

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

Must I Be Crucified?

*If we want the latter rain to fall on us, we
must first experience the early rain.*

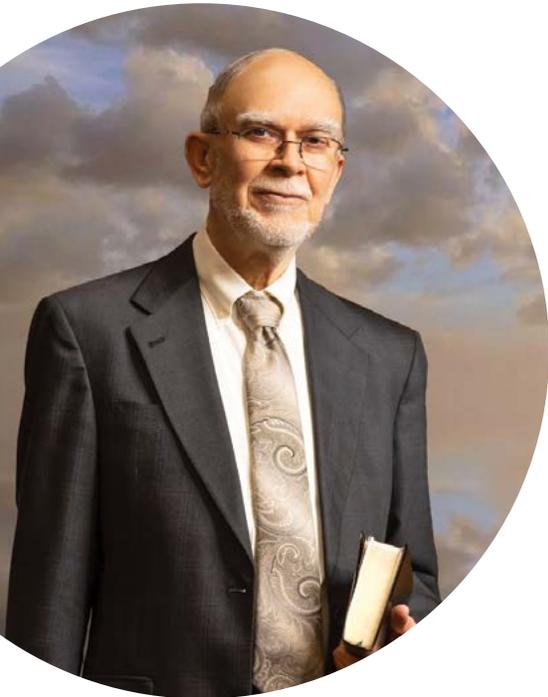
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From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

He Who Is Not with Me

“No one but Christ is given us as an example. He is our true Pattern, and each should strive to excel in imitating Him. ... We are decided, wholehearted Christians, or none at all. Says Christ: ‘I would thou wert cold or hot.’” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 126

“The Lord will have the whole man, or none at all. His favor cannot be purchased with gifts of money. He calls for the gift of the whole heart.” *The Upward Look*, 73

Christ laid aside His scepter with which He had ruled the universe, He laid aside His royal robe and crown of glory and came to this sin-darkened earth and hid His divinity behind humanity, the likeness of sinful flesh and became poor that we might be made rich with the riches that only He could impart. Having lived a perfect life, He gave up even this.

“To human eyes Christ was only a man, yet He was a perfect man. In His humanity, He was the impersonation of the divine character. God embodied His own attributes in His Son—His power, His wisdom, His goodness, His purity, His truthfulness, His spirituality,

and His benevolence. In Him, though human, all perfection of character, all divine excellence, dwelt.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, September 16, 1897

“Christ’s perfect humanity is the same that man may have through connection with Christ. ... He had not taken on Him even the nature of the angels, but humanity, perfectly identical with our own nature, except without the taint of sin. A human body, a human mind, with all the peculiar properties, He was bone, brain, and muscle. A man of our flesh, He was compassed with the weakness of humanity. ... He breathed the very air man must breathe. He trod our earth as man. He had reason, conscience, memory, will, and affections of the human soul which was united with His divine nature.”

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, 181, 182

Think this through. After He has made so great a sacrifice to save you and me, can we claim to be His disciples without embarrassment if we have not surrendered our will to Him, acknowledging Him as the only Lord of our lives?

“Why do call Me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?” Luke 6:46 **LM**

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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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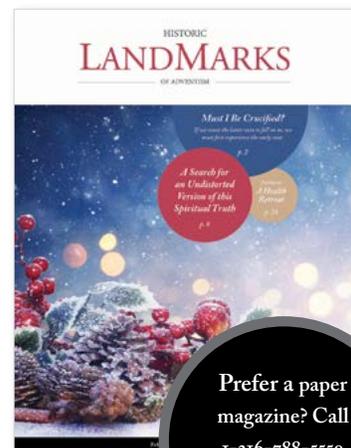
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Must I Be Crucified?

John J. Grosboll

Natural Tendency - Man's inherited natural tendency to and desire for doing wrong; a condition that is forever who we are without Divine intervention and transformation.

Cultivated Tendency - Man's nurtured, cultivated tendency to wrongdoing, the sin committed that, with repetition, soon becomes habit and precious to us.

Tempted by our natural, sinful nature to sin and enticed to sin by the devil and influenced by the world around us, we must understand our natural, sinful nature because it has everything to do with our eternal destiny.

Paul wrote this interesting statement, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

Anatomy of a Crucifixion

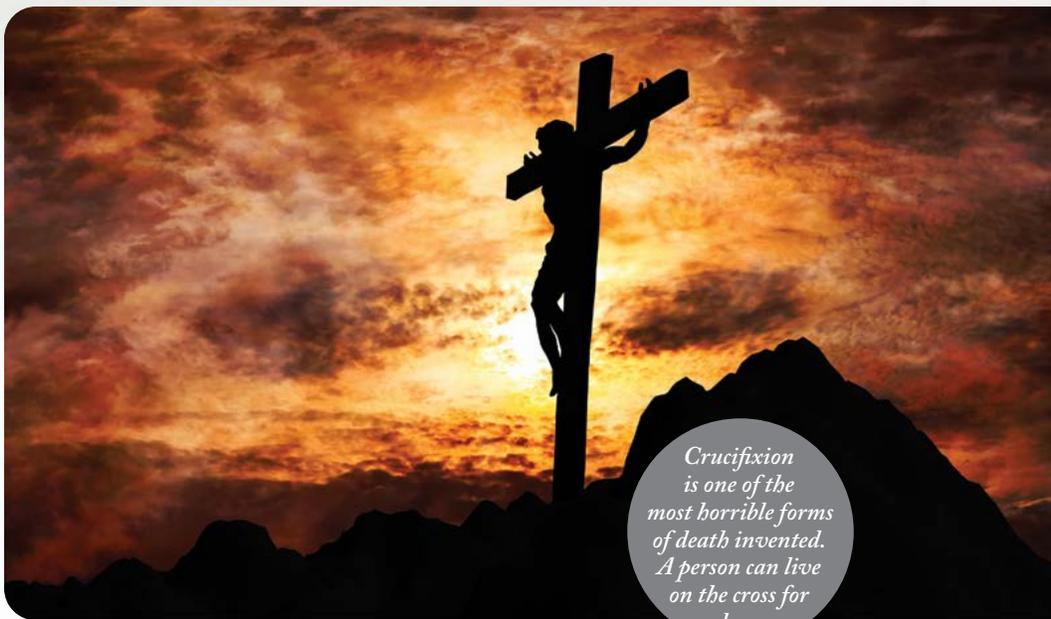
One of the most horrible forms of death ever invented by the devil was crucifixion; not actually death, it is a living death. A person can live, hanging on a cross, for days.

The apostle James was crucified, but while on the cross, he preached for two or three days before he died to the people who came to see him die. So, a cross did not mean death right away. Unable to do anything because the person is nailed to it, a crucifixion does not injure any of the vital organs of the body. The heart will still beat. The brain continues to function, as do the liver and kidneys. The nails are strategically placed so that when they are driven into the flesh, major arteries are missed, so there is minimal blood loss. And by pushing up against the cross, your lungs will still inhale and exhale air. Soon enough, however, the legs of the person being crucified are almost always broken so that he can no longer push up, and eventually he would die from a slow, agonizing asphyxiation. This was the fate of the two thieves who died with Christ.

Paul says, I am crucified with Christ so I am no longer alive, it is Christ who lives in me. The consequence of this relationship—my death and His life—is that my natural, sinful self must die, and, by faith in Jesus Christ, I am given the ability to live His life of righteousness in place of my life of selfishness and sinfulness.

Anatomy of Dying and yet Living

Paul’s main point in Galatians 2:20 is that he has died. He no longer lives the life he once lived, driven by his natural, sinful nature. That life was gone, and



Crucifixion is one of the most horrible forms of death invented. A person can live on the cross for days.

in its place, Paul accepted Christ as the Ruler of his heart. Paul knew that he could not continue to live as he had been living. His life had to be changed, and this Paul could not do alone.

While hanging on the cross, Jesus was mocked. The people jeered, “Come down and save Yourself. He says He can save us, but He can’t even save Himself.” Little did they know that what they meant as a taunt, Christ could have done. They didn’t believe in Him, that was obvious. They had rejected Him and the gift of salvation He offered by dying on the cross. He could have summoned the entire heavenly host, who waited for just such a moment, to take Him back to heaven, leaving mankind to fend for itself and eventually to destroy itself. This world, all of us living in it, are safe today with the opportunity of salvation still available because Jesus wouldn’t come down from the cross.

Jesus had to die to pay the penalty demanded by sin (Romans 6:23), but it is equally important to understand that He lived His life to show us the only true example of victory in living a righteous life.

Anatomy of Trouble

We, however, want to be in charge, and that, my friend, is when the trouble starts.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, John Harvey Kellogg was a leading Adventist physician. The world’s most famous people of the time came to the Battle Creek Sanitarium to be healed from their diseases by Dr. Kellogg; and what he did was marvelous. He became renowned throughout the world for His work. Sadly, however, it was this worldly fame that caused him to spiritually lose his way.

In 1887, Mrs. White wrote to him, “The Christian’s life is a strangely-mingled scene of sorrows and joys, disappointments and hopes, fears and confidence. There will be much dissatisfaction with self, as he views his own heart so deeply stirred, surged with passion that it seems to bear all before it and then follows remorse and sorrow and repentance followed by peace and deep hidden joys, because he knows as his faith grasps the promises that are revealed in God’s word that he has the forgiving love of a longsuffering Saviour. And that Saviour he seeks to bring into his life, weave into his character.

“It is these revealings, these discoveries of God’s goodness that makes the soul humble and leads it to cry out in gratitude, I live, yet not I, for Christ liveth in me, we have reason to be comforted. Severe outward trials may press around the soul where Jesus lives. Let us turn to Him, for the consolations He has promised for us in His word.

“The nether springs of hope and comfort may appear to fail us, but the upper springs which feed the river of God are full of supply and can never be dried up. God would have you [Kellogg] look away from the cause of your afflictions [mainly coming from leading ministers and leaders in the church] to Him who is the owner of soul, body, and spirit. He is the lover of the soul. He knows the value of the soul. He is the true vine, and we are the branches. We shall have no spiritual nourishment only as we draw it from Jesus who is the true life of the soul.” *Battle Creek Letters*, 8, 9

There were significant differences between Adventism and Dr. Kellogg’s personal theological beliefs, and these differences caused issues between him and the Adventist church. His book *The Living Temple* was sharply criticized by Mrs. White because of his pantheistic ideas as stated in the book. By 1907, conflicts between Dr. Kellogg, A. G. Daniells, and others in the church, led to Dr. Kellogg being disfellowshipped, and resulted in a schism in the church. Dr. Kellogg retained control of the Battle Creek Sanitarium and the American Medical Missionary College, while continuing to promote Adventist health ideas at those institutions. ([wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Harvey_Kellogg](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Harvey_Kellogg))

The Anatomy of Repetition

Passion comes. Desire is strong. So easily swayed by the desire within to sin and enticed from without by the excitement of the world to sin. But then, recrimination: Why did I do that? Why did I say that? Why did I think that? Why did that happen? I didn’t mean it. Lord, I’m so sorry,

please forgive me. I won’t do it again. But even sorrow and repentance mean little if there is no transformation in the life—sin, confess, repent, repeat.

How do we reach the point where we stop this continual up and down experience? How do we submit to the transformation wrought by love?

Jesus said, “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So, shall it also be with this wicked generation.”” Matthew 12:43–45

Jesus is talking in these texts about the man who listened to the preaching of John the Baptist and Jesus. He is touched by what he heard and influenced to determinedly remove from his life the evil spirit that had long controlled him. He praised God for His love and grace, and sought to follow Him only, allowing the Holy Spirit to control his life.

As long as the man praises God and surrenders himself to the Holy Spirit, the evil spirit stays away. But one day, the evil spirit came back to check on the man. He finds that he no longer praises God. The Holy Spirit is gone. This man had not entered into a covenant relationship with God even though he has had a lot of religious influence in his life. Sadly, the evil spirit finds the house is empty, and so he comes back, but not alone. The text says that he came back with seven evil spirit friends. Together, they all move in with the man, making the man worse now than he was before.

“We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.” *The Desire of Ages*, 324

“

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

Galatians 2:20

Who Can Help?

There are two supernatural powers seeking for control of the world and all who live in it. As we approach the end of time, this spiritual battle becomes fiercer and more bitter. Spiritual war, for the souls and bodies of men and women is taking place all over the world. This spiritual war is between Christ and Satan—the heavenly host and the host of darkness, the servants of Christ and the servants of Satan. Unless we are connected with divinity, the devil will be in control of us. Moment by moment we must be fully surrendered to Christ or we will be overcome, at the mercy of the enemy and doing his bidding in the end. We are not able to deal with our own fallen, sinful nature alone. We must have divine help.

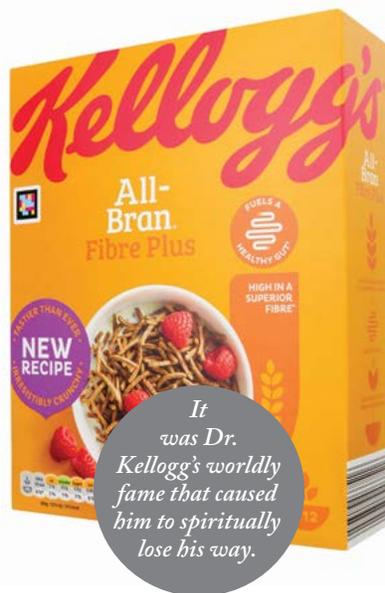
“All have the same sinful nature. All are liable to make mistakes. No one is perfect. The Lord Jesus died for the erring, that they might be forgiven. It is not our work to condemn . . . but to save.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 18, 334, 335

“The work of repairing souls broken down through errors, through manifest sin, is the most difficult we can do. Some pet sin has been cultivated which has taken the lines of control, one bad habit has not been vigorously fought and conquered, and oh, how hard [it is] to efface the bruises that soul has sustained.” *The Upward Look*, 162

Here are represented those who are spiritually sick, having been overtaken by some type of sinful habit that has control of their mind.

“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all gone out of the way; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.’” Romans 3:10, 11

Everyone wants to help someone in need, but they interpret experiences with a filter made up of their own background, training, and life experiences. One of the biggest problems in help-



ing the sick is that few understand the spiritual component of the problems we face. Jesus, the Spirit of Prophecy, the apostles all teach that if some pet sin has taken control of a person's life, they can never be free unless they are set free by divine power.

A psychologist wants to shape the mind to understand why a man has a sinful habit and what exercises can be used to gain control over it.

A nutritionist wants to plan a diet that will make him healthier in order to fight the habit.

A physical therapist wants to use therapy to make him stronger in the fight against the habit.

A surgeon wants to operate and remove the sinful habit.

An internist wants to use medicine to destroy the habit.

But if we are truly to overcome our sinful nature and besetting sins, there is only One to whom we must turn.

“To the careless, the indifferent, the unconcerned, those standing on the precipice of ruin, Christ says: Open the door of your heart; give Me entrance, and I will make you a child of God. **I will transform your weak, sinful nature into the divine image, giving it beauty and perfection.**” *That I May Know Him*, 106

“Our lifework now should be to prepare for eternity. We know not how soon our lifework here may close, and how essential that **our low, sinful nature should be overcome, and we conform to the image of Christ.**” *This Day With God*, 117

Is There Any Way Out?

The law of God cannot help us, because we are unable to keep it in our sinful nature. So, is there any way out? Yes, there is. Our low, sinful nature must be overcome. Revelation 2, 3, and 21 repeatedly show us the necessity of overcoming.

Jesus says if we will let Him into our lives, He will change our hearts and minds, **transform our sinful nature.** “The sinful nature is to be kept under the control of the Spirit of God.” *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 6, 1893

I am stuck. I cannot control my sinful nature. I cannot control my own tongue or my own thoughts. I cannot control my affections, passions, or desires, and the Bible is very clear that it is impossible for me alone to control them. I cannot keep the law of God in my sinful nature except if I am under the control of the Holy Spirit.

“‘Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.’” John 15:4, 5

“When He [God] gave Jesus to our world, He included all heaven in that one gift. **He did not leave us to retain our defects and deformities of character, or to serve Him as best we could in the corruption of our sinful nature.** He has made provision that we may be complete in His Son, not having our own righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ.” *The Review and Herald*, March 18, 1902

“**He takes away the destructive tendencies of the sinful nature** and brings

the human agency into His service.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 18, 208

Just Quit or Struggle

There are people in this world who have tremendous willpower when it comes to making changes in their life.

A smoker might decide that this is his last cigarette and he will never smoke again. And he is successful. Or the person who decides they just weigh too much and want to lose weight and live a healthy life. They make a diet plan,

follow it each day, sticking to it until the desired weight loss has been achieved.

However, another smoker may awaken every day for the rest of his life fighting against that deep desire for just one cigarette, or an obese individual will struggle each day to stay committed to the effort of losing weight and keeping it off. For these individuals, they fight against a besetting sin, the one they just cannot overcome alone.

“God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength [because we cannot win]. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 176, 177

“The converting power of God can transform inherited and cultivated tendencies; for the religion of Jesus is uplifting.” *The Review and Herald*, April 13, 1897

The Deplorable Effects of the Original Apostasy

Because of the garment of light, Adam and Eve were enabled to read the message

of God in every plant, flower, and leaf. They could understand the wisdom of God in everything in nature. But when they ate the forbidden fruit, that garment of light was removed and they were no longer able to interpret or understand God’s wisdom. Where they had loved and respected one another, they now began to reproach each other. The sacred unity that had existed between Adam and Eve was destroyed.

“The experience of Adam is a constant warning and reproof to us. We are not to turn aside from the word of God under any circumstances; but the Lord compels obedience from no one. He gives the human agent all the help that he requires to be an overcomer, but leaves him free to place himself, with his inherited and cultivated tendencies, under the control and guidance of the Holy Spirit, or to follow his own imaginations which are only evil, and that continually.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 4, 198

“One of the deplorable effects of the original apostasy was the loss of man’s power to govern his own heart.” *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, 208. Our promises are like ropes of sand (*Steps to Christ*). A rope of sand doesn’t hold anything. Your promises are like ropes of sand and you find that you can’t control your thoughts, your passions, your affections; you can’t control anything. A person just feels helpless. Inspiration says that was one of the most awful things that happened at the original apostasy. We lost the ability to control our own heart.

God gives us the free will to choose to place our whole being under the guidance and control of the Holy Spirit or to follow our own imaginations. Without a connection with God, it is absolutely certain that we will sin.

“Many are inquiring, ‘How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?’ You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. 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 in your



Sorrow and repentance mean little if there is no transformation in the life.

own sincerity, 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 to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus, your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.

“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 to be Christians.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.” *Steps to Christ*, 47, 48

Few Agree

Paul wrote about our inherited and cultivated tendencies to evil many times (Romans 6, 7, and 9; Galatians 6).

Theologians (Adventists and other churches alike) disagree, argue, debate, and write conflicting articles about mankind’s dilemma regarding his inherited, sinful nature and the sinful traits he cultivates throughout his life. The conclusion? We cannot control ourselves and keep the law of God. The answer? To be under the control of the Holy Spirit.



*The
Christian's
life is a
strangely-mingled
scene of sorrows
and joys.*

Still Waiting

Strife and contention throughout Adventism are signs that, as Paul writes, happen when we are still carnal, in the flesh, not walking in the Spirit. We must come to a place where we plead with the Spirit to show us the sins we must overcome, helping us to recognize that we cannot overcome them alone. Our prayer must be one of surrender, asking the Holy Spirit to intervene in our lives.

We talk about probation closing soon, about the time of trouble, about Sunday laws, about Jesus’ coming. We are waiting for the latter rain, but we cannot expect the latter rain to fall until we have received the early rain, and we will not receive the early rain until we are fully surrendered to God and the Holy Spirit holds control of our lives.

We cannot read the heart, but we can look at the fruit. We are in a desperate situation. The early rain has not fallen on those who are still at variance and in contention. We must crucify self and accept Christ living within us.

“The Holy Spirit is to do its work upon mind and character, exerting an influence upon thoughts and actions.

If received, cultivated, and appreciated, it will always be reformatory, refining, elevating, and ennobling. He who always aims for entire conformity to God’s will, who does not follow his own natural inclinations, will allow the Holy Spirit to improve and mold and fashion his character upon a plan and model different from his own inherited and cultivated tendencies, **changing him to another man.**” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 19, 23

We have inherited and cultivated tendencies to evil that we cannot change and we cannot with this nature keep the law of God. We cannot keep the law of God unless we are crucified with Christ, and the Holy Spirit comes into our minds and makes us into a different person, transforming our nature. That’s what the early rain of the Holy Spirit is about, the character change that happens in a person when they accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. **LM**

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A Search for an Undistorted Version of this Spiritual Truth

Esteban Salazar

What a profound Bible truth—without Jesus I am a lost soul. There is nothing within me that I could achieve that would make me worthy of being granted eternal life. If I would be taken to heaven as I am in this sinful condition, I would only stain that high and lofty place. What can I do to be saved, but most importantly what I must understand is, from what do I need to be saved?

Statement

Justification by faith is God's provided tool to each one of us to bring about our restoration to the perfection of creation, saving us from sin, which is a distortion of His loving work, and making us fit again to be re-instituted in the New Jerusalem.



Example

Justification is the complete act of pardoning someone for a fault or omission on their part. For example, if a student is absent from school one day, the teacher will require the student to provide an excuse to justify his absence. The student must bring a justification note on the following day validated by an adult who proves the veracity of cause for the young one to miss class. For instance, if the cause of the absence was an illness or health problem, the person providing the justification should be a doctor for it to be valid. It would be unacceptable that a medical justification note would be signed by another classmate of the student in question.

Once a student's absence is justified by a responsible adult and submitted to the teacher, the student may be reinstated in class to continue with his studies. This justification for this particular situation does not excuse the student from indefinitely missing classes, nor does it grant him a certificate of achievement after the end of the school year. The justification merely excuses the student for the specific absence, preventing removal from the class. Furthermore, the justification does not give the student permission to continue missing classes whenever he wishes, nor does it exempt him from preparing for exams.

Parellism

In short, justification is a request for excuse or apology for the infraction committed by failing to comply with what has been established.

With this background, we can see how this legal framework centers on the work that Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit perform to restore us to the state of original perfection.

Sin and Consequences

As the absolute judge in this tribunal, we find God the Father, who has established His law as the standard of conduct for all created beings, indis-



soluble and perfect. The law establishes that upon violating one of its precepts, the transgressor must die; therefore, the punishment for one who transgresses God's law is death.

Adam and Eve were created in complete harmony with God's law. There was no need for them to require a justifier nor did they need justification before God, since they had never committed a sin nor disobeyed the law in any way. They could see God face to face and be accepted into His presence because of their perfect, untainted condition.

By violating a precept of God's law, Adam and Eve broke that perfect bond between their own existence and compatibility with God's law, becoming liable to execution for their disobedience. From our first parents and now each one of us, we face the same condemnation that Adam and Eve received.

Divine Grace

It is here, thanks to and solely due to the unique and unconditional love of God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit toward each one of us, a love that we can understand as divine grace and

undeserved mercy is bestowed upon us. To give us hope of eternal life, the Deity of the Godhead set in motion the Plan of Redemption for our rescue, thus removing us from the condemnation of eternal death, the consequence of our own disobedience to God's requirements; giving us a second chance to live in perfect harmony and obedience to God's law.

Restoration and Redemption

Jesus interceded on behalf of disobedient humanity. Standing before God the Father, He was willing to receive the punishment of death in our place.

To be able to fully reconcile man to God, it was necessary for Jesus Himself to leave heaven and come to this earth that He might experience the results of our fallen condition and to become a part of the human race, which had become captive to sin.

The role of the Holy Spirit, as the indwelling power of divine Providence, would strengthen Jesus in His decision to obey God's law and grant Him a life of victory over sin while living on this earth surrounded by sinners.

In being exposed to temptation, Jesus gained an understanding of our human weakness firsthand. He therefore identified Himself with our current condition. While He chose at every step of this earthly way to obey all the requirements of God's law and live a perfect life before God's eyes, He became familiar with our frailties and struggles.

Finally, taking our place, He willingly accepted execution and death for the sins and disobedience we are guilty of. In this way, He now stands before the Father as the authorized Advocate to sign our much-needed justification note excusing us from our transgression. Thus, He grants us a second chance to make things right in this life. We are renewed within ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit who now dwells in us. He empowers us, as a renewed being, restored to the image of God, to live in harmony and obedience to His law, just as it was in the beginning.

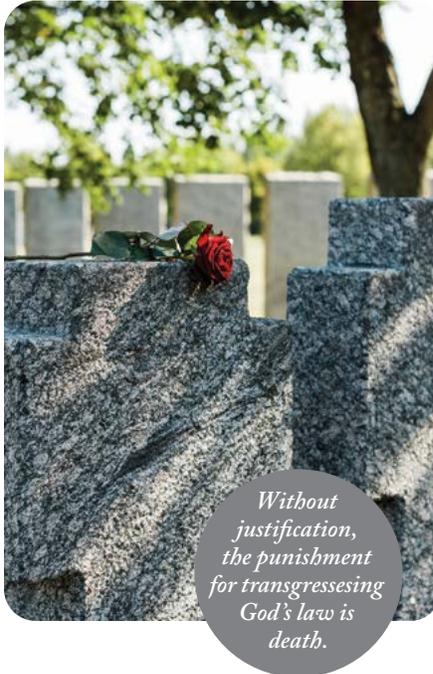
Just as the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to live a perfect life of obedience to God's law, this same Holy Spirit can grant us the transforming power to bring about a new birth in us. Thus, we are delivered from that captivity to sin and brought back into a new life of harmony with the original plan of creation and perfection.

Point of Thought

Justification by faith comprehends the work of the Godhead in our behalf to first pardon us from our faults and then, along with our own choice, to empower us to live in harmony with the laws of heaven, reconciled to God.

Bible

We can compare the previous statements with the following verses from the Bible in order to obtain a Biblical foundation. We can find additional explanation in the Spirit of Prophecy quotations.



- Sin
- Consequences of Sin
- Grace
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Salvation

Sin

Individual transgression and disobedience of God's law.

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

1 John 3:4

Consequences of Sin

The consequence of transgressing and disobeying God's law is separation from God and ultimately death.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:1, 2

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

"The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father,

nor the father bear the guilt of the sons. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself." Ezekiel 18:20

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:12

Grace

An undeserved gift. God's goodwill to forgive and divine initiative to give us a second chance for eternal life.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."

Titus 2:11

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all." Colossians 3:11

"I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain." Galatians 2:21

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel." Galatians 1:6

Justification

This is what only God can do in our favor and is essential within the Plan of Salvation. Jesus lived a perfect life through the power of the Holy Spirit, in obedience to God's Law. He lived a life without the stain of sin, and therefore was accepted by the Father as righteous. For this reason, nothing and no one can justify us before the Father except Jesus. No good work from our own part justifies us. Only our faith in the work Jesus is performing in us and with us is what allows us to appropriate and receive justification.

“Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.” Romans 3:28

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin; He condemned sin in the flesh.” Romans 8:3

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:19, 20

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” Galatians 2:16

“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So, they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced having believed in God with all his household.” Acts 16:30–34

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’” Acts 2:37–39

“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:13

Sanctification

It is the work that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, performs in us, that provides the basis for a new life. We choose to obey and walk in harmony with God’s Law. God does not force this decision. It is a synergistic mechanism for an end goal that integrates God and man.

The degree of responsibility we have for our sanctification corresponds to the degree of willingness we have to be changed.

The word of God reveals how we are reconciled to God.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification, that you should abstain from sexual immorality.” 1 Thessalonians 4:3

“But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves to God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.” Romans 6:22

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy ac-

ceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1, 2

“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20, 21

“Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” John 16:8

“Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:26

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.” Matthew 28:19, 20

“And so, all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’” Romans 11:26, 27

“
Justification is the
complete act of excusing
someone for a fault or
omission on their part.”

“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.” 1 Timothy 6:3–5

“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” Romans 6:6

“But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. ‘Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?’ says the Lord God, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?’” Ezekiel 18:21–23

Salvation

It is the result of Divine grace manifested in justification and sanctification. Salvation is having experienced the new birth and being a new creation in Christ Jesus. We are finally saved from our past.

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” John 3:5

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’” Acts 2:40

“And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.” Romans 1:16

“‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.’” Isaiah 1:18, 19

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17

“To him who overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father in His throne.” Revelation 3:21

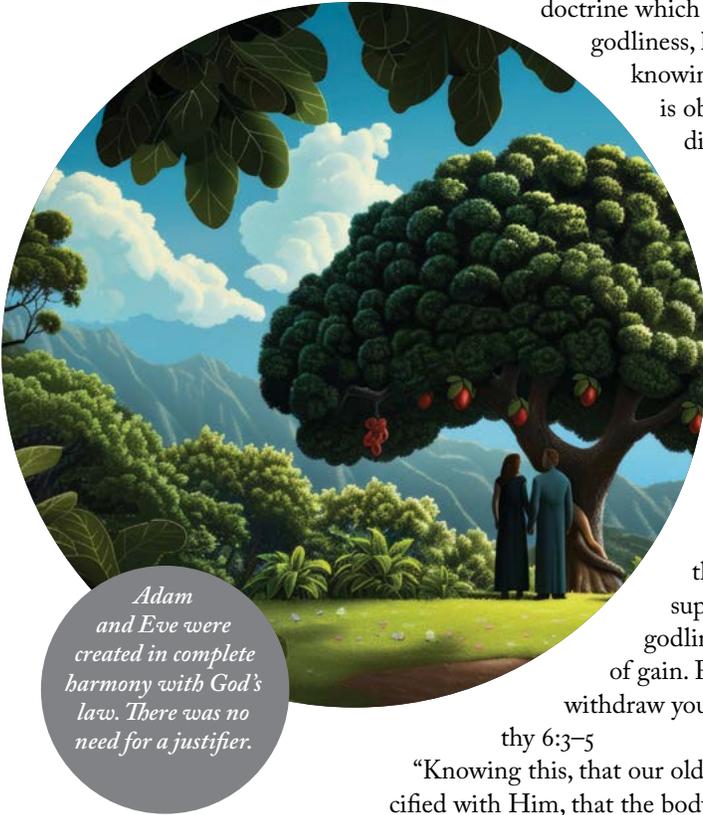
Spirit of Prophecy

About Repentance:

“But sorrow had not worked true repentance. The people mourned because their sins had brought suffering upon themselves, but not because they had dishonored God by transgression of His holy law. True repentance is more than sorrow for sin. It is a resolute turning away from evil.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 557

About the Victory of God in His Children

“When the plan of salvation was revealed to the angels, joy, inexpressible joy, filled heaven. The glory and the blessedness of a world redeemed outmeasured even the anguish of the Prince of Life. Through the celestial courts echoed the first strain of that song that angels sang above the hills of Bethlehem—‘Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will to men.’ And the

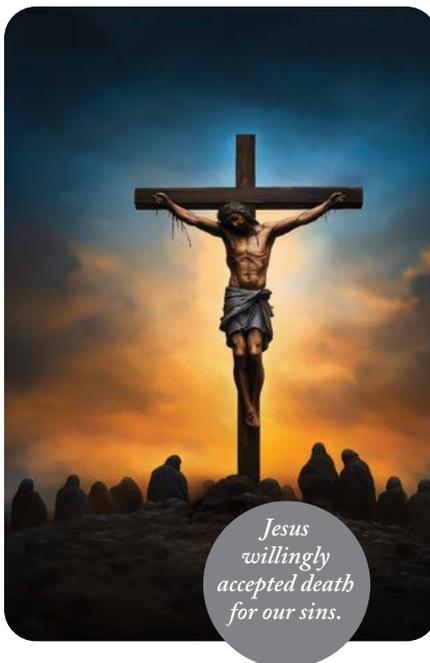


Adam and Eve were created in complete harmony with God's law. There was no need for a justifier.

lost pair in the garden of Eden, standing as criminals before the righteous Judge, waiting the sentence their transgression merited, heard the first notes of the divine promise. Before the life of toil and sorrow which sin had brought upon them was depicted before them, before the decree that the wages of sin is death was pronounced, they heard the promise of redemption. Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, still through the merits of Christ they could look forward to victory. The mystery of the gospel was spoken in Eden, when God said to the serpent, 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' If Satan could have touched the head with his specious temptations, the human family would have been lost; but the Lord had made known the purpose and plan of the mystery of grace, declaring that Christ had bruised the serpent under His feet." *The Signs of the Times*, February 13, 1893

About the Kingdom of Grace

"The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after the fall of man, when a plan was devised for the redemption of the guilty race. It then existed in the purpose and by the promise of God; and through faith, men could become its subjects. Yet it was not actually established until the death of Christ. Even after entering upon His earthly mission, the Saviour, wearied with the stubbornness and ingratitude of men, might have drawn back from the sacrifice of Calvary. In Gethsemane, the cup of woe trembled in His hand. He might even then have wiped the blood-sweat from His brow, and have left the guilty race to perish in their iniquity. Had He done this, there could have been no redemption for fallen men. But when the Saviour yielded up His life, and with His expiring breath cried out, 'It is finished,' then the fulfillment of the plan of redemption was assured. The promise



of salvation made to the sinful pair in Eden was ratified. The kingdom of grace, which had before existed by the promise of God, was then established." *The Great Controversy* (1888), 347, 348

Summary

In spite of the many arguments brought by scholastic debates, the simple consistent point of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is that we can only find the hope of salvation when we realize that our own rebellion against God and His law is what has separated us from Him. This consistent line of thought throughout the Scriptures establishes justification by faith and the doctrine regarding salvation.

Sin is breaking the law of God. We are condemned by that transgression to death. Jesus took that damnation upon Himself and died in our place. The Holy Spirit now appeals to our conscience so that we might see our true wicked condition, living a life in transgression of God's word, that keeps us separated from Him. As we see our extreme doom, we beg God to forgive our sins and ask Him to cleanse us by the blood of Jesus.

As the promise of God is fulfilled: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9, the Holy Spirit now convinces us to seek conversion and righteousness. "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. Through His power we may have victory over sin and live a life of obedience.

Victory requires a constant, moment-by-moment experience of surrendering to the will of God. As long as we distrust ourselves and cling to our Saviour for help, this work of the Holy Spirit can continue in us. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus and focused on his own power, achievement, and delight, he sank into the depths of the raging sea. It was only by grasping the hand of Christ that he was saved from the waves. The continual connection through the Holy Spirit was, in the end, what saved Peter from spiritual death. And we are promised the same.

At the very end, we realize that we are our own enemy and we need to be saved from our own rebellion.

That's why we can never say, "once saved always saved." The surrendering of self to the will of God, is an act of choice at every step of the way. Nevertheless, if we do this, we have the assurance indeed that in Christ we are more than conquerors. [LM](#)

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The First Angel's Message

Clues – NKJV

Across

- B12 He who is of _____ hears His words. John 8:47
 C5 So _____ and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty..... James 2:12
 D16 The priest would _____ the blood on the alter with his finger..... Leviticus 16:19
 E5 The Ephesians were full of _____ at Paul's teachings. Acts 19:28
 F18 Another _____ was opened, the Book of Life. Revelation 20:12
 G2 Why do you also _____ the commandments because of tradition? Matthew 15:3
 G22 An offering of two _____ lambs in their first year without blemish. Numbers 28:3
 I8 Paul saw many _____ of worship in Athens..... Acts 17:23
 J15 My _____ made by fire are as a sweet aroma. Numbers 28:2
 L3 Let us hear the _____ of the matter. Ecclesiastes 12:13
 L22 Jesus _____ out the transgressions of the repentant. Isaiah 43:25
 N8 There were lightnings, noise, and _____, and a great hail. Revelation 11:19
 O20 The king came to see the _____. Matthew 22:11
 Q2 A certain king arranged a _____ for his son..... Matthew 22:2
 R15 When Jesus is _____, we shall be like Him and we will see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2
 U5 The devil speaks from his own _____. John 8:44
 U15 Christ came as High Priest with the _____ and more perfect tabernacle..... Hebrews 9:11
 W19 Turning away from truth, many will believe _____. 2 Timothy 4:4
 X5 We know we love the _____ of God. 1 John 5:2
 Y21 The _____ of God's judgment has come..... Revelation 14:7

Down

- B8 Ask for rain in the time of the _____ rain. Zechariah 10:1
 B14 Men loved _____ rather than light. John 3:19
 B16 Paul was thought to be teaching _____ that were considered unlawful..... Acts 16:21
 C6 As many as have sinned without the law will _____ without the law. Romans 2:12
 C23 God's _____ will be rewarded..... Revelation 11:18
 C25 Unto two thousand _____ hundred days Daniel 8:14
 D11 He who covers his sin will not _____. Proverbs 28:13
 F3 Everyone _____ evil hates the light. John 3:20
 F18 May your spirit, soul, and body be found _____ at the coming of Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 F20 How long will you falter between two _____? 1 Kings 18:21
 I5 He is like a refiner's fire and like a _____ soap. Malachi 3:2
 I9 Who has _____ Me on the hills? Isaiah 65:7
 L16 The Lord says, _____ your ways! Haggai 1:5
 L23 Aaron cast _____ for the two goats..... Leviticus 16:8
 M13 This fellow _____ men to worship God. Acts 18:13
 N21 The devil is a _____ from the beginning. John 8:44
 O25 We are His people and the _____ of His pasture. Psalm 100:3
 Q3 The nations were _____ and God's wrath has come. Revelation 11:18
 Q11 If anyone sins, we have an _____ with the Father. 1 John 2:1
 Q19 But _____ the Lord God in your hearts..... 1 Peter 3:15
 S6 Take _____, watch, and pray; for you do not know the time it is. Mark 13:33

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Answer Key:

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- S8 We should not _____ those who are turning to God.Acts 15:19
- T17 The high priest went into the _____ part of the sanctuary once a year.Hebrews 9:7
- U15 The Son of Man will come in _____ and with the angels.....Matthew 16:27
- V22 Almost all things are purified by the shedding of _____ ... Hebrews 9:22





Christ's Denunciation of the Pharisees

When Christ came to the world, moral power was at a low ebb. The Jews as a people were not spiritually minded. Their hearts went out after their idols—supremacy, wealth, and worldly honor. The teachers of the nation interpreted the Scriptures according to their cherished ideas. They taught that the Messiah was to come as an earthly prince, who would reign on David's throne, and crush the heathen under Him. They led the people to believe that God would stretch out His arm in their behalf according to His promise, while they did not comply with the conditions of that promise. So far had they separated themselves from God by their wicked works, by their pride and self-righteousness, their oppression of the poor and needy, their hatred and jealousy, that spiritual things were not discerned.

The angels did not announce the birth of Christ to those who claimed to have great light and knowledge. The rabbis who explained the law in the synagogue—those who above all others should have been intelligent in regard to the coming of the Messiah and the manner of His appearing—knew nothing of the Babe cradled in the manger. Had the angels appeared to them with the good tidings of great joy, telling them the wonderful story of the Babe of Bethlehem, they would have rejected the message with contempt. Such humble birth was not according to their lofty ideas. Therefore, the Lord of glory passed by the self-exalted, the men intoxicated with self-love and worldly honor, and came to the men who were humble, who would receive the heavenly messengers and the tidings that were to echo to earth's remotest bounds.

It was to the humble shepherds that the birth of Christ was first made known. While they were watching their flocks on the hills of Bethlehem, "lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The manner of Christ's first advent, and the condition of those to whom the joyful tidings came, is a lesson we shall do well to study. The Lord does not honor those who honor themselves. He does not give His precious light to those who will not make a right use of it—who use it to honor themselves, in the place of exalting the Lord God of Israel. Those whom the Lord has blessed with great

privileges are to be pure and humble and undefiled. The humility of the world's Redeemer is solemn and instructive. He was the Majesty of heaven, yet while on earth, He was unhonored and almost unknown. The light of the world, the heir of glory, He was despised and rejected of men.

As we trace the course pursued by the scribes and Pharisees, and see the light and privileges granted them, we are led to inquire, How could those teachers read the word of God without perceiving the truths which it teaches? Upon these men was placed the responsibility of explaining the law in the synagogue; but Christ declared, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God." Ye teach for doctrine the commandments of men. The sayings of men, coming down through the rabbis from age to age, had molded their religious worship. Traditions were constantly increasing, which kept the mind in a state of questioning and controversy over the most trivial matters. New laws were constantly being enacted, and the people were taught to regard them as the requirements of God, until a mechanical service became the sum of their religion and their worship. Many of these laws were not committed to writing, and exaction after exaction was added until a most unreasonable mass of maxims and fables was brought together. He who attempted to bring forward scriptures that conflicted with these laws and traditions, was condemned as if he had refused to accept a "Thus saith the Lord." This education of the rabbis was well-pleasing to Satan; for through them he was

preparing the way so that when Christ should come to the world, He would be rejected by His own nation.

Christ designed that His disciples should have an education altogether different from that which they had received from the scribes and

Pharisees. He accused these men of teaching many things contrary to the law. "The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses seat," He said; "all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne,

and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. . . . He that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

When the question was asked, "Why do Thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread," Christ answered them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It

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Traditions were constantly increasing, which kept the mind in a state of questioning and controversy over the most trivial matters.



Items used in the ritual of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. New laws were constantly being enacted until the service became mechanical.

is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; and honor not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Thus Christ showed the comparative value of the law of God and their traditions.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites,” Christ continued; “for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.” Do we not find just such teachers in our day, men who will not obey the plainest statement of the word, and who, after they have turned from the light of God themselves, do their utmost to lead others into the same path? They manifest the same spirit toward those who keep God’s commandments that the

scribes and Pharisees manifested toward Christ. How earnest are these transgressors of God’s law to hedge up the way of those who would accept Christ. They will not enter in themselves, and those who would enter in they hinder.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers: therefore, ye shall receive the greater damnation.” There are many who claim to be sanctified, but who are not. Shall we receive their testimony? If they are holy, their testimony will be in accordance with the divine will; their prayer will be the prayer of Christ, “Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.”

What shall be the detector of character in these last days?—“Ye shall know them by their fruits.” “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” If men come to us, making void the law of God, we may know that their sanctification is worth just as much, when weighed in the balances

of heaven, as were the long, pretentious prayers of the Pharisees.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whitened sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

These fearful denunciations were made upon the Jews, because, while teaching the law of God to the people, they were not doers of the word. Had they kept the law of God, they would have discerned Christ and His mission. So it is in our day. There are those who walk in darkness when light shines from every page of the written word. They study the Scriptures that they may interpret them to suit themselves. They sink the Scriptures to their own perverted ideas. They are not honest. They doubt that which they have every reason to believe. They become reasoners in doubt, experts in finding fault. God’s word is misinterpreted, misstated, misapplied, and has no power upon the life and character.

If professed Christians really believe in God, they will not disregard His commandments. Christ says: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever, therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” *The Review and Herald*, August 29, 1899 LM

Our Own Hearts Deceive Us

Two years ago, I installed an electric fence in the backyard at my home. My dog, Finn, wears a collar that receives a signal from a transmitter inside the house that reminds him, if he gets too close to the fence, to remain within its confines. A green light on his collar's receiver flashes telling me it is receiving a strong signal.

The fence is a two-wire barrier. If Finn gets too close to the first strand, he receives a warning tone, and if he stops there, nothing further happens. But if he gets too close to the second strand, he receives a more powerful, though painless, incentive to remain in the yard. Let me share with you just how powerful it is.

Not long ago, I noticed that the green light on the receiver was flashing red. This meant that the battery was or very near dead. If Finn got too close to the fence, there would be a weak warning tone or maybe no tone at all nor any other deterrent to keep him inside the fence. Finn had the ability to leave the backyard any time he chose. However, as accustomed as he was to receiving the warnings, he didn't know that. Yet.

I don't know how long the battery was weak or dead, but I watched him for two days go outside, wander around the backyard, sometimes for a very long time, or sit in his special spot, surveying his domain. He never tested the fence, and he never crossed it.



That got me thinking about our sinful nature, besetting sins, and how we are too often so settled in our lives of sin that we do not recognize the opportunity to leave that life when it comes.

“The secret of Satan’s power over God’s professed people lies in the deceitfulness of the human heart.” *The Signs of the Times*, December 13, 1899

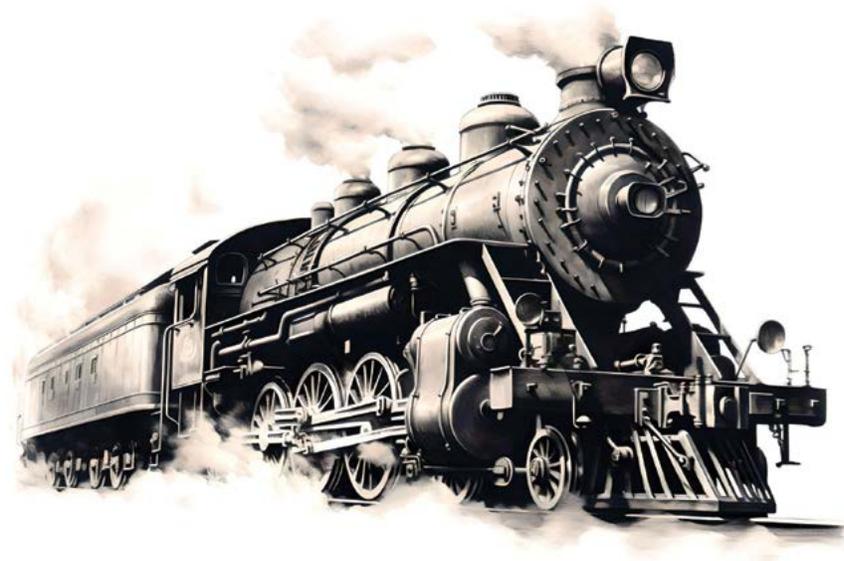
Our own hearts deceive us. If we are satisfied to stay as we are, then the devil’s work is easy, but when we realize that we have the chance to be made better, to be changed, then he opens the floodgates against us.

I thought this quote from a popular Christian movie explains it pretty well.

“Sometimes the devil allows people to live a life free of trouble because he doesn’t want them turning to God. Their sin is like a jail cell, except it is all nice and comfy and there doesn’t seem to be any reason to leave. The door’s wide open. Till one day, time runs out, and the cell door slams shut, and suddenly it’s too late.” (*God’s Not Dead*, Pure Fix Entertainment 2014)

“We must be sanctified through the truth, be wholly consecrated to God Every moment that we are not on our watch we are liable to be beset by the enemy and are in great danger of being overcome by the powers of darkness. Satan commissions his angels to be vigilant and overthrow all they can; to find out the waywardness and besetting sins of those who profess the truth, and throw darkness around them, that they may cease to be watchful, take a course that will dishonor the cause they profess to love, and bring sorrow upon the church. The souls of these misguided, unwatchful ones grow darker, and the light of heaven fades from them. They cannot discover their besetting sins, and Satan weaves his net about them, and they are taken in his snare.” *Early Writings*, 105

Lord, help us to depend upon
You alone, and to turn away
from Satan’s snares. [LM](#)



The Early Life of George Stephenson

George Stephenson, the inventor of the locomotive engine, and the founder of the railway system of traveling, was born in 1781 in England. His parents were poor, honest, industrious people. His birthplace a cottage with a clay floor, bare rafters, and unplastered walls.

George was the second of six children, and his father's earnings seldom exceeded twelve shillings a week. Little, therefore, was left for clothing, and nothing at all for school. As a child, George's time was spent in running errands and playing about the cottage.

He often helped to care for the children, his special duty being to see that they were kept out of the way of the coal wagons that passed on the tramroad in front of the cottage. These wagons were drawn on wooden rails by horses. Who can tell to what extent the constant sight of this rude railway may have shaped the great work of George Stephenson's later life? It is interesting to know that the first experiment of a locomotive steam engine was tried on this very tramroad.

When George was eight years old, he found his first employment. He was appointed to look after the cows belonging to a widow, and for this he received twopence (2.5 cents) a day. He had plenty of leisure, which he spent chiefly in company with a favorite playmate, erecting small mills in the little streams around, and making engines out of clay, with hemlock stalks for steam pipes.

George was soon promoted to hoe turnips and to lead horses in plowing, though he was barely big enough to stride across the furrows. For this work he received fourpence a day.

But his great desire was to be with his father and brother at the coal mine. His wish was granted, and his wages were raised, to sixpence and afterward to eightpence a day. This was his employment for several years.

The growing and thoughtful lad, however, never forgot his clay engines; and his great ambition was to have the management of a real engine. Great, therefore, was his delight when he was taken to be an assistant to his father in firing an engine.

At seventeen years of age, his youthful ambition was gratified by his appointment as engineer at the same coal mine where his father was employed as fireman. Here, at last, he was able to carefully study every part of the machinery and to become a thorough master of the construction of the steam engine, an opportunity he had so ardently longed for.

He was now eighteen years of age, but he had never learned to read. His parents could not afford to send him to school, but they had tried to train him to good habits at home. He had been taught to use every minute wisely, and now he determined to learn to read and write. At the age of nineteen, he was proud to be able to write his own name. Then he began the study of arithmetic, working out his problems upon a slate as he sat by his engine fire.



George Stephenson was the inventor of the locomotive engine.

Industry, sobriety, and thrift were the true secret of George's success as a young man, and these sterling qualities afterward made him useful, prosperous, and honored. Besides his work as engineer, he became an expert in mending and making shoes. He also became skillful in mending clocks.

A heavy trial awaited him in the early death of his wife, leaving one son, Robert. The next year after this sad event, his father was blinded by an accident and reduced to want. With part of the money he had so carefully saved, George at once paid his father's debts and placed him and his mother in a comfortable cottage near his own home, where he supported them until their deaths.

A great triumph now awaited him, a fitting reward of his own close attention and perseverance. An engine of defective construction had been erected for the purpose of pumping the water from a neighboring pit. It proved utterly incapable of doing the work for which it had been erected. All the best engineers in the district had tried in vain to remedy its defects. George examined it and expressed his belief that he could make it

efficient. He was asked to undertake the task, and very soon the pit was cleared of water.

It would be a pleasant task to follow the growing success of this noble young man step by step—to read of his resolve to give his son the best education he could, of his own unceasing efforts at self-improvement, of his ingenuity, his untiring industry, and his masculine vigor.

Amid difficulties of no ordinary kind, God was gradually preparing George Stephenson for his great and enduring work—the construction of the locomotive engine, and the introduction of the vast railway system—so that in this “time of the end” when “knowledge shall be increased” His truth might be carried to “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” In the year 1825, this work was accomplished, and passengers and goods were first carried over a railway by a locomotive. This great achievement ranked among the highest of all the wonderful products of the industrial era.

Ferns, Selections from the True Education Series, ©1976, 60–63 **LM**

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February Sermon of the Month

The Church When Jesus Comes

John J. Grosboll

Before Jesus comes, He warns His church to press together in unity, but never to unite on error.

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

February 2026

Christians often talk about the special gift of the Holy Spirit promised in the last days. The Scriptures refer to it as the latter rain. Everyone who lives to see Jesus come, and are saved at that time, will have received the latter rain. But the question is: How do we receive it? Jesus has promised it, but like other divine promises it is given on conditions

“Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. ... Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

“No one need say that his case is hopeless, that he cannot live the life of a Christian. Ample provision is made by the death of Christ for every soul. ... All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 213–215

“During the loud cry, the church ... will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere.” *The Review and Herald*, October 13, 1904

Those who receive the latter rain and thereby are qualified to give the loud cry (heaven’s final invitation of mercy) will be people who are intensely active in God’s service. Whatever the talent the Lord has given us—speaking, writing, distributing literature, studying the Bible with people, visiting the sick or imprisoned, treating those sick in mind or body, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked—we must become intensely active in God’s service if we are going to be one of the elect at the end.

Your brother in God’s closing work,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Grosboll".

John J. Grosboll

God's Carpet

Poaceae is (true grasses) the most economically important plant family because it includes cereals, wheat, rice, oats, barley, millet, and maize used for staple foods and feed for livestock. Some of the species, such as bamboo, thatch, and straw, are used for building materials, and other species are a source for biofuel—for example, maize is converted to ethanol.

Lawns and pastureland are composed of true grasses and 46% of the world's arable land (land used for crops) is covered by rice, wheat, maize, barley, and sugar cane.

It is estimated that there is 11,000 to 13,000 species of grass (*Poaceae*). These species include cereal grasses, bamboos, natural grassland, lawns, and pastures.

Grasses can be annual or perennial. During winter's cold, snow, and ice, grass lays dormant beneath the ground with most species turning brown. The melting ice and snow provides the moisture necessary to bring it back when the warming temperatures of Spring awakens the blades and they begin to grow, breaking through the soil.

By summer, the ground is green with new grass. A soft, lush carpet of Kentucky bluegrass, fescue, buffalograss, zoy-sia grass, and crabgrass.

How many remember running barefoot through and digging your toes into the soft grass in the summer or the smell that fills the air after mowing the lawn?

I love the texts that use grass as an example of Jesus' promises in which we can place our full trust. What a loving God who covers the world with His perfect carpet.

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8

"Thus, Christ interpreted the message which He Himself had given to the lilies and the grass of the field. He desires us to read it in every lily and every spire of grass. His words are full of assurance, and tend to confirm trust in God.

"So wide was Christ's view of truth, so extended His teaching, that every phase of nature was employed in illustrating truth. The scenes upon which the eye daily rests were all connected with some spiritual truth, so that nature is clothed with the parables of the Master." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 19, 20

"Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the over, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" Matthew 6:30

Sources: wikipedia.org/wiki/Grass; wikipedia.org/wiki/Poaceae; americangardener.net/types-of-grasses-for-lawn **LM**



from the
Mission Fields



Actual Steps to Life Bible studies in the Nigerian prison system.

Prison Ministry in Nigeria

Daniel Terence

I have been impressed lately to share the marvelous work the Lord has been doing in the prison ministries in two correctional facilities in Makurdi and Gboko. Currently, our ministry is more established in the maximum-security prison in Makurdi, but efforts are underway to establish the ministry in the Gboko prison as soon as possible.

Jesus was emphatic when He told His listeners that in caring for—or neglecting—those in need, including those in prison, was the same as caring for or neglecting Him (Matthew 25:34–45).

The Makurdi prison houses approximately 489 inmates—common criminals, military, police officers, coup plotters, thieves, murderers, and other crimes. The

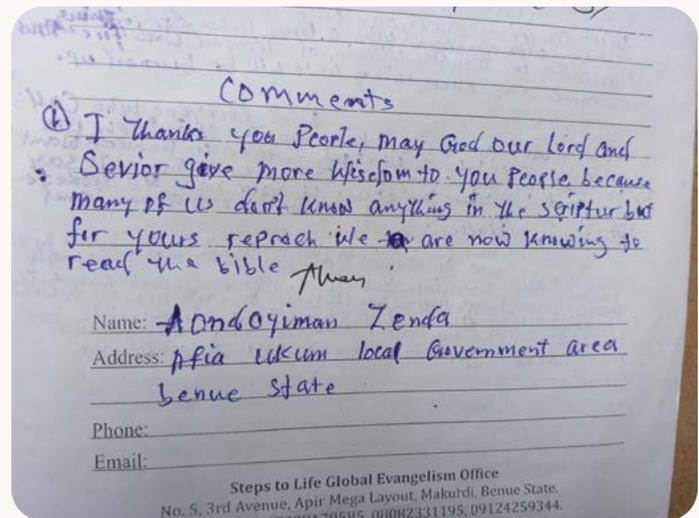
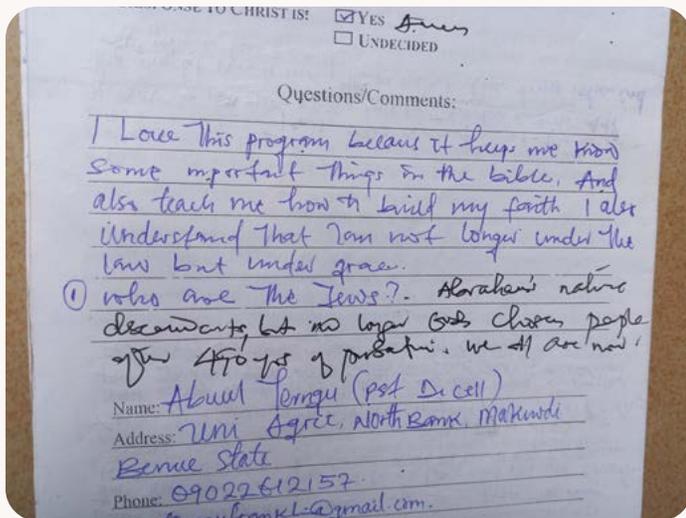
Gboko prison houses insurgents from the Northeast part of Nigeria, and young men and women on trial for various offences from different parts of Nigeria. Some have been incarcerated for over 10 to 15 years without trial. Most cry out that they have not been visited by anyone, even relatives; having simply been abandoned to their fate. This is a serious challenge to the Nigerian judicial system. Outreach to these prisons has a wider area of coverage than one can imagine.

We began by introducing the Steps to Life Prophecy Seminar materials by Pastor John Grosboll, and sharing older *LandMarks*, and other final warning tabloids on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. Presently, only myself and

Brothers Odengele Adama and Kpojime Terver (on occasion) visit the prisons.

During the visits, as the seminars are presented, the *Know Your Bible* Lessons are copied and given to the inmates in all the cells for personal study. This has been the area of immense interest. The personal studies given to the inmates in the Makurdi facility has generated so much goodwill, not only amongst the inmates studying the lessons, but also among the prison guards who are also studying the lessons.

Of particular interest is in the students' comments and questions found at the end of each lesson. In spite of the little to no resources available for these prison ministries, the comments and



Words of gratitude from Bible students in the Nigerian prison system.

prayer requests from the inmates have given us so much hope and encouragement to push on.

We have distributed just over 70 soft Bibles to more than 200 students, along with ballpoint pens to help them fill in the answers.

The area of welfare cannot be left out. Food items, clothes, even funds are also given to those with the most pressing need—especially those who are awaiting trial, have been found guiltless and released or granted bail but cannot pay the bail sum. Some have been behind bars for over two years for just a bail sum of **5,000 NGN (\$3.50 USD)** because they cannot afford to pay and they have no one to come to their assistance. We have paid such sums to have them released.

We also share old clothes, shoes, and food items, as the food provided in the prisons is not only poor but inadequate. Personal hygiene items such as soaps, toothbrushes, and footwear are a huge need here. This would be a great opportunity for churches, individuals, and ministries to fulfill a need that has been neglected for far too long.

Interestingly, these little efforts, that began just two months ago, have generated so much interest, not only among the inmates, but most especially from the authorities. The correctional facility

administrator of the Makurdi facility met with me and is now a student himself. He has conveyed his gratitude to our church on behalf of the Makurdi prison for the good work the message is doing in the lives of the inmates. He has received positive feedback not only from the inmates, but his officers as well, regarding the good impact our visitation has had on the lives of the inmates, and even those who have been released. May the Lord be glorified.

A recent inmate was released and returned to his home in the Idoma-speaking area of the Ohinmini local area council. He had only finished lessons 1-5 before his release, but their impact on his life was so strong that he began holding studies with his family. He wants to continue receiving the lessons and desires to have us extend our church presence in his home. We provide our contact information to those who are released so they can continue to receive the study guides by mail.

The inmates themselves have called upon the Makurdi prison authorities to grant us a space like other churches to build a hall for worship for them. The authorities are open to granting that request and have asked to come and do so.

The Muslim brothers within the facility receive translated final warning

tabloids in Arabic and the Hausa language. Their joy in receiving the tabloids is immense. Two of the Muslim prisoners are also doing the lessons, and many more pay close attention when we come to present the Prophecy Seminar.

If you wish to support our prison ministries in Makurdi and Gboko, here is what we need. Of course, our greatest need is Bibles. Having a personal Bible helps the students as they study the lessons, but also, once they graduate, they have a Bible to study the lessons with others. The few copies we have been able to give are shared among the prisoners.

We also need food items, writing materials like ballpoint pens, soap, toothbrushes, clean, cared for clothes, shoes, and socks. Paper and ink to continue copying the lessons and printing tabloids for distribution to the prisoners.

If you wish to contribute money to help purchase the needed items or to assist with bail sums, please mark your donation as *Missions – Makurdi/Gboko Prison Ministries*.

We want to encourage the brethren and sisters around the world to take up this prison challenge. It is a very important ministry.

Blessings and much thanks to you all on behalf of the inmates who have no voice. **LM**



A Health Retreat

Martin Bernar

Health retreat anyone? Who wouldn't love to unwind for three days and dedicate time to his/her physical health—healthy food, exercise classes directed by experts, massages, nature walks, swimming in waterfalls. I was recently invited to such a retreat held in a jungle camp in the tropical part of Mexico; just a short walk from the beach! The attendee limit was 25 people and the cost for each participant was rather steep, but I was invited for free! In exchange, the organizers asked me to oversee the preparation of vegan meals. I was also asked to give a daily 30-minute talk on veganism and healthy lifestyle to the guests. How could I refuse?

The retreat was a secular event. I was to be a part of a four-member team of instructors: two yoga instructors, and a gym trainer, and my task was to share my knowledge of veganism. The organizers knew that I do not consume

animal products; hence they declared me an expert in the field. I don't have any formal education in health sciences, so I decided to share the Adventist health message that has stood the test of time.

As I was contemplating what specifically to share with the group, I decided the first presentation would be on the five blue zones (see map). Blue zones are areas of the world where people live significantly longer and healthier lives. I mentioned that one such blue zone is the town of Loma Linda, California. Why was Loma Linda included on the blue zone list? The reason is simple: Most of its residents are Seventh-day Adventists who live the health message that our church has followed for 150 years.

I delivered the presentation and at the end I asked if anyone had heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Out of the 25 attendees, only one person knew that such a church exists. To say that I was surprised is an understatement.

Seriously? Only one person? Not a good testimony for our church.

Yoga Instructor

Shortly after the presentation, one of the yoga instructors approached me and wanted to know more about the Adventist diet. I explained that veganism is not a test of fellowship; however, church members are to abstain from tobacco, alcohol, any illegal drugs, and do not consume animals that are listed in the Bible (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14) as unfit for human consumption.

This instructor looked at me surprised. He had never heard of such a list of animals in the Bible. So, he pulled out his phone and googled the list. He read everything carefully and then we had about a 15-minute conversation on the subject. I explained that this Biblical dietary guide was given to the ancient Israel as a biological protection. They were not to suffer from the diseases and

infections of their neighboring nations. Most Christians today claim that this prohibition was for the Jews only and doesn't apply to us. Since it was for their biological protection, do non-Jews have a superior digestive tract? I left it as an open question.

This man exclaimed: "Yes, it makes a perfect sense. I'm convinced; I'll never touch such meats again!" "Wow, that was easy," I thought to myself. I had never witnessed such a quick conviction. This instructor's actual profession is a food engineer, perhaps that contributed to his quick understanding.

We made friends and exchanged contact information. A week later I received a message from him. He confided to me that he has lots of overweight family members, suffering from diabetes and myriads of health issues. Just three days prior, his sister prepared a pork dish and got food poisoning. She didn't learn her lesson, and is still cooking pork, which is quite discouraging to my new friend. He attempted to help her and also enlighten his family, but they were not open to it. It was apparent that he felt a bit down. "What shall I do?" he asked. All I could say was to lead by example and he's the best light his family can have. Given his family history, his health and fitness are certainly a testimony. Imagine, this man isn't even a Christian!

Gym Instructor

Unbeknownst to me, another instructor also looked up the Adventist church on the Internet. The next day he said to me: "I can't believe a church has achieved something like this. Pretty incredible. Do you have access to the Adventist church? Is it open to the public? Can you take me?" After the retreat was over, we visited an Adventist bookstore in the city of Guadalajara. Since he already has all kinds of books on healthy living, I recommended the books *Counsels on Diet and Foods* and *The Ministry*



of Healing by Ellen G. White to him so that he could learn about the beginnings of the health message. He was thrilled.

Be an Authentic Christian

Our role as Christians is not to convert people. Our role is to plant seeds. Only the Holy Spirit can convert hearts. So, what can we do for hungry souls around us? Two things:

- **Be authentic.** Be firm in your principles and stand up for them. People will notice and will look up to you as you've never dreamed before. New opportunities to share your faith will arise without asking for it.
- **Share love with people.** Is someone around you going through a tough time? Offer a hug, a strong shoulder, be a good listener. Has someone around you spiritually fallen? Leave any criticism at home. Instead, offer compassion and point the person to God's grace.

As I attended the Sabbath School lately, the Sabbath school teacher shared that he has a hard time sharing the gospel with his coworkers. He's just not ready. I thought, seriously? There is no need to preach anything. Our life is the most powerful sermon we can deliver. If we attend a church and at the same time don't live a Christian life, then sure, our lives won't impact anyone. But if we live authentically as Christians, people around us will notice and will ask questions themselves. May the Lord help us to be close to Him daily. Then, we will be witnesses for Christ without trying.

"A noble life is the most powerful sermon in favor of Christianity. If we would live such a life, our consciences must be quickened by continual contact with the word of God. Our souls must be familiar with the heavenly standard, and we must avoid every course that diverges from the right." *The Voice in Speech and Song*, 303 [LM](#)



Eating Bugs. The New Trend?

As the world is moving rapidly into the so-called “fourth Industrial Revolution,” one of the topics that quickly pops up into the regular lives of people under this massive and world-changing event is food and the prospect of supplementing one’s diet with bugs.

The very idea of having to eat creepy things, is gaining ground under this “revolution.” And even though “there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9), we can surely be surprised at what many of these ideas are suggesting.

For instance, let's think of a typical lunch box menu during a usual lunch break: a vegetarian burger or a tasty lentil patty prepared and residing within a whole grain bun with vegan mayo and organic ketchup, plus good veggies to complete the meal, or perhaps a nice baked potato, or a health-conscious homemade fruit smoothie. I bet many of you are drooling by now, but just imagine all these with an extra ingredient—insect-derived by-products. Yes, you read that right.

In many countries, there are food processing plants that manufacture insect-derived flour from the larvae of a particular kind of fly, processed and ground to powder for human consumption. Experts say bugs are a climate-friendly and nutrient-rich alternative to typical animal proteins, but when it comes to Western cultures, the "ick" factor is standing in the way of an insect-inclusive diet.

Eating insects is nothing new. We find that almost every country has in its cultural history the inclusion of bugs for food. Even in the Bible, the Lord allowed the consumption of certain kinds of insects for food.

However, in a new world order, having an insect-based diet as a regular meal is a totally new concept. In spite of this trend, we need to be mindful of the counsel we are given regarding a vegan diet and the possible side effects of including bugs in the food we eat.

Insects Contain Chitin

Chitin (poly-N-acetyl-glucosamine), in general, is a biopolymer, very common in nature. It is mainly produced by fungi, arthropods and nematodes. The list also includes crustaceans, arachnids, algae, and, of course, insects. Insects carry this element not only in their body's structural frame which supports their exoskeletons and trachea where it may be present in amounts ranging up to 60%, but it is a part of the lining of the



epithelium in their digestive system as well. Here, the average chitin content in a number of different species is reported to be 33%.

What Are the Dangers of Chitin?

In general, chitin is not toxic to humans. However, things can change when humans are exposed to a high degree of chitin, particularly when found in food.

For instance, a whiff of chitin inhaled triggers an immune response in the lungs, likely causing a reaction similar to being attacked by fungal spores. In some people, that reaction goes haywire, leading to dangerous inflammation and asthma.

Dietary chitosan may influence calcium metabolism by accelerating its urinary excretion. The reported undesirable effects are a marked decrease in the level of vitamin E in the body's plasma, reduction in bone mineral content, and growth retardation.

Insects also contain ecdysteroids. These are a type of steroidal hormone present also in certain water animals and some plants. In insects, they control various life-cycle processes. Ecdysterone has a similar chemical structure to testosterone, the male androgen. Due to

this action, eating insects or insect-derived products may interfere in the long run with human hormone metabolism.

At any rate, there are many things we can continue discussing about changing forms of standardized diets. Yet, for myself, I appreciate more God's wonderful healthy lifestyle and diet program—found in His word—based on fruits, nuts, seeds, cereals, and vegetables for a healthy and happy life.

Resources: *The National Library of Medicine, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23955853, 3786550, and 31102246* **LM**

Esteban Salazar is a preventive medicine and lifestyle coach with more than 25 years of experience. His work has expanded as an international speaker and featured guest in many TV and radio shows around the world. He has a bachelor's degree in Health Ministries and Nutrition from Hartland College in Virginia and also completed farther studies at the E. I. Institute of Applied Chemistry in Mittelsinn, Germany. He enjoys country living with his wife Maritza in the sierra region of Ecuador, South America. He loves playing the piano, traveling, and vegan cuisine.



The Foundation

John J. Grosboll

Daniel 7 is one of the foundational chapters in the Bible concerning the investigative judgement and there's no point in going to chapters 8—10, or 12 or Revelation before you understand this. It's foundational and exciting information because it reveals that there is a God in heaven who knows thousands of years ahead of time what will happen. And He has shown us these things in the Bible so that we can be ready for the future.

The Fourth Beast and the Ten Kingdoms

There are four beasts. Let us look at the fourth beast. “Thus, he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.’” Daniel 7:23

In his book, *The Temporal Power of the Pope*, 122, Cardinal Henry Edward Manning wrote regarding verse 23: “The legions of Rome occupied at the circumference of the world. The military roads which sprang from Rome traversed all the earth; the whole world was, as it were, held in peace and in tranquility by the universal presence of this mighty heathen empire. It was ‘exceedingly terrible,’ according to the prophecies of Daniel; it was as it were of iron, beating down and subduing the nations.” Does the Roman Catholic church know who the fourth beast is? Yes, Cardinal Manning tells us very clearly. It is an iron kingdom beating down the nations of earth.

“The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. and another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.” Verse 24

These ten kingdoms rose up over hundreds of years. The ten kingdoms were despised by Rome—verse 23’s fourth kingdom—because Rome believed it would last forever. The ten kingdoms grew stronger and stronger. What Rome believed didn’t matter because hundreds of years before it was founded, Daniel had predicted its demise and the rise of the ten kingdoms.

H. G. Wells says, “No vestige of the Western Empire, the original Roman Empire, remained as a distinct and separate political division.” *The Outline of History*, 526. They became stronger and stronger and divided it up until those ten kings owned it all. Another writer wrote, “The destruction of the Roman



Empire in the West by the German barbarians is one of the most momentous events in history. It marks a turning point in the fortunes of mankind.”

Out of the Ten, Another.

Daniel then writes that after the fourth beast is divided into the ten kingdoms, another kingdom—different from the first ten—would rise up, more than the ten. This 11th kingdom would assume an air of superiority over all the others.

“The downfall of the Roman imperial government in the West was further, an event of immense significance in the political world, for the reason that it rendered possible the growth in western Europe of several nations or states in place of the single empire.

“Another consequence of the fall of the Roman power in the West was the development of the papacy. In the absence of an emperor in the West, the popes rapidly gained influence and power, and soon built up an ecclesiastical empire that in some respects took the place of the old empire, and carried on its civilizing work.” Myers’s *General History for Colleges*, 316

“If any man consider the original of this great ecclesiastical dominion, he will easily perceive, that the Papacy is no other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof.” Thomas Hobbes

“There grew up in Europe a line of rulers far more powerful than any of these, namely the popes at Rome. Moreover, the majesty of Rome helped to raise the bishops above his fellows.” *Medieval and Modern Times*, James Harvey Robinson, 40, 41

Here we see secular history almost quoting Scripture regarding the characteristics of this new kingdom and its power over the previous ten kingdoms.

It is a well-established, historical fact that “Papal Rome was for all practical purposes the continuation of the Roman Empire Whatever Roman elements the barbarians and Arians left were put under the protection of the bishop of Rome who was the chief person there after the emperor’s disappearance. The Roman church in this way privately pushed itself into the place of the Roman world empire of which it is the actual continuation.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, 846, (Adolph Harnack in 1903, *What is Christianity?*, 269, 270) If we understand that Papal Rome is a mere continuation of the Roman Empire, then we will understand that Rome was established as a world power that would continue until the end of the world.

“The empire has not perished, but has only undergone transformation. . . . That is no clever remark, but the recognition of the true state of the matter historically, and the most appropriate and fruitful way of describing the character of this church. It still governs the nations.” *Ibid.* That was in 1903 he recognized that. “It is a political creation, and as imposing as a World-Empire, because the continuation of the Roman Empire, the Pope, who calls himself ‘King’ and ‘Pontifex Maximus,’ is Caesar’s successor.” *Ibid.*

H. G. Wells talks about this power. “As the barbarian races settled and became Christian, the pope began to claim an overlordship of their kings. In a few centuries, the Pope had become in theory, and to a certain extent in practice, the high priest, censor, judge, and divine monarch of Christendom.”

The Outline of History, 526. This provides a description of the development of the little horn’s power; a power that became greater than any other nation in Europe, and continues to this day.

Joseph Stalin also said, “How big an army does he [the pope] have?” He doesn’t need an army for He can use the armies of any nation he chooses.

He Speaks and Persecutes

The two big subjects of Daniel 7 are the little horn and the judgment.

These subjects should be studied together because we cannot understand the judgment without understanding the little horn.

As the little horn’s power grew, prophecy tells us what happens next. “He shall speak pompous [great] words against the Most High.” Daniel 7:25, *first part*. “The pope is of so great dignity, and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God and the vicar of God. So that whatever the pope does, seems to proceed from the mouth of God. . . . The pope is as it were God on earth.” *Ferraris Ecclesiastical Dictionary*.

Pope Leo XIII said, “We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” Great words, indeed. But notice as we further in verse 25, Daniel says, he “shall persecute [wear out] the saints of the Most High.” Encyclical letter dated June 20, 1894

History says that “the church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history. The memorials, indeed, of many of her persecutions are now so scanty, that it is impossible to form a complete conception of

the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no power of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings.” W.E.H. Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, Vol. 2, 32

A Roman Catholic scholar stated, “The Catholic Church is a respecter of conscience and of liberty. . . . She has, and she loudly proclaims that she has a ‘horror of blood.’ Nevertheless, when confronted by heresy she does not content herself with persuasion; arguments of an intellectual and moral order appear to her insufficient, and she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture. She creates tribunals like those of the Inquisition, she calls the laws of the State to her aid, if necessary she encourages a crusade, or a religious war and all her ‘horror of blood’ practically culminates into urging the secular power to shed it, which proceeding is almost more odious—for it is less frank—than shedding it herself. Especially did she act thus in the sixteenth century with regard to Protestants. Not content to reform morally, to preach by example, to convert people by eloquent and holy missionaries, she lit in Italy, in the Low Countries, and above all in Spain, the funeral piles of the Inquisition. In France under Francis I and Henry II, in England under Mary Tudor, she tortured the heretics, whilst both in France and Germany during the second half of the sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century if she did not actually begin, at any rate she encouraged and actively aided, the religious wars.” *The Catholic Church, the Renaissance, and Protestantism, 182–184*

The Thirty Years’ War, fought from 1618 to 1648, resulted from religious conflict within the Holy Roman Empire, sparked by the Reformation. An estimated 4.5 to 8 million soldiers and civilians died in battle, from famine, or disease. Parts of Germany reported a 50% decline in population, this included approximately 98 percent of the Protestant men in Germany. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War)

This was common knowledge in America because it was recent history. Today in America, it is not only acknowledged, but justified and defended. “The church has

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The destruction of the Roman Empire in the West by the German barbarians marks a turning point in the fortunes of mankind.

persecuted. Only a tyro [a beginner] in church history will deny that. ... One hundred and fifty years after Constantine, the Donatists were persecuted, sometimes put to death. ... Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots, and the Spanish Inquisition. ... Wherever and whenever there is honest Catholicity, there will be a clear distinction drawn between truth and error, and Catholicity and all forms of heresy. When she thinks it good to use physical force she will use it. ... But will the Catholic Church give bond that she will not persecute at all? Will she guarantee absolute freedom and equality of all churches and all faiths? The Catholic church gives no bonds for her good behavior." *The Western Watchman*, December 24, 1908

The Saints

A saint keeps the law of God (Romans 7:12). A wicked person breaks the law of God. Understanding Daniel 7 is fundamental, foundational to understanding the prophecies regarding the judgment and the end of time found in the book of Revelation. More than any other chapter in the Bible, Daniel 7 provides the different descriptions and identifying marks of the little horn, and the distinguishing mark or sign of its power.

The Distinguishing Mark

The Roman Catholic church is not alone in persecuting God's saints. Other religions have spoken great things about themselves, but the little horn power has a special distinguishing mark that these other religions do not have. We find that mark in Daniel 7:25. We must understand this to have any comprehension about the investigative judgment.

Daniel 7:25, *last part*, says that this special distinguishing mark that sets the little horn power apart from other religions and powers, that he "shall intend



to change times and laws." What are these times and laws? The context of the prophecy is speaking about the things of the Most High. So, if the little horn power seeks to change times and laws, then it is seeking to change the times and laws of the Most High.

Can any human being, power, or organization in this world change the law of God? No! Why? Because God has said that He does not change, and we know that the law of God is His character. Changing the law would changing Himself, and this He will not do (Psalm 89).

Jesus said, "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17. A tittle is part of a letter, it's actually a part of a part of a letter. Jesus said heaven and earth could pass away, but not a single part of a letter of the law to fail. I don't think you could state it in any stronger language. The apostle Paul says concerning Jesus Christ that it was through Him that God made the worlds, and He is the One who upholds everything by the word of His power, and He says that He would destroy it all before He would allow the smallest part of a letter of the law to fail.

The Protestant Reformation gave man access to the Bible. No longer was the Bible written only in Latin, a language the common man could not read, nor was it chained to the wall in Catholic churches. Reformers translated the Bible into many of the European languages, and the printing press was invented, allowing the Bible to be distributed everywhere.

When men began reading the Bible, they asked, "Why are we keeping Sunday?" Believed to be written in 1545 by Melancthon, Martin Luther's associate, in very old English, he says, "He changeth the tymes and lawes that any of the size works days commanded of God will make them unholy and idle days when he listeth or of their own holy days abolished make work days again. When they changed ye Saterdag into Sondaye they have changed God's laws and turned them into their own tradicions to be kept above God's precepts." Right away people recognized what was happening.

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept? Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her—she could

not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” From *A Doctrinal Catechism*, 174. The special, distinguishing mark of the little horn power was an intention to change the times (the Sabbath) and the law (the fourth commandment). This is foundational to understanding the subject of the Investigative Judgment.

How Long, Lord? How Long?

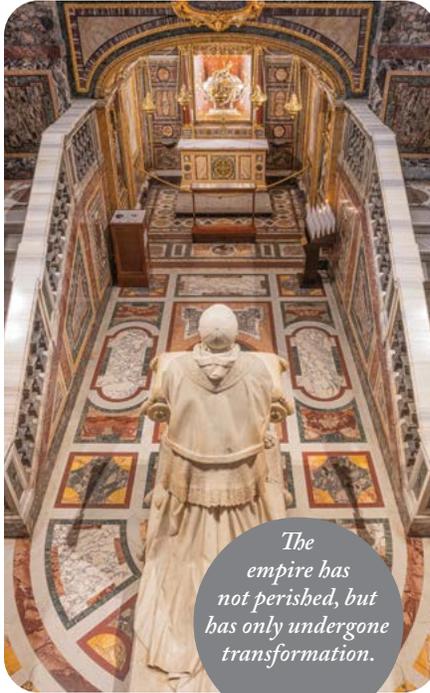
God not only told us when and how the little horn power would develop, providing all the descriptions of who and what it would be so that we would recognize it, but for the first time God gave His children a timeline so that they would know how long this power would be given authority to persecute and overcome God’s saints. This period of time is so important that in Daniel and Revelation, it is mentioned seven times. Seven is a perfect number in the Bible. If something is mentioned seven times in the Bible prophecies, we can be sure it is very important that we understand it, the prophecies regarding the three and a half years, the 42 months, and the 1260 days.

Point 1: The year is called a time in scripture (Daniel 11:13, margin). So, a time is one year, a time dual is two years, the dividing of time is half a year giving you three years and a half.

Point 2: According to ancient history, historians and Jews believed that a year was 360 days.

Point 3: In a symbolic time prophecy, a day equals a year (Ezekiel 4:1–6). The prophecies that foretold Christ’s first coming as the Messiah used the day for a year principle. If a person does not believe in this principle, then they should be looking for a messiah to come around 455 B.C. The day for a year principle is foundational to the Christian religion (Daniel 9:25).

By applying the day for a year principle to Daniel 7, we find that the little



The empire has not perished, but has only undergone transformation.

horn power is granted the power to persecute and harass God’s saints for 1260 years.

When did the 1260 years begin? When the papacy was given its authority by the civil government. This was done when Justinian made a decree in A.D. 532 against anyone who was called a heretic, and in A.D. 533, Justinian made a decree making the bishop of Rome the lord of all the churches (*The Apocalypse of St. John*, 172).

However, Italy’s population included Arian powers who did not accept the pope as lord over the churches. In fact, they wanted to decide who would be pope. Not surprisingly, the papacy did not like that idea. So, the sword of the empire cleared the way.

For 16 years, these campaigns caused the city of Rome to be under different masters or rulers five times and suffered three severe sieges. In A.D. 538, at the close of the first siege, the imperial army under Belisarius and the almost the entire nation of the Goths under King Witiges gathered to take control of the city of Rome. The Goths

were defeated, digging ‘the grave of the Gothic monarchy’ in Italy.* The resistance of A.D. 538 against Witiges was the crucial hour in history. George Finlay, a secular historian writes, “With the conquest of Rome by Belisarius, the history of the ancient city may be considered as terminating; and with his defense against Witiges commences the history of the Middle Ages.”

First by Decree, then by Force

In A.D. 533, the pope was made ruler over all Christendom by decree, but in A.D. 538, he was made the ruler by force. Now move ahead 1260 years to 1793. “On November 26, 1793, the Convention, of which 17 bishops and some clergy were members, decreed the abolition of all religion.” *The Age of Revolution*, W.H. Hutton, 156

As far as the France were concerned, the papacy was the only religion, so by decree, it declared the abolition of all other religions. France was then an atheistic socialistic power. The decree was effective in 1793, but it was not enforced until 1798.

In 1798, “General Berthier, by orders of the French government, led his forces into Rome and proclaimed a republic. The pope [Pius VI] was dragged into exile, where he died. The whole papal government was dissolved.”

“The papacy was extinct: not a vestige of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defense. The Eternal City had no longer prince or pontiff; its bishop was a dying captive in foreign lands; and the decree was already announced that no successor would be allowed in his place.” Canon Trevor.

Let’s Summarize

Most of the world thought the papacy was done. However, Daniel 7 says it would continue until the kingdom was given to the saints. The Bible tells us that it would look like the papacy was dead, but it would be healed.



The church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution in the history of mankind.

1. The Roman Empire was the fourth beast.
2. Ten kings would arise out of the fourth beast (A.D. 351–476).
3. Another king would arise after A.D. 476.
4. This other king would be different from the first ten.
5. He would speak great words and be stronger than his fellows.
6. He would speak great words against the Most High.
7. He would wear out the saints of the Most High.
8. He would attempt or think to change the times and laws of God's government.
9. This would continue for 1260 years.

This supremacy was established by decree in A.D. 533. It was established by force in A.D. 538. It was abolished by decree in 1793. It was abolished by force in 1798. When writing about this, Daniel says that this horn had “eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words. ‘I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thou-

sand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.’” Daniel 7:9, 10

Notice, the court, the books, the judgment all have to do with what this little horn has been doing, and what the result of this court session will be.

1. Jesus Christ will receive a worldwide kingdom that will last forever. “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” Verses 13, 14
2. “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.” Daniel 7:21, 22 The kingdom first given to Christ is now given to His saints.
3. “But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.”

Daniel 7:26. God destroys the little horn's dominion.

4. “Then the kingdom [when the dominion of the little horn is taken away and destroyed] and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” Verse 27. The whole world is given to the saints of the Most High. Where do you want to be when that happens?

The Bible tells us that a saint keeps the commandments. Since the law of God is holy, just, and good (Romans 7:12), the person who keeps the law of God, is made holy and is, therefore, a saint.

Our Father controls the future. When there is a transition of rulers in this world, when the true Christ stands up and begins to rule, when the rule of antichrist is over, may we be found among that number who are called the saints of the Most High.

*Thomas Hodgkins wrote a series of books entitled, *Italy and Her Invaders*. Excerpts from these books are used here. **LM**

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March 1 – 7, 2026

Worship Him

Key Text

“Worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea and springs of waters.” Revelation 14:7, *last part*

Study Help: *The Ministry of Healing*, 409–418; *Prophets and Kings*, 183–189

Introduction

“In Revelation 14, men are called upon to worship the Creator; and the prophecy brings to view a class that, as the result of the threefold message, are keeping the commandments of God. One of these commandments points directly to God as the Creator.” *The Great Controversy*, 437

Sunday

1 A CRISIS OVER TRUE WORSHIP

- 1.a. What distinct characteristic of God is the basis of true worship according to the first angel’s message? Revelation 14:7, *last part*. How does this message parallel the message of Elijah’s time? 1 Kings 18:21

Note: “History is being repeated. The world today has its Ahabs and its Jezebels. The present age is one of idolatry, as verily as was that in which Elijah lived. No outward shrine may be visible; there may be no image for the eye to rest upon; yet thousands are following after the gods of this world—after riches, fame, pleasure, and the pleasing fables that permit man to follow the inclinations of the unregenerate heart. Multitudes have a wrong conception of God and His attributes and are as truly serving a false god as were the worshipers of Baal. Many even of those who claim to be Christians have allied themselves with influences that are unalterably opposed to God and His truth. Thus, they are led to turn away from the divine and to exalt the human.” *Prophets and Kings*, 177, 178

- 1.b. How may the subtlety of popular philosophy seduce us away from the worship of the true God? 2 Timothy 4:3, 4

Note: “In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Lawgiver. It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character. With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshipped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists—the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions—is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.” *The Great Controversy*, 583

Monday

2 IN THE NEW TESTAMENT DAYS

- 2.a. Why did Christ face opposition in seeking to elevate true worship? John 3:19, 20; 8:44, 45, 47

Note: “Truth looked down from heaven and saw not the reflection of her image; for dense clouds of moral darkness and gloom enveloped the world, and the Lord Jesus alone was able to roll back the clouds; for He was the Light of the world. By His presence He could dissipate the gloomy shadow that Satan had cast between man and God. Darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Through the accumulated misrepresentations of the enemy, many were so deceived that they worshiped a false god, clothed with the attributes of the satanic character.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 176, 177

2.b. How did the apostle Paul face the problem of false worship? Acts 24:14; 28:17. How was he accused by the Jews? Acts 18:13. And by the Romans? Acts 16:20, 21. And by the Greeks? Acts 19:26–28

Note: “Ephesus was a popular center for the worship of Diana. The fame of the magnificent temple of ‘Diana of the Ephesians’ extended throughout all Asia and the world. Its surpassing splendor made it the pride, not only of the city, but of the nation. The idol within the temple was declared by tradition to have fallen from the sky. Upon it were inscribed symbolic characters which were believed to possess great power. Books had been written by the Ephesians to explain the meaning and use of these symbols.

“Among those who gave close study to these costly books were many magicians who wielded a powerful influence over the minds of the superstitious worshipers of the image within the temple.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 286

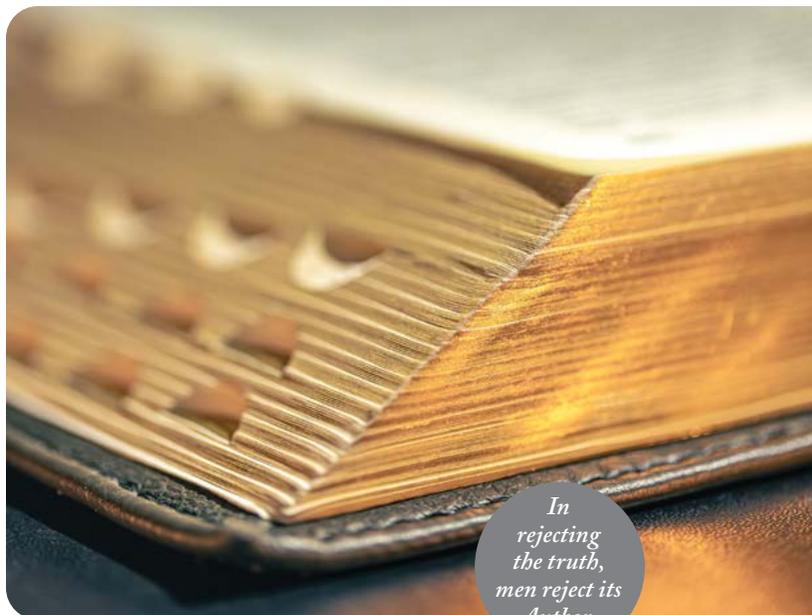
Tuesday

3 DIVINE TACT NEEDED

3.a. How tactful was Paul among the Athenians and the Corinthians? Acts 17:22–31; 18:4

Note: “When the apostle [Paul] took up his work in Corinth, he realized that he must introduce most carefully the great truths he wished to teach. He knew that among his hearers would be proud believers in human theories, and exponents of false systems of worship who were groping with blind eyes, hoping to find in the book of nature theories that would contradict the reality of the spiritual and immortal life as revealed in the Scriptures. He also knew that critics would endeavor to controvert the Christian interpretation of the revealed word, and that skeptics would treat the gospel of Christ with scoffing and derision.

“As he endeavored to lead souls to the foot of the cross, Paul did not venture to rebuke, directly, those who were licentious, or to show how heinous was their sin in the sight of a holy God. Rather he set before them the true object of life and tried



In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author.

to impress upon their minds the lessons of the divine Teacher, which, if received, would lift them from worldliness and sin to purity and righteousness. He dwelt especially upon practical godliness and the holiness to which those must attain who shall be accounted worthy of a place in God’s kingdom.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 272

3.b. How careful should we be in our efforts to emphasize true worship? 1 Peter 3:15, 16

Note: “God has jewels in all the churches, and it is not for us to make sweeping denunciation of the professed religious world, but in humility and love, present to all the truth as it is in Jesus. Let men see piety and devotion, let them behold Christlikeness of character, and they will be drawn to the truth.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, 1184

“The truth should be presented with divine tact, gentleness, and tenderness. It should come from a heart that has been softened and made sympathetic. We need to have close communion with God, lest self rise up, as it did in Jehu, and we pour forth a torrent of words that are unbecoming, that are not as dew or as the still showers that revive the withering plants. Let our words be gentle as we seek to win souls. . .

“God’s plan is first to get at the heart. Speak the truth, and let Him carry forward the reformatory power and principle. Make no reference to what opponents say, but let the truth alone be advanced. The truth can cut to the quick.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 400

Wednesday

4 THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING CONFLICT

- 4.a. What are the fundamentals of true worship as proclaimed by the first angel? Psalm 100:3; Ecclesiastes 12:13

Note: “God’s claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 336

“By the first angel, men are called upon to ‘fear God, and give glory to Him’ and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law. Says the wise man: ‘Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.’ Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Without obedience to His commandments no worship can be pleasing to God.” *The Great Controversy*, 436

- 4.b. What are the fundamentals of all false worship, even among professed Christians? Isaiah 29:13, 14; Matthew 15:3, 9

Note: “In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus become incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures. The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.” *The Great Controversy*, 582

“No misfortune is so great as to become the worshiper of a false god. No man is in such miserable darkness as he who has lost his way to heaven.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 435

Thursday

5 THE CLIMAX OF THE CONFLICT

- 5.a. What test will soon be brought between true and false worship? Revelation 13:4, 8, 12, 15

Note: “We are nearing the close of this earth’s history. Satan is making desperate efforts to make himself god, to speak and act like God, to appear as one who has a right to control the consciences of men. He strives with all his power to place a human institution in the position of God’s holy rest day.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 980, 981

- 5.b. What is soon to distinguish the worshipers of God from the worshipers of the beast? Exodus 31:16, 17; 1 John 5:2

Note: “The keeping of God’s law, on the one hand, and its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast.” *The Great Controversy*, 445, 446

“Thus, the distinction is drawn between the loyal and the disloyal. Those who desire to have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Thus, they are distinguished from the disloyal, who have accepted a man-made institution in place of the true Sabbath. The observance of God’s rest day is a mark of distinction between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 981

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How is false worship practiced today, even among professed believers?
2. Name some obstacles encountered by the apostle Paul in his labors.
3. What is essential for us to be able to witness successfully for Christ?
4. By what points can we distinguish between true and false worship?
5. How are the vast majority of people soon to promote false worship?

March 8 – 14, 2026

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

Key Text

“And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days, then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’” Daniel 8:14

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 409–422; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 355–358

Introduction

“The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth.” *The Great Controversy*, 423

Sunday

1 THE PILLAR OF THE ADVENT FAITH

1.a. What scripture was the central pillar of the early Adventists’ faith, and how did they interpret it at first? Daniel 8:14

Note: “The scripture which above all others had been both the foundation and the central pillar of the advent faith was the declaration: ‘Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’ Daniel 8:14. These had been familiar words to all believers in the Lord’s soon coming. By the lips of thousands was this prophecy repeated as the watchword of their faith. All felt that upon the events therein foretold depended their brightest expectations and most cherished hopes. These prophetic days had been shown to terminate in the autumn of 1844. In common with the rest of the Christian world, Adventists then held that the earth, or some portion of it, was the sanctuary. They understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the purification of the earth by the fires of the last great day, and that this would take place at the second advent. Hence the conclusion that Christ would return to the earth in 1844.” *The Great Controversy*, 409

1.b. What did the Advent pioneers realize after the great disappointment of 1844? Hebrews 8:3–5; 9:1–5, 8

Note: “With earnest prayer they reviewed their position and studied the Scriptures to discover their mistake. As they could see no error in their reckoning of the prophetic periods, they were led to examine more closely the subject of the sanctuary.

“In their investigation they learned that there is no Scripture evidence sustaining the popular view that the earth is the sanctuary; but they found in the Bible a full explanation of the subject of the sanctuary, its nature, location, and services; the testimony of the sacred writers being so clear and ample as to place the matter beyond all question.” *The Great Controversy*, 411

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

Monday

2 THE NEW TESTAMENT SANCTUARY

2.a. How did the Scriptures further confirm to the Advent believers that the New Testament sanctuary is in heaven? Revelation 11:19; 4:2, 5; 8:3

Note: “Those who were studying the subject found indisputable proof of the existence of a sanctuary in heaven. Moses made the earthly sanctuary after a pattern which was shown him. Paul teaches that that pattern was the true sanctuary which is in heaven. And John testifies that he saw it in heaven.” *The Great Controversy*, 415

“And as the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 is fulfilled in this dispensation, the sanctuary to which it refers must be the sanctuary of the new covenant.” *Ibid.*, 417

2.b. What else must we understand about the heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 9:22, 23; 12:24

Note: “The cleansing, both in the typical and in the real service, must be accomplished with blood: in the former, with the blood of animals; in the latter, with the blood of Christ. Paul states, as the reason why this cleansing must be performed with blood, that without shedding of blood is no *remission*. Remission, or putting away of sin, is the work to be accomplished.” *The Great Controversy*, 417, 418. [Author’s italics.]

Tuesday

3 IN THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY

3.a. Of what did the daily service consist? Numbers 28:1–6. How were sins transferred to the sanctuary? Leviticus 4:4–6, 14–17

Note: “The daily service consisted of the morning and evening burnt offering, the offering of sweet incense on the golden altar, and the special offerings for individual sins.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 352

“Day by day the repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle and, placing his hand upon the victim’s head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. The animal was then slain. . . . The blood, representing the forfeited life of the sinner, whose guilt the victim bore, was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed. By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary.” *The Great Controversy*, 418

3.b. What service was performed once a year, and for what purpose? Leviticus 16:8, 15–22

Note: “The sins of Israel being . . . transferred to the sanctuary, the holy places were defiled, and a special work became necessary for the removal of the sins. God commanded that an atonement be made for each of the sacred apartments, as for the altar, to ‘cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.’ Leviticus 16:19.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 355

“Once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, the priest entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary. The work there performed completed the yearly round of ministration. On the Day of Atonement, two kids of the goats were brought to the door of the tabernacle, and lots were cast upon them, ‘one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat.’ Leviticus 16:8. The goat upon which fell the lot for the Lord was to be slain as a sin offering for the people. And the priest was to bring his blood within the veil and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. The blood was also to be sprinkled upon the altar of incense that was before the veil.” *The Great Controversy*, 419

Wednesday

4 IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

4.a. Where did Christ exercise His priestly ministry for eighteen centuries after His ascension? Hebrews 9:11, 12, 24

Note: “For eighteen centuries this work of ministration continued in the first apartment of the sanctuary. The blood of Christ, pleaded in behalf of penitent believers, secured their pardon and acceptance with the Father, yet their sins still remained upon the books of record.” *The Great Controversy*, 421

“The blood of Christ, while it was to release the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law, was not to cancel the sin; it would stand on record in the sanctuary until the final atonement; so in the type, the blood of the sin offering removed the sin from the penitent, but it rested in the sanctuary until the Day of Atonement.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 357

4.b. As there was a work of atonement in the typical service, once a year, what work began in the antitypical service, at the end of the 2,300 prophetic days (or literal years)? Hebrews 9:7

Note: “As in the typical service there was a work of atonement at the close of the year, so before Christ’s work for the redemp-

tion of men is completed, there is a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the sanctuary. This is the service which began when the 2300 days ended. At that time, as foretold by Daniel the prophet, our High Priest entered the most holy, to perform the last division of His solemn work—to cleanse the sanctuary.” *The Great Controversy*, 421

“In the great day of final award, the dead are to be ‘judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.’ Revelation 20:12. Then by virtue of the atoning blood of Christ, the sins of all the truly penitent will be blotted from the books of heaven. Thus, the sanctuary will be freed, or cleansed, from the record of sin.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 357, 358

Thursday

5 THE BLOTTING OUT OF SINS

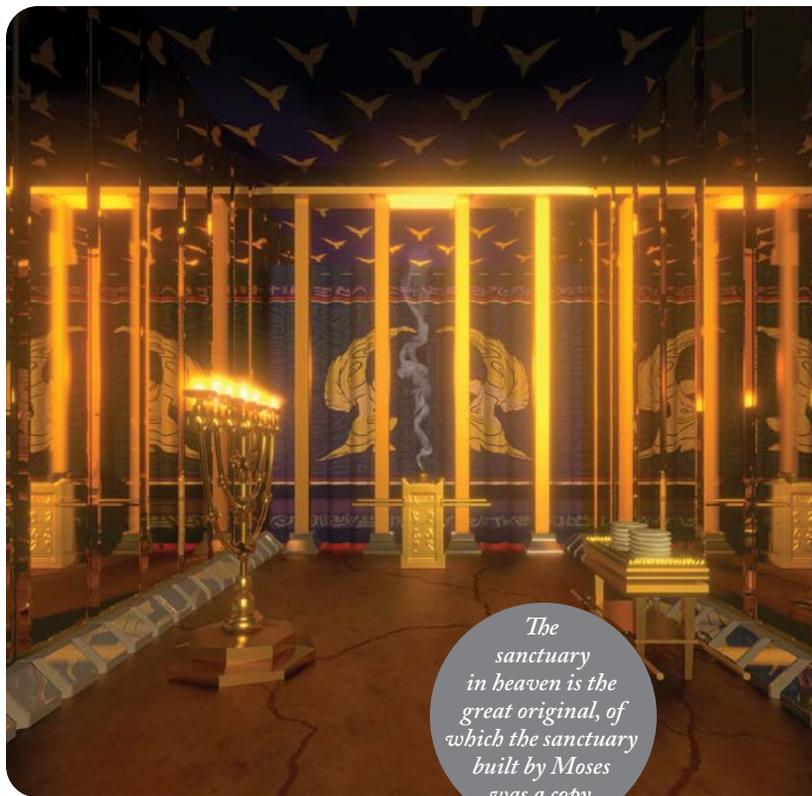
5.a. How can our sins contaminate the heavenly sanctuary? What is recorded in heaven? Isaiah 65:6, 7; Revelation 20:12

Note: “Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel.” *The Great Controversy*, 482

“We must not only cease to do evil, but we must learn to do well. God has given us powers to be exercised in good works; and if these powers are not put to use, we shall certainly be set down as wicked and slothful servants.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 220

5.b. How is the heavenly sanctuary to be cleansed? Isaiah 43:25; Acts 3:19. Why is this so important for us to understand?

Note: “As the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there



The sanctuary in heaven is the great original, of which the sanctuary built by Moses was a copy.

recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment.” *The Great Controversy*, 421, 422

“Many are deceiving themselves, for the principle of love does not dwell in their hearts. They may close eyes to their own errors and defects, but they cannot deceive God. There must be a reformation. The plowshare of truth must plow deep furrows in our proud hearts and tear up the sod of our unsanctified natures, that the Spirit and love of Jesus may be planted in our hearts. Time is fast hastening on, and every work will soon be brought into judgment, and either our sins or our names will be blotted out of the Book of Life.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 49

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which texts of Scripture enable us to gain a correct understanding of Daniel 8:14?
2. What do the apostles teach us about the heavenly sanctuary?
3. Name some points from the earthly sanctuary service which help us understand the heavenly service.
4. What work began at the close of the 2300 days’ prophecy?
5. Why is it essential that our sins be blotted out?

March 15 – 21, 2026

“The Hour of His Judgment Is Come”

Key Text

“Fear God ... for the hour of His judgment has come.”
Revelation 14:7

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 486–491; *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 384–387

Introduction

“The announcement, ‘The hour of His judgment is come,’ points to the closing work of Christ’s ministration for the salvation of men.” *The Great Controversy*, 435

Sunday

1 THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

1.a. What evidence proves that there is an investigative judgment? Revelation 11:18; 22:11, 12

Note: “Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:12. Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310

1.b. Why is the investigative judgment necessary? Ezekiel 18:24. How only can we be accounted worthy? Matthew 24:13

Note: “All who have truly repented of sin and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.” *The Great Controversy*, 483

Monday

2 PURITY NEEDED

2.a. What proves that the life and character of all must be judged before the coming of Christ? Matthew 16:27. What should this fact inspire in our hearts? Haggai 1:5

Note: “The grand judgment is taking place, and has been going on for some time. Now the Lord says, Measure the temple and the worshipers thereof. Remember when you are walking the streets about your business, God is measuring you; when you are attending your household duties, when you engage in conversation, God is measuring you. Remember that your words and actions are being daguerreotyped [photographed] in the books of heaven, as the face is reproduced by the artist on the polished plate. ...

“Here is the work going on, measuring the temple and its worshipers to see who will stand in the last day. Those who stand fast shall have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When we are doing our work, remember there is One that is watching the spirit in which we are doing it. Shall we not bring the Saviour into our everyday lives, into our secular work and domestic duties? Then in the name of God we want to leave behind everything that is not necessary, all gossiping or unprofitable visiting, and present ourselves as servants of the living God.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 972

2.b. What is our responsibility in preparing to meet our Lord in peace? 1 John 3:2, 3

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

“Their robes must be spotless; their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth.” *The Faith I Live By*, 337

Tuesday

3 THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

- 3.a. With whom does the judgment begin? 1 Peter 4:17.
 What else should we realize about this fact? Ezekiel 33:12, 13, 18

Note: “In the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment, the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period.” *The Great Controversy*, 480

“Angels keep a faithful record of every man’s work, and as judgment passes upon the house of God, the sentence of each is recorded by his name, and the angel is commissioned to spare not the unfaithful servants, but to cut them down at the time of slaughter. And that which was committed to their trust is taken from them. Their earthly treasure is then swept away, and they have lost all. And the crowns they might have worn, had they been faithful, are put upon the heads of those saved by the faithful servants whose means was constantly in use for God. And everyone they have been the means of saving adds stars to their crown in glory and increases their eternal reward.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 198

- 3.b. As we do not know when the judgment will pass from the cases of the dead to the cases of the living, what warning of Christ should we take to heart, and why? Mark 13:33; Revelation 3:3
-



The grand judgment is taking place.

Note: “Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others, it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour’s admonition: ‘Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.’ Mark 13:33. ‘If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.’ Revelation 3:3.” *The Great Controversy*, 490

“There is no command for anyone to search the Scripture in order to ascertain, if possible, when probation will close. God has no such message for any mortal lips. He would have no mortal tongue declare that which He has hidden in His secret councils.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 192

“You are each living your probationary time day by day, obtaining your experience as the days pass; but you can go over the ground only once. Then let every precious moment be employed as you will wish it had been when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened. Our Lord will judge us according to the opportunities and privileges that we have had.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, 156

Wednesday

4 WHILE THE DOOR IS OPEN

4.a. By what standard are our characters and lives tested in the judgment? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Romans 2:12; James 2:12

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

“The life of Christ on earth was a perfect expression of God’s law, and when those who claim to be children of God become Christlike in character, they will be obedient to God’s commandments. Then the Lord can trust them to be of the number who shall compose the family of heaven.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 315

“Only that which is in accord with the principles of God’s law will stand in the judgment.” *Ibid.*, 316

4.b. What is Christ doing in our behalf while the door of probation is still open? 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25. How only will we be benefited by our Saviour’s intercession? 2 Corinthians 13:5, 6

Note: “The intercession of Christ in man’s behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross.” *The Great Controversy*, 489

“All who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart.” *Ibid.*, 490

Thursday

5 A WARNING AND A PROMISE

5.a. To what warning should we give serious consideration? Proverbs 28:13

Note: “Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: ‘They are joined to their idols, let them alone,’ and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 187

5.b. What promises should encourage those who are truly interested in their salvation? 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 12:9, *first part*; Revelation 3:5

Note: “None need abandon themselves to discouragement and despair. Satan may come to you with the cruel suggestion, ‘Yours is a hopeless case. You are irredeemable.’ But there is hope for you in Christ. God does not bid us overcome in our own strength. He asks us to come close to His side. Whatever difficulties we labor under which weigh down soul and body, He waits to make us free.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 249

“Let none, then, regard their defects as incurable. God will give faith and grace to overcome them.” *The Great Controversy*, 489

“Those who come up to every point and stand every test and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 187

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the investigative judgment, and why is it needed?
2. In what way should a knowledge of the investigative judgment affect our daily lives?
3. Where does the investigative judgment begin—and why?
4. What is our duty in seeking the benefits of Christ’s intercession?
5. How does the judgment message offer hope as well as warning?

March 22 – 28, 2026

The Wedding Garment

Key Text

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.” Matthew 22:11

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 217–223; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 307–319

Introduction

“In the parable of Matthew 22 ... the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage.” *The Great Controversy*, 428

Sunday

1 A SYMBOLIC WEDDING

1.a. What does the marriage in the parable represent?
Matthew 22:2

Note: “By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 307

“At an infinite cost to heaven, provision has been made for all, that they may receive grace and sanctification of the Spirit, and be numbered with the blood-washed throng.” *The Review and Herald*, March 28, 1899

1.b. What other lessons do we need to learn from this symbolic marriage? Daniel 7:13, 14; Revelation 11:15; 21:2

Note: “The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom.” *The Great Controversy*, 426

“God has made every provision whereby our thoughts may become purified, elevated, refined, and ennobled. He has not only promised to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but He has made an actual provision for the supply of grace that will lift our thoughts toward Him and enable us to appreciate His holiness. We may realize that we are Christ’s possession and that we are to manifest His character to the world. Prepared by heavenly grace, we become clothed with the righteousness of Christ in the wedding garment and are fitted to sit down at the marriage supper. We become one with Christ, partakers of the divine nature, purified, refined, elevated, and acknowledged to be the children of God—heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 2, 660

Monday

2 AN EXAMINATION BEFORE THE WEDDING

2.a. What must take place before the wedding, and how does this affect us? Matthew 22:11

Note: “Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14. He who is found wanting is cast out, but all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne. This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is that of the investigative judgment, the closing work in the sanctuary above.” *The Great Controversy*, 428

“Read carefully and critically the parable of the wedding garment and make a personal application of the lessons it teaches. There are those who, having heard the truth, assent to it, yet are not transformed by it. The truth has not been received into the soul, and therefore it cannot carry forward its work of purification in the life. Their family, their neighbors, do not see in them the marked change which they have a right to expect. Those who make a profession of faith, and yet remain unchanged in habit and practice, are represented in the parable by the man who came to the feast without a wedding garment.” *The Review and Herald*, February 26, 1901

2.b. How does the righteousness of Christ become the righteousness of the saints? Revelation 3:18; 19:8

Note: “By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ’s true followers will possess. . . . It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310

“By His perfect obedience, He [Christ] has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.” *Ibid.*, 312

“Are you ready? Have you the wedding garment on? That garment will never cover deceit, impurity, corruption, or hypocrisy. The eye of God is upon you. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. We may conceal our sins from the eyes of men, but we can hide nothing from our Maker.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 220, 221

Tuesday

3 WHILE PROBATION LINGERS

- 3.a. **What condition must we be reaching now, while Christ is still mediating in our behalf? John 14:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Note: “Jesus did not allow the enemy to pull Him into the mire of unbelief, or crowd Him into the mire of despondency and despair. But many poor souls are feeble in moral power because they do not do the words of Christ.

“Christ in the weakness of humanity was to meet the temptations of one possessing the powers of the higher nature that God had bestowed on the angelic family. But Christ’s humanity was united with divinity, and in this strength, He would bear all the temptations that Satan could bring against Him, and yet keep His soul untainted by sin. And this power to overcome He would give to every son and daughter of Adam who would accept by faith the righteous attributes of His character.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 927

“Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself, ‘The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in

Me.’ John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father’s commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.

“It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ.” *The Great Controversy*, 623

- 3.b. **While a work of purification is going on in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 9:23), what is to be taking place among the followers of Christ on earth? Malachi 3:2, 3**

Note: “Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.” *The Great Controversy*, 425

Wednesday

4 A BLESSING OR A DISAPPOINTMENT

- 4.a. **What blessing is offered to those whose sins will be blotted out? Zechariah 10:1; Acts 3:19, 20 [compare RSV].**

Note: “The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are ‘the times of refreshing’ to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said, ‘Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out [in the Investigative Judgment], when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus.’ [Acts 3:19, 20.]” *The Great Controversy* (1888), 611

4.b. On the other hand, what disappointment comes to those who know the present truth, yet neglect the opportunity to obtain the needed preparation? Jeremiah 8:20\

Note: “All who endeavor to excuse or conceal their sins and permit them to remain upon the books of heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. The more exalted their profession and the more honorable the position which they hold, the more grievous is their course in the sight of God and the more sure the triumph of their great adversary. Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble or at any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless.” *The Great Controversy*, 620

“I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of ‘refreshing’ and the ‘latter rain’ to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore, they could not receive the refreshing...” *Early Writings*, 71

Thursday

5 READY TO MEET CHRIST

5.a. When the work of purification is completed, and the investigative judgment is over, for what event will Christ’s followers be prepared? 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:27

Note: “When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. ‘Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.’ Malachi 3:4. Then the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a ‘glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’ Ephesians 5:27.” *The Great Controversy*, 425

5.b. What contrast will be seen between those who are unready and those who are ready for Christ’s second advent? Revelation 6:14–17; Isaiah 25:9

Note: “When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder, His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.

“Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man’s hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. ...

“Before His presence ‘all faces are turned into paleness’; upon the rejecters of God’s mercy falls the terror of eternal despair. ‘The heart melteth, and the knees smite together, ... and the faces of them all gather blackness.’ Jeremiah 30:6; Nahum 2:10. The righteous cry with trembling: ‘Who shall be able to stand?’ The angels’ song is hushed, and there is a period of awful silence. Then the voice of Jesus is heard, saying: ‘My grace is sufficient for you.’ The faces of the righteous are lighted up, and joy fills every heart.” *The Great Controversy*, 640, 641

Friday

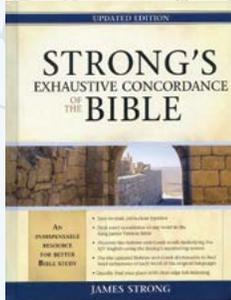
PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How only can we partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb?
2. What is our responsibility before the supper takes place?
3. How is the wedding garment obtained?
4. Why is confession and forsaking of sin vital to our salvation?
5. When will Christ return?

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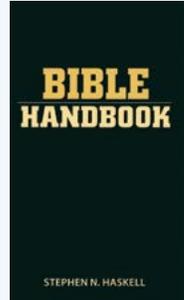


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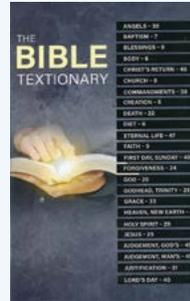


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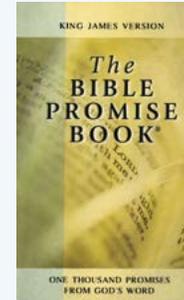


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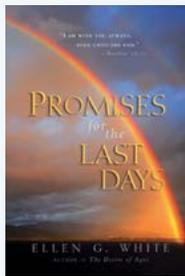


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- California produces about 50% of the peaches in the US, but Georgia is still famous for their peaches nationwide.
- In Japan, white peaches are highly prized and often given as luxurious gifts, sometimes even costing upwards of \$10 each for the most perfect specimens.
- There are hundreds of varieties of peaches in existence today, but all peaches are categorized into two types: freestones and clingstones. The flesh of freestone peaches separates easily from the pit, which makes them ideal for eating fresh. In clingstone varieties, the flesh of the peach clings to the pit. These varieties are best for canning.
- It is a common misconception that a peach/plum hybrid is the nectarine. A nectarine is actually just a variety of

peach with smooth rather than fuzzy skin. In this case, fuzzy skin is a dominant trait; whereas the smooth skin of a nectarine is a recessive trait. Only one gene separates peaches and nectarines and this gene variant causes peaches to have a fuzzy skin and nectarines to have a smooth skin.

- Peach fuzz is a survival tactic, providing protection from the elements. It stops water and moisture from reaching the delicate skin, preventing premature rot, and ensuring development of a fully mature seed. It also acts as an irritant to destructive insects, preventing them from eating the fruit.

Aside from jams, tarts, pies, cobblers, crisps, cereals, and smoothies, peaches also lend themselves to savory dishes such as salads, pizzas, and soups.

<https://veritablevegetable.com/just-peachy-fun-facts-about-peaches/>; <https://fruit-guys.com/blog/ten-tasty-facts-you-probably-didnt-know-about-the-peach/>

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



CREAMY PEACH BAKE

Ingredients

16 oz. canned peaches (reserve juice), thinly sliced, or 2 cups fresh peaches, peeled and sliced
 1½ cups rolled oats, uncooked
 ½ cup pitted dates, chopped
 1 cup non-dairy vanilla milk
 6 oz. firm silken tofu
 ⅛ tsp. cardamom
 ⅛ tsp. coriander
 2 tsp. vanilla flavoring
 ¼ tsp. almond flavoring
 ½ tsp. salt

Process

Oil an 8" x 8" casserole dish and set aside. Mix peaches, oats, and dates in a bowl. Transfer to prepared dish. Combine reserved peach juice with just enough milk to make ½ cups of liquid and blend with all remaining ingredients until smooth. Pour into the oat mixture. Cover and bake at 350°F for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for 15 minutes more. Allow to cool 10 minutes. Serve with additional non-dairy milk. (If using unsweetened non-dairy vanilla milk, add 2 Tbs. maple syrup if desired.)





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Health Benefits of Peaches

- *Heart health*
- *Improved digestion*
- *Decreased inflammation*
- *Stronger immune system*
- *Healthy eyes*
- *Smoother skin*

[https://health.clevelandclinic.org/
benefits-of-peaches](https://health.clevelandclinic.org/benefits-of-peaches)

