

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

Contradiction of Sinners

What is the meaning of contradiction of sinners and who endured it?

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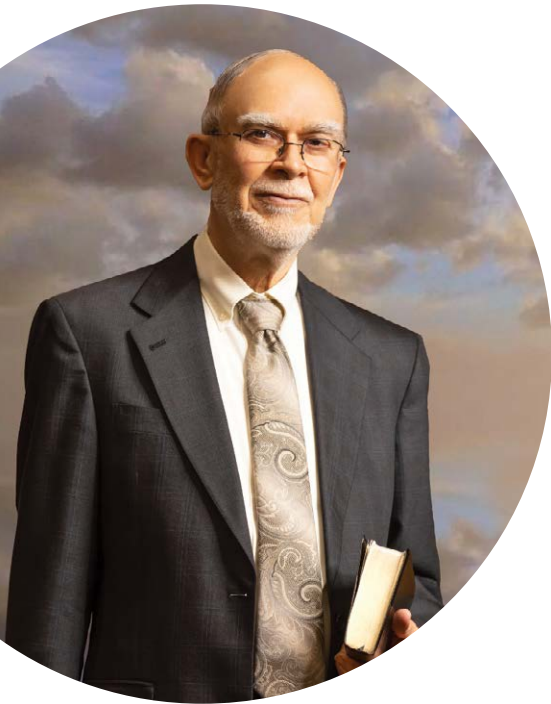
The Armada

Despite its overwhelming naval superiority, the Spanish Crown in the service of Papal Rome, was unable to conquer Protestant England.

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Don't Be Afraid

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From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

Knowing the Time

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Romans 13:11

"We have been asleep, as it were, regarding the work that may be accomplished by the circulation of well-prepared literature. Let us now, by the wise use of periodicals and books, preach the word with determined energy, that the world may understand the message that Christ gave to John on the Isle of Patmos. Let every human intelligence who professes the name of Christ testify: "The end of all things is at hand; prepare to meet thy God." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, 61, 62

"The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. Every report of calamity by sea or land is a testimony to the fact that the end of all things is at hand. ... Is there a Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before us? ...

"We are to prepare the way for Him by acting our part in getting a people ready for that great day." *The Review and Herald*, November 12, 1914

"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 342

"It is a Christian duty to study the best ways of helping the people. No one is to make the way to Christ wearisome and objectionable. Remove everything that would obstruct the path." *The Signs of the Times*, August 12, 1897

"All our works must be wrought in God. Each one is to do his own work in the Lord's vineyard. We must not look for someone else to do the work that lies directly in our pathway. Personal responsibilities must be borne; personal duties must be taken up; personal efforts must be made for those who do not know Christ. And for those who do this work in faith, the Holy Spirit will work as [He] worked for the disciples on the day of Pentecost." *Ibid.*, August 19, 1897 **LM**

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LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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

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

Contradiction of Sinners

John R. Pearson

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 (KJV)



It seems a common occurrence that, every once in a while, diligent Bible students will find themselves taking a second look at a familiar text and suddenly realizing that, although they have heard and read it many times, they are not exactly sure what it really means.

Such was the case with me when I took a hard look at Hebrews 12:3. “For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

You can probably guess the phrase in that text that gave me second thoughts: “contradiction of sinners . . .”

Although I had never sought a scholarly definition of *contradiction*, I had gained a general understanding from hearing it used occasionally in conversations and from encountering it while reading. I decided that it refers to an idea or situation opposed to another. With that level of understanding, you can see why I was a bit puzzled by the use of that word in Hebrews 12:3.

In the King James Version (KJV), the word is translated as “contradiction,” but in the New King James Version (NKJV) it is translated as “hostility.” So, in the NKJV, the text reads, “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”

This reading provides more understanding of the text.

My Research

After comparing different Bible translations, my first reaction is to turn to Strong’s *Concordance* when confronted with a puzzling word in Scripture. Here we find that the Greek word in question is *antilogia*. According to Strong’s, it means “dispute or disobedience.”

Now we have a little more understanding.

Next, I turn to *Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*, and find the following definitions for contradiction:



1. An assertion of the contrary to what has been said or affirmed; denial; contrary declaration.
2. Opposition, whether by words, reproaches, or attempts to defeat.

Interestingly, the usage example provided for that second definition is the text in question:

“Consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself.” Hebrews 12:3

After looking at these resources, I turn to the *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* (TSK), which provides cross-references to Scriptures that express the same or similar thoughts. In this text, there are over 30 cross-references, just from the gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John alone. And when you look those texts up in the TSK, it provides additional cross-references.

Let’s look at a couple of these cross-references found in the TSK for Hebrews 12:3.

“Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do Thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.” Matthew 15:1, 2

Here is a textbook example of “opposition by words and reproaches. . . .” Webster’s definition of contradiction, and an example that greatly clarifies the issue Paul described in Hebrews 12:1–3.

Mark 7:1–4 provides the following description of the same incident as a cross-reference to Matthew 15:1, 2.

“Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now, when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received to hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.”

Then, to gain a fuller understanding, I perform a word search in the *Spirit of Prophecy* to see how Mrs. White has used the word, thereby gaining a broader understanding of its context. Let’s look first at a passage from *The Acts of the Apostles*, 467.

“He whose heart is fixed to serve God will find opportunity to witness for Him. Difficulties will be powerless to hinder him who is determined to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. In the strength gained by prayer and a study of the word, he will seek virtue and forsake vice. Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of the faith, who endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself, the believer will willingly brave contempt and derision.”

Here we see the parallel between what Christ experienced and what the traveler on the narrow way can expect. We also gain a bit broader understanding of what “contradiction of sinners” can include. Although the “contradiction” that the Christian can expect to experience is stressed in this passage, there is hope, as the passage continues.

“And help and grace sufficient for every circumstance are promised by Him whose word is truth. His everlasting arms encircle the soul that turns to Him for aid. In His care, we may rest safely, saying, ‘What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.’ Psalm 56:3. To all who put their trust in Him, God will fulfill His promise.

“By His own example, the Saviour has shown that His followers can be in the world and yet not of the world. He came not to partake of its delusive pleasures, to be swayed by its customs, and to follow its practices, but to do His Father’s will, to seek and save the lost. With this object before him, the Christian may stand uncontaminated in any surroundings. Whatever his station or circumstances, exalted or humble, he will manifest the power of true religion in the faithful performance of duty.

“Not in freedom from trial, but in the midst of it, is Christian character developed. Exposure to rebuffs and opposition [in other words, the contradiction of sinners] leads the follower of Christ to greater watchfulness and more earnest prayer to the mighty Helper. Severe trial endured by the grace of God develops patience, vigilance, fortitude, and a deep and

abiding trust in God. It is the triumph of the Christian faith that it enables its followers to suffer and be strong; to submit, and thus to conquer; to be killed all the day long, and yet to live; to bear the cross, and thus to win the crown of glory.” *Ibid.*, 467, 468

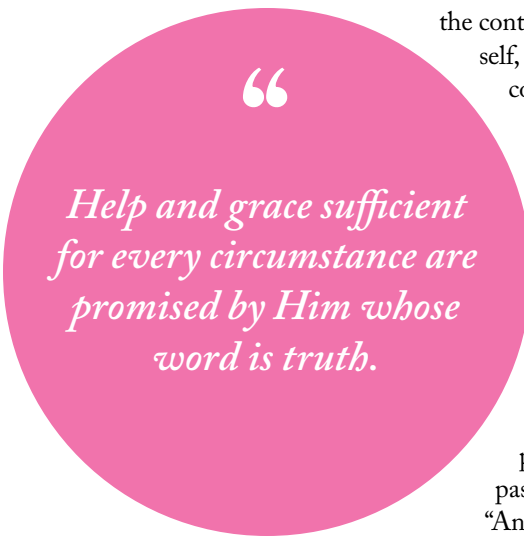
“When the Saviour finally appeared ‘in the likeness of men’ (Philippians 2:7), and began His ministry of grace, Satan could but bruise the heel, while by every act of humiliation or suffering Christ was bruising the head of His adversary. The anguish that sin has brought was poured into the bosom of the Sinless; yet while Christ endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself, He was paying the debt for sinful man and breaking the bondage in which humanity had been held. Every pang of anguish, every insult, was working out the deliverance of the race.” *Prophets and Kings*, 701

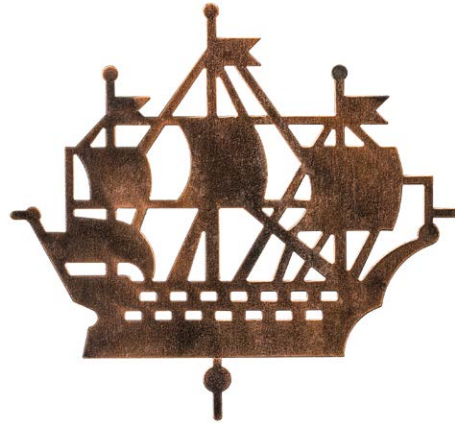
In this passage, we are given further insight into what was involved in Christ’s enduring the contradiction of sinners against Himself. I would suggest that just as Christ, while enduring every act of humiliation and suffering, was bruising the head of Satan, we have that same privilege as we bravely and nobly endure and deflect Satan’s fiery darts. To understand that we are bruising Satan’s head as we faithfully maintain and uphold the character of Christ despite his efforts to dissuade us from the path of truth and righteousness is actually quite uplifting and an encouraging faith-building experience.

“Heaven’s path is too narrow for rank and riches to ride in state, too narrow for the play of ambition, too steep and rugged for carriages of ease to climb. Toil, patience, self-sacrifice, reproach, poverty, hard work, enduring the contradiction of sinners against Himself, was the portion of Christ, and it must be the portion of man if he ever enters the Paradise of God.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 166

May the Lord bless and protect us as we humbly bear the contradiction of sinners against us. **LM**

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The Armada

Jack Kendall

While Mary Stuart, the Roman Catholic Queen of Scots, lived, Rome's hope of bringing England back under the control of the Catholic Church centered in her. Her death, however, effectively put an end to all of these hopes. The papal decree ordering all Christian princes to actively work for the destruction of Protestantism still remained as one of the infallible canons of the Council of Trent and was still acknowledged by the kings of the Catholic world. The plot to bring about the overthrow of Protestant England now took a new shape in the form of the invincible Armada.

It required no supernatural insight to recognize the approaching storm. Sixtus V, who even among popes was outstanding for his craft and daring, was just beginning his reign. Cold, selfish, hungry for power, and dedicated to the overthrow of Protestantism, Phillip II was on the throne of Spain. No Jesuit could be more dedicated in purpose, nor

shrewd in disguising his purposes. His great ambition was that after-generations should be able to say of him that in his days and by his arms, heresy had been exterminated.

The Jesuits were operating throughout Europe, working to inflame the minds of kings and statesmen against the Reformation, seeking to organize them into armed combinations to put it down. Protestantism had been effectively purged from Spain and Italy. Worst of all, even among the friends of Protestantism there was fragmentation and disagreement. The spiritual influence, which like a mighty wave had rolled across all Christendom in the first half of the century, bearing on its swelling crest scholars, statesmen, and nations, was now on the ebb, and Catholicism was struggling to gain back that which it had lost. Luther, Calvin, Knox, Cranmer, and Coligny were all off the stage of action; and their successors, though men of faith and ability, were not of the

same stature as those who had laid the foundation of the Reformation. In terms of facilities that generally determine the strength of a nation, there was little to compare between those who favored the Reformation and those who opposed it. To all human appearances, it seemed that the flame of the Reformation, which but a few years earlier had burned so brightly, must soon flicker and die.

Before her powerful enemies, England, with her little population of four million, and Holland, with even less, appeared completely vulnerable before the mighty armies of the Catholic world, enriched with their gold plundered from the New World. While the friends of the Reformation were divided, irresolute, cherishing illusions of peace, and making little or no preparations, there were omens that only too clearly betokened the coming conflict.

In 1584, two years before the execution of Mary Stuart, Phillip began preparations for building a fleet, the likes of

which the world had never seen. For such an effort and for such a glorious cause, money and effort were no object. Stretching along nearly two thousand miles of coastline there was not a harbor or river's mouth that could be utilized which

was not taken advantage of for the building of ships that were to bear the Spanish soldiers of the Inquisition to the shores of heretical England.

The completed fleet had provisions for six months, as well as quantities of power, shot, all of the other materials that would be needed for an invasion. The Armada

numbered 130 vessels, great and small. On board were 8,000 sailors in addition to 20,000 soldiers. This group was augmented by many noblemen and gentlemen who had volunteered to serve. The armor consisted of 2,650 pieces of ordnance; its burden was 60,000 tons. This was an immense tonnage at the time when the English navy consisted of twenty-eight ships and an aggregate weight that did not exceed the tonnage of a single, modern seagoing vessel.

The Spanish ships were of great capacity and amazing strength. Their strong ribs were lined with planks four feet in thickness, through which it was thought impossible that a cannon ball could pierce. Cables smeared with pitch were wound around the masts to enable them to withstand the fire of the enemy. Sixty-four of the total number of ships were galleons. Armed with heavy brass, they towered above the waves like castles.

During the time that the vast fleet was being built, Spain did everything that could possibly be done to conceal the knowledge of it from England. With poor, if any, postal

communications, secrecy was more easily attainable than today. It was impossible however, to keep a complete secret. In order to ease the concerns of the English, Philip resorted to dissimulation. It was said at one time that the new fleet's purpose was to sweep from the seas certain pirates that gave annoyance to Spain and had captured some of her ships. Later, it was said that Philip meant to punish certain unknown enemies on the far side of the Atlantic. All that craft and lying could do was done to allay the suspicions of the people of England. Even Walsingham, one of the most discerning and clear sighted of the queen's ministers, expressed belief—just fifteen days before the Armada sailed—that it never would invade England and that Philip's hands were too full at home to leave him leisure to conquer kingdoms abroad.

In reality, there were two Armadas being prepared to attack an unsuspecting England. In the Netherlands, at that time in the possession of Philip, there was a scene of activity nearly as great as that which was taking place in Spain. Philip's governor in Belgium, the duke of Parma, was perhaps the most able general of his age. His instructions were to prepare an army and fleet to cooperate with the Spanish force as soon as it arrived in the English Channel.

The whole of the Spanish Netherlands suddenly burst into activity. Assembling 28 warships, along with several hundred smaller vessels, the duke gathered regiments of soldiers from every Catholic nation in Europe. There was scarcely a noble house of Spain that was not represented within the camp of Parma. Believing that the last hour of England had come, they assembled to witness her fall.

During this time of preparation, every imaginable deception was practiced toward Elizabeth and the statesmen who served her to hide from them their great danger until it should overtake them. She sent her commissioners to the Low Countries, but Parma protested, with tears in his eyes, that there lived not on earth anyone who more sincerely desired peace than himself. Did not his prayers morning and night ascend



England, with her little population of four million, appeared vulnerable before the mighty armies of the Catholic world.

for its continuance? And as regarding the wise and magnanimous sovereign of England, there was not one of her servants that cherished a higher admiration for her than did he. This monumental hypocrisy was not without effect. The English commissioners returned, after three month's absence, in the belief that Parma's intentions were peaceful and confirmed Elizabeth and her ministers in dreams of peace. England did not fully awaken from this illusion of peace until just days before the guns of the Spanish Armada were heard in the English Channel.

To aid in the war effort, Sixtus V issued a bull against Elizabeth in which he confirmed the previous one by Pius V, absolving her subjects of their allegiance and conferring her kingdom upon Philip II, to have and to hold as tributary and feudatory of the papal chair. While the pope with one hand took away the crown from Elizabeth, he conferred with the other the red hat upon Father Allen. Already the archbishop of Canterbury, Allen was at once both the archbishop of Canterbury and, by order of the pope, papal legate. Allen now had the pope's bull translated into English, intending that upon arrival of the Spanish fleet, it should be published in England.

Suddenly, as if from a deep sleep, England awoke to her great danger just before the Spanish ships were to arrive. How was the invasion to be met? England had but a handful of soldiers and a few ships to oppose the host that was coming against her.

The total English force was just over 150,000. This force was split into three groups with one group stationed for the defense of the capital, one for the personal defense of the queen, and the third was to guard the south and east as the place most likely to be selected by the enemy for landing. Beacons were prepared to be lighted at the first landing of the enemy on English soil, notifying the rest of the troops at what point to converge.

The English fleet that sailed to oppose the Armada consisted of thirty-four ships of small tonnage carrying 6,000 men. Besides these, the city of London provided thirty ships. In all the port towns, merchant vessels were converted into warships, bringing the total to possibly as many as 150 vessels, with a crew of 14,000.

Though the total number of vessels nearly matched that of the Spanish, the figures on paper give a far more favorable appearance than is warranted. The English fleet was, in comparison to the Spanish fleet, but a collection of six or eight oared boats along with a few slightly larger vessels.

This force was divided into two squadrons: one, under Lord Howard, high admiral of England, consisting of seventeen ships which were to cruise the Channel and there wait for the arrival of the Armada. The second squadron, under Hawkins, consisting of fifteen ships, was stationed at Dunkirk to intercept Parma should he attempt to cross with his fleet from Flanders. Sir Francis Drake, in his ship the *Revenge*, had a following of about thirty privateers. After the war broke out, the fleet was further increased by ships belonging to the nobility and the merchants, hastily armed and sent to sea; though the brunt of the fight, it was foreseen, must fall on the queen's ships.

England's inferior army was simply militia, insufficiently drilled, poorly armed, and, except in spirit, could not compare in any way with the soldiers of Spain who had been seasoned on the field of battle. The Spanish army alone

was deemed more than sufficient to conquer England; and how easy would the conquest become when that Armada should be joined by the mighty force under Parma, the flower of the Spanish army! England, with her long line of coast, her unfortified town, and her four millions of population, including many thousands of Roman Catholics ready to rise in insurrection as soon as the invader had made good his landing, was at that hour in supreme peril. It was not England alone whose existence was in question. Its success or failure was the standing or falling of Protestantism. Should Philip succeed in his enterprise, Spain would replace England as the teacher and guide of the nations, some idea of the consequence of such an outcome may be seen by contrasting the political, religious, social, and moral conditions today of Latin America with those of Protestant North America.

For some time after the ships of the Armada had been collected in Lisbon, ready to sail, they were unable to move, waiting for favorable weather. When the wind finally shifted, the proud galleons spread their canvas and began their voyage toward England. For three days—May 28-30, 1588—galleon followed galleon, till it seemed the ocean must surely be filled with them. It was a breathtaking sight, as with sails spread to the breeze and banners and streamers gaily unfurled, it made its way along the coast of Spain. The twelve principal ships of the Armada bound on this holy enterprise had been baptized with the names of the twelve apostles. On board the *St. Peter* was Don Martin Allacon, administrator and vicar-general of the

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The successors of Luther, Calvin, and Knox, though men of faith, were not of the same stature as those who had laid the foundation of the Reformation.”

holy office of the Inquisition; and along with him were 200 barefooted friars and Dominicans. Though the guns of the Armada were to begin the conquest of heretical England, the spiritual arms of the Fathers were to complete it.

Just as the Armada was about to sail, the Marquis Santa Cruz, who had been appointed to the chief command, died. He had been thirty years in Philip's service and was beyond doubt the most capable sea captain Spain had. Another had to be found to fill the place of the "Iron-Marquis," and the duke of Medina Sidonia was selected for the job. The main recommendation of Medina Sidonia was his vast wealth. The "Golden Duke" was there simply to provide the armament; the real head of the expedition was to be the duke of Parma, Philip's commander in the Netherlands and the ablest of his generals. As soon as the Armada should arrive off Calais, the duke was to cross from Flanders and, uniting his numerous army with the vast fleet, to descend like a cloud upon the shore of England.

The Armada was three weeks at sea. The huge ships, so disproportioned to the small sails, made windward progress wearisomely slow. They floated well enough upon a calm sea, but as they were about to open the Bay of Biscay, the sky began to be overcast, and dark clouds came rolling up from the southwest. The swell of the Atlantic grew into mountainous billows, tumbling around those towering structures whose bulk only exposed them all the more to the buffeting of the great waves and furious winds. The Armada was scattered by the gale. As the weather moderated, the

ships reassembled and again began to move toward England. A second and more severe storm soon burst upon them. The waves, dashing against the lofty turrets at stem and stern, sent a spout of white water up their sides and high into midair, while the racing waves, coursing across the low bulwarks amidships, threatened every moment to engulf the galleons. One of the greatest of them went down with all on board, and another two were driven to the coast of France. The storm subsiding, the Armada once more gathered itself together, and on July 29, it entered

the Channel. The next day England had her first sight of the long-expected enemy. Instantly the beacon fires were kindled, announcing that the Spanish had arrived. On the afternoon of July 30, the Armada could be seen from the high ground above Plymouth Harbor, advancing slowly from the southwest in the form of a crescent, the two horns of which were seven miles apart. As one massive hull after another came out of the blue distance, it was seen that rumor of its size had not been exaggerated in the least. On his great galleon, the St. Martin, in his shot-proof fortress stood Medina Sidonia, casting proud glances around him.

The night that followed was a night long to be remembered in England, as another and yet another hilltop lighted its fires in the darkness and the ever-extending line of light flashed the news of the Armada's arrival from the shores of the Channel across all of England and Scotland. In this moment of destiny, the hearts of men were drawn together

by the sense of a common terror. All controversies were forgotten in one absorbing interest; and the cry of the nation went up to God that He would place His protection over England and not suffer her to be destroyed.

Meanwhile, the harbor of Plymouth was in a fever of excitement. The moment the news arrived that the Armada had been sighted, Howard, Drake, and Hawkins began their preparations; and the rest of the night was spent in preparing the ships for sea. By morning, sixty ships had been towed out of the harbor. Their numbers were little more than a third of those of the Armada, and their inferiority in size was even greater; but manned by patriotic crews, they hoisted sail and went forth to meet the enemy. On the afternoon of the same day, the two fleets came in sight of each other. The wind was blowing from the southwest, bringing with it a drizzling rain and choppy seas. The waves of the Atlantic came tumbling into the Channel; and the galleons of Spain, with their heavy ordnance and their numerous squadrons, rolled uneasily and clumsily. The English ships, of smaller size and handled by expert seamen, bore finely up before the breeze, taking a close survey of the Spanish fleet, and then, standing off to windward, became invisible in the haze. The Spaniards knew that the English fleet was in the vicinity, but the darkness did not permit battle to be joined that night.

Sunday, morning, July 31, witnessed the first encounter between the great navy of Spain and the little fleet of England. Medina Sidonia gave the signal for an engagement; but to his surprise, he found that the ability of accepting or declining battle lay entirely with the English. Howard's ships were stationed to the windward and the sluggish Spanish galleons could not close with them. The English vessels, however, which were light and skillfully handled, would run up to the Armada, pour a broadside into it, and then as swiftly retreat beyond the



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reach of the Spanish guns. Sailing right into the wind, they defied pursuit. This was a method of fighting most frustrating to the Spanish, but they were unable to change it. All day the Armada moved slowly up-channel before the westerly breeze; and the English fleet hanging upon its rear, continued to fire into it, now a single shot, and again, a whole broadside. This action was repeated over and over again. The Spanish guns, seeking to return the fire, found that their shots, fired from lofty decks, passed over the English ships, falling harmlessly into the sea beyond them. It was in vain that the Spanish admiral raised the flag of battle, for the wind and the sea would not permit him to lie to. His nimble foe would not come within reach, unless it might be for a moment to send a cannonball through the side of some of his galleons and then make off, laughing to scorn the ungainly efforts of this bulky pursuer to overtake him. As yet there had been no loss of either ship or man on the part of the English.

In addition to the damage inflicted on them by the English guns, the Armada sustained other damage. As night fell, its ships huddled together to prevent dispersion. The galleon of Pedro di Valdez, fouling with the Santa Catalina, was damaged and fell behind, becoming the booty of the English. This galleon had onboard a large amount of treasure and, what was of even greater importance to the captors, whose scanty stock of ammunition was already becoming exhausted, many tons of gunpowder. A loss of even greater significance to the Spanish than the money and the ammunition was that of her commander. Pedro di Valdez was the only navel officer of the fleet who was acquainted with the Channel.

Later the same evening a yet greater calamity befell the Armada. The captain of the rear admiral's galleon, much out of humor for the day's adventures and quarreling with all who approached him, accused the master gunner of careless



Every shipyard was utilized to bear the Spanish soldiers of the Inquisition to the shores of heretical England.

firing. Greatly offended, the man went straight to the powder magazine, thrust a burning match into it, and threw himself out of one of the portholes into the sea. Within seconds, in a momentary burst of splendor, the explosion lit the surrounding ocean. The deck was upheaved; the turrets at stern and stem rose into the air, carrying with them the paymaster of the fleet and 200 soldiers. The strong hull, though torn by the explosion, continued to float and was seized in the morning by the English who found in it a great amount of treasure and supply of ammunition which had not ignited.

On the very first day of conflict, the Armada had lost two flagships, 450 officers and men, the paymaster of the fleet, and 100,000 ducats of Spanish gold, a sum equal to about 50,000 of English money. This was not a favorable start of an expedition which Spain had exhausted herself to outfit.

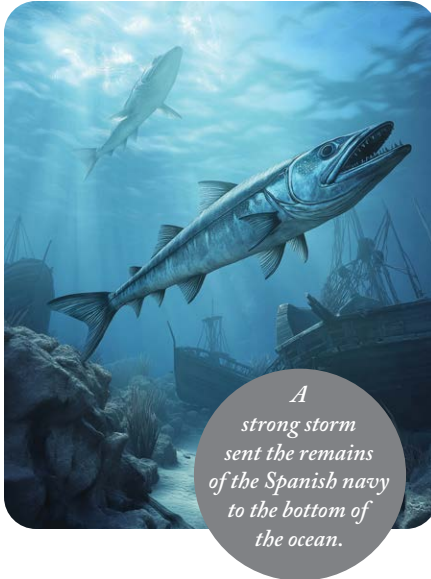
The following day the Armada continued its way slowly up-channel, followed by the fleet under Howard, who hovered upon its rear but did not attack it. On Tuesday the first really

serious encounter took place. As the morning rose, the wind changed to the east, which exactly reversed the position of the two fleets, giving the weather advantage to the Armada. Howard attempted to sail around it and get to the windward side, but Medina Sidonia intercepted him by coming between him and the shore and compelled him to accept battle at close quarters. The combat was long and confused. In the evening the Spanish ships gathered themselves up and forming into a compact group, went on their way. It was believed that they were obeying Philip's instructions to meet the duke of Parma and then, with his army, strike the decisive blow. The shores of the English Channel were crowded with anxious spectators, breathlessly watching their brave little fleet battling against the mighty ships of the Spanish invader. From every port of the realm, English merchant vessels were hastening to the spot where England's very existence hung on the outcome of the battle. While the many small additions added greatly to the appearance, they did very little to the effectiveness of the queen's navy.

On Wednesday a few shots were exchanged, but no general action took place. By the following day, the wind had once again changed to the east, giving the Armada once more the advantage. The sharpest action yet to be fought began. The ships of the two fleets engaged yardarm to yardarm, and broadside after broadside was exchanged at a distance of about 100 yards. The English admiral, Lord Howard, in his ship the Ark, and by the shock unshipped her rudder and rendered her unmanageable. Six Spanish galleons closed around her, never doubting that she was their prize. In an instant the Ark's own boats had her in tow; and passing out of the hostile circle she was off, to the amazement of the Spaniards. The fight continued several hours longer. When evening fell, it found the English fleet, who had all through the conflict seen the Spanish shot pass harmlessly over it, burying itself in the sea, showing no sign of battle, with scarcely a cord torn and its crews intact. The sides of the galleons, however, were pierced and riddled with the English shot, and their masts were cut or splintered.

The following day the procession up-channel was resumed in the same order as before, the mighty Armada leading the van and the nimble English fleet following. By Saturday afternoon the Spaniards were approaching the point at which they were to be joined by the Duke of Parma. As he had not arrived yet, Medina Sidonia decided to cast anchor and wait.

The critical hour had arrived when it was to be determined whether England should remain an independent kingdom or become one of Philip's numerous satrapies; whether it was to retain the light of the Protestant faith or to fall back into the darkness and serfdom of a medieval superstition. In the skirmishes that had preceded this moment, the English ships had fared well; but now the moment had come for a death struggle between Spain and England. The



Armada had arrived on the battleground comparatively intact. It had experienced rough handling from the tempests of the Atlantic and had received some heavy blows from the English fleet; several of the galleons which had glided so proudly out of the harbor at Lisbon were now at the bottom of the ocean, but these losses were hardly felt by the great Armada. It only awaited the arrival of the Duke of Parma to be perhaps the mightiest combination of navel and military power which the world had seen.

As evening drew on, low, rapidly moving clouds gave evidence of an approaching storm. The waves of the Atlantic, forcing their way up the Channel, uneasily rocked the huge Spanish galleons. The night wore away and with the return of light, Medina Sidonia could be seen scrutinizing the eastern ocean, looking for the approach of the Duke of Parma.

Meanwhile, Parma was himself as anxious to join the Armada as they were to have him. A fleet of flat-bottomed vessels was ready to carry this powerful host; but one thing was wanting, and its absence rendered all of these vast preparations fruitless. In order to join the Spanish fleet, Parma needed an open door from his harbors to the ocean, and the Dutch saw to it that he had none.

They drew a line of warships along the Netherland coast; and Parma, with his sailors and soldiers, was imprisoned in his own ports. It was strange that these circumstances had not been foreseen and provided for. In this oversight is revealed the working of a Hand powerful enough by its slightest touches to defeat the wisest schemes and crush the mightiest combinations of man when directed against a people who were leaning on Him for help.

Parma repeatedly wrote to both Philip and Medina Sidonia telling them of his predicament, but Philip either would not or could not understand.

In the meantime, anxious consultations were being held onboard the English fleet. The brave and patriotic men who led it recognized the gravity of the situation. If the Armada was joined by Parma, it would be so overwhelmingly powerful that it seemed nothing could hinder its crossing over to England. The men of the English fleet feared that before another dawn had come, Parma's fleet would anchor alongside that of Medina Sidonia and the opportunity for striking a preemptive blow would be past.

A bold and somewhat novel idea was decided upon. Eight of the volunteer ships were selected, their masts smeared with pitch, and their hulls filled with powder, all kinds of explosives, and combustible materials. Once prepared they were set adrift in the direction of the Armada. The night favored the execution of this design. Dark clouds hid the stars while the muttering of distant thunder reverberated in the sky. The deep, heavy swell of the ocean that precedes the tempest was rocking the galleons, rendering their positions every moment more unpleasant. On the one side they found themselves close to the shallows of Calais, with the quicksand of Flanders behind them.

Suddenly, about the hour past midnight, the watch discerned dark objects emerging out of the blackness and advancing toward them. They had scarcely

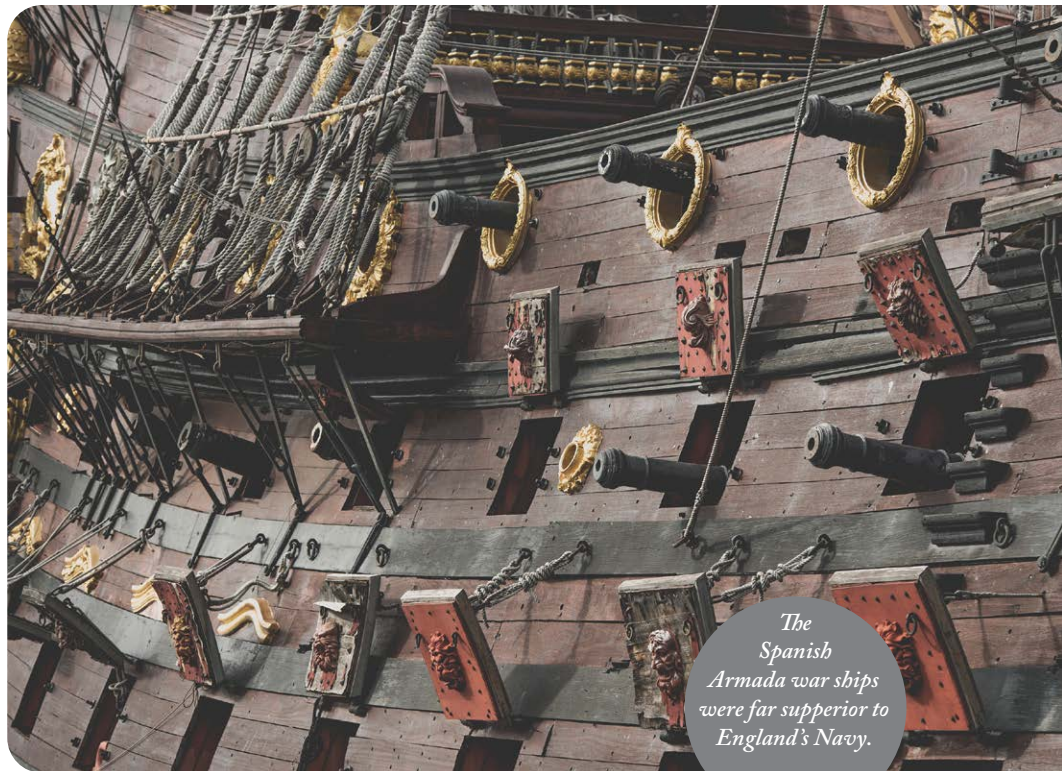
given the alarm when suddenly these dark shapes burst into flame, lighting up sea and sky in gloomy grandeur. Steadily these pillars of fire continued to move over the waters straight toward the Armada. The Spaniards gazed for one terrified moment upon the dreadful apparition; and then, divining its nature and mission, they instantly cut their cables, and, with the loss of some of their galleons and the damage of others, fled in confusion and panic.

With the first light, the English admiral weighed anchor and set sail in pursuit of the fleeing Spanish. At eight o'clock on Monday morning, Drake caught up with the Armada; and giving it no time to collect and form, began the most important of all the battles which had yet been fought.

The English ships drew close to the galleons, pouring broadside after broadside into them. From morning to night the rain of shot continued. The galleons, falling back before the fierce onslaught, huddled together. The English fire, pouring into the mass of hulls and masts, was doing fearful work, converting the ships into shambles. Rivulets of blood poured from their scuttles into the sea. By this time, many of the Spanish guns were dismounted; those that remained active fired but slowly, while the heavy rolling of the vessels threw the shot into the air. Several of the galleons were seen to go down in the action, others reeled away toward Ostend.

When evening fell the fighting was still going on. But with the shifting of the breeze to the northwest and the increasing rise of the sea, a new calamity threatened the disabled and helpless Armada; it was being forced upon the Flanders coast. If the English had had strength and ammunition to pursue them, the galleons would have that night found common burial on the shoals and quicksand of the Netherlands.

The power of the Armada had been broken; most of its vessels were in sinking condition. Between 4,000 and



5,000 of its soldiers had been killed and received burial in the ocean, and at least as many more lay wounded and dying onboard their shattered galleons. Of the English, not more than 100 had fallen.

Thankful was the terrified Medina Sidonia when night fell, giving him a few hours respite; but with morning his dangers and anxieties returned as he found himself between two great perils. On the windward of him was the English fleet. Behind him was that belt of muddy water of the Dutch coast, which, if he struck was lost. With every passing moment the helpless Armada was drawing nearer to those terrible shoals. Suddenly the wind shifted to the east, and the change rescued, at least for the moment, the Spanish galleons on the very brink of destruction.

The English fleet, having lost the advantage of the wind, stood off; and the Spanish admiral, relieved of their presence, assembled his officers to deliberate on the course to be taken. The question to be decided was: Should they return

to their anchorage off Calais or go back to Spain by way of the Orkneys? To return to Calais involved a second battle with the English; and were this to take place, the officers were of the opinion that for the Armada, there would be no tomorrow. The alternative of returning to Spain in battered ships, passing without pilots through unknown and dangerous seas, was a solution nearly as formidable; nevertheless, it was the lesser of the two evils to which their choice was limited, and it was the one adopted.

No sooner had the change of wind rescued the Spanish from the destruction which seemed to await them than it shifted once more and, settling in the southwest, blew with ever increasing intensity. The mostly rudderless ships could do nothing but drift before the rising storm into the northern seas. Drake followed them for a day or two without firing a gun, having spent his supply of ammunition; but just the sight of his ships was enough for the terrified Spaniards and they fled.

Spreading the sail to the rising gale, the Armada bore northward. Drake had been uneasy, fearing that the Spaniards might seek refuge in Scotland; but when he saw this danger pass and the Armada speed away toward the shore of Norway, he resolved to return before famine should set in among his crews.

No sooner did Drake turn back from the fleeing foe than the tempest took up the pursuit. Suddenly a furious gale burst out, and the last the English saw of the Armada was the vanishing forms of their retreating galleons as they entered the cloud of storm and became lost in the blackness of the northern night.

Carried on the tempest's wings around Cape Wrath, they were next launched amid the perils of the Hebrides. The rollers of the Atlantic hoisted them, dashing them against the cliffs or flinging them on the shelving shore. Their crews, too worn with toil and want to swim ashore, were drowned in the surf and littered the beaches with their corpses. The winds drove the survivors farther south until they reached the west coast of Ireland.

There came a day's calm; hunger and thirst were raging on board the ships; their store of water was entirely spent. Seeking to relieve their desperate situation, the Spaniards sent some boats on shore to beg supplies. They prayed piteously, willing to pay any amount of money but were unable to obtain any. The natives knew that the Spaniards had lost the day and should they comfort and assist the enemies of Elizabeth, they would be held answerable.

The storm then returned in all its former violence and raged for eleven days.

During that time, galleon after galleon came on shore, scattering its drowned crews by hundreds upon the beach.

The sea was not the only enemy these wretched men had to dread. The Irish, though of the same religion as the Spaniards, were more pitiless than the waves. As the Spaniards crawled through the surf up the beaches, the Irish slaughtered them for the sake of their velvets, their gold brocades, and their rich chains. In addition, prompted by the fear that the Spaniards might be joined by the Irish and lead them in revolt, the English garrisons

in Ireland had received orders to execute all who fell into their hands. It was calculated that in the month of September alone, 8,000 Spaniards perished between the Giant's Causeway and Blosket Sound, 1,100 were executed by the government officers, and 3,000 were murdered by the Irish. The rest were drowned. The tragedy, witnessed of old on the shores of the Red Sea, had repeated itself, with wider horrors, on the coast of Ireland.

The few galleons that escaped the waves and rocks crept back home, one by one. The terrible tragedy was too great to be disclosed all at once. When the terrible facts became fully known, the nation was shocked. There was scarcely a noble family in all of Spain which had not lost one or more of its members. Of the 30,000 who had sailed in the Armada, scarcely 10,000 ever returned; and these returned, in almost every instance, to pine and die. The Duke of Medina Sidonia, the commander in chief, was almost the only one of the nobles who

outlived the catastrophe; but his head was bowed in shame. Envyng the fate of those who had perished, he buried himself from the eyes of his countrymen in his countryseat.

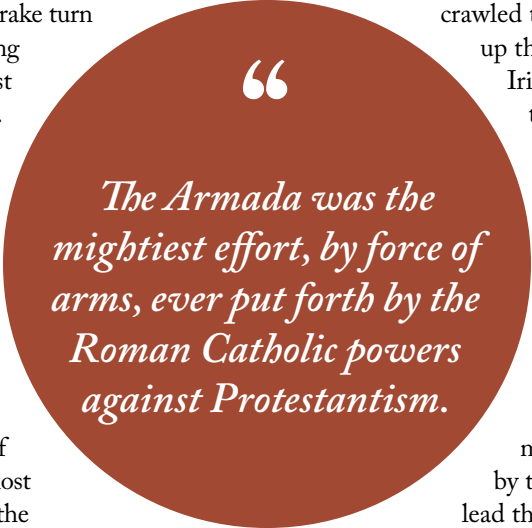
The sorrowful Philip was deeply wounded from a quarter from which he looked for sympathy and help. Pope Sixtus had promised a contribution of a million crowns toward the expenses of the Armada; but when he saw the outcome, he refused to pay a single ducat. In vain Philip urged that the Pope had instigated him to the attempt, the expedition had been undertaken in the sacred cause of the Church, and that the loss ought to be borne mutually. To his entreaties, Sixtus was deaf.

The Armada was the mightiest effort, by force of arms, ever put forth by the Roman Catholic powers against Protestantism; and it proved the turning point in the great war between Rome and the Reformation. Spain was never after what she had been before the failure of that expedition. It said in effect to her, "Remove the diadem; put off the crown."

Almost all of the military genius and the naval skill enrolled in the service of Spain were lost in that ill-fated expedition. The financial loss could not be reckoned at less than six million ducats, but that was nothing compared with the loss of Spain's prestige. The catastrophe stripped her naked. Her position and that of the Protestant powers were to a large extent reversed—England and the Netherlands rose, and Spain fell.

The tragedy of the Armada was a great sermon, the text of which was that the ordinary course of events had been interrupted; the heavens had been bowed, and the Great Judge had descended upon the scene, working out a marvelous deliverance for England. While dismay reined within the popish kingdoms, the Protestant states joined in a chorus of thanksgiving. **LM**


*Reprinted from April and May, 1994
LandMarks*

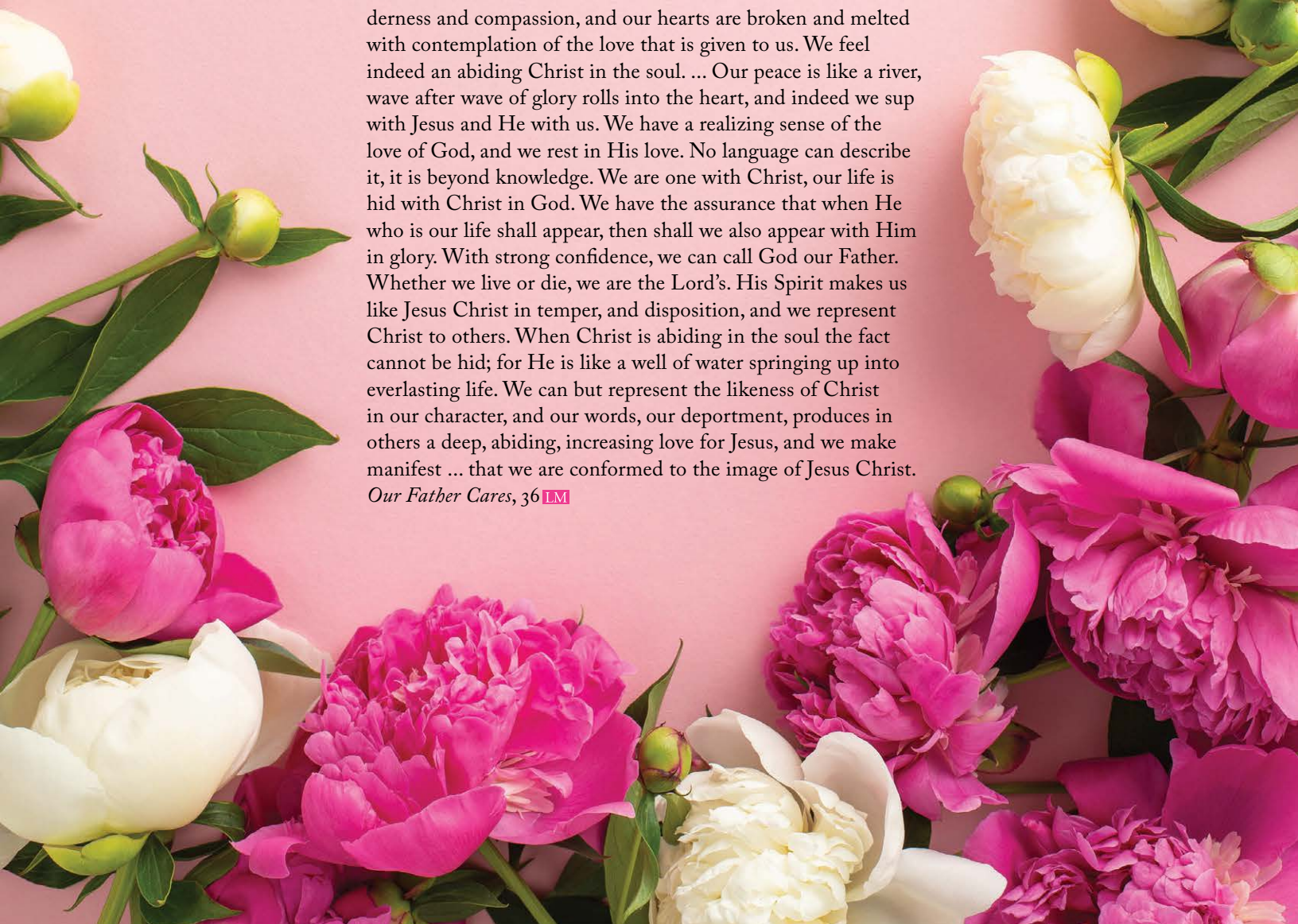


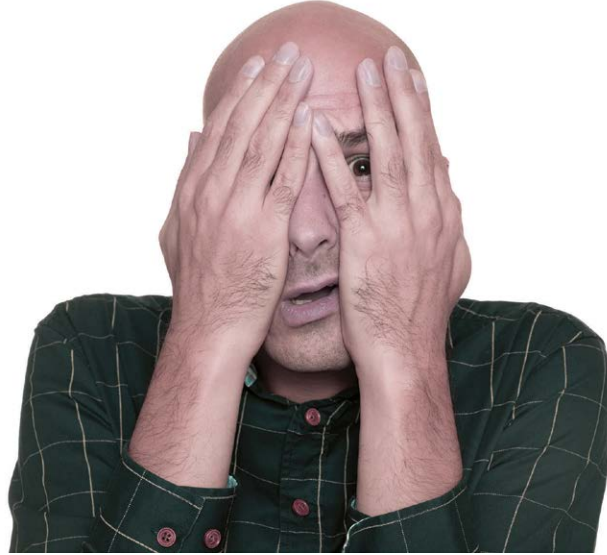
Glad in the Lord

“My meditation of Him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.”

Psalm 104:34

Rest yourself wholly in the hands of Jesus. Contemplate His great love, and while you meditate upon His self-denial, His infinite sacrifice made in our behalf in order that we should believe in Him, your heart will be filled with holy joy, calm peace, and indescribable love. As we talk of Jesus, as we call upon Him in prayer, our confidence that He is our personal, loving Saviour will strengthen, and His character will appear more and more lovely. ... We may enjoy rich feasts of love, and as we fully believe that we are His by adoption, we may have a foretaste of heaven. Wait upon the Lord in faith. The Lord draws out the soul in prayer, and gives us to feel His precious love. We have a nearness to Him, and can hold sweet communion with Him. We obtain distinct views of His tenderness and compassion, and our hearts are broken and melted with contemplation of the love that is given to us. We feel indeed an abiding Christ in the soul. ... Our peace is like a river, wave after wave of glory rolls into the heart, and indeed we sup with Jesus and He with us. We have a realizing sense of the love of God, and we rest in His love. No language can describe it, it is beyond knowledge. We are one with Christ, our life is hid with Christ in God. We have the assurance that when He who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory. With strong confidence, we can call God our Father. Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. His Spirit makes us like Jesus Christ in temper, and disposition, and we represent Christ to others. When Christ is abiding in the soul the fact cannot be hid; for He is like a well of water springing up into everlasting life. We can but represent the likeness of Christ in our character, and our words, our deportment, produces in others a deep, abiding, increasing love for Jesus, and we make manifest ... that we are conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. *Our Father Cares*, 36 





Don't Be Afraid

H. M. S. Richards, Sr.

Children are great teachers, and we can learn many things from them. In this context, let's look at the mother of a little four-year-old daughter, both of whom were afraid of the dark. One night when the light was put out, the little girl caught a glimpse of the moon and asked, "Is the moon God's light?"

“Yes, dear, it’s God’s light.”

The next question was, “Will God blow out His light and go to bed?”

The mother said, “No, little one, God never blows out His light. He never goes to bed. He never goes to sleep. His light is always shining.”

After a pause, the child said out of simplicity of her faith, “Well, as long as God is awake, I’m not afraid.” And this was reassuring to the mother, too.

“Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.’” Matthew 18:2, 3

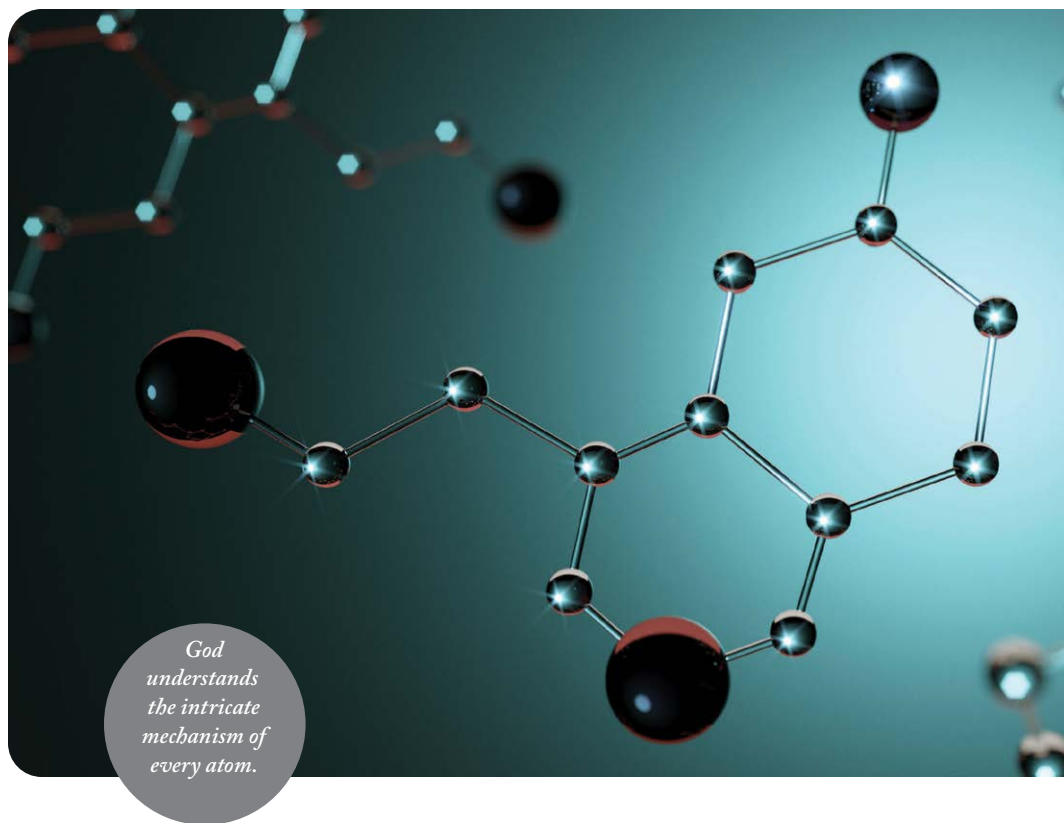
Fear—of darkness, of failure, of sickness, of pain, of people, of death—robs us of sleep, of joy, and sometimes, finally, of life itself. We need to be childlike in our simple faith. We need to remember that God’s light never goes out. He never goes to sleep.

“My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.” Psalm 121:2–4

Fear is just the opposite of faith. To be full of fear is to have no faith, and that’s the final condition of all the lost. When faith has forever departed and the Holy Spirit no longer dwells with them and in them, there is left nothing but a certain fearful expectation of judgment (Hebrews 10:27). Some may be surprised to know that God classes the fearful with the unbelieving.

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8

The fearfulness mentioned here is that which comes to the lost. They have no faith and are absolutely full of fear. This is God’s picture of the end of the road.



God understands the intricate mechanism of every atom.

Jesus said some very interesting and important things about fear. The only fear that Jesus recommends is the fear of God. But that’s an entirely different thing. Notice the words of the Saviour, “And 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

These are clear words. Do not fear man. The worst thing he can do is kill you, but he cannot destroy you. But fear God because he is able to make the destruction complete. The word *fear* is directed toward both man and God. It is sinful to fear man, yet we are commanded to fear God. Why? Fearing man simply means to be afraid or alarmed. Fearing God means to have reverence for and to be in awe of.

One of the most fearless men who ever lived was the prophet Daniel, yet he feared God. Threatened with death in a den of hungry lions, he continued his custom of religious worship. He

was undaunted. As someone beautifully said, “He feared men the less, because he feared God the more.” It is clear from the writings of both the Old and New Testaments, especially the words of Jesus, that the real answer to the fear gripping millions of hearts today, is faith. Faith is what we need.

Speaking to His disciples one day, the Saviour described the persecution and opposition they would face because of their faithfulness to Him. Then He spread out before them His most well-known illustration.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows.” Verses 29–31

You see, God knows everything. He sees in the dark, as well as in the light. He knows our problems. He knows what happens to the sparrows and to

the smallest components of nature. God understands the intricate mechanism of the atom, of the electrons, protons, neutrons and their ceaseless vibrations. Yes, He knows and understands them all. But more intimately, He knows the number of hairs on each head. ... an amazing thought since the number of your hairs changes every day. He knows all about us, and His watchful care is always over us.

In India, a Christian minister was teaching one of his hearers the Lord's Prayer. When he got to the end of the first clause, "Our Father in heaven," she said, "Stop, that's enough. That's all I need to know. If God is our Father, everything is all right. There's nothing now to fear."

Never once did Jesus say that He, Himself, was afraid. He always told His followers not to be afraid. We see Him there on the Sea of Galilee. Peter, James, and John, partners in the fishing business, were astonished at His wonderful miracle when the fishes came up in the net and the net was so full it broke.

"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!'" Luke 5:8

In that moment, Jesus realized Peter's spiritual need and His first words to him were "Fear not." Verse 10. Then He called Peter to be an apostle, a fisher of men. No one can really work for God until he conquers fear. "No fear" was the very first lesson Jesus taught His disciples as He prepared them for their work.

Remember the terrible storm as the disciples were crossing the sea. Millions of tons of water crashed all about them in the boat; the wind blew so fiercely they thought the boat might capsize. They were so afraid that they cried out to Jesus to save them. Then as Jesus approached the boat, walking on water, He calmly said these words that could be heard above the tumult of the storm, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." Matthew 14:27

“

Fearing man simply means to be afraid or alarmed. Fearing God means to have reference for and to be in awe of.

Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking on the water toward Jesus, but the storm still blew and rather than focusing on Jesus, he allowed himself to be fearful, and immediately he began to sink into the sea. In great fear, he put out his hand and shouted, "Lord save me!"

Jesus saved Peter. And He will save you and me if we have faith in Him.

A vicar of the church of England once startled his congregation by announcing the subject of his sermon in just two words: "Don't squint." His text was the one we have just quoted: "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matthew 14:31. He told how Peter stepped out of the boat, walked on the sea toward his Lord, and then began to sink. He described the disciple's appeal to Christ: "Lord save me," and how the Lord saved him and brought him back into the boat, asking "Why did you doubt?" This word *doubt* has a Greek root meaning "looking two ways at once, or squinting." Why did Peter sink? Because he had one eye upon Christ and the other upon the billows around him.

For peace of mind, we need to trust in Jesus

Jarius was a prominent man in the religious affairs of those days, a ruler of the synagogue, and he belonged to a class of men who had opposed Jesus. But his 12-year-old daughter and, his only child, was deathly sick. How he loved her! He went and found the Saviour, "Come Jesus, come and heal her," was the father's plea. But on His way, the throngs pressed upon Him in the narrow streets of the city. Multitudes came for healing and it seemed that the Master would not arrive in time.

While Jesus was speaking to one of those who sought His healing touch, a messenger drew near, pushing through the crowd to bring the devastating news to Jarius that his daughter was dead; there was no need to trouble Jesus anymore. But when Jesus heard it, He answered saying, "Fear not: believe only and she shall be made whole." Luke 8:50. What blessed words those were to the father's heart. "There is no need to fear, everything

will be all right.” Jesus went into the room where the little girl slept in death and said, “Little girl, get up,” and immediately she was restored to life. Jesus, ever thoughtful and kind, said, “Give her something to eat.” His message to the troubled father was, “Fear not.” And that’s His message today to every father and mother who trusts in Him.

Back to the Sea of Galilee

Jesus loved the Sea of Galilee. His boyhood was spent not far from its shore. He knew it when it reflected the moonlight on a still night. He knew it in the morning when it flashed back the sun. He knew it in storm and calm.

One night, He and the disciples were caught in a sudden tempest. Apparently, their little boat was about to sink. The Scripture uses the graphic words in Matthew 8:23–27, “And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’ But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So, the men marveled, saying ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’”

So many of us today live in constant storm. It’s because we have so little faith.

Wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, pestilences, all these things are coming in the last days. But we are not to fear; we are to have faith. But how can we learn to trust in times of trouble? What is the Christian’s secret of a happy life? Here’s a text we should never forget, for it tells us how to do just what Jesus did.

“Faith cometh by hearing ...” Romans 10:17. Hearing what? “... hearing by the word of God.” If we listen to God’s word: This is what Jesus did and if we read the word of God, if we feed upon it, that is, eat it spiritually, med-



“Be
of good
cheer; it is I, do
not be afraid.”

Matthew 14:27

itate upon it, think about it, receive it into our hearts; then the word of God actually becomes faith in our, driving away all fear. That’s the secret of trust in trouble, of faith in this world we are living in. Where there is faith, there can be no fear—no fear of others, no fear of ourselves, no fear of failure, no fear of suffering, pain, sickness, or even death. For our hands are in the hands of God. He tells us that He will look after us, care for us. All the hundreds of promises in God’s word are ours when we believe them. This is the secret of a happy life today—a life of faith. “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:4. And that’s the victory that Jesus had. He used the word of God in His conflict with Satan. His whole life was full of the sacred Scriptures of the Old Testament which He learned as a child. He, who Himself was the living Word, appealed to the written word in His ministry here on earth.

And so, friends, in our daily lives right where we live, meeting our many problems, we, too, may apply the same word of God. We may hear it, believe it, take it

to ourselves as applying to us personally. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Faith generated by the word of God in our hearts is the answer to fear. Let us believe our beliefs that are founded on the word of God, and doubt our doubts that come from disease, despair, disappointment or disobedience. So, friend, never put a question mark where God has put a period. As someone has put it, “Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, receives the impossible.” When his only son was killed in World War I, Sir Harry Lauder said to a friend, “When a man comes to a thing like this, there are just three ways out of it: there’s drink, there’s despair, and there is God. By His grace, the last way, is for me.” May that faith in God, be ours also as long as we live. **LM**

H. M. S. Richards was the founder of the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry which began broadcasting in 1929 and continues broadcasting still today, in 36 languages on more than 1,100 stations. He was also a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist. He passed away on April 24, 1985, at the age of 90.

The Second Angel's Message

Clues – NKJV

Across:

- B4 There were _____ prophets among the people. 2 Peter 2:1
C14 The devil took Jesus up on a high _____. Luke 4:5
D2 There must be _____ that those who are approved may be recognized. 1 Corinthians 11:19
D22 God will destroy your _____ places. Leviticus 26:30
E14 A famine and great _____ came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan. Acts 7:11
F3 Fornication and all _____ is not fitting for saints. Ephesians 5:3
G18 The _____ of the wicked shall be cut off. Psalm 37:38
H2 Let no one _____ you by any means. 2 Thessalonians 2:3
I9 We have made an _____ and covenant with Sheol with death. Isaiah 28:15
I22 The _____ which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 10:16
K7 As water _____ from the sea, so man lies down and does not rise. Job 14:11, 12
L17 Like the _____ of the meadows, the enemies of the Lord shall vanish. Psalm 37:20
N9 If the _____ are destroyed, what can the righteous do? Psalm 11:3
P4 Righteousness exalts a _____, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34
P13 We know He hears us and has the petitions that we have _____ of Him. 1 John 5:15
Q19 Be doers of the word, and not _____ only. James 1:22
R3 The Lord _____ all who love Him. Psalm 145:20
T2 God made a covenant with the _____ of Israel. Jeremiah 31:33
T8 The Lord will _____ the law and make it honorable. Isaiah 42:21
T14 Through one Man's righteous _____, the free gift came to all men. Romans 5:18
V16 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the _____ its spots? Jeremiah 13:23
W5 On the day of the Lord, the _____ will melt with fervent heat. 2 Peter 3:10
X16 He shall speak _____ words against the Most High. Daniel 7:25
Y10 In a _____, at the last trumpet, we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:52

Down:

- B7 The wicked will perish; into _____ they shall vanish away. Psalm 37:20
B15 I have seen a _____ thing in the prophets of Jerusalem. Jeremiah 23:14
B20 He who looks into the law of _____ and continues in it will be blessed. James 1:25
C12 You who _____ in the law dishonor God through breaking the law. Romans 2:23
C24 Saul and the people spared _____. 1 Samuel 15:9
D4 Some will have their _____ seared with a hot iron. 1 Timothy 4:2
D22 God has appointed His Son _____ of all things. Hebrews 1:2
E10 _____ has taken hold of me because of the wicked. Psalm 119:53
H2 Then you will _____ between the righteous and the wicked. Malachi 3:18
H24 Come out from among them and be _____, says the Lord. 2 Corinthians 6:17
I14 What do these stones _____ to you? Joshua 4:6
I19 Beware of being cheated through _____ and empty deceit. Colossians 2:8
K7 The Spirit says that some will believe _____ of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1
K12 When a man's spirit departs, his _____ perish. Psalm 146:4
M16 All nations drink of the _____ of the wrath of her fornication. Revelation 14:8
N5 You will look carefully for the _____ of the wicked but it shall be no more. Psalm 37:10
O22 Every plant not planted by God will be _____. Matthew 15:13
P13 Though an _____ may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. Psalm 27:3

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Answer Key:

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- Q25 There is hope for a tree if it is cut down that it will _____ again..... Job 14:7
- R3 Everyone who quotes _____ will use it against you. Ezekiel 16:44
- R11 Nor is there _____ in any other than Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12
- R16 Go to the _____, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise. Proverbs 6:6
- T14 The Lord is the God of knowledge; and by Him _____ are weighed. 1 Samuel 2:3
- T20 The _____ was enraged with the woman and made war with her offspring. Revelation 12:17
- U17 The dead know nothing for the _____ of them is forgotten..... Ecclesiastes 9:5
- V6 The Lord is not _____ concerning His promise as some are. 2 Peter 3:9



Mother's Hands

A young mother laid her baby girl to sleep in her cradle. I'll just go to the neighbor's for a minute to visit, she thought to herself. I haven't had time to talk to her for such a long time. But while she and the neighbor were chatting, the city fire alarm sent a chill through them both.

"Don't worry," said the neighbor. "Most likely it's only a grass fire. There are lots of them at this time of year. I'm sure the fire isn't anywhere near here."

"But listen," said the mother. "I think I hear the fire engine coming this way. Look! People are running down the street, running toward my house!"

Without another word she dashed into the street and ran with the gathering crowd. Then she saw it. Her own house was on fire! Smoke and flames were already pouring through the roof.

"My baby!" she cried frantically. "My baby!"

The crowd was thick around the house, but she pushed and shoved until she reached the door. A fireman stopped her and said, "You can't go in there! You will be burned!"

But the mother cried, "Let me go! Let me go!" as she broke free and dashed into the flaming house.

She knew just where to go. Running through the smoke and flames, she seized her precious baby, then turned to make her way out. But by now the smoke made it very hard to see and breathe. Nearly overcome, she swayed

and fell, and would not have made it out of the house safely if a fireman had not picked her up and carried her out.

What a cheer went up as they appeared! Baby Marjorie was not hurt at all! But the poor mother's hands were badly burned. Kind friends took care of the baby while the ambulance took her to the hospital. The doctors did their best, but her hands were terribly scared.

Years later, when Marjorie had grown, she suddenly noticed something she had not noticed before. Her mother's hands were so disfigured! "Why are your hands so ugly?" she asked her mother when they were alone.

Tears filled her mother's eyes as she remembered how frightened she was the day the house burned with Marjorie asleep and unaware of the danger.

"Have I said something wrong?" Marjorie asked when she saw the tears.

"No, my dear," replied her mother. "But there's a story I need to tell you."


Then she told Marjorie the story of the fire. She told how the people tried to hold her back, how the fireman tried to stop her, how she battled the flames to rescue her, how she fell, and how they were rescued. Then she held out her scared hands for Marjorie to see.

"They are ugly, in a way, aren't they," Mother said softly. "For me, the only thing that mattered was to save your life."

Now it was Marjorie's turn to shed a few tears. "Oh, Mother," she cried, "You must love me so much! These are the most beautiful hands in all the world!"

Do you know there are hands that were hurt for you? The hands of Jesus.

Soldiers drove great nails through His hands and hung Him on a cross to die so you could go to heaven. Even when He comes again, the marks made by those nails will still be there. If you ask Him, He will show them to you. When you see them, you will know for sure how much Jesus loves you!

Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories, Arthur S. Maxwell, adapted by Karen Flowers, ©1966, Vol. 13, 9–13 



What is the Color of Compassion?

When I was a child, we would sing “Jesus Loves the Little Children.”

“Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

God’s love is color blind. Paul makes all of this very plain.
“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28
“The Lord Jesus ... loves you. If you doubt His love, look to Calvary. The light reflected from the cross shows you the magnitude of that love which no tongue can tell. ...
“See Him, by the eye of faith, bending over you in love. ... He wants you to live in His presence; to have eternal life and a crown of glory.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 340
“Jesus loves ... His children. Reader, He loves you. Heaven itself can bestow nothing greater, nothing better.” *The Desire of Ages*, 483
“Jesus loves us. ... [H]ow full and how broad is the mercy and love that He waits to bestow upon all who will walk in obedience and humility before Him.” *Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library*, Vol. 1, 87
This is the only criterion by which we are judged. Color, race, religion, nationality, age—none of these matter in our salvation. We must be like Christ. If any color were to represent compassion, it would be red. Red, the color of Jesus’ blood shed to save us.
“God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.” Romans 5:8, 9
“Through the grace of Christ, we may be strengthened and matured, so that though now imperfect we may become complete in Him. We have mortgaged ourselves to Satan, but Christ came to ransom and redeem us. We cannot purchase anything from God. It is only by grace, the free gift of God in Christ, that we are saved.” *Our Father Cares*, 121 **LM**



May 20-23, 2026

Speakers:

Pastor John Grosboll
Pastor Domingo Nunez
Pastor Ivan Plummer
Mamon Wilson

Laura Williams will provide the special music for the meetings, including a Sabbath afternoon concert. Additional information and the registration form will be provided in the May/June Newsletter. Attendees will be responsible for making their own lodging arrangements.



May Sermon of the Month

The Piedmont Valley

John J. Grosboll

Prophecy tells us that God prepared a place of refuge for His church during the Dark Ages for 1,260 days (years). That place was the Piedmont Valley.

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

May 2026

Dear friend,

“In our work for God, there is danger of relying too largely upon what man with his talents and ability can do. Thus, we lose sight of the one Master worker. Too often the worker for Jesus fails to realize his personal responsibility. He is in danger of shifting his burdens upon organizations, instead of looking to and relying upon Him who is the source of all strength. But it is a great mistake to trust in human wisdom or numbers in the work of God. Success is not dependent upon talent or numbers.

“In the place of shifting your responsibility upon someone whom you think more richly endowed than you are, work according to your ability, even though you have but one talent. ...

“By feeding the five thousand, Christ showed how every true believer is to be a laborer together with God. Christ’s workers are to obey His instructions implicitly. They are not to plan according to their own ideas. The work is God’s and His plans must be followed if we would bless others. Self-denial and self-sacrifice should be practiced daily. Self cannot be made a center; it can receive no honor. ... The hours are precious; they are not to be spent in self-pleasing, but in serving God.” *The Signs of the Times*, August 19, 1897

“The religion of Jesus Christ is a religion of practical godliness, and while the grace of God abides in the heart, the Christian will produce the fruit of industry, frugality, economy; he will not waste, but will gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost. In the lives of those who have Christ abiding in the heart ... sin no longer reigns in their mortal bodies. Everyone who has thus been renewed will manifest kindness, forbearance, and generosity, in this confessing that Christ, the hope of glory, is formed within.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 12, 230

“‘Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost.’ Here Christ taught a precious lesson, one that was to come clear down through the ages to our time. There is an economy that Christ wants each to weave into our experience. There are wants and necessities on every hand to be supplied; there are needy and suffering ones to help. When we stand in right relation to God, we will stand in right relation to the principles of economy. We will know by experience what it means to deny self. We will be willing to sacrifice for the sake of others.” *Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 2, 318

Your brother in Christ,

John J. Grosboll

May Day

Worthie Harris Holden

The balm of summer fills all hearts with gladness,
And snows must melt before the breath of May;
A cheerful face, a smile, will banish sadness,
As night must vanish at the light of day.
Our words at best lend poor interpretation:
Whate'er the soul would utter, it will speak
In loving looks, and tender, thoughtful action,
Nor e'er for praise or recognition seek.
We gaze upon an artist's famed conception
Of landscape beauty or a face sublime;
Open Lord our hearts to nature's full reception,
And grant a vision of Thy face divine.
Then may our souls reflect fair nature's glory,
And faces radiant from the mount above
Tell more than words, the grand redemption story
Of earth and lives renewed by Jesus' love.
Hearts chilled by fear will warm to love's kin wooing;
Kind, helpful deeds will burst the bolts of hate;
And heaven's balm will rest on thee in doing
As He hath done—the while we watch and wait.

The Review and Herald, April 30, 1901 LM





A Church Mourning

Faison, North Carolina

Pastor Domingo Nunez

Seven years ago, our friend and brother Hector David Cornejo of Warsaw, North Carolina, expressed his desire to participate in the Steps to Life pastor training and church organization programs. When he enrolled, I told him that upon his completion of the programs, I would come to North Carolina to ordain him and assist in organizing the church group there with him in a leadership role. With the approval of the church congregation in Faison, North Carolina, I had the privilege of fulfilling that commitment to Brother Cornejo. The congregation is a mixture of senior and young people all working together to help each other and to carry the three angels' messages to the communities surrounding them.

Faison church officers



Feliciano Guatemala Diaz, deacon



Elder Nerio Gonzalez (Ervin's brother)



Alfredo Bonilla, head deacon, director of outreach



Ervin Gonzalez, head elder



Maria Elena Cornejo Diaz, church secretary (Pastor Hector's sister, also wife of deacon Diaz)



Pastor Hector Cornejo was a faithful servant of God.

Steps to Life knows how important it is to train workers to follow the New Testament gospel-order organization and to be made ready to take the gospel of Jesus Christ and the three angels' messages throughout the world. For more than 20 years, Steps to Life has made many appeals in the *LandMarks* magazine and the ministry's newsletter inviting people to participate in the training programs that will prepare them to be used as instruments of God in the United States or anywhere in the world the Lord leads them.

Sadly, on January 3, 2026, I received a call from the Faison, North Carolina church informing me that our dear Brother Cornejo passed away on December 29, 2025. The church asked me to come and help them to reorganize the church and ordain elders and deacons.

Jesus told His disciples to be “‘witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’” Acts 1:8, *last part*. Additionally, the Lord instructed, “‘that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.’” Luke 24:47, 48. This is also our mission today.

Please uplift the church in Faison in your prayers, and ask the Lord to inspire workers, maybe even you, throughout the United States to faithfully step forward to become instruments in His gospel work, first in Jerusalem (at home) and then to the ends of the world. **LM**



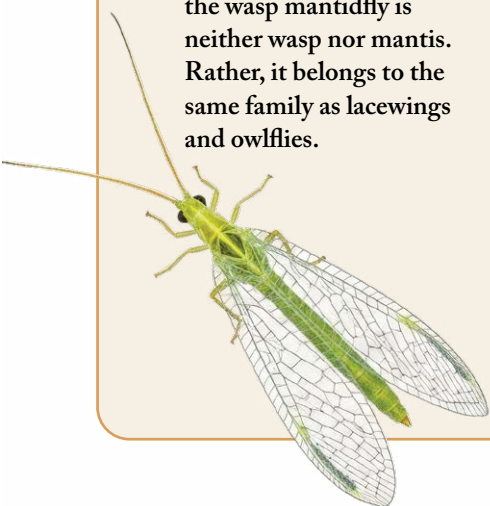


What is it?

Is it a wasp? A mantis? A fly? No, it is a wasp mantidfly, an insect belonging to the *Mantispidae* family with mantis-like forelegs and a wasp-like body and coloration. It uses this physical mimicry to confuse predators while it hunts for its own prey.

Did You Know?

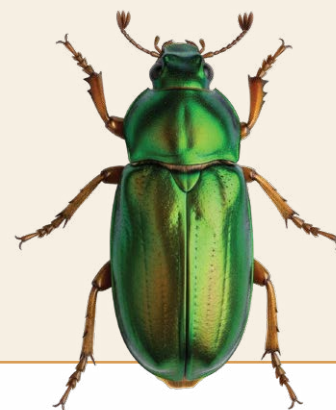
Despite its appearance, the wasp mantidfly is neither wasp nor mantis. Rather, it belongs to the same family as lacewings and owlflies.



Because it looks so much like a paper wasp, it is often found flying among true paper wasps using its disguise for protection.



The mantidfly family contains species that also mimic ants and beetles.



This insect has a slender body with yellow and brown striping, a constricted waist like a wasp, and is just under an inch in length. It has a triangular head, large eyes, and raptor-like forelegs giving it the look of an amalgamation of a wasp and praying mantis. It flies on wings that are dark on the leading edges much like a paper wasp. It defends itself by spreading its wings and, like a paper wasp, it pumps its abdomen in a stinging motion. This type of mimicry is called Batesian mimicry. However, it has no stinger or venom apparatus and is therefore harmless to humans.

They can be found in North, Central, and South America. One particular species, the *Climaciella brunnea* is found widely across North America. They live along the edges of wooded areas, in gardens and open fields, and anywhere spiders commonly dwell, and emerge during late spring.

The mantidfly is a predator, feeding on smaller insects, including its brother or cousin (other mantidflies). Like the mantis it resembles, it is a sit-and-wait predator. Resting on flowers and shrubbery, it waits until an unsuspecting lunch passes by. It strikes with lightning speed and with its mantis-like forelegs captures and holds its meal while eating. It typically eats mosquitoes, bees, small flies, and other soft-bodied insects. It also eats nectar and tree sap.

The mantidfly has a few natural predators. For instance, birds, lizards, spider webs and large predatory wasps. Man, who seems to be a natural predator to every living thing, often kills the mantidfly by mistake, thinking it is a wasp. Environmental dangers such as the destruction of habitat and pesticides affect the mantidfly population.

The mantidfly has an important job in the insect world: population control, especially spiders. The female

will lay hundreds of individual eggs on short silky stalks on the underside of leaves. Once a larva hatches, it waits until it is able to attach onto a passing female spider subsisting on its blood until the spider lays its egg sac. As it lays its egg, the mantidfly larva crawls into the egg sac and consumes the spider eggs as they are laid. The larva then remains in the egg sac until it reaches the pupal stage of its life. It spins a cocoon-like casing, and there undergoes a complete metamorphosis.

In addition to population control, the mantidfly is also a casual pollinator when it eats nectar.

The typical lifespan of the mantidfly is pretty short, from a few weeks to a few months depending on the environmental conditions.

What an amazing creation!

Sources: entomoly.umn.edu/wasp-mantidfly; waspworld.com/mantidfly-wasp

LM



Craving a Potato Chip?

Have you ever wondered why you can't eat just one potato chip? Or why Asian food, canned soups, packaged cookies, trail mix, and flavored popcorn taste so good?

In the late 1800s, as the early steps for the first industrial revolution were taking place, the quest for new inventions was slowly gaining influence and surely changing world. Many of these new inventions were also reaching kitchen tables.



In the search for flavor enhancers, glutamate was discovered. In 1908, Kikunae Ikeda, a Japanese chemist, was able to extract glutamate from seaweed. The most common form of this additive is monosodium glutamate, more commonly known as MSG. This discovery became a major homerun for the fast food industry.

As delicious as foods with this ingredient added can be, people in the early 20th century were unaware of just how harmful it is to our health and how it would turn into a leading cause of disease.

Since those early years, glutamate has become part of the basic structure of processed foods. No wonder, in spite of the many decades of warnings, trying to quit eating these foods is such a difficult task.

Today, we find glutamate in corn and potato chips, canned beans, tomato sauces, meat products, frozen meals, infant formulas, and other processed foods. It is even used in cosmetics and vaccines.

However, we must understand that glutamate, in and of itself, isn't something bad. It's when we have too much of it that we encounter a problem.

Glutamate is a nonessential amino acid. In nutrition, "nonessential" means it isn't necessary to obtain it from outside sources because your own body has the capability to build this protein through a built-in biochemistry process.

Among the different purposes of glutamate in the body, the Cleveland Clinic stated:

"Glutamate is the most abundant excitatory neurotransmitter released by nerve cells in your brain."

In other words, in the nervous system electric impulses that carry information for an unnumbered amount of actions in the body run from one neuron to another

and neurotransmitters play a massive role in blocking electric impulses or allowing them to proceed. Glutamate is on the "to go" side.

"It plays a major role in learning and memory. For your brain to function properly, glutamate needs to be present in the right concentration in the right places at the right time. Too much glutamate is associated with such diseases as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and Huntington's disease," the Cleveland Clinic noted.

Glutamate also aids in other bodily functions. At the intestinal level, once located in the epithelial cells, with the presence of other proteins, glutamate helps produce other amino and nucleic acids, the building blocks of DNA and RNA. Glutamate is also used to spark up the energy used by our cells, known as adenosine triphosphate, or ATP.

A large population of glutamate receptors resides in many organs of the body including the heart, kidneys, lungs, and liver. When excessive amounts of glutamate molecules migrate out of the intestines and flow into the blood stream, they scatter into the organs and a trigger is forcefully turned on and off, launching a metabolic roller coaster effect in the system.

In 2010, a brain study was conducted that revealed that the toxicity of MSG,

when supplied directly into the bloodstream of newborn mice, immediately enters the brain and induces seizures, creating life-threatening episodes.

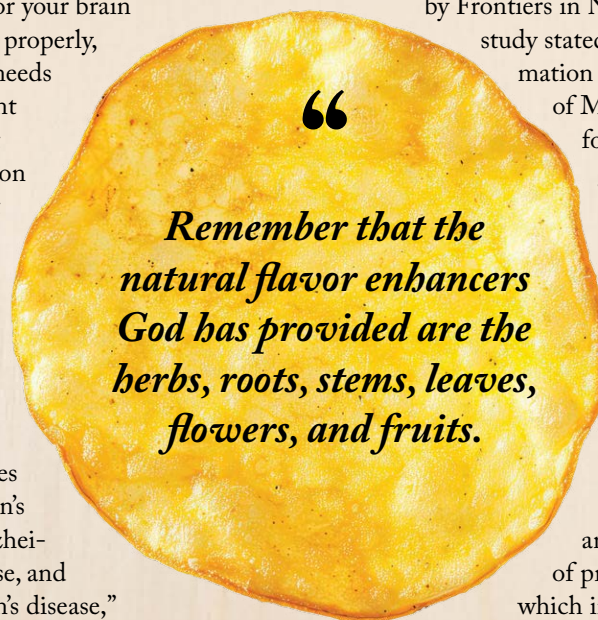
In 2021, another study was performed by *Frontiers in Neuroscience*. This

study stated detailed information about the ability of MSG and other forms of artificial glutamate to cause certain proteins to aggregate. It also found that Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lou Gehrig's (ALS), and Huntington's diseases are all associated with an overabundance of protein aggregation which induced neuron death in specific brain regions.

The best recommendation to prevent an overabundance of glutamate and MSG from poisoning the body would be to avoid eating processed foods and even dining out regularly in restaurants that have high probabilities of using those ingredients. Instead, focus on the eight laws of health and following a diet based on wholesome grains, cereals, organic fruits, and vegetables. For an exquisite food taste, remember that the natural flavor enhancers God has provided are herbs, roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits.

You might have to invest some time and energy in homemade preparations, but this diet was given by God Himself to maintain the body He created in healthy and good working order.

Source: *Monosodium Glutamate Clinical Report* [LM](#)



“
*Remember that the
natural flavor enhancers
God has provided are the
herbs, roots, stems, leaves,
flowers, and fruits.*”

THE GIFT OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

John J. Grosboll

The Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is clear that in the last days, God would give the gift of prophecy to His people.

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

God’s people will have the testimony of Jesus Christ. That testimony is the spirit of prophecy.

“Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10, *last part*

There are two significant questions that everyone must ask themselves: is there a God in heaven? And if so, is the Bible, all 66 books and no more, His book?

Adventists believe that this last-day gift of prophecy was manifested in the life and work of Ellen G. White. In fact, if Mrs. White is not a prophet, then the

Seventh-day Adventist church is a fraud. It would be hypocritical for a person or denomination to claim to be Seventh-day Adventist, but not believe that she is God’s last-day prophet.

Ellen G. White is the Elijah prophet to the second advent movement. Before Jesus appeared the first time, the angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias (Luke 1) and predicted that even though he and his wife were advanced in age, they were going to have a son. Zacharias had wanted a son for many years and had asked the Lord for a son. But while it appears that his prayer was being answered, he could not believe that he nor his wife could be parents. As a consequence of his unbelief, he was struck dumb and remained unable to speak until their child was born.

The child was named John, and Zacharias was once again able to speak and praise God. However, Gabriel told him this son would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and turn many

to the Lord, and prepare the way for the coming of the Lord (Malachi 4:6). John the Baptist’s mission was to be the Elijah prophet who would prepare the way for the first coming of Christ.

Likewise, God sent an Elijah prophet, Mrs. White, to the second advent movement. Her mission was to prepare a people for the second coming of Christ. If you are not fully ready for the second coming of Christ right now, you need the help of the Elijah prophet to make you ready.

The Gift of Prophecy in the Remnant Church

In review, let’s look briefly at a few of the prominent Bible tests of a true prophet.

- A true prophet will always speak in harmony with the law of God (Isaiah 8:20).
- The work of a true prophet will bring forth good fruit (Matthew 7:16).

- The work of a true prophet will glorify Christ (John 16:14).
- A true prophet will have visions and dreams (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17).
- A true prophet will bear testimony that Jesus came in the flesh (1 John 4:1-3).
- A true prophet will make predictions that come to pass (Deuteronomy 18:22).

Dreams and Visions

“If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord will speak to him in a vision and in a dream.” Numbers 12:6

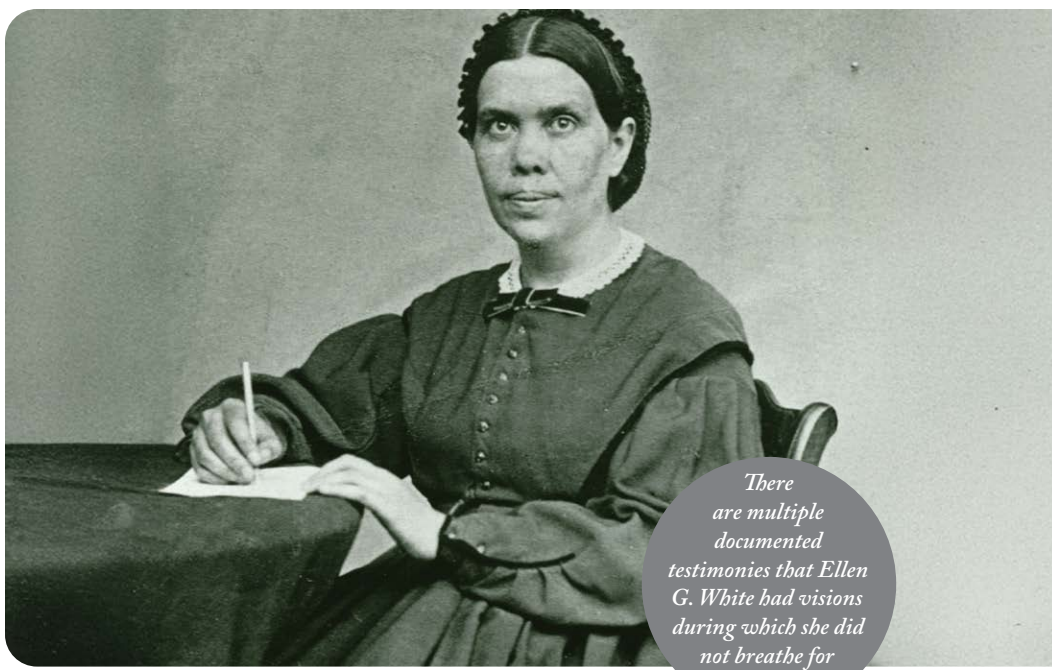
When a prophet has a vision, he or she may not breathe for the duration. They may lose all of their own strength, but are strengthened by something outside themselves. We see in Daniel 10 that Daniel experienced these very things. And we see that Mrs. White experienced them, too. When this happened, James White would give people an opportunity to examine her in many different ways. A mirror placed under her nose gathered no moisture on its surface and a lighted candle held close to her nose and mouth did not flicker.

We know that the average person is able to hold their breath from 30-90 seconds without training or preparation. Individuals with larger lungs and those with specific training can hold their breath up to two minutes and possibly three. Beyond that, the brain begins to die from lack of oxygen.

(Sources: fitness-n-health.com/how-long-can-a-trained-person-hold-their-breath-underwater; themaplesrehab.com/how-much-time-should-a-healthy-lung-hold-air)

Tested repeatedly, Mrs. White had visions during which she did not breathe for extended periods of time. During one such vision in the spring of 1858, she did not breathe for two hours. After the vision, she would be totally weak, and often could not read or see for several hours.

In March, 1858, on a Sunday afternoon, James and Ellen White were attend-



There are multiple documented testimonies that Ellen G. White had visions during which she did not breathe for hours.

ing a funeral in a public schoolhouse. Brother White was asked to speak to the mourners, and when he had done so, he sat down. Ellen felt the urge of the Holy Spirit to tell the people about the coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the Christian's hope, about a place and time when there would be no more goodbyes, no more funerals. She stood up to speak, and it was then that she was carried away in vision (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, 162, 163), and shown the theme of the great controversy between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels—the continuous warfare waging for 6,000 years.

“As I was led to speak upon the coming of Christ and the resurrection and the cheering hope of the Christian, my soul triumphed in God. I drank in rich draughts of salvation. Heaven, sweet heaven, was the magnet to draw my soul upward, and I was wrapt in a vision of God's glory. Many important things were there revealed to me for the church.” *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 2, 265, 266

The God of heaven knows everything and at the same time that He is governing everything in our world as well

as the entire universe, He notices the minutest details in the lives of humanity. These things He showed Mrs. White.

For Those Who are Alone

After this vision, Mrs. White had some interesting things to say to those who stood alone on the truth of God in their family.

“I saw that some would have to walk the straight path alone. Their companions and children will not walk the self-denying pathway with them.

“Patience and forbearance should ever characterize the lives of those lone pilgrims following the example of their blessed Master. They will have many trials to endure, but they have a hope that makes the soul strong. ... Those who possess a hope like this should never indulge a harsh, unkind spirit. This will only injure their own souls, and drive their friends farther from the truth. Treat them tenderly. Give them no occasion to reproach the cause of Christ; but never yield the truth to please anyone. Be decided, be fixed, be established, be not of a doubtful mind.” *Ibid.*, 266

“If your companions and children will not come, if you cannot win them to yield to the claims of truth, make their lives here as pleasant as possible; for all they will ever enjoy will be this poor world. But let not your duty to them interfere with your duty to God.

“

*Croatian freediver
Vitimir Maričić voluntarily
held his breath for 29 minutes
and 3 seconds. He prepared by
pre-breathing pure oxygen
and saturating his body
with oxygen before
submersion.*

“Pursue a straightforward course. Let nothing they may do or say provoke an angry word from you.

You have a hope that will yield you consolation amid the disappointments and trials of life.

Your companions and children who will not be induced to tread the narrow, cross-bearing pathway with you, have not this divine consolation. They should have your pity, for this world is all the heaven they will have.” Ibid., 266, 267

If you do not accept Jesus as your Saviour and choose to follow and obey Him, this world is all you will know; its possessions all you will ever have.

There is nothing in this world that should mean more to us than Jesus Christ and our soon-to-be heavenly home. Even the good things in this life—home, family, work, church—the devil can use them all to separate us from our Redeemer and Friend, if we are unwilling to sacrifice everything for Him. For 6,000 years, the devil has worked to strengthen within us the selfishness and self-seeking that is our inherited nature. Our natural desire for the things of this world must be overcome until the only desire in our hearts is to be with the Father and the Son in heaven and the earth made new for eternity. We cannot have both the world and heaven. Sin and purity cannot dwell together. If we choose this world, God will let us have it, and one day soon, our eyes will close in death with no second chance for heaven. The wrath of God belongs to the man or woman who does not have Jesus in his or her life.

“Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15–17

Mrs. White was also shown in this vision that “all who profess the present truth would be tested and tried. Their love for Jesus’ coming will be proved, and manifested to others, whether it be genuine. All, I saw, would not stand the test. Some love this world so much that it swallows up their love for the truth. As their treasures here increase, their interest in the heavenly treasure decreases.” *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 2, 267

The Main Purpose of the Vision

For the three months following the vision, Mrs. White wrote it out. It can be found in the last 200 pages of the book *Early Writings*, and also in *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 1. She begins with a description of Lucifer before he fell. She records what happened in heaven, his feelings of jealousy and dissatisfaction, his baleful work of sowing discord among his fellow angels until war broke out in heaven and he and those who sympathized with him were cast out of the heavenly realms.

She saw Creation, the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, the serpent and the tree, the Fall, and the opening of God’s great plan to restore mankind and how it was carried down through successive ages in the plan of salvation.

She was shown the principal events that occurred in Old Testament times, the first advent of Christ, and His temptations in the wilderness. His crucifixion, resurrection, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early believers and the great apostasy that would happen in the Christian church, and the Reformation were all opened before her.

She was carried forward to our time, the end times, and she saw the judgment, the close of probation, the time of trouble, the second coming of Christ, the millennium, the ultimate destruction of the wicked, and the eternal home of the faithful. She saw it

all from beginning to end. Then God told her to write it out, but that the devil would bring great suffering upon her as she did.

“... I was shown that I must write it out. That I should have to contend with the powers of darkness, for Satan would make strong efforts to hinder me, but angels of God would not leave me in the conflict, that in God must I put my trust.” Ibid., 270

Throughout her life, Mrs. White was in constant warfare against spiritual wickedness.

“On the arrival of the train at Jackson, we went to Brother Palmer’s house. We had been in the house but a short time, when, as I was conversing with Sister Palmer, my tongue refused to utter what I wished to say, and seemed large and numb. A strange, cold sensation struck my heart, passed over my head, and down my right side. For a while I was insensible; but was aroused by the voice of earnest prayer. I tried to use my left arm and limb, but they were perfectly useless. For a short time, I did not expect to live. It was the third shock I had received of paralysis, and although within fifty miles of home, I did not expect to see my children again. I called to mind the triumphant season I had enjoyed at Lovett’s Grove, and thought it was my last testimony, and felt reconciled to die.” Ibid., 271

A Clarifying Vision

Three months later in a vision given to her in Battle Creek, it was opened to her what was really behind the distressing experience suffered in the Palmer home.

“I was taken off in vision. In that vision I was shown that in the sudden attack at Jackson, Satan designed to take my life to hinder the work I was about to write; but angels of God were sent to my rescue, to raise me above the effects of Satan’s attack. I saw, among other things, that I should be blest with better health than before the attack at Jackson.” Ibid., 272



“For several weeks I could not feel the pressure of the hand, nor the coldest water poured upon my head. In rising to walk, I often staggered, and sometimes fell to the floor. In this condition, I commenced to write *The Great Controversy*. I could write at first but one page a day, then rest three; but as I progressed, my strength increased. The numbness in my head did not seem to becloud my mind, and before I closed that work, the effect of the shock had entirely left me.” Ibid.

Why did the devil want to destroy Mrs. White? She had been shown the devil’s plans in the great controversy, his goal to destroy every man, woman, and child in this world. And she was going to write it all down and publish it in a book so that God’s people could be ready when they were faced with his temptations and attacks.

An Effective Offense

Throughout history, Satan has used, with great success, a myriad of ways against mankind, but he particularly uses two of his most effective ways to trip man up.

The first, and this one was especially effective against the Jews, is to persuade people to reject Jesus’ divinity and to refuse Him as the Son of God. That is fatal.

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life.” 1 John 5:12. “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36

If Satan can successfully persuade a man to reject Jesus’ divinity as the Son of God and not to accept Him as the sovereign Ruler of his life and his Saviour from sin, then that man is lost.

Satan’s second successful method is to convince mankind that God cannot be both merciful and just.

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne.” Psalm 89:14

“My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteous.” Psalm 119:172

The law of God is righteous. Therefore, the foundation of His throne is His law—righteousness and justice. His law is a written expression of His character. Asking God to change His law, is the same as asking Him to change His character. Think about that. The creature (the created), is telling and expecting the Creator to change not only His law, but Himself.

Before Christ was crucified, the devil’s principal way to cause men to be lost was to reject Jesus and His authority as the Son of God. After His crucifixion, the devil made another false claim. The death of Christ now grants mercy and mercy has abolished justice. In essence, the devil is saying that mercy abolishes God’s law. Billions of people have lost their souls already over this lie.

Because Jesus died on the cross, God can now justly forgive your sins, but that forgiveness does not come with permission to continue in sin. In fact, when we learn to understand and appreciate the cost for our sins to be forgiven, we will never want to sin again. W. D. Frazee

expressed it best when he said, “Suppose the next time before you choose to sin an angel stepped up to you and said, ‘Okay, you can do that, but first take this hammer and nail and drive the nail into Jesus Christ.’ Would you say in your heart, ‘But I really want to do this thing. I’ll only use this hammer and nail just this time?’ How could you? And yet, spiritually, that is exactly what we do. Every sin indulged crucifies Christ anew. People say, ‘I would never do that,’ but they do. It was our sins that killed Christ.”

There are millions of Christians all over the world who claim to follow Jesus. They claim Him as their Lord and Saviour, they believe they are saved, but they will be deliberately disobeying God’s law and are lost as a consequence, unless they change. Jesus identified these people in Matthew 7:21–23.

The Great Controversy

The subject of the great controversy between Christ and Satan is the destruction of mankind or his salvation. The devil is determined to destroy us and God is equally determined to save us.

Sister White related a portion of her views concerning the fall of Satan, the plan of salvation, and the great controversy. This description abounded in startling facts and vivid descriptions. And when the course of the narration brought us to the days of the first advent, the humiliation, the suffering, and finally the crucifixion of the Saviour, especially then did not only the silent tear but even the audible sobs of many in the congregation announce their hearts were

touched by the sufferings of the Son of God for rebellious man.

“When we view the great controversy as now going forward—its field the world, its subject man—we see not how anyone can long hesitate upon which side to enroll himself.” *1BIO, The Early Years (1827–1862)*, 373. The great controversy is being

fought over YOU. Are you going to live or are you going to die?

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to Satan, ‘The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?’

“Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

“Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, ‘Take away the filthy garments from him.’ And to him He said, ‘See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.’

“And I said, ‘Let them put a clean turban on his head.’

“So, they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.

“Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command [be obedient to the law], then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.

“ “Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you. For they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.

“ “For behold, the stone that I have laid before Joshua: upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,” says the Lord of hosts, “And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”” *Zechariah 3:1–9*

The devil says to the Lord, Look at this miserable creature. He breaks your law every day. He lives contrary to Your guidance. He hurts You every day. You cannot give him eternal life. Is that what the devil says to the Lord about you? And isn’t he right? Aren’t we just like a child who sits in the mud and then after he’s all cleaned up and has on new, clean clothes, he goes out and sits in the mud again?

Thieves will remain thieves and liars will always be liars. Once we steal, it’s easy to steal again. One lie told, and it becomes easier to lie than to tell the truth. That’s how sin works. One sin makes it easier to sin again until we no longer know how or are able to stop; at least not by ourselves.

Most of this world is headed pell-mell, fast as can be, with lightning speed toward everlasting destruction and the devil is more than happy to help as many as possible to reach that destination. And, sadly, Revelation tells us that he will be mostly successful.

However, the devil is afraid, friend. He tried to kill Mrs. White so that her vision about the great controversy would not be published. He tries to keep the Bible away from as many as possible or just identifies it as a good book with a few good things in it because he knows that when you read, it will change you.

But, the Lord wants to save you and He is willing and able to pluck you from the fire. Life is serious, death even more so. And there are only two choices: salvation and eternal life or damnation and

“
*Heaven, sweet
heaven, was the magnet
to draw my soul upward,
and I was wrapped in a
vision of God’s glory.*

Ellen G. White

eternal death. No in-between, no do over, no second chance, no just an itsy, bitsy bit of sin. You will either be saved wearing Jesus' robe of righteousness having been cleansed fully and completely from sin, or you will eternally die still wearing your own tattered and filthy rags of sin, like the child sitting in the mud.

I Will Die with You

Friend, we must understand that we have an enemy who is determined to destroy us. We might think we know who he is and we can't be fooled by him. That's likely why he's so very successful. Think about this for a moment. Peter loved Jesus. He followed Him throughout Galilee and Jerusalem. He intended to follow Him all the way to glory. Do you imagine yourself to be stronger than a man who walked and talked with Jesus, who could reach out and touch Him?

And when Jesus told him that he would deny Him, I can just imagine Peter literally sputtering and spitting and feeling offended. We know he was because of what he said to Jesus.

"Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble. ... Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny you." Matthew 26:33, 35

Peter meant every word, but all it took was a young servant girl to point her finger at him and say, "You are a follower of this Man!" And each time he denied knowing Christ, the denial was worse and easier to say than the one before.

"Peter flew into a rage. The disciples of Jesus were noted for the purity of their language, and in order fully to deceive his questioners, and justify his assumed character, Peter now denied his Master with cursing and swearing. Again, the cock crew. Peter heard it then, and he remembered the words of Jesus, 'Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny Me thrice.' Mark 14:30

"While the degrading oaths were fresh upon Peter's lips, and the shrill crowing of the cock was still ringing in



his ears, the Saviour turned from the frowning judges, and looked full upon His poor disciple. At the same time Peter's eyes were drawn to his Master. In that gentle countenance he read deep pity and sorrow, but there was no anger there." *The Desire of Ages*, 712, 713

Over confidence in himself led Peter to do the unthinkable. Jesus wanted him to see who he truly was and to distrust himself and daily strengthen his faith in the Son of God.

"Peter had just declared that he knew not Jesus, but he now realized with bitter grief how well his Lord knew him, and how accurately He had read his heart, the falseness of which was unknown even to himself." *Ibid.*, 713

End of the Controversy

Mrs. White's vision documents and describes what the children of God will enjoy for eternity. At the end of time, the only people who will escape the machinations of the devil are those who will say, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Jesus says, "Follow Me." The first requirement is to deny self, deny our carnal

nature, and then He asks that we take up our cross daily and follow. He also says, "If anyone follows Me, he will be where I am." Do you want to be where Jesus is; in a land of peace and joy, no death, sickness, partings, separation, determination, no more trouble? The devil and his own, sin—root and branch—are gone never to harass or rise again.

We have a personal devil who wants to destroy us. If you decide to serve self, the devil is satisfied, and he might leave you alone letting you enjoy a good life in this world. You might even have a very fulfilling life in this world, but that is all you will have.

But we have a personal Saviour who is more powerful, willing, and able to save us. Heaven is a place of bliss. If you want to go there, you must learn the lesson of self-denial and taking up the cross to follow Jesus. [LM](#)

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May 31 – June 6, 2026

The Mystery of Iniquity

Key Text

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.”
2 Thessalonians 2:7

Study Help: *The Acts of the Apostles*, 264–268; *The Great Controversy*, 49–60

Introduction

“The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power.” *The Great Controversy*, 49

Sunday

1 THE GREAT APOSTASY

- 1.a. What event, foretold by the apostle Paul, began to creep into the church in her early days?
2 Thessalonians 2:3, 7. What was the unavoidable consequence?

Note: “Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, ‘the mystery of iniquity’ carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions.” *The Great Controversy*, 49

“After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to

free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God.” *Ibid.*, 45

- 1.b. What allegation did Satan make about himself to Christ? Luke 4:5, 6. What system has he used to confirm this claim? Revelation 13:1–7

Note: “This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of ‘the man of sin’ foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.” *The Great Controversy*, 50

Monday

2 THE SUPREMACY OF ROME

- 2.a. What is the meaning of the woman of Revelation 17 sitting upon many waters? Revelation 17:1, 6, 15

Note: “In the sixth century, the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ Revelation 13:2. And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5–7. (See Appendix.) Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman’s ax.” *The Great Controversy*, 54

- 2.b. As predicted by Paul, how was the doctrine of papal supremacy established in the Roman Catholic Church? 2 Thessalonians 2:4



As persecution ceased and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, the church laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ.

Note: “It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has been given the very titles of Deity. He has been styled ‘Lord God the Pope,’ and has been declared infallible. He demands the homage of all men.”

The Great Controversy, 50

Tuesday

3 GOD’S LAW UNDER ATTACK

3.a. How did the Roman Catholic Church tamper with the holy law of God? Daniel 7:25

Note: “Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified (Genesis 2:2, 3), and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as ‘the venerable day of the sun.’ This change was not at first attempted openly. In the first centuries the true Sabbath had been kept by all Christians. They were jealous for the honor of God, and, believing that His law is immutable, they zealously guarded the sacredness of its precepts. But with great subtlety Satan worked through his agents to bring about his object.” *The Great Controversy, 52*

3.b. What fundamental truth concerning the law of God has been overlooked even by the Protestant world? Isaiah 42:21; Jeremiah 31:33; Matthew 5:17–19. How have the Protestant churches been involved in the great apostasy concerning God’s law?

Note: “Protestants now urge that the resurrection of Christ on Sunday made it the Christian Sabbath. But Scripture evidence is lacking. No such honor was given to the day by Christ or His apostles. The observance of Sunday as a Christian institution had its origin in that “mystery of lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2:7, R.V.) which, even in Paul’s day, had begun its work. Where and when did the Lord adopt this child of the papacy? What valid reason can be given for a change which the Scriptures do not sanction?” *The Great Controversy, 54*

Wednesday

4 THE WORLD UNDER A CURSE

4.a. Why is most of even the so-called Christian world under a curse? Isaiah 24:5, 6

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

“No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God’s law is no longer binding upon men. Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; no government could exist without them; and can it be conceived that the Creator of the heavens and the earth has no law to govern the beings He has made? Suppose that prominent ministers

were publicly to teach that the statutes which govern their land and protect the rights of its citizens were not obligatory—that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed; how long would such men be tolerated in the pulpit? But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of states and nations than to trample upon those divine precepts which are the foundation of all government?” *Ibid.*, 584

4.b. What is the main cause of the wickedness existing in the world? Psalms 11:3; 119:53; Romans 2:23

Note: “Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to God’s requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin.” *The Great Controversy*, 585

Thursday

5 THE FINAL CONFLICT

5.a. What episode in the history of Israel, in the days of king Ahab, is to be repeated in our days? 1 Kings 18:17, 18

Note: “In the closing work of God in the earth, the standard of His law will be again exalted. False religion may prevail, iniquity may abound, the love of many may wax cold, the cross of Calvary may be lost sight of, and darkness, like the pall of death, may spread over the world; the whole force of the popu-

lar current may be turned against the truth; plot after plot may be formed to overthrow the people of God; but in the hour of greatest peril the God of Elijah will raise up human instrumentalities to bear a message that will not be silenced. In the populous cities of the land, and in the places where men have gone to the greatest lengths in speaking against the Most High, the voice of stern rebuke will be heard. Boldly will men of God’s appointment denounce the union of the church with the world. Earnestly will they call upon men and women to turn from the observance of a man-made institution to the observance of the true Sabbath.” *Prophets and Kings*, 186, 187

5.b. What consequences will the last conflict between Christ and Satan bring upon the people of God? Revelation 12:17

Note: “Under the rule of Rome, those who suffered death for their fidelity to the gospel were denounced as evildoers; they were declared to be in league with Satan; and every possible means was employed to cover them with reproach, to cause them to appear in the eyes of the people and even to themselves as the vilest of criminals. So, it will be now. While Satan seeks to destroy those who honor God’s law, he will cause them to be accused as lawbreakers, as men who are dishonoring God and bringing judgments upon the world.” *The Great Controversy*, 591
 “Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected.” *Ibid.*, 592

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Describe the peril which the apostle Paul foresaw in the church.
2. Where does the Bible prophetically refer to the papal church?
3. What scriptural texts emphasize the perpetuity of God’s law?
4. Name one major cause of the moral breakdown in society today.
5. Though persecution looms ahead, what task should encourage us?

June 7 – 13, 2026

Wines of Babylon

Key Text

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”
Colossians 2:8

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 290–302;
The Great Controversy, 551–562

Introduction

“Those who are guided by the word of the Lord will discern with certainty between falsehood and truth, between sin and righteousness.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 907

Sunday

1 IMPORTANT TRUTHS CAST DOWN

1.a. What must we realize about Christ’s position in the plan of salvation? John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Acts 4:12. How have attempts been made to subvert His authority?

Note: “Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator and that none could approach God except through him; and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed.” *The Great Controversy*, 55

“Still another fabrication was needed to enable Rome to profit by the fears and the vices of her adherents. This was supplied by the doctrine of indulgences. Full remission of sins, past, present, and future, and release from all the pains and penalties incurred, were promised to all who would enlist in the pontiff’s wars to extend his temporal dominion, to punish his enemies, or to exterminate those who dared deny his spiritual supremacy.” *Ibid.*, 59

1.b. In the Lord’s supper, what is represented by the bread and the wine? 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23–26. Explain the doctrine of transubstantiation (see dictionary).

Note: “The Scriptural ordinance of the Lord’s Supper had been supplanted by the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass. Papal priests pretended, by their senseless mummery, to convert the simple bread and wine into the actual ‘body and blood of Christ.’—Cardinal Wiseman, *The Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Eucharist, Proved From Scripture*, lecture 8, sec. 3, par. 26. With blasphemous presumption, they openly claimed the power of creating God, the Creator of all things.” *The Great Controversy* (1911), 59. [Author’s italics.]

Monday

2 PAGAN TEACHINGS ADOPTED

2.a. What does the Bible teach concerning (a) the state of the dead, and (b) the end of the wicked? How were these teachings perverted? (a) Job 14:7–14; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10. (b) Psalm 37:10, 20, 38; 145:20; Revelation 20:9

Note: “Serious errors were ... introduced into the Christian faith. Prominent among these was the belief in man’s natural immortality and his consciousness in death. This doctrine laid the foundation upon which Rome established the invocation of saints and the adoration of the Virgin Mary. From this sprang also the heresy of eternal torment for the finally impenitent, which was early incorporated into the papal faith.

“Then the way was prepared for the introduction of still another invention of paganism, which Rome named purgatory, and employed to terrify the credulous and superstitious multitudes.” *The Great Controversy*, 58

2.b. According to Scripture, when will the righteous be vested with immortality and taken to heaven? 1 Corinthians 15:50–55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17; John 14:1–3. On the other hand, what does popular theology teach?

Note: “According to the popular belief, the redeemed in heaven are acquainted with all that takes place on the earth and especially with the lives of the friends whom they have left behind. But how could it be a source of happiness to the dead to know the troubles of the living, to witness the sins committed by their own loved ones, and to see them enduring all the sorrows, disappointments, and anguish of life? How much of heaven’s bliss would be enjoyed by those who were hovering over their friends on earth?” *The Great Controversy*, 545

Tuesday

3 BABYLONIAN “WINES” AMONG PROTESTANTS

3.a. How must God’s people act in reference to four heresies which Protestants have inherited from the Catholic Church? Matthew 15:13

Note: “In the professedly Christian world, many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables, and they point to their tower as a way to climb up to heaven.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 124

“The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the preexistence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God’s holy and sanctified day.” *Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 61

3.b. How did Paul and Peter warn the believers against the danger of accepting false teachings? 1 Corinthians 11:19; 2 Peter 2:1. What do many Protestant churches teach about the creation of the world, the second coming of Christ, and the millennium?

Note: “The sophistry in regard to the world’s being created in an indefinite period of time is one of Satan’s falsehoods. God speaks to the human family in language they can comprehend. He does not leave the matter so indefinite that human beings can handle it according to their theories. When the Lord declares that He made the world in six days and rested on seventh day, He means the day of twenty-four hours, which He has marked off by the rising and setting of the sun.” *Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 135, 136

“The teaching so widely echoed from popular pulpits, that the second advent of Christ is His coming to each individual at death, is a device to divert the minds of men from His personal coming in the clouds of heaven.” *The Great Controversy*, 525

“Prominent among these false doctrines is that of the temporal millennium—a thousand years of spiritual peace and prosperity, in which the world is to be converted, before the coming of Christ. This siren song has lulled thousands of souls to sleep over the abyss of eternal ruin.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, 235

Wednesday

4 MODERN HERESIES

4.a. Prove from the Bible that salvation is conditional. Matthew 7:21; Revelation 3:5; 22:14. Why is Universalism (the teaching that all people will finally be saved) so erroneous and dangerous to the soul?

Note: “A large class to whom the doctrine of eternal torment is revolting are driven to the opposite error. They see that the Scriptures represent God as a being of love and compassion, and they cannot believe that He will consign His creatures to the fires of an eternally burning hell. But holding that the soul is naturally immortal, they see no alternative but to conclude that all mankind will finally be saved.” *The Great Controversy*, 537



The Scriptural ordinance of the Lord's Supper had been supplanted by the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass.

4.b. How does the Bible conflict with the doctrine of “faith, and faith only?” James 1:22–25; 2:14–17

Note: “The desire for an easy religion that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine; but what saith the word of God? . . .

“The testimony of the word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine of faith without works. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions upon which mercy is to be granted, it is presumption; for genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.” *The Great Controversy*, 472

Thursday

5 OTHER DANGEROUS HERESIES

5.a. How can we prove that those who teach “once saved, always saved,” are in conflict with the Bible? Ezekiel 18:23–26; Matthew 24:13. Give at least two examples to this effect. 1 Kings 13:26; 2 Peter 2:15–20

Note: “There is no such thing in the word of God as unconditional election—once in grace, always in grace. In the second chapter of Second Peter the subject is made plain and distinct.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, III4

5.b. Another dangerous philosophy is the modern idea that man is self-sufficient and that he need only develop his innate powers. What does the Bible say on this? Jeremiah 13:23; John 15:5; Colossians 2:8. What is our only safety? Isaiah 8:20; Luke 11:28

Note: “If Satan can so befog and deceive the human mind as to lead mortals to think that there is an inherent power in themselves to accomplish great and good works, they cease to rely upon God to do for them that which they think there is power in themselves to do. They acknowledge not a superior power. They give not God the glory which He claims, and which is due to His great and excellent Majesty. Satan’s object is thus accomplished, and he exults that fallen men presumptuously exalt themselves as he exalted himself in heaven and was thrust out. He knows that if man exalts himself, his ruin is just as certain as was his own.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 294

“It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.” *The Great Controversy*, 598

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How has Romanism sought to subvert Christ and His teachings?
2. Which scriptural texts clarify the actual state of the dead?
3. Name some popular errors which the Protestant world has imbibed.
4. How does the Bible teach that salvation is conditional?
5. Why is it essential to realize our frailty and need of God’s Word?

June 14 – 20, 2026

Daughters of Babylon

Key Text

“Indeed, everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: ‘Like mother, like daughter.’” Ezekiel 16:44

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 282–287; *The Great Controversy*, 382–387

Introduction

“Babylon is said to be ‘the *mother* of harlots.’ By her *daughters* must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example.” *The Great Controversy*, 382. [Author’s italics.]

Sunday

1 THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES

1.a. How did the Protestant churches break their marriage vow? Hosea 2:19, 20; Jeremiah 3:14; James 4:4

Note: “In Revelation 17, Babylon is represented as a woman—a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.

“In the Bible the sacred and enduring character of the relation that exists between Christ and His church is represented by the union of marriage. ...

“The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow.” *The Great Controversy*, 381

1.b. By following the paths of the Jewish and Roman Catholic churches, how did the Protestant churches become part of Babylon? Ezekiel 16:44; Hosea 4:6; Matthew 15:14, *last part*

Note: “The term ‘Babylon’ is derived from ‘Babel,’ and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion.” *The Great Controversy*, 381

“It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation.” *Ibid.*, 382

“Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome’s example of iniquitous connection with ‘the kings of the earth’—the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world. And the term ‘Babylon’—confusion—may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories. Besides a sinful union with the world, the churches that separated from Rome present other of her characteristics.” *Ibid.*, 383

Monday

2 SPURIOUS REVIVALS

2.a. Explain the basic differences between
 (a) genuine revivals led by the Holy Spirit: Ezekiel 33:15, 16; 1 Corinthians 7:9–11
 (b) modern revivals led by another spirit: Ezekiel 33:31, 32; Matthew 15:8

Note: “Revivals brought deep heart searching and humility. They were characterized by solemn, earnest appeals to the sinner, by yearning compassion for the purchase of the blood of Christ. Men and women prayed and wrestled with God for the salvation of souls. The fruits of such revivals were seen in souls who shrank not at self-denial and sacrifice, but rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer reproach and trial for



*Christ
and His
church are
represented in the
Bible by the union
of marriage.*

the sake of Christ. Men beheld a transformation in the lives of those who had professed the name of Jesus. ...

“But many of the revivals of modern times have presented a marked contrast to those manifestations of divine grace which in earlier days followed the labors of God’s servants. It is true that a widespread interest is kindled, many profess conversion, and there are large accessions to the churches; nevertheless, the results are not such as to warrant the belief that there has been a corresponding increase of real spiritual life. The light which flames up for a time soon dies out, leaving the darkness more dense than before.” *The Great Controversy*, 462, 463

2.b. How can we know that most of the present-day revivals do not come from God? Matthew 7:20–23

Note: “In those churches which he [Satan] can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.” *The Great Controversy*, 464

Tuesday

3 MODERN SPIRITUALISM

- 3.a. How are many in modern Babylon giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils?
1 Timothy 4:1, 2

Note: “The doctrine of man’s consciousness in death, especially the belief that spirits of the dead return to minister to the living, has prepared the way for modern spiritualism. ... While professing to bring the living into communication with the dead, the prince of evil exercises his bewitching influence upon their minds.

“He has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear ‘to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.’” *The Great Controversy*, 551, 552

- 3.b. What is leading more and more people to fall for Satan’s deceptions? Matthew 24:24–26

Note: “Spiritualism, which numbers its converts by hundreds of thousands, yea, by millions, which has made its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings—this mammoth deception is but a revival, in a new disguise, of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old.” *The Great Controversy*, 556

Wednesday

4 THE CULMINATION OF APOSTASY

- 4.a. Since most of the Protestant churches believe that the dead are in a state of consciousness, what are they ready to accept also? Isaiah 28:15

Note: “As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches.” *The Great Controversy*, 603, 604

4.b. Why will the Protestant churches become completely fallen? 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12. What sin is very offensive to God, especially if tolerated by those who know the present truth? Jeremiah 23:14; Ephesians 5:3

Note: “The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work ‘with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;’ and they that ‘received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,’ will be left to receive ‘strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9–11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future.” *The Great Controversy*, 390

“The nominal churches are filled with fornication and adultery, crime and murder, the result of base, lustful passion; but these things are kept covered. Ministers in high places are guilty; yet a cloak of godliness covers their dark deeds, and they pass on from year to year in their course of hypocrisy. The sins of the nominal churches have reached unto heaven, and the honest in heart will be brought to the light and come out of them. ...

“They [commandment-keeping Adventists] profess to be standing upon the elevated platform of eternal truth, keeping all of God’s commandments; therefore, if they indulge in sin, if they commit fornication and adultery, their crime is of tenfold greater magnitude than is that of the classes I have named, who do not acknowledge the law of God as binding upon them.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, 449, 451

Thursday

5 A VISIBLE, FUNDAMENTAL DISTINCTION

5.a. When the climax of their apostasy is reached, what denunciation will apply to the churches? Revelation 18:2, 5. What warning should all believers heed?

Note: “The Redeemer of the world declares that there are greater sins than that for which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Those who hear the gospel invitation calling sinners to repentance, and heed it not, are more guilty before God than were the dwellers in the Vale of Siddim. And still greater sin is theirs who profess to know God and to keep His commandments, yet who deny Christ in their character and their daily life.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 165

5.b. Describe the distinction that will exist between the nominal churches and God’s remnant people. Titus 2:12–14; Revelation 14:12. What will then be fully revealed? Malachi 3:18

Note: “It is soon to be known who is on the Lord’s side, who will not be ashamed of Jesus.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 287

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How can any church, regardless of its profession, degenerate into a daughter of Babylon?
2. What contrast is seen between true and false revivals?
3. By what means will Satan deceive many in the churches?
4. Why are believers in the three angels’ messages held more accountable for sinful practices than those in Babylon?
5. What is soon to become evident, and how does this involve us now?

June 21 – 27, 2026

The Second Angel's Message

Key Text

“And another angel followed, saying, ‘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

Study Help: *Early Writings*, 237–245; *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 116–118

Introduction

“The substance of the second angel's message is again given to the world by that other angel who lightens the earth with his glory.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 116

Sunday

1 THE END IS NEAR

1.a. How will God intervene to stop the progress of wickedness in this world? 2 Peter 3:10; Nahum 1:3–6

Note: “In the bowels of the earth, God has in reserve the weapons that He will use to destroy the sinful race. Since the Flood, God has used, to destroy wicked cities, both the water and the fire that are concealed in the earth. In the final conflagration, God will in His wrath send lightning from heaven that will unite with the fire in the earth. The mountains will burn like a furnace, and pour forth streams of lava.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 946

1.b. What is one of the reasons why God is delaying His intervention? 2 Peter 3:9

Note: “Before the Son of man appears in the clouds of heaven, everything in nature will be convulsed. Lightning from heaven uniting with the fire in the earth, will cause the mountains to burn like a furnace, and pour out their floods of lava over villages and cities. Molten masses of rock, thrown into the water by the upheaval of things hidden in the earth, will cause the water to boil and send forth rocks and earth. There will be mighty earthquakes and great destruction of human life. But as in the days of the great Deluge Noah was preserved in the ark that God had prepared for him, so in these days of destruction and calamity, God will be the refuge of His believing ones.”

Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, 946

“God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish; but His forbearance has a limit, and when the boundary is past, there is no second probation. His wrath will go forth and He will destroy without remedy.” Ibid.

Monday

2 A THREEFOLD MESSAGE OF MERCY

2.a. What must be done on earth before the end can come? Matthew 24:14. What is our individual responsibility in this work, and what object should we have in view? Ezekiel 33:7–9, 11, 15; Isaiah 55:6, 7

2.b. What are the last three messages of the everlasting gospel to be given to the world? Revelation 14:6–11. What will follow immediately after these messages have been proclaimed? Revelation 14:14, 15

Note: “The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice, we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel's message. There cannot be a third without the first and second. These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in

discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been and the things that will be.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 104, 105

Tuesday

3 THE SECOND ANGEL AND HIS MESSAGE

3.a. What message does the second angel proclaim, and when was it first preached? Revelation 14:8. In what sense was spiritual Babylon not yet completely fallen when the message began to sound?

Note: “The second angel’s message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that ‘Babylon is fallen, . . . because she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ She has not yet made all nations do this. The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.” *The Great Controversy*, 389 [Author’s italics.]

3.b. When apostasy is present, what historic pattern must be followed? 2 Corinthians 6:17. Accordingly, what happened in the summer of 1844?

Note: “Those who dared not withhold from others the light which God had given them, were shut out of the churches; but Jesus was with them, and they were joyful in the light of His countenance. They were prepared to receive the message of the second angel.” *Early Writings*, 237

“Thus the believers found themselves in a position of great trial and perplexity. They loved their churches and were loath to separate from them; but as they saw the testimony of God’s word suppressed and their right to investigate the prophecies denied they felt that loyalty to God forbade them to submit. Those who sought to shut out the testimony of God’s word they could not regard as constituting the church of Christ, ‘the pillar and ground of the truth.’ Hence, they felt themselves justified in separating from their former connection. In the summer of 1844 about fifty thousand withdrew from the churches.” *The Great Controversy*, 376

Wednesday

4 A REINFORCEMENT COMING IN DUE TIME

4.a. What special call, given in the summer of 1844, added power to the message of the second angel? Matthew 25:6

Note: “This was the midnight cry, which was to give power to the second angel’s message. Angels were sent from heaven to arouse the discouraged saints and prepare them for the great work before them. The most talented men were not the first to receive this message. Angels were sent to the humble, devoted ones, and constrained them to raise the cry, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!’ Those entrusted with the cry made haste, and in the power of the Holy Spirit sounded the message, and aroused their discouraged brethren. This work did not stand in the wisdom and learning of men, but in the power of God, and His saints who heard the cry could not resist it. The most spiritual received this message first, and those who had formerly led in the work were the last to receive and help swell the cry, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!’

“In every part of the land, light was given upon the second angel’s message, and the cry melted the hearts of thousands. It went from city to city, and from village to village, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. In many churches the message was not permitted to be given, and a large company who had the living testimony left these fallen churches.” *Early Writings*, 238

4.b. Why, how, and when must the message of the fall of Babylon be repeated? Revelation 18:1, 2

Note: “I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’ The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells to a loud cry.” *Early Writings*, 277

Thursday

5 THE WORK OF GOD ACCOMPLISHED

5.a. What is the final mission of the movement symbolized by this other angel? Revelation 18:4

Note: “God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and ‘receive not of her plagues.’ Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: ‘Come out of her, My people.’ These announcements, uniting with the third angel’s message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.” *The Great Controversy*, 604



All who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.

5.b. What prophecy will then meet its final and complete fulfillment? John 10:16

Note: “The light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.” *Early Writings*, 261

“The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received ‘the latter rain,’ the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and they are prepared for the trying hour before them.” *The Great Controversy*, 613

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is soon to happen on this planet, and why is it delayed?
2. What are the three angels’ messages, and what is to be accomplished through them?
3. Explain the progressive nature of the second angel’s message.
4. Why is the other angel needed?
5. Describe the work of that other angel of Revelation 18.

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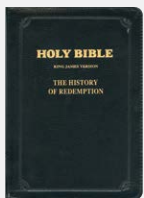
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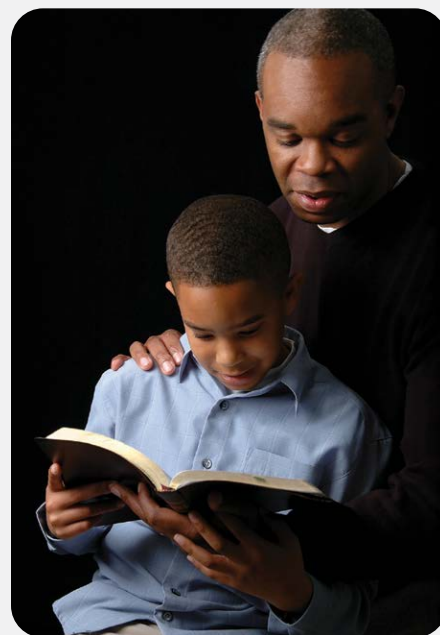
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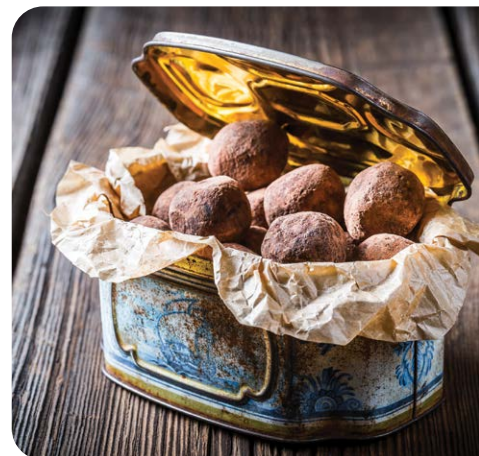
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 4 Tbs. maple syrup, or sweetener of choice
 3/4 tsp. vanilla flavoring
 Pinch of sea salt
 1 cup roasted pecans, chopped
 1½ cups carob chips or chopped carob bars
 Sprinkle of flaky or coarse salt

Process

Roast pecans at 300° F for about 10 minutes, turning half way through. Set aside. Scoop the dates into a food processor, adding almond butter, maple syrup, vanilla flavoring, and salt. Pulse until smooth and sticky, about 5 minutes, scraping down sides as needed. Scrape mixture into a bowl. Add pecans and mix. On a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet, scoop out mixture with a spoon or cookie scoop making approximately 22 turtles, flattening into a turtle shape. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. In a double boiler on low heat, melt carob chips until smooth, stirring constantly. Dip each turtle in the melted carob and place back on the cookie sheet. Sprinkle lightly with flaky or coarse salt. Allow to harden.



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