

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM



*The Secret
to a Happy
Home*

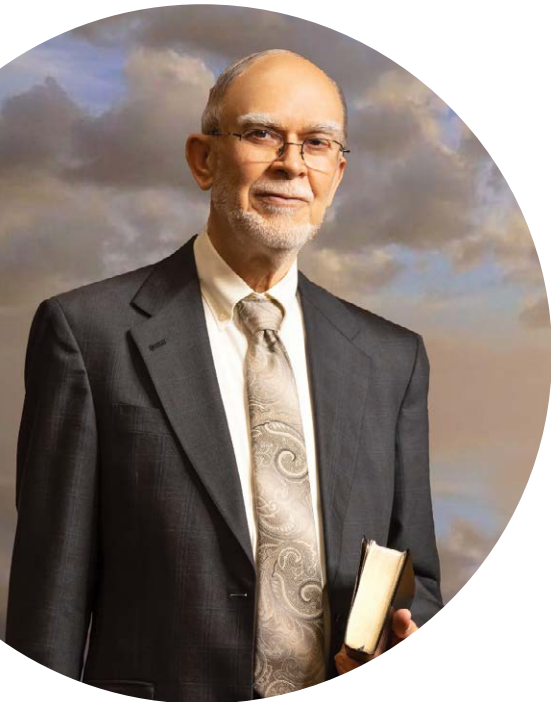
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Worthless*

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From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

The Central Theme of the Gospel

"The cross of Calvary challenges, and will finally vanquish every earthly and hellish power. In the cross, all influence centers, and from it all influence goes forth. It is the great center of attraction; for on it Christ gave up His life for the human race. This sacrifice was offered for the purpose of restoring man to his original perfection. Yea, more, it was offered to give him an entire transformation of character, making him more than a conqueror.

"Those who in the strength of Christ overcome the great enemy of God and man, will occupy a position in the heavenly courts above angels who have never fallen.

"Christ declares, 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.' If the cross does not find an influence in its favor, it creates an influence. Through generation succeeding generation, the truth for this time is revealed as present truth. Christ on the cross was the medium whereby mercy and truth met together, and righteousness and peace kissed each other. This is the means that is to move the world." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, 1113

What is the cross suppose to accomplish in our lives?

- To restore me to the original perfection of Eden.
- To effect an entire transformation of my character.
- To make me more than a conqueror.
- To attract me to Jesus Christ.
- I no longer live for myself but for Him who died for me. 2 Corinthians 5:15
- To deliver me from my love of this world. Galatians 6:14
- The means by which my sins are forgiven. Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 15:3
- As Jesus was crucified for me, my sinful nature is to be crucified for Him. Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20; 5:24
- To reconcile all mankind first to God and then to one another bringing peace and unity to all who accept it. Colossians 1:20
- To bring redemption to all who will receive it. 1 Peter 1:17-21
- To cleanse us from all sin. 1 John 1:7
- To reveal Jesus as the One who in a supreme sense loves us. Revelation 1:5; 1 John 3:16

If we want to be saved at last, the story of the cross as recorded in each of the four gospels needs to be a special study in our daily life.

"If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross." *The Desire of Ages*, 83 **LM**

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OF ADVENTISM

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Subscriptions

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

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

Publisher

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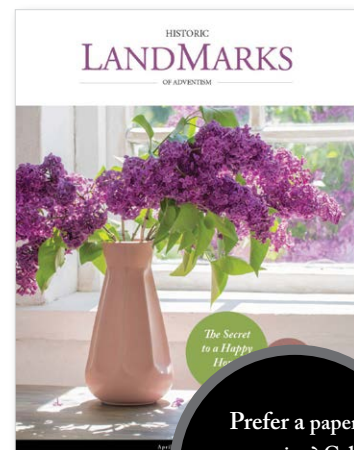
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All Bible texts, unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, are from the New King James Version.

The Secret of a Happy Home



John J. Grosboll

We are living in a time when there is a greater fracture in the family than probably any time in Earth's history. The consequences affect the family, the church, society in general, even the entire nation. In fact, it seems almost universal.

“And when he [Barnabas] had found him [Saul], he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26. These were disciples of Jesus. The name was given to these individuals by others who observed their lives and saw how like Christ they were. We also find it referred to later in the New Testament.

“Do they [the rich] not blaspheme that noble [royal] name by which you are called?” James 2:7. *Christian* is that royal name.

“Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.” 1 Peter 4:16

Why were they called Christians?

The people in Antioch talked about Christ and His life on Earth. They loved to recount His teachings and also how He lived by example. They shared the closing scenes of His life, and, with quivering lip, would tell what He suffered in Gethsemane. They told of that horrible night before the crucifixion—His multiple trials, the scourging, the spitting, the shame. They explained why Christ had to be crucified—the atonement sacrifice needed to be made for all in order that they might receive forgiveness. As the people of Athens heard what they said, saw how they lived their lives, they could see that their character was just like the One they spoke about and sought to emulate. They were just like Christ and they were given the name Christian.

What does it mean to be a Christian?

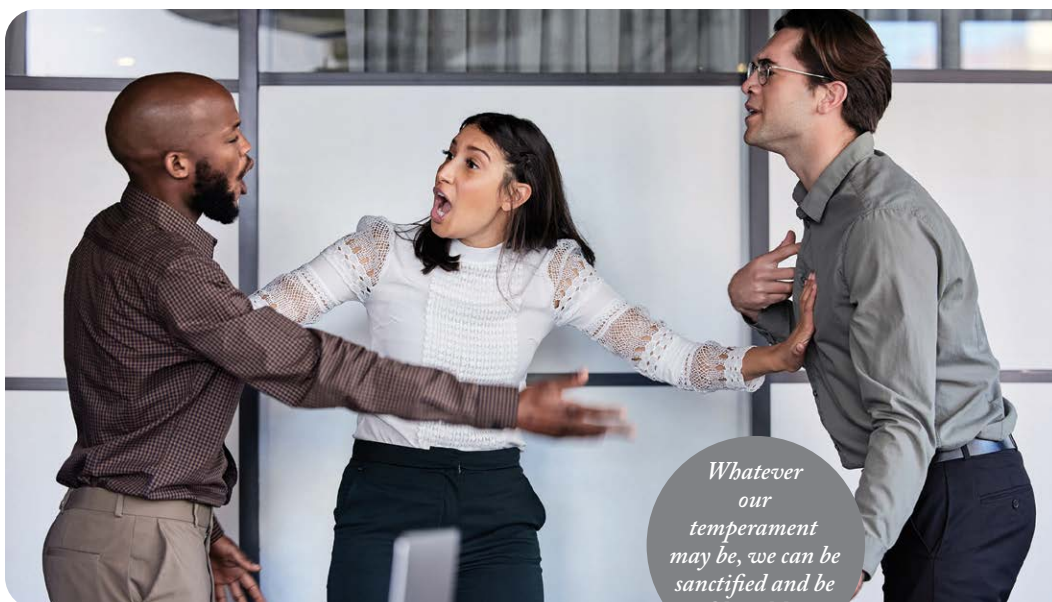
“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:1, 2

This divine promise is one of the most wonderful in all the Bible. If I am a child of God, then I will look up and see Jesus coming, realizing that He has made me like Him.

If that is my hope, what am I to do?

“Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” Verse 3

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk as He walked.” 1 John 2:6



The secret to having a happy home is when every member of the family desires to be like Jesus.

We are all different, possessing different temperaments and characteristics. But whatever these may be, we can be sanctified and can reflect the character of Christ. So, what happens in the home if every member has the character of Christ?

How to have a happy home. The principle of order.

Order means having a place and time for things. God teaches this in the ten commandments, specifically in the fourth commandment. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” When the Sabbath starts, we don’t want to be doing our traveling, or making a quick run to the grocery store for a couple of forgotten, last-minute items, or ironing a dress or shirt. We want all that done during the week or on Friday, preparation day. When you try to do too much work, the result is that you stay up late. This results in sleeping in the next morning. Consider this, if you try to do too much on Friday, you will likely be late for Sabbath. And should this become a continuous pattern, you will

develop the habit of always being late to church.

Our bodies have internal clocks called circadian rhythms. For instance, if I am accustomed to eating at 7am, a habit I have cultivated day after day, the circadian rhythms instruct my body to begin to secrete digestive juices into my stomach right around 7am.

If I habitually go to bed at 9pm, but one night go to bed at 7pm, I am likely to lay awake for two hours. Then around 9pm, my circadian alarm instructs my body to secrete melatonin and before long, I will drift off to sleep.

For our bodies to be healthy and work efficiently, we need regularity, and the Bible teaches us this using the Sabbath. Most of the time, God leaves it to us to decide when we eat, work, play, or sleep, but not the Sabbath. As a God of order, He set the specific times, sundown on the sixth day through sundown on the seventh day, for Sabbath to begin and end. Time setting came into existence by watching the heavenly bodies. God allows individual churches to establish the time to start Sabbath School and worship service. Do you think that God will have a set time for Sabbath services to begin when we are

in heaven? To be sure you are on time for church service in heaven, it would be a good idea to get in the habit of being on time to church here. The Christian religion involves some logistical planning.

It is a good practice to make rules that will bring order into your life and home; rules that are in harmony with divine principles. As far as time is concerned, we have three options: early, on time, or late. Unless we develop the habit of being a few minutes early or at least on time, it will be too easy to be late. This affects every facet of our lives. If I am habitually late to church, then I will be habitually late to work and other commitments. There must be order in the home. Irregularity does not promote happiness in a family. So, remember this principle, the more order you have in your home, the happier your family will be.

Am I like Jesus?

Has every member of the family made the decision to be like Jesus? If so, that family, by the grace of God, will grow in happiness.

Speech.

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” Proverbs 16:32

“Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.” Ecclesiastes 7:9

Am I in control of my speech or do I lose my temper? If I cannot control my temper and what I say, I am a fool.

“The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.” Isaiah 50:4

There are people all around us, including in our own family, who are weary. Encouragement, tenderness, kindness, the words Jesus spoke, will help relieve the weariness

they feel and help lighten the load they carry, the trials they must face.

Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

Families who live by those three principles, will have decided to do right because it is right. They will be humble, forgiving, compassionate, caring. If every family member walks humbly with God, the entire family will be transformed.

Gentleness, meekness, and kindness.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle [meek, humble] and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:28-30

The family is where we should be the most gentle with each other. There will be no harsh speaking or rough acting.

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.” Romans 12:10

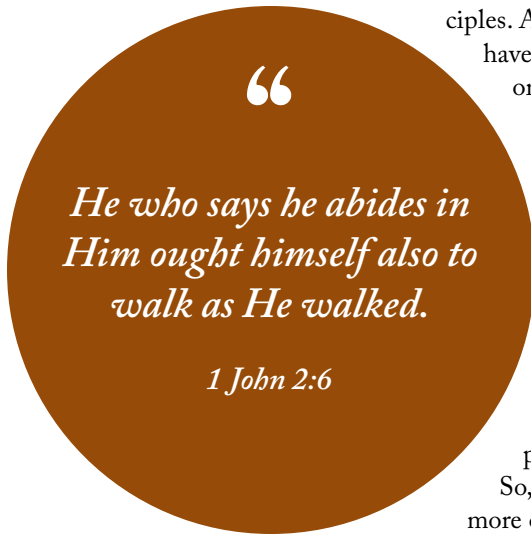
We live in a world desperate for a little kindness. Some receive very little at home, work, even church. Imagine what a home would be like if everyone in the family practiced kindness toward each other.

“I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” Verse 3

Consider others as better than yourself. Be humble.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter, verses 4-7 outline the characteristics that if brought into the life and family will transform most homes.

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up [not arrogant]; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked [irritated], thinks no evil [does not dwell on evil]; does not rejoice in iniquity





The secret of having a happy home is when every member of the family desires to be like Jesus.

ty, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Where there is trouble in the family, it is almost certain that one or more of these characteristics aren't being followed. Many people quote this chapter, but truly do not understand what the words mean. These verses are worth some serious study if you want to have a happy home.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:29–32

“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. ...

“For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ...

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” Ephesians 5:2, 5, 8

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:1–4

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing [enduring] with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1–3

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there. But the wisdom that is from

above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” James 3:13–18

If we would read and study these verses, our homes would become a little heaven on Earth.

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us how to have a happy home.

The Spirit of Prophecy contains a wealth of knowledge regarding how to solve domestic difficulties. The chapter “The Builders of the Home” in *The Ministry of Healing* can turn things around in homes where conflict and unhappiness have reigned. But understand, transforming a family in turmoil and crisis does not happen overnight.

“Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy.

“Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment. Determine to be all that it is possible to be to each other. Continue the early attentions. In every way encourage each other in fighting the battles of life. Study to advance the happiness of each other. Let there be mutual love, mutual forbearance. Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning of love. The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven.

“Around every family there is a sacred circle that should be kept unbroken. Within this circle no other person has a right to come. Let not the husband or the wife permit another to share the confidences that belong solely to themselves.

“Let each give love rather than exact it. Cultivate that which is noblest in yourselves, and be quick to recognize the

good qualities in each other. The consciousness of being appreciated is a wonderful stimulus and satisfaction. Sympathy and respect encourage the striving after excellence, and love itself increases as it stimulates to nobler aims.”

The Ministry of Healing, 360, 361

Satan’s suggestions.

“How many there are who reveal selfishness and unkindness in their dealings with one another.

How many professing Christians seem never to be satisfied unless they are engaged in strife. How many home circles are broken because the members receive and act upon Satan’s suggestions.” *The Upward Look*, 163

Satan has had access to the descendants of Adam and Eve for 6,000 years. He injects his suggestions into our minds, and we must exert the greatest amount of human effort to resist them—quote scripture, pray, sing a hymn. We must rely on the Lord to provide the power He has promised to accomplish what is beyond our feeble human strength and will to do. Only in this way can the devil’s voice be expelled from our minds.

Words and thoughts.

“No unpleasant words are spoken in heaven.” Ibid.

If I am preparing to go to heaven, but have a habit of speaking unpleasant words, what must I do? A radical change must occur in my heart (Matthew 12:24) if I want to talk as Jesus talked. When Jesus came to this world as a man, Inspiration tells us that it was heaven to be in His presence. When He

spoke, people were blessed. So, if I want to be in heaven, I must first learn to speak without speaking unpleasant things.

“There [in heaven] no unkind thoughts are cherished.” Ibid.

Do you have unkind thoughts about somebody in your family because of something they have said or done that’s wrong?

“There envy, evil surmising, hatred, and strife find no place.” Ibid.

Envy, evil surmising, hatred, and strife have no place in heaven. If I harbor ill feelings toward someone in my family, if I am willing to carry tales about a sister or brother, or if I feel hatred that breeds strife in the family, am I ready for heaven? If I want to be in perfect harmony with heaven, then I must surrender my will and allow the Holy Spirit to effect a transformation that will result in harmony rather than strife in my home.

“Perfect harmony pervades the heavenly courts.” Ibid.

Families all around the world are suffering and many are on the verge of collapse. If they would read and follow the counsel and guidance provided in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, tremendous changes would be seen in each family member and the home.

What is needed?

In order to spend eternity in heaven, our hearts must first be in harmony with the atmosphere of heaven while we are still living here, only then can we be physically taken to heaven.

“Well does Satan know what heaven is . . . His work is to bring into every family the cruel elements of self-will, harshness, selfishness. Thus, he seeks to destroy the happiness of the family. He knows that the spirit governing in the home will be brought into the church.” Ibid.

The devil knows what heaven is like so he endeavors to bring into every family every cruel element imaginable. One of the biggest reasons there is so much trouble in the churches of God’s people, is because the spirit governing in the home will be brought into the church. We have strife in the families, which then brings strife into the church, too.



Love cannot long exist without expression.

“When tempted to murmur, censure, and indulge in fretfulness, wounding those around you, and in so doing wounding your own soul, oh! let the deep, earnest, anxious inquiry come from your soul, Shall I stand without fault before the throne of God? Only the faultless will be there. None will be translated to heaven while their hearts are filled with the rubbish of earth. Every defect in the moral character must first be remedied, every stain removed by the cleansing blood of Christ, and all the unlovely, unlovable traits of character overcome.

“How long a time are you designing to take to prepare to be introduced into the society of heavenly angels in glory? In the state which you and your family are in at present, all heaven would be marred should you be introduced therein. The work for you must be done here. This earth is the fitting-up place. You have not one moment to lose. All is harmony, peace, and love in heaven. No discord, no strife, no censuring, no unloving words, no clouded brows, no jars there; and no one will be introduced there who possesses any of these elements so destructive to peace and happiness. Study to be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that you may lay hold on everlasting life.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 705, 706

“Let the father and mother always be guarded in their words and actions. The husband is to treat his wife, the mother of his children, with due respect, and the wife is to love and reverence her husband. How can she do this if he treats her like a servant, to be dictated to, ordered about, scolded, found fault with before the children? He is forcing her to dislike him and even to hate him. ...

“Fathers and mothers, bring sweetness and brightness and hopefulness into the lives of your children. Kindness and love will work wonders. Never punish a child in anger.” *The Upward Look*, 163



Death to self.

What shall we do to be saved? What conduct will show that we are acceptable to God?

“You must experience a death to self, and must live unto God. ‘If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.’ Self is not to be consulted. Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever. When Christ shall appear, it will not be to correct these evils and then give a moral fitness for His coming. This preparation must all be made before He comes. ...

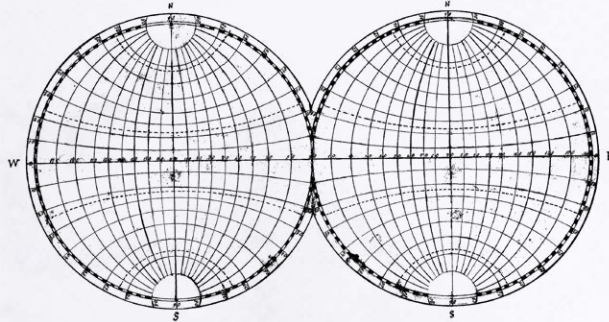
“Forever cease your murmurings ... let your soul’s burden be, how to secure the better life than this, a title to the mansions prepared for those who are true and faithful to the end. If you make a mistake here, everything is lost. ...

“[The] trials of life are God’s workmen to remove the impurities, infirmities, and roughness from our characters, and fit us for the society of pure, heavenly angels in glory. But as we pass through these trials, as the fires of affliction kindle

upon us, we must not keep the eye on the fire which is seen, but let the eye of faith fasten upon the things unseen, the eternal inheritance, the immortal life, the eternal weight of glory; and while we do this the fire will not consume us, but only remove the dross, and we shall come forth seven times purified, bearing the impress of the Divine.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 705–707

I must ask myself, am I ready for heaven or not? Do I speak and act as one who is heaven bound? Friend, our first day in heaven will be the same as our last day on earth. We are pilgrims and strangers passing through this world. It is here that we prepare to leave this world behind and arrive finally in a better country. But first, we must learn to speak, think, and act as the angels who currently live in heaven do. If I myself learn to be Christlike in my home, then my home will be a little heaven on Earth. **LM**

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Parallels

John R. Pearson

During a recent prayer meeting, a member of our church spoke of having shared the different periods of present truth with someone. That brought to mind the parallels between the three periods of present truth and the three angels' messages.

We all know the first angel's message, which warns that judgment has begun.

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come" Revelation 14:7

Let's compare the first stage of present truth—Noah's message of the destruction of the Earth by the Flood—with the first angel's message. God had judged the state of mankind and found it wicked, evil, and worthy of destruction.



Noah's Message of Destruction and the First Angel's Message

"Then the Lord saw [discerned or perceived] that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'" Genesis 6:5-7

Noah's message to the world, the present truth for his day, was "If you truly fear God and worship Him as the Creator, you will get on this ark."

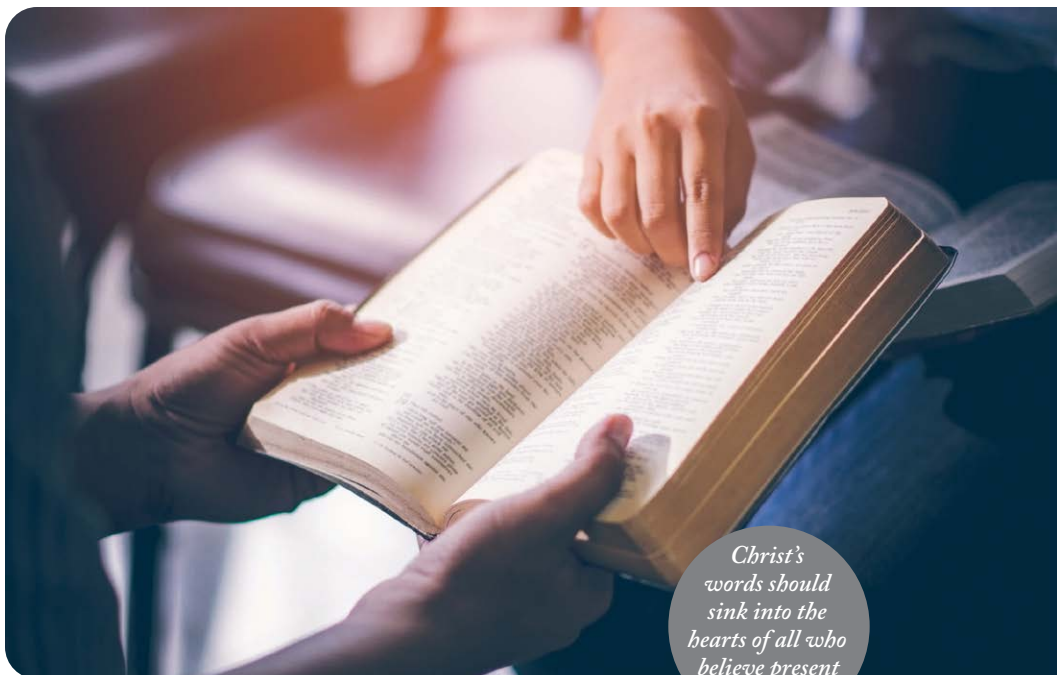
Though there may have been a difference between the words of Noah's message and the first angel's message, the concept is the same. Judgment had been made and God will cleanse the Earth of sin.

"... 'take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.' Our danger is presented before us by Christ Himself." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 309. Christ's words should sink into the hearts of all who believe present truth.

The judgment of the world in Noah's day was announced by Noah under the divine direction of Christ. Present truth—the judgment of the world today—was announced by John the Revelator, also under the divine direction of Christ.

"So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'" Genesis 6:12, 13

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come;



Christ's words should sink into the hearts of all who believe present truth.

and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." Revelation 14:7

"He [Christ] knew the perils we should meet in these last days, and would have us prepare for them. 'As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.' They were eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage, and knew not until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the Flood came and swept them all away. The day of God will find men absorbed in like manner in the business and pleasures of the world, in feasting and gluttony, and in indulging perverted appetite in the defiling use of liquor and the narcotic tobacco. This is already the condition of our world, and these indulgences are found even among God's professed people, some of whom are following the customs and partaking of the sins of the world. Lawyers, mechanics, farmers, traders, and even ministers from the pulpit are crying, 'Peace and safety,' when destruction is fast coming upon them." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 309

Did destruction come fast upon the antediluvians? Noah preached for 120 years, but when the execution of judgment came, it came swiftly. The first angel's message has gone forth since 1843, well over 120 years. God in His mercy has extended man's probation, but He won't wait forever. It is indeed time to "fear God and give glory to Him."

Present Truth in Christ's Day

As Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, she "said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When He comes, He will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.'" John 4:25, 26

"The Messiah has come, and I am He." Was He accepted by the church of His day? No, in fact, if you believed in Him, you were forced to leave the church if you were brave enough to publicly admit it.

John 9 tells the story of the man born blind. On the Sabbath day, Jesus restored this man's sight. When he returned to the synagogue,

he was questioned by the church authorities. “How were your eyes opened?”

Verse 10

The man answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

Verse 11

The Pharisees concluded that because Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He was a sinner and could not be from God, and therefore, could not be the Messiah.

The formerly blind man said, “Whether He is a sinner or not, I do not know, but I do know that I was blind and now I see.” Verse 25

When questioned a second time about how his vision was restored, the man answered, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” Verse 27

You can imagine how that was received by the jealous and self-righteous Pharisees. Even though it might have been involuntary, the result was that the man was disfellowshipped, and he came out of Babylon.

Babylon and the Second Angel’s Message

This story reveals clearly that, during Jesus’ day, if you believed Him to be the Messiah, you had to leave the church. Whether you left voluntarily or were involuntarily expelled by church authority, you came out of Babylon. The mainstream church, which at one time stood for the truth, had fallen by forcing its members to drink of the wine of her error and disbelief.

And thus, we see a parallel to the second angel’s message: “... ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’” Revelation 14:8

Present Truth Today and the Third Angel’s Message

Present truth warns us against accepting the mark of the beast by worshiping the beast and its image. The image is the false sacredness of Sunday. When the law of the land requires the observance of Sunday as the only legal day of worship, those who concur, whether they agree by consent or by action, will have accepted the mark. Here we see the exact and unquestioned alignment between present truth for today and the message itself.

“Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond’ (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator’s rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.” *The Great Controversy*, 604

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’” Revelation 14:9–11

Soul-Saving Message

Notice that there is a two-stage execution of the judgment. First, they will receive the



The day of God will find men absorbed in the business and pleasures of the world.

wrath of God—the seven last plagues. Then they are tormented with fire and brimstone. These are totally and completely avoidable, simply by loving and willing obedience to the law of God.

There is no question that the present truth message was the soul-saving message for its time.

The eight who got on the ark were saved.

Eleven men and a few women in Jesus' day believed that He was the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah and were saved.

In both cases, the number who believed as a percentage of the total world population was insignificant. Will it be the same during this period of present truth?

There is an aspect of this last soul-saving message of present truth that does not get the emphasis that it should. It is addressed in this passage.

“The soul-saving message, the third angel's message, is the message to be given to the world. [It is present truth for our day.] The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are both important, immensely important, and must be given with equal force and power. The first part of the message has been dwelt upon mostly, the last part casually. The faith of Jesus is not comprehended. We must talk it, we must live it, we must pray it, and educate the people to bring this part of the message into their home life.” *Reflecting Christ*, 82

Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus is the ark of safety for our day, but the ticket for boarding that ark is the righteousness of Christ. And the only way to obtain that righteousness is by exercising the same faith that Christ manifested; the faith that led Him to the cross.

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12

“We believe without a doubt that Christ is soon coming. This is not a fable



to us; it is a reality. We have no doubt, neither have we had a doubt for years, that the doctrines we hold today are present truth, and that we are nearing the judgment. We are preparing to meet Him who, escorted by a retinue of holy angels, is to appear in the clouds of heaven to give the faithful and the just the finishing touch of immortality. When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our character, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy, will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects, and give them holy characters. The Refiner does not then sit to pursue His refining process and remove their sins and their corruption. This is all to be done in these hours of probation. It is now that this work is to be accomplished for us. ...

“We are now in God's workshop. Many of us are rough stones from the quarry. But as we lay hold upon the truth of God, its influence affects us. It elevates us and removes from us every imperfection and sin, of whatever nature. Thus, we are prepared to see the King in His beauty and finally to unite with the pure and heavenly angels in the kingdom of glory. It is here that this work is to be accomplished for us, here that our bodies and spirits are to be fitted for immortality.” *Counsels on Health*, 43, 44

That can only be achieved by accepting the third angel's message and acting accordingly. May it be so with all of us!

“Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 61 **LM**

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When Worship Is Worthless

John J. Grosboll

"Does Job fear God for nothing? You have placed a hedge around him and everything that he has and You have blessed him and his possessions have increased." The Bible records that this was the question Satan asked the Lord. But Jesus said, "Some people's

worship of God is in vain, good for nothing." What makes the difference?

The difference

The third commandment is a prohibition, a warning. It reads, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God

in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." Exodus 20:7

Some think the third commandment is just about using profanity, and it does include that. But it also includes irreverence and hypocrisy, claiming to be

Christian when the life clearly reflects something else, and it prohibits all forms of vain worship.

Although this prohibition was written in the negative, it also has a positive meaning. "... let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." Hebrews 12:28

Reverence is the very gateway to the divine presence, and those who approach the eternal with a reverent attitude, recognizing the holy character of His name, will fulfill this command.

In both ancient times and today, some do not know God and therefore have no reverence for or fear of Him. We find one such incident in Exodus 5:1, 2:

"Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" And Pharaoh said, 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.'"

God's name is taken in vain by people who do not know Him. If they knew him, they would love and reverence His name.

Name and character are the same

In the Bible, a person's name and character are inseparable. The Bible says that a good name is to be desired above great riches (Proverbs 22:1). On one occasion, Moses asked the Lord, "'Please show me Your glory.'" Then He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.' But He said, 'You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.'" Exodus 33:18-20

Had Moses looked directly at God's face, he would have perished, so the Lord placed him in the cleft of a rock and covered his eyes with His hand. As

the Lord passed by him, He removed His hand, and Moses was allowed to see His back parts. As He passed by, He proclaimed, "... 'The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and fourth generation.'" Exodus 34:6, 7. When the Lord proclaimed His glory [His character] to Moses, He was also proclaiming His name.

In a carefree manner

We need to be careful not to use words that describe God's character in a flippant or carefree manner. Some people carelessly use the words mercy, gracious, and goodness in their everyday speech, and when they do, they are breaking the third commandment. These words describe the character of God. When we take the name of God upon our lips, we are on holy ground, and we should be careful not to use His name or the words that describe His character frivolously or as expletives in our everyday speech.

There are Christians who repeatedly use the name God or Father in prayer, perhaps 10, 20, or even 30 times in a single prayer. In the Lord's prayer—the model prayer given by Jesus as the example to follow when we pray—the name Father is used once. Even the heathen understand that you can pollute a person's name by repeating it over and over.

No profanity

The third commandment prohibits profanity and cursing, but it is not just a prohibition on how we speak. It is also a prohibition on the manner and spirit in which we speak. Profanity is never a sign of intelligence. It has always been the most prevalent among people who are crude, uncultured, and illiterate. If profanity is intended to be humorous, it is humor of a very low order, and it is often more of a bluff than a substitute for courage. It is very dangerous to profane the name of God. If there is no God, then the use of profanity is useless and simply a sign of crass ignorance, but if there is a God, then it is very serious to profane His name.

There was a man who excused his bad speech to his minister, saying, "I have such an awful temper. I excuse myself because I got it from my father. He had an awful temper, too, and I'm just like him."

The minister said, "Have you been born again?"

"Yes," was the answer.

"Were you born of God?"

"Yes," was the reply.

"Then is God your Father?"

"Yes."

The minister then asked, "What kind of temper did you get when you were born again?"

When we are born again of the Holy Spirit, we inherit a new disposition.

Common words and idle talk

The Christian who keeps the law of God will avoid the use of many common words that are on the verge of profanity. Jesus referred to these as idle

“
People who use
carelessly in their every
day speech the words mercy,
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actually breaking the
third commandment.”

words and talk. He said that we will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every idle word that we speak. We should especially guard ourselves against speaking words that are attributes of God's character—goodness, gracious, or mercy—and avoid saying words such as gee or golly, which are slang words of God's and Jesus' name.

The Bible says that God will, in the last days, give His people a pure language. Zephaniah says, "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord . . . The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth." Zephaniah 3:9, 13, *first part*

It doesn't matter if my religion is phony or fake. If I have been born again, my speech will reveal my transformed character.

False swearing

The third commandment forbids using God's name in a common way (Leviticus 19).

There is a lot of confusion about this because many people have decided that swearing falsely includes things it really doesn't. They believe Matthew 5 says they cannot swear an oath.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you

swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one." Verses 33–37

People believe from these texts that a Christian should never take an oath, not even the judicial oath in a court of law. However, when we

have fully studied this subject, we find that Jesus Himself took the judicial oath when He was tried in a human court of law. "The high priest answered and said to Him, 'I adjure you.'"

In other words, he's asking Him to take an oath. "I adjure you by the living

God that You tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.'" Matthew 26:63, 64

"You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and you shall swear by His name." Deuteronomy 6:13

This text is written regarding a judicial oath. We must be careful not to use one text in the Bible to explain away another. The text in the third commandment and the words of Jesus in Mathew 5 are talking about the common everyday swearing that people engage in. It is this type of swearing that the Bible forbids. It does not mean that it is wrong for you to take a judicial oath to tell only the truth when you are in a court of law.

What happens if you take a judicial oath and then tell a lie? Sadly, perjury is very common in our world today. How does the third commandment relate to perjury?

“*Profanity is never a sign of intelligence. It has always been the most prevalent among people who are crude, uncultured, and illiterate.*”

The third commandment prohibits linking God's name with any falsehood by violating an oath or by false swearing. It is actually not swearing that is prohibited here; perjury is telling a lie after a person has taken a judicial oath to only tell the truth. Some writers have said that perjury is one of the greatest crimes of the modern world and is almost universal. If you say that you are going to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God, have you not insulted the Creator of the universe, the One who is not only the Truth but the Author of all truth by telling a lie? It is impossible for God to lie, and one of the characteristics of His children from the beginning to the end is that they tell the truth under all circumstances. They do not swear falsely.

Over and over again, the book of Revelation specifies that God's people, those who will be saved in the last days, will tell the truth (Revelation 21:27, 8; Revelation 22:15; Revelation 14:5). If we are guilty of perjury, if we swear to God that we will tell the truth and then we don't tell the truth, we will not be held guiltless, but will be punished.

The third commandment deals not only with God's name but with His word.

Comedy, jesting, joking, and laughter

"You have magnified Your word above all Your name." Psalm 138:2, *last part*

All jesting and joking based on scriptural statements is dangerous. It may be very easy to create a laugh in a modern audience by frivolous and grotesque association with the word of God. Still, the Bible should never be used as material for manufacturing jokes or jests.

Preaching is altogether too solemn a matter to be mixed with the unholy common fire of the comical and ludicrous. Inattention, whispering, laughing, and other forms of disrespect while attending a religious service are all forms

of profanity. We are guilty of blasphemy, and if we do not repent and turn away from this behavior, we will be punished.

How to behave in God's house

The Bible is very clear about how we should behave in the house of God.

“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore, let your words be few.” Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2

In an organized society, behavior is based on respect and trust. Manifesting disrespectful behavior in the house of God proves that we lack what is necessary for us to be worthy of heaven, and we will have to answer for our lack of respect on the day of judgment.

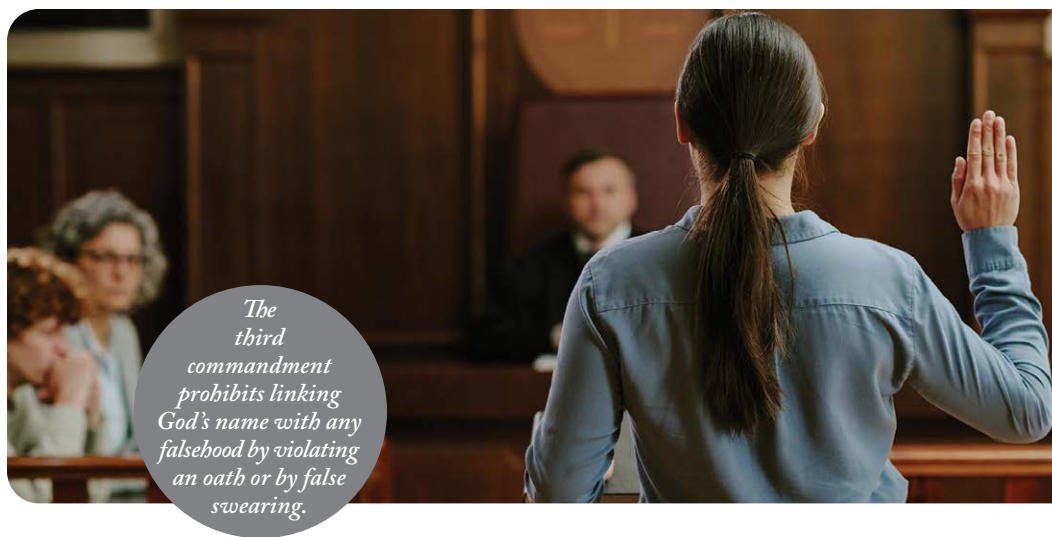
Two-faced

Now we will look at what perhaps may be the main thrust, the chief application of the third commandment—the sin of hypocrisy. When we profess one thing but live another, when we pretend to be something we are not, we are playing a double role; we are practicing hypocrisy.

The New Testament tells us that no other sin so arouses the indignation of Christ as this one, and He hurled some of His most dreadful curses against it. The third commandment is against all kinds of hypocrisy and lying in all its forms; hypocrisy is one of the worst forms of lying or bearing false witness.

The person who accepts Christ takes on His name and becomes a Christian. The Lord speaks of His people as those who are called by His name (2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 7:10, 11).

The man who professes to be a Christian but at the same time lives a life that is a denial of his profession is taking God's name in vain; he is a false professor of Christianity. God's name is



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taken in vain often in our modern world. A person who professes to be a Christian but is not Christlike in character is a blasphemer.

“Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; who swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth or in righteousness; for they call themselves after the holy city, and lean on the God of Israel.” Isaiah 48:1, 2

They lean on the God of Israel, but it is in vain because what they profess and how they live are two different things.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” Matthew 7:21–23

Jesus rebuked the Jews because He said their worship was in vain.

“Isaiah predicted about you. ‘These people draw nigh to Me with their mouth, and they honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, but in vain they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.’” Mathew 15:7–9

In both the modern world and in Christendom, there is a lot of vain worship due to hypocrisy. Christ said, “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and you don’t do what I say?” Luke 6:46

It is dangerous to use the name of the Lord if we do not know Him and are not known by Him. A vulgar oath may never have stained a person’s lips, but they are breaking the third commandment every day if they are living a hypocritical life, professing to be a Christian when they are actually living in sin.

While visiting an art museum, a farmer was shown some modernist paintings which he was unable to appreciate.

The guide said, “The paintings depict not merely the things the artist saw but his state of mind.”

The farmer retorted, “If I had a mind like that, I would never expose it.”

Sooner or later, what is inside will be exposed.

How is it with you? Is your worship in vain, or are you worshiping God in truth? Is what you profess the same as what you live? **LM**

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Second Angel's Message

Clues – NKJV

Across

- B₄ God relented from the _____ that He said He would do to the people of Ninevah.Jonah 3:10
 C₁₂ Can two walk _____ unless they are agreed?.....Amos 3:3
 D₂ Lot went from Zoar and dwelt in the _____.Genesis 19:30
 E₁₈ The God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, _____, and glory.Daniel 2:37
 G₂ Wisdom _____ your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul.Proverbs 2:10
 G₂₁ Joseph was sold as a _____.Psalm 105:17
 H₁₂ The Lord brought Abram out from Ur of the _____.Genesis 15:7
 I₂ Evil company _____ good habits.1 Corinthians 15:33
 J₂₀ God saved them that He might make His mighty _____ known.Psalm 106:8
 K₇ The Son of Man did not come to be _____.Mark 10:45
 M₁ The Lord is near to all who _____ on Him.Psalm 145:18
 M₇ The magicians worked with their _____ to bring forth lice.Exodus 8:18
 O₁₉ There is a _____ according to the election of grace.Romans 11:5
 P₉ Who is the Lord that I should _____ Him?Exodus 5:2
 Q₁ The _____ foundation of God stands.2 Timothy 2:19
 S₇ Blessed is the man that does not sit in the seat of the _____.Psalm 1:1
 T₁₄ Moses chose to _____ affliction with the people of God than enjoy the pleasures of sin.Hebrews 11:25
 U₈ The wicked _____ the catch of evil men, but the root of the righteous yields fruit.Proverbs 12:12
 U₂₀ There was a _____ in the land and Abram went to Egypt.Genesis 12:10
 V₁₄ There will be _____ tribulation that has never been seen.Matthew 24:21
 W₁ The Lord made a _____ with Abram.Nehemiah 9:8
 X₁₂ The people of Nineveh believed God, _____ a fast, and put on sackcloth.Jonah 3:5
 Y₁ At Acacia Grove the people began to commit _____ with the women of Moab.Numbers 25:1

Down

- A₁₀ Each man had a _____ in his hand.Ezekiel 8:11
 A₂₅ Unless the days are shortened, no _____ will be saved.Matthew 24:22
 B₄ Lot had two _____ who had not known a man.Genesis 19:8
 B₁₄ Wisdom is with _____ men.Job 12:12
 B₁₉ Whatever things were _____ before were for our learning.Romans 15:4
 B₂₁ In the last days, men will become _____ of themselves.2 Timothy 3:2
 B₂₃ I will make you like a signet _____; for I have chosen you.Haggai 2:23
 F₁₂ The men of Sodom were _____ wicked.Genesis 13:13
 F₁₅ The Lord led His people through the _____ for forty years.Deuteronomy 8:2
 G₉ The cities of Sodom and Gomorah were condemned to _____.2 Peter 2:6
 G₁₇ The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of _____ (singular).2 Peter 2:9
 H₂₀ Abram and Lot _____ from each other.Genesis 13:11
 I₂ God had _____ on His people and on His dwelling place.2 Chronicles 36:15
 I₇ Abram and Sarai took all their _____ when they left Haran.Genesis 12:5
 J₂₂ Women were _____ for Tammuz.Ezekiel 8:14
 J₂₄ The divine _____ was there were seven thousand that didn't bow their knee to Baal.Romans 11:4
 O₄ Fire and _____ rained from heaven and destroyed Sodom.Luke 17:29
 P₁₄ Do not defile yourselves with _____.Ezekiel 20:7
 Q₁₆ They made a _____ and offered sacrifices to the idol.Acts 7:41
 Q₁₈ Do not forget to _____ strangers, for some may be angels.Hebrews 13:2



The Duty of Forgiveness

"**F**orgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," Christ taught us to pray. But it is most difficult, even for those who claim to be followers of Jesus, to forgive as He forgave us. The true spirit of forgiveness is so little practiced, and so many interpretations are placed upon Christ's requirement, that its force and beauty are lost sight of. We have very uncertain views of the great mercy and loving kindness of God. He is full of compassion and forgiveness, and freely pardons when we truly repent and confess our sins. But when the message of God's pardoning love comes from a heart that has an experimental knowledge of it, to those who have not experienced it for themselves it is like speaking in parables. We must bring into our characters the love and sympathy expressed in Christ's life.



Peter, when brought to the test, sinned greatly. In denying the Master he had loved and served, he became a cowardly apostate. But his Lord did not cast him off; He freely forgave him. After the resurrection, an angel told the women who came to the tomb with spices, to carry the glad news of a risen Lord to the “disciples and Peter.” And when afterward Christ thrice repeated the question, “Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?” Peter cast himself on the tender mercy of the Master he had so wronged, and said, “Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee.” And when our Lord entrusted to him the care of His “sheep and lambs,” Peter knew that he was taken back into divine confidence and affection. To fulfil this charge, he would need to have the mind that was in Jesus Christ; he must copy the Pattern. Henceforth, remembering his own weakness and failures, he would be patient with his brethren in their mistakes and errors. Remembering the patient love of Christ, who had afforded him another opportunity, he would be more conciliatory toward erring ones.

If we have received the gift of God, and have a knowledge of Jesus Christ, we have a work to do for others. We must imitate the longsuffering of God toward us. The Lord requires of us the same treatment toward His followers that we receive of Him. We are to exercise patience and to be kind, even though they do not meet our expectations. The Lord expects us to be pitiful and loving, to have sympathetic hearts. He desires us to show the fruits of the grace of God in our deportment one to another. Christ did not say, You may tolerate your neighbor, but “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” This means a great deal more than professing Christians carry out in their daily life.

When Christ was on earth, instead of removing from the commandments one jot or tittle of their force, He showed by precept and example how far-reaching their principles are, how much broader



The true spirit of forgiveness is so little practiced.

they are than the scribes and Pharisees thought. They thought that Christ was lowering the Old Testament standard, yet He was teaching the people practical godliness. Christ understood their feelings, and reproved these self-righteous rulers in these words to His disciples: “I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” “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 shall 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.”

Christ proceeds to teach that the principles of God’s law reach even to the intents and purposes of the mind. And He plainly states that if we faithfully keep the ten precepts, we shall love our neighbor as ourselves. “Ye have heard,” He says, “that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your

enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

A consistent religious life, holy conversation, a godly example, true-hearted benevolence, mark the representative of Christ. He will labor to pluck sinners as brands from the burning; he will perform every duty faithfully. Thus, he will become a beacon light.

Brethren, we are nearing the judgment. Talents have been lent us on trust. Let none of us be at last condemned as slothful servants. Send forth the words of life to those in darkness. Let the church be true to her trust. Her earnest, humble prayers will make the presentation of truth effectual, and Christ will be glorified. *The Watchman*, October 13, 1908 [LM](#)

Mike's Mystery



A snowstorm was blowing when Mike got out of school that afternoon. He jerked his collar up around his neck and dashed for the bus.

It was amazing how quiet everything sounded, and how slowly the traffic was moving. All the buses were late, but Mike didn't realize that. He saw one that looked like his and climbed aboard.

After traveling several miles he glanced out the window and noticed that the streets didn't look right. He was on the wrong bus!

He would have to get another bus and go back. Did he have enough money for the fare?

He felt in his pocket. Three nickels—fifteen cents. The bus fare back to the school would be ten cents. The fare from school to home would be another ten cents. He didn't have enough!

Then another idea occurred to him, and he relaxed. He could get off the bus at the next stop and phone home and ask Mother to come to the school for him. That would cost a nickel—for this happened when phone calls cost only

five cents. The bus fare back to the school would be ten cents. The total would be fifteen cents, exactly what he had.

He got off the next stop and walked to a drugstore on the corner. The building was crowded with people, mostly children from school trying to keep warm till their buses came. He pressed his way in. The place had a damp, close smell about it.

There was a public phone on the far wall.

Mike put a nickel in and dialed. Really, considering the problem, things were working out remarkably well. He heard the phone ring once on the other end. Then the line went dead.

Mike had never known a phone to act that way before. He hung up and looked for the nickel to come back, but it didn't.

Better try again.

He put in another nickel and dialed. The phone rang once—and died.

He put in another nickel and dialed a third time. Again the phone rang once and died.

Mike suddenly realized that his money was gone. He was alone, miles

from home, with night coming on and a storm blowing, and no one to help him.

Unless Jesus would.

Mike was sure Jesus could. The Bible tells of a thousand wonderful things Jesus did in days gone by. But would He? Would Jesus help a boy find a dime to get home with—in these days?

Mike had it figured out now that a dime would be enough. Ten cents would pay the bus fare back to school, and he had a friend who lived near the bus stop who had a phone he could use to call home.

He closed his eyes in the middle of that crowded store and prayed. "Dear Jesus, please help me get a dime. I'm here all alone by myself, and there isn't anyone else to help me but You."

He opened his eyes, and a very wonderful thing happened. A man walked into the store and looked all the boys over carefully. Then he said, "You, boy. Would you like to earn a dime?"

He was pointing at Mike!

"Yes, SIR!" Mike said.

"Then come with me," the man said. "My car's stalled outside and I need someone to help me push it. Will you do that?"

Mike pushed, the car started, and the man paid him the dime.

Mike was soon on his way home, sitting in the bus, wondering at the marvelous mystery of it all. Why did the man's car stall when it did? Why did the man look the boys over so carefully? Why did he choose him? Why did he offer to pay exactly a dime?

"Dear Jesus," Mike whispered. "Now I know You really do love me, not just because of what the Bible says, but because of what You have done for me today. Thank You so much."

40 Favorite Children's Stories, Lawrence Maxwell, ©2009, 10–13 

Who Touched Me?

This woman had been ill for many years. The physicians could not help her, but she believed that if she could touch Jesus, she would be healed.

I've been thinking lately about one of my favorite Bible stories. Mark 5 tells us about a woman who had been ill for 12 years. She had seen doctor after doctor, went through treatment after treatment, and spent every dinar she had. She was alone, broke, discouraged, and still sick. Have you ever spent days, weeks, years, living with something, but you don't know what it is, and the best anyone can tell you is that it just is? She was desperate.

One day she heard that Jesus, the Teacher and Healer, would be coming close by. She had heard what He taught and about those He had healed. Perhaps she personally knew someone He had healed. Sick and weak, she still determined to join the crowd waiting for Him. If she could just get close enough to ask Him to heal her. But when she arrived at the spot He would pass by, there were so many people already gathered, waiting to see Him. How would she ever get close enough?

She determined that if she could just get close enough to touch the hem of His garment, she had faith enough to believe that she would be healed.

I'd like to think about a couple of things that I personally find to be so profound about this story.

1. The path Christ took that day was not His usual path. Mrs. White tells us that, "Christ understood all that was in her heart, and He placed Himself where she could have the



opportunity she desired. He would use that act to distinguish the touch of genuine faith from the casual contact of those who were crowding about Him." *In Heavenly Places*, 108

2. When it seemed impossible for her to connect with Jesus, she pressed forward and touched just the hem of His garment. Immediately, she felt the healing surge spread throughout her body. Because of her faith, Jesus knew the difference between her touch and the indifferent jostling of the crowd. This was no casual touch. It was the touch of faith, and His divine power could not be withheld. It responded to the longing of her heart.


Christ said, "Who touched Me?" Surrounded by people pressing around Him on every side, He felt the touch of faith, the yearning desire for the help only He could give. When it was clear that she could not conceal herself, she came forward, relating the story of her suffering

for the last 12 years and her belief that if she could just touch His garment, she would be healed. Then Christ said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well." (See Mark 5:25-34; *Daughters of God*, 63, 64.)

"Here was distinguished the casual contact from the touch of faith. Prayer and preaching, without the exercise of living faith in God, will be in vain. But the touch of faith opens to us the divine treasure house of power and wisdom; and thus, through instruments of clay, God accomplishes the wonders of His grace.

"This living faith is our great need today. ...

"There is a wide difference between a pretended union and a real connection with Christ by faith. ...

"This spiritual relation can be established only by the exercise of personal faith. ... Our will must be wholly yielded to the divine will" *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 228, 229 

2026 Camp Meeting

Mark your calendar for:

May 20-23, 2026

Speakers:

Pastor John Grosboll
Pastor Domingo Nunez
Pastor Ivan Plummer
Mamon Wilson

There will be meetings for the children and young people. Additional information will be provided in the May *Land-Marks* and the May/June Newsletter. The registration form will be in the May/June Newsletter. Attendees will be responsible for making their own lodging arrangements.



April Sermon of the Month

Hell

Marshall J. Grosboll

The Bible says that hell is kindled by the Eternal One, a fire that cannot be put out, but a fire that dies away when everything is burned up.

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

From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

April 2026

Dear friend,

After feeding the 5,000 from five barley loaves and two small fish, Jesus said, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." John 6:12

"It is wrong to waste our time, wrong to waste our thoughts. We lose every moment that we devote to self-seeking. If every moment were valued and rightly employed, we should have time for everything that we need to do for ourselves or for the world. In the expenditure of money, in the use of time, strength, opportunities, let every Christian look to God for guidance." *The Ministry of Healing*, 208

"In this act of supplying the temporal necessities of a hungry multitude is wrapped up a deep spiritual lesson." *The Signs of the Times*, August 19, 1987

"Christ's care of the fragments is a striking evidence of His divinity. It was as essential for Him to bid the disciples gather up the fragments, as it was for Him to create the food to feed the multitude. He must point the people to God's standard of economy in the saving of food as well as of money. There was use for it all.

"... In spiritual as in temporal things, nothing is to be wasted. We are to let slip no temporal opportunity, no spiritual advantage; we are to waste nothing that will tend to benefit a human being or that will help to relieve the necessities of earth's hungry ones.

"When the baskets of fragments were collected, the people thought of their friends at home. They wanted them to share in the bread that Christ had blessed. The contents of the baskets were distributed among the eager throng, and were carried away into all the region round about. So those who were at the feast were to give to others the bread that comes down from heaven, to satisfy the hunger of the soul. They were to repeat what they had learned of the wonderful things of God. Nothing was to be lost.

"The lesson should be carefully studied. The Lord values every gift that He bestows upon man, and His command on this occasion demonstrated to the whole multitude the value He places on His blessings. We are dependent upon God for life, for means, for health, for food, for the very air we breathe. Christ's own example of industry and frugality teaches us to use with care the gifts we receive at His hand." *Ibid.*, December 15, 1909

Your brother in Christ,

Handwritten signature of John J. Grosboll.

John J. Grosboll

The Manatee

The manatee, commonly called a sea cow, is a large fully-aquatic marine mammal. It can be as much as 9-15 feet long and can weigh 880-1,300 pounds. Females tend to be larger and heavier than the males. Baby manatees weigh 66 pounds at birth. It lives in shallow, marshy coastal areas and rivers in the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Amazon basin, and West Africa.

It has a paddle-like tail that looks similar to a beaver's tail and two flippers. It is slow-moving and curious. The eyes are widely-spaced. The ears are internal, but outside the opening is small. They can be found approximately four inches behind each eye. It emits a wide range of sounds to communicate. And it is believed that taste, smell, sight, sound, and touch are all used to communicate.

The manatee is an herbivore. Its main diet is freshwater and saltwater plants. It has a large, flexible prehensile upper lip which allows it to grip or grasp as it gathers food. It is also used during social interaction and to communicate. An adult manatee has no incisors or canine teeth. Its cheek teeth are replaced multiple times throughout its life. It typically has no more than six teeth in each jaw, similar to an elephant. It has a simple stomach, like the horse, with a large cecum in which tough plant matter can be digested. The intestines are approximately 148 feet long, unusually long for a mammal the size of a manatee. It uses its flippers to walk along the bottom while it digs for plants and roots.


The manatee breeds once every two years and gives birth, generally, to just one calf. Gestation is about 12 months and the calf is totally weaned from the mother in 12-18 months.

Except when with its young or a male following a receptive female, it is a solitary creature. Fifty percent of the day is spent sleeping submerged, though it surfaces at 20-minute intervals for air. The remainder of the day is spent grazing in shallow waters between 3-6 feet deep. It swims up to five miles per hour, but can, in short bursts, swim up to 20 miles per hour.

The manatee is intelligent and capable of performing discrimination tasks including complex associative learning like dolphins and seals, with good long-term memory. Its social interactions are highly complex which may be indicative of higher intelligence. Sadly, it is poorly understood by science.

The manatee's worst enemy is man who is its main cause of death. Having a curious nature, it encounters man and is killed or harmed by propeller-driven boats and ships. Man also destroys its habitat. It hears at a higher frequency than most mammals its size and large boats emit sound at a lower frequency. This confuses the manatee and explains its lack of awareness when boats are around. However, when boats emit a higher frequency, the manatee will rapidly swim away. It also dies as a result of adverse temperatures, poor water quality, genetic diversity, disease, starvation, and crocodiles that eat their young. Red tide, microscopic algae, has a toxic effect on the manatee's central nervous system.

If the manatee can manage to survive man, crocodile, and natural causes, it can live up to 60 years. What a magnificent creature!

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee 



from the
Mission Fields



Progress in Kenya

Pastor Domingo Nunez

Things are progressing in Kenya.

Three years ago, we completed construction on an office building in Keroka. Led by Zachary Makwaro, the brothers and sisters in Keroka have fully dedicated themselves to preaching and teaching in their community and who meet every Sabbath to worship and praise the Lord. There is also a second group in Kisii led by Moses Asimba.

Over an hour drive from the Keroka office, by God's grace, we have two sister congregations. Led by Elder Evans Abuga Mongska and Ebisiba Kwamboka Abuga, his wife, one congregation is in Gesusu.

From Gesusu, the second congregation is in the nearby village of Geteli. This congregation is led by Elder Gilbert Solo Kanani and his wife, Jane Mokeira Sipo.

I have had the privilege this year to see the work as it progresses in Kenya and I am very happy, encouraged, and motivated as the gospel work continues to grow.

The brothers and sisters in Gesusu and Geteli need our prayers for their continued protection while they spread the three angels' messages in these four communities, preparing people for the second coming of our Lord.

If you desire to help the work in Kenya, mark your donation as *Missions-Kenya*. They are in need of Bibles, office equipment, and other materials, so that they will have everything they need to reach souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ. [LM](#)



Top left: Gilbert and wife Jane presenting team service



Top right: Gesusu village church group



Middle right: Geteli village church group with Pastor Domingo Nunez

Bottom left: Elder Evans Abuga Mongska and his wife Ebisiba Kwamboka



Bottom right: Elder Gilbert Solo Kanani and Jane Mokeira Sipo, his wife, Geteli village





Lupin Beans

As much as soy is talked about today, it wasn't always a well-known product in the West. In fact, scholars of Asian culture and social development, noticed how people in China lived long lives, had large families, and worked the land diligently from generation to generation with trade in soybeans as their main source of income. Their entire livelihood was based on this grain. It took them decades to explore its value and excellent nutritional properties. This product has been an icon of Asian cuisine and life for millennia.

However, in another part of the world, also relatively unknown until the last century, there is a legume very similar to soybean that is native to the South American Andes: the lupin bean.

Lupin bean is a legume cultivated by the ancient inhabitants of the central Andean region since pre-Incan times. According to studies, its cultivation began approximately between 2500 and 2200 BC. Native to the Andes, lupin beans grow at altitudes between 0.1–2.5 miles above sea level, in temperate and cold climates.

Once washed and cooked, it is ready for human consumption. Currently, lupin bean has a strong presence in traditional Ecuadorian cuisine, and because it is a food very rich in protein, it is nutritionally very good for our bodies, even more so than soybeans.

Its cultivation and consumption have grown gradually in recent years due to the ease with which the plant thrives in any

type of soil. Lupin has many uses, including medicinal, industrial, and agricultural, and there are also experiments underway to use the plant's residue as fuel.

Characteristics

TECHNICAL NAME: Lupi Nut
FAMILY: Fabaceae, Leguminosae
Scientific name: *Lupinus mutabilis* Sweet
COMMON NAME: Chocho
ORIGIN: America and Mediterranean

Lupin is an annual plant. Depending on the species it can reach a height of six feet and more. Each plant produces

eight to 28 elongated pods, one to two inches long, containing six to eight oval beans that vary in color from white, gray, tan, brown, black, and marbled. They have a high content of calcium, phosphorus, iron, protein, and oils. Various products can be derived from the lupin bean and used in food once the alkaloids that make it bitter have been removed through debittering, either by cooking or prolonged soaking.

Growing Climate

The optimal temperature for this crop is between 46° F and 57° F. It should not be planted in areas at risk of frost and hail, which especially affect the plant in its initial stages of development, though it can withstand these conditions in its adult stage.

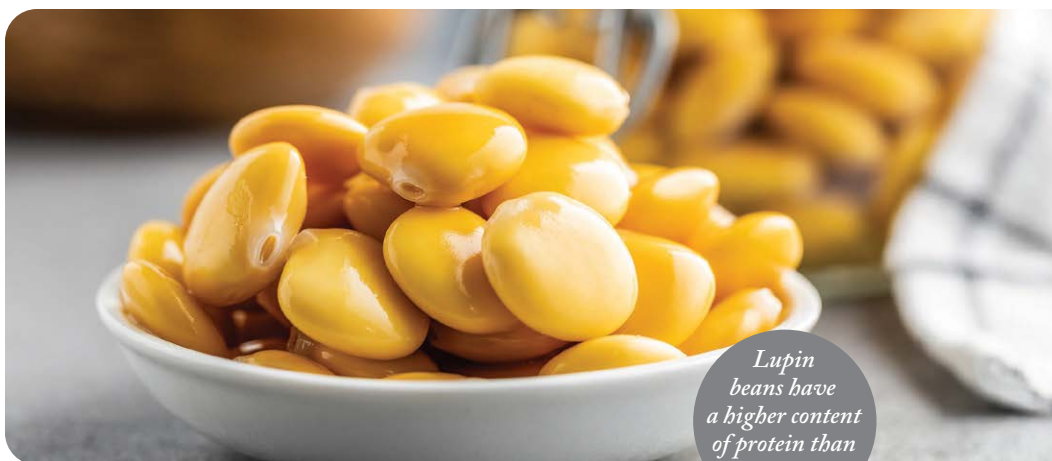
Cultivation

The lupin crop is located in the Andes Mountains, in the provinces of Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Pichincha, Bolívar, Tungurahua, Carchi, and Imbabura. It is planted in dry, sandy areas between December and March and has a vegetative cycle of six to eight months, depending on whether it is an early or late variety. It does not need much humidity but is affected by excessive drought. It requires between six and seven hours of sunlight daily.

It thrives in well-aerated, loose soils with a balanced nutrient profile, predominantly phosphorus and potassium, with good natural drainage and a pH between 5.6 and 6.8. During flower and fruit formation, it requires a large amount of water.

Harvest

The lupin bean is harvested when the leaves yellow and fall from the plant, the stem becomes woody, the pods dry, and the beans can withstand the pressure of a fingernail.



Lupin beans have a higher content of protein than soy beans.

Up to two harvests can be carried out: early-maturing ecotypes (six months) and long-cycle ecotypes (12 months). The first harvest is when the central stems are dry, and their beans are used as seed because they are larger and more uniform.

The second harvest takes place 20 to 30 days later when the lateral branches are mature or dry, with a moisture content of 15% to 18%. Harvesting is done with a sickle.

Uses

Initially, lupin beans were used to make ceviche, potato stew with lupin beans, chili sauces, lupin bean tamales, salads, and refreshing drinks. However, they were mainly consumed as whole beans on their own.

Today, the bean is consumed in stews, purées, sauces, salads, ceviches, soups, lupin bean cream, desserts, and juices. Lupin bean flour can be incorporated up to 15% into baked goods to significantly improve the protein and calorie content.

Growing children are greatly benefited by the use of lupin thanks to its organic calcium and magnesium content. As a personal recommendation, just wait until you taste lupin in ceviche*, I'm sure you'll be hooked! Enjoy!

* Ceviche is a cold dish appetizer popular in Latin American countries along the Pacific Ocean. While it is most often made including fish and shrimp, there are many vegan recipes made with a variety of different fruits, vegetables, seasonings, and herbs available online.

Sources: *Drummond, C. S.; et al. (2012). "Multiple continental radiations and correlates of diversification in Lupinus (Leguminosae): Testing for key innovation with incomplete taxon sampling."* Systematic Biology. 61 (3): 443–60. doi:10.1093/sysbio/syr126. PMC 33 29764. PMID 22228799. Archived from the original on 14 July 2016. [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, Virginia and also completed additional 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. He loves playing the piano, traveling, and vegan cuisine.

God's Gifts to His Last-day People

John J. Grosboll

To be a Free Seventh-day Adventist, you must first be a Seventh-day Adventist. To be a Seventh-day Adventist, you must first be an Adventist. You cannot be an Adventist, and therefore, cannot be a Free Seventh-day Adventist, if you do not believe the Bible doctrine of the Investigative Judgment, a foundational doctrine to the advent faith.

Critics within the Seventh-day Adventist church are working to undermine the doctrine of the Investigative Judgment, saying that it can only be proven from the Spirit of Prophecy. This is why, when I address the subject, I use the Bible alone. While the Spirit of Prophecy is helpful in proving the doctrine, it is not needed.

For the sake of this study, we will assume that you already understand and believe in the Investigative Judgment.

“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

Two statements.

1. The second advent movement is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.
2. The second advent movement has within it the gift of prophecy. This also is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Now we will look for the evidence to prove these statements from the Bible.

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud

voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’” Revelation 14:6, 7

Revelation shows us that there are many messages delivered by many angels. These angels are given control of what is going on in the world. For example:

“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.” Revelation 7:1

When these four angels let loose of the four winds, there will be an unimaginable scene of strife and trouble in this world. But for now, they are still holding them back.

“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.” Revelation 1:20

Seven churches. Each representing the changing spiritual characteristics of God’s church throughout history. Every church has an angel whose work is to impress the minds of the

people, but they are not commissioned to preach the gospel. God asks His people to be coworkers with Him in spreading the gospel.

The first angel.

Revelation 14:6 tells us that the first angel’s message will be given to “those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.” What is his message? The everlasting gospel. The power of this gospel makes it possible for a soul to be set free from sin and its guilt, and the character to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Those who accept the gospel message given by the first angel will take it to all the world.

But the first angel’s message includes something in addition to the gospel. Paul wrote about it in Acts 17:31 while preaching to the Athenians.

“Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him [Jesus] from the dead.”

Paul preached that a day is coming when God will judge the people of the world. Notice, Paul indicates that this is a future event.

Paul also preached the message of a coming, future judgment to Felix, governor of Judea and Samaria, and a very wicked man. Speaking to Felix, Paul offered him his one and best chance to have eternal life; the same gift offered to all who accept the everlasting gospel.

“Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you.’” Acts 24:25

Paul told Felix there was a judgment coming, not in their day, but in the future. He told the Athenians God had appointed a specific, future time when He will judge the world in righteousness. And we see in the first angel’s message that that time has come.

“Saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come.’” Revelation 14:7

The Protestant reformers didn’t preach that the judgment was happening in the 16th century. Martin Luther knew that the judgment was in the future. A brilliant Bible student, he said the judgment would occur about 300 years into the future. He was very nearly right.

A few facts about the judgment.

- **GOD’S JUDGMENT PROCEEDS FROM HIS SANCTUARY.** “He has prepared His throne for judgment.” Psalm 9:7, *last part*
- **GOD HAS PREPARED HIS THRONE FOR JUDGMENT.** “A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.” Jeremiah 17:12
- **GOD’S THRONE IS IN HIS SANCTUARY.** “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 thousand stood before Him. The court was seated,

and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:9, 10

Looking at the context of these two texts, we certainly know that the judgment could not occur until sometime after 1798. The judgment is to set things right in God’s sanctuary. What needs to be set right? That’s not a difficult question to answer.

What needs to be set right?

The Bible is full of information to answer this question.

“Pour out Your indignation upon them, and let Your wrathful anger take hold of them. Let their habitation be desolate; let no one dwell in their tents. For they persecute Him whom You have struck, and talk of the grief of those You have wounded. Add iniquity to their iniquity, and let them not come into Your righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” Psalm 69:24–28

Daniel 7 says there are books in this judgment, the judgment was set, the books were opened, and we see there is a book of the living. But David is talking about the wicked. He says, “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” Verse 28

If something is right, there is no need to blot it out. In figurative language, when David says that these names should be blotted out of the book of the living, he means that they are headed for eternal death not eternal life.

The first and second deaths.

The time is coming that if your name is not in the book of the living, you will

die forever and never wake up. “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:14, 15

When you die the first time, your body dies but your character, your spirit, is preserved.

Jesus said, “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Matthew 10:28

We need only fear the first death if we choose not to accept Jesus as our Saviour. In the first death, the soul does not die;

man’s body rests in an unconscious state, but the soul resides with God until the resurrection at the second coming. Only Jesus can save your soul. Mankind can destroy the body, but the soul belongs to God. Mrs. White is very clear about this.

“The sword cannot kill the soul, for the life is hid with Christ in God.” *Our High Calling*, 320

Moses said, “Yet now, if You will forgive their [the children of Israel’s] sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.” Exodus 32:32

Moses was willing to lose his life eternally to save the children of Israel but the Lord said that’s not the way it is. “And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.’” Verse 33

“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

“

Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

In the judgment, one of two things will happen: sins are blotted out or a name is blotted out. God said, the one who has sinned against Me is the one I will blot out of My book. It makes all the difference in the world whether your name is in the Book of Life, because if it isn't, in the second death both body and soul are destroyed. This is what is wrong with God's heavenly sanctuary. There are millions of people all over the world who have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour and their names are written in the Book of Life, but they are not overcoming their sins. The Holy Spirit pleads with them day after day, week after week.

The Holy Spirit doesn't tell you every sin. He puts His finger on the sin that you need to overcome today. We must listen to our conscience. The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome one sin at a time, because He knows we would be overwhelmed if we had to face all of our sinfulness at once.

God keeps records in His books.

- God keeps a record of everything that we have ever done, good or bad. "God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14
- God has a record of every word that we have ever spoken. "I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:36, 37

- God has a record of every thought you have ever thought. "I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory." Isaiah 66:18

"O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether."

Psalm 139:1-4

That is something beyond human comprehension, but there is very good evidence in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy that it is so. God understands your thought before you think it, your words before you speak them.

"Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens [earthly sanctuary] should be purified with these [animal sacrifices], but the heavenly things themselves [heavenly sanctuary] with better sacrifices [sacrifices of Christ] than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." Hebrews 9:23-26

Jesus was not sacrificed on the cross just so that He could forgive your sins, He was sacrificed on the cross so that He could put away sin.

The 144,000 are a special group mentioned in the book of Revelation, but if you are not part of the 144,000 then this verse applies to you, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many." Verses 27, 28, *first part*

Your judgment occurs after your death. For the 144,000, judgment occurs during their lifetime and at the same time as those who are not part of the 144,000 and who will be lost in the last generation. While people are living in the world, their destiny will be decided.

"Unto evenings and mornings two thousand three hundred, then the sanctuary will be cleansed [set right, justified, vindicated]." Daniel 8:14

God's gifts.

The Bible teaches that in the last days, during the time of the judgment, God will give to His people the gift of prophecy.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27

When Jesus comes again, He will have a holy church without blemish. How is the Lord ever going to get a church like that?

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13

“
Every church has an
angel whose work is to
impress the minds of the
people.”

The purpose of these gifts is to educate and train God's church and to equip the saints to do the work of ministry. Only then will we come together, unified in faith in the Son of God until we are remade into a perfect man after the likeness of Christ. Only then will God have a church ready to be received at Jesus' second coming.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5, 6

The great and dreadful day of the Lord is still a future event. Before it comes, God said He would send an Elijah prophet. That prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus came the first time. However, that wasn't the final fulfillment. When Jesus came the first time, it was the great and dreadful day of the Lord. So, we know that God will send another Elijah prophet and then the future great and dreadful day of the Lord will come.

"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; blood and fire and pillars of smoke [Hebrew: pillars of smoke in the shape of a palm tree]. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, [and] among the remnant whom the Lord calls." Joel 2:28-32



Each verse should stand on its own weight.

I had a theology teacher who would say, "Make each verse that you preach stand on its own weight." When a verse says something important, you need to be sure that you let that verse stand and give its testimony. Let's use this principle and allow Revelation 12:17, to give its testimony.

"The dragon [devil] was enraged with the woman [pure church clothed with the sun and the moon is under her feet] and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [the remnant, the last church], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

This verse says very clearly that the last pure church of God on this earth, will have two characteristics. First, His church will keep His commandments.

James says, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10

You cannot be called a commandment-keeping Christian:

- If you do not keep all ten of the commandments including the fourth, the Sabbath commandment.
- If you condone men and women living together without being married.
- If you worship any kind of idol.
- If you kneel before another man.
- If you worship on Sunday.
- If you speak lies.
- If you practice unrighteousness.

Once you study the ten commandments, you will find that all of mankind will be excluded from heaven except the saints, holy people spotless and without blemish. The Bible says, "Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good." Romans 7:12

So, the person who keeps the commandments is made holy through obedience. The person who breaks one or more of the commandments is an unholy person; that includes almost everyone.

Second, God's church has the testimony of Jesus.

"I [John] fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'See that you do not do that!'" Revelation 19:10, *first part*

Angels do not accept worship. But all around the world we see sinful man bowing and worshiping sinful man.

"I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Verse 10, *last part*. What is the testimony of Jesus? The Spirit of Prophecy. And only God's last-day people will have it.

Skeptical people.

This world is filled with skeptical people. People who may believe in something or part of something, but still hold back. Let's look at three questions that we must have the answers to.

1. **Does God exist?** That wasn't a hard question for me to answer. I knew that God existed because in the past He had directly answered so many of my prayers.

2. **Is the Bible His book?** Do you believe that all 66 books are inspired? There's argument about this because the Roman Catholic Church says that the Apocrypha is inspired. I spent several months studying this and I knew the Apocrypha is not inspired. The Protestant Reformers didn't believe the Apocrypha was inspired. The Jews in Jesus' day knew that the Apocrypha wasn't inspired, but people now are mixed up. There are some people who can't figure out whether the books of James and 2 Peter should be in the New Testament or whether the book of Esther should be in the Old Testament. However, all of my studies have led me to believe in the inspiration of all 66 books.

3. **Is Ellen White a prophet of God?** What are the Bible tests of a prophet?

- a) A prophet of God will always teach in harmony with the law of God.
 "To the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20
- b) Does this prophet's work bear good fruit? "You will know them [false prophets in sheep's clothing] by their fruits. ... Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ... Therefore by their fruits you will know them." Matthew 7:16–20
- c) A true prophet always glorifies Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "And when He [the Holy Spirit] has come ... He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." John 16:8, *first part*, 14
- d) A person who has the gift of prophecy will have visions and dreams.
 "If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord will reveal Myself to him in a vision and in a dream." Numbers 12:6

When a prophet is in vision, they lose all strength, they lose all breath and yet are able to continue speaking, sometimes remaining in vision for hours. There is documented evidence that this was Mrs. White's experience when she was in vision. You cannot fake it. Only God provides the strength to maintain the prophet.

- e) A true prophet will confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh (1 John 4:1–3). If they do not, then the spirit that actuates them is the spirit of antichrist.
- f) A true prophet will make predictions that will be fulfilled.

In 1922, F. C. Gilbert wrote and published *Divine Predictions Fulfilled*, which contains many examples of Mrs. White's predictions. *Prophet of the End*, written by Vance Ferrell mentions many more.

Take heed of the prophet's predictions.

We must be aware of the importance of Mrs. White's predictions concerning the end of time.

"The time is fast coming when the controlling power of the labor unions will be very oppressive. Again and again, the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one." *Letter 5*, 1904

If the truckers' union went on strike, it would only be a matter of days before grocery store shelves would be empty. If the dock workers' union went on strike, necessities arriving by ship would sit offshore, rotting and deteriorating inside storage containers disrupting the supply chain. Oil would sit in tankers offshore and soon gas would be unavailable.

"We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over

again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies." *Ibid.*

"It is Satan's purpose to attract men and women to the cities, and to gain his object he invents every kind of novelty and amusement, every kind of excitement. And the cities of the earth today are becoming as were the cities before the Flood. ...

"In the days before the Flood, every kind of amusement was invented to lead men and women to forgetfulness and sin. Today, ... Satan is working with intensity, that the same conditions of evil shall prevail. And the earth is becoming corrupt. ...

"At such a time as this, the people who are seeking to keep the commandments of God should look for retired places away from the cities." *Country Living*, 14

"Men are seeking to bring those engaged in the different trades under bondage to certain unions. This is not God's planning, but the planning of a power that we should in no wise acknowledge. ...

"We are not to unite with secret societies or with trades unions. We are to stand free in God, looking constantly to Christ for instruction." *Ibid.*, 11

"The trade unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began." *Letter 200*, 1903

We were given a warning over a hundred years ago. The question is, are we listening? Friend, this world is headed very rapidly toward total destruction. Will you listen to God's instruction so that you might be delivered when the rest of this world is destroyed? **LM**

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April 26 – May 2, 2026

The Call of Abraham

Key Text

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.” Genesis 12:1

Study Help: *The Ministry of Healing*, 363–367; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 125–131

Introduction

“In order that God might qualify him for his great work as the keeper of the sacred oracles, Abraham must be separated from the associations of his early life.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 126

Sunday

1 WIDESPREAD APOSTASY FROM BABEL

1.a. After the dispersion from Babel, what spiritual condition developed in nearly all the inhabited areas of the world, including in the household of Abraham’s father? Joshua 24:2

Note: “After the dispersion from Babel idolatry again became well-nigh universal, and the Lord finally left the hardened transgressors to follow their evil ways, while He chose Abraham, of the line of Shem, and made him the keeper of His law for future generations. Abraham had grown up in the midst of superstition and heathenism. Even his father’s household, by whom the knowledge of God had been preserved, were yielding to the seductive influences surrounding them, and they ‘served other gods’ than Jehovah. But the true faith was not to become extinct.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 125

1.b. From age to age and through deep apostasy, how has God preserved His truth? Romans 11:4, 5

Note: “God has ever preserved a remnant to serve Him. Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Shem, in unbroken line, had preserved from age to age the precious revealings of His will. The son of Terah became the inheritor of this holy trust.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, 125

“From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 11

Monday

2 A WISE MOVE

2.a. In the providence of God, what did Terah do for the spiritual benefit of his household? Genesis 11:31. What should be our main consideration when deciding where to live?

Note: “The gospel is a wonderful simplifier of life’s problems. Its instruction, heeded, would make plain many a perplexity and save us from many an error. It teaches us to estimate things at their true value and to give the most effort to the things of greatest worth—the things that will endure. This lesson is needed by those upon whom rests the responsibility of selecting a home. They should not allow themselves to be diverted from the highest aim. Let them remember that the home on earth is to be a symbol of and a preparation for the home in heaven. Life is a training school, from which parents and children are to be graduated to the higher school in the mansions of God. As the location for a home is sought, let this purpose direct the choice. Be not controlled by the desire for wealth, the dictates of fashion, or the customs of society. Consider what will tend most to simplicity, purity, health, and real worth.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 363

2.b. What shows that it was God who influenced the decision to leave that center of idolatry called Ur? Genesis 15:7. What should we realize about the blessing of God’s guidance?

Note: “God desires to bring men into direct relation with Himself. In all His dealings with human beings He recognizes the principle of personal responsibility. He seeks to encourage a sense of personal dependence and to impress the need of personal guidance. He desires to bring the human into association with the divine, that men may be transformed into the divine likeness. Satan works to thwart this purpose. He seeks to encourage dependence upon men. When minds are turned away from God, the tempter can bring them under his rule. He can control humanity.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 242, 243

Tuesday

3 A NEEDED SEPARATION

3.a. Whom did God choose as a lightbearer? What characteristic qualified him to be chosen?
Nehemiah 9:7, 8

Note: “The son of Terah became the inheritor of this holy trust [the precious revealings of His will]. Idolatry invited him on every side, but in vain. Faithful among the faithless, uncorrupted by the prevailing apostasy, he steadfastly adhered to the worship of the one true God.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 125

3.b. Later, what message of God came to Abraham while he was in Haran? Genesis 12:1, 4

Note: “The influence of kindred and friends would interfere with the training which the Lord purposed to give His servant. Now that Abraham was, in a special sense, connected with heaven, he must dwell among strangers. His character must be peculiar, differing from all the world. He could not even explain his course of action so as to be understood by his friends. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and his motives and actions were not comprehended by his idolatrous kindred.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 126

Wednesday

4 DIVINE LIGHT COMES TO CANAAN

4.a. Why did the two brothers—Abraham and Nahor—have to separate from each other? Amos 3:3

Note: “Here [at Haran] Abraham remained till the death of Terah. But from his father’s grave the divine Voice bade him go forward. His brother Nahor with his household clung to their home and their idols. Besides Sarah, the wife of Abraham, only Lot, the son of Haran long since dead, chose to share the patriarch’s pilgrim life. Yet it was a large company that set out from Mesopotamia. . . .

“During their stay in Haran, both Abraham and Sarah had led others to the worship and service of the true God. These attached themselves to the patriarch’s household, and accompanied him to the land of promise.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 127

4.b. Why did God want Abraham to pitch his tent in Canaan, although the land was full of idolatry? Genesis 12:5, 8

Note: “Abraham, ‘the friend of God,’ set us a worthy example. His was a life of prayer. Wherever he pitched his tent, close beside it was set up his altar, calling all within his encampment to the morning and evening sacrifice. When his tent was removed, the altar remained. In following years, there were those among the roving Canaanites who received instruction from Abraham; and whenever one of these came to that altar, he knew who had been there before him; and when he had pitched his tent, he repaired the altar, and there worshiped the living God.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 128

Thursday

5 A TEST OF FAITH

5.a. How was Abraham's faith tested after he had settled down in Canaan in obedience to God's command? Genesis 12:10. What lesson did God want to teach Abraham as well as each of His children today?

Note: "Abraham could not explain the leadings of Providence; he had not realized his expectations; but he held fast the promise, 'I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing' (Genesis 12:2). With earnest prayer he considered how to preserve the life of his people and his flocks, but he would not allow circumstances to shake his faith in God's word. To escape the famine, he went down into Egypt. He did not forsake Canaan, or in his extremity turn back to the Chaldean land from which he came, where there was no scarcity of bread; but he sought a temporary refuge as near as possible to the Land of Promise, intending shortly to return where God had placed him.

"The Lord in His providence had brought this trial upon Abraham to teach him lessons of submission, patience, and faith—lessons that were to be placed on record for the benefit of all who should afterward be called to endure affliction. God leads His children by a way that they know not, but He does not forget or cast off those who put their trust in Him."
Patriarchs and Prophets, 129

5.b. For what purpose does God permit trials to come upon His servants? Deuteronomy 8:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:6, 7. What should we never overlook when we are tempted? Psalm 145:18

Note: "God permits trials to assail His people, that by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually enriched, and that their example may be a source of strength to others. 'I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil' (Jeremiah 29:11). The very trials that task our faith most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are to lead us closer to Christ, that



From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth.

we may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange.

"God has always tried His people in the furnace of affliction. It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test; He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal, that it may reflect the radiance of His love. It is by close, testing trials that God disciplines His servants. He sees that some have powers which may be used in the advancement of His work, and He puts these persons upon trial; in His providence He brings them into positions that test their character and reveal defects and weaknesses that have been hidden from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects and to fit themselves for His service. He shows them their own weakness, and teaches them to lean upon Him; for He is their only help and safeguard. Thus, His object is attained. They are educated, trained, and disciplined, prepared to fulfill the grand purpose for which their powers were given them. When God calls them to action, they are ready, and heavenly angels can unite with them in the work to be accomplished on the earth."
Patriarchs and Prophets, 129, 130

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How is the spiritual atmosphere prevailing today similar to that which existed in the days of Abraham?
2. What reformatory step taken by Terah is exemplary for us today?
3. In preparing Abraham to be a lightbearer, what did God command him to do, and why?
4. What should we learn from God's purpose in sending Abraham to Canaan?
5. Explain how our trials are to benefit us.

May 3 – 9, 2026

Choices in the Life of Lot

Key Text

“Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.” 2 Peter 2:9

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 56–170; *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 108–113

Introduction

“It will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for the cities of the plain than for those who have known the love of Christ, and yet have turned away to choose the pleasures of a world of sin.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 165

Sunday

1 A SERIOUS MISTAKE

1.a. When Lot and Abraham separated, what mistake did Lot make, and why? Genesis 13:10–13; Jude 7

Note: “Lot chose Sodom for his home because he saw that there were advantages to be gained there from a worldly point of view. But after he had established himself, and grown rich in earthly treasure, he was convinced that he had made a mistake in not taking into consideration the moral standing of the community in which he was to make his home.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 110

1.b. What should we remember when we choose a place to establish our residence? Ephesians 5:8–11; 1 Corinthians 15:33

Note: “In choosing a home, God would have us consider, first of all, the moral and religious influences that will surround us and our families. We may be placed in trying positions, for many cannot have their surroundings what they would; and whenever duty calls us, God will enable us to stand uncorrupted, if we watch and pray, trusting in the grace of Christ. But we should not needlessly expose ourselves to influences that are unfavorable to the formation of Christian character. When we voluntarily place ourselves in an atmosphere of worldliness and unbelief, we displease God and drive holy angels from our homes.

“Those who secure for their children worldly wealth and honor at the expense of their eternal interests, will find in the end that these advantages are a terrible loss. Like Lot, many see their children ruined, and barely save their own souls.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 169

Monday

2 A GOOD EXAMPLE

2.a. Why can it be said that, though Lot was in Sodom, he was not of Sodom? 2 Peter 2:7, 8

Note: “In Sodom there was mirth and revelry, feasting and drunkenness. The vilest and most brutal passions were unrestrained. The people openly defied God and His law and delighted in deeds of violence.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 157

“The dwellers in Sodom were corrupt; vile conversation greeted his [Lot’s] ears daily, and his righteous soul was vexed by the violence and crime he was powerless to prevent. His children were becoming like these wicked people, for association with them had perverted their morals. Taking all these things into consideration, the worldly riches he had gained seemed small and not worth the price he had paid for them.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 110

2.b. What can we learn from the consistent attitude of Lot while he lived in Sodom? Genesis 19:1–3; Hebrews 13:2

Note: “Seeing the abuse to which strangers were exposed in Sodom, Lot made it one of his duties to guard them at their entrance, by offering them entertainment at his own house. He was sitting at the gate as the travelers approached, and upon observing them, he rose from his place to meet them.”
Patriarchs and Prophets, 158

Tuesday

3 A CORRUPTING INFLUENCE

3.a. Despite the detrimental influence upon the spiritual stability of Lot, what did his appeal to the Sodomites reveal? Genesis 19:6–8. What should we learn from Lot’s experience in Sodom?

Note: “When iniquity abounds in a nation, there is always to be heard some voice giving warning and instruction, as the voice of Lot was heard in Sodom. Yet Lot could have preserved his family from many evils had he not made his home in this wicked, polluted city. All that Lot and his family did in Sodom could have been done by them, even if they had lived in a place some distance away from the city. Enoch walked with God, and yet he did not live in the midst of any city polluted with every kind of violence and wickedness, as did Lot in Sodom.”
Evangelism, 78

3.b. What type of mentality did Lot’s daughters develop while living in Sodom? Genesis 19:30–32

Note: “The sinful conduct of his [Lot’s] daughters was the result of the evil associations of that vile place. Its moral corruption had become so interwoven with their character that they could not distinguish between good and evil. Lot’s only posterity, the Moabites and Ammonites, were vile, idolatrous tribes, rebels against God and bitter enemies of His people”
Patriarchs and Prophets, 167, 168

“The sinful conduct of his [Lot’s] daughters after leaving Sodom was the result of wicked associations while there. The sense of right and wrong was confused in their minds, and sin did not appear as sin to them.” *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, 112*



When buying a home, we need to consider the moral and religious influences around it.

Wednesday

4 THE LAST CALL

4.a. Why did God not give Sodom one more chance as He later did for Nineveh? Genesis 18:32; 19:13, 14; Jonah 3:5, 10

Note: “The Sodomites had passed the boundary of mercy, and no more light was granted to them prior to their destruction. Had the warning gone through these cities of the plain, and had they been told just what was to come, who of them would have believed it?” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 1, 1093, 1094*

4.b. What call did God’s messengers extend to Lot and his family? What warnings should we heed from that call and from Lot’s hesitation? Genesis 19:15–26; 2 Timothy 2:19

Note: “How reluctant was Lot to obey the angel and go as far as possible from corrupt Sodom, appointed to utter destruction! He distrusted God and pleaded to remain. Living in the wicked city had weakened his faith and confidence in the justice of the Lord. He pleaded that he could not do as he was required, lest some evil should overtake him, and he should die. Angels were sent on a special mission to save the lives of Lot and his family; but Lot had so long been surrounded by corrupting influences that his sensibilities were blunted, and he could not discern the works of God and His purposes; he could not trust himself in His hands to do His bidding. He was continually pleading for himself, and this unbelief cost him the life of his wife.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 111

Thursday

5 A WARNING FOR OUR DAYS

5.a. Give the reasons why the attitude of Lot’s wife should be taken as a warning in these last days. Luke 17:32

Note: “The wife of Lot was a selfish, irreligious woman, and her influence was exerted to separate her husband from Abraham. But for her, Lot would not have remained in Sodom, deprived of the counsel of the wise, God-fearing patriarch. The influence of his wife and the associations of that wicked city would have led him to apostatize from God had it not been for the faithful instruction he had early received from Abraham. The marriage of Lot and his choice of Sodom for a home were the first links in a chain of events fraught with evil to the world for many generations.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 174

“While her [Lot’s wife’s] body was upon the plain, her heart clung to Sodom, and she perished with it. She rebelled against God because His judgments involved her possessions and her

children in the ruin. Although so greatly favored in being called out from the wicked city, she felt that she was severely dealt with, because the wealth that it had taken years to accumulate must be left to destruction. Instead of thankfully accepting deliverance, she presumptuously looked back to desire the life of those who had rejected the divine warning.” *Ibid.*, 161

5.b. What lesson does the history of Sodom and Gomorrah teach us today? 2 Peter 2:6; Luke 17:28–30

Note: “The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God’s mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 162–165

“Licentiousness is the special sin of this age. Never did vice lift its deformed head with such boldness as now. The people seem to be benumbed, and the lovers of virtue and true goodness are nearly discouraged by its boldness, strength, and prevalence. The iniquity which abounds is not merely confined to the unbeliever and the scoffer. Would that this were the case, but it is not. Many men and women who profess the religion of Christ are guilty. Even some who profess to be looking for His appearing are no more prepared for that event than Satan himself. They are not cleansing themselves from all pollution. They have so long served their lust that it is natural for their thoughts to be impure and their imaginations corrupt. It is as impossible to cause their minds to dwell upon pure and holy things as it would be to turn the course of Niagara and send its waters pouring up the falls.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, 346

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How may our priorities be perilously out of order as were Lot’s?
2. What good qualities can we learn from the example of Lot?
3. Why was the character of Lot’s daughters so different from his?
4. Knowing well the corruption in Sodom, why did Lot delay his exit?
5. What solemn warnings are we to heed from this lesson?

May 10 – 16, 2026

In Egypt, But Not of Egypt

Key Text

“Then I said to them, ‘Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.’” Ezekiel 20:7

Study Help: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 331–335; *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1100, 1101

Introduction

“God designed to magnify His name through His chosen people, by showing the vast difference existing between the righteous and the wicked, the servants of God and the worshipers of idols.” *The Signs of the Times*, May 19, 1881

Sunday

1 GOD’S NAME BROUGHT TO EGYPT

1.a. How was Joseph instrumental in bringing the name and knowledge of God to Egypt? Genesis 41:16, 28, 32, 38, 39; Psalm 105:17, 22

Note: “Not to the people of Egypt alone, but to all the nations connected with that powerful kingdom, God manifested Himself through Joseph. He desired to make him a light bearer to all peoples, and He placed him next the throne of the world’s greatest empire, that the heavenly illumination might extend far and near. By his wisdom and justice, by the purity and benevolence of his daily life, by his devotion to the interests of the people—and that people a nation of idolaters—Joseph was a representative of Christ. In their benefactor, to whom all Egypt turned with gratitude and praise, that heathen people, and through them all the nations with which they were connected, were to behold the love of their Creator and Redeemer.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 219, 220

1.b. How influential did Joseph become in Egypt? Genesis 45:8, 9; Psalm 105:20, 21. What was the secret of his prosperity? Psalm 1:1–3

Note: “At the time when he was called to the court of Pharaoh, Egypt was the greatest of nations. In civilization, art, learning, she was unequaled. Through a period of utmost difficulty and danger, Joseph administered the affairs of the kingdom; and this he did in a manner that won the confidence of the king and the people.” *Education*, 53

Monday

2 ISRAEL IN EGYPT—A SEPARATE PEOPLE

2.a. Though Joseph could have obtained for his brothers high positions in the Egyptian government, what did he advise and why? Genesis 47:2–6

Note: “Joseph, true to the worship of Jehovah, sought to save his brothers from the temptations to which they would be exposed at a heathen court; therefore he counseled them, when questioned by the king, to tell him frankly their occupation. The sons of Jacob followed this counsel, being careful also to state that they had come to sojourn in the land, not to become permanent dwellers there, thus reserving the right to depart if they chose.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 233

“Under Joseph’s fostering care, and the favor of the king who was then ruling, they [the Israelites] had spread rapidly over the land. But they had kept themselves a distinct race, having nothing in common with the Egyptians in customs or religion.” *Ibid.*, 242

2.b. Instead of learning to worship the God of Israel, why did the Egyptians come to fear and hate the descendants of Joseph? Exodus 1:8–10; Psalm 105:23–25, 38

Tuesday

3 AT THE ROYAL COURT

3.a. Describe the conflict between light and darkness at the court of Egypt in the days of Moses. Hebrews 11:24–26

Note: “By the laws of Egypt all who occupied the throne of the Pharaohs must become members of the priestly caste; and Moses, as the heir apparent, was to be initiated into the mysteries of the national religion. This duty was committed to the priests. But while he was an ardent and untiring student, he could not be induced to participate in the worship of the gods. He was threatened with the loss of the crown, and warned that he would be disowned by the princess should he persist in his adherence to the Hebrew faith. But he was unshaken in his determination to render homage to none save the one God, the Maker of heaven and earth. He reasoned with priests and worshipers, showing the folly of their superstitious veneration of senseless objects. None could refute his arguments or change his purpose, yet for the time his firmness was tolerated on account of his high position and the favor with which he was regarded by both the king and the people.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 245

3.b. When the time came for Israel to be delivered from bondage, how did Pharaoh lift up his heart against Heaven? Exodus 5:2. What warning should we take from the king’s rebellion?

Note: “By rejecting light from heaven, he [Pharaoh] became hard and unimpressible. The providence of God was revealing His power, and these manifestations, unacknowledged, were the means of hardening Pharaoh’s heart against greater light. Those who exalt their own ideas above the plainly specified will of God, are saying as did Pharaoh, ‘Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?’ Every rejection of light hardens the heart and darkens the understanding; and thus men find it more and more difficult to distinguish between right and wrong, and they become bolder in resisting the will of God.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1100

Wednesday

4 TRUE AND FALSE MIRACLES

4.a. What miracles did Satan work through his agents in Moses’ time, and for what specific purposes? Exodus 7:11, 12, 22; 8:7. Describe the resisters of truth today. 2 Timothy 3:1–8

Note: “He [the prince of evil] well knew that Moses, in breaking the yoke of bondage from off the children of Israel, prefigured Christ, who was to break the reign of sin over the human family. He knew that when Christ should appear, mighty miracles would be wrought as an evidence to the world that God had sent Him. Satan trembled for his power. By counterfeiting the work of God through Moses, he hoped not only to prevent the deliverance of Israel, but to exert an influence through future ages to destroy faith in the miracles of Christ. Satan is constantly seeking to counterfeit the work of Christ and to establish his own power and claims. He leads men to account for the miracles of Christ by making them appear to be the result of human skill and power.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 264, 265

4.b. In the working of miracles, how did God show His superior power? Exodus 8:8, 16–19. What was the purpose of His powerful manifestations? Exodus 7:5; 9:16; Psalm 106:8

Note: “When the Egyptians, from the king upon his throne down to the lowliest servant, were afflicted, and their firstborn were slain, then there was wailing throughout all Egypt. Then Pharaoh remembered his proud boast, ‘Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.’ He humbled himself and went with his counselors and his rulers to Goshen in haste, and bowed before Moses and Aaron, and bid them go and serve their God. ...

“There was quite a large number of the Egyptians who were led to acknowledge, by the manifestations of the signs and wonders shown in Egypt, that the God of the Hebrews was the only true God. They entreated to be permitted to come to the houses of the Israelites with their families, upon that fearful

night when the angel of God should slay the firstborn of the Egyptians. They were convinced that their gods whom they had worshiped were without knowledge, and had no power to save or to destroy. And they pledged themselves to henceforth choose the God of Israel as their God. They decided to leave Egypt, and go with the children of Israel to worship their God. The Israelites welcomed the believing Egyptians to their houses.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1101

Thursday

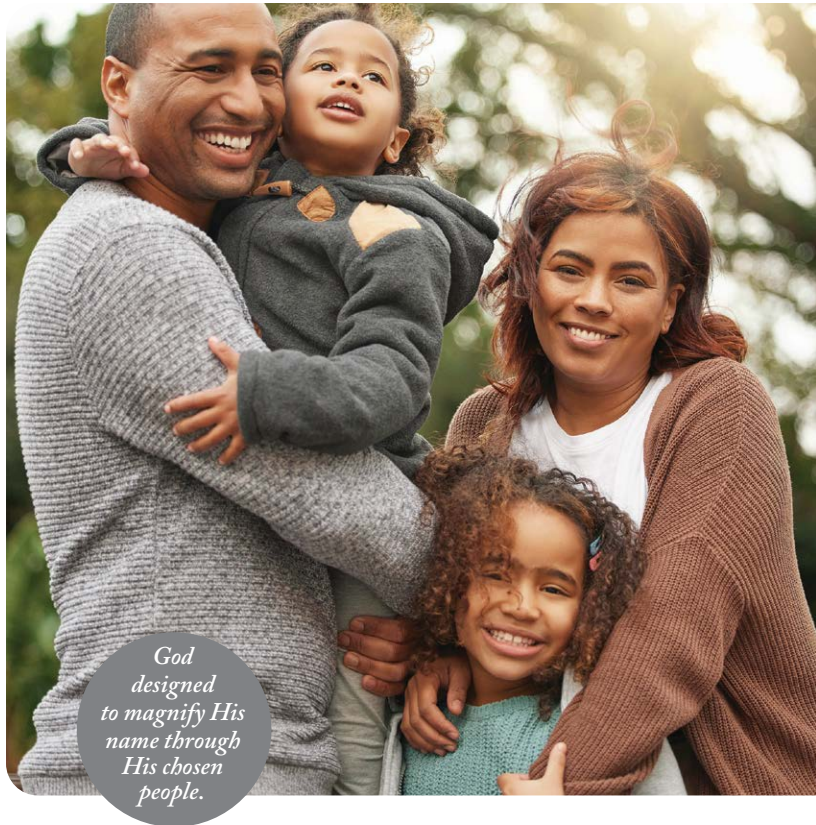
5 A WARNING FROM ISRAEL’S HISTORY

5.a. How did the Israelites repeatedly fall into the snares of Satan? Acts 7:39–43; Numbers 25:1–3

Note: “This people whom God had chosen, he [Satan] would wrench away, in the very face of Heaven. By leading them into idolatry, he would destroy the efficacy of all worship; for how can man be elevated by adoring what is no higher than himself and may be symbolized by his own handiwork? If men could become so blinded to the power, the majesty, and the glory of the infinite God as to represent Him by a graven image, or even by a beast or reptile; if they could so forget their own divine relationship, formed in the image of their Maker as to bow down to these revolting and senseless objects—then the way was open for foul license; the evil passions of the heart would be unrestrained, and Satan would have full sway.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 334, 335

5.b. In what ways does the history of Israel’s sojourn in Egypt teach us about God’s mercy? Ezekiel 20:7; Romans 15:4

Note: “Though the Egyptians had so long rejected the knowledge of God, the Lord still gave them opportunity for repentance. In the days of Joseph, Egypt had been an asylum for Israel; God had been honored in the kindness shown His people; and now the long-suffering One, slow to anger, and full of compassion, gave each judgment time to do its work; the Egyptians, cursed through the very objects they had



worshiped, had evidence of the power of Jehovah, and all who would, might submit to God and escape His judgments. The bigotry and stubbornness of the king resulted in spreading the knowledge of God, and bringing many of the Egyptians to give themselves to His service.

“It was because the Israelites were so disposed to connect themselves with the heathen and imitate their idolatry that God had permitted them to go down into Egypt, where the influence of Joseph was widely felt, and where circumstances were favorable for them to remain a distinct people. Here also the gross idolatry of the Egyptians and their cruelty and oppression during the latter part of the Hebrew sojourn should have inspired in them an abhorrence of idolatry, and should have led them to flee for refuge to the God of their fathers.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 333

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How and why was God able to use Joseph in Egypt?
2. How did Joseph reveal his faith in God’s plan for His people?
3. Explain the contrast between Moses’ exemplary firmness and Pharaoh’s stubbornness.
4. State the difference between God’s miracles and Satan’s.
5. What should the experience of Israel in Egypt teach us all?

May 17 – 23, 2026

Captivity and Deliverance from Babylon

Key Text

“Flee from the midst of Babylon, and everyone save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the Lord’s vengeance; He shall recompense her.” Jeremiah 51:6

Study Help: *Prophets and Kings*, 452–463; *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 2, 1040

Introduction

“With what tender compassion did God inform His captive people of His plans for Israel!” *Prophets and Kings*, 441

Sunday

1 THE GREAT APOSTASY

1.a. Describe the great apostasy in Judah shortly before the Babylonian captivity. Ezekiel 8:7–12

Note: “In the sixth year of the reign of Zedekiah, the Lord revealed to Ezekiel in vision some of the abominations that were being practiced in Jerusalem, and within the gate of the Lord’s house, and even in the inner court. The chambers of images, and the pictured idols, ‘every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel’—all these in rapid succession passed before the astonished gaze of the prophet. Ezekiel 8:10

“Those who should have been spiritual leaders among the people, ‘the ancients of the house of Israel,’ to the number of seventy, were seen offering incense before the idolatrous representations that had been introduced into hidden chambers within the sacred precincts of the temple court. ‘The Lord seeth us not,’ the men of Judah flattered themselves as they engaged in their heathenish practices; ‘the Lord hath forsaken the earth,’ they blasphemously declared. Verses 11, 12” *Prophets and Kings*, 448

1.b. What were some of the still greater abominations practiced in the temple of God? Ezekiel 8:13–17. Today, how may we who profess the three angels’ messages likewise be in danger of following after Baal, the sun-god?

Note: “In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal. Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the word.” *Prophets and Kings*, 170

Monday

2 CONSEQUENCES OF APOSTASY

2.a. What punishment did God permit to come upon Judah as a result of their apostasy? 2 Chronicles 36:14–20

Note: “At the time of the final overthrow of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, many had escaped the horrors of the long siege, only to perish by the sword. Of those who still remained, some, notably the chief of the priests and officers, and the princes of the realm, were taken to Babylon and there executed as traitors.” *Prophets and Kings*, 459, 460

2.b. How does Jeremiah describe the beginning of the Babylonian captivity, and why did this punishment have to be administered? Jeremiah 25:5–11

Note: “The children of Israel were taken captive to Babylon because they separated from God, and no longer maintained the principles that had been given to keep them free from the methods and practices of the nations who dishonored God. The Lord could not give them prosperity, He could not fulfill His covenant with them, while they were untrue to the principles He had given them zealously to maintain. By their spirit and their actions, they misrepresented His character, and He permitted them to be taken captive. Because of their separation from Him, He humbled them. He left them to their own ways, and the innocent suffered with the guilty.

“The Lord’s chosen people proved themselves untrustworthy. They showed themselves to be selfish, scheming, dishonorable. ...

“Why did He [the Lord] permit His people to be overcome by their enemies and carried into heathen lands?—It was because they had failed to be His missionaries.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 2, 1040

Tuesday

3 PRELIMINARY TRIALS

3.a. What inducements did Nebuchadnezzar use in order to try to convert four young Hebrew captives to the worship of the Babylonian gods? Daniel 1:3, 7. What similar temptations can the youth face today?

Note: “The king did not compel the Hebrew youth to renounce their faith in favor of idolatry, but he hoped to bring this about gradually. By giving them names significant of idolatry, by bringing them daily into close association with idolatrous customs, and under the influence of the seductive rites of heathen worship, he hoped to induce them to renounce the religion of their nation and to unite with the worship of the Babylonians.” *Prophets and Kings*, 481

3.b. How was the faith of the young Hebrews tried at the very beginning? Daniel 1:8–14. Explain how and why they revealed a decided advantage over the other students. Daniel 1:17–20



In
the praise of
popular leaders,
people today are
following
Baal.

Note: “A portion having been offered to idols, the food from the king’s table was consecrated to idolatry; and one partaking of it would be regarded as offering homage to the gods of Babylon. In such homage, loyalty to Jehovah forbade Daniel and his companions to join. Even a mere pretense of eating the food or drinking the wine would be a denial of their faith.” *Prophets and Kings*, 481

“This request [from Daniel] was not preferred in a defiant spirit, but was solicited as a great favor. ... Daniel and his companions ... were courteous, kind, respectful, possessing the grace of meekness and modesty. And now as Daniel and his fellows were brought to the test, they placed themselves fully on the side of righteousness and truth. They did not move capriciously, but intelligently. They decided that as flesh meat had not composed their diet in the past, neither should it come into their diet in the future.” *In Heavenly Places*, 261

Wednesday

4 TRIAL BY FIRE

4.a. What test came upon three of the young Hebrews after the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream? Daniel 3:12–18, 23–25

Note: “The appointed day came, and a vast concourse from all ‘people, nations, and languages,’ assembled on the plain of Dura. In harmony with the king’s command, when the sound of music was heard, the whole company ‘fell down and worshiped the golden image.’ On that eventful day the powers of darkness seemed to be gaining a signal triumph; the worship of the golden image bade fair to become connected permanently with the established forms of idolatry recognized as the state religion of the land. Satan hoped thereby to defeat God’s purpose of making the presence of captive Israel in Babylon a means of blessing to all the nations of heathendom.

“But God decreed otherwise. Not all had bowed the knee to the idolatrous symbol of human power. In the midst of the worshipping multitude there were three men who were firmly resolved not thus to dishonor the God of heaven. Their God was King of kings and Lord of lords; they would bow to none other.” *Prophets and Kings*, 506

4.b. How will the essence of Daniel 3:6 be repeated in these last days? Revelation 13:11, 14, 15

Note: “Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. Force is the last resort of every false religion. At first it tries attraction, as the king of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. So it will be now. The papacy has exercised her power to compel men to obey her, and she will continue to do so. We need the same spirit that was manifested by God’s servants in the conflict with paganism.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 976

Thursday

5 DELIVERANCE FROM BABYLON

5.a. How is the Babylonian captivity of Judah similar to the captivity of God’s people under spiritual Babylon? Matthew 24:21, 22

Note: “For many centuries God’s people suffered a restriction of their liberties. The preaching of the gospel in its purity was prohibited, and the severest of penalties were visited upon those who dared disobey the mandates of men. As a consequence, the Lord’s great moral vineyard was almost wholly unoccupied. The people were deprived of the light of God’s word. The darkness of error and superstition threatened to blot out a knowledge of true religion. God’s church on earth was as verily in captivity during this long period of relentless persecution as were the children of Israel held captive in Babylon during the period of the exile.” *Prophets and Kings*, 714

5.b. When the Babylonian captivity was to end, what message came to the Hebrew exiles? Jeremiah 51:6, 45. How does this message include today a solemn duty for all who accept God’s gracious deliverance from spiritual Babylon? 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

Note: “As the captive exiles heeded the message, ‘Flee out of the midst of Babylon’ (Jeremiah 51:6), and were restored to the Land of Promise, so those who fear God today are heeding the message to withdraw from spiritual Babylon. ...

“The hour of God’s judgment has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin. To every human being in the wide world who will give heed must be made plain the principles at stake in the great controversy being waged, principles upon which hang the destinies of all mankind.” *Prophets and Kings*, 715, 716

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In fleeing spiritual Babylon, what are we called to do?
2. What warnings should we heed from the Babylonian captivity?
3. In what ways can the four young Hebrews encourage us?
4. By what means are the flames of persecution to be rekindled?
5. How is the joy of deliverance from Babylon a call to action?

May 24 – 30, 2026

The Two Babylons

Key Text

“Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.” Revelation 18:6

Study Help: *Education*, 175–178; *The Great Controversy*, 570–573, 580, 581

Introduction

“It [Babylon] has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her.” *The Great Controversy*, 604

Sunday

1 A UNIVERSAL KINGDOM

1.a. What was the extent of ancient Babylon’s dominion?
Daniel 2:37, 38; 4:20–22

Note: “All unexpectedly a new world power, the Babylonian Empire, was rising to the eastward and swiftly overshadowing all other nations.” *Prophets and Kings*, 422

1.b. How vast is the dominion of modern Babylon?
Revelation 17:5; 13:3

Note: “The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country on the globe, are instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they

may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests.” *The Great Controversy*, 580

Monday

2 PROUD, CRUEL, OPPRESSIVE

2.a. What is written about the character of the ancient Babylonian conquerors and rulers? 2 Chronicles 36:17–20; Daniel 4:30. What lesson does the history of nations teach?

Note: “Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world’s great empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with nations of less power, history repeated itself. Each had its period of test, each failed, its glory faded, its power departed, and its place was occupied by another.

“While the nations rejected God’s principles, and in this rejection wrought their own ruin, it was still manifest that the divine, overruling purpose was working through all their movements.” *Education*, 177

“Instead of being a protector of men, Babylon became a proud and cruel oppressor.” *Ibid.*, 176

2.b. How is the character of modern Babylon depicted?
Revelation 17:6; 18:24

Note: “Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High.” *The Great Controversy*, 571

“By perverted conceptions of the divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of Deity; and horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry.

“The Roman Catholic Church, uniting the forms of paganism and Christianity, and, like paganism, misrepresenting the character of God, had resorted to practices no less cruel and revolting. In the days of Rome’s supremacy, there were instruments of torture to compel assent to her doctrines. There was the stake for those who would not concede to her claims. There were massacres on a scale that will never be known until revealed in the judgment. Dignitaries of the church studied, under Satan their master, to invent means to cause the greatest possible torture and not end the life of the victim. In many cases, the infernal process was repeated to the utmost limit of human endurance, until nature gave up the struggle, and the sufferer hailed death as a sweet release. Such was the fate of Rome’s opponents.” *Ibid.*, 569

Tuesday

3 INTOXICATING THE NATIONS

3.a. What influence did the doctrines of ancient Babylon exert upon other nations? Jeremiah 51:7. Who were her wise men, and what was the basis of their spiritualistic doctrines and practices? Isaiah 47:12, 13

Note: “Nearly all forms of ancient sorcery and witchcraft were founded upon a belief in communion with the dead. Those who practiced the arts of necromancy claimed to have intercourse with departed spirits, and to obtain through them a knowledge of future events. This custom of consulting the dead is referred to in the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God *for the living to the dead?*’ Isaiah 8:19.

“This same belief in communion with the dead formed the cornerstone of heathen idolatry. The gods of the heathen were believed to be the deified spirits of departed heroes. Thus, the religion of the heathen was a worship of the dead.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 684 [Author’s italics.]

3.b. What is the symbolic “wine” with which modern Babylon has inebriated the world? Revelation 17:2–4

Note: “The great sin charged against Babylon is that she ‘made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’ (Revelation 14:8). This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn, she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ.” *The Great Controversy*, 388

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” *Ibid.*, 588

Wednesday

4 AMBITIOUS ASPIRATIONS

4.a. What was the ambition of ancient Babylon? Isaiah 47:7. Yet, what was God’s declaration, and why? Isaiah 47:5; 13:18–22

Note: “Had the rulers of Babylon—that richest of all earthly kingdoms—kept always before them the fear of Jehovah, they would have been given wisdom and power which would have bound them to Him and kept them strong. But they made God their refuge only when harassed and perplexed. At such times, failing to find help in their great men, they sought it from men like Daniel—men who they knew honored the living God and were honored by Him. To these men they appealed to unravel the mysteries of Providence; for though the rulers of proud Babylon were men of the highest intellect, they had separated themselves so far from God by transgression that they could not understand the revelations and the warnings given them concerning the future.

“In the history of nations, the student of God’s word may behold the literal fulfillment of divine prophecy. Babylon, shattered and broken at last, passed away because in prosperity its rulers had regarded themselves as independent of God, and had ascribed the glory of their kingdom to human achievement.” *Prophets and Kings*, 501, 502

“The broad walls of Babylon’ became ‘utterly broken, and her high gates ... burned with fire’ (Jeremiah 51:58). Thus did Jehovah of hosts ‘cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease,’ and lay low ‘the haughtiness of the terrible.’ Thus did ‘Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency,’ become as Sodom and Gomorrah—a place forever accursed.” Ibid., 532, 533

4.b. What is the political “dream” of modern Babylon? Revelation 18:7, *last part*. To what extent will this dream briefly be realized?

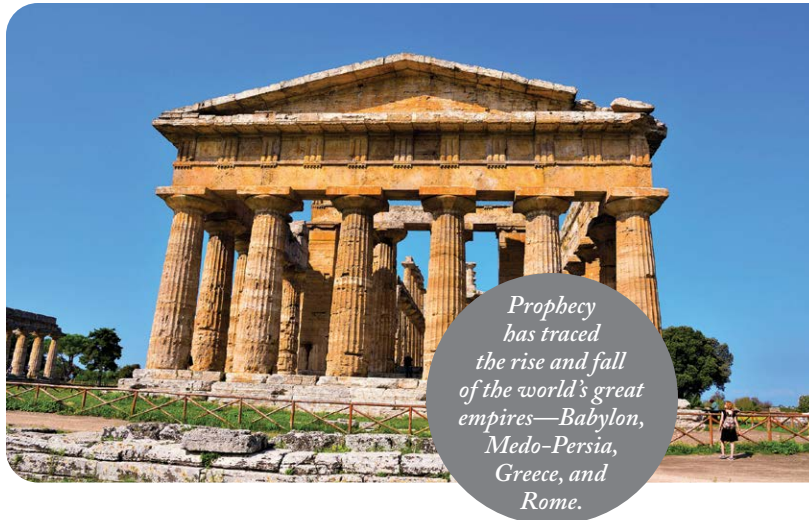
Note: “The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 949

Thursday

5 FINAL REWARD: DESTRUCTION

5.a. How did prophecy accurately foresee the final reward that was reserved for ancient Babylon? Jeremiah 51:8, 25, 29, 43

Note: “From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory. Babylon, with all its power and magnificence, the like of which our world has never since beheld—power and magnificence which to the people of that day seemed so stable and enduring—how completely has it passed away! As ‘the flower of the grass,’ it has perished. James 1:10” *Prophets and Kings*, 548



5.b. What does prophecy say about the final destruction of modern Babylon? Revelation 17:16; 18:8, 15–21. Why will God destroy her? Revelation 18:5, 6

Note: “The merchants of the earth,’ that have ‘waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies,’ shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought.’ Such are the judgments that fall upon Babylon in the day of the visitation of God’s wrath. She has filled up the measure of her iniquity; her time has come; she is ripe for destruction.” *The Great Controversy*, 653

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How extensive is the influence of modern Babylon?
2. Compare the characteristics of ancient and modern Babylon.
3. Name some major aspects of Babylonian “wine.”
4. How was prophecy fulfilled in the case of ancient Babylon?
5. What would God have us remember about modern Babylon?

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3 ½ cups water
2 ½-3 pitted dates
1 vanilla bean, roughly chopped
¼ tsp. cardamom
tiny pinch salt (optional)

Process

Cover the hazelnuts and almonds with water. Soak overnight for 8-12 hours. Rinse and drain. Place into a blender along with water, dates, vanilla bean, cardamom, and salt. Blend for 1 minute or so. Pour the milk mixture into a milk bag over a bowl. Gently squeeze the bag for 3-5 minutes to release the milk, leaving about 1 cup pulp. Pour into a jar with a lid. Refrigerate. Shake before using.



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