

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

Coming of the King

*Man is a rebel against God's government.
But everything is about to change.*

p. 2

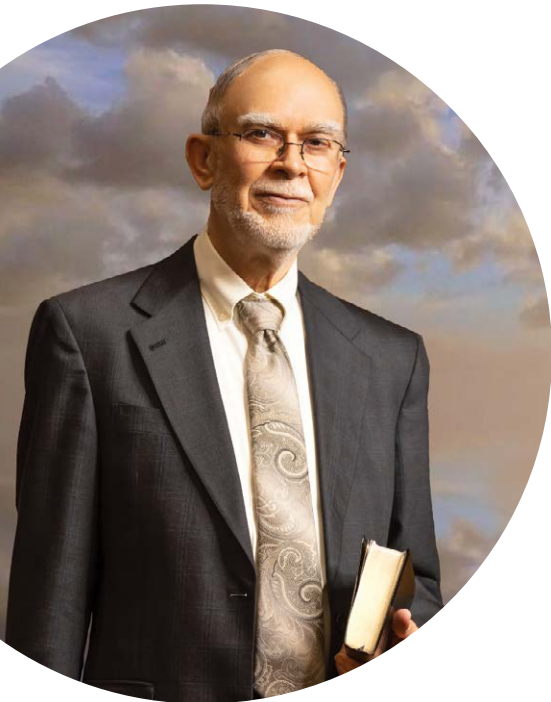
That You May See

*There are many things that God
has for us to see and understand,
but first we must obtain the
heavenly eye salve.*

p. 5

A Trip Out of This World

p. 10



From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

The Possibility (That People Think is Impossible)

Would you like your character to be like Jesus Christ's character? People say "that is impossible," but God says it is possible and that it will happen to all of His children because "we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

1 John 3:2

"God has called His people to glory and virtue, and these will be manifest in the lives of all who are truly connected with Him. Having become partakers of the heavenly gift, they are to go on unto perfection, being 'kept by the power of God through faith.'"

1 Peter 1:5. ... [W]hen they plead His [Christ's] unfailling promises, and claim them as their own, when with an opportunity that will not be denied they seek for the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be made complete in Him." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 530

"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character.

In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through cooperation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory.

"Before the believer is held out the wonderful possibility of being like Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself man is utterly unable to reach this condition. The holiness that God's word declares he must have before he can be saved is the result of the working of divine grace as he bows in submission to the discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of truth. ... The part of the Christian is to persevere in overcoming every fault. Constantly he is to pray to the Saviour to heal the disorders of his sin-sick soul. ...

"The work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous one. Day by day God labors for man's sanctification, and man is to co-operate with Him, putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation of right habits. ... Gladly He grants them the blessings they need in their struggle against the evils that beset them." *Ibid*, 532, 533 **LM**

HISTORIC

LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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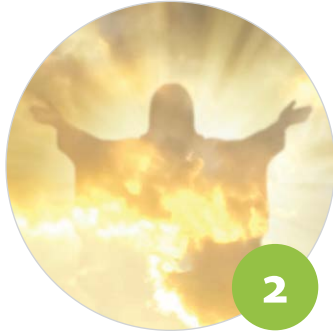
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LANDMARKS is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God's true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (2 Peter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

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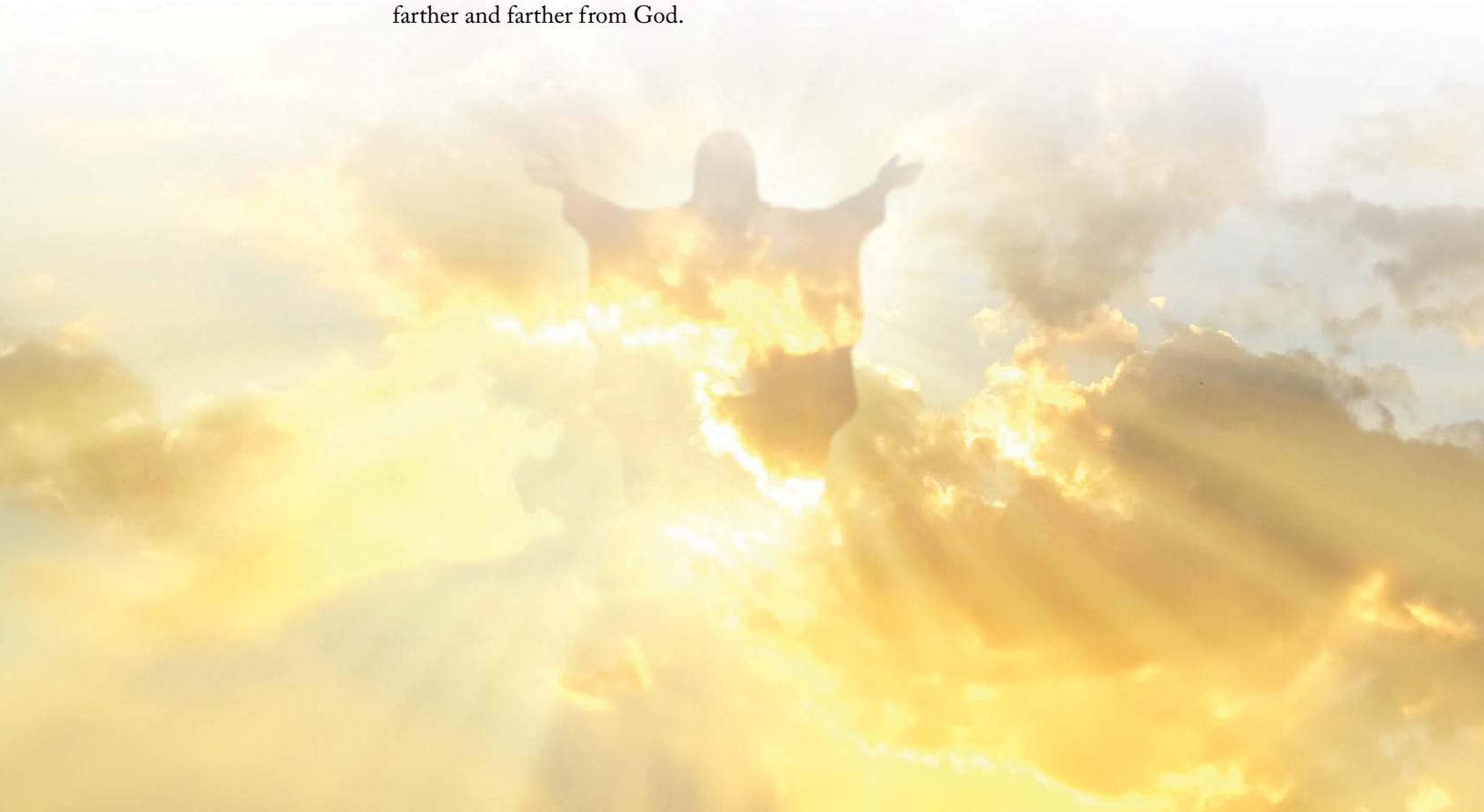
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Coming of the King

by James E. White

At creation God gave to man a beautiful world. “And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31. This earth was to be inhabited by a loyal, happy people, whose joy and delight would be to honor and obey the Giver of all the wonderful bounties of earth, sea, and sky.

Then entered Satan, and all was changed. Through sin, man became a rebel to the government of God. The dominion of the earth was lost to him, and Satan became the ruler. Again and again has the earth been cursed as man sinks lower and lower in his service of Satan, and departs farther and farther from God.



But this condition will not always maintain. In the outcome God's purpose will be carried out. "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else." Isaiah 45:18

And although man has sinned, and the earth is cursed, yet they will be redeemed, brought back to their loyalty to God, and the first dominion will be reestablished. Through Christ the blessings of Eden will be restored. "And Thou, O Tower of the flock, the Stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion." Micah 4:8

The First Advent of Christ

The only hope of salvation for a lost race was centered in the mission of Christ to earth at the first advent. The penalty for the sins of the saved must be met, and Jesus alone had wherewith to pay the price. As one with the Father, as Creator and Lawgiver, His sacrifice alone could meet the requirements of a broken law, and man could be redeemed.

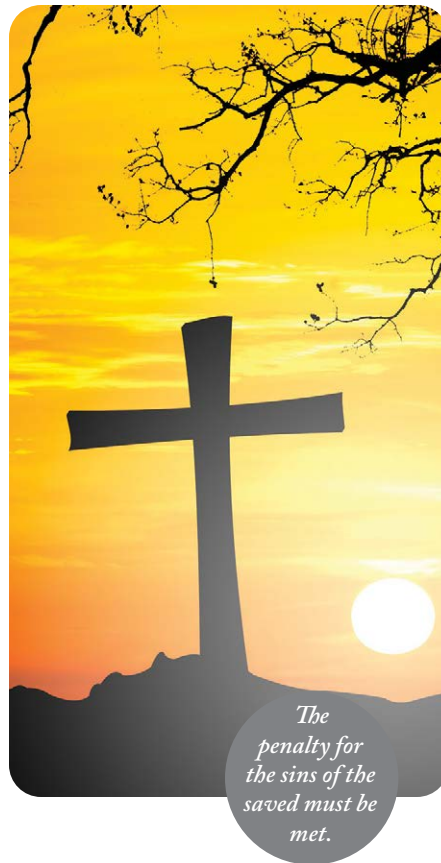
Christ, the desire of the faithful of all ages, could purchase back the lost dominion. He could restore man to the vantage ground which he had lost. With longing anticipation patriarch and prophet looked forward to the coming Messiah. This was the keynote of all their hopes.

The Second Coming of Christ

Prophets have foretold, and Christ when on earth distinctly taught, that He would again come to earth and bring redemption to His faithful people.

Before the flood, Enoch, "the seventh from Adam," testified, "Behold, the Lord cometh ... to execute judgment upon all." Jude 14, 15. This can refer only to the second coming of Christ.

In the depths of affliction, Job looks down the ages to the coming of the



Lord, the resurrection and final deliverance, and exclaims, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another." Job 19:25-27

Of the final rescue of this world from the thrall of sin and Satan, the inspired David sings, "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth." Psalm 96:11-13

In glowing words, the prophet Isaiah tells of the joy of the saints as they catch a glimpse of their Lord coming in the clouds. They exclaim, "Lo, this is our

God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 25:9

Just before the crucifixion the Saviour comforted the disciples with the promise, "In My Father's house are many mansions. ... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3

And as the sorrowful disciples stood with uplifted eyes striving to discern the form of their Lord as the cloud "received Him out of their sight," two men in white apparel appeared by their side, and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:9, 11

How will He come? In answer to the question of the disciples as recorded in Matthew 24, our Saviour said, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Verse 4. This certainly indicates that there will be a great deception abroad in regard to the second coming of Christ.

No event which ever has transpired, or ever will take place in this world, is so offensive and hateful to Satan as the second coming of Christ. At that time our Lord will come to break Satan's hold upon this world, and redeem the faithful and true. Then will be destroyed forever the power of the enemy. Hence every deception which he can use will be employed to deceive the world as to the nature and importance of this great event.

To meet the popular belief that the second coming of Christ occurs at death, at conversion, or in any other than the literal way, He says, "As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Verse 27

To the spiritualist, who proclaims that Christ has come in the private seance; to those who claim that the senseless



*At
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a beautiful
world.*

jargon of Christian Science is the second advent of Christ; to all the pretenders in all time who claim to be Christ, the apostle John says, “Behold, He cometh with clouds [of holy angels]; and every eye shall see Him.” Revelation 1:7

And our Saviour warns us, “If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not.” Matthew 24:23–26

No one will be left to question and doubt when our Saviour really appears. John describes His appearance when He returns to earth: “His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. . . . And His name is called The Word of God.” (See John 1:1.) “And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:12, 13, 16. He is not then the lowly man of Calvary, but the King coming to His kingdom.

Yes, Jesus is coming again. And while this fact rouses the hate and fury of Satan, and is a source of uneasiness and terror to the unprepared, it is the theme of joy and rejoicing to the few who “love His appearing.” Paul writes, “Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Hebrews 9:28

The apostle says that our Lord will come with salvation “unto them that look for Him.” Jesus said, “And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” Mark 13:37. When Jesus comes, all who are thus watching will swell the glad shout of victory, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.” Isaiah 25:9

But the wicked will not be able to endure the glory of Jesus as He comes to earth. They will hide themselves “in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains.” They will call to the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the glory of the face of Jesus. (See Revelation 6:15, 16.)

Can we know the time of His coming? Our Saviour said, “Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Matthew 24:36

No, the day and hour have not been revealed, and hence all who set a definite time for the Lord to come are sure to be mistaken. But are we left in absolute uncertainty? The twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew gives us many signs which mark as near at hand the day of His appearing. To the student of prophecy He says, “When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:33. Then comes the watching period. Then comes the time of waiting for our Lord. We do well to study our Saviour’s great second advent prophecy.

But the question is asked, “Does not Paul say that ‘the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night?’” Yes, and he also says that some will say, “‘Peace and safety,’ there is no danger that the Lord will come in our day.” But this is a dangerous position for any to occupy, for Paul says of such that “sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3

But there is no need for any to be overtaken unprepared. We may understand and know when the Lord “is near, even at the door.” The waymarks are plain and the mileposts are sure. For Paul adds, “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.” Verses 4, 5

Jesus is coming soon. Paul, writing to those who are looking for and expecting the Lord, said, “For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” Hebrews 10:37

When Jesus comes, He will bring the reward to the righteous. In the last chapter of the Bible, addressed to those in the last days, our Saviour says, by the mouth of John, “Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:12

Past, Present, and Future, James E. White, ©1909, 416–423

[All Scripture taken from the King James Version.] [LM](#)

That You May See

by John R. Pearson

“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”

Revelation 3:18

In the above text, there are three items mentioned that we are counseled to use in our walk along the narrow way: gold, white raiment, and eye salve. All have their role in our walk, and without the use of all three, we are unlikely to cross the Jordan successfully. However, I want to investigate the specific role that the eye salve plays in our Christian journey. It’s the only one of the three that we apparently do not need to buy. Perhaps that is an indication that we already possess it.

Why does Christ tell us to anoint our eyes with eye salve? The scripture clearly answers that question: “that you may see.”

One of the dictionary definitions of the word *see* is to “discern or deduce mentally after reflection or from information; understand,” which the context of the word in Revelation 3:18 would lead us to accept as the intended use of the word.



But then the question becomes, What does Christ want us to see, to understand?

A study in the Spirit of Prophecy reveals that, as we walk the narrow way, there is more than one thing, aided by holy eye salve, that Christ would have us to see and understand. Note that these blessings found in the Spirit of Prophecy are in no particular order here.

In *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, there is an eye-opening account of an incident that occurred at Cooranbong, Australia, in 1900. It gives us a good understanding of one of the things that we are to “see” once our eyes have been anointed with holy eye salve.

“In April, 1900, a holiday was appointed at the Avondale school for Christian workers. The program for the day provided for a meeting in the chapel in the morning, at which I and others addressed the students, calling their attention to what God had wrought in the building up of this school, and to their privilege and opportunities as students.

“After the meeting, the remainder of the day was spent by the students in various games and sports, some of which were frivolous, rude, and grotesque.

“During the following night I seemed to be witnessing the performances of the afternoon. The scene was clearly laid out before me, and I was given a message for the manager and teachers of the school.

“I was shown that in the amusements carried on at the school that afternoon the enemy gained a victory, and teachers were weighed in the balances and found wanting. I was greatly distressed and burdened to think that those standing in responsible positions should open the door and, as it were, invite the enemy in; for this they did in permitting the exhibitions that took place. As teachers, they should have stood firm against giving place to the enemy in any such line. By what they permitted they marred their record and grieved the Spirit of God. The students were encouraged in a course the

effects of which were not easily effaced. There is no end to the path of vain amusements, and every step taken in it is a step in a path which Christ has not traveled.

“This introduction of wrong plans was the very thing that should have been jealously guarded against. The Avondale school was established, not to be like the schools of the world, but, as God revealed, to be a pattern school. And since it was to be a pattern school, those in charge of it should have perfected everything after God’s plan, discarding all that was not in harmony with His will. Had their eyes been anointed with the heavenly eye salve, they would have realized that they could not permit the exhibition that took place that afternoon, without dishonoring God.” *Op. cit.*, 348, 349

If they had understood what they were permitting, if they had had the anointing of the heavenly eye salve, they could have avoided allowing activities that grieved the Spirit of God. They would have been able to discern that the conduct that went on that afternoon was contrary to God’s will. In short, they would have been able to distinguish error in even its most subtle and disguised form.

This spiritual discernment of subtly-disguised evil is perhaps one of the most important things that the application of heavenly eye salve enables us to accomplish.

Another ability granted by this anointing is explained in the following passage:

“Discussions may be entered into by mortals strenuously advocating creature merit, and each man striving for the supremacy, but they simply do not know that all the time, in principle and character, they are misrepresenting the truth as it is in Jesus. They are in a fog of bewilderment. They need the divine love of God which is represented by gold tried in the fire; they need the white raiment of Christ’s pure character; and they need the heavenly eye salve that they might discern with astonishment the utter worthlessness of creature merit to earn the wages of eternal life.” *Faith and Works*, 23

Here is the second thing that the eye salve of spiritual discernment enables us to perceive: that creature merit or believing that

“

It is Christ’s merit alone, acquired by faith, that offers the believer safe passage to Canaan.

I or any other creature has inherent or innate or acquired worthiness, is totally false. It is Christ's merit alone, acquired by faith, that offers the believer safe passage to Canaan.

The third thing that heavenly eye salve does for us: It gives us a clear vision of the narrow way that we are to tread—the path that leads directly to Canaan, as explained in the following statement.

“Those who think that they can receive the blessing of God at this meeting [a council meeting in Michigan] without humiliation of self will go away just as they came. They will have as much perplexity as they had before. But, brethren and sisters, we cannot afford this. Let us humble our hearts before God. Let us allow Christ to anoint our eyes with the heavenly eye salve that we may see. We do not want to be blind; we want to see everything distinctly. We do not want to be marching one day toward Canaan, and the next day back to Egypt, and the next day toward Canaan, and then back to Egypt again. Day by day we are to march steadily forward. It makes my heart ache, it fills me with the keenest sorrow, to think of the precious blessings we are losing because we are so far behind the light.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Book 2, 727

The fourth thing that the application of heavenly eye salve does for our spiritual vision is it enables us to distinguish between truth and error. “The eye salve, [is] the power of clear discernment between good and evil . . .” *Our High Calling*, 351

It is explained in more detail in this passage:

“Christian strength is obtained by serving the Lord faithfully. [We] should realize that to be one with Christ is the highest honor to which [we] can attain. By the strictest fidelity [we] should strive for moral independence, and this independence [we] should maintain against every influence that may try to turn [us] from righteous principles. Stronger minds may, yes, they will, make



The application of heavenly eye salve enables us to distinguish between truth and error.

assertions that have no foundation in truth. Let the heavenly eye salve be applied to the eyes of your understanding, that you may distinguish between truth and error. Search the word; and when you find a ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ take your stand.” *My Life Today*, 73

A fifth blessing given by application of spiritual eye salve is the ability to discern the “indications of the divine will,” enabling us to walk the narrow way without becoming confused by erroneous winds of doctrine that are blowing with more and more frequency as we approach the end of time.

“Whatever path God chooses for us, whatever way He ordains for our feet, that is the only path of safety. We are daily to cherish a spirit of childlike submission, and pray that our eyes may be anointed with the heavenly eye salve in order that we may discern the indications of the divine will, lest we become confused in our ideas, because our will seems to be all-controlling. With the eye of faith, with childlike submission as obedient children, we must look to God, to follow His guidance, and difficulties will clear away. The promise is, ‘I will

instruct thee and teach thee . . . : I will guide thee with Mine eye’ (Psalm 32:8).” *Our Father Cares*, 134

Closely akin to the fifth blessing is the sixth: the ability to discern the wondrous providences of God.

“Great possibilities, high and holy attainments, are placed within the reach of all who have true faith. Shall we not anoint our eyes with eye salve, that we may discern the wondrous things here brought before us? Why do we not with persevering earnestness, work out this prayer, advancing onward and upward, reaching the standard of holiness? We are laborers together with God, and we must work in harmony with one another and with God, ‘for it is God which worketh in . . . [us] both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’ (Philippians 2:13).” *Ibid.*, 260

The ability to “see all things in the light of God’s word” is the seventh blessing that the application of eye salve provides.

“A deceiving crookedness is discernible in the minds of those whose eyes are not anointed with the heavenly eye salve that they may see all things in the

light of God's word. The will becomes enslaved, bound to pursue a course which the word of God will not justify." *Ibid.*, 268

The depth of meaning in the following passage, which details our eighth blessing, is from *Our High Calling*, 315, and requires a bit of analysis to fully comprehend the ninth blessing.

"The worker for God often regards the activities of life as essential to the advancement of the work. Self is mingled with all that is said and done. ... The worker looks upon himself as a necessity. God says, 'This poor soul has lost sight of Me and My sufficiency. I must cast My light and My vitalizing power into his heart. I must prepare him to receive truth by anointing him with the heavenly eye salve. He sees too many things. His eye is not fastened on Me.'"

First, God says that the application of eye salve enables us to perceive the truth, but then He adds that by perceiving the truth, our vision will be focused on God. When we perceive God with the aid of heavenly eye salve, we understand His loving character more and more.

"But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in mercy and truth." Psalm 86:15

As we seek to advance the cause of truth, the use of eye salve is essential so that our "spiritual eyes are anointed with holy eye salve, that they may discern clearly what will be for the advancement, not the detriment, of the cause." *Publishing Ministry*, 225. Clear spiritual vision will enable us to be effective workers as we seek to hasten the end of Satan's rule and the return of our Lord and Saviour.

A common theme in the counsel we are given in the Spirit of Prophecy regarding studying sacred and inspired writings is to "mine" for hidden gems.

"Those who desire to find the treasures of truth must dig for them as the miner digs for the treasure hidden in the earth. No halfhearted, indifferent



work will avail. It is essential for old and young, not only to read God's word, but to study it with wholehearted earnestness, praying and searching for truth as for hidden treasure. Those who do this will be rewarded, for Christ will quicken the understanding." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 111

Thus we have the tenth benefit of the application of holy eye salve: "When our eyes are anointed with the holy eye salve, we shall be able to detect the precious gems of truth, even though they may be buried beneath the surface." *Reflecting Christ*, 111

The eleventh and last benefit we will look at is enabling us to distinguish the true from the counterfeit.

"It would be surprising if there were not some, who, not being well-balanced in mind, have spoken and acted indiscreetly; for whenever and wherever the Lord works in giving a genuine blessing, a counterfeit is also revealed, in order to make of none effect the true work of God. Therefore we need to be exceedingly careful and walk humbly before God, that we may have spiritual eye

salve that we may distinguish the working of the Holy Spirit of God from the working of that spirit that would bring in wild license and fanaticism." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 142

In one sense, even though there may be subtle or situational differences between these eleven points, all can be lumped together by recognizing that the heavenly eye salve simply gives us the ability to distinguish truth from error, right from wrong, the leadings of God from the deceptions of Satan, the real from the counterfeit, to distinguish between good and evil. Given that, we can easily recognize that the application and use of eye salve is essential in our Christian walk. Therefore it is also essential that we recognize what this eye salve is and how to obtain it. Inspiration clearly tells us.

"The eye is the sensitive conscience, the inner light, of the mind. Upon its correct view of things the spiritual healthfulness of the whole soul and being depends. The 'eye salve,' the word of God, makes the conscience smart under its application, for it convicts of sin. But the smarting is necessary that the healing may follow, and the eye be single to the glory of God." *Our High Calling*, 350

We see, then, that the eye salve is the word of God. Indeed, we do not need to "buy" it. It is a free gift. And when we study that word, we are applying the heavenly balm to our thinking, our reasoning, our understanding, so that we may have the clear spiritual vision that the Lord wants all of His children to have.

NOTE: In the Spirit of Prophecy, our subject word is written eye salve, eyesalve, and eye-salve. For consistency, we have used eye salve throughout this article. **LM**

John R. Pearson is the office manager and a board member of Steps to Life. He may be contacted by email at johnpearson@stepstolife.org



*Let Not
Your Heart
Be Troubled*

Let not your heart be troubled,
Ye believe in God and in Me;
In my Father's house are many mansions,
I go to prepare a place for thee.

Why will you wait my brother?
Promises of God all are true;
Jesus bought your life on Calvary's mountain,
And soon He will come again for you.

When Jesus comes, my brother,
He will take you home with Him there.
He has promised you a life eternal,
And you must be faithful till the end.

The Lord is coming, are you ready?
The Lord is coming, are you ready?
Would your heart be right if He came tonight?
The Lord is coming, are you ready?

Daniel S. Warner

A Trip Out of This World

by John J. Grosboll

Have you ever thought about being an astronaut? Not just being a stargazer with your feet firmly planted on the ground, but to actually travel among the stars and galaxies? The Bible tells us of a few good men who have been given this privilege. Who were they and what qualified them to be the world's first space travelers?



A Life of Continual Perfecting

Enoch was the first man to travel in space. This is what the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy tell us about him.

“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” Genesis 5:24

“Enoch continued to grow more heavenly while communing with God. ... The Lord loved Enoch because he steadfastly followed Him and abhorred iniquity and earnestly sought heavenly knowledge, that he might do His will perfectly. He yearned to unite himself still more closely to God, whom he feared, revered, and adored. God would not permit Enoch to die as other men, but sent His angels to take him to heaven without seeing death.” *The Story of Redemption*, 59

“His faith waxed stronger, his love became more ardent, with the lapse of centuries. To him prayer was as the breath of the soul. He lived in the atmosphere of heaven. ...

“For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself. He had stood at the threshold of the eternal world, only a step between him and the land of the blest; and now the portals opened, the walk with God, so long pursued on earth, continued, and he passed through the gates of the Holy City, the first from among men to enter there.” *Reflecting Christ*, 320

What qualified Enoch for translation? He abhorred iniquity and continually grew more heavenly, earnestly seeking to perfectly do God’s will. He purposed to unite himself more closely to God.

We also find that Mrs. White had occasion to meet and talk with Enoch during one of her visions.

“Wings were given me ... Then I was taken to a world which had seven

moons. There I saw good old Enoch, who had been translated. ... I asked him if this was the place he was taken to from the earth. He said, ‘It is not; the city is my home, and I have come to visit this place.’ He moved about the place as if perfectly at home.” *Early Writings*, 39, 40

A Life Restored

For 40 years, God had prepared Moses to lead His children out of Egypt into the promised land of Canaan. For another 40 years, he led the children of Israel through the wilderness. He withstood their rebellions, their whining, and their anger. And through it all, he remained faithful and obedient to God, until he, the meekest man in the world, was driven by frustration to strike the rock in disobedience to God’s instruction. With a contrite heart, Moses confessed his sin, and he was forgiven, but denied the privilege of leading the people into the promised land.

He stood before the congregation and spoke to them his last words.

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him; for He is thy life, and the length of thy days. That thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” *The Signs of the Times*, March 24, 1881

That same day God commanded Moses to go to Mount Nebo.

“When Moses had ended his last words to Israel, he turned from the congregation, and in silence and alone he made his way up the mountain side. ... To Nebo, the highest point on that ridge. Upon that lonely height

he stood, and gazed with undimmed eyes upon the scene spread out on every side. ...

“Angels of God presented to Moses a panoramic view of the land of promise. Every part of the country was spread out before him, not faint and uncertain

in the dim distance, but standing out clear,

distinct, and beautiful to his delighted vision. ...

“As the glories of the promised land faded from his sight, a scene of deeper interest passed before him. He was permitted to look down the stream of time, and to behold the first advent of our Saviour. He saw Jesus as a babe at Bethlehem. He heard the voices of the angelic host break forth in that glad song of praise to God and peace on earth. He beheld Christ’s humble life in Nazareth, His ministry of love and sympathy and healing, His rejection by a proud and unbelieving nation, the agony in Gethsemane, the betrayal, the cruel mockery and scourging, and that last crowning act of nailing Him to the tree. Moses saw that as he had lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of God must be lifted upon the cross, to give His life a sacrifice for men ...

“Then, like a tired warrior, he lay down to rest. ‘So Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.’ ...

“

*Jesus is coming
again soon in clouds of
glory surrounded by an
innumerable number of
angels to take His children
home.*

”

“Satan exulted that he had succeeded in causing Moses to sin against God. For his transgression, Moses came under the dominion of death. Had his life not been marred with that one sin, in failing to give to God the glory of bringing water from the rock, he would have entered the promised land, and would have been translated to heaven without seeing death. But the servant of God was not long permitted to remain in the tomb. Christ Himself with the angels who buried Moses, came down from heaven, and called forth the sleeping saint, and bore him up in triumph to the city of God.” *Ibid.*, March 31, 1881



There is no need for reservations, passports, visas, or tickets to go to heaven.

Romans 5 tells us that death reigned from Adam to Moses. Moses was the first human being to die and be resurrected. He was also given an immortal, sinless body at his resurrection.

Moses didn't need a spaceship. Christ Himself woke Moses and took him, with a retinue of angels to the city of God.

A Life of Perseverance

“Elijah the Tishbite ... entered upon his mission confident in God's purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success. The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed.” *Prayer*, 133

A man of prayer and enduring faith, God used Elijah to deliver—during one of the most grave crises in the history of the children of Israel—a message of much-needed repentance among His people and judgment to King Ahab. We all know the Bible account of Elijah and the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel, and the extraordinary and miraculous display of God's power.

“Elijah had walked with God. His work had been painful and trying, for the Lord through him had reprov'd the sins of Israel. Elijah was a prophet of God; yet he was compelled to flee from place to place to save his life. His own nation hunted him like a wild beast that they might destroy him. But God translated Elijah. Angels bore him in glory and triumph to heaven.” *Early Writings*, 162

“In the desert, in loneliness and discouragement, Elijah had said that he had had enough of life and had prayed that he might die. But the Lord in His mercy had not taken him at his word. There was yet a great work for Elijah to do; and when his work was done, he was not to perish in discouragement and solitude. Not for him the descent into the tomb, but the ascent with God's angels to the presence of His glory.” *Heaven*, 102

“Suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them [Elijah and Elisha]; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” 2 Kings 2:11

Elijah didn't need a spaceship. God sent a band of angels in a whirlwind to carry him up to heaven.

The Perfect Example

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He went back to heaven to present His sacrifice to His Father. That same day, He returned and remained 40 days with His disciples before He was taken up from the Mount of Olives.

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men [angels] stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand

gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9–11

“They saw Moses, representing those who will be raised from the dead at the time of the second advent; and there also stood Elijah, representing those who at the close of earth’s history will be changed from mortal to immortal and be translated to heaven without seeing death.” *Heaven*, 103

Christ ascended from Olivet. He didn’t need a spaceship. He slowly began to rise, not subject to the law of gravity. He engaged in interplanetary travel without any worldly assistance. Jesus was received into a cloud, disappeared from sight, and went up into the kingdom of heaven.

Soon-to-Be Space Travelers

Jesus is coming again soon, in clouds of glory surrounded by an innumerable number of angels to take His children home with Him for eternity. What do the examples of Enoch, Moses, Elijah, and Jesus tell us about this glorious event?

The purpose of this 6,000-years-long controversy is two-fold:

- to prepare a people, restoring the image of God in those whom He created, and
- to demonstrate the heinousness of sin and its ultimate and utter destruction.

“The Lord here teaches a lesson of the greatest importance by the translation of Enoch, a descendant of fallen Adam, that all would be rewarded, who by faith would rely upon the promised Sacrifice and faithfully obey His commandments.

...

“Enoch, separating himself from the world, and spending much of his time in prayer and in communion with God, represents God’s loyal people in the last days, who will be separate from the world.” *The Story of Redemption*, 59, 60



“To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch’s must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord’s second coming.” *Reflecting Christ*, 320

“God shut Moses out of Canaan, to teach a lesson which should never be forgotten—that He requires exact obedience ...” *Heaven*, 101

“Moses was a type of Christ. He received the words from the mouth of God, and spoke them to the people. God saw fit to discipline Moses in the school of affliction and poverty, before he could be prepared to lead the armies of Israel in their travels from Egypt to the earthly Canaan. The Israel of God who are now passing on to the heavenly Canaan have a Captain who needed no earthly teaching to perfect Him for His mission as a divine Leader. He manifested no human weakness or imperfection; yet He died to obtain for us an entrance into the promised land.” *The Signs of the Times*, March 31, 1881

When Jesus returns to this earth, the Bible says that all of His children, those who have died and those who are living,

are going to take a space trip. It says, “The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16. Those who have died in Christ, those who were His disciples and followers, will rise first.

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” Verse 17

Notice that when He comes, there will be a shout, and when Jesus shouts, graves all over the world will open and the dead in Christ will be alive again. Jesus said, “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” John 5:28, 29

Paul said, “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 15:50, *first part*. A person cannot go to the



Your
life can be
free from sin's
control.

kingdom of God in their present and sinful body. His body must be changed to an immortal, sinless body. He said, “Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep [we will not all die], but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” Verses 51, 52

This immortal, sinless body is not bound by the law of gravity and will be able to lift off and travel into space. “Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” Philippians 3:20, 21

There are just two things needed to make this trip—a sanctified character and a new, transformed body. There is no need for reservations, visas, tickets, luggage, rental cars, planes, ships, or trains. The perfecting of character will have been done, and that perfect character will be carried in the heart as the new body rises up into the clouds to meet Jesus.

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the

tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:30, 31

People who look to the world do many things to look better. They visit their barber or beautician, they go to a tailor or dressmaker, buy cosmetics, and maybe even have a face lift or some other cosmetic surgery. All this is done to make the outward man look more pleasing. All the while they remain inside the sinful, mortal creatures they are.

But God offers a new, sin-free character and a new body that will never age to everyone who is willing to believe in and surrender their will to Him. “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12

Friend, sin does not have to control your life. You can be free from your evil habits and sinful ways. The Bible says that if you receive Jesus, He will give you the power to be victorious. The Holy Spirit will transform you, on the inside, to become a new person, and that changes everything. If you

want to be a space traveler, you must surrender your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and ask Him for a new heart and a perfect character. Only God—because of His Son, and through the working of the Holy Spirit—can do this for you.

Have you opened the door of your heart to let in the heavenly Guest who wants to transform you into His likeness as you cooperate with the Holy Spirit? To experience the greatest space trip ever, we must be born again. The kingdom of God, a land with no sorrow, no sickness nor death, no pain, no suffering, no disappointment, is awaiting its citizens.

“A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 332

“The character we cultivate, the attitude we assume today, is fixing our future destiny. We are all making a choice, either to be with the blessed, inside the City of Light, or to be with the wicked, outside the city. ...

“When Christ comes, the balances of heaven will weigh the character, and decide whether it is pure, sanctified, and holy. ...

“Happiness is the result of holiness, and conformity to the will of God. Those who would be saints in heaven, must first be saints upon the earth; for when we leave this earth, we shall take our character with us ...” *Reflecting Christ*, 303 **LM**

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

Mrs. Mary Bridges Canady Slade was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1826. She was well educated, a teacher, poet, and a minister's wife. She was an assistant editor of *The New England Journal of Education*, and the author of a children's magazine, *Wide-Awake*. Mary authored hymns, Sunday School materials, and books on education, primarily for training teachers. She and her husband were active in the underground railroad. She spent her entire life living in Fall River, passing away in 1882 at the age of 56.

Source: hymnary.org/person/Slade_Mary

I couldn't find a backstory for this particular song, but it was a favorite, sung in my Primary Sabbath School class when I was a child. So simple a message that even a child can understand that we must take the gospel to everyone.

Tell It Again!

Into the tent where a gypsy boy lay,
Dying alone at the close of the day,
News of salvation we carried; said he,
"Nobody ever has told it to me."

"Did He so love me, a poor little boy?
Send unto me the good tidings of joy?
Need I not perish? My hand will He hold?
Nobody ever the story has told!"

Bending, we caught the last words of his breath,
Just as he entered the valley of death,
"God sent His Son!" "Whosoever," said he;
"Then I am sure that He sent Him for me!"

Smiling, he said, as his last sigh he spent,
"I am so glad that for me He was sent!"
Whispered, while low sank the sun in the west,
"Lord, I believe;" "tell it now to the rest!"

Tell it again! Tell it again!
Salvation's story repeat o'er and o'er.
Till none can say of the children of men,
"Nobody ever has told me before." **LM**



The Plan of Redemption and Sanctuary Service

Clues – KJV

Across

- B5 He who _____ himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14
C15 God _____ forever. 1 John 2:17
D2 John saw himself as a _____ in tribulation. Revelation 1:9
D22 For _____ days of the Passover, unleavened bread was eaten. Exodus 12:15
F14 Obey God's voice and be His _____ treasure. Exodus 19:5
I15 We are made a _____ to the world and angels. 1 Corinthians 4:9
J4 Called to be _____ and harmless sons of God. Philippians 2:15
M21 The kingdom of God is _____ you. Luke 17:21
N8 Moses spoke to the _____ of Israel. Exodus 12:3
P19 Jesus suffered being _____. Hebrews 2:18
R6 The Lord's house shall be _____. Isaiah 2:2
S16 Abel offered a more _____ sacrifice than his brother. Hebrews 11:4
T7 To what _____ is the multitude of sacrifices?..... Isaiah 1:11
V3 Whoever turns from hearing the law is an _____. Proverbs 28:9
X5 Abel brought the _____ of his flock as a sacrifice. Genesis 4:4
X21 Jesus _____ Himself with a towel and washed the feet of His disciples. John 13:4

Down

- B8 Fire and _____ rained from heaven on Sodom. Luke 17:29
B12 Christ is _____ of the body, His church. Colossians 1:18
B15 In the upper room, Jesus laid aside His _____. John 13:4
C18 God will _____ among the children of Israel. Exodus 29:45
C23 This _____ you have heard from the beginning. 1 John 3:11
C25 Sodom would have been spared if there were _____ righteous. Genesis 18:32
D2 Humble yourself, _____ all your care on God. 1 Peter 5:7
D6 Noah built an _____ unto the Lord. Genesis 8:20
G10 _____ bread was eaten at Passover. Exodus 12:8
G12 All the _____ in Egypt died. Exodus 11:5
H17 Without blood, there is no _____ of sin. Hebrews 9:22
J6 Moses was _____ of God when making the tabernacle. Hebrews 8:5
K15 It is the Father's good _____ to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32
K19 A city that is set on a hill _____ be hid. Matthew 5:14
L25 Ye are a _____ of priests. Exodus 19:6
N8 Many hearts go after their _____. Ezekiel 33:31
O3 God asked Cain why his _____ had fallen. Genesis 4:6
R16 The flood came and _____ them all. Luke 17:27
R19 The Passover would be a _____ forever. Exodus 12:14
R23 Save yourselves from this _____ generation. Acts 2:40
U25 Whoever _____ his brother is a murderer. 1 John 3:15

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Answer Key:

Z	H	22	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	Z
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U	H	O	O	T	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	U
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Conformed to God's Word



Those who desire to know the truth have nothing to fear from the investigation of the word of God. But upon the threshold of investigation of the word of God, inquirers after truth should lay aside all prejudice, and hold in abeyance all preconceived opinion, and open the ear to hear the voice of God from His messenger. Cherished opinions, long-practiced customs and habits, are to be brought to the test of the Scriptures; and if the word of God opposes your views, then, for your soul's sake, do not wrest the Scriptures, as many do to their soul's

destruction in order to make them seem to bear a testimony in favor of their errors. Let your inquiry be, What is truth? not, What have I hitherto believed to be truth? Do not interpret the Scriptures in the light of your former belief, and assert that some doctrine of finite man is truth. Let your inquiry be, What saith the Scriptures? Let God speak to you from His living oracles, and open your heart to receive the word of God.

Many are following the traditions of men; but as the traditions of men are erroneous, and no error has sanctifying power, their souls are not sanctified to

God. Yet they hold on to the doctrines of men with firm tenacity, and will not be moved by the testimony of Scripture. They have been educated to believe falsehood, and they use every ingenious method to make it appear that the Bible supports them in their position of error, making falsehood appear to be truth. ... Make up your mind that your former theories must change if they are not in harmony with the doctrines of the Bible. You are called upon to put forth diligent effort to discover what is truth. This should not be thought a hard requirement; for men are called upon to toil

for their temporal and earthly blessings, and it is not to be expected that we shall find the heavenly treasure unless we are willing to dig in the mines of truth, and exercise all our powers of mind and heart to understand.

We thank God for the Bible; for it is the treasure-house of knowledge, and it is the duty and privilege of every son and daughter of Adam to search the pages of both the Old and the New Testament with diligence, in order that all may know what are the terms of salvation. We are to explore the sacred word as a miner searches the earth, and examines the rocks for hidden treasures, for the gold and the silver concealed in the veins of the mountains. Those who come to the searching of the sacred mine of truth with a humble and teachable spirit, will soon discover jewels of truth that will reward the earnest seeker. ...

It is Satan's studied plan to pervert the Scriptures, and to lead men to put a false construction on the words of God. ... All articles of faith, all doctrines and creeds, however sacred they have been regarded, are to be rejected if they contradict the plain statements of the word of God. If the Bible supports the doctrine we have held in the past, we are justified in retaining it; for the word of God gives us foundation for our faith.

The holy oracles should be studied with humble hearts and earnest prayer, in order that we may bring the truth which we see plainly stated into our practical, everyday life. Thus we shall make it evident that we conform our life to the teachings of God's word. Jesus presents to us two classes who have been blessed with an understanding of divine truth. One class not only hear His sayings, but they also do them, and another class hear, but do them not. ...

Experience to be Tested by the Word

There are many who claim that they have been sanctified to God, and yet when the great standard of righteousness

is presented to them, they become greatly excited, and manifest a spirit which proves that they know nothing of what it means to be sanctified. They have not the mind of Christ; for those who are truly sanctified will reverence and obey the word of God as fast as it is opened to them, and they will express a strong desire to know what is truth on every point of doctrine. An exultant feeling is no evidence of sanctification. The assertion, "I am saved, I am saved," does not prove that the soul is saved or sanctified. Many who are greatly excited are told that they are sanctified, when they have no intelligent idea of what the term means; for they know not the Scriptures nor the power of God. They flatter themselves that they are in conformity to the will of God, because they feel happy; but when they are tested, when the word of God is brought to bear upon their experience, they stop their ears from hearing the truth, saying, "I am sanctified," and that puts an end to the controversy. They will have nothing to do with searching the Scriptures to know what is truth, and prove that they are fearfully self-deceived. Sanctification means very much more than a flight of feeling. Excitement is not sanctification. Entire conformity to the will of our Father which is in heaven is alone sanctification, and the will of God is expressed in His holy law. The keeping of all the commandments of God is sanctification. Proving yourselves obedient children to God's word is sanctification. The word of God is to be our guide, not the opinions or ideas of men. Let those who would be truly sanctified

search the word of God with patience, with prayer, and with humble contrition of soul. Let them remember that Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth."

Christianity is simply living by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. We are to believe in, and live in, Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. We have faith in God when we believe His word; we trust and obey God when we keep His commandments; and we love God when we love His law. Believing a lie will not put any one of us in the way of being sanctified. Should all the ministers in the world tell us that we were safe in disobeying a single precept of the holy standard of righteousness, it would not lessen our obligations, nor make our guilt less, if we reject a plain "Thou shalt" or "Thou shalt not." We need not think that because our fathers did a certain way, and died happy, we may follow in their footsteps, and be accepted in rendering the same service, and doing the same works, that they did. We have had more light than they had in their day; and if we would be accepted of God, we must be as faithful in obeying the light and walking in it as they were in receiving and obeying the light that God sent to them. We must accept and improve the light that shines upon our pathway, as faithfully as they accepted and improved the light that fell upon their pathway in their generation. We shall be judged according to the light that shines into the soul-temple in our day; and if we follow the light, we shall be free men and women in Christ Jesus. *The Review and Herald*, March 25, 1902 LM

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Many people hold on to the doctrines of men with firm tenacity, and will not be moved by the testimony of Scripture.

The Wrong Way

Lisa could hardly wait. It seemed like school would never end. The last day before summer vacation always seemed like such a long day, but at last it was over, and as she hurried home from school her eyes were sparkling with excitement.

Summer vacation always meant a trip to the cottage for Lisa and her family, and this year would be no exception. Mother had been working hard all week washing, ironing, and packing for her large family, and tomorrow they would leave on the long drive to their cottage by the lake.

Lisa's father and mother loved the Lord Jesus, and they often told their children of the love of God in sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to shed His blood for their sins. They also frequently showed their love for Jesus by the kind things they did for others.

This year they had thoughtfully invited Aunt Ellen to go along with them to their cottage. Aunt Ellen had a married daughter who lived near their cottage, and they knew she would enjoy a visit with her daughter. So although Lisa's family was large, they decided they could make room for one more in their van.

Very early the next morning the van loaded with the family plus Aunt Ellen started out on the long drive. At first everyone was excited, but as hour after hour went by, the children and their parents became drowsy in the warm van.

It was then that Aunt Ellen saw a way she could be helpful.

"Let me drive for a while," she suggested, "while you get some sleep. Then when you've had a nap you can drive again."

They pulled the van over to the side of the road and changed drivers, and soon they were on their way again. Aunt Ellen was a good driver, so it wasn't long before Lisa's parents were sound asleep.

Aunt Ellen smiled as she drove along.

She was looking forward to seeing her daughter and son-in-law, and she was thankful to have the chance to help out a bit by driving.

Suddenly she frowned. The road signs showed that

she would have to make a decision in a mile or two as to which highway she should take, and she just wasn't sure which was the right road. She glanced at Lisa's parents; they were both sound asleep. She'd rather not waken them. So she chose what she thought was the right road, and kept on driving.

God tells us in His word, the Bible, that "there is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12. He also tells us in John 14:6, "Jesus saith ... I am the way." The way to what? The way to heaven. Aunt Ellen needed to know the way to the cottage, but even more importantly, we need to know the way to heaven.

Aunt Ellen kept on driving, glancing anxiously at the highway signs and

hoping they were on the right road. On and on she went.

Finally Lisa's daddy yawned, stretched and said, "Thanks, Ellen. That sleep felt good. Now I'm ready to drive again. By the way, just where are we?"


"I'm not sure," she replied. "I *think* we're on the right road, but I'm not positive."

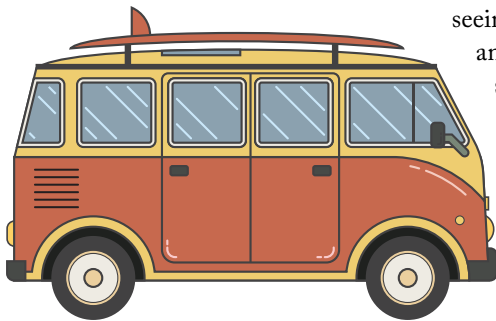
A quick check of the road map showed that not only were they on the wrong road, but they had gone miles and miles in the wrong direction. Now they would have to spend more hours getting back to the right road, and it would be late evening before they would reach the cottage. Poor Aunt Ellen. She had tried to be helpful, but she had delayed everyone by taking the wrong road.

Boys and girls, are you sure you are on the right road to heaven? Maybe you've been given the wrong directions. Have you been told to "Be good," or "Do good," or "Go to church" to get to heaven? Those roads will never lead you to heaven.

Perhaps you think you know the right way and are trying with no map and no guide to get to heaven on your own. If so, you will only end up like Lisa's family—on the wrong road.

The Bible, tells us there is only one way to heaven, and that is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He said "I am the way," and His death on the cross and His blood shed there make the way to heaven open to all of us who will accept Him. Will you accept Him and ask forgiveness for your sins today? Then you will know for sure that you are on your way to heaven.

WholesomeWords.org from *Messages of God's Love* published by Bible Truth Publishers. 





He Knew, and Still

"Christ knew that the time had come for Him to depart out of the world, and go to His Father. And having loved His own that were in the world, He loved them unto the end. He was now in the shadow of the cross, and the pain was torturing His heart. He knew that He would be deserted in the hour of His betrayal. He knew that by the most humiliating process to which criminals were subjected He would be put to death. He knew the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. He knew how great the sacrifice that He must make, and for how many it would be in vain. Knowing all that was before Him, He might naturally have been overwhelmed with the thought of His own humiliation and suffering. But He looked upon the twelve, who had been with Him as His own, and who, after His shame and sorrow and painful usage were over, would be left to struggle in the world. His thoughts of what He Himself must suffer were ever connected with His disciples. He did not think of Himself. His care for them was uppermost in His mind." *The Desire of Ages*, 643

He knew

- He would be betrayed
- He would be deserted
- He would be humiliated and shamed

- He would be treated with ingratitude and cruelty
- He would be rejected
- The Pharisees and Sadducees were plotting His death
- The sacrifice He was making would, for some, be in vain
- He must bear the weight of the grief of ages alone
- The terrible effects of transgressing God's law
- He would be separated from His Father
- The time had come that Satan's power over the world should be contested

"The Son of God, heaven's glorious Commander, was touched with pity for the fallen race. His heart was moved with infinite compassion as the woes of the lost world rose up before Him. But divine love had conceived a plan whereby man might be redeemed. The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. In all the universe, there was but One who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make atonement for its transgression. None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law, and bring him again into harmony with heaven. Christ would take upon Himself the guilt and shame of sin—sin

so offensive to a holy God that it must separate the Father and the Son. Christ would reach to the depths of misery to rescue the ruined race.

"By His death, Christ would ransom many, and would destroy him who had the power of death." *The Signs of the Times*, November 4, 1908

Thank You, Jesus. You knew the personal cost and still You died to be our Saviour, rose from the grave to give us hope, and returned to heaven to be our Mediator. LM



Camp Meeting 2024

Mark your calendar for:

May 22-25

Speakers:

Pr. John Grosboll

Pr. Domingo Nuñez

Pr. Ivan Plummer

Dr. Patricia McEachrane

Music provided by *Eldaa Royer*

A full schedule for the event as well as lodging information will be included in the May/June newsletter.



The camp meeting will take place near the city of Wichita, Kansas.

April Sermon of the Month

Christ Formed Within

by John J. Grosboll

Christ was the perfect, living example of the law of God, pure and holy. If we are not Christlike, then we are transgressing the law. We must be made pure and holy or we will suffer the wages of sin.

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

April 2024

The Silent Preacher

Earlier this year, when my wife and I left our motel in the Pacific Northwest, we left a missionary booklet for the lady who cleans the rooms. Sometimes when we get a little bit acquainted with some of the staff at a facility like this we leave two or three booklets. Every booklet that we distribute has the full potential of helping a person gain eternal life.

When someone does something kind or nice for you, one way to say thank you is to give them something that could help them gain eternal life. A person might say, "He or she was kind to me, but they're probably not interested in what I spiritually believe. They'll just throw that book in the trash can." And that may be true. But what we cannot see is the desire of a person's heart. Sometimes people want to know, but are too timid to ask or they might accept a book or pamphlet, that although it is expressing religious views, it might be on a subject of great interest to them. We must pray and ask the Lord to help us to know when to give the right literature to our acquaintances.

But let us just suppose that the supposition that they are not interested is right and that we cannot give anything religious to one or more of our friends because they would not accept it. There is still something that we can do.

"We are to approach others in the spirit of kindness, in tender affection and compassion, winning them to Christ by a representation of His love and power." *The Medical Missionary*, May 1, 1892

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.' ..."

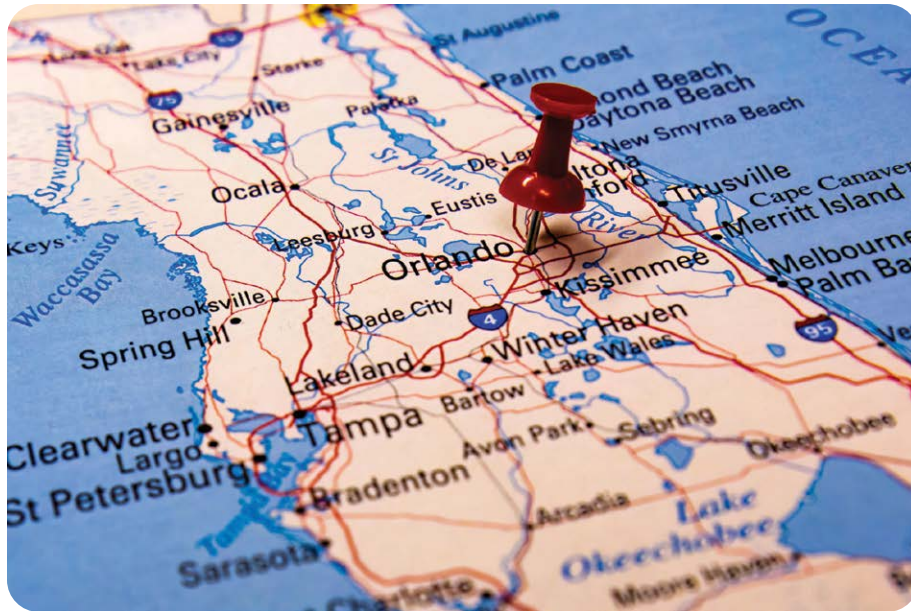
"The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice." *The Ministry of Healing*, 143

The manifestation of kindness is a testimony, a witness that is hard to argue with. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know how to manifest Christian kindness to your worldly, skeptical friends and acquaintances.

Your brother in witnessing,

Pastor John J. Grosboll

from the
Mission Fields



Churches in Florida

For several years, Steps to Life Ministry has been working on projects outside the United States in Africa, Europe, South America, Central America, Asia, the Philippines, India, and the islands of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Haiti. Our work with these projects was to assist in organizing groups and independent churches so that the members themselves would be inspired by the three angels' messages and to train them to be able to preach and teach the messages within their own communities and the surrounding areas. These efforts have spread the three angels' messages to different parts of the world. And while we will continue to work with and support these projects, 2024 will find us embarking upon a new project—one closer to home.

Traveling to all these faraway places has, for two decades, limited the ability to work here in the United States. So, in January, I began visiting the various independent and home churches in the southeast part of the country to unite the brethren in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Florida was my first stop, and thanks to the work of Pastor Rafael Perez, there are a number of independent churches already working together to evangelize the state of Florida. I have included the list of churches, their addresses, contact person, and phone numbers at the end of this report.

In my travels around Florida, I was able to visit with Brother Ed and his wife Linda in their home in St.

Augustine, and I would like to share their testimony. Ed's mother Mary Lou was a faithful member of the Prairie Meadows Church of Free Seventh-day Adventists for many years. Mary Lou raised Ed and his sister in the Seventh-day Adventist message. While they were young and into their teens, both children were faithful to the doctrines that their mother taught them. But as they grew to adulthood and took on the responsibilities that come with it, they eventually fell away, following a path away from God's leading.

Ed became a physician's assistant and spent most of his adult life working with cardiovascular surgical groups. While working in one of the hospitals, he met Linda, a faithful Christian, who was also in the medical profession, and soon they were married.

Those who are familiar with what it is like to work in the medical profession can understand the hardships of the responsibility of caring for and saving someone else's life. Often in the operating room for hours at a time, making rounds, talking with patients' families, working with the hospital staff, and being on call, all conspired to make it difficult to keep the Sabbath and opened

other avenues of temptation. The result was a neglected spiritual life.

His sister, who decided many years ago to re-commit her life to Christ, asked me to visit with Ed and Linda. I praise God that Ed, after so long away, has expressed the determination to also re-commit his life to have a personal relationship with Christ.

I ask that you will join your prayers with Ed's sister and the rest of us here at the Ministry, to intercede on Ed and Linda's behalf as they seek to walk the narrow way, because this will make the devil very unhappy.

If you, or someone you know, has backslidden from God, I would like to encourage you with this quote from Inspiration. We need never doubt, if we are sincere in our desire to know and love God, that He will never turn us away.

"I wish everyone present could realize the rich blessing that Jesus is waiting to bestow upon us It is our privilege to say with Paul, 'I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.' . . .

"You feel that you have neglected duties, that you have not prayed as you should. You seem at a distance from Jesus, and think that He has withdrawn from you; but it is you who have separated from Him. He is waiting for you to return. He will accept the contrite heart. His lips have assured us that He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children.

"We are wounded, polluted with sin; what shall we do to be healed from its leprosy? As far as it is in your power to do so, cleanse the soul-temple of every defilement, and then look to the 'Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' . . .

"If you are conscious of your wants, do not devote all your powers to representing them and mourning over them, but look and live. Jesus is our only Saviour; and notwithstanding millions who need to be healed will reject His offered mercy, not one who trusts in His merits will be left to perish. . . .

"Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled; for Jesus has promised it. Precious Saviour! His arms are open

“

Precious Saviour! His arms are open to receive us, and His great heart of love is waiting to bless us.



Top left: *Ed and Linda*

Top right & Bottom: *Sabbath Service in West Palm Beach*

to receive us, and His great heart of love is waiting to bless us.

“... All heaven is interested in our welfare, and waits our demand upon its wisdom and strength.

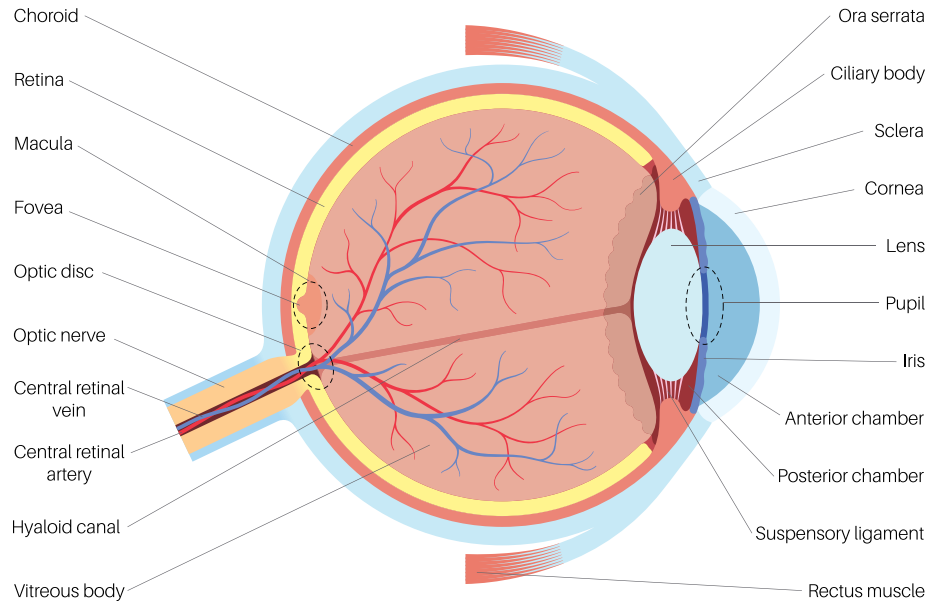
“The Lord is willing to do great things for us. We shall not gain the victory but through ... the full surrender of the soul to Jesus.” *The Review and Herald*, July 1, 1884

Please pray for the protection of the Almighty as I travel throughout the United States in the work of uniting God’s people together for a finished work. I look forward to sharing other testimonies with you in the coming months.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Domingo Nunez [LM](#)

CHURCH	CONTACT	PHONE
Eternal Gospel Church West Palm Beach	Eternal Gospel Ministry	561-688-2150
Eternal Gospel Church Miami Hialeah	Ramses Agreda	305-343-0404
Eternal Gospel Church Tampa	John Lopera	813-484-6418
Eternal Gospel Church Orlando	David Jimenez	407-721-7905
First Bible Faith Ministry Jacksonville	William Simmons	904-564-9080
Nearly Home Church Fort Lauderdale	Wayne Sinclair	954-600-9789



The Eyes Have It

Have you ever really considered how the eye works? According to the National Eye Institute, light passes through the cornea and is bent to help the eye focus. Some of this light then enters through the pupil. The iris controls how much of the light is let in, and that light passes through the lens. The lens works together with the cornea to focus light correctly on the retina. And finally, when the light hits the retina, photoreceptors turn it into electrical signals. These signals travel from the retina through the optic nerve to the brain, and the brain turns the signals into an image. And all this happens instantaneously and continuously. Whew! Did you get all that? Source: nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/healthy-vision/how-eyes-work

Of course, in nature, we find all kinds of eyes, each of which works in ways specific to the creature they dwell in. Let's look at a few examples.

The eyes of a prairie dog are positioned on the side of its head. This appears to provide it with the ability to focus in a wide arc. The lenses of their eyes are also tinted amber, like having built-in sunglasses.

Good eyesight is essential for a bird's safe flight. Birds have the largest eyes relative to their size, but have limited movement in the bony eye sockets. Eyes located on the sides of the head have a wide field of view while the eyes located on the front of the head provide binocular vision. Birds of prey have high-density receptors to maximize visual acuity. The placement of their eyes gives them good binocular vision enabling accurate judgment of distances. Nocturnal birds have tubular eyes, with less color detectors, but high-density rod cells that function better in poor light.

Birds' eyes are protected by two eyelids, and a third transparent, movable membrane. The eyelids are not used for blinking. The third membrane (*nictitating membrane*) lubricates the eye as it passes side to side across it, much like a windshield wiper. This membrane also covers the eye in many aquatic birds when they are under water. When sleeping, the lower eyelid rises to cover the eye in most birds, but the horned owl is an exception. Its upper eyelid closes down to meet the lower eyelid.

Hippopotamus eyes, along with the ears and nostrils, are placed high on the roof of their skulls so they can submerge and still see above water, but when they swim underwater, nictitating membranes cover the eyes.

Most spiders can have eight, though some have six, eyes, each a single lens above the retina rather than multiple units like the fly or other insects. The specific arrangement and structure of the eyes is one of the features used to identify and classify the different species and genus. Most spiders' eyes detect little more than brightness and motion, playing a pretty minor role in spider behavior. Species such as jumping spiders

or wolf spiders have more developed eyes and can even perceive color.

BUT DID YOU KNOW? Cave spiders have no eyes at all.

One of the defining features of the common house fly is its compound eyes. Their eyes can often be so large that they take almost all the space on their head. These compound eyes comprise an array of tiny sensors—*ommatidia*—around 3,500 of them.

The ommatidia are many tiny lenses all bunched together in a globular shape to form the eye. The large, round shape gives the fly almost a 360-degree view of its surroundings. It contains a corneal lens to focus light and pigments that sense color. The fly eye has the ability to process images at a speed more than six times faster than the human eye. That probably explains why they get away so often when we try to swat them. However, their ability to focus as clearly as the human eye has been sacrificed in order to have such big eyes. They also have excellent peripheral vision, few blind spots, and a better range of focus. And flies can actually see in slow motion. This ability has inspired scientists and engineers to develop cameras that mimic the eye of the fly in the creation of surveillance systems that can act just like the proverbial fly on the wall.

Human eyes, when working together, have a field of view approximately 200 degrees wide and 135 degrees tall, and when they work together correctly, they give you depth perception and 3D vision, as well as color vision.

Sight and vision, terms often used interchangeably, are not necessarily the same thing. Sight is what the eyes do and vision is the process that starts with sight and ends with the brain's interpretation

of what the eyes have seen in a way that it can use and understand. The human eye is one of the most important organs in the body.

The Bible talks about the eyes, too.

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.” Matthew 6:22

“Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you.” Proverbs 4:25

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart.” Proverbs 21:2

“The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.” Psalm 19:8

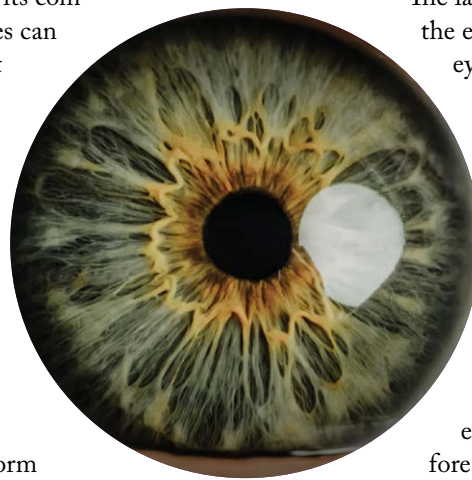
“I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help?” Psalm 121:1

“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.” Proverbs 3:7

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 21:4, *first part*

Yes, we need only to look at the eye, in whatever creature we see, to be assured of the truth in David's declaration, “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. And that my soul knows very well.” Psalm 139:14

Sources: desertusa.com/animals/prairie-dogs/; Wikipedia.org/Bird_vision/; Wikipedia.org/Hippopotamus/; Wikipedia.org/Spider_vision/; grunge.com/801094/this-is-what-the-compound-eye-of-a-fly-actually-sees/; my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/21823-eyes/; informationparlour.com/article-health-eye-defects-and-corrections-humans#LM





Wonderful Water

A continuous supply of water is needed for all living things. Man can live up to six weeks without food, but only several days without water. In fact, approximately 70% of our body weight is from water. Water is needed by every cell in the body, in every chemical interchange, in each activity carried on by the cells in the body, and is critical for optimum health. There has been so much said about the importance of water that it seems that more should not have to be said. Nevertheless, 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.

A common generalization is that we need to drink at least 6-8 glasses (8 ounces each) of water per day. A better indication of need is obtained by dividing your weight by 2 to yield the number of ounces of water you should drink daily. However, thirst is not an accurate indicator of need. We require at least 1/3 more water than our thirst indicates. It is an emergency feature designed to prevent us from becoming severely dehydrated. So by the time we feel thirsty we are already at least two or more glasses low on water. Also, the

thirst signal shuts off before you have had the amount you really need.

Developing a habit of drinking water by establishing a daily routine can help us to keep the body sufficiently hydrated. For example: two glasses upon rising in the morning, two glasses throughout the rest of the morning and two to four glasses throughout the afternoon and early evening. You should avoid drinking 30 minutes before a meal and for 1-2 hours after a meal. Drinking just before, during, or right after a meal dilutes the digestive juices and slows and interferes with digestion.

Scanty and highly-colored urine is evidence that the tissues are in need of water. Urine should be clear and almost colorless. Dryness of the skin often testifies to the same need.

Water is critical for every organ in every system of the body

Brain and nervous system—A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, brain fog, and fatigue. Water is also critical not only in the manufacture of our “brain chemicals” but also in the movement of these chemicals and in the movement of messages between nerve cells within the brain and body. A 20% loss of body water usually means death, although that figure is smaller for infants, toddlers, and the elderly.

Respiratory system—Adequate water is very important in the movement of air in and out of the lungs and for the removal of dust and pollens. Adequate water helps the tiny lung sacs remain open and helps lubricate the entire breathing surface.

Waste removal organs—The skin, liver, kidney, colon, and lungs all require adequate water to properly remove the wastes and toxins from our body. Without water to aid these waste-removal organs, the body would become a cess-pool and death would result.

Cardiovascular system—This entire system is dependent on adequate water. Water is involved in making blood cells, transport of oxygen and nutrients throughout the body, and for the transport of wastes to the organs of removal for detoxification of the body. It is vital in the proper functioning of each cell that makes up the muscles and tissues necessary for the pumping and transport of all things necessary for life.

Digestive system—Water is needed to make saliva which helps to properly break down the food we chew. It is critical in the manufacture and transport of all of the enzymes that help digest food in the stomach and intestines.

Musculoskeletal—Water is crucial in the movement, repair, manufacture of new cells, and detoxification of our muscles and bones.

It aids in strong coordinated functioning of this system and is critical in the lubrication of our joints. Without adequate water, muscles feel weak and fatigued and joints ache with movement.

Endocrine System—The human body can function well and smoothly with its endocrine system making the hormones that control body functions. These hormones are responsible for growth and development, utilization of glucose for energy, healthy weight, good metabolism of food, sexual development, pregnancy and sexual functioning, and for mood and proper sleep. Without water these hormones can't be made and transported properly.

Chronic dehydration exacerbates, or is a contributing factor in, many serious diseases and annoying discomforts. This includes, but is not limited to, kidney stones, asthma, renal dysfunction, endocrine system and adrenal fatigue, cardiovascular problems, arthritis, ulcers, pancreatitis, digestive difficulties, gall stones, migraines, constipation, and joint and lower back pain.

Not only is water necessary internally, but it can also play a vital role when used externally. Therapeutic use of hot or cold water, steam, and ice has been known for centuries to effectively aid the health of the body. Showering and bathing remove the toxins from

our skin. Without this, they would just be reabsorbed into the body, creating added stress on the organs and even causing illness.

Water can also be used externally for many other things.

- Hot and cold can be alternated to improve circulation and our ability to fight infection.
- A hot foot bath can relieve many headaches.
- It can be used to help relieve inflammation and infection at a specific point of injury or illness.
- The congestion and discomfort from sinus infections and colds can be eased or relieved by hot and cold compresses to the problem areas.
- It is effective in bringing down an elevated fever.
- It can stimulate you and wake you up first thing in the morning.
- It can calm you when anxious.



Water is without a doubt necessary for our health, even our very life. Is it any wonder that Jesus said, “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.” John 7:37

Sources: *Plain Talk about Drinking Water—Answers to 101 Important Questions about the Water You Drink* by Dr. James M. Symons; *Don't Drink the Water*, by Lono Kahuna Kupua A'; *Intuitive Eating*, Humbart “Smokey” Santillo, N.D., Ph.D.; *Herbal Home Health Care*, Dr. John R. Christopher; *Healthy Healing*, Linda G. Rector-Page, N.D., Ph.D. [LM](#)



Not Ashamed to Call Them Brethren

by John J. Grosboll

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

Hebrews 2:14–18

We want to learn the answers to three questions found in these scriptures.

1. Who are the children?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said we would not have eternal life unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood?
3. What enabled Jesus to experience suffering while being tempted?

Who are the Children?

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.” Verses 9–11

Human beings who have the same father are called brothers. Paul is very specific that those Jesus has sanctified and given His character are the children of His Father, adopted into the family of God. He calls them His brethren because He and they now have the same Father. That is why Paul describes them as being “all of One.”

However, there is a restriction regarding those whom Jesus calls His brothers. Just before He went into the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for those whom His Father had given Him saying, “I pray for them. I pray not for the world but for them whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.” John 17:9. Not for the world, but for those whom God had given to Him—two completely different groups of people. If you miss that point or misunderstand this vital truth, then you will fall prey to Satan’s constant efforts to misrepresent the character of God. (See *The Great Controversy*, 568.) You also will not understand the true nature of sin nor the real issues of the great controversy. Paul assures us that Jesus tasted death for every man, but only those He has sanctified—reproduced in them His own character—will He call His brethren, and bring to glory.

“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” Verse 14. “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” Verse 17

“The truths of the Bible, received, will uplift the mind from its earthliness and debasement. If the word of God were appreciated as it should be, both young and old would possess an inward rectitude, a strength of principle, that would enable them to resist temptation.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 319. This is the result of sanctification. But what is this rectitude that Mrs. White speaks of?

“Rectitude of mind is the disposition to act in conformity to any known standard of right, truth, or justice. Rectitude of conduct is the actual conformity to

such a standard.” *Webster’s Dictionary* 1828. Inward rectitude is the disposition or natural tendency to do what is right.

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.” *The Desire of Ages*, 668. This rectitude is a hatred for sin. Thus if I do not understand what sin is, and if it is not hateful to me, then I am not sanctified.

The very essence of the gospel is forgiveness of sin, but it also involves restoration. “By looking constantly to Jesus with the eye of faith we shall be strengthened. God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. ... By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple.” *Ibid.*, 391

“The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence.” *The Great Controversy*, 555

By beholding Jesus, studying His life, and relying solely upon Him, “the believer advances from grace to grace, from strength to strength, from character to character. He conforms to the image of Christ, until in spiritual growth he attains unto the measure of the full stature in Christ Jesus.

Thus Christ makes an end of the curse of sin, and sets the believing soul free from its action and effect.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 395
 “Christ became a man that He might mediate between man and God. He clothed His divinity with humanity, He associated with the human race, that with His human arm He might encircle humanity, and with His divine arm grasp the throne of Divinity. And this humiliation on His part was that He might restore to man the original mind, the image of God ...” *The Signs of the Times*, October 14, 1897

Let us consider for a moment this love that would condescend to leave glory and come to this world as one of us. “Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. ... The excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else than good. Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one worketh, than the amount he doeth. Love is of God.” *Gospel Workers* (1892), 311, 312

Christ prayed for those whom His Father had given Him. He gave them His word and promised them His Holy Spirit. Why? Because

“
*Jesus tasted death
 for every man, but only
 those He has sanctified—
 reproduced in them His own
 character—will He call
 His brethren, and
 bring to glory.*

1. it would destroy the natural, carnal nature;
2. it would impart strength and inward rectitude (the disposition of the mind);
3. it would reproduce the image, the character of God in His disciples by imparting to the heart the divine similitude;
4. it would implant divine love in the heart, the principle that empowers the sinner to overcome sin;
5. it would impart new life, spiritual life in Christ. "God is love, and love is light." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 258

“

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 17:17

Genuine sanctification is, "nothing less than a daily dying to self, and daily conformity to the will of God." *The Signs of the Times*, September 12, 1878

Paul was in constant conflict with self. He said, "I die daily." His own will and desires conflicted with duty and the will of God every day (Romans 7:18), but instead of following his own inclinations, he strove to do the will of God (2 Timothy 4:7, 8).

"The will is the governing power in the nature of man, bringing all the other faculties under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the deciding power, which works in the children of men unto obedience to God, or unto disobedience. ...

"The will is ... the power of decision, or choice.

"Every human being possessed of reason has power to choose the right. ... Everyone may place his will on the side of the will of God, may choose to obey Him, and by thus linking himself with divine agencies, he may stand where nothing can force him to do evil." *Child Guidance*, 209

"The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man—the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. ...

"Your will is the spring of all your actions. This will, that forms so important a factor in the character of man, was at the Fall given

into the control of Satan; and he has ever since been working in man to will and to do of his own pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man." *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 2, 685

We must understand just how hopelessly helpless we are to make any decided change in our hearts, but God has guaranteed us the power of choice. And when we choose to give our wills to Christ, He will then perform an act of restoration.

"Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence ... , and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose." *Steps to Christ*, 47

But we must be cautious for many Christians have been snared in a terrible trap. "Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now choose." *Ibid.*, 47, 48

"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness." *The Faith I Live By*, 87

We are sanctified through the truth and by the Holy Spirit. "The law of God is 'holy, and just, and good,' a transcript of the divine perfection, it follows that a character formed by obedience to that law will be holy. Christ is a perfect example of such a character. ... The followers of Christ are to become like Him—by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His

holy law. This is Bible sanctification.” *The Great Controversy*, 469

“The only correct standard of sanctification is the law of God.” *The Review and Herald*, December 1, 1895

Our thoughts and feelings combined make up our moral character (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 310). So we have to ask ourselves, “Are my mind, my thoughts, my feelings, my words, my actions all in harmony with the law of God?” If not, don’t be discouraged. We can be sanctified if we surrender our wills to Him who has promised to sanctify us.

“God sent His Son into the world ... to make known in His life and character the attributes of the Father, that men might bear the image of the invisible God. He was the embodiment of the law of God ...” *The Signs of the Times*, November 15, 1899

“We have only one perfect photograph of God, and this is Jesus Christ.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 906

God’s law is the standard of sanctification; not just the law of God as it was written in tables of stone, but the law of God as exemplified in the humanity of Christ.

There is no such thing as instant sanctification. Justification may happen in an instant, but “There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. True sanctification is a daily work. ... Continuing as long as life shall last.” *The Faith I Live By*, 116

“True sanctification is progressive. ... [improving] every privilege and opportunity to gain more knowledge of the life and character of Christ.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, September 1, 1886

“But this work cannot go on in the heart while the light on any part of the truth is rejected or neglected.” *The Review and Herald*, June 17, 1890

“The formation of a noble character is the work of a lifetime and must be the result of diligent and persevering effort.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 223



Sadly, seeking for sanctification is not a popular subject because if religion requires too much, people today, even those who call themselves Christians, want a smooth and easy path to heaven. The formation of a noble character requires surrender, diligent and persevering effort, and is a lifelong struggle against self. We will never be sanctified if Satan is allowed to reign in our lives. “God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them.” *Ibid*.

“The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God and being clothed with humility, possessing that love that is pure, peaceable, and easy to be entreated, full of gentleness and good fruits, is not an easy attainment. And yet it is his privilege and his duty to be a perfect overcomer here. The soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in knowledge and true holiness.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, 106, 107

If I believe in Jesus, deny Satan’s influence in my life, if I daily die to self (1 Corinthians 15:31) and abide in Him, growing in grace, and progressing in

sanctification, then Jesus will implant in my heart the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is then that He can and will call me His brother for He sees what the finished product will be.

“Christ is coming to establish His kingdom in the earth. Let our tongues be sanctified, and used to glorify Him. As a people we need to be reconverted, and our lives sanctified to declare the truth as it is in Jesus.” *The New York Indicator* (1900), June 12, 1907

Christ is coming to establish His kingdom—His robe of righteousness implanted in the hearts of all His children, making them spotless and unblemished. “When the heart is cleansed from sin, Christ is placed on the throne that self-indulgence and love of earthly treasure once occupied. The image of Christ is seen in the expression of the countenance. The work of sanctification is carried forward in the soul. Self-righteousness is banished. There is seen the putting on of the new man, which after Christ is created in righteousness and true holiness.” *The Review and Herald*, September 11, 1900

Thus the new man becomes the seed of Abraham.

What did Jesus mean when He said that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood?

“In giving us the privilege of studying His word, the Lord has set before us a rich banquet. Many are the benefits derived from feasting on His word, which is represented by Him as His flesh and blood, His spirit and life. By partaking of this word, our spiritual strength is increased; we grow in grace and in a knowledge of the truth.” *Child Guidance*, 505, 506

When Jesus said a person must eat His flesh and drink His blood or he would lose out on eternal life, He had a specific message in mind. The term *flesh and blood*, especially in the New Testament, has both a spiritual and a literal physical meaning.

“

Rectitude of mind is the disposition to act in conformity to any known standard of right, truth, or justice.

“All believers who pass through a natural death, have, through eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God, eternal life in them, which is the life of Jesus Christ. In dying, Jesus has made it impossible for those who believe on Him to die eternally. ...” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 926

“For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” John 17:19. Jesus sanctified Himself that we might be sanctified. He partook of the same flesh and blood we have. He learned from His parents just as we do.

“The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher.

From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother’s knee. ...

“Since He gained knowledge as we may do, His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures shows how diligently His early years were given to the study of God’s word. ...

“From the first dawning of intelligence He was constantly growing in spiritual grace and knowledge of truth.

“Every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did. As we try to become acquainted with our heavenly Father through His word, angels will draw near, our minds will be strengthened, our characters will be elevated and refined. We shall become more like our Saviour.” *The Desire of Ages*, 70

Amos 3:3 says, “Can two walk together except they be agreed?”

“Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 51. The crucifixion of self, of the old man, is the entire surrender of the will to God.

“It is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in

trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love.” *Ibid.*

“Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.” *The Desire of Ages*, 556

“Holiness is constant agreement with God.” *In Heavenly Places*, 33

If God and I do not agree, who do you think should change their mind? (W. D. Frazee)

How was Jesus able to experience suffering while being tempted?

“He [Jesus] began life, passed through its experiences, and ended its record, with a sanctified human will.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 29, 1894

You and I are not born with a sanctified human will, and it is necessary for us to daily die to self so that our will can be sanctified. When Jesus became a man, He voluntarily laid aside the outward manifestation of His divinity and condescended to take the humiliating form of deteriorated, mortal humanity. This was just the beginning of a far greater dying to self than you and I will ever be required to undergo.

“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. Yet He was God in the flesh.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 244

“Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension. It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin.” *The Desire of Ages*, 49

“He was not only made flesh, but He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. His divine attributes were withheld from relieving His soul anguish or His bodily pains.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, 1124. In this humiliat-

ing, external condition, He still possessed the omnipotent powers of His divinity; He was still God.

When Satan said to Jesus, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” (Matthew 4:3), He could have commanded it, and instantly the stones would have become bread. But He had agreed with His Father that He would not use the powers of His divinity for His own benefit; He would come and live in this world only as a man. These statements reveal that Christ was born in the likeness or physical form of sinful flesh, but He was still God. This was Jesus’ greatest temptation, not using His divine power to outwardly prove who He was. You and I will never experience this, and we cannot understand it.

“It was a difficult task for the Prince of Life to carry out the plan which He had undertaken for the salvation of man, in clothing His divinity with humanity. He had received honor in the heavenly courts, and was familiar with absolute power. It was as difficult for Him to keep the level of humanity as it is for men to rise above the low level of their depraved natures, and be partakers of the divine nature.” *The Review and Herald*, April 1, 1875

Read that again, “It was as difficult for Him to keep the level of humanity as it is for us with our depraved natures to be partakers of the divine nature.” It was as difficult for Him to be like us, as it is for us to be like Him.

Man can only resist temptation when his humanity is united with divinity. That is the example that Christ gave us. His humanity was united with divinity. It is only when, by faith, we unite our humanity with the divine nature of Christ that we are able to resist the efforts of the enemy of man to lead us astray.

“Christ was put to the closest test, requiring the strength of all his faculties to resist the inclination when in danger, to use His power to deliver Himself from peril and triumph over the power of the prince of darkness.” Ibid.

Jesus fought this temptation constantly His whole life; He suffered with temptations

to a degree that man cannot comprehend so that you and I could be saved. His greatest tests were in the wilderness of temptation and in Gethsemane.

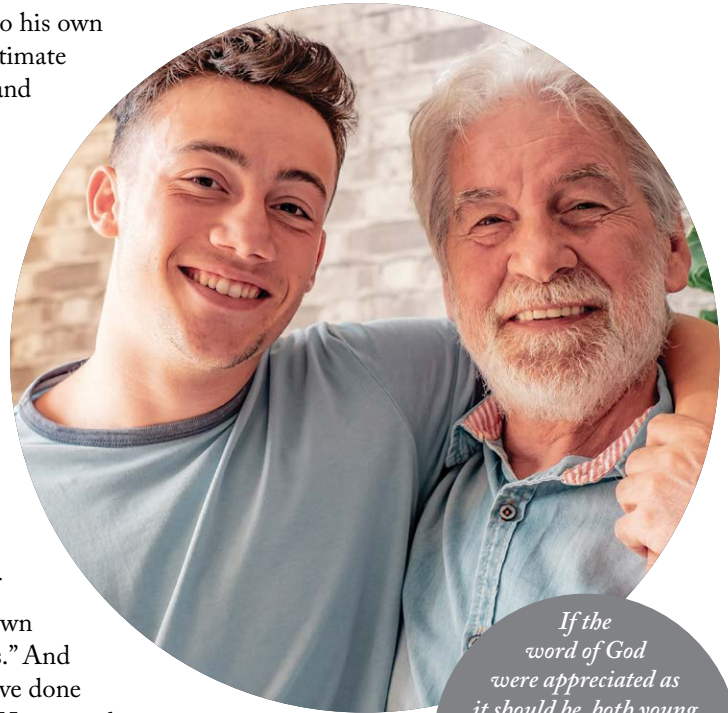
In Gethsemane, Jesus could have stood up, wiped the blood from His brow and left man to his own devices and ultimate death. Again and again, Satan attempted to cause Him to walk away from the plan of redemption and let man suffer his own fate.

On the cross, they jeered, “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” And Jesus could have done that. But had He come down, you and I would have been lost.

He could have used His divine power at any time and instantly triumphed over the devil. But every day of His life He died to that inclination. Jesus is our example in sanctification.

His sanctified will was unperverted by selfishness, unlike the natural, selfish nature that we possess. Every day, partaking of the physical flesh and blood of man, growing in stature and intelligence, He also constantly grew in spiritual grace and the knowledge of the truth. As we surrender our will to Him, consume His spiritual flesh and blood, and receive His righteousness, we become partakers of His righteous and holy nature, and become, by adoption, His brethren, sons and daughters of God. **LM**

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If the word of God were appreciated as it should be, both young and old would possess an inward rectitude, a strength of principle, that would enable them to resist temptation.



April 28 – May 4, 2024

The Atonement in Symbols

Key Text

“Without shedding of blood there is no remission.”
Hebrews 9:22

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 71–74

Introduction

“As his [Adam’s] transgression had brought death and wretchedness, life and immortality would be brought to light through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.” *The Story of Redemption*, 48

Sunday

1 SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

1.a. What service did God institute in order to keep the death of Christ ever before humanity? Genesis 4:4. What was its symbolical meaning?

Note: “The sacrificial offerings were ordained by God to be to man a perpetual reminder and a penitential acknowledgment of his sin and a confession of his faith in the promised Redeemer.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 68

1.b. How was Satan able to pervert, in the mind of Cain, the understanding of the plan of salvation? Genesis 4:3–7

Note: “Cain came before God with murmuring and infidelity in his heart in regard to the promised sacrifice and the neces-

sity of the sacrificial offerings. His gift expressed no penitence for sin. He felt, as many now feel, that it would be an acknowledgment of weakness to follow the exact plan marked out by God, of trusting his salvation wholly to the atonement of the promised Saviour. He chose the course of self-dependence. He would come in his own merits. He would not bring the lamb, and mingle its blood with his offering, but would present his fruits, the products of his labor. He presented his offering as a favor done to God, through which he expected to secure the divine approval. Cain obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice; but he rendered only a partial obedience. The essential part, the recognition of the need of a Redeemer, was left out.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 72

Monday

2 A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE

2.a. What was the difference between Cain and Abel regarding the atonement? Hebrews 11:4. Explain the disagreement between the two brothers.

Note: “Abel grasped the great principles of redemption. He saw himself a sinner, and he saw sin and its penalty, death, standing between his soul and communion with God. He brought the slain victim, the sacrificed life, thus acknowledging the claims of the law that had been transgressed. Through the shed blood he looked to the future sacrifice, Christ dying on the cross of Calvary; and trusting in the atonement that was there to be made, he had the witness that he was righteous, and his offering accepted.

“Cain had the same opportunity of learning and accepting these truths as had Abel. He was not the victim of an arbitrary purpose. One brother was not elected to be accepted of God, and the other to be rejected. Abel chose faith and obedience; Cain, unbelief and rebellion. Here the whole matter rested.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 72

2.b. What was the consequence of Cain’s unbelief? Genesis 4:8–12

Note: “Instead of acknowledging his sin, Cain continued to complain of the injustice of God and to cherish jealousy and hatred of Abel. He angrily reproached his brother and attempted to draw him into controversy concerning God’s dealings with them. In meekness, yet fearlessly and firmly, Abel defended the justice and goodness of God. He pointed out Cain’s error and tried to convince him that the wrong was in himself. He pointed to the compassion of God in sparing the life of their parents when He might have punished them with instant death and urged that God loved them, or He would not have given His Son, innocent and holy, to suffer the penalty which they had incurred. All this caused Cain’s anger to burn the hotter. Reason and conscience told him that Abel was in the right; but he was enraged that one who had been wont to heed his counsel should now presume to disagree with him, and that he could gain no sympathy in his rebellion. In the fury of his passion, he slew his brother.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 74

Tuesday

3 TWO CLASSES OF WORSHIPERS

3.a. Describe the two classes of worshipers that have existed from the beginning of the world. Give a more detailed description of the class represented by Cain. Ezekiel 33:31; Luke 18:9–14

Note: “Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. One class avail themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits; theirs is a sacrifice without the virtue of divine mediation, and thus it is not able to bring man into favor with God. It is only through the merits of Jesus that our transgressions can be pardoned. Those who feel no need of the blood of Christ, who feel that without divine grace they can by their own works secure the approval of God, are making the same mistake as did Cain. If they do not accept the cleansing blood, they are under condemnation. There is no other provision made whereby they can be released from the thralldom of sin.

“The class of worshipers who follow the example of Cain includes by far the greater portion of the world; for nearly every false religion has been based on the same principle—that man can depend upon his own efforts for salvation.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 72, 73

3.b. How does history show the difference between the two classes in the light of two conflicting principles—love and tolerance vs. hatred and persecution? 1 John 3:11, 12, 15, 16. What warning should we heed in light of this?

Note: “Jesus bears with the perversity of the children of men and pities them in their wrong course. If He felt as some who claim to be His followers feel, He would be filled with continual disgust and hatred as He looks upon those who are abusing His mercy, despising His grace, refusing to obey His commandments, and trampling upon His authority. He has bought them soul and body, and though they give their allegiance to Satan, His bitterest enemy, He loves them still.

“No one can hate his brother, or even his enemy, without placing himself under condemnation. We ever receive from the hand of our Maker and Judge a reward in harmony with the nature of our conduct toward Him and His creatures.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, January 13, 1898

Wednesday

4 WORSHIP IN PATRIARCHAL TIMES

4.a. What system of worship was conducted, among the people of God, in the days of the patriarchs? Give an example. Genesis 8:20

Note: “By the act of sacrifice the sinner acknowledged his guilt and manifested his faith, looking forward to the great and perfect sacrifice of the Son of God, which the offering of beasts prefigured. Without the atonement of the Son of God there could be no communication of blessing or salvation from God to man.” *The Story of Redemption*, 51

4.b. What is written of Abraham’s devotion to God and of his influence among his neighbors? Genesis 12:7, 8. What can we learn from the anxiety that he felt for the impenitent inhabitants of Sodom? Genesis 18:23–32

Note: “Abraham, ‘the friend of God,’ set us a worthy example. His was a life of prayer. Wherever he pitched his tent, close beside it was set up his altar, calling all within his encampment to the morning and evening sacrifice. When his tent was removed, the altar remained. In following years, there were those among the roving Canaanites who received instruction from Abraham; and whenever one of these came to that altar, he knew who had been there before him; and when he had pitched his tent, he repaired the altar, and there worshiped the living God.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, 128

“Himself a sinner, he pleaded in the sinner’s behalf. Such a spirit all who approach God should possess. Yet Abraham manifested the confidence of a child pleading with a loved father. He came close to the heavenly Messenger, and fervently urged his petition. . . .

“Love for perishing souls inspired Abraham’s prayer. While he loathed the sins of that corrupt city, he desired that the sinners might be saved. His deep interest for Sodom shows the anxiety that we should feel for the impenitent. We should cherish hatred of sin, but pity and love for the sinner. All around us are souls going down to ruin as hopeless, as terrible, as that which befell Sodom. Every day the probation of some is closing.” *Ibid.*, 139, 140

Thursday

5 RIGHT AND WRONG IDEAS ABOUT WORSHIP

5.a. How was Satan able to deceive many with the thought that the blood of bulls and goats was actually sufficient to take away their sins? Isaiah 1:11

5.b. What does God say about any religion that degenerates into a round of formalities? Isaiah 1:15; Proverbs 28:9

Note: “If Satan sees that the Lord is blessing His people and preparing them to discern his delusions, he will work with his masterly power to bring in fanaticism on the one hand and cold formalism on the other, that he may gather in a harvest of souls.” *Selected Messages, Book 2, 19*

5.c. What is God’s real requirement? Hosea 6:6; Isaiah 1:16–18; 55:6, 7

Note: “That which is called praying morning and evening, according to custom, is not always fervent and effectual. It is with many a sleepy, dull, and heartless repetition of words, and does not reach the ear of the Lord. God does not need or require your ceremonial compliments, but He will respect the broken heart, the confession of sins, the contrition of the soul. The cry of the humble, broken heart He will not despise. . . .

“We must have such love for Jesus that we will consider it a privilege to suffer and even die for His sake. We may tell the Lord all our trials, tell Him all our weaknesses, tell Him all our dependence upon His might and His power. This is true prayer. If ever there was a time when the Spirit of grace and supplication was needed to be poured out upon us, God Himself inditing our prayers, it is now.” *In Heavenly Places, 87*

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why were sacrificial offerings required as soon as sin entered the world?
- 2 What was the main difference between Cain’s and Abel’s offerings?
- 3 Explain how Cain and Abel represent two classes of worshipers.
- 4 How was the hope of salvation kept alive in the time of the patriarchs?
- 5 What are some important aspects in the practice of true religion?

May 5 – 11, 2024

Deliverance From Egypt

Key Text

“So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.” Exodus 12:14

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 273–280

Introduction

“The Passover was ordained as a commemoration of the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. God had directed that, year by year ... the history should be repeated.” *The Desire of the Ages*, 652

Sunday

1 THE PASSOVER INSTITUTED

1.a. What was the last message given to Pharaoh, the rebellious monarch, before the departure of Israel from Egypt? What was the imminent sentence? Exodus 11:4–8

1.b. Before the execution of this sentence, what directions did God give the Israelites concerning their departure? Summarize Exodus 12:1–28

Note: “The Lord through Moses gave direction to the children of Israel concerning their departure from Egypt, and especially for their preservation from the coming judgment. Each family, alone or in connection with others, was to slay a lamb or a

kid ‘without blemish,’ and with a bunch of hyssop sprinkle its blood on ‘the two side posts and on the upper doorpost’ of the house, that the destroying angel, coming at midnight, might not enter that dwelling. ...

“In commemoration of this great deliverance, a feast was to be observed yearly by the people of Israel in all future generations. ... As they should keep the feast in future years, they were to repeat to their children the story of this great deliverance.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 274

“The first of these festivals, the Passover, the feast of unleavened bread, occurred in Abib, the first month of the Jewish year, corresponding to the last of March and the beginning of April. ...

“The Passover was followed by the seven days’ feast of unleavened bread.” *Ibid.*, 537, 539

Monday

2 THE TOKEN OF BLOOD

2.a. What was the meaning of the blood that was to be placed on the houses of the Israelites? Exodus 12:7, 13, 23

Note: “Before obtaining freedom, the bondmen must show their faith in the great deliverance about to be accomplished. The token of blood must be placed upon their houses, and they must separate themselves and their families from the Egyptians, and gather within their own dwellings. Had the Israelites disregarded in any particular the directions given them, had they neglected to separate their children from the Egyptians, had they slain the lamb, but failed to strike the doorpost with blood, or had any gone out of their houses, they would not have been secure. They might have honestly believed that they had done all that was necessary, but their sincerity would not have saved them. All who failed to heed the Lord’s directions would lose their firstborn by the hand of the destroyer. ...

“The sign of blood—the sign of a Saviour’s protection—was on their doors, and the destroyer entered not.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 278, 279

2.b. What mark of protection do we need—and how only can we obtain it? Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 7:1–3; 14:1

Note: “What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption. The intelligent mind has seen the sign of the cross of Calvary in the Lord’s adopted sons and daughters. The sin of the transgression of the law of God is taken away. They have on the wedding garment and are obedient and faithful to all God’s commands.” *Maranatha*, 243

“The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord’s memorial of creation.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 117

“Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by. Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the position of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great antitypical day of atonement, will be recognized and marked as worthy of God’s protection.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 445

Tuesday

3 THE BITTER HERBS AND THE UNLEAVENED BREAD

3.a. With what were the Israelites instructed to eat the Passover lamb? Exodus 12:8. What was the meaning of the bitter herbs?

Note: “The lamb was to be eaten with bitter herbs, as pointing back to the bitterness of the bondage in Egypt. So when we feed upon Christ, it should be with contrition of heart, because of our sins.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 278

3.b. Living in this last generation, what might the bitter herbs cause God’s people to consider? Hebrews 2:18; Revelation 1:9

Note: “It is through one who is a ‘brother, and companion in tribulation’ that Christ reveals to His people the fearful conflicts which they must meet before His second coming. Before

the scenes of their bitter struggle are opened to them, they are reminded that their brethren also have drunk of the cup and been baptized with the baptism. He who sustained these early witnesses to the truth will not forsake His people in the final conflict.” *The Home Missionary*, November 1, 1893

3.c. What did the unleavened bread symbolize?

What does this mean for us today? Exodus 12:15; 1 Corinthians 5:6–8

Note: “The followers of Christ must be partakers of His experience. They must receive and assimilate the word of God so that it shall become the motive power of life and action. By the power of Christ they must be changed into His likeness and reflect the divine attributes. They must eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, or there is no life in them. The spirit and work of Christ must become the spirit and work of His disciples. ...

“The use of unleavened bread also was significant. It was expressly enjoined in the law of the Passover, and as strictly observed by the Jews in their practice, that no leaven should be found in their houses during the feast. In like manner, the leaven of sin must be put away from all who would receive life and nourishment from Christ.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 278

Wednesday

4 A COMMEMORATIVE AND TYPICAL ORDINANCE

4.a. Who was not permitted to eat the Passover lamb? Exodus 12:43, 45. What requirement did a stranger have to meet before he or she was allowed to take part in the ordinance? Exodus 12:44, 48

Note: “Christ made baptism the entrance to His spiritual kingdom.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 143

4.b. What ordinance takes the place of the Passover feast under the new covenant? Luke 22:14–20. What requirement is necessary in order to partake of it?

Note: “When the Saviour yielded up His life on Calvary, the significance of the Passover ceased, and the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper was instituted as a memorial of the same event of which the Passover had been a type.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 539

“The Passover was to be both commemorative and typical, not only pointing back to the deliverance from Egypt, but forward to the greater deliverance which Christ was to accomplish in freeing His people from the bondage of sin.” *Ibid.*, 277

4.c. How does God view the attempt of some professed Christians today to continue the ancient Hebrew rites? Galatians 4:9–11. What was added to the New Testament version of the Passover service, and why? John 13:1–17

Note: “In this ordinance [of humility], Christ discharged His disciples from the cares and burdens of the ancient Jewish obligations in rites and ceremonies. These no longer possessed any virtue; for type was meeting antitype in Himself, the authority and foundation of all Jewish ordinances that pointed to Him as the great and only efficacious offering for the sins of the world. ...

“This ordinance does not speak so largely to man’s intellectual capacity as to his heart. His moral and spiritual nature needs it. ... It was Christ’s desire to leave to His disciples an ordinance 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.” *The Review and Herald*, June 14, 1898

Thursday

5 THE FIRSTBORN

5.a. What was the symbolical meaning of the dedication of the firstborn? Numbers 3:13

Note: “The dedication of the firstborn had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the Firstborn of heaven to save the sinner. This gift was to be acknowledged in every household by the consecration of the firstborn son. He was to be devoted to the priesthood, as a representative of Christ among men.

“In the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, the dedication of the firstborn was again commanded.” *The Desire of Ages*, 51

“The firstborn of both man and beast were to be the Lord’s, to be bought back only by a ransom, in acknowledgment that when the firstborn in Egypt perished, that of Israel, though graciously preserved, had been justly exposed to the same doom but for the atoning sacrifice.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 274

“The law for the presentation of the firstborn was made particularly significant. While it was a memorial of the Lord’s wonderful deliverance of the children of Israel, it prefigured a greater deliverance, to be wrought out by the only begotten Son of God. As the blood sprinkled on the doorposts had saved the firstborn of Israel, so the blood of Christ has power to save the world.” *The Desire of Ages*, 51

5.b. In what sense is Christ the Firstborn? Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the Passover feast, and when was it held?
- 2 When the Lord was about to deliver the Israelites from Egypt, how were they required to show their faith in the expected miracle?
- 3 What was symbolized by the unleavened bread and by the bitter herbs?
- 4 What event did the Passover commemorate as it pointed to the past? What event did it typify as it pointed to the future?
- 5 What did the presentation of the firstborn commemorate, and what did it prefigure?

May 12 – 18, 2024

God's Kingdom on Earth

Key Text

“And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:6

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 303–314

Introduction

“Through the chosen nation, God had purposed to bring blessing to all mankind.” *Prophets and Kings*, 17

Sunday

1 GOD CHOOSES A PEOPLE

1.a. In the song of deliverance composed by Moses after the crossing of the Red Sea, what did he say about God's plan to establish a kingdom on earth? Exodus 15:17, 18. What plan did the Lord have for the children of Abraham? Exodus 19:5, 6

1.b. What promise did that plan include? Exodus 29:45

1.c. Although God is not a respecter of persons (2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34), why did He choose the people of Israel? Deuteronomy 9:3–5; 10:15. Why does He choose us today as well? 1 Corinthians 4:9, *last part*

Note: “God had chosen Israel. He had called them to preserve among men the knowledge of His law and of the symbols and prophecies that pointed to the Saviour. He desired them to be as wells of salvation to the world. What Abraham was in the land of his sojourn, what Joseph was in Egypt, and Daniel in the courts of Babylon, the Hebrew people were to be among the nations. They were to reveal God to men.”

The Desire of Ages, 27

“By our words and our works we reveal to the world, to angels, and to men whether we believe in Christ as a personal Saviour.” *The Youth's Instructor*, April 26, 1900

Monday

2 GOD DEFINES HIS PURPOSE

2.a. What aim did God set before Israel? Deuteronomy 4:5–8. What was to be accomplished through them? Deuteronomy 28:12; Isaiah 2:2, 3

Note: “God had designed that His people should be the light of the world. From them was to shine forth the glory of His law as revealed in the life practice. For the carrying out of this design, He had caused the chosen nation to occupy a strategic position among the nations of earth.

“In the days of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel extended from Hamath on the north to Egypt on the south, and from the Mediterranean Sea to the river Euphrates. Through this territory ran many natural highways of the world's commerce, and caravans from distant lands were constantly passing to and fro. Thus there was given to Solomon and his people opportunity to reveal to men of all nations the character of the King of kings, and to teach them to reverence and obey Him. To all the world this knowledge was to be given. Through the teaching of the sacrificial offerings, Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, that all who would might live.” *Prophets and Kings*, 70, 71

2.b. What did the Lord remind His people, repeatedly, to take into serious consideration? Deuteronomy 7:6–9; 28:15, 16, 33

2.c. What warning was given to the Jews when the kingdom was about to be taken from them? Matthew 8:11, 12. Why did they finally lose the kingdom? Matthew 21:43; Mark 12:6–9

Note: “The Jewish leaders thought themselves too wise to need instruction, too righteous to need salvation, too highly honored to need the honor that comes from Christ. The Saviour turned from them to entrust to others the privileges they had abused and the work they had slighted. God’s glory must be revealed, His word established. Christ’s kingdom must be set up in the world.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 16

Tuesday

3 GOD’S PLAN FOR US TODAY

3.a. Describe God’s plan for those under the new covenant. Luke 12:32; 17:21

Note: “Day by day men are revealing whether the kingdom of God is within them. If Christ rules in their hearts, they are gaining strength of principle, power, ability to stand as faithful sentinels, true reformers; for there can be no reform unless there is thorough cooperation with Jesus Christ.

“Through the grace of Christ men are to use their God-given faculties to reform themselves. By this self-denying action, which the Lord of heaven looks upon with approval, they gain victories over their wrong hereditary and cultivated tendencies. Then like Daniel they make impressions upon other hearts that will never be effaced. The influence will be carried to all parts of the world. ...

“Christianity ... is not a creed. It is the word of Him who liveth and abideth forever. It is a living, animating principle that takes possession of mind, heart, motives, and the entire man.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 20, 113, 114

3.b. What victory does the Lord want to accomplish in and through His chosen ones? Matthew 5:14, 16; Philippians 2:15

Note: “Men are taking sides, according to their choice. These that are feeding on the word of God will show this by their practice; they are on the Lord’s side, seeking by precept and example to reform the world. ...

“The question for us to consider is, Have we the attributes of Christ? Excuses are valueless. All circumstances, all appetites and passions, are to be servants to the God-fearing man, not rulers over him. The Christian is not to be enslaved by any hereditary or cultivated habits or tendencies. He is to rule the animal passions, rather than to be held in the bondage of habit. We are not to be the servants of circumstances, but to control circumstances, by an inwrought principle learned of the greatest Teacher the world ever knew. The solemn position in which we stand today toward the world, the solemn responsibilities and duties enjoined upon us by our Lord, are not to be ignored until our will and our circumstances are adjusted. The principle of self-denial and self-sacrifice, as revealed in the example of Christ, of John the Baptist, of Daniel and the three worthies, is to pass like a plowshare through hereditary and cultivated habits, through all circumstances and surroundings.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 20, 113, 114

Wednesday

4 TWO CLASSES OF PEOPLE

4.a. Today, as we approach the borders of heavenly Canaan, what warnings must we heed? Luke 21:34–36; Romans 13:11, 12

Note: “Those who receive Christ by faith as their personal Saviour cannot be in harmony with the world. There are two distinct classes: One is loyal to God, keeping His commandments, while the other talks and acts like the world.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 139

4.b. What scene applies with special force today? Luke 17:26–30; Acts 2:40

Note: “Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. . . .

“Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.” *The Desire of Ages*, 636

4.c. Describe the two classes of people in this world. 1 Thessalonians 5:4, 5. What are the children of light doing? Luke 11:28. What makes many churchgoers children of darkness? Matthew 24:48–51

Note: “All society is ranging into two great classes, the obedient and the disobedient. Among which class shall we be found?” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 949

“Men are taking sides, according to their choice. These that are feeding on the word of God will show this by their practice; they are on the Lord’s side, seeking by precept and example to reform the world. All that have refused to be taught of God hold the traditions of men. They at last pass over on the side of the enemy, against God, and are written, Antichrist. The people of God, who understand our position in this world’s history, are, with ears open and hearts softened and subdued, pressing together in unity, one with Jesus Christ.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 20, 113

Thursday

5 ETERNITY BEFORE US

5.a. Since every person, sooner or later, must make his or her choice in view of eternity extending before us all, what is written in 1 John 2:17?

Note: “Many who profess to be looking for the appearing of our Lord are anxious, burdened seekers for worldly gain. They are blind to their eternal interest. They labor for that which satisfieth not; they spend their money for that which is not bread. They strive to content themselves with the treasures they have laid up upon the earth, which must perish, and they neglect the preparation for eternity, which should be the first and only real work of their lives.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, 600

“Make your decision for eternity.” *Ibid.*, 495

5.b. Because we must make provisions for eternity, what admonition should we bear in mind? 1 Peter 5:6–10

Note: “Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly. Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen. . . . There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord’s appearing. Another class are falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win.” *The Desire of Ages*, 636

“Which will we choose—liberty in Christ, or bondage and tyranny in the service of Satan? Why should we reject the invitation of mercy, refuse the proffers of divine love? If we choose to live with Christ through the ceaseless ages of eternity, why not choose Him now as our most loved and trusted friend, our best and wisest counsellor?” *The Bible Echo*, June 25, 1894

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did God choose Israel?
- 2 Why was the kingdom taken from the Jewish nation and given to others?
- 3 What is God’s purpose for His people with reference to the world?
- 4 Explain the difference between true Christians and nominal Christians.
- 5 Why will many professed Christians be deceived and lose Heaven?

May 19 – 25, 2024

A Copy of the Heavenly Sanctuary

Key Text

“And let them [the children of Israel] make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8

Study Help: *The Story of Redemption*, 151–157

Introduction

“He [God] presented before Moses a miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary and commanded him to make all things according to the pattern shown him in the mount.” *The Signs of the Times*, June 24, 1880

Sunday

1 THE EARTHLY TABERNACLE

1.a. God delivered Israel from Egypt (Exodus 12:51). Then He organized them (Exodus 18:21–26). After that He gave them His law (Exodus 20:3–17). What was the next important event that took place in Israel? Exodus 25:8

1.b. What building plan did the Lord present to Moses? Exodus 25:9, 40; Hebrews 8:5

Note: “The holy places made with hands were to be ‘figures of the true,’ ‘patterns of things in the heavens’ (Hebrews 9:24, 23)—a miniature representation of the heavenly temple where Christ, our great High Priest, after offering His life as a sacrifice, was to minister in the sinner’s behalf. God presented before Moses in the mount a view of the heavenly sanctuary and commanded him to make all things according to the pattern shown him.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 343

1.c. Where, on earth, did God promise to meet with the children of Israel? Exodus 29:42–46

Note: “God commanded Moses for Israel, ‘Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them,’ and He abode in the sanctuary, in the midst of His people.” *My Life Today*, 290

Monday

2 GOD’S HABITATION

2.a. Where, in heaven, is God’s throne? Isaiah 6:1; Psalm 11:4

2.b. Where, in heaven, does Christ share the Father’s throne? Hebrews 8:1, 2

2.c. Why is it especially significant that Christ stands in the courts of heaven as our Advocate? Hebrews 4:14–16

Note: “Through all their weary wandering in the desert, the symbol of His [God’s] presence was with them [Israel]. So Christ set up His tabernacle in the midst of our human encampment. He pitched His tent by the side of the tents of men, that He might dwell among us, and make us familiar with His divine character and life. “The Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.” John 1:14, R.V., margin.

“Since Jesus came to dwell with us, we know that God is acquainted with our trials, and sympathizes with our griefs. Every son and daughter of Adam may understand that our Creator is the friend of sinners. For in every doctrine of grace, every promise of joy, every deed of love, every divine attraction presented in the Saviour’s life on earth, we see ‘God with us.’” *The Desire of Ages*, 23, 24

2.d. What additional description unveils more about the glorious scene of God’s throne? Revelation 4:4; 7:13–15; 8:3

2.e. In view of the awesome celestial picture presented, what should be our continual aim? Revelation 3:2; Colossians 3:1, 2

Note: “How much better it is to seek those things which are above, than to seek the things of this world and to form our characters after a worldly similitude!” *Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 2, 228
 “The One who has stood as our intercessor; who hears all penitential prayers and confessions; who is represented with a rainbow, the symbol of grace and love, encircling His head, is soon to cease His work in the heavenly sanctuary. Grace and mercy will then descend from the throne, and justice will take their place. He for whom His people have looked will assume His right—the office of Supreme Judge.” *The Review and Herald*, January 1, 1889

Tuesday

3 THE CENTER OF THE WORK OF REDEMPTION

3.a. Where is the center of the work of Christ in our behalf? Hebrews 9:11, 12. Why is a knowledge of the sanctuary service a must? Psalm 77:13

Note: “The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ’s work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.” *The Great Controversy*, 488, 489

3.b. When did the Holy Spirit make manifest the way into the heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 9:8; 6:18–20

Note: “Though the ministration was to be removed from the earthly to the heavenly temple; though the sanctuary and our great High Priest would be invisible to human sight, yet the disciples were to suffer no loss thereby. They would realize no break in their communion, and no diminution of power because of the Saviour’s absence. While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.” *The Desire of Ages*, 166

3.c. If Christ entered “into heaven itself” to minister in the true tabernacle not in the “figures of the true” (Hebrews 9:2, 24), how can we have access to Him? Hebrews 4:14–16

Note: “In the Father’s acceptance of Christ in man’s behalf, we are assured that through the merits of His Son, we may find access to God. We may be accepted in the Beloved. Jesus, the world’s Redeemer, has opened the way so that the most sinful, the most needy, the most oppressed and despised, may find access to God, may have a home in the mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for those who love Him.” *The Bible Echo*, February 1, 1893

Wednesday

4 EXACTNESS AND PERFECTION

4.a. What lesson can we learn from the fact that, in the building of the earthly tabernacle, God insisted, again and again, that everything be done “after their pattern”? Exodus 25:9, 40; Acts 7:44

Note: “In all our work, even in mechanical lines, God desires that the perfection of His character shall appear. The exactness, skill, tact, wisdom, and perfection which He required in the building of the earthly tabernacle, He desires to have brought into everything that shall be done in His service. Every transaction entered into by His servants is to be as pure and as precious in His sight as were the gold and frankincense and myrrh which in sincere, uncorrupted faith the wise men from the East brought to the infant Saviour.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 142, 143

4.b. How does this lesson apply to the candidates for a place in the kingdom of glory? Matthew 5:48; Colossians 1:28; 4:12

Note: “Paul describes the work of God’s ambassadors as that by which every man shall be presented perfect in Christ Jesus. Those who embrace the truth of heavenly origin should be refined, ennobled, sanctified through it. It will require much painstaking effort to reach God’s standard of true manhood. The irregular stones hewed from the quarry must be chiseled, their rough sides must be polished. This is an age famous for surface work, for easy methods, for boasted holiness aside from the standard of character that God has erected. All short routes, all cutoff tracks, all teaching which fails to exalt the law of God as the standard of religious character, is spurious. Perfection of character is a lifelong work, unattainable by those who are not willing to strive for it in God’s appointed way, by slow and toilsome steps. We cannot afford to make any mistake in this matter, but we want day by day to be growing up into Christ, our living Head.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 500

“Every day that you live, you can be perfecting the blessed attributes fully revealed in the character of Christ; and when you do this, you will bring light, love, peace, and joy into your homes.” *The Review and Herald*, July 29, 1890

Thursday

5 MATERIALS PROVIDED

5.a. The Lord could have miraculously provided all the materials needed for the building of the sanctuary. Why did He require the people to bring only freewill offerings? Exodus 25:1–8

Note: “Great and expensive preparations were necessary. Precious and costly materials must be collected. But the Lord accepted only the freewill offerings. Devotion to the work of God and sacrifice from the heart were first required in preparing a place for God.” *The Story of Redemption*, 152

“God will accept only willing service.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 977

5.b. As architects of our own character, how careful should we be in choosing the spiritual materials with which to build? 1 Corinthians 3:10–15

Note: “In our character building, we must build on Christ. He is the sure foundation—a foundation which can never be moved. The tempest of temptation and trial cannot move the building which is riveted to the Eternal Rock.

“He who would grow into a beautiful building for the Lord must cultivate every power of the being. It is only by the right use of the talents that the character can develop harmoniously.” *Child Guidance*, 166

“The word of God warns us to take heed how we build, to see that our building is founded upon the Eternal Rock.” *Ibid.*, 164

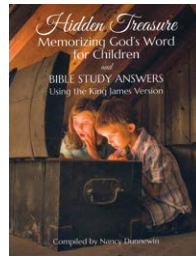
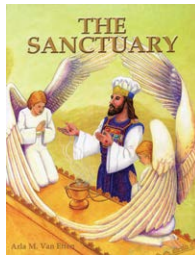
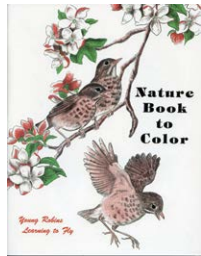
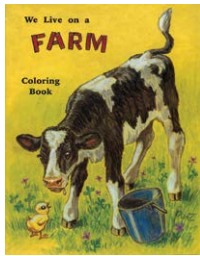
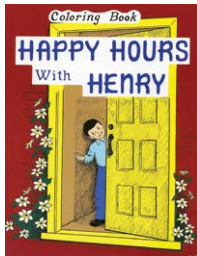
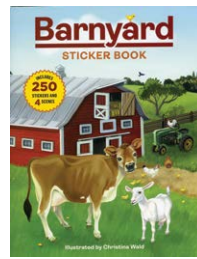
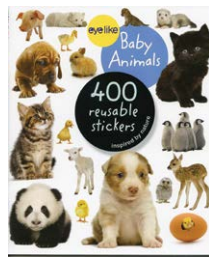
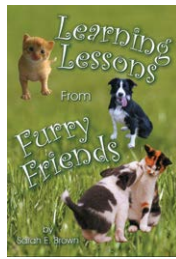
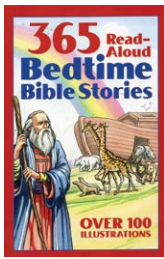
Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did God entrust Moses with setting up a copy of the heavenly sanctuary in the midst of Israel?
- 2 Where in heaven do the Father and Son have their throne?
- 3 How can Christ, while ministering in the heavenly sanctuary, be present with His people here on earth?
- 4 What is symbolized by the exactness and perfection that God demanded in the building of the sanctuary?
- 5 What does the careful selection of materials for the tabernacle typify?

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The jalapeño, one of the most favored varieties of warm peppers, has been used for centuries as a key ingredient to flavor a spectrum of culinary delights. It is a member of the nightshade family Solanaceae, and closely related to paprika, bell peppers, and cayenne peppers. The name “jalapeño” is derived from the Spanish word Xalapa, a provincial capital in the city of Veracruz, Mexico, where early settlers cultivated the crop. Later, it was introduced to the rest of the world through Spanish explorers, and today, these hot peppers are widely grown across the globe.

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Low in calories, the jalapeño abounds with nutrients including vitamins A, C, and B6, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants.

Sources: netmeds.com/health-library/post/jalapeno-health-benefits-nutrition-recipes-and-side-effects; *Top 5 Health Benefits of Jalapeño*

TOP FIVE BENEFITS OF JALAPEÑOS

Contains capsaicin, which is effective in killing over 40 types of cancer without harming normal cells.

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Soothes migraine headaches and provides incredible pain relief.

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



ROASTED VEGETABLE DIP/SPREAD

Ingredients

1 medium onion, roughly chopped
 1 medium red bell pepper, roughly chopped
 1 large eggplant, peeled, cut into chunks
 1 medium tomato, chopped, or 14 cherry tomatoes
 7-8 cloves garlic, peel intact
 1 jalapeño pepper, deseeded, chopped
 1 ¼ tsp. sea salt, divided
 3 Tbs. avocado oil, or less
 3 Tbs. tahini
 1 Tbs. lemon juice, or to taste
 ½ tsp. ground cumin
 ¼ cup parsley, finely chopped

Process

Place all vegetables into a bowl. Add 1 tsp. salt and oil; mix well. Transfer to a parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Bake at 375-400°F for about 40 minutes or until vegetables are roasted. Remove from oven and let cool. Remove garlic peel and transfer all to a food processor. Add tahini, lemon juice, cumin, and ¼ tsp. salt; process to preferred consistency. Spoon into a bowl, add parsley and mix. Chill for 1-2 hours. Serve as a delicious dip with carrot and celery sticks, and pita bread, or use as a sandwich spread.



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Health Benefits of Jalapeños

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