Egyptian court, but because he was the meekest of men. God talked with him face to face, as a man talks with a friend.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1113

Monday

2 HOLY MEN OF GOD—THE PROPHETS

2.a. After sin raised a barrier between God and humanity (Isaiah 59:1, 2), whom did the Lord use to reveal His will to them? 1 Samuel 9:9; 2 Peter 1:21

Note: “It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. ... It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament. ‘The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’ Revelation 19:10.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 366, 367

“[T]he sayings of Christ are not a new revelation. The principles which He expounded were announced to Moses from the pillar of cloud, and to the prophets, who spoke and wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit.” *The Review and Herald*, July 7, 1896

“The more fully we accept the light presented by the Holy Spirit through the consecrated servants of God, the deeper and surer, even as the eternal throne, will appear the truths of ancient prophecy; we shall be assured that men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Men must themselves be under the influence of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Spirit’s utterances through the prophets.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 114

2.b. What was promised to God’s people regarding His will and plans? Numbers 12:6; Amos 3:7

Note: “God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time.”

Testimonies, Vol. 5, 455

“We must follow the directions given through the spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy.” *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, 298

Tuesday

3 THE ROLE OF A PROPHET

- 3.a. What is the physical condition of true prophets when they receive divine revelations? Numbers 24:2–4; Job 33:14–16. What should be done with the visions received? Habakkuk 2:2

Note: “At a meeting held in Dorchester, Mass., November, 1848, I had been given a view of the proclamation of the sealing message, and of the duty of the brethren to publish the light that was shining upon our pathway.

“After coming out of vision, I said to my husband: ‘I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world.’ ” *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, 125

- 3.b. Besides foretelling future events, what else were the duties of the prophets? Hosea 6:5; 12:10, 13; Nehemiah 6:7

Note: “His [God’s] prophets were sent to them [the Israelites in captivity] with reproofs and warnings. The people were awakened to see their guilt, they humbled themselves before God, and returned to Him with true repentance. Then the Lord sent them messages of encouragement, declaring that He would deliver them from their captivity, and restore them to His favor.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 468

“The work of Elisha as a prophet was in some respects very different from that of Elijah. To Elijah had been committed messages of condemnation and judgment; his was the voice of fearless reproof, calling king and people to turn from their evil ways. Elisha’s was a more peaceful mission; his it was to build up and strengthen the work that Elijah had begun; to teach the people the way of the Lord. Inspiration pictures him as coming into personal touch with the people, surrounded by the sons of the prophets, bringing by his miracles and his ministry healing and rejoicing.” *Prophets and Kings*, 235

“John, as a prophet, stood forth as God’s representative, to show the connection between the law and prophets, and the Christian dispensation. His work and ministry pointed back to the law and the prophets, while he, at the same time, pointed the people forward to Christ, as the Saviour of the world.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 2, 57

Wednesday

4 WOMEN PROPHETS

- 4.a. Name some of the women whom God called to the prophetic ministry. Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4; 2 Kings 22:14; Luke 2:36; Acts 21:8, 9

Note: “There was dwelling in Israel a woman illustrious for her piety, and through her the Lord chose to deliver His people. Her name was Deborah. She was known as a prophetess, and in the absence of the usual magistrates, the people had sought to her for counsel and justice.” *Daughters of God*, 37

“[T]he prophetess Huldah was living in Jerusalem, near the temple. The mind of the king, filled with anxious foreboding, reverted to her, and he determined to inquire of the Lord through this chosen messenger to learn, if possible, whether by any means within his power he might save erring Judah, now on the verge of ruin.” *Ibid.*, 44

- 4.b. After two men (William Foy and Hazen Foss) refused to unveil God's revelation to the people, what was shown to Ellen Gould Harmon? What title did she attribute to herself, and why?
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Note: "It was not long after the passing of the time in 1844 that my first vision was given me. I was visiting a dear sister in Christ, whose heart was knit with mine; five of us, all women, were kneeling quietly at the family altar. While we were praying, the power of God came upon me as I had never felt it before. I seemed to be surrounded with light, and to be rising higher and higher from the earth. I turned to look for the advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me: 'Look again, and look a little higher.' At this I raised my eyes and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the advent people were traveling toward the city." *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 58, 59

"To claim to be a prophetess is something that I have never done. If others call me by that name, I have no controversy with them. But my work has covered so many lines that I cannot call myself other than a messenger, sent to bear a message from the Lord to His people, and to take up work in any line that He points out." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 34

Thursday

5 TRUE AND FALSE PROPHETS

- 5.a. What is one of the identifying marks of God's remnant church in these last days? Ephesians 4:11; Revelation 12:17; 19:10, *last part*
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Note: "The law of God and the spirit of prophecy go hand in hand to guide and counsel the church, and whenever the church has recognized this by obeying His law, the spirit of prophecy has been sent to guide her in the way of truth. ...

"[T]he remnant church will acknowledge God in His law and will have the prophetic gift. Obedience to the law of God, and the spirit of prophecy has always distinguished the true people of God, and the test is usually given on present manifestations." *Loma Linda Messages*, 33

"It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the *Testimonies*. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the *Testimonies*, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction." *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 211

"If you lose confidence in the *Testimonies* you will drift away from Bible truth." *Ibid.*, Vol. 5, 674

"The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God." *The Faith I Live By*, 296

- 5.b. While, on the one hand, it is dangerous to reject the words of true prophets, on the other, what warning is also given to us regarding false prophets? Matthew 7:15; 24:24, 25; 2 Peter 2:1, 2; 1 John 4:1
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-
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Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How did God communicate with Adam and Eve in Eden?
 - 2 How has God spoken to His people in these last days?
 - 3 Name the general duties of a prophet.
 - 4 How was Ellen G. White's work similar to that of the prophets of old?
 - 5 What should we do if the testimonies cross our will, ways, or practices?
-

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Legumes



Legumes are plants with pods. They are a staple of many diets around the world including Asia, India, South and Central America, and the Middle East. Though legumes are a part of the American diet, they are not used as a primary source of protein as in other countries, except by vegetarians and vegans.

Legumes include:

- Black beans
- Kidney beans
- Navy beans
- Soybeans (Edamame)
- Peas
- Lentils
- Lima beans

Did You Know? Peanuts are considered legumes.

Legumes are a healthy source of protein and are considered a *complete protein* (contains all essential amino acids). A half a cup has the same amount of protein as one ounce of meat. They are

low in unsaturated fat and are cholesterol-free, high in fiber and vitamins and minerals, such as potassium, magnesium, iron, and zinc. They also will not cause increases in blood sugar as quickly as other carbohydrates.

Legumes, such as lentils or black beans, can be used as substitutes for ground beef in taco salads and soups or be made into a patty as a replacement for a hamburger patty in a burger. Hummus, made from legumes, can be used in the place of mayonnaise as a sandwich spread and bean purée in place of butter.

Combined with other plant foods legumes can help to make a balanced and healthy diet. [LM](#)

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



EDAMAME BASIL HUMMUS

Ingredients

2 cups frozen mukimame (shelled edamame), thawed
 ½ cup water
 ¼ cup tahini
 1 lemon, juiced
 3 garlic cloves or 1 Tbsp. of minced garlic
 ¼ cup fresh basil
 ¼ tsp. salt or to taste

Process

- Place all ingredients in a food processor and process until smooth, stopping to scrape down sides as needed. If too thick, add water, one tablespoon at a time.
- Enjoy with fresh veggies, as a sandwich spread or over leafy greens.

Note: Can store in the refrigerator in an airtight container for up to two weeks.





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- *May Reduce Menopausal Symptoms*
- *Might Reduce Bone Loss*

www.healthline.com/nutrition/edamame-benefits#TOC_TITLE_HDR_6

