



# *Our* Firm Foundation

Volume 15, Number 7

July 2000

## Prepare to Meet Thy God

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

The world is in turmoil—wars, rumors of wars, famine and disease are all over the earth. Violence and immorality have engulfed almost every culture. The days of Noah and Lot are now here.

But the greatest evidence of the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour may be in the church itself. We are now facing the greatest crisis in the history of the great controversy and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Have some of our beloved churches degenerated into being a part of the ecumenical movement? Do we as members think that going to church on Saturday and returning our tithes and offerings will give us a sure entrance into heaven? Though these are all-important responsibilities of every Christian, they do not replace the close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ that every Christian must have.

God gave us, through His prophet Ellen White, some distinct signs of the end that would appear in the church:

1. An attempt to remove the great landmarks and the pillars of our faith.

“After the truth has been proclaimed as a witness to all nations, every conceivable power of evil will be set in operation, and minds will be confused by many voices crying, ‘Lo, here is Christ; lo, He is there. This is the truth, I have the message from God, He has sent me with great light.’ Then there will be a removing of the landmarks, and an attempt to tear down the pillars of our faith. A more decided effort will be made to exalt the false sabbath, and to cast contempt upon God Himself by supplanting the day He has blessed and sanctified. This false sabbath is to be enforced by an oppressive law.”<sup>1</sup>

2. To remove the landmarks, there would be an attempt by a very liberal movement from some leaders, pastors, and theologians to make of none effect the Testimonies of the Spirit of God:

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish.’ Proverbs. 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.

“There will be a hatred kindled against the Testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.”<sup>2</sup>

In this same attempt Satan would try to neutralize the cleansing of the sanctuary message and the three angels’ messages.<sup>3</sup>

3. Just before probation closes there would come into some of our churches music, drums, and dancing.

“It is impossible to estimate too largely the work that the Lord will accomplish through His proposed vessels in carrying out His mind and purpose. The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.”<sup>4</sup>

Could it be that these attempts by Satan—products of the Omega of Apostasy—are the reason our health message and medical missionary work have faltered? Have we substituted a multitude of programs to justify our existence as the remnant church?

As we face the end of all things and the close of our probation, there must now be a movement to lift the church out of its “dead level”:

“Make regular, organized efforts to lift the church members out of the dead level in which they have been for years. Send out into the churches workers who will live the principles of health reform. Let those be sent who can see the necessity of self-denial in appetite, or they will be a snare to the church. See if the breath of life will not then come into our churches. A new element needs to be brought into the work.”<sup>5</sup>

It is clear that our present position in these matters constitutes an apostasy away from God and from His living voice in the remnant church. The “gospel of health” has ceased to be a “gospel” to those who believe that it is not a sin to violate the laws of the body. Having thus eliminated the sacred duty of obedience to God in the physical realm, the relation of such obedience to Christian experience and character building has become obscured.

We are warned, “The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not quick to discern the difference between truth and error.”<sup>6</sup>

Let us now study through to the conclusion of our beliefs and see how they affect certain great fundamentals. Let us watch to see how insidious Satan’s errors are in their operation—how great is the iniquity wrought and yet how little they apparently change the great fundamentals while, in fact, entirely undermining them.

May God richly bless and guide each of us as we prepare for the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Ron Spear, EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 985.
- <sup>2</sup> *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48.
- <sup>3</sup> See *Evangelism*, 224–225; *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 17–18.
- <sup>4</sup> *Selected Messages*, book 2, 36.
- <sup>5</sup> *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 267.
- <sup>6</sup> *Selected Messages*, book 1, 202.

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.  
—Editors

Executive Editor: Ron Spear  
Associate Editor: Jeff Wehr  
Administrator / Editorial Committee  
Chairman: Harry Hansen  
Managing Editor: Harvey Steck  
Layout & Design: Kevin Patterson,  
Bryan Bailey

### Subscription Information

Prices for the annual subscription are listed below. Although we strive to keep them as low as possible, if your finances cannot meet the requested amount, please send whatever you can. We want this material to be available to all. If you wish to give a donation to assist in providing subscriptions for those whose funds may be limited, send your gift marked "Subscription Assistance" to the address below. Your donation is tax deductible.

**United States:** US \$18.75  
**Canada and Mexico:** US \$23.75  
**Overseas (surface mail):** US \$23.75  
Please inquire for overseas air rates.  
**Large Print Edition:** US \$45  
**Audio subscription:** (2 cassettes per month) US \$60 per year. For foreign subscriptions, please inquire regarding postage.

Hope International publications may be obtained from the following source:



**Hope International**  
P.O. Box 940  
Eatonville, WA 98328 USA

**Phone:** (360) 832-6602  
Mon–Thurs: 8:30am–5:00pm  
Fri: 8:30am–12:00pm PST  
**Fax:** (360) 832-3720  
**Email:** office@hopeint.org  
**Web:** http://www.hopeint.org

### Shipping Information

For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):

- Add 10% shipping plus US \$2 handling.
- For destinations outside the USA, add 15% shipping plus US \$2 handling.
- If actual shipping charges are greater, you will be billed the difference.

**Washington residents:** Please add an additional 7.7% sales tax.

**All money received must be in US funds drawn on US banks.**

Copyright © 2000 Hope International

Front cover: Kevin Patterson, Images © PhotoDisc  
All other art is used with permission or is copyright  
© Hope International, unless otherwise noted.

### 4 Prepare to Meet Thy God

Ron Spear

**"Now is the day of salvation."**

### 8 Keeping the Heart

Ellen G. White

**"Living the life of Him who went about doing good ... makes us more that conquerors."**

### 10 Making the Spirit of Prophecy of None Effect

Colin and Russell Standish

**Sometimes our strongest "defenders" can be our worst enemies.**

### 18 A Glorious Reunion

Alane Waters

**Unless we are in union with Christ here, there will be no reunion with Him in heaven.**

### 24 Words to Ministers

Ellen G. White

**How to be effective ministers and gospel workers for God.**

## departments

News Watch .....	15
Defending the Faith .....	22
Health for Life .....	28
Letters to the Editor .....	31



# Prepare to Meet Thy God

*Ron Spear*

**W**e have come to the greatest hour of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. For six thousand years Satan has roamed this planet bringing death, destruction, sorrow and suffering. But now he has much more power to deceive and destroy. Seventh-day Adventist leaders, pastors and laity are warned of their danger and how to meet it: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

In this awesome, sobering hour the newspapers and television newscasts declare the fulfillment of the great prophecies of Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 17 and 21.

Wars, rumors of wars, famines, and disease are the great concerns of the governments of the world. Billions of dollars are being spent in an effort to bring a lasting peace to a worried, convulsed world.

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

Y2K—January 1 came and went. There were very few glitches; the world relaxed. Some people had made very expensive preparations—spending thousands of dollars on food, water, generators, and so forth.

Many Seventh-day Adventists were relieved. Many enjoy their city living, with nice homes and the luxuries that the new millennium promises to continue to provide. Yet evidence is added to evidence that we have reached the end of all things; the coming of our Lord “is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly.”

“Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off. And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil. Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof. The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly,

even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. . . . Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD’S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king’s children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.” Zephaniah 1:11-18, 7-8.

What should we do in this crisis hour? Let us review the answers to be found in the Scriptures and in the Spirit of Prophecy:

“And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.” Joel 2:11-18.

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to

smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? . . . If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.” Isaiah 58:1-5, 13.

close, and the Omega of Apostasy is now wrenching our beloved church out of the hands of our loving Saviour.<sup>3</sup> Yes, the church will go through—shaken and purified—but the structure of the church will soon change. As the economy of the world collapses, so will the finances of the church be greatly diminished. God will then use very simple means to finish the work that will glorify Him—not our institutions or men.<sup>4</sup>

“Unless those who can help in \_\_\_\_\_ are aroused to a sense of their duty, they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard. When light goes forth to lighten the

---

*Are we—the church—ready for the close of probation, which, we are told, will come “suddenly, unexpectedly”?*

---

### **Are We Ready?**

We ask the question, Are we—the church—ready for the close of probation, which, we are told, will come “suddenly, unexpectedly”?<sup>1</sup>

From the General Conference to the smallest company of Seventh-day Adventists we should be showing to the world that we believe Jesus is coming soon. “Get ready! get ready! get ready!”<sup>2</sup> said the angel. What are *we* saying? Are we urgently carrying the message to all within our reach?

Tragically, our church seems almost paralyzed—unable to respond to the urgency of this important moment. Many of our churches are celebrating on Sabbath morning with drums and gospel rock music. Many of our pulpits ring out with a message of peace and safety—a message that can be heard any Sunday in most of the churches in Babylon. While our High Priest still lingers in the Most Holy Place for a brief moment, all heaven now is astir! Probation for the world and the church is soon to

earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.”<sup>5</sup>

At this time many will rise up against the straight testimony that must be given to the church: “According to the light that God has given me in vision, wickedness and deception are increasing among God’s people who profess to keep

His commandments. Spiritual discernment to see sin as it exists, and then to put it out of the camp, is decreasing among God's people; and spiritual blindness is fast coming upon them. The straight testimony must be revived, and it will separate those from Israel who have ever been at war with the means that God has ordained to keep corruptions out of the church. Wrongs must be called wrongs. Grievous sins must be called by their right name. All of God's people should come nearer to Him and wash their robes of character in the blood of the Lamb. Then will they see sin in the true light and will realize how offensive it is in the sight of God."<sup>6</sup>

Is it possible that the same rebellion that Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and the two hundred and fifty leaders in rebellion against God in Moses' day is now being

not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified."<sup>7</sup>

The inspired messenger of the Lord—Ellen White—tells us that our rebellion against God's plans and orders for His church has developed because we have refused instruction given by God through our last-day prophet. Therefore, our sanitariums, educational institutions and publishing houses have gone off course and are suffering terrible indebtedness in this crucial hour. The very last deception to come into Adventism is to make of none effect this marvelous gift of the Spirit of Prophecy, which identifies us as the remnant church of God in this final hour:

"Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect

genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers. The promise is: 'Them that honour me I will honour.' 1 Samuel 2:30. Shall we be less firmly attached to God's law because the world at large have attempted to make it void?"<sup>9</sup>

"God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals. There are few really consecrated men among us, few who have fought and conquered in the battle with self. Real conversion is a decided change of feelings and motives; it is a virtual taking leave of worldly connections, a hastening from their spiritual atmosphere, a withdrawing from the controlling power of their thoughts, opinions, and influences. The separation causes pain and bitterness to both parties. It is the variance which Christ declares that He came to bring. But the converted will feel a continual longing desire that their friends shall forsake all for Christ, knowing that, unless they do, there will be a final and eternal separation. The true Christian cannot, while with unbelieving friends, be light and trifling. The value of the souls for whom Christ died is too great."<sup>10</sup>

Among Seventh-day Adventists God has a faithful and obedient people who are now preparing for the latter rain experience. They will soon receive power for the loud cry; persecution will rage; and the Sunday laws will soon be a reality. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. The sealing of faithful Sabbathkeepers (see Isaiah 58:13) will be completed, and the

---

*Among Seventh-day Adventists God has a faithful and obedient people who are now preparing for the latter rain experience. They will soon receive power for the loud cry; persecution will rage; and the Sunday laws will soon be a reality.*

---

repeated? Study *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 395–406, for the answers.

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people. I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if

the testimony of the Spirit of God. 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' Proverbs 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony."<sup>8</sup>

Jesus said that many are called, but few will be chosen. See Matthew 22:14. Only those who are obedient to all known truth will be saved.

" 'And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.' Matthew 24:12. The very atmosphere is polluted with sin. Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be

mark of the beast will be placed upon the unfaithful. Satan will soon personate Christ and the apostles—and very likely Mary the mother of Jesus as well.<sup>11</sup>

The whole world will soon wonder after the beast. Probation will close suddenly, unexpectedly, and only a few Seventh-day Adventists, compared to our ten million members—a remnant within the remnant church—will go through and give the loud-cry message to the world: “Come out of her, my people, and be not partakers of her sins.”

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, 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. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Revelation 18:1-5.

Dear reader, our days are now numbered. The last movements will be rapid ones.<sup>12</sup> The little time of trouble will soon break upon us as an overwhelming surprise.<sup>13</sup> Our only hope to survive is to study to show ourselves approved unto God, that we need not be ashamed in that great day. See 2 Timothy

2:15; John 5:39; Acts 17:11; Jeremiah 29:13.

The inspired words of Joel and Zephaniah and the Spirit of Prophecy should alarm us. “Get ready! get ready! get ready!” said the angel. May everyone who reads this edition of *Our Firm Foundation* take heed to the warning and God’s call, His appeal—“prepare to meet thy God.” Amos 4:12. ✠

References:

- <sup>1</sup> See *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 989.
- <sup>2</sup> See *Early Writings*, 64, 66, 119.
- <sup>3</sup> See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 193-205.
- <sup>4</sup> See *Evangelism*, 63; *The Great Controversy*, 589-590.
- <sup>5</sup> *Testimonies to Ministers*, 300.
- <sup>6</sup> *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 324.
- <sup>7</sup> *Early Writings*, 270.
- <sup>8</sup> *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48.
- <sup>9</sup> *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 136.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 82-83.
- <sup>11</sup> See *The Great Controversy*, 624-625, 557; *Testimonies to Ministers*, 61-62.
- <sup>12</sup> See *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 11-13, 29.
- <sup>13</sup> See *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 28, 37, 315.

# Bible Blow-Out Sale!

## The Study Bible



**Selected commentary from the Spirit of Prophecy throughout!**

**The small edition of the Study Bible includes these features:**

- Insightful comments from the Spirit of Prophecy throughout
- Standard marginal references
- Spirit of Prophecy Scripture Index
- Bible concordance
- Subject index to Bible commentary
- Genuine bonded leather cover
- The Fourfold Gospel narrative
- Chronological tables and over 65 maps
- Bible studies and book introductions
- Tabs for easy referencing of books

**The perfect companion for the serious Bible student**

**Small Edition**  
(black bonded leather only)

**HURRY! LIMITED SUPPLY  
ORDER TODAY!**

Please see page 3 for  
ordering and tax information.

**Regular Price: \$59.<sup>95</sup>**

**Now only**

**\$39<sup>00</sup>!**  
Including Shipping!



# Keeping the Heart

*Ellen G. White*

**K**eepest thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23. Diligent heart-keeping is essential to a healthy growth in grace. The heart in its natural state is a habitation for unholy thoughts and sinful passions. When brought into subjection to Christ, it must be cleansed by the Spirit from all defilement. This cannot be done without the consent of the individual.

When the soul has been cleansed, it is the duty of the Christian to keep it undefiled. Many seem to think that the religion of Christ does not call for the abandonment of daily sins, the breaking loose from habits which have held the soul in bondage. They renounce some things condemned by the conscience, but they fail to represent Christ in the daily life. They do not

bring Christlikeness into the home. They do not show a thoughtful care in their choice of words. Too often, fretful, impatient words are spoken, words which stir the worst passions of the human heart. Such ones need the abiding presence of Christ in the soul. Only in His strength can they keep guard over the words and actions.

## **Pray Without Ceasing**

In the work of heart-keeping we must be instant in prayer, unwearied in petitioning the throne of grace for assistance. Those who take the name of Christian should come to God in earnestness and humility, pleading for help. The Saviour has told us to pray without ceasing. See 1 Thessalonians 5:17. The Christian cannot always be in the position of prayer, but his thoughts and desires

can always be upward. Our self-confidence would vanish, did we talk less and pray more.

We give evidence of the sincerity of our prayers by the earnestness of our endeavors to answer them, to overcome the sins which strive for a place in the life. Our prayers will be ineffectual unless we continually strive to correct that which is wrong and unlovely in our lives. If we ask God to work for us, and then make no effort to conquer self, our prayers will rise no higher than our heads. God helps those who cooperate with Him. We can obtain forgiveness only through the blood of Christ. His atoning sacrifice is all-powerful. But in the struggle for immortality we have a part to act. Christ will help those who pray and then watch unto prayer. He calls upon us to use



every power He has given us in the warfare against sin. We can never be saved in inactivity and idleness. We might as well look for a harvest from seed which we have not sown, and for knowledge where we have not studied, as to expect salvation without making an effort. It is our part to wrestle against the evil tendencies of the natural heart.

### **The Results of Disobedience Certain**

Contrast man's physical, mental, and moral feebleness with Adam's perfection before he transgressed God's law. Among the waving trees of paradise the holy pair stood in their sinless beauty before God, and the privilege of unrestrained intercourse with Him was theirs. Adam was a noble being, with a powerful mind, a will in harmony with the will of God, and affections that centered upon Heaven. He possessed a body heir to no disease, and a soul bearing the impress of Deity. But all this rich inheritance, the gift of his Maker, did not save him from the result of disobedience.

God did not spare Adam, though his sin may seem to us a small one. Neither will He spare us, if we continue to disregard His requirements. He divorced Israel from Him because her people walked not in His ways. Never was a people more beloved. Never had a nation greater evidence of the divine favor. Yet only two of the adults who left Egypt entered the Promised Land. The rest died in the wilderness, having proved unworthy to enter Canaan. Pride and self-indulgence were their ruin.

Their history has been traced by the pen of Inspiration, that by their experience we may take warning. It is written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. See 1 Corinthians 10:11. God will call us to account if we retain wrong traits of character, refusing to call to our aid the power of the Word, and in the name of Jesus correct our faults and subdue the passions of the natural heart. Many enthrone Satan in the heart, to triumph over Christ by the indul-

gence of evil inclinations. Sin reigns where Christ should reign. Those who thus continue to cherish sin can never be saved as they are. Unless they change, they will never enter heaven themselves, and they make very difficult the path of those who are trying to overcome. Their faulty, unconsecrated lives place them on the side of the power of darkness, while they are professedly on the side of Christ. Jesus makes them the objects of His tender solicitude and unwearied labor, until, notwithstanding all His efforts, they become fixed in sin. Then those over whom He has wept and yearned in love and compassion are left to pursue their own course. The Saviour turns from them, saying, sadly, They are joined to their idols; let them alone. See Hosea 4:17. God forbid that this should be said of us.

### **Every Man That Hath This Hope in Him**

The sins of fretfulness, impatience, love of the world, are grievous in God's sight. Some who cherish these defects confess that they are doing wrong; but year after year passes, and finds them still in bondage to these sins. Each year the same acknowledgment is made, but no change appears in the life. They confess, but they do not repent. They do not realize how grievous their sins are in the sight of God. If they were really one with Christ, if His Spirit were dwelling in them, they would see the sinfulness of sin. Not only would they confess; but they would forsake that which God abhors.

Those who remain in transgression, who do not strive for self-control, are ignorant of God. However high their claims of godliness, their spirituality is weak, their faith small, their love imperfect, their hopes and experience are governed by circumstances. But those who resolutely try to obtain the victory over temptation, who promptly and decisively resist the attacks of Satan, will become rooted and grounded in the truth. Their experience will not be dwarfed and sickly, but will bear rich fruit to the

glory of God.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:2-3.

This is our work. It is not enough to profess to be a child of God. He who has in him this hope will purify himself from all defilement. But this is the work from which every day nine tenths of us excuse ourselves. We seem to think that it does not matter if we get angry now and then, if we cheat now and then, if we are selfish and uncourteous.

Dear young friends, let us not spare ourselves. Let us with self-renunciation lift the cross of Christ, and follow in His footsteps. Let us begin in earnest the work of reformation. Let us crucify the flesh. Unholy habits will clamor fiercely for the victory, but in the name and through the power of Jesus we may conquer them. To him who seeks daily to keep his heart with all diligence, to be a true child of God, the promise is sure, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39.

Living the life of Him who went about doing good, overcoming self-love and every other species of selfishness, fulfilling bravely and cheerfully our duty to God and to those around us—this makes us more than conquerors. This prepares us to stand before the great white throne, free from spot or wrinkle or any such thing, having washed our robes of character and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ❀

*The Youth's Instructor*, March 5, 1903.

more correct picture of a fig tree casting its figs when blown by a mighty wind, it was rare possible to behold."—"The Old Countryman," in *Portland Evening Advertiser*, Nov. 25, 1843.

In the New York *Times*, of November 18, 1843, this wonderful philosopher of the age, like that of a hundred years ago, predicted the appearance of a new constellation of undulating stars falling to mean falling stars, . . . in the only sense in which it is possible to be literally true."

This was the last of those signs of His coming, which He bade His disciples: "When ye shall see these signs, John beheld, as the great light departed at a scroll, the kingdoms and islands removed out of their places, and the wicked in terror sought to flee from the presence of the Son of man. Revelations 6:12-17.

Many who witnessed the falling of the stars, a new and a wonderful day." *Adventist*, 1843. This was directed to give led to the warning of the second advent.

In the year 1843 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy occurred. Before, Josiah had predicted the fall of the second empire, by his calculations, something in the month of August, and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: "Allowing the first period, 129 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deshaux ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 241 years, Miller's date, commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 10th of August, 1843, when the Ottoman power

in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case."—*Josiah Litch*, in *Signs of the Times, and Exposition of Prophecy*, Aug. 1, 1843.

the very first of the year 1844, the protection of the allied powers, and the usual order of the day. (See appendix.) When a certain number of multitudes were concerned with the cause of the people, prophetic interpretation was adopted by Miller, Smith, and a number of others, who were to be the first to publish and in publishing his views, and from 1843 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.

William Miller possessed strong mental powers, disciplined by thought and study; and he added to these, a weaker power, by connecting himself with the Society.

He was a man of sterling character, who could command respect and esteem wherever integrity and excellence were valued. Uniting, as he did, the power of God, and the power of the world, he was able to aid to the opinions of others and to weigh their arguments.

Yet he did not prosecute his work without bitter opposition. As with other Reformers, the truths which he presented were not received with favor by popular religious teachers. As these could not maintain their position by the Scriptures, they were driven to resort to the sayings and doctrines of men, to the traditions of the Fathers. But the word of God was the only testimony accepted by the preachers of the advent truth. "The Bible, and the Bible only," was their watchword. The lack of Scripture argument on the part of their opponents was supplied by ridicule and scoffing. Tame, mean, and tedious were employed in maligning those whose

# Making the Spirit of Prophecy of None Effect

## Colin and Russell Standish

**T**he very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God."<sup>1</sup>

Satan has achieved this aim with many in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in three ways: First, those of a liberal persuasion openly deny the relevance of the Testimonies for our day. Thus they unashamedly reject them. Second, the majority of Laodicean Seventh-day Adventists give lip service to the validity and inspiration of the Testimonies, but seldom or never read them, ignoring their messages in the course of their daily lives.

Even more disturbing than these two groups is the third group, which is systematically destroying the effectiveness of the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. This group is claiming to consist of dedicated Seventh-day Adventists who believe the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy and practice and defend them. These individuals are, nevertheless, effectively making of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God by claiming that Sister

White's later writings were so mutilated by her assistants and other denominational workers that they are infiltrated with error. Some have stated that Sister White's writings after 1884 have no divine credentials because of this "fact."

Thus books such as *The Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ*, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, *The Ministry of Healing*, *Education*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, the 1911 edition of *The Great Controversy*, *Prophets and Kings*, and *Testimonies to the Church*, volumes 5-9, are denigrated as corrupted writings. Sister White's *Review and Herald* articles are contained in six large volumes, yet by 1884 her articles had not filled the first volume. That is, over five-sixths of Sister White's *Review and Herald* articles were written after 1884.

Sister White lived thirty-one years after the year 1884. To accept the concept that her writings in the last thirty-one years of her life, which were her most prolific writing years, were corrupted, we have to make one or more of a

number of incredible assumptions. Four such assumptions will suffice to illustrate this matter:

### Four False Assumptions

1. Sister White never bothered to peruse her published books and articles, ignoring each book or article after the completion of the manuscript. Thus she was totally ignorant of the "alterations."

2. Sister White did examine her published books and articles but was totally unconcerned that her material had been altered without her consent, and continued to be a prolific writer, unconcerned that her messages were distorted by unsanctioned individuals.

3. God failed to warn Sister White throughout a period of thirty-one years that His inspired words were being corrupted.

4. Sister White was part of a deliberate deception of God's people, knowing full well that these publications were written by others while she claimed to be their author.

Well, one may accept any or all of these or other equally incredible

possibilities, but most persons would regard all of them as most unlikely conclusions.

### Did Helpers Change the Message?

In 1906, twenty-two years after 1884, Sister White unequivocally stated:

“While my husband lived, he acted as a helper and counselor in the sending out of the messages that were given to me. We traveled extensively. Sometimes light would be given to me in the night season, sometimes in the daytime before large congregations. The instruction I received in vision was faithfully written out by me, as I had time and strength for the work. Afterward we examined the matter together, my husband correcting grammatical errors and eliminating needless repetition. Then it was carefully copied for the persons addressed, or for the printer.

“As the work grew, others assisted me in the preparation of matter for publication. After my husband’s death, faithful helpers joined me, who labored untriringly in the work of copying the Testimonies and preparing articles for publication.

*“But the reports that are circulated, that any of my helpers are permitted to add matter or change the meaning of the messages I write out, are not true.*

“While we were in Australia the Lord instructed me that W. C. White should be relieved from the many burdens his brethren would lay upon him, that he might be more free to assist me in the work the Lord has laid upon me. The promise had been given, ‘I will put my Spirit upon him, and give him wisdom.’

“Since my return to America I have several times received instruction that the Lord has given me W. C. White to be my helper, and that in this work the Lord will give him of His Spirit.”<sup>2</sup>

The only recourse for those who wish to persist in destroying the Testimonies of the Spirit of God in the manner described above is to indicate that this passage from the

first book of *Selected Messages*, 50, is yet “another” example of despicable people altering the messages of Sister White. They are forced to insist that the Lord permitted this situation to persist without giving warning to either Sister White or to His people.

The writings themselves are their own testimony. In our view *The Desire of Ages* is the greatest book written in the last nineteen hundred years.

When we were teenagers at Avondale College, we were greatly blessed from time to time to listen to the inspiring presentations from Pastor A. H. Piper, then a retired minister of vast experience. Pastor Piper, while an early student at Avondale College during the end of

plays to fulfill his desire to make of none effect the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy in these last days. Not a few of our sincere people have been persuaded by these tenuous arguments that after 1884 the writings of Sister White were tampered with, without her consent or knowledge.

In 1890 Sister White wrote a letter (known as Letter 1, 1890), portions of which are recorded in *Selected Messages*, book 3, 413–414. This letter is reproduced as it appears in that volume; the ellipses are those in the article. In it Sister White is describing the value of the 1888 edition of *The Great Controversy*. The heading of the fourth paragraph, “Coming Events Shown to Ellen White,” is not

---

*“The reports that are circulated, that any of my helpers are permitted to add matter or change the meaning of the messages I write out, are not true.”*

---

the nineteenth century, had lived for eighteen months with Sister White in her home called, “Sunnyside,” which had been recently completed. He loved to explain his experiences with Sister White to the eager students in our day. Once he addressed the claim that she did not fully author many of her works. He dismissed this claim—that she needed literary scholars to ghost write her books—with the comment, “Anyone who listened to her speak would certainly know that she had the literary mastery to write her inspired works.”

### The 1888 Great Controversy

There are still many of those who declare that the only valid edition of *The Great Controversy* is the 1884 edition, known also as *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4. Such a position defies not only common sense, but, more importantly, the plain words of the Spirit of Prophecy itself. It is one of Satan’s

present in the original letter, but is added by the editors of *Selected Messages*, book 3. It will be noted that the alterations, which were made to the 1888 edition, were made so that the original 1884 presentation, which was largely designed for church members, could be shared with the world. Note the words, “the book is *adapted* to go also to the world” in the last paragraph (emphasis added):

“I was moved by the Spirit of the Lord to write that book [*The Great Controversy*] . . . I knew that time was short, and that the scenes which are soon to crowd upon us would at the last come very suddenly and swiftly, as represented in the words of Scripture, ‘The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

“The Lord has set before me matters which are of urgent importance for the present time, and which reach into the future. . . .

I was assured that there was no time to lose. The appeals and warnings must be given. Our churches must be aroused, must be instructed, that they may give the warning to all whom they can possibly reach, declaring that the sword is coming, that the Lord's anger upon a profligate world will not long be deferred. I was shown that many would listen to the warning. Their minds would be prepared to discern the very things that it pointed out to them.

"I was shown . . . that the warning must go where the living messenger could not go, and that it would call the attention of many to the important events to occur in the closing scenes of this world's history.

#### Coming Events Shown to Ellen

---

*Sister White here reveals that she was presenting a stronger message than she had ever done previously, which, of course, includes the 1884 volume of The Great Controversy.*

---

**White**—"As the condition of the church and the world was open before me, and I beheld the fearful scenes that lie just before us, I was alarmed at the outlook; and night after night, while all in the house were sleeping, I wrote out the things given me of God. I was shown the heresies which are to arise, the delusions that will prevail, the miracle-working power of Satan—the false Christs that will appear—that will deceive the greater part, even of the religious world, and that would, if it were possible, draw away even the elect.

. . .  
"The warning and instruction of this book are needed by all who profess to believe the present truth, and *the book is adapted to go also to the world*, calling their attention to the solemn scenes just before us."<sup>3</sup>

Thus the 1888 edition "must go where the living messenger could not go." "It would call the attention of many to the important events to

occur in the closing scenes of the world's history." "The warning and instruction of this book are needed by all who profess to believe present truth." Let us not be led astray by those in our midst who seek to remove this warning. Both the 1884 and 1888 editions of *The Great Controversy* were inspired of God. Who would dare contend that the prophecies of these books are not fulfilling before our very eyes today?

Many, trapped by the theory that after the mid-1880s Sister White's books were tampered with, have not read the above testimony.

A complete copy of the 1890 letter quoted above is found in *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 651–662. It is a pity that in *Selected Messages*, book 3, 413–414, the first

paragraph of the original letter—which confirms beyond dispute that Sister White was referring to the 1888 edition and *not* the one of 1884—is omitted. In that paragraph we read, "It is nearly *two years* since the *new* edition was completed."<sup>4</sup> The 1884 edition had been completed 6 years earlier. This statement clearly specifies the 1888 "new" edition. Thus this letter confirms the inspiration of the 1888 edition.

Further, in this letter Sister White asks and answers a question frequently asked today:

"Is this [*the 1888 Great Controversy*] work of the Lord? I know that it is, and our people also profess to believe it. The warning and instruction of this book are needed by all who profess to believe the present truth."<sup>5</sup>

On page 3 of Letter 1, 1890, Sister White once more refers to "the new edition of Volume IV." On page 4 of the letter, the servant

of the Lord reiterates that:

"For nearly *two years* the book containing warnings and instruction *from the Lord*, given especially for this time, has been lying in our publishing houses."

This can only refer to the 1888 edition.

We therefore cannot accept the view, which is now widespread, that virtually all of Sister White's writings were contaminated by other people after 1884.

The view that Sister White's books and other manuscripts were tampered with after 1884 was well-known to her, and this is the reason that she made the following statement in Letter 229, written in 1903 and published in the book *Evangelism*, 366. Sister White spoke of the books *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Great Controversy*, and *The Desire of Ages*. Now these names were not applied to the Spirit of Prophecy (four volumes), except that the whole series was called *The Great Controversy*. Thus, when Sister White says, "*Patriarchs and Prophets* and *Great Controversy* are books that are especially adapted to those who have newly come to the faith, that they may be established in the truth," she could be referring to only the 1888 volume of *The Great Controversy*, not to volume 4 of the Spirit of Prophecy series. Thus she supported very strongly *that* book, as being one, which was to be used by God's people.

In the book *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 625, Sister White, in writing a letter dated April 20, 1887 (see the end of page 628 for confirmation of this date), stated:

"I am writing out more fully the volume of *Great Controversy* containing the history of the fall of Satan and the introduction of sin into our world; and I can have a more vivid sense of this great controversy between Christ, the Prince of light, and Satan, the prince of darkness, than I have ever had before."<sup>6</sup>

Now clearly this is not referring to the 1884 edition, but to the 1888 edition of *The Great Controversy*, and Sister White here reveals that she

was presenting a stronger message than she had ever done previously, which, of course, includes the 1884 volume of *The Great Controversy*.

### The 1911 Great Controversy

In the introduction to the 1911 edition Sister White stated, "Through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, the scenes of the long-continued conflict between good and evil have been opened to the writer of these pages. From time to time I have been permitted to behold the working, in different ages, of the great controversy between Christ, the Prince of life, the Author of our salvation, and Satan, the prince of evil, the author of sin, the first transgressor of God's holy law."<sup>7</sup>

Thus she claims to have been inspired in the writing of the 1911 edition of *The Great Controversy*.

Sister White's written affirmation of the 1911 edition of *The Great Controversy* reveals that (1) she was pleased with it; (2) the angels of God were with her as she wrote it; (3) she had seen before her many of the scenes about which she had written; (4) it was especially written for those not of our faith; (5) she approved every change made; (6) she still had clearness of mind for this and other work. Here are her written words:

"A few days ago I received a copy of the new edition of the book *Great Controversy*, recently printed at Mountain View, and also a similar copy printed at Washington. The book pleases me. I have spent many hours looking through its pages, and I see that the publishing houses have done good work.

"The book *Great Controversy* I appreciate above silver or gold, and I greatly desire that it shall come before the people. While writing the manuscript of *Great Controversy*, I was often conscious of the presence of the angels of God. And many times the scenes about which I was writing were presented to me anew in visions of the night, so that they were fresh and vivid in my mind.

"Recently it was necessary for this book to be reset, because the

electrotype plates were badly worn. It has cost me much to have this done, but I do not complain; for whatever the cost may be, I regard this new edition with great satisfaction.

"Yesterday I read what W. C. White has recently written to canvassing agents and responsible men at our publishing houses regarding this latest edition of *Great Controversy*, and I think he has presented the matter correctly and well.

"When I learned that *Great Controversy* must be reset, I determined that we would have everything closely examined, to see if the truths it contained were stated in the very best manner, to convince those not of our faith that the Lord had guided and sustained me in the writing of its pages.

"As a result of the thorough

the messages more effective in witnessing to those not of our faith.

### False Charges of Manipulation

Detractors of the reputation of Ellen White have long insinuated that her mind was not sharp in her later years, that she turned over the writing of her books to her staff, and that she was directed what to say by her son, W. C. White and others.

"What kind of a move was it that you [Edson White] made in rushing to Battle Creek and saying to those there that W. C. White, your own brother, for whom you should have respect, manipulated my writings? . . .

"I shall have to speak. I cannot and will not suffer reproach to come upon the cause of God, and my work that God has given me to do, by your saying he manipulates

---

*"When I learned that Great Controversy must be reset, I determined that we would have everything closely examined, to see if the truths it contained were stated in the very best manner."*

---

examination by our most experienced workers, some changing in the wording has been proposed. These changes I have carefully examined, and approved. I am thankful that my life has been spared, and that I have strength and clearness of mind for this and other literary work."<sup>8</sup>

We believe that there can be no doubt that all three editions of *The Great Controversy* are inspired, for we have the testimony of the servant of the Lord herself to confirm this fact. It would be inconceivable that God would allow Sister White to produce massive volumes of her writings and not inform her if they were being tampered with.

Of course, there were alterations and changes in reprints of older books, but the purposes of these changes were either to enhance the clarity of the messages or to make

my writings. It is falsehood—but what a charge is this! Not one soul manipulates my writings. . . .

"He, W. C. White, has wished me to change a word that expressed the action of ministers so that it would not be too strong, so those who had judgment would not handle such men severely, and hurt them, because that is so easy to do—to exercise no mercy but to be severe and overbearing—if they have an opportunity to show their authority. He has kept me from writing to you [Edson] the burden of my soul lest some one would hear of it and make it an excuse to hurt you."<sup>9</sup>

The following material is reprinted from Jerry Allen Moon, "W. C. White and Ellen G. White" in *Atlantic Union Press*, 1993:

"Another aspect of W. C. White's work as counselor which occasionally gave rise to suspicions

of ‘manipulation’ was the fact that as Ellen White grew older she sometimes needed him to refresh her memory about matters she had earlier spoken to him about:

“The most notable illustration of his ‘reminding’ was the early morning interview at the Indianapolis meeting in 1901. . . . Either because the instances of such prompting were becoming more frequent and obvious as she reached her seventy-eighth year or, perhaps, because the manipulation charges were becoming so widespread, W. C. White felt the need in the last two months of 1905 to offer public explanations. ‘Some have wondered why it is,’ Willie explained, ‘that sometimes when Sister White is speaking, toward the close of her remarks she will turn to me and say, “Have I covered the points, Willie?” and from this they have drawn the conclusion that I have been prompting Mother regarding what she shall say in meeting.’

“ ‘It often happens that Mother tells us a few days, or a few hours before the meeting the line of thought which she wishes to present, and she sometimes asks me to remind her if any essential point is left out. Then in closing her remarks she feels anxious to know if any essential features of what she intended to present have been overlooked.’ ”<sup>10</sup>

“Such occurrences could appear to be cases of W. C. White dictating policy or plans to Ellen White. To the contrary, both of them maintained that he was only reminding her of her own views of which she had earlier informed him.” ❀

References:

- <sup>1</sup> *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48; see also *ibid.*, book 2, 78.
- <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 50. (All emphasis supplied by author unless otherwise noted.)
- <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, book 3, 413–414; Letter 1, 1890.
- <sup>4</sup> *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 651.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 652.
- <sup>6</sup> *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 625.
- <sup>7</sup> *The Great Controversy*, x.
- <sup>8</sup> *Selected Messages*, book 3, 123–124.
- <sup>9</sup> Letter written by Ellen White in late 1905, to her son Edson, quoted in Arthur White, *The Later Elmshaven Years*, 100–101.
- <sup>10</sup> W. C. White, *The Integrity of the Testimonies to the Church*, November 25, 1905, 8–9.

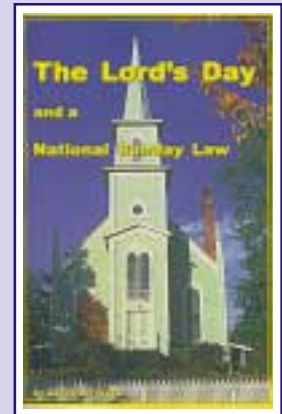
## How will Satan try to deceive the whole world?

“Through the two great errors, the *immortality of the soul* and *Sunday sacredness*, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome.” *The Great Controversy*, 588.

This statement inspired Jacob Teske to write two books that you can share with your friends and neighbors—or bulk mail to a Zip code of your choice:

### *The Lord’s Day and a National Sunday Law*

We believe that this easy-reading booklet is by far the most powerful and complete presentation on the Sabbath issue to date.



**Quantity Pricing:\***

- 1-10 books: 85¢ each
- 11-159 books: 65¢ each
- 1-6 cases (160 per case): 45¢ each
- 7 or more cases: 35¢ each

**Bulk mail price:** 50¢ each (shipping included)

### *Immortality of the Soul and Spiritualism*

While the belief in the immortality of the soul seems to be an innocent philosophy, it lays the foundation of a whole false religion—spiritualism. This 32-page booklet is just right to hand out—in quantity! It is also a good follow-up for communities that have already received other material.



**Quantity Pricing:\***

- 1-10 books: 65¢ each
- 11-299 books: 55¢ each
- 1-7 cases (300 per case): 40¢ each
- 8 or more cases: 30¢ each

**Bulk mail price:** 45¢ each (shipping included)

**\*Please see page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.**

## Evangelicals Defend the Papacy

**News Item:** “Evangelical groups have joined with Roman Catholic activists in fighting to preserve the Vatican’s unique status at the United Nations.

“As a non-member state with permanent observer status, the Vatican enjoys many of the same rights and privileges as the 188 countries that are full-fledged UN members. While it has no vote, the Vatican can take active part in UN debates and conferences. . . .

“The abortion advocacy group Catholics for a Free Choice [CFC] is leading a campaign to prod the UN to review the permanent observer status of the Holy See, the Vatican’s governing body. . . . CFC leader Frances Kissling said her campaign, known as ‘See Change,’ had over 400 signatures from organizations that want to review the Vatican’s sovereign-state claim.

“The Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute declared that its efforts to preserve the Vatican’s status have garnered signatures from 1,015 organizations from more than 50 countries, including the groups Focus on the Family, Concerned Women for America, and the Family Research Council.” . . .

Tom Minnery, vice president of public policy at Focus on the Family, said, “‘We Christians from all denominations will stand with our Catholic allies to see that the abortion industry is not successful at silencing the Holy See at the UN.’” *World*, April 1, 2000.

The same article reported that the Republican National Committee chairman Jim Nicholson is “demanding” that the Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore make his position known on this issue, especially because he has sought the endorsement of two groups that are supporting the expulsion of the Vatican from the UN. Mr. Nicholson inquired,

“‘Does Al Gore agree with these anti-Catholic goals? If not, why does he refuse to stand up and repudiate them? Why doesn’t Gore reject the endorsement of these anti-Catholic groups?’

“Nearly identical resolutions have been introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate, warning that any degradation of the Holy See’s UN status would damage UN relations with the United States.” Ibid.

**Prophetic Perspective:** The massive support that is being given by Christian organizations in defense of the dubious right of the Vatican to influence the UN with its special status further galvanizes their bond to the Catholic Church and demonstrates the headway that the Vatican has made with its efforts toward ecumenism.



The political fallout of this issue may even influence the presidential election process and the public’s support of the Papacy. After the political flak that presidential candidate George W. Bush received from visiting anti-papal Bob Jones University, the Republican Party is looking for ways to show its support for the Catholic Church. The national media, following its positive portrayal of the Papal visits to the Middle East, seems to share this enthusiasm.

Are we not witnessing further steps in the healing of the deadly wound inflicted upon the Papacy as it again rises to power according to Revelation 13?

## Papal-Jewish Ecumenism

**News Item:** Jerusalem — “In Pope John Paul II, the Jews and Muslims of the Holy Land encountered a personification of Christianity that may begin to erase centuries of ignorance and distrust.

“While the full impact of the Pope’s six-day visit to the Holy Land will not be apparent for some time, Jewish and Muslim leaders were, with few exceptions, touched by the Pope’s compassion and desire to build bridges among the three monotheistic religions. They also agreed that the Holy Father opened a new chapter in relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

“‘I believe the visit of the Pope to Israel [was of] immense historical importance,’ said Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, following John Paul’s giant outdoor Mass on March 24 by the Sea of Galilee. ‘It became a major step toward reconciliation between the Jewish people and Christianity.’” *National Catholic Register*, April 2-8, 2000.

**Prophetic Perspective:** One of the Pope’s titles, Pontifex Maximus, means “The Greatest Bridge Builder.” It is surely remarkable how quickly the Pope has improved relations between the Papacy and both Jews and Muslims. The world wonders; however, God’s remnant people know that this is but another step in the process of the prophetic fulfillment heralding the nearness of the end — when Jesus will return.

## Pope Praised by Anti-Defamation League

**News Item:** “The Anti-Defamation League ‘saluted’ Pope John Paul II on his recent trip to Israel, in an advertisement that ran on the editorial pages of U.S. and world newspapers.

“Over a stenciled drawing of a pensive Pope, the headline read in bold letters: ‘We salute Pope John Paul II on his historic visit to Israel.’



## Have a news item of interest?

contact [newswatch@hopeint.org](mailto:newswatch@hopeint.org)

To mail or fax us a copy, see page 3

Beneath the headline, in smaller print, the advertisement continued, 'As pope, John Paul II has dedicated himself to reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. He has established full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel. . . .

"The visit of Pope John Paul II to Yad Vashem yesterday represented the climax of a historic process and the opening of a new chapter in the relationship between Christians and Jews. . . .

"*Yedioth Ahronot*, Jerusalem's largest daily, in a commentary said the pope's remarks 'opened a cornerstone to a new relationship between the Catholic Church and Judaism.'" *National Catholic Register*, April 2-8, 2000.

### Pentecostals and Catholics Seek Forgiveness of Each Other

**News Item:** "A recent meeting of Pentecostal scholars turned out to be the site of impromptu confessions of sins and pleas for forgiveness regarding Catholic-Pentecostal relations." *Religion News Service*, (Undated), as quoted in *Christian News*, April 10, 2000.

The article reported that during a plenary session of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Catholic priest Rev. Kilian McDonnell confessed sins committed against Pentecostals by Catholics, including intolerance, discrimination, exclusion, using the state to harass and oppress, and—when in the majority—depriving them of their civil rights.

The outgoing president of the society, Pentecostal Rev. Frank Macchia, replied with an apology to Catholics for sins committed against them. Macchia added: "I ask that Catholics forgive the Pentecostals who have cherished visions of the end of time that condemn the Catholic Church for spiritual harlotry and idolatry. . . ." Catholic leaders welcomed his confession. Ibid.

### Adventist Officials Protest

**News Item:** "Adventist religious liberty leaders in North America are voicing opposition to governmental attempts to interpret theology or pass judgment on religious ideals.

"The religious liberty leaders are opposing two concurrent resolutions in the U.S. Congress. Through Senate Resolution 85 and House Resolution 261, Congress would officially condemn what has been termed discriminatory, intolerant, and racist practices prevalent at Bob Jones University in South Carolina.

"These resolutions criticize university officials for their theological positions against the teachings of Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, and the pope and their application of the phrase 'satanic system and religion of the antichrist' when referring to Catholicism.

"While any individual has the right to hold or challenge religious beliefs of any church, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it is clearly not the place of government to support or condemn in the area of theology and biblical interpretation,' according to a statement issued by [SDA] church leaders.

". . . the Congress of the United States should not take sides in theological debates no matter how unpopular or unchristian the group or their teachings may be. It should not interpret prophecy or pass judgment on religious entities that may feel a responsibility to do so.'" *Adventist Review*, April 2000.

The article expressed the church leaders' position that "though they too are in disagreement with the university, it is also their responsibility to stand for religious freedom for all." Ibid.

**Prophetic Perspective:** Adventist leaders ought to be thanked for rightly opposing these two

Resolutions as they indeed oppose separation of church and state.

However, their stated disagreement with Bob Jones University [BJU] is cause for concern. Though the university rescinded its rule against student inter-racial dating soon after the criticism, the biggest attack on BJU is over their historical, Biblical, Protestant position regarding Catholic theology and the identification of the Papacy as the Antichrist.

All faithful Adventists should share BJU's courageous Protestant stand on truth. It is unfortunate that the Adventist Church leaders did not clearly express this agreement and use this opportunity to witness for the truth of Revelation 18 that calls God's people out of fallen Babylon.

### Retired Adventist Pastor Faces Genocide Charges

**News Item:** (RNS)—"A Rwandan clergyman accused of aiding the massacre of thousands of his countrymen left the United States on March 23 to face trial on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

"Elizaphan Ntakirutimana, a 75-year-old Seventh-day Adventist pastor, fought his extradition back to Rwanda to stand trial in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The U.S. Supreme Court dismissed his appeal in January, clearing the way for his extradition.

"If convicted, he could face life in prison.

"Ntakirutimana was the pastor of a Rwandan church when ethnic infighting ravaged the country in 1994. Hutu militants killed more than 500,000 people, many of them members of the minority Tutsi tribe.

"Prosecutors say Ntakirutimana told a large group of Tutsis they could find shelter in his church and hospital complex, and then participated in a daylong slaughter of the refugees. Some witnesses said they saw Ntakirutimana shooting victims.



"Ntakirutimana moved to Texas to live with family members and was arrested there in 1996. The former pastor fought his extradition." *The Christian News*, April 10, 2000.

### Tornado Hits Fort Worth, Texas

**News Item:** "A gentle spring day turned violent last week in Fort Worth, Texas. 'Imagine a large bomb going off,' said restaurateur Sean Finley, who had to hustle his frantic customers down 35 floors to safety. Only it wasn't a bomb; it was a tornado.

"Two twisters ripped through town shortly after rush hour, overturning cars and sending broken glass and debris raining onto city streets. They killed four people, one was missing and presumed dead, more than 80 were injured, and dozens were left homeless as the storm blasted windows out of dozens of offices and tore homes apart. . . .

"The storms struck shortly after 6 p.m., with one tornado churning to the north and the other through downtown Fort Worth. 'The wind was blowing so fast and all the people were shouting, 'We don't want to die,' ' said Sanu Piya, a Fina gas station employee who huddled with others inside the store as the tornado passed." *World*, April 8, 2000.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, April 10, 2000, the storms "caused an estimated \$450 million damage" and could have been much worse in terms of casualties. The National Weather Service had warned the city 18 hours earlier, and then again a few minutes before the storm hit, when sirens warned people to find shelter. "Equally fortuitous: The storm struck at about 6:30 Tuesday night, after most downtown office workers had cleared out. Those remaining in the high-rises could see the storm coming from the west and had at least 30 to 45 seconds to get out of harm's way.

"Still, officials say it's amazing there weren't more fatalities. The

violent storms punched out windows, sucked computer monitors and furniture out of office towers—some 30 stories in the air—and sent them crashing to the street. Thick tempered-glass shards plummeted hundreds of feet, and yet no one on the ground in the downtown area was seriously injured in the assault."

**Prophetic Perspective:** It appears that God tempered this natural disaster with a great amount of mercy. Hopefully, some people will recognize that God is giving a warning to those who are not ready to die, because their lives are not hid in Christ. In Christ, we do not need to fear for the future, or even for our lives, but we are willing to accept that God will direct our paths and keep us safe in His perfect will.

We know that natural disasters will increase in number and magnitude as the winds of strife, held back by the four angels of Revelation 7:1-3, are released. God's mercy will be withdrawn. The faithful people of God will be blamed.

"How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with



great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God's purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He

seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger." *Prophets and Kings*, 277.

"In fires, in floods, in earthquakes, in the fury of the great deep, in calamities by sea and by land, the warning is given that God's Spirit will not always strive with men." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, 315.

"The enemy has worked, and he is working still. He is come down in great power, and the Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth. God has withdrawn His hand. We have only to look at Johnstown [Pennsylvania]. He did not prevent the devil from wiping that whole city out of existence. And these very things will increase until the close of this earth's history." *Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, 109.

Speaking of the time ahead, God's servant wrote, "Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing judgments upon the world, and they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the strife and bloodshed among men that are filling the earth with woe." *Great Controversy*, 614.

### Another Ten Commandments Bill

**News Item:** (RNS)—"The Kentucky House of Representatives passed a bill on Wednesday (March 29) that would allow schools to post the Ten Commandments in classrooms and calls for teachers to teach about the influence of Christianity on the country, the Associated Press reported.

"The bill, which has already cleared the state Senate, now heads to Democrat Gov. Paul Patton for his signature. A spokesman for the governor said it was premature to say if the governor would sign the bill.

"The bill passed the House by a vote of 33-2. The governor's spokesman said 'when a strong majority approves such a measure, he (the governor) is inclined to accept it as public policy.' " *Christian News*, April 10, 2000.

# A Glorious Reunion

*Alane Waters*

Just about everyone likes reunions. It is a time when we can get together to be reunited with family and friends from whom we have been separated by time and distance. It takes planning and commitment, but it is worth the effort to be able to have the time to fellowship together.

Thinking back over various reunions I have attended, I have always found them to be fun—renewing old friendships and reminiscing about the past. The time passes quickly; soon the reunion is over; everyone goes home; and life goes on as usual. Then it becomes a fleeting memory. Casual friendships fade if not nurtured.

However, reunions are different when they are with someone that you love and care for deeply. There is a desire to spend as much time as possible—investing every moment of time in the relationship. I enjoy being with my husband more than with any other person on earth. It does not matter what we do. Whether we work, play, worship, or talk, we just love being together. We can talk about anything and everything. We have no hidden secrets. Trust and respect for each other is not something we have to try to implement; it flows freely from our hearts. I could be with Tom every moment for the rest of my life and never feel that I “need my space.” To us being together is pleasant, while being separated leaves a void.

Whenever we are separated by circumstances—whether it be just a trip to town or a ministry trip—we both look forward to, and anticipate our reunion. We

miss being together because we love each other so much. When Tom is gone I plan for his return, thinking of what the children and I can do to make his homecoming a special reunion. I count down the days, hours, and even minutes until he will be home again. The children and I are ready and waiting for his return because he has been in our thoughts, prayers, plans, and hearts ever since he left. And what a wonderful reunion we have—

smiles, hugs, kisses! We spend the first moments together sharing as much as we can, catching up on all the news and experiences. Our reunions are wonderful because we are united and committed in the bonds of love!

This experience did not happen naturally. It took time—time with God and time with each other, setting our priorities according to gospel order. By nature I am independent, self-centered, and opinionated on the one side, and over-sensitive, or despairing on the other. That is human nature. But, praise God, I do not have to be in bondage to that kind of a mindset, and neither do you. I would like to share with you how the Lord has worked, and continues to work, in my life and in our marriage that stimulates me to share with you my longing for that glorious reunion with Jesus.

Nearly 15 years ago, God’s Spirit found a tender cord of mother’s love within me, and struck a deep desire in my heart for our children to be in His heavenly kingdom. With that came the realization that our lives were consumed in the fast lane of life. We were busy people! We did not really have time for God, each other, or our little ones. Our jobs, our social life, our sports, hobbies, habits, and even our church work kept us running here and there, following the world’s program and our impetuous natures.





We realized that something had to change—to be different—and that something was us! We began to see as never before our work as parents in preparing our children for heaven. The very night that God opened our eyes to this new revelation was the night we knelt down and committed our hearts and lives as never before and as best we understood, to come to know Christ and to do whatever He asked us to do to be ready for His coming. We began seeking God with our whole hearts. We began individually to spend time with Him every morning before the rush of the day got going, to learn how to commune with Him—rather than saying a rote prayer with little or no thought of what we were really praying. We began to study His Word, seeking to find Him and His will for our lives. We studied His life as a Man on earth and gained a vision of what He wanted to do in our lives, that we might truly represent Him. He filled us with hope of eternal realities that are to begin here and now.

As my love and appreciation grew for what Christ had done and what He was doing for me, as I spent time with Jesus, I chose to let Him have my heart, piece by piece—my desires, interests, habits, hobbies, and even my goals began to change. No longer did I want to spend my free days cruising the shops and malls, packing up the girls and getting them out the door in time to be there when the stores opened, going from store to store, pushing the stroller because it would waste time to let the little ones walk. No longer was there the rush to get home and try to prepare a meal before my husband arrived home, while at the same time being exhausted, and often irritable and pressured. This is just one simple example of how life had been when

managed by self and not by the Holy Spirit.

Now I love being home with my children, spending time with them to teach and train them in the principles that God is teaching me. Learning to be a mother and wife in Christ has brought a joy that I could never have experienced in any other way, and it continues to be a growing experience! What I began to understand 15 years ago is now a regular part of my life, and the Lord continues to teach me more of His redeeming grace through new situations and circumstances.

The more I choose this union with Christ, the happier and more

plate often our reunion with Him, and the blessings and joys of heaven. Have you stopped to think what it will be like to be with our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ forevermore—never ever to part again?

Conversely, have you ever thought what it would be like to be reunited with someone you did not even know?—“Impossible!” you say. Yes, it is impossible. Without union there can never be reunion. Jesus talks of those who will expect a reunion with Him when He comes, but who will instead hear those tragic words: “I never knew you: depart from me.” Matthew 7:23. Our lives may be full of busyness, even the Lord’s work,

---

*Have you ever thought what it would be like to be reunited with someone you did not even know?—“Impossible!” you say. Yes, it is impossible.*

---

satisfying my life becomes. As my love and devotion for my husband and children grow, it brings my mind back to my relationship with Christ and makes His presence a deeper reality in my conscious thoughts. I want more of it, and I am making daily choices to cultivate this close, intimate devotion, love, and commitment to God. Taking the time to learn more of Him, to study His will for my life, and to allow His Spirit to direct me, even in the smallest decisions, draws me closer to Him. My love for Jesus is deepening! Often I talk with Him during the day just as if He were right by my side. This is what makes me think of the *most rewarding and exciting reunion to take place—a glorious reunion with Jesus!* I want to be with Him! We have been told that we should contem-

but, if there is no union with Christ, there will be no reunion with Him—our work will not stand in the day of His return, and neither will we. That is why many will be lost when Jesus comes—because they have not become personally acquainted with, and in love with the Saviour. Selfishness, pride, indulgent appetite, self-complacency, and passion are the ruling forces in their life. This kind of life is empty—empty of the real peace and joy that comes only from God. Each day in every little or big circumstance we choose to be united either with Christ or to be on our own—self-directed and disconnected from Him. The choice is ours. We can choose to be His child this very moment. We can choose to give Him our hearts, our feelings, our thoughts, our words, and even

our expressions to be guided and governed by Him. *We can be a part of this glorious reunion* through union with Him now.

Because of my growing love for Christ, I often think about His coming in all His grandeur and glory to take us home—home at last! It will happen at earth's darkest hour when evil and wickedness are having what appears to be a free reign. Satan and his forces are determined to destroy the righteous. His fury will be unleashed! Our dependence will be entirely upon God at that time because we have chosen to depend on Him in the moment by moment of our present, daily life.

Christ tells us that before the great reunion with Him, all who live godly in Him will suffer persecution. See 2

learn how to truly depend fully on Christ as their present Helper in the little and big situations they face each day. As I choose to yield myself to Him in this way, He gives me the desire as well as the wisdom and strength I need. This helps me to picture life in the heavenly reality.

Some of us may be fleeing to the mountains like the Waldenses. Our family, with our children, have hiked in their mountains; we have seen their humble homes; we have climbed to the top of some of their snowy mountain peaks in April. We had warm clothes and Gortex boots. We had the choice to rest when we were tired, to have a delicious, fresh, crisp apple to satisfy our hunger, or to turn around at any time if we got uncomfortable. They

ready for His glorious appearing and to hear the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord?" Matthew 25:21. We made that commitment nearly 15 years ago, and we continue to make it. It is not a one-time decision. It is not always comfortable to our flesh—yet neither is a cold, dark, damp cave—but it is the only place that we have found real peace and rest.

Regardless of where we might be in that final hour, we will all be crying out to God to save us, not because it is our last-ditch effort, but because we will have learned to depend on Him in all things. Then, suddenly, at the midnight hour, the voice of God comes from heaven like peals of loudest thunder. To God's children it will bring joy and praise, but to the wicked—those who have not been in union with Him in their day-to-day life—it will be filled with horror as they will not be able to understand His voice.

Next, a small white cloud appears! As it draws closer, *Jesus*, the Majesty of heaven, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, *comes forth as a Conqueror*. He has not only conquered sin and Satan, but also our selfish hearts, because we have chosen to let Him be victorious in us. He is escorted by a retinue of holy angels wearing glittering crowns on their heads. Jesus is coming to claim His people! He is coming to claim you and me! Are we preparing for this reunion by being in union with Him now?

Before we enter into the city of God we will be arranged in a perfect square, with Jesus standing in the center for all to see. He calls for His holy angels to bring the golden crowns and with His own hands He will place one on each of our heads. Next, He calls for the golden harps to be brought by holy angels who love to serve their God. They come forth with the most beautiful harps ever seen and give them to Jesus. With His own hands again, He gives one to each of His children.

When I think of His own hands giving me the rewards, of accepting His grace, I am reminded that the

---

*Jesus is coming to claim His people! He is coming to claim you and me! Are we preparing for this reunion by being in union with Him now?*

---

Timothy 3:12. Some of us may be cast into a prison cell like Paul, Peter, or Huss.

I remember visiting Dachau, the first World War II concentration camp in Germany. We saw many horrible and almost unbelievable things there, but what impacted me the most was a picture of a mother with her four little children walking hand in hand to the gas chamber. At first, I could hardly look at it. Uncontrollable tears flooded my eyes, and a lump filled my throat until it felt like I could not even swallow. But as I looked again a deeper message struck home to my heart—a faithful, loving mother with her children ready to die for her beliefs.

What about me? Was I ready? Were my children ready? We need to make use of every moment of time left now to learn to walk with God and let His will be our will. Now is our opportunity to be faithful mothers and fathers—daily helping our children and teens to

did not! They persevered physically and spiritually, pressing on higher and higher to gain their freedom. What about us? Are we pressing on through the trials of every day by the grace of God, gaining higher and higher ground, striving for the real freedom that comes only from being in union with Jesus?

Some of us may be hiding in the rocky crevices. Our family has also been in a few caves. They are dark, dirty, "spidery," cold, and have a dampness that chills right to the bone. Many of the faithful who have traveled this road ahead of us found a joy even under such conditions, because they were not alone; they were there with their Saviour. He led them there. Are we willing to be led wherever God wants to lead us? Or, are we making excuses that this life in Him is too uncomfortable and hard—that it is not convenient at this time? Are we willing to go anywhere and do anything He asks that we might be

scars in His hands are there because of my sins and yours. I can picture how tenderly He will look into my face and say, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3)—His punishment, my reward! What love! It awakens in my heart a conscious awareness of His Spirit's call to my heart as I meet with the trials—the misunderstandings, the hurts, and the disappointments—of this life. I hear His invitation often, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)—"you do not need to carry these heartaches or irritations, I want to free you from them. I will give you peace and comfort." What a relief to give Him my burdens!

Now Christ leads us to the gate of the city. He lays hold of it and swings it wide open on its glittering hinges. He invites us to enter into our eternal home. *Home, home at last!* Our home, the one that we have longed for. Home, where there will be no more sickness or sorrow. Home, where there will be no more weeping or death. Home, where there will be no more pain, heartache, or sin. All such will be ended—forever ended! We will be home with the One we have loved and honored here on earth, now united forever!

Then Jesus will look upon us—His children. In His rich and melodious voice He will speak the words that I have come to love, taken from my favorite chapter in the Bible, Isaiah 53: "I behold the travail of my soul, and am satisfied. This rich glory is yours to enjoy eternally." *The Story of Redemption*, 413. All this for you! All this for me!

Oh, what a glorious reunion this will be—even much more than we have ever imagined or anticipated! "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. I want to be there! I love Him, but I want to love Him more! And I am making choices to cooperate with Him daily. Dear friends, if we are not motivated by contemplating our blessed hope,

then we need to earnestly seek God to conquer our hardened hearts and begin learning now what it means to "set your affection on things above." Colossians 3:2. We need to start cultivating these affections, choosing to begin now.

When I read and contemplate this, it takes my thoughts away from the temporal and earthly to the glories of eternity. I realize more and more the great sacrifice that was paid in my behalf—for my selfishness and pride of opinion, for my stubbornness and self-sufficiency.

If it were only for me, Christ would have died because He loves me with an everlasting love and

hearts, affections, and attentions to the realities of God's gift of grace for today and forever. He is calling to each one of our hearts through His Spirit of love. The choice is ours.

Will we accept His gift of love, grace, and companionship today and give our hearts and lives fully and completely to Him? This means that we will deny our ungodly, selfish nature, the cries of our flesh, and choose instead the righteousness of Christ. It means that the attractions of this world will not draw us away from union and communion with Jesus. It is a moment-by-moment choice—a choice we make one at a

---

*We need to anticipate that glorious reunion with Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, and set our hearts, affections, and attentions to the realities of God's gift of grace for today and forever.*

---

longs for my companionship with Him throughout eternity. He has not only paid the price, but He continues to draw me through His still, small voice to be His child now. He has paid the price for you too—for everyone. There is only one of you and one of me. There will be an eternal absence if we are not there.

He often puts it in my mind to live today as if I were already in heaven. What a difference this has made, for now I am more conscious of His presence! It is so basic and simple that even a little child can understand and enter into this practical experience. I have found that I need to take advantage of anything I can do to offset the daily impact that draws me into the cares of this temporal life and distracts me from the real life that God is calling each one of us to.

Our lives here are constantly being bombarded by this present world, and we must lift our eyes to the eternal realities He has promised. We need to anticipate that glorious reunion with Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, and set our

time in every decision we face in the day, and in every thought that comes to our mind. Are we looking for our Blessed Hope today, and for His glorious appearing, not because it is a new year or a new millennium, but because we long to be with Him?

Now is the time—today is the day, at this very moment, to choose to allow the Spirit of God to work in our hearts and change us completely from within. I have tasted of this working in my heart and I want more of it. It is a growing experience that always brings real peace and joy! I want Jesus to be all to me—in all I think, say, and do.

Just think of it—the most glorious reunion ever to be experienced in the universe, and we can be a part of it! We, each one, have been *given a personal invitation* from the King of glory, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you" —prepared for you, Alane, prepared for you, dear reader, prepared for all of us—"from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. Come, come to the most glorious reunion ever, and it will never end! ❀

# The Millennium

How to mark your Bible and know God's Word better

We present this study with the desire that it will encourage you, our readers, to pursue a deeper examination of God's Word. The warning has been given us that "none but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." *The Great Controversy*, 593–594. It is our suggestion that you use this study personally, in group settings, or with your family. We also encourage you to add other Scriptural references to this study as you proceed in your own personal, attentive scrutiny of God's Word.

The Editors

## Bible Marking Directions

1. In this month's study our Bible marking key letter is M which represents "The Millennium."
2. On the blank flyleaf at either the beginning or the end of your Bible, write in the key letters followed by the first Scriptural text. This month's beginning entry should appear as follows: 1M: Revelation 20:5.
3. Turn to the first reference and, in the margin near it, write the second reference. Then turn to the second reference and, in the margin near it, write the third reference, and so on to the end of the lesson. When you come to the last reference write "End M."

## The Millennium

The word "millennium" comes from two Latin words, *mille*, which means "1,000," and *annus*, which means "year." Thus, it means 1,000 years.

### 1M: Revelation 20:5.

This 1,000 years is bounded at each end, or marked off, by two great resurrections. The use of the word "first" in Revelation 20:5 proves that there will be two resurrections, for since there is a first, there must be a second resurrection.

### 2M: John 5:28–29.

Jesus taught that there will be two resurrections—a resurrection of life, when the good or righteous people will be raised, and a resurrection of damnation, when the evil or unrighteous people will be raised from the dead.

### 3M: Revelation 20:6.

Since all the righteous are to be raised in the first resurrection, it must be that all the wicked will be raised in the second resurrection.

### 4M: Revelation 20:4.

Since the righteous dead will be among those who reign with Christ during this 1,000 years, that proves that these righteous ones will be raised at the beginning of this 1,000 years.

The resurrection of the righteous takes place at the beginning of the 1,000 years. The resurrection of the

wicked takes place at the end of the 1,000 years. See Revelation 20:5. The millennium is this 1,000-year period between these two resurrections. As the righteous dead are raised at the second advent of Christ (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16), this proves that it will be the coming of Christ at the last day to gather His saints that will mark the beginning of this 1,000-year period of Revelation 20. At Christ's second coming the righteous dead will be raised incorruptible; the living righteous will put on immortality; and then all the righteous will leave the earth to meet Jesus in the air, and go with Him to the mansions which have been prepared for them in heaven. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17; and John 14:3.

### 5M: Revelation 20:6.

Hence, the millennial reign of the saints with Christ will be in the mansions of the New Jerusalem in heaven.

### 6M: Jeremiah 25:30–33.

The wicked who are alive on the earth at the appearing of Christ will be struck dead by the brightness of His presence, and will lie unburied upon the earth. The wicked who may have died before Jesus comes will remain dead until the end of the 1,000 years. See Revelation 20:5, first part.

### 7M: Isaiah 24:1–3.

Thus the earth will be made empty of all living human beings at the coming of the Lord.

**8M: Jeremiah 4:23–27.**

The earth will be desolate without any living inhabitants during this 1,000 years. The phrase “without form, and void”(verse 23) is the same expression used to describe the earth at the beginning of creation week.

**9M: Revelation 20:1–3.**

Satan will be “bound” on this earth during this 1,000 years by the circumstances that all the righteous will be in heaven during this time, so he cannot tempt them, while all the wicked will be dead, and he cannot deceive them.

All chance of sinners to be saved is forever closed at the beginning of the 1,000 years when Jesus makes His second advent. See Revelation 22:11–12. There is no such thing as any second opportunity for any of the wicked to hear the gospel

during this time, because they are all dead. See Revelation 20:5, first part.

Note:

The Greek word for “bottomless pit” is the same word used in the Greek Septuagint translation of Genesis 1:2 for the “deep.”

**10M: Revelation 21:2.**

At the close of the 1,000 years, the New Jerusalem will descend from heaven to the earth. This will be the time when the Lord will come with all His saints. See Zechariah 14:4–5 and Jude 1:14–15.

At the close of this 1,000 years, the wicked will be raised, and this will loose the devil for a little season.

**11M: Revelation 20:7–9.**

This great army of the resurrected wicked, deceived anew, will attempt to capture the city of

God, which will then be resting on this earth on a prepared spot. They will surround this heavenly Jerusalem home of the saints to try to capture it. But God will rain down upon them coals of fire and brimstone. The word “devoured” means total annihilation. The earth itself will be melted into a lake of fire (see 2 Peter 3:10); the wicked will be destroyed everlastingly (see Malachi 4:1–3); and then God will reconstruct the earth into a perfect, sinless paradise, with the New Jerusalem for its capital and center.

**12M Revelation 20:15; 21:1.**

The creation of the new earth occurs after the lake of fire. The righteous will reign forever in this new and perfect earth under Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. ✠

Adapted from *Helps to Bible Study*, by J. L. Schuler.

# Healthy Savings

From Hope International

See page 3 for sales tax and shipping information.

Regularly

**Sale!**  
(ends August 31st)

**Diabetes & the Hypoglycemic Syndrome**

by Agatha M. Thrash, M.D., FACP and Calvin L. Thrash, M.D., MPH .....\$14.95 ..... **\$9.<sup>99</sup>**

Uchee Pines physicians give natural remedies for preventing and controlling diabetes and related problems.

**Hydrotherapy** by Clarence Dail, M.D., Charles Thomas, Ph.D. ....\$8.95 ..... **\$6.<sup>99</sup>**

Why go to the medicine cabinet? Hydrotherapy helps to overcome common diseases. Simple treatments reviewed.

**Everything You Wanted to Know About Alcoholism**

by Donald W. Hewitt, M.D., FACS .....\$9.95 ..... **\$6.<sup>99</sup>**

This book is the answer for millions of alcoholics, their families and friends who want to stop the problem.

**Lasting Sobriety and Life Everlasting**

by Donald W. Hewitt, M.D., FACS .....\$4.95 ..... **\$3.<sup>50</sup>**

Overcome alcoholism and experience the joy of new life.

**Milk Recipes From Nuts & Seeds** by Edith V. Edwards .....\$9.95 ..... **\$7.<sup>99</sup>**

Excellent recipes to replace cow's milk for consumption.





*Holy Bible*

# Words to Ministers

*Ellen G. White*

**H**e hath made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me; and said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified. . . . It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:2-3, 6.

This is the word of the Lord to those who are engaged in the ministry of His Word. They are in His special service, and they are not to esteem this as a light thing. Proportionate to their position of trust should be their sense of responsibility and devotion. Cheap, common talk, and light, trifling behavior should not be tolerated. Their highest desire should be to offer Christ perfect service.

The object of preaching is not alone to convey information, not merely to convince the intellect. The preaching of the Word should appeal to the intellect, and should

impart knowledge, but it should do more than this. The words of the minister should reach the hearts of the hearers.

Neither is it the object of preaching to amuse. Some ministers have adopted a style of preaching that has not the best influence. It has become a habit with them to weave anecdotes into their discourses. The impression thus made upon the hearers is not a savor of life unto life. Ministers should not bring amusing stories into their preaching. The people need pure provender, thoroughly winnowed from the chaff. "Preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:2), was the charge that Paul gave to Timothy, and this is our commission also.

The minister who mixes storytelling with his discourses is using strange fire. God is offended, and the cause of truth is dishonored, when His representatives descend to the use of cheap, trifling words.

My brethren, you are required by our Saviour to take heed how you witness for Him. You need to go deeper and still deeper in the study of the Word. You have all

classes of minds to meet, and as you teach the truths of the Sacred Word, you are to manifest earnestness, respect, and reverence. Weed out storytelling from your discourses, and preach the Word. You will then have more sheaves to bring to the Master. Remember that in your audience there are those who are constantly harassed by temptation. Some are wrestling with doubt, almost in despair, almost hopeless. Ask God to help you to speak words that will strengthen them for the conflict.

Read and study the fourth chapter of Zechariah. The two olive trees empty the golden oil out of themselves through the golden pipes into the golden bowl, from which the lamps of the sanctuary are fed. The golden oil represents the Holy Spirit. With this oil God's ministers are to be constantly supplied, that they, in turn, may impart it to the church. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6. God's servants can obtain victories only by inward purity, by cleanness of heart, by holiness.



It is of the utmost importance that ministers set a right example. If they follow lax, loose principles, their example is quoted by those who are doing wrong, as a vindication of their course. The whole synagogue of Satan is watching for defects in the lives of God's representatives, and the most is made of every defect.

Take heed lest by your example you place other souls in peril. It is a terrible thing to lose our own soul, but to pursue a course that will cause the loss of other souls is still more terrible. That our influence should be a savor of death unto death is a terrible thought, and yet it is possible. With what earnestness, then, we should guard our thoughts, our words, our habits, our dispositions. God calls for personal holiness. Only by revealing the character of Christ can we cooperate with Him in saving souls.

God's ministers cannot be too careful that their actions do not contradict their words. A consistent life alone will command respect. If our practice harmonizes with our teaching, our words will have effect; but a piety that is not based upon practice is as salt without savor. It is of no use for us to strive to inculcate principles which we do not conscientiously practice.

Do not try to work in your own strength; for then the angels of God stand back, leaving you to carry on the warfare alone. Our preparation to meet opponents or to minister to the people must be obtained from the throne of grace. Here we see and acknowledge our own incompetence, and receive the divine efficiency. The Holy Spirit takes the things of God, and shows them to us, leading us into all truth, and giving us the faith that works by love and purifies the soul.

My brethren, in His great mercy and love God has given you great light, and Christ says to you, "Freely ye have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8. Let the light bestowed on you shine forth to those in darkness. Let us rejoice and be glad that Christ has not only given us His Word, but has given us also the spirit of wisdom and

revelation in the knowledge of God, and that in His strength we may be more than conquerors.

Christ is saying, "Come unto me. To me belong right counsel and sound judgment. I have understanding and strength for you." By faith we must rest in Christ, remembering the words of one who was inspired of God to write, "Thy gentleness hath made me great." Psalm 18:35. Ask God to give you much of the oil of His grace. Carefully consider every word, whether it be written or spoken.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come

minister may dwell. Christ has said, "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John 6:47.

If the minister's lips are touched with a coal from the altar, he will lift up Jesus as the sinner's only hope. When the heart of the speaker is sanctified through the truth, his words will be living realities to himself and others. Those who hear him will know that he has been with God, and has drawn near to Him in fervent, effectual prayer. The Holy Spirit has fallen upon him, his soul has felt the vital, heavenly fire, and he will be able to compare spiritual things with spiritual. Power will be given him to break down the strongholds of

---

*When the heart of the speaker is sanctified through the truth, his words will be living realities to himself and others. Those who hear him will know that he has been with God, and has drawn near to Him in fervent, effectual prayer.*

---

when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." 2 Timothy 4:2-5.

If the one who feels that he is called of God to be a minister will humble himself and learn of Christ, he will become a true gospel teacher. There should be among our ministers less sermonizing and more tact to educate the people in practical Christianity. The people must be impressed with the fact that Christ is salvation to all who believe. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. There are grand themes on which the gospel

Satan. Hearts will be melted and subdued by his presentation of the love of God, and many will inquire, "What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30.

My brethren, seek God in earnest prayer, that when you stand before the people, you may realize the solemnity of the message that you are about to bear. Talk simply and to the point. Let your discourses be short. Handle only a few points, saving your strength for house-to-house work. Ministers too often give lengthy discourses. The minds of the people are wearied by such discourses, and the truth loses its effect upon them. Let the teacher of the Word first talk with God. Then he can stand before the people with the Holy Spirit working upon his mind.

The Lord desires that the truth shall come close to the people, and this can be accomplished only by personal labor. Much is compre-

hended in the command, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Luke 14:23. There is a work to be done in this line that has not yet been done. Let God's workers teach the truth in families, drawing close to those for whom they labor. If they thus cooperate with God, He will clothe them with spiritual power. Christ will guide them in their work, entering the houses of the people with them, and giving them words to speak that will sink deep into the hearts of the listeners. The Holy Spirit will open hearts and minds to receive the rays coming from the Source of all light.

and the minds of the hearers are prepared to receive the Word of God; for if the messenger is humble and contrite, if he has a living connection with God, the Holy Spirit takes the Word, and shows it to those for whom he is laboring.

Light, light from the Word of God – this is what the people need. If the teachers of the Word are willing, the Lord will lead them into close relation with the people. He will guide them to the homes of those who need and desire the truth; and as the servants of God engage in the work of seeking for the lost sheep, their spiritual faculties are awakened and energized. Knowing that they are in

saw that a soft, radiant light illumined the Scriptures, and I said softly, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Luke 14:23.

These workers were not boastful, but humble and contrite, realizing always that the Holy Spirit is the efficiency of every worker. Under the influence of the Spirit, indifference vanished, and an earnest interest was manifested. The precious light was communicated from neighbor to neighbor. Family altars that had been broken down were again erected, and many souls were won to the truth.

Teaching the Scriptures, praying in families – this is the work of the evangelist, and this work is to be mingled with preaching. If it is omitted, preaching will, to a great extent, be a failure. Come close to the people by personal efforts. Teach them that the love of God must come into the sanctuary of the home life.

Take no glory whatever to yourself. Do not work with a divided mind, trying to serve God and self at the same time. Keep self out of sight. Let your words lead the weary and heavy laden to carry their burdens to Jesus. Work as seeing Him who is at your right hand, ready to give you His efficiency and omnipotent power in every emergency. The Lord is your Counselor, your Guide, the Captain of your salvation. He goes before your face, conquering and to conquer. See Isaiah 9:6; 58:11; Hebrews 2:10; Revelation 6:2. ❀

*Review and Herald*, December 22, 29, 1904

---

*If the teachers of the Word are willing, the Lord will lead them into close relation with the people. He will guide them to the homes of those who need and desire the truth.*

---

There are families who will never be reached by the truth of God's Word unless His servants enter their homes, and by earnest ministry, sanctified by the endorsement of the Holy Spirit, break down the barriers. As the people see that these workers are messengers of mercy, the ministers of grace, they are ready to listen to the words spoken by them. But the hearts of those who do this work must throb in unison with the heart of Christ. They must be wholly consecrated to the service of God, ready to do His bidding, ready to go wherever His providence sends them, ready to speak the words He gives them. And if they are what God desires them to be, if they are imbued with His Spirit, they cooperate with heavenly agencies, and are indeed "laborers together with God."

When such a worker offers prayer to God in the family where he is visiting, the hearts of the members are touched as they would not be by prayer offered in a public assembly. Angels of God enter the family circle with him;

harmony with God, they feel joyous and happy. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they obtain an experience that is invaluable to them. Their intellectual and moral powers attain their highest development; for grace is given in answer to the demand.

I was shown two Bible workers seated in a family. With the open Bible before them, they presented the Lord Jesus as the sin-pardoning Saviour. Their words were spoken with freshness and power. Earnest prayer was offered to God, and hearts were subdued by the softening influence of the Holy Spirit. As the Word of God was explained, I



# Priceless Treasures

From the Spirit of Prophecy

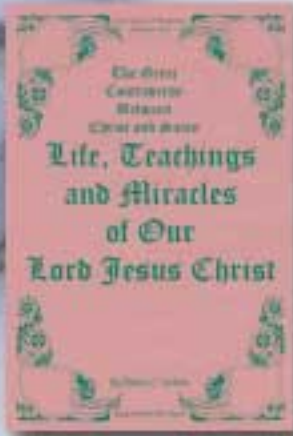
8 Tapes in Each Set

On Audio Tape

Please see page 3 for ordering and tax information.

Regular \$25.<sup>00</sup> Per Set

**Sale! \$19.<sup>99</sup> Per Set**



*Life, Teachings and Miracles of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

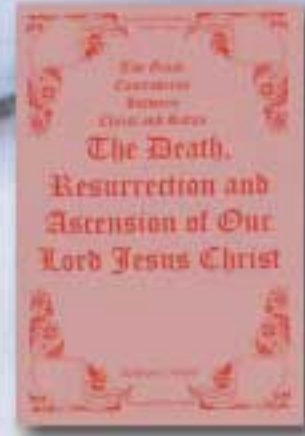
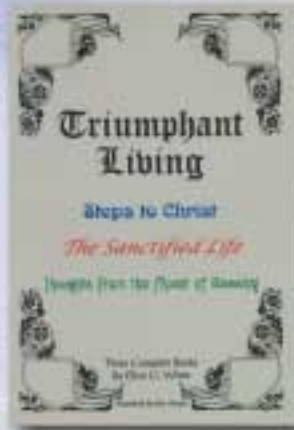
Sample Titles:

1. The Life of Christ
2. Resurrection of Lazarus

*Triumphant Living*

Sample Titles:

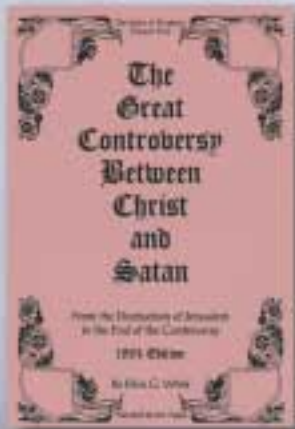
1. God's Love for Man
2. Rejoicing in the Lord



*The Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

Sample Titles:

1. Cleansing the Temple
2. Trials and Victories of Paul



*The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*

Sample Titles:

1. Destruction of Jerusalem
2. The Controversy Ended

*Christ's Object Lessons*

Sample Titles:

1. Teaching in Parables
2. To Meet the Bridegroom



*Old Testament Times*

Sample Titles:

1. The Fall of Satan
2. The Ark of God

# Sunshine

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day." Genesis 1:14-19.

This is the Bible's description of the Creation of the sun, moon, and stars. The sun is 1.3 million times bigger than the earth. Sunlight coming to earth represents only about one part in 2 billion of the total amount of energy radiating from the sun, and yet this is sufficient to supply our

planet with about 4.69-million horsepower per square mile.

These waves of electromagnetic energy, traveling at 186,000 miles per second, take about 8 minutes to cover the 93 million miles to earth. Sunlight consists of several types of energy, including cosmic, gamma, x-rays, ultraviolet and infrared light, and visible light of many colors. The rainbow colors of visible light make our earth and the things God created beautiful to look at.

The sun's rays vaporize the water which will eventually fall as rain and snow, filling our rivers and reservoirs supplying fresh drinking water and making possible the generation of hydroelectric energy. Solar energy is also stored in wood, coal, oil, and natural gas, providing us with heat and energy when we need it. We also have photovoltaic and passive solar systems that allow us to harness sunlight directly.

The warming infrared rays of the sun, or heat from various sources, is useful in the

treatment of neuralgia, neuritis, arthritis, and sinusitis. Heat is usually good in the treatment of any pain. Warmth also helps bring healthful, natural body oils to the surface of the skin, keeping it smooth and protected.

Almost all of the food we eat depends upon sunlight to grow. In fact, the energy our bodies receive from the food we eat is, in a sense, solar energy that the plant has stored in the form of fats, carbohydrates, and proteins.

The ultraviolet rays are antiseptic and are capable of killing bacteria, viruses, fungi, yeasts, molds, and mites in air, water, and on surfaces. Even reflected light from north windows can destroy bacteria in the dust on window sills and floors. Since most window glass filters out about 95 per cent of the ultraviolet rays, it would be well if the windows could be opened and the curtains pulled back for a period of time each day. Ultraviolet light also kills germs on our skin. This makes sunbathing a useful treatment for many skin diseases—such as diaper rash, athlete's foot, psoriasis, acne, boils, or impetigo.

Sunlight also toughens and thickens the skin, making it less susceptible to injury and infection. Regular, controlled, moderate exposure to sunlight, rather than damaging the skin and aging it, actually protects the skin by building up a natural resistance to the harmful effects of ultraviolet light, while giving it a nice velvety texture. Later on we will discuss some precautions to take, but first, more benefits.

Ultraviolet light converts cholesterol in the skin to vitamin D. This vitamin is essential for the proper handling of calcium in the body and thus in the prevention of rickets and adult osteomalacia. Vitamin D is also added to some of the food we eat. It might be possible to get too much of the vitamin this way, but not when we get it from sunlight, since the body makes only what we need. Getting out in the sun, therefore, is a good way to lower cholesterol levels in our bodies. If we expose six square inches of our skin to direct sunlight for one hour per day, we will obtain our minimum daily requirement for vitamin D.

Sunlight helps to regulate almost all our bodily processes. Starting from the top (our minds) and working down, sunlight has been shown to increase our sense of well-being and to improve sleep. Ultraviolet light coming into our eyes stimulates the pineal gland, which helps to regulate our activity cycles. It has been said, "Dark nights and bright days will help keep the hormones in the body functioning properly." In one experiment, hyperactivity in schoolchildren was decreased when the classroom's fluorescent lights were changed to full spectrum lighting. Thyroid function may improve. Hormone imbalances tend to level out.

Resting heart rate, blood pressure, and respiration rates are all decreased after a sunbath. This

result is especially true if any of them were high to begin with. Blood sugar levels can be stabilized. (NOTE: Diabetics must use extra caution in the sun, as they are at greater risk of permanent injury from sunburn.)

Sunlight stimulates the production of more red blood cells, increasing the oxygen content of the blood, and thus increasing muscular endurance. It also stimulates production of more white blood cells and enhances oxygen utilization, which helps the body maintain its defense against disease. While certain skin cancers are associated with exposure to sunlight, the incidence of some of the more serious internal cancers seems to decrease.

Appetite may be improved, along with our assimilation, elimination, and metabolic processes. Poisonous chemicals and heavy metals are removed from the bloodstream faster, while levels of healthy trace minerals are actually increased in the blood. Muscular strength has been increased, even in those unable to exercise. Sunlight has even been found helpful in the treatment of stomach ulcers.

As with most good things, there are some precautions to consider. The main concern is that of burning the skin. Normally, invisible pigment in the inner layer of the skin is converted to melanin, a much darker pigment that tends to reflect the sun's rays. But this process takes time. Blue-eyed blonds and red-haired people are not as adept at this, and they are the very ones who tend to burn the easiest. The amount of natural pigment in the skin is the most important factor. For this reason dark-skinned peoples have only about 20 percent as much skin cancer as those with fair skin. For this same reason they also have more rickets, due to a lessened vitamin D production. The amount of tan acquired from previous exposure is a factor too. A good tan may screen out up to 90 percent of the burning rays. Also, there are persons who for some reason are supersensitive to even a brief exposure to the sun. Some drugs, deodorants, soaps, cosmetics, and beverage alcohol can sensitize the skin to sunlight, making it even more likely to burn.

Excessive unsaturated or polyunsaturated, refined fat in the diet and in suntan oils and skin lotions can lead to the formation of free radicals. These may be contributing factors in the formation of some types of cancer. An abundance of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in the diet provides substances that help to prevent the formation of free radicals and protects against their harmful effects, and thus they are important in order for the body to properly handle exposure to sunlight.

Overexposure to sunlight promotes scaliness, dryness, reddening, roughness, leatheriness of the skin, and wrinkles. These conditions are not due to any normal aging process, because the unexposed areas on the same individuals do not show these signs. In fact, no aging normally occurs in the skin

until up to age 50. The capillaries in the skin are fifty times thinner than hair and can be permanently injured from sunburn, suffering some loss of their elasticity, bruising and breaking easier.

Overheating can lead to heat exhaustion or sunstroke. The big concern, though, is skin cancer. This is the most common cancer, and 80 percent of it occurs on exposed areas of the face, head, neck, arms, and hands. Ultraviolet light from sunlight is believed by many to be the chief culprit. The National Cancer Institute estimates that there are 300,000 cases per year of two types (basal cell and squamous cell) and 9,000 cases per year of the more deadly type (malignant melanoma). Malignant melanoma tends to occur on the lesser exposed parts of the body and is, thus, not clearly linked to sun exposure. These three types of skin cancer combined lead to between 6,500 and 7,500 deaths every year—about 2 percent of all cancer deaths. Incidents and deaths from the first two are increasing in certain areas due to increased sun exposure. The key to prevention is to avoid sunburn and overexposure.

Wet skin burns more easily than dry skin. Sweating is good, however, for it cleanses and cools the skin. Although water is a poor reflector (only reflecting 3–5 percent, the same as grass), ultraviolet light does pass through it, so you can burn in the water. Dry sand reflects about 17 percent, but white sand reflects considerably more. Snow reflects up to 85 percent. Combine snow with high altitudes, where the atmosphere is thinner, allowing more sunlight through, and you have the makings of a good sunburn while you are skiing or mountain climbing. Only 1/3 of the burning rays come directly from the sun; the other 2/3 come to us reflected from all directions.

Early detection is the next line of defense against skin cancer. If you suspect a precancerous condition, such as a mole or any other lesion that grows, changes in color, spreads, or bleeds, get in touch with a physician for evaluation. He or she can best determine the type of lesion you have and the most effective form of treatment.

Remember, even if you burn only once a year, in fifty years you have tallied 50 burns. This accumulated effect increases the risk of skin cancer. Any excessive exposure of the skin to sunlight can set up precancerous conditions in the skin.

How can we best use sunlight to obtain the benefits while minimizing the risks? *The first rule is to tan, but be careful not to burn.* Take into consideration the time of year and the hour of the day. As the sun moves more directly overhead, its intensity increases.

Ordinary glass does not allow much of the ultraviolet light to pass through. Smoke, smog, and clothing block a large proportion of these rays. However, since clouds filter only about 20

percent, one needs to beware of sunburn even on a cloudy day, if it is during the season and time of day when the sun is directly overhead. When sunbathing, unaccustomed persons should plan their exposures, keeping them short at first (2 minutes per side) and gradually increasing the duration and frequency of exposure. Any color change in the skin beyond the slightly pink stage is a sign that you have overdone it. The therapeutic effects occur just below the level of turning red. Remember that it takes time for skin color to change. Be sure to get out of the sun before you turn pink, or it may be too late. Also the benefits are enhanced with shorter, more frequent exposures. When you decide that you have had enough sun, the best sunscreen to wear is clothing. Chemical sunscreens applied to the skin may also be used. They are not necessary when sunbathing, and neither are creams or oils. Clean, dry skin is best for sunbathing. Opaque ointments, like zinc oxide, are the best for total blockage to susceptible areas like the nose, and they do not wash off in water like other screens that usually need to be reapplied.

If your skin is the type that cannot tan—do not try. Cover the body or use sunscreens. If you can tan—do it gradually, and never allow yourself to burn. Solariums may be built that allow for privacy and protection from winds, so that you can sunbathe even in winter. Clear plexiglas, acrylite, or other plastics that are ultraviolet transmitting (UVT) labeled, as thin as possible (preferably less than one-eighth inch thick), would be the materials to use if a roof is needed.

Ultraviolet lamps may be used indoors. Fluorescent-type tubes are best. They should emit between 295 and 4,000 nanometers, not below 295, as this is detrimental. Always protect the eyes, genitals, and nipples, and be careful not to fall asleep under the lamp. Follow the instructions carefully. Use a timer or alarm clock for safety.

A helpful motto to remember when sunbathing is “Not too much—as often as possible.” Combine productive exercise in the fresh air and sunshine for a really healthful trio.

The Scriptures declare, “Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun.” Ecclesiastes 11:7.

Our Saviour, God’s Son, is linked with the sun and all of its benefits. As we see the sun in the sky above, let us also remember that “unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings.” Malachi 4:2; see also Luke 1:78, margin. ✨

*Kurt Unglaub, M.P.H., wrote this article while he was an instructor at Life Abundant Missionary Institute. He and his family are currently serving as missionaries for Adventist Frontier Missions.*

# letters to the editor

## Have a letter to share?

contact [editor@hopeint.org](mailto:editor@hopeint.org) or see page 3 for our mailing address.



Enclosed is a donation for the *Remnant 2000* project. May the Lord bless this effort to open eyes to the nearness of the time of our deliverance. The song "I'm a Pilgrim" is a very descriptive song of our hearts' desire and wish.

JK, Utah

May God's richest blessings be upon you all! Thanks so much for the great work you are doing for our dear Saviour Jesus. Please pray for me that I will live and work for Him each day. May God's continued blessings be upon you all.

AF, Florida

### From Overseas

I thank the Almighty God for the way He has been using you people to reach the entire world with the words of God through tracts. I know the Lord will continue to bless you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Our branch Sabbath school planned to have an open air crusade, but we are lacking tracts to be shared with our prospects. Therefore, please send us some tracts. We look forward to hearing from you, as our Almighty God will be pouring more and more blessings until His second coming.

CN, Nigeria

Thank you very much for the parcel sent to me. All the materials you sent me are in good use for my own personal salvation, my family, and the people around my area. Once again, thanks for the good job you are doing. My heart is moved by your publications! The materials shall be in good use, preparing Christians for heaven.

SS, Malawi

All of the elders of our church wish to request a favor of you—please send book packages for uplifting the message of our Lord God. Due to pamphlets and tracts, the SDA church has tripled its membership in this particular town. Many

more people are crying for these helpful publications.

The fact is that most of our members have been converted through the presentation of these readings and also of the Holy Bible. There are other sister churches at nearby towns which are lacking prophetic books such as *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, and others. We hope they will be strengthened through these books as well. We hope you will not turn us down. We count on your usual help.

FE, Ghana

I have been reading a booklet entitled *Earth's Final Warning*, and it really changed my life! I believe that these things are going to happen very soon, and I want more information about what is going to happen. Please, sir, would you send me three books, entitled: *The Lord's Day*, *The Desire of Ages*, and *Patriarchs and Prophets*? If you do so, I will be very happy, and God also will be happy, because we are sharing the good news with all!

RG, Papua New Guinea

I would like to thank you for the parcel of spiritual books which I had received from you two months ago. Indeed, I now have these powerful tools in my hand, and I am led to organize several small groups which are enjoying the amazing truths contained in the books. My burning desire to lead out in small groups has now come true because of your generosity. God bless your services!

Since it is so sweet to trust the Lord, the more I read from the books the sweeter I feel, and I still would like to ask for more literature so that I can widen my understanding of spiritual things.

I need your help more because of my background. I am living in the Moslem area where I was born. At the age of 14, I happened to be in one of the SDA schools here where I was finally converted to Christ. I enjoy

telling others about Christ because of what He has done for me, so with your assistance it will be as it was with Moses, Aaron and Hur when I can share the good news with these Moslem brethren and sisters.

The magazines sent to me are very touching and amazing! Keep on helping me, please.

BC, Malawi

I am very happy to read the articles in *Our Firm Foundation*. I did not know it existed until \_\_\_\_\_ shared a few articles with me. They are very good for our spiritual growth!

I look forward to checking your web site more often.

CT, Belize

Three weeks ago, I received a package of your magazines. I was so surprised because I thought I would never receive it again, since I moved to another province in Sulawesi.

The magazine has a new look, better than I could ever imagine. Wonderful job! God has surely blessed your ministry greatly in such a way that you have improved the quality of your magazine—outside and inside. The first person I shared the magazine with was the director of the English School here, and the response was "Where did you get this?"

I said, "If you want more, I can share some more! And if you are blessed by the magazine, please preach it to others!"

Could you help us with the tracts? We (especially the youth here) need tracts on the Sabbath, jewelry, foods, holidays (like Christmas), Christian behavior, and so on. We are planning to share some books with the tracts inserted in them. Thanks again for sharing the "rich" magazine you have placed in our hands!

Pray that we can help your ministry—either with money or anything we could do.

DP, Indonesia



# Come to Camp Meeting!

July 25–30, 2000

First meeting begins Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Do you sense the nearness of Christ's return? Are you seeking to do all you can to prepare yourself, your family, and others for the crisis just ahead? Do you find encouragement as you fellowship with others who like you are striving to serve the Lord with all their hearts?

**Don't miss the special sale pricing on all publications purchased at camp meeting!**

If your answer is Yes, then please plan now to join us in worship and fellowship.

If you plan to attend our camp meeting in Eatonville and wish to stay on our grounds, you are more than welcome. Water, restrooms, and limited showers will be available, but hookups for water, sewer, and electricity are not available. Please plan on a real *camp* meeting.

As usual, there will be no charge for staying on our campus, but we cannot provide either lodging or food. Please do not take it for granted that we will be able to provide special services for those who need them. If you have special needs, please call and let us know—we will do our best to accommodate all who desire to attend.

If you do not plan to stay on our grounds, the following list of motels may be helpful:

- **Mill Village Motel**—2 miles south of Hope International. (360) 832-3200.
- **Motel Puyallup**—25 miles north of Hope International. Call (800) 921-2700.
- **Northwest Motor Inn**—25 miles north of Hope International. Call (800) 845-9490.
- **Eagle's Nest**—10 miles south of Hope International. Call (888) 877-2533

**Speakers will include:** Ron Spear, Colin Standish, Russell Standish, Jeff Wehr, Danny Vierra, Ellen Dana, Raphael Perez, Ron and Gwen Reeves, David Kang, Ray DeCarlo.



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Eatonville, WA  
Permit No. 8

**Hope International**  
P.O. Box 940  
Eatonville, WA 98328  
Change Service Requested

