

# *Our* Firm Foundation

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Volume 15, Number 8

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## When Prejudice is Strong

when and how should  
we labor on Sunday?

# “Dare to be a Daniel”

The book of Daniel is composed of two different elements—stories and prophecies. While the repetition and enlargement of prophetic visions reveal to us the unfolding of history climaxing in the second coming of Christ, the stories teach us the kind of people we must become to be saved in God’s eternal kingdom.

When we first meet Daniel in chapter one, he is just the tender age of fifteen. As a young teenager he was taken captive to Babylon. Throughout his whole life we never hear him complain. He trusted in God and always remembered God’s never-to-be-forgotten promises and covenant.

In like manner, we are always to remember the leading of God in our life. We should keep fresh in mind those never-to-be-forgotten deliverances. As we do, we will learn to have greater patience with, dependence on, and confidence in Him.

On a daily basis, Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with anything that would dull his senses and limit his ability to discern between the sacred and the common. In the same way, it is important for us to learn that temperance is the very foundation of a clear mind that is able to discern the power and privileges that come from God. Intemperance is the foundation of confusion and compromise.

In Daniel, chapter two, we learn that humility is the key to wisdom and success. When all the wise men of Babylon proved the foolishness of heathen gods and the limitations of human wisdom, Daniel came forth to show the blessings that come from giving one-hundred-percent credit to God.

While Arioch takes credit for finding Daniel, saying, “I have

found a man” (verse 25), Daniel stands before the King and disclaims any ability in himself to reveal the King’s dream and its interpretation.

Daniel is not only humble, but polite. Rather than focus his time on the inabilities of man, he speaks of the Sovereignty and magnificence of God. In like manner, we should not only give God the glory but also be found ten times better in social graces.

Throughout the book of Daniel we learn the importance of prayer and fellowship. Daniel not only communed with God three times each day, but he was often found in prayer with his three spiritual companions.

We lose much when we pray little—whether privately, or corporately. However, when we pray much in faith, we gain strength, confidence, and trust in God as well as greater love for our fellow man.

In Daniel, chapter three, we learn the importance of steadfastness to principle. When the three Hebrew worthies were faced with death, they still chose to obey God rather than men.

Sister White instructs us, “ True Christian principle does not stop to weigh consequences. It does not ask, What will people think of me if I do this? or, How will it affect my worldly prospects if I do that? With singleness of purpose, the children of God desire to know what He would have them do, that their works may glorify Him. The Lord has made ample provision that the hearts and lives of His followers shall be controlled by divine grace, that they may be as burning and shining lights in the world.”<sup>1</sup>

God does not take us out of trying circumstances, but strength-

ens us with His own presence in the midst of the severest tests.

The purpose of fiery trials is to burn off the shackles that bind us. With these victories over adversity, God intends for us to witness of His grace and love to the world.

The whole known ancient world heard of these three faithful worshippers of the true God, but we never hear of the gigantic golden image again.

Let us, therefore, silence the falsehoods and idolatries of man with the witness of life through full consecration to God.

In Daniel, chapter six, we learn that we need not fear of openly worshiping God—even in the face of a death decree. God is worthy of our worship at all times.

We are not to hide our worship of Him under a bushel, but let the whole world know that God has a people who honor Him on His holy Sabbath day.

We must believe in Him whom we worship. So let us not hide our devotion, but be as shining lights in a fallen world.

In closing, I would like to encourage you to read the book “*The Sanctified Life*,” by Ellen White. It is about the godly character of Daniel and the apostle John. God used these two men to pen the two most important prophetic books for our time—Daniel and Revelation. They were men transformed by the love and power of God. Read about their walk with God. Read their story—and understand what kind of people we need to be in these last days. ✨

Jeff Wehr—Associate Editor

References:

<sup>1</sup> *Youth Instructor*, April 26, 1904.

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


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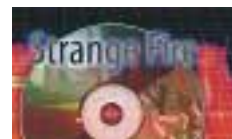
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*A number of months ago the editors of Our Firm Foundation became aware of a conference youth director in the South Pacific Division who sent to the youth leaders of his conference a series of articles addressing the question of whether rock music is appropriate within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We were encouraged that he was willing to stand for what we believe are godly principles – especially so in a day in which members and leaders seem to be increasingly open to the use of rock music in Seventh-day Adventist worship services. What follows are the first two of the four letters, reprinted with permission. Samuel Jensen is a pseudonym.*

THE EDITORS.

There is probably a no more emotive issue in the church today than music. Its ability to raise temperatures and increase blood pressure is unquestionable, and these tensions are not necessarily split along the lines of age, gender or race. The issue runs so deep that some churches have threatened to split and cease worshiping together. Although the protagonists in this argument claim

that their differences are over worship expectations, when the curtain is drawn aside it is invariably over music. Specifically – to rock or not to rock!

In the last decade-and-a-half a new wave of music, generically known as “Christian rock,” has arrived at the front door of the church. The music is upbeat, brazen, loud and bold, and it does not hesitate to announce its presence to the church. The impact of this music has been profound and perhaps long lasting. While some consider Christian rock to be the scourge of the church and yet another sign of the end, others praise God that at last a medium has been found that communicates the message of Jesus to a modern generation.

Perhaps the problem begins when we try to define what Christian rock is. This is probably as difficult as coming up with a suitable definition of rock music itself. “No one has satisfactorily defined rock music.”<sup>1</sup> Rock music is a loose term that covers a host of different music styles. This includes heavy metal, acid, techno, reggae,

punk, rap, jungle, soft and hard rock, and this is only a small example of what society considers rock music to be.

Nevertheless, a definition must be attempted to give the reader some indication of the music that is under discussion. In this article that which is termed Christian rock music will have some and usually all of the following characteristics:

1. **Repetition** – Music that features repetition of chord patterns, words, beat, rhythm, and is written using a narrow range of notes.
  2. **Driving Beat** – Music driven by a heavy repetitive beat.
  3. **Decibels** – Music that is dominated by the element of volume.
  4. **Impact** – The impact of this music is primarily from its sound and rhythm and not its words.<sup>2</sup>
- It is important that the reader keep these definitions in mind as this article is read.

Each of the above characteristics is present in most secular rock music. What distinguishes Christian rock from secular rock is not the music, but rather the words. The

other elements must be present or the music of both genres simply would not be rock music.

The proponents of Christian rock cite its frequent use and acceptance by the church as being evidence of its suitability. However, rock “music is not good because it is being performed in a ‘religious’ context, any more than rock music is bad because it is being performed in a ‘secular’ context. Rock music must not be judged by its context but by its content. Beautiful flowers can be found in a dusty desert and poisonous plants in a lovely garden.”<sup>3</sup> Therefore, to rightly resolve the issue of Christian rock in the church, we must judge it for what it is, rather than where it is being played—such as in church or at a youth rally.

To arrive at a balanced conclusion on this subject it is necessary to investigate the roots of Christian rock. In doing this, most people would agree that the origins of Christian rock lie in secular rock. So it is, therefore, reasonable to investigate the roots of secular rock before a balanced value judgment on religious rock can be correctly made.

### Secular Rock

It is too simplistic to maintain that rock music came from the dark jungles of Africa. However, rock music can trace some of its development back to the West African slave culture of the fifteenth century. This was then transported to the West Indies on slave ships. Primitive slave instruments were replaced with trumpets, pianos and drums. Together with the Western influences, such as Ballard, Quadrilles, Spanish Dance, and American Country Music, rock developed into its own new form of music. After World War II, came Bill Haley with “Rock Around the Clock,” followed by Elvis Presley with “Love Me Tender.”<sup>4</sup> Rock jumped over the Atlantic Ocean and came back to America in the form of the Beatles. The Revolution had begun!

Today rock music is everywhere! Its sound can be heard on

radio, television, in shopping malls and pubs, at football matches, movies, clubs, and, of course, in the church. None of this makes rock music good or bad. Remember, we must judge rock music by its content rather than its context.

### The Content of Rock Music

One of the arguments commonly leveled against rock music is the unacceptable behavior of many of its composers and performers. “There can be no denying that from megastar Jimi Hendrix (who claimed to have slept with 1,000 women) onwards, many of its leading performers have made

Stones, Oasis, Prodigy, Nirvana, and Marilyn Manson, the overtones of the occult are evident for anyone to see. Album covers, lyrics, and music boldly declare the association of many rock musicians with the dark underworld.

Together with the occult, drugs have played a pivotal role in the lives of rock musicians and in the development of their music. A leading, rock-group manager states “that no matter what anyone tells you, drugs will always be a part of the rock scene.”<sup>8</sup> The tragic list of those who have died as a result of drug use in the rock industry is overwhelming: Jimi Hendrix, Jim

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*Album covers, lyrics, and music boldly declare the association of many rock musicians with the dark underworld.*

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adultery, fornication, lesbianism, homosexuality, or some other form of sexual deviation a way of life.”<sup>5</sup> Elton John, who sang at Princess Diana’s funeral, once said, “There is nothing wrong with going to bed with somebody of your own sex. I think people should be very free with sex.”<sup>6</sup>

However, history tells us that rock performers are not the only musicians to have had questionable behavior. “Tchaikovsky was no paragon of virtue, Chopin had the reputation of a womanizer, Mahler was hardly blameless, and Mozart’s haunts were not exactly havens of sanctity. As for Wagner, he has been described as grossly immoral, selfish, adulterous, arrogant, wildly hedonistic, violently racist and . . . a thief to boot!”<sup>7</sup> These examples illustrate how we need to be careful in condemning music solely because of the lifestyles and behavior of its creators and performers.

The satanic influences of the occult have certainly pervaded rock music from its earliest development. From AC/DC to Michael Jackson, and on to bands such as the Rolling

Morrison, Keith Moon, Sid Vicious, Kurt Cobain, to name just a few. It is more than relevant to correlate the massive upswing in drug use by young people with the emergence of rock music as a cultural phenomenon.

Violence is another factor that features prominently in the lives and music of many rock musicians. Growing increasingly popular is the “gangsta rap” that comes from off the streets of some of America’s larger cities, advocating murder, rape and violence! One only has to pick up an album from the rap singer Snoop Doggy Dog to see that what these musicians proclaim is shocking violence of a graphic nature, almost unheard of until the advent of their form of music. Coolio, Tupac (2 Pac), and Will Smith are a few examples of the growing emergence of this form of violent music.

Allan Lanier admits that rock music brings out violent emotions. “There’s a lot of violence, a lot of aggression in the music.”<sup>9</sup> Perhaps this factor has something to do with the unusually high number of rock



musicians who have been killed recently in brutal drive-by shootings. 2 Pac, a rap singer and self-confessed murderer, was shot dead in 1996 as he drove through his home suburb. He died in a hail of bullets—a scenario that he had sung about many times!

This still leaves us with the controversial issue of Christian rock in the church. The claim to “Christianity” by anything is not a validation stamp. Jesus Himself said, “Not everyone who says to Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of

leader in charge of your local church youth group. In the end only you and your local youth group can decide what will happen in your church youth programs. However, we will endeavor to maintain this standard in all \_\_\_\_\_ Conference Youth programs.

It is my sincere prayer that, as you read the next installment of this article, you will humbly allow the Lord to guide you as you make decisions on this very important area of Adventist worship.

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*The predominant difference between Christian rock music and secular rock music is the lyrics. However, the different use of lyrics hardly gives Christian rock the right to claim validity in the church of God.*

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heaven.” Matthew 7:21, NKJV. In the light of this, what place, if any, does Christian rock have in the church of God?

## Part 2

We are now going to investigate the issue of Christian rock and its place, if any, in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I think it is appropriate to remember that this discussion is not about personalities, but about music. It is up to you as a youth leader to earnestly pray and seek the Lord’s counsel in these matters. I believe that we live in the very last days of earth’s history. It is my aim in the Youth Department to ensure that everything the Conference Youth Department does, including our music, glorifies Christ and draws young people to the beauty and the wonder of serving Jesus. As you know, it is an indescribable joy to have Jesus walking by your side every moment of the day!

The stand on music that the present Youth Department in \_\_\_\_\_ [our local conference] has made is what you are about to begin to read. We will not attempt or try to force this upon you as a local youth

Please do not make your conclusions after this one installment. Give the article time to build its case, and whatever you may think, remember, you have a responsibility to your youth and to your God to test the truth by the Word (Bible study) and prayer.

I strongly believe that what we are discussing has eternal consequences for our youth and for us as leaders. That is basically why I have written this article. God bless you as we continue this journey! My prayers are with you.

## Christian Rock in the Church

“The story is told of a man who, during an election campaign, had a bumper sticker on his car which read, ‘my mind is made up—don’t confuse me with the facts.’”<sup>10</sup> The subject of Christian rock is wide ranging and complicated, yet many do not hesitate to give their opinion based on how they feel and think, rather than looking openly, seriously, and honestly at the facts to weigh the subject.

Before anyone can make an informed and educated decision on the merits of Christian rock in the church, they must be in a vibrant, personal, daily walk with Jesus

Christ—including daily Bible study and prayer. It is impossible to speak with any authority on this subject without such a relationship with Jesus. Perhaps now is a good time to ask yourself, Is my walk with Jesus such that I can confidently make a good and sound judgment on this issue? If the answer is Yes, praise the Lord! If the answer is No, then be very careful with any decision you come to, no matter what it is.

**The facts thus far support the following view:**

1. Christian rock has its roots in secular rock.
2. Secular rock has the following qualities:
  - Rooted in the West African slave culture.
  - Influenced and advanced by various Western factors.
  - Most of its performers and composers live debauched lifestyles that are evident in much of their music.
  - Is deeply immersed in the occult.
  - Is rooted in and encourages drug use.
  - Promotes and encourages violence.

It is difficult for Christian rock to divorce itself from its roots. You cannot just baptize rock music and make it Christian. The predominant difference between Christian rock music and secular rock music is the lyrics. However, the different use of lyrics hardly gives Christian rock the right to claim validity in the church of God.

Let us look at some of the facts surrounding the issue of Christian rock in the church:

## Fact 1

The apostle John wisely counsels us when he says, “Do not love the world or the things of the world.” 1 John 2:15, NKJV.

“Christian rock artists imitate the clothing, gestures, movements and voices of secular rock performers; their whole style is set by the world.”<sup>11</sup> Petra, one of the pioneers in the Christian rock scene, is a good example of this point. Except

for the words of their songs, the style and approach of Petra is the same as that of any secular rock band—the same clothes, the same hair, the same wild eyes, the same driving, heavy beat, the same syncopation, the same rhythm, the same extreme noise levels, the same gravel voices, the same gyrating, pelvis thrusting, angry stage manners, the same dancing, moshing fans.<sup>12</sup> It is all the same—the same music from the same source. As Lee Roy Homes, a well-known pastor and evangelist, states in his article “Where the Lyrics Fall Short,” “The religious pop-music industry parallels in every major aspect that of secular pop music, even having its own personality cult, its top ten listing, and its mass marketing.”<sup>13</sup>

When I was a small boy I used to try to imitate the batting style of the famous Australian cricketer Allan Border. I even tried to bat left-handed though I was definitely born to bat right-handed. Why did I try to imitate Allan Border? I wanted to bat just like him—I wanted to be just like him. Why does Christian rock imitate so closely secular rock?

### Fact 2

The Bible further claims that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17, NKJV.

“God gave us the gospel in words, and nothing should distort, blur or push away the clear word that God is endeavoring to share with us.”<sup>14</sup> Most Christian rock songs are guilty of drowning out those words. An example of this is an article David Hotton wrote some time ago on Christian rock singer Sheila Walshe. In it he says, “Sheila relates easily with the audience, speaks helpfully about her faith; . . . however, communication ended when she sang. . . . The band was too loud for us to catch the words.”<sup>15</sup> As another Christian writer states, “If the volume or dissonance of the music are such that the words cannot be heard clearly, then the whole performance is an exercise in absurdity.”<sup>16</sup>

### Fact 3

Those who support and advocate Christian rock often claim that the “music is essentially neutral and is only colored by the words.”<sup>17</sup> However, this argument has major flaws. Dr. Max Schoen, in his book the *Psychology of Music*, makes some interesting observations and statements. He says that, “music is the most powerful stimulus known among the perceptive senses. The medical, psychiatric and other evidence for the non-neutrality of music is so overwhelming that it frankly amazes me that anyone should seriously say otherwise.”<sup>18</sup> Music in shopping centers, airplanes, at concerts, and in the church is chosen to do something. That it does do something is proof that music is not neutral.

music of any kind were neutral, then it would have been impossible for Hendrix to do what he did.

Christian rock, like its cousin secular rock, cannot be neutral. It will either draw people to God, as is its stated purpose, or it will not. Let us investigate some more facts about this genre of music.

### Fact 4

Supporters of Christian rock often state that the difference between Christian and secular rock is vast and recognizable. The truth is that the difference between the two types of music is hardly distinguishable. Both forms of music use the same rhythm, beat, and syncopation. Chuck Girard, a Christian rock musician, concedes that “if you take the lyrics away and changed them to a secular

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*“God gave us the gospel in words, and nothing should distort, blur or push away the clear word that God is endeavoring to share with us.”*

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Jimi Hendrix, one of the great icons of rock, recognized the power and non-neutrality of rock music. He stated, “atmospheres are going to come through the rock music, because the music is a spiritual thing on its own.”<sup>19</sup> He goes on further by saying, “You can hypnotize people with rock music, and when you get them at their weakest point then you can preach into their subconscious what you want to say.”<sup>20</sup> Jimi Hendrix did not see rock music as being neutral. In fact, he believed just the opposite. The music is so charged that it allowed him to preach his message into the subconscious minds of his hearers. It is the rock music—not the words—that got the hearers of Jimi Hendrix into such a state that they would do anything for their guitar playing, rock-singing messiah. (According to Jimi Hendrix himself, up to 1,000 women can testify to the truth of what he claimed). If rock

message, it would be difficult to tell the music apart.”<sup>21</sup> Steve Turner reported in the music magazine *Buzz*, “the difference between a rock concert and many Jesus rallies (*youth rallies*) is negligible.”<sup>22</sup> Professor Verna Wright states that when Christian and secular rock music was played at a club in Belgium, the hearers could not tell the difference.<sup>23</sup>

The words of Richard Taylor sum up the fatal flaw in the argument that religious rock is somehow different: “We cannot change the basic effect of certain types of rhythm and beat simply by attaching to them a few religious or semi-religious words. The beat will get through to the blood of the listeners. Words are timid things. Decibels and beat are bold things, which can easily bury the words under an avalanche of sound.”<sup>24</sup> This confirms the conclusion of Dr. William Shafer who says, “Rock is commu-

nication without words, regardless of what ideology is inserted into the words.”<sup>25</sup>

Professor Frank Garlock agrees with these findings: “The words only let you know what the music already says. . . . The music is its own message and it can completely change the message of the words.”<sup>26</sup> Thus the evidence so far conclusively shows that Christian rock, as with secular rock, is much more the “music” than it is the “words.”

If this is the case, then as youth leaders we have much to be worried about with using Christian rock in the church. Yes, most of the words are somewhat God-centered, yet the music, which clearly has the major impact on its listeners, is music that even secular authorities recognize as dangerous. It is rock

to which they had formerly been accustomed. With deep concern they described as naïve the use of such music in Christian congregations. Using such music to support the name of Jesus they considered blasphemous.”<sup>27</sup>

God-fearing tribal Africans, are calling the late, twentieth-century, technologically-advanced, well-educated, Western Christians, naïve. And they are right, because they understand the source and the root of the music we are often using in our worship—demons! Christian rock is a hybrid of the real thing—secular rock. It is just another wedge being used by Satan to get into the church and weaken, and in many cases destroy young people. It is time that we as the youth leaders of this conference and this church woke up to this deception.

look at this subject with an open mind. Remember to allow this article to build its case. We are only halfway through the material. It is complex and sometimes confusing, but let me assure you that as you pray, the Holy Spirit will lead you to the truth.

I promise that you are in my prayers. Please keep me in yours.

### Next Month

Perhaps the best way to determine the worth of Christian rock is by its fruits. The Bible clearly challenges us in Matthew 7:16–20, NKJV, when it says: “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

In the next article we will look at the fruits of Christian rock music and come to a conclusion concerning its use in the remnant church of God. ✠

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*Most of the words are somewhat God-centered, yet the music, which clearly has the major impact on its listeners, is music that even secular authorities recognize as dangerous.*

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music—the same music as Marilyn Manson, the same music as 2 Pac and Snoop Doggy Dog use, the same music as Elton John, Coolio, and Nirvana play and sing. It is the same music that causes violence. It is the same music that has its roots in the occult. It is the same music that generates rebellion. Christian rock, like its close cousin secular rock, is harsh, cold, hard, loud, and anti-Christ. Jesus is gentle and quiet, speaking to us in soft, godly tones. Jesus’ gentle manner is a long way from where we are headed in much of our Christian music today.

Pierre and Gisels Winandy support the above conclusion. They are teachers of theology and music, and have served in seven Seventh-day Adventist Colleges on four continents. They state the following: “We noticed in Africa that converts from paganism were actually frightened of gospel rock. It reminded them of the demonic music

Jesus does not, and never will, use the same music as Satan.

If we believe that Jesus is coming soon, and that it is our responsibility to prepare young people for the coming of Jesus, then surely we will be, by now, beginning to question the use of Christian rock in our worship services. Ours is an enormous and sobering responsibility to care for and lead young people to the feet of Jesus. We cannot and will not do this effectively while we are using the wicked tools of Satan to draw people to Jesus. It would be more possible to build a house out of running water.

I know that you will be feeling different emotions by now as you read this. Some will agree with my conclusions while others will be angry. Some will even be indifferent to the whole discussion. Whatever your attitude to this discussion, please ensure that you continue to

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- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 13.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 33.
- <sup>6</sup> *Rolling Stone*, October 7, 1976.
- <sup>7</sup> S. Lawhead, *Rock Considered*.
- <sup>8</sup> *Circus*, April 17, 1979.
- <sup>9</sup> *Super Rock*, June, 1997.
- <sup>10</sup> *Daily Express*, March 24, 1988.
- <sup>11</sup> *Youth Aflame*, October 1982.
- <sup>12</sup> See “Mosh: to engage in uninhibited often frenzied activities (as intentional collision) with others near the stage at a rock concert.” *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*.
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- <sup>16</sup> B. Larsen, *The Day Music Died*.
- <sup>17</sup> M. Schoen, *The Psychology of Music*.
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- <sup>19</sup> *Life*, October 3, 1969.
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# When Prejudice is Strong

*Dores E. Robinson  
and Ellen G. White*

*Because of a growing campaign by religious and political leaders to legislate laws of a religious nature – including the posting of the Ten Commandments in public buildings, Sunday laws, and so forth – we believe it is increasingly important that Seventh-day Adventists understand how to respond to Sunday laws and how to relate to civil authorities. The following article contains the fifth and sixth of the eight-part series written by Dores E. Robinson, one of Ellen G. White's secretaries. The series was published in 1911, from March 9 through April 27, in the Review and Herald and was entitled "A Study of Principles."*

*The Editors*

**I**n the summer of 1895, there was renewed activity in some of the southern States in arresting Seventh-day Adventists for Sunday labor; and there were

differences of opinion among some of our brethren as to how far the brethren in that field should go in the matter of refraining from their ordinary secular work on Sunday.

Some felt that, where a Sunday law was being enforced, to refrain from such labor under any conditions would be a denial of faith, and would involve receiving the mark of the beast. The only logical conclusion to such a premise would be that our brethren should teach all, even the Sabbathkeepers among the colored people, that, be the consequences what they might, it was their duty to labor openly, as usual, on the first day of the week, in defiance of the Sunday laws. Others who were laboring in the south, with their knowledge of the conditions and the field, and of the strong prejudices of some of the people, felt that our work would be greatly hindered were [they] to maintain such an attitude.

On the morning of Nov. 20, 1895, on the Armadale campground in Victoria, Australia, a special meeting was called to consider the matter. There were present: W. W. Prescott, A. G. Daniells, W. C. White, M. C. Israel, L. J. Rosseau, W. A. Colcord, M. G. Kellogg, W. D. Salisbury, James Smith, and Sisters E. G. White and E. J. Burnham.

Several letters were read with reference to the question at issue, and the brethren were invited to discuss the points treated in the letters; but all seemed desirous of hearing from Sister White, and in the course of her remarks, she said:

"There is a terrible crisis just before us, through which all must pass, and especially will it come and be felt in\_\_\_\_\_. My mind has been much troubled over the positions which some of our brethren are liable to take in regard to the work to be done among the colored people in the southern States. . . .

"When the truth is proclaimed in the south, a marked difference will be shown by those who oppose the truth in their greater regard for Sunday, and great care must be exercised not to arouse their prejudice. Otherwise we may just as well leave the field entirely. . . .

"Our laborers must move in a quiet way, striving to do everything possible to present the truth to the people, remembering that the love of Christ will melt down opposition.

"From the light that I have received, I see that if we would get the truth before the southern people, we must not encourage the colored people to work on Sunday. There must be a clear understanding regarding this. . . .

"We are not to make efforts to teach the southern people to work on Sunday. *That which some of our brethren have written upon this point is not based upon right principles.* When the practices of the people do not come in conflict with the law of God, you may conform to them. If the workers fail to do this, they will not only hinder their own work, but

they will place stumbling blocks in the way of those for whom they labor, and hinder them from accepting the truth. On Sunday there is the very best opportunity for those who are missionaries to hold Sunday schools, and come to the people in the simplest manner possible, telling them of the love of Jesus for sinners, and educating them in the Scriptures."

**Question:** "Should not those in the southern field work on Sun-

presumptuous defiance of their oppressors, they will bring to themselves much sorrow. Very faithfully the colored people must be instructed to be like Christ, to *patiently suffer wrongs, that they may help their fellow men to see the light of truth. . . .*

"The people will soon find out what you believe about Sunday and the Sabbath, for they will ask questions. Then you can tell them, but not in such a manner as to

*mark of the beast; and where this will advance the interests of the work, it should be done. We should not go out of our way to work on Sunday.*

"After the Sabbath has been sacredly observed, in places where the opposition is so strong as to arouse persecution if work is done on Sunday, let our brethren make that day an occasion to do genuine missionary work. Let them visit the sick and the poor, ministering to their wants, and they will find favorable opportunities to open the Scriptures to individuals and to families. Thus most profitable work can be done for the Master. When those who hear and see the light on the Sabbath take their stand upon the truth to keep God's holy day, difficulties will arise; for *efforts will be brought to bear against them to compel men and women to transgress the law of God. Here they must stand firm, that they will not violate the law of God; and if the opposition and persecution are determinedly kept up, let them heed the words of Christ: 'When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.'* Matthew 10:23.

"The time has not yet come for us to work as if there were no prejudice. Christ said, 'Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.' Verse 16. *If you see that by doing certain things which you have a perfect right to do, you hinder the work of truth, refrain from doing these things. Do nothing that will close the minds of others against the truth. There is a world to save, and we gain nothing by cutting loose from those we are trying to help. All things may be lawful, but all things are not expedient.*

"We have no right to do anything that would obstruct the light which is shining from Heaven; yet by a wrong course of action we may imperil the work, and close the door which God has opened for the entrance of the truth. *The final issue of the Sabbath question has not yet come, and by imprudent actions we may bring on a crisis before the time.*"

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*"I have given you the light which has been presented to me. If followed, it will change the course of many, and will make them wise, cautious teachers."*

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day?" [The questioner evidently had in mind to inquire regarding the duty of our brethren under conditions then existing in the south, rather than their duty in that particular locality, regardless of conditions.]

"If they do this, there is danger that as soon as the opposing element can get the slightest opportunity, they will stir up one another to persecute those whom they hate. *At present Sundaykeeping is not the test. The time will come when men will not only forbid Sunday work, but they will try to force men to labor on the Sabbath, and to subscribe to Sunday observance or forfeit their freedom and their lives. But the time for this has not yet come, for the truth must be presented more fully before the people as a witness.* What I have said about this should not be understood as referring to the action of old Sabbathkeepers who understand the truth. They must move as the Lord shall direct them, but let them consider that they can do the best missionary work on Sunday.

"When the colored people feel that they have the word of God in regard to the Sabbath question, and the sanction of those who brought them the truth, some who are impulsive will take the opportunity to defy the Sunday laws, and by a

attract attention to your work. *You need not cut short your work by yourself laboring on Sunday. It would be better to take that day to instruct others in regard to the love of Jesus and true conversion."*

**Question:** "Should the same principles govern our work and our attitude toward the Sunday question in foreign fields where the prejudices of the people are so strong?"

"Yes; just the same. The light that I have is that God's servants should go quietly to work, preaching the grand, precious truths of the Bible—Christ and Him crucified, His love and infinite sacrifice—showing that the reason why Christ died is because the law of God is immutable, unchangeable, eternal. The Spirit of God will awaken the conscience and the understanding of those with whom you work, bringing the commandments of God to their remembrance. . . . *The Sabbath must be taught in a decided manner, but be cautious how you deal with the idol Sunday.* A word to the wise is sufficient.

"I have given you the light which has been presented to me. If followed, it will change the course of many, and will make them wise, cautious teachers. *Refraining from work on Sunday is not receiving the*

In a letter to Elder A. O. Tait, written the same day this special meeting was held, Mrs. White wrote further in harmony with these principles. She said:

“This morning I attended a meeting where a select few were called together to consider some questions that were presented to them by a letter soliciting consideration and advice on these subjects. On some of these subjects I could speak, because at sundry times and in divers places, many things have been presented to me in reference to some matters of labor that required great caution in speech as well as in the expression of thought with the pen. The advice given to our brethren in the southern field has been diverse; it would bring in confusion. . . .

“Should the colored people in the southern States be educated, as they receive the truth, that they should work on Sunday, there would be excited a most unreasonable and unjust prejudice. . . .

“Tell them they need not provoke their neighbors by doing work on Sunday; that *this will not prevent them from observing the Sabbath*. . . . Let the instruction be given to this much oppressed people that the keeping of the Sabbath does not necessitate their working on Sunday. . . . This people need not be told that the observance of Sunday is the mark of the beast *until this time shall come*. . . .

“The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.’ James 3:17-18. All this may be, and yet not one principle of truth be sacrificed.”

### Further Counsel

The day following the special meeting referred to in last week’s issue, on the Armadale (Australia) campground, in which Mrs. White spoke of the principles that should govern our work where prejudice is strong, she wrote the following

letter to one who had strongly urged that to refrain from Sunday labor in the south would be wrong:

“Dear brother: Yesterday extracts were read from letters from your pen in reference to our brethren in the southern field. This subject is a very delicate one to handle, and I would not have anything to say upon it if I did not feel that I dare not withhold light that has been given me. My brother, I was made sad to hear the extracts from your letter. This is not the advice that Jesus gave in His Sermon on the Mount.

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy

“There is a matter which I have written in regard to, the introduction of the truth among the colored people. This cannot be done in any haphazard way, neither can advice be given to the believers and to those who teach the truth to be presumptuous. When the period comes in the southern States to do as did the three worthies, who refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar’s image, *that time will present decisions for or against the commandments of God*. There is no need of closing up our own way entirely. It will be made more difficult to work the many fields that have not yet been touched. Our policy is, Do not make prominent the objectionable features of our faith, which strike most decidedly

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*There is need of strictly guarding the words that the pen traces upon paper. The Lord help us to learn in the school of Christ His meekness and His lowliness.*

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right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.’ Matthew 5:38-41.

“The principles that you present to others, you should first know are faultless because sustained by a ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ How careful we should be in giving advice, lest our counsel result in great evil and suffering. How much better for the families to go out into some other cities or some other country, but never encourage the spirit of defiance and resistance, even if they are placed in the chain gang. The bigotry that exists, the prejudice against truth to sustain religious error, is firm; for the human agent is stirred with hellish power from beneath. The Lord sees, the Lord knows, all about the sufferings of His people for the truth’s sake. Pray, our Saviour says, for those who entreat you evil, and resist not evil.

against the customs and practices of the people, until the Lord shall give the people a fair chance to know that we are believers in Christ, and in His preexistence. Let the testimony of the world’s Redeemer be dwelt upon. ‘I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches.’ Revelation 22:16. There is need of strictly guarding the words that the pen traces upon paper. The Lord help us to learn in the school of Christ His meekness and His lowliness.

“If the Majesty of Heaven guards His every word lest He should stir up the spirit of Satan and the fallen angels, how much more careful should we be in all things in connection with His work.

“I think it would be very becoming to all who claim to follow Christ, to be indeed learning of Christ, His methods, and His meekness and lowliness of heart. We have a decided message to bear. In Jude we have a description of the pollution of the world, and the



working agencies of Satan to corrupt the world. 'Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.' Jude 1:9.

" 'And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.' Zechariah 3:1. These things are written for our benefit, and we are to study the Word in all these things now; for they concern us, particularly.

"There is to be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Our work is to study to weed out of all our discourses everything that savors of retaliation and defiance and making a drive against churches and individuals, because this is not Christ's way and method. He did not pronounce scathing rebukes against those who knew not the truth, but against those whom God had made the depositaries of sacred responsibilities, a people chosen and favored with every temporal and spiritual advantage, and yet bearing no fruit. . . .

"The Lord pities the world, His vineyard, which has not been worked. He is sparing the world to let increased light come to it. In the midst of wrath He remembers mercy. His heart of divine mercy is full of love and compassion for the thousands who are in ignorance of the truth. There has been everything done for those who have a knowledge of the truth, to keep them in the truth; but those who know not the truth have not received one tithe of the advantages that they should have had. And thus it continues to be. God help the people to whom He has given every advantage, as He did the Jewish nation, to receive and impart to those who are in ignorance of the light of truth, instead of rejecting the light and blessing.

"I do not know that you understand this. May the Lord help you to discern. It is not the place of

those who have had from Jesus light, precious light, to condemn those to whom this light has never come, and to write or speak things which will close the ears and door of the heart; to hedge up the way, so that Satan's power shall take possession of human minds; and to give the imagination a false viewing, that will through any course that we shall pursue bring on a state of things that will prevent us from reaching the world. This the Jewish nation did. They made themselves obnoxious to the world.

"How shall correct impressions of what we really do believe be given to our world?—By studying methods, not of contention and condemnation; for there are thousands living up to the best light they have. Every means should be used to get the knowledge of the truth before the thousands who will discern evidence, who will appreciate the likeness of Christ in His people, if they can have an opportunity to see it. There are those among us who, if they would take time to consider, would regard their do-nothing position as a sinful neglect to use the talents which God has given them. God has given His messengers the truth to proclaim. Then the churches are to voice the truth from the lips of the messengers, and use their talent in every way possible to make the ministry a power to communicate truth by their catching the first rays of light, and diffusing the same.

"Here is our great sin. We are years behind. The ministers have been seeking the hidden treasure, and have been opening up the casket, and letting the jewels of truth shine forth; but there is not one-hundredth part done or being done by members of the church that God requires of them. They will in that great day be self-convicted and self-condemned for their slothfulness. May the Lord lead them to penitence, and to now see themselves and exclaim, 'Lord, I am that fruitless fig-tree.' May the Lord forgive His people who are not doing the work in His vineyard that He has given them to do.

" 'I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches.' 'I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.' Revelation 22:16. Study this subject; read the next verse. We see that this is the very message that has been going forth to the people of God.

"The large halls in our cities should be secured, that the third angel's message may be proclaimed by human lips. Thousands will appreciate the message. While so much time and money have been absorbed in ministerial institutes for those who have the truth and do not appreciate it, thousands are in ignorance of the truth. They know not what is the faith of Seventh-day Adventists.

"Why do not the church members communicate that which they have received? Why this negligence? Why this selfish neglect when the value of souls is at stake?

"Why is there not now something being done in a larger measure than has been done? Why are camp meetings kept year after year in the same locality? Why are they not taken to cities that know nothing of our faith? The plea is, There will be a saving of money and labor. Let the saving be done in other lines. But when souls are to be labored for, and the truth is to come before those who know it not, let us not talk of limiting on this line.

"A world is to be warned. Watch, wait, pray, work, and let nothing be done through strife and vainglory. Let nothing be done to increase prejudice, but everything possible to make prejudice less, by letting in light, the bright rays of the Sun of righteousness, amid the moral darkness.

"There is a great work yet to be done. Every effort possible must be made to reveal Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour, Christ as the Sinbearer, Christ as the Bright and Morning Star: and the Lord will give us favor before the world until our work is done." ✨

*Review and Herald*, April 6 & 13, 1911.

## Deadly Mosquito-borne Diseases in the U.S.

**News Item:** *U.S. News & World Report* disclosed that the mosquito-borne tropical diseases, West Nile fever and dengue, may become a serious threat in parts of the United States this year.

Last summer for the first time West Nile fever appeared in the U.S. with an outbreak in New York City killing seven elderly people and sickening 62 others. Scientists discovered in March that this virus had survived New York's winter and aggressive aerial spraying, and that it threatens to infect thousands of people. Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic States will fight the virus.

Last year an outbreak of dengue in Texas was the nation's worst outbreak in twenty years. Sixty people contracted the disease, which killed one little girl.

Worldwide this virus has proliferated to kill 500 times more people than in the 1950s. According to Duane Gubler of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Dengue has been around, like plague and malaria, forever, but in the last 20 years, it's just exploded internationally. It's gone from being a nonissue to one of the most important public-health problems in tropical countries."

Scientists have hoped that the appearance in the U.S. of viruses "thought to be confined to the tropics" were just random events, but they now fear a new dangerous trend. *U.S. News & World Report*, April 3, 2000.

## New Resistant Super-Germ

**News Item:** According to *U.S. News & World Report*, two cases of antibiotic-resistant salmonella bacteria infection are the first to appear in the United States. Both cases involved children who had been around sick farm animals.

What concerns health officials most is that these bacteria are resistant to the most powerful antibiotic available to treat children. Also, the gene that provides the drug-resistance to the bacteria is apparently located on a part of the bacteria's DNA called a *plasmid*. This will allow the gene to be passed easily to other bacteria.

Scientists state that the use of antibiotics with livestock caused this drug-resistant bacteria to develop.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention official stated that this bacteria thus appears to be "spreading in the United States, and



it may pose a serious public health problem for children." *U.S. News & World Report*, May 15, 2000.

**End-Time Perspective:** Contrary to what evolutionists and humanists say, the human race is not evolving but is being increasingly threatened with the diseases referred to above, as well as AIDS, and many other diseases. The last work that God's people will have to do is medical missionary work. This likely means that Seventh-day Adventists, kept healthy by following the health message completely, will have a wonderful opportunity to use their knowledge of health and natural remedies to treat many in society for which modern medicine has no hope. I pray that God's people will learn medical missionary skills,

such as those taught at Hope International.

## Modern Amalgamations—GMOs and Cloning

**News Item:** Genetically engineered foods, also known as GMOs, are facing increasing opposition from Christian environmentalists, agriculturists, and consumers, so reports *Christianity Today*. The effects of these crops on the environment and on public health are not well studied, but the potential dangers give reason for concern.

"GMO crops have genes cut and spliced from various plant or animal sources that would not mingle in nature. Biotech companies can breed plants that have high nutrient levels, or tolerate huge doses of herbicide. But detractors say that these modified plants may mutate in the environment, producing 'superweeds' and making poor countries' problems worse . . . . The

spread of genes to wild relatives of crop plants—creating superweeds—has been documented in the United States. Potentially harmful GMO seeds were sold in Canada earlier this year, sending shock waves through the industry."

Additionally, poor nations may become dependent upon just a few multinational biotech corporations that will control the seed supply, even causing crop seed to be infertile for the next planting. *Christianity Today*, May 22, 2000.

Currently, U.S. farmers have about 76 million acres devoted to GMO crops, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Farmers fear that consumers are getting fearful of purchasing their GMO products, and, consequently, there are indications that they may cut



## Have a news item of interest?

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production by around 20% this year. With opposition in the U.S. increasing (Europe has banned GMOs), including demonstrations, some major companies, such as Frito-Lay, Gerber, and IAMS pet foods, have declared that they will no longer include genetically engineered foods in their products.

While long-term studies have not yet been conducted, National Academy of Sciences research suggests that environmental concerns "may be justified." Critics charge that GMOs could enhance plant toxins that could unexpectedly harm those that consume them. Also, it is feared that a gene from an organism that someone is allergic to, such as a nut gene attached to a vegetable, could be attached to an unsuspected product with dire results. Besides "superweeds" resistant to herbicides, the pollen of nearby GMO crops can harm nonharmful insects, such as Monarch butterflies. Also, beneficial insects that kill crop pests can be killed, as well as poisoning the soil to beneficial microbes. Farmers fear that insects may develop resistance to herbicides by long-term exposure to high doses of GMO insecticide-producing crops. *U.S. News and World Report*, April 10, 2000.

"Producers of ' Frankenfoods,' or genetically modified grub, have ducked a potential crackdown. The White House says now that the biotech industry will merely have to notify the Food and Drug Administration prior to introducing genetically modified food but will not be obliged to label products or engage in independent testing. Regulatory safeguards ensure 'there are no unacceptable human health and environmental risks' posed by the gene-altered foods, the White House declared." *U.S. News & World Report*, May 15, 2000.

**News Item:** "Dolly was once an awfully lonely sheep. When the famously cloned animal made headlines in 1997, she was the only mammal ever to be manufactured from the cell of an adult donor. Since then, the clone ranks have swelled, with mice and cattle also toddling out of the labs. Last week cloning technology took another step forward when an international biotechnology company announced that it had created a litter of five genetically identical piglets, and that it had a pretty good idea of how they could one day be used: as organ donors for ailing humans." *Time*, March 27, 2000.

According to the foregoing article, scientists plan next to use genetically modified pig genes to allow the transplanting of pig cells and organs into the human body without violent rejection. Then, this perfected pig is to be mass-produced by cloning, to purportedly aid humanity.

**End-Time Perspective:** Our fruits, vegetables, and grains are being genetically altered to include genes from fish, animals, viruses, and bacteria. Genes from unclean fish and animals could be in your vegetarian food without being labeled as such. Often we have no way of knowing when this is done. The Lord has good reasons for telling us to move out into the country and to plant gardens.

"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Matthew 24:37, NKJV.

"But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it was the base crime of the amalgamation of man with beast which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 64.

"All tares are sown by the evil one. Every noxious herb is of his sowing, and by his ingenious

methods of amalgamation he has corrupted the earth with tares." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 288.

"The confused species which God did not create, which were the result of amalgamation, were destroyed by the flood. Since the flood there has been amalgamation of man and beast, as may be seen in the almost endless varieties of species of animals, and in certain races of men." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 75.

Mankind today is being led by Satan to further Satan's own ploy of corrupting the plants of God's creation and to again commit the base sin of amalgamation that brought judgment upon the antediluvians. Surely we have matched the wickedness of the world before the flood, and as they faced judgment, so must judgment soon be upon our wicked world. May we redouble our sounding of the three angel's messages to the world with the fervency that Noah must have had.

### Immorality of Sodom Abounds Today

### Vermont Legalizes Gay Unions

**News Item:** "Vermont's governor on April 26 signed into law landmark legislation granting the full benefits of marriage to homosexual and lesbian couples in the state, prompting warnings from opponents that it could spawn similar legislation in other states. . . .

"Family groups believe Vermont's 'civil unions' law will have a negative impact on the state and may be used to undermine marriage laws across the country." *Christian News*, May 15, 2000.

After its approval by the Vermont Senate, "the measure would provide state benefits and rights previously bestowed only on spouses in marriage. . . . It enables



homosexuals to receive licenses from town clerks and to be joined in a union that can be dissolved only in family court. . . .

"The Senate action came despite an outcry from citizens inside and outside Vermont against the proposal." *Christian News*, May 1, 2000.

### Reform Rabbis Approve Homosexual Marriage

#### News Item:

"Representatives of pro-gay Protestant organizations are welcoming the overwhelming vote by the world's largest group of Reform rabbis to allow its clergy to bless gay and lesbian unions. . . .

" 'I'm thrilled,' said the Rev Michael W. Hopkins, president of Integrity, an organization of gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 'It begins at least to take away the argument that nobody else is doing it so it gives a bit more credence to our argument that we need to move forward.' " *Christian News*, April 10, 2000.

"With the vote, the Central Conference of American Rabbis became the most influential U.S. religious group to sanction same-sex unions. . . . Presbyterian, United Methodist and Episcopal church leaders are expected to take up the issue this year." *Christian News*, May 1, 2000.

### Mennonites Also Wrestle Over Homosexuality

**News Item:** "As three major mainline Protestant denominations prepare to tackle the issue of gays and lesbians in church life at conventions this summer, one of the country's smallest and more evangelical religious bodies—the Mennonites—also finds itself confronting internal dissension over the issue as a historic merger looms next year."

The two major branches of Mennonites in the United States are planning to merge into one body. One branch has opposed the approving of homosexuality, while the other disagrees with that position. Internal strife recently resulted in nearly 700 clergy, academics and others signing an ad in an



independent paper that serves both denominations calling for the church to accept homosexuals into church life and to "bless monogamous relationships of same-sex couples." Leaders of both denominations do not expect the merger to be stopped by the disagreement. *Christian News*, March 20, 2000.

#### End-Time Perspective:

Homosexuality, the base sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, is alive and prospering in this country and around the world today. Even professed Christian churches are embracing it. Surely, this sin that resulted in the destruction of Sodom and its sister cities, is a sign that the wickedness of this world is ripe for judgment and that end-time events will rapidly escalate to the second coming of our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### Possible Sodom and Gomorrah Ruins Found

**News Item:** "A Bible scholar who led the first expedition to explore the bottom of the Dead Sea said the team discovered what appears to be the salt-encrusted remains of ancient settlements, which he

believes could be the ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"Michael Saunders, a Briton now based in America, said yesterday that he was 'immensely excited' about the find and already plans a follow-up expedition. . . .

"Mr. Saunders is in little doubt that the salt-covered mounds found over an 800-square-yard area are man-made structures.

" 'I have spoken to geologists, and nobody has come up with the suggestion that they are natural phenomena. We don't know what else they could be if they are not ruins. But we need more conclusive evidence by chipping off the salt, and we need to go back.' "

An American geologist and deep-sea diving expert was part of the expedition as was also the director of the Dead Sea Research Center.

The expedition used a ten-foot-long mini-submarine which made four dives. Time constraints and the cost limited the scope of the expedition, which was further complicated by the Dead Sea being in a military zone between Jordan and Israel. After nearly causing an international incident, the submarine was ordered to leave the most important site of investigation, which was partly in Jordan. *The Washington Times*, March 26, 2000.

**End-Time Perspective:** Could it be possible that God will allow further evidence to be unearthed to prove skeptics of the Bible wrong and to remind the world of God's hatred for the sin of homosexuality? ✨



## My Miraculous Conversion

*Sally J. W. Smith*

I am the oldest of seven children—all born within nine years to my German-Lutheran parents—raised on one hundred acres of fertile farmland in Northern Wisconsin. My father's parents came from Germany and began their new life in America on this same farm.

I was a serious child, genuinely seeking to know God. The farm was a perfect reflection of God's love through nature. The sunrises, sunsets, wildlife, swamps and ponds, bird songs, colorful rainbows, and the sweet flower scents all impressed upon my young mind the existence of a loving God who cared about His creation. Our mother tried to make sure we children went to church every Sunday, even though she went only occasionally during our childhood years. Many times we walked the two miles to the Lutheran Church in our small town of 75.

Next door to our home in the country lived a loving Seventh-day

Adventist Christian lady who invited my mother to attend church with her on Saturday. My sister and I went along, although we still attended our Lutheran Church on Sunday. Then she started giving Bible studies to my family in our home.

Often, my sister and I would go to meetings with our neighbor during the evenings. On one such evening when I was 13 years old, several people went up to the front of the church to give their hearts to the Lord. Though I did not fully understand what was going on, my heart beat with unspeakable joy and I wanted the fullness of the Spirit of God in my heart too!

On our way home, I said, "Some day I am going to become a Seventh-day Adventist." Immediately, a car came toward us on the wrong side of the road. Our neighbor prayed in that moment for God to save us! I believe it was God who took our car off the road in a split second to save us that evening from a horrible accident.

Upon arriving home, I ran into the house and said, "Mom, dad, I'm going to become a Seventh-day Adventist!" An important lesson I learned that night was to think things over before I speak. From that day forth I was forbidden to ever go with our neighbors to another church service. My father had already stopped my mother from receiving any more Bible studies in our home.

After graduating from high school, I worked in Minocqua, Wisconsin, for a young couple, taking care of their four children. One night, when the entire family was sleeping, I sat up thinking about my life. Having been offered two art scholarships because of my creativity and artistic ability, I thought about becoming a commercial artist. However, my parents wanted me to join the U.S. Army. While thinking about my life, I felt overwhelmed about my future and having to go it alone.

Inwardly I thought I would be better off dead.

Then I heard as plainly as if a person were in the room with me, "Read your Bible, Sally, and I'll show you the way." Immediately going into my bedroom, and bringing my Bible out to the kitchen, I laid it on the table and opened it. It fell open to Exodus 20, and my eyes fell upon these words: "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Next, going over to the calendar and counting the days starting with Sunday, when I got to the end of the week I found that indeed the seventh day was Saturday! Then I saw a moving picture before my eyes of a little girl with her sister going to church on Saturday with her mother and the neighbor lady! I recognized my neighbor, my mother, my sister and myself.

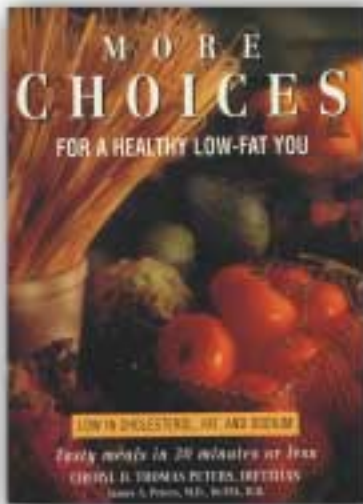
Then, sitting down at the table, I wrote a letter to that neighbor, telling her I wanted to know what her church believed—supported by Bible texts. She was very surprised to receive a letter from me, and she wrote back right away telling me that she had sent my name in for the Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons. I was so thrilled when the lessons arrived that I started on them immediately! At the end of three months, having completed all 24 lessons, I knew I was going to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Upon arriving home at the end of the summer, I shared this news with my parents. However, they were extremely upset with me and with my decision to become a Seventh-day Adventist. It was a very painful time in my life. I did not want to be at odds with my

family, but at the same time God was leading me to the full Bible truth. I was strongly compelled to choose His way! Many times I cried alone in my closet. One time, while weeping my heart out, I felt an embrace. Moving my hand to touch whoever was hugging me, but finding no one there, I realized that some heavenly being had come to comfort me. What a wonderful God we serve! Knowing He cared enough to comfort me in my grief, touched my heart deeply.

Today I am a Seventh-day Adventist Christian with an intimate walk with a personal God—all because our neighbor, Arlene, cared enough to share Bible truth with my mother, planting a seed in my heart, which eventually bore fruit, changing my life forever. Praise the Lord for His great love and glorious truth! ✨

# Healthful Meals Made Simple



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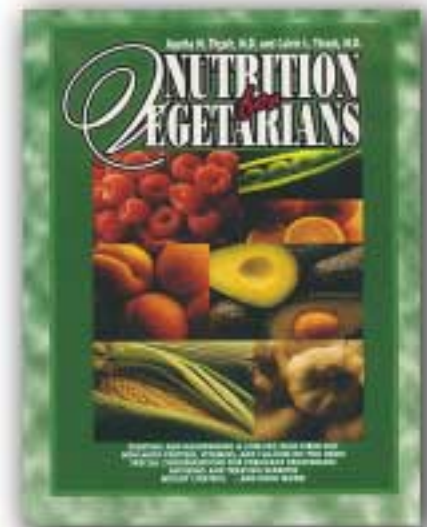
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## How to mark your Bible and know God's Word better

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 **A**, which represents "Angles."
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: **1A: Hebrews 1:13–14.**
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 A."

### 1A: Hebrews 1:13–14.

Angels are ministering spirits sent forth by the Lord to minister to every person who trusts in God and serves Him. Angels, as created beings, have not the divine attributes of Deity.

### 2A: Genesis 3:24.

Angels could not be the spirits of the departed, righteous dead, because they were in existence before the first man died.

The angels were in existence before Adam, or even this world, was created. See Job 38:3–7. Adam was made a little lower than the angels. See Psalm 8:4–5.

### 3A: Ezekiel 28:14–15.

Lucifer, even though one of the highest-ranking angels, was also created. As with him, so with all the rest of the angels—they were all created beings. The Son of God created them before He made Adam and this world. See Colossians 1:16.

### 4A: Ezekiel 10:12.

Angels are not phantoms, without form or parts, but they are real beings with spiritual bodies. See 1 Corinthians 15:44.

Angels appeared to Abraham and Lot as real beings. See Genesis 18:1–8; 19:1–3. During Bible times angels appeared to men on different occasions, and descriptions of their appearance are found in God's

Word. These descriptions show that angels resemble men in general appearance (see Luke 24:4; John 20:12; Acts 1:9–11), but with their spiritual bodies they are far more beautiful than men, and have powers far superior to those of men. See Revelation 18:21; Ezekiel 1:14; Isaiah 37:36.

At the last day when Jesus comes and our natural bodies are changed into glorious, spiritual bodies (see Philippians 3:20–21; 1 Corinthians 15:44), then we will be equal to the angels. See Luke 20:35–36.

### 5A: Revelation 5:11.

There are many more angels in God's universe than there are people in this world. See Hebrews 12:22.

### 6A: Matthew 18:10.

In speaking of the Father's watchcare over His children, Jesus mentions "their angels," showing that an angel is assigned to every child of God to take care of him or her—an attending guardian angel. Thus the Scripture speaks of Peter's angel. See Acts 12:15.

Among those countless billions of angels, there is one assigned to you, to watch over you by day and by night.

### 7A: Psalm 91:11–12.

This angel has been given charge over you to help you in your journey to heaven.

### 8A: Psalm 34:7.

When danger threatens, and troubles come upon you, this attending angel, your angel, will deliver you (see Daniel 6:22), provided that you have rightly related yourself to God and, of course, that it suits His purposes and brings glory to His name.

There are two kinds of angels – Christ’s angels, who constitute two-thirds of the angels created, and Satan’s deposed, fallen angels, who constitute one-

third of those created. See Revelation 12:4. Every person will be under the control of either good or evil angels. When you obey God, there are twice as many angels for you as ever could be against you. See 2 Kings 6:16.

### 9A: Matthew 25:31.

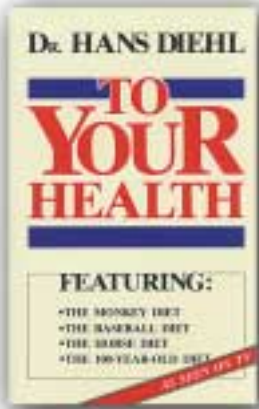
All the holy angels will come to the earth when Jesus appears. The angels are God’s chariots (see Psalm 68:17), and they will come with Jesus Christ at His second advent to take the righteous up to heaven,

just as they took Elijah up to heaven. See Matthew 24:31; 2 Kings 2:11. We then will each see our guardian angel face to face on that glorious day!

Let us make sure that we live each day so that we will be ready for Jesus’ soon coming, and may have a home among the “many mansions” that Christ has prepared for those who love Him. ✠

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

# Healthful Living Made Simple



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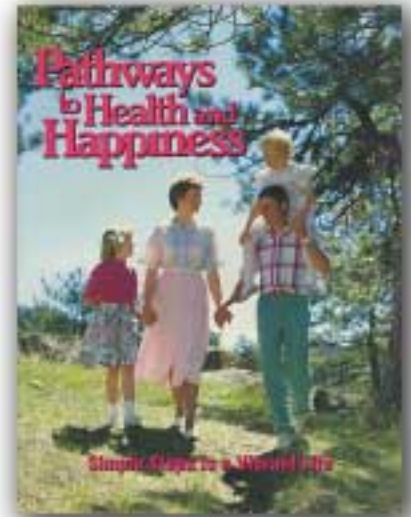
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# Water

**A**nd God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:9-10.

We have about 326 million cubic miles of water covering 70 percent of our planet. There is, in addition, an untold amount of ground water and also water vapor in the atmosphere. For the last 6,000 years of earth's history, this same water supply has been recycling itself through an endless process of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. All along the way it services and nourishes every form

of plant and animal life. It unselfishly brings its blessings, lingers until its job is done, and then departs, many times carrying a load of waste materials, which it kindly delivers as useful food to some other life form down the line.

Water is the most common molecule in the human body. Adults are about 45-75 percent water, depending on the percentage of body fat—fat cells contain less water than muscle cells. Muscle tissue, about 50-70 percent water, contains approximately ½ of the water found in the body. No wonder one feels weak when short of water! Blood is up to 80 percent water; brain grey matter is 70-85 percent; and bones are 20-33 percent. Approximately five-eighths

of the body water is inside the cells while three-eighths of it is outside—between the cells and in the circulation system.

Respiration, digestion, circulation, glandular secretion, temperature regulation, waste elimination, and virtually every body function, requires water. Water helps to lubricate, insulate, protect, and give flexibility to the muscles, ligaments, and joints.

We also need water on the outside. The days of the "weekly bath, whether needed or not," are gone. Even if we do not get obviously dirty from manual labor outdoors, our pores are constantly at work secreting perspiration, body oils, and wastes. Thus our skin is benefited, and our overall health



improved by daily bathing, either in a tub or shower. Even washing the body with a washcloth while standing at the sink will do.

Water is even more than a nutrient and a cleanser. Its many uses externally—as a tonic, stimulant, sedative, and healing agent—make it nature's elixir if there ever were one. Warm water is relaxing. A short, cold bath or shower tends to stimulate. However, prolonged cold depresses.

Water, in all its forms (ice, liquid, and steam), can be used to make thermic impressions on the skin. As these temperature changes are sensed by the nerves in the skin, they cause profound reactions all through the body that have a direct effect on health and healing. There are whole books written on the subject of "hydrotherapy," or "water treatment," as it is often called.

One example of such a treatment is the use of ice packs to lessen the swelling of an acute strain or sprain. After the initial trauma has subsided, alternating hot and cold applications to the affected area increases the circulation, thus bringing in fresh blood to repair the damage and to carry away wastes, speeding up the healing process and lessening pain.

Infections and inflammations can also be treated with alternating hot and cold. The hot and cold also stimulates the action of the germ-killing white blood cells, helping them to do their job better.

A congestion headache, or almost any pain caused by congestion or swelling, can be treated by applying cold over the affected area while at the same time immersing the feet in hot water up over the ankles. The cold tends to "push" the congestion away while the heat draws or "pulls" it away, thus equalizing the circulation and reducing the swelling and pain.<sup>1</sup>

The body recycles all but about 10 of the 40,000 glasses of water that it uses every day. About 400 gallons of blood pass through the kidneys each day, and about 50 gallons is actually filtered. Of this amount only about 5-6 cups of

water are lost in the urine. Another 2 cups is exhaled through the lungs in the form of water vapor; 1/2 cup is lost through the bowels, and 2 cups are evaporated from the skin through the 2 million sweat glands located there. In replacing the 10 cups of water lost per day, we gain about three cups in the food we eat and another one-and-a-half cups are available as a by-product of energy metabolism. This leaves five-and-a-half cups of water per day that must be replaced by drinking water. Of course, this is just the minimum requirement. It is a healthful idea to drink more than that to insure that we have all we need.

Several factors can increase our daily need of water. Living in a hot, dry climate, or at higher altitudes, as well as physical exercise and sickness, can increase our need of water by 80 percent or more. An excessive amount of salt, sugar, or protein in the diet requires more water to process. Vomiting, diarrhea, lactation, and even a runny nose increase water loss that must be replaced by drinking water.

Symptoms of dehydration (not having enough water) include thirst, dry mouth, lethargy, mental confusion, reduced skin elasticity, sunken eyes, fever, scanty dark urine, accumulation of urea, creatinine and sodium in the blood, thickening of the blood, shock, constipation, kidney and bladder infections and stones, and elevated hemoglobin/hematocrit readings. A 20 percent water loss usually spells death. Thirst is not necessarily a good guide in insuring that we are drinking enough. We usually need more water than we realize.

A systematic approach to water drinking is best. Here is one suggestion: Drink 2 glasses (16 oz.) upon arising. This is a good internal cleanser first thing in the morning. Then, drink another 2 glasses midmorning and 2 more midafternoon. Another way is to take a quart with you in the morning and sip it all morning and then another quart in the afternoon and do the same. More water than this

amount may be needed, depending on the circumstances.

By increasing our water consumption we decrease the workload on the kidneys, whose job it is to cleanse the blood. It is like washing a load of dishes in a full kitchen sink versus doing the job in a small bowl. Much of the so-called tired blood is probably dirty blood in need of a good internal bath.

It is best to avoid drinking anything for 10-15 minutes before eating and for 1-2 hours after meals. This practice improves digestion, as the digestive juices are not diluted. Also, very cold water is not good to drink with meals because it arrests digestion temporarily. Very cold water also deadens the thirst signals so that one would tend not to drink enough. The best water to drink is slightly warm or cool. Hot water just before meals is a good medicine when one is sick. However, drinks like tea, coffee, cocoa, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages, are better avoided, as they contain some unhealthful ingredients and actually increase dehydration by acting as diuretics. Many people prefer these beverages to the taste of their drinking water. Bad taste is usually due to algae, minerals, gases, or organic chemicals in the water. However, small amounts of impurities in the water are less harmful than reliance upon either the previously mentioned substitute fluids, or not drinking enough water.

There are healthful herb teas that are much better than regular tea. Cereal beverages such as Postum, Pero, and Roma have a coffee-like taste and can take the place of regular coffee. These products contain no caffeine at all and no caffeine (a stomach irritant) which even decaf coffee still contains.

Carob is a naturally sweet and nutritious substitute for chocolate. It can be made into a hot-cocoa type of drink. Carob candy may or may not be a health treat, depending on the other ingredients added to it.

Instead of alcoholic beverages there are nonalcoholic sparkling

fruit juices, or sparkling mineral waters. These drinks will not mar that special occasion as alcohol so often does.

Soft drinks cannot win. If you take out the added caffeine, there is still the sugar. Remove the sugar and caffeine, and there are still the acids that contribute to calcium excretion and bone demineralization. How about good old water in place of the soda pop? An occasional drink of fruit juice may do. But it should not be overused either, because it is really a refined product. You get a heavy dose of the fruit sugar in a fruit drink, and sometimes a lot of added sugar as well, without the fiber. Remember, it takes five oranges to make a glass of orange juice. Also watch out for the sodium content of some vegetable juices. Pure water is still the best choice for a drink. A little lemon or mint in a pitcher of cool water makes normal tap water quite pleasant to drink.

There are four sources of water: precipitation (rain, snow, and so forth), ground water (underground reservoirs and springs), surface water (lakes, rivers, and so forth), and seawater. Only about 3 percent of the earth's water is fresh, but most of it is frozen in glaciers and icecaps. There is plenty of fresh water up in the sky—about 326 million cubic miles of it. Little drinking water is obtained directly from the sky or the oceans. We get about half of it from surface sources and half from ground sources. We are almost entirely dependent upon precipitation filling our rivers and lakes. It is estimated that around 4.2 million million gallons of rain falls on the United States each year, only 6 percent of which is used by man; 70 percent evaporates or is used where it falls, and 24 percent returns to the sea. Surface water tends to have more suspended matter, plants and microorganisms; but fewer minerals than ground water. Ground water is usually

more potable than surface water, and there is much more of it—twenty times more, the equivalent of 20 years of solid rain on this country. About 30 percent of the surface water comes from ground water percolating up to the top. Although only about 2 percent may be currently considered polluted, most of it is near population centers, where it is used for drinking. And when it does get contaminated, it takes much longer to cleanse itself due to the lack of oxygen, sun, and movement.



About half of the water pollution problem stems from leaking gasoline storage tanks, storm sewers, sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, and industry.

About half of the water pollution problem stems from leaking gasoline storage tanks, storm sewers, sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, and industry. The rest comes from parking lot runoff, lawns, agriculture, and construction sites. These sources not only affect surface water, but solvents and pesticides are also able to slowly trickle down through the ground to the aquifers deep beneath the earth's surface.

The age-old pollutants, viruses, bacteria, and other microbes are still with us, producing polio, colds, flu, hepatitis, cancer, typhoid, salmonella, cholera, amebic dysentery, shigella, myelitis, and other diseases. Many of these organisms get into the water supply through public bathing, cesspools, outhouses, septic leach, inadequate water treatment, and the lack of

good sanitation. Most of the time these can be controlled by proper sanitation and chlorination. Chlorine, for all the good it has done in controlling microorganisms, may facilitate later chronic ailments. The chlorine combines with various organic chemicals, producing chloroform and trihalogenated methanes, which may promote atherosclerosis and cancer of the rectum, colon, and bladder. The risk-to-benefit ratio of adding fluoride to our water (to prevent tooth decay) is still being debated.

In view of the sheer volume of contaminants now being introduced daily into our water supply, nature is overwhelmed in her purification efforts. Our efforts toward cleaning up our water have not kept pace with our polluting.

Hopefully, we will see more innovative solutions to the water-pollution problem. At least there are methods of insuring pure drinking water with home-treatment units if these are needed or desired. But how long can we survive if we continue to pollute at

the present rate? Whatever the answer to that question and whichever way we decide to go with our management of the earth's resources, we do have this assurance from God: Our abused earth is going to undergo a colossal remake in which the polluted oceans will be a thing of the past, and only pure, clear water will flow through it.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. . . . And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Revelation 21:1; 22:1. ❖

<sup>1</sup> Instructions for the use of simple home remedies such as hydrotherapy are clearly and simply provided in the book *Home Remedies: Hydrotherapy, Massage, Charcoal and Other Simple Remedies*. It is available from Hope International for \$13.95 plus postage.

Harvey Steck



# The Feast Days

**W**hy were the ceremonial feasts instituted by God? Is it just as much a requirement of God that we observe them today as it was in Moses' day?

Some Adventists today are teaching that we have been neglecting the feast days and that they should be observed even in our day. Are they correct?

It is of utmost importance for each one of us to study God's Word and know our duty for ourselves. If we choose to remain ignorant of God's revealed will, we will perish. See Hosea 4:6.

Let us begin by reviewing the purpose of each feast. Then we will examine the question of whether we are still obligated by God to observe the feasts today.

## The Purpose of the Feasts

The three major feast days were first mentioned in Exodus 23:14-17, and the instructions for how to keep the feasts are given in Leviticus 23. They are commonly known as the Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths). It would be well for all of us to review the chapter entitled

"The Annual Feasts" in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 537-542.

The Passover was observed on the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month. It was followed by the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. At that time the Jews commemorated their experience of leaving Egypt and anticipated the sacrifice of the Messiah, the antitypical Passover Lamb, who was to bring them deliverance from the bondage of sin and death.

The Jews were not to begin harvesting their crops until after the firstfruits were offered at the Passover. Likewise, Christ, the firstfruits of the harvest of souls, had to die and rise to life again in order to establish the hope of the resurrection (harvest) of the righteous.<sup>1</sup>

Pentecost came fifty days after the Passover and represented the harvest of souls by the gospel message. It was partially fulfilled when, at the Pentecost following Jesus' death and resurrection, three thousand Jews accepted Jesus as their Messiah. An even greater harvest is yet to come, following the latter rain!

The Feast of Tabernacles, also called the Feast of Ingathering, was a time of thanksgiving. It was especially meaningful to the Jews because it reminded them of the booths or tabernacles that they lived in during their journey through the wilderness. The cares of gathering and storing another year's harvest were over. Yet the greatest reason for thanksgiving was the joy and peace that followed the Day of Atonement, which had just ended. This is the joy God wants us to experience today, and it will culminate as we meet around the great feast tables of heaven.

"At these yearly assemblies the hearts of old and young would be encouraged in the service of God, while the association of the people from the different quarters of the land would strengthen the ties that bound them to God and to one another. Well would it be for the people of God at the present time to have a Feast of Tabernacles—a joyous commemoration of the



blessings of God to them. As the children of Israel celebrated the deliverance that God had wrought for their fathers, and His miraculous preservation of them during their journeyings from Egypt, so should we gratefully call to mind the various ways He has devised for bringing us out from the world, and from the darkness of error, into the precious light of His grace and truth.

“With those who lived at a distance from the tabernacle, more than a month of every year must have been occupied in attendance

typical. It not only pointed back to the wilderness sojourn, but, as the feast of harvest, it celebrated the ingathering of the fruits of the earth, and pointed forward to the great day of final ingathering, when the Lord of the harvest shall send forth His reapers to gather the tares together in bundles for the fire, and to gather the wheat into His garner. At that time the wicked will all be destroyed. They will become ‘as though they had not been.’ Obadiah 16. And every voice in the whole universe will unite in joyful praise to God. Says the revelator, ‘Every

emphasis is not that we should observe *the* Feast of Tabernacles (held on the fifteenth day of the seventh month), but rather that there are some important lessons in this feast that would be well for us to learn and practice in our lives: 1) We need to gratefully recall the ways the Lord has led (and is leading) us out of bondage to sin and into a victorious, saving experience. 2) The blessings of character development and encouragement that can result from these gatherings is well worth the necessary sacrifice of time and expense. This point is also made in the *Testimonies*:

“Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need every ray of light. You need to become qualified to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. You cannot afford to lose one such privilege.

“Anciently the Lord instructed His people to assemble three times a year for His worship. To these holy convocations the children of Israel came, bringing to the house of God their tithes, their sin offerings, and their offerings of gratitude. They met to recount God’s mercies, to make known His wonderful works, and to offer praise and thanksgiving to His name. And they were to unite in the sacrificial service which pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Thus they were to be preserved from the corrupting power of worldliness and idolatry. Faith and love and gratitude were to be kept alive in their hearts, and through their association together in this sacred service they were to be bound closer to God and to one another.

“In the days of Christ these feasts were attended by vast multitudes of people from all lands; and had they been kept as God intended, in the spirit of true

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*This example of devotion to God should emphasize the importance of religious worship and the necessity of subordinating our selfish, worldly interests to those that are spiritual and eternal.*

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upon the annual feasts. This example of devotion to God should emphasize the importance of religious worship and the necessity of subordinating our selfish, worldly interests to those that are spiritual and eternal. We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of His Word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by the sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our intercourse as Christians we lose much by a lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not filling the position that God designed he should. We are all children of one Father, dependent upon one another for happiness. The claims of God and of humanity are upon us. It is the proper cultivation of the social elements of our nature that brings us into sympathy with our brethren and affords us happiness in our efforts to bless others.

“The Feast of Tabernacles was not only commemorative but

creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.’ Revelation 5:13.

“The people of Israel praised God at the Feast of Tabernacles, as they called to mind His mercy in their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt and His tender care for them during their pilgrim life in the wilderness. They rejoiced also in the consciousness of pardon and acceptance, through the service of the Day of Atonement, just ended. But when the ransomed of the Lord shall have been safely gathered into the heavenly Canaan, forever delivered from the bondage of the curse, under which ‘the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now’ (Romans 8:22), they will rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Christ’s great work of atonement for men will then have been completed, and their sins will have been forever blotted out.”<sup>2</sup>

As we read this statement carefully, we can see that the

worship, the light of truth might through them have been given to all the nations of the world. . . .

"If the children of Israel needed the benefit of these holy convocations in their time, how much more do we need them in these last days of peril and conflict! And if the people of the world then needed the light which God had committed to His church, how much more do they need it now!

"This is a time for everyone to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. . . . The Lord has need of you. He does not do His work without the cooperation of the human agent. Go to the camp meeting, even though you have to make a sacrifice to do so."<sup>3</sup>

We find here also that the way the Jews were to observe the feast days is an *example* of how we should appreciate camp meetings and other opportunities for fellowship and study—not that the actual feasts should be observed.

### Foreshadowing Sabbaths

Let us note that each of these feasts was to be observed as a ceremonial sabbath—set aside from work, for worship and self-examination. See Leviticus 23. Thus God made them "holydays" which foreshadowed the antitype. The feasts also marked the beginning and end of the two seasons in Palestine—the wet and dry seasons.

In the New Testament times the apostles encountered those who believed that Christians should continue keeping these feasts, but what did Paul say concerning them? "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain." Galatians 4:9-11. "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the

body is of Christ." Colossians 2:16-17. Here Paul spoke of the sabbaths (including the feast days) which were a shadow of things to come—clearly excluding the seventh-day Sabbath.

Some have suggested that, because "new moons" and "times" are mentioned among the events that were observed, these Christians to whom Paul was writing must have been worshipping on pagan holidays. However, let us read the following comments from the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary*, 735: "Among the Hebrews the day of the new moon, or the 1st of the month, was set apart as a day for special worship and feasting. See 1 Samuel 20:5. Trumpets were blown to announce the day (see Psalm 81:3; Numbers 10:10), ordinary labor was suspended (see Amos 8:5), and additional sacrifices were prescribed (see Numbers 28:11-14). The new moon of the 7th month was the civil New Year's Day."

### Moral or Ceremonial Law?

Because some are teaching that the feasts were part of the moral law, let us consider several reasons that indicate that they were part of the ceremonial law: 1) The feasts were *shadows* of future events, in contrast with the Ten Commandments and the civil laws which were not "shadowy types." 2) In order to observe the feasts, sacrifices and offerings were made. Daniel 9:27 says that the Messiah would cause the "sacrifice and the oblation to cease." The Hebrew word from which "oblation" was translated is translated "meat offering" in Leviticus 23:13, 16, 18, 37, thus indicating that the offerings made during the feast days were to cease, along with the sacrifices, at the crucifixion. 3) The laws ("statutes") concerning the feasts were given around the same time that the rest of the ceremonial law was given (at Mount Sinai),

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*"It is this law of ceremonies, which was to find its fulfillment in the death of Christ, when type should meet antitype, that is so frequently in our day confounded with the moral law of Ten Commandments."*

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Please note that the Jews observed the beginning of each month and also the beginning of the new year. Of the civil New Year's Day, God commanded, "In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD." Leviticus 23:24-25.

*Young's Analytical Concordance* notes that the word "times," as used in Galatians 4:10, is translated from a Greek word which also means "seasons." Thus Paul was here exhorting the Christians not to turn back to observing the feast days, which marked the beginning and end of their seasons.

whereas the moral law existed before sin entered the universe.

Ellen White understood the "moral law" to be synonymous with the Ten Commandments, as we see in these two quotations: "It is this law of ceremonies, which was to find its fulfillment in the death of Christ, when type should meet antitype, that is so frequently in our day confounded with the moral law of Ten Commandments, which was engraven by the finger of God upon stone, and which is as enduring as the throne of Jehovah."<sup>4</sup> "Will you not compare your character with God's moral law, the Ten Commandments?"<sup>5</sup>

Ellen White also uses the term "divine statutes" to refer to the law of God, which was in existence long

before the feast days were instituted during the Exodus.<sup>6</sup>

“When the Saviour yielded up His life on Calvary, *the significance of the Passover ceased*, and the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper was instituted as a memorial of the same event of which the Passover had been a type.”<sup>7</sup>

If, as some say, the feasts were added to the moral law, and at least one feast (the Passover) ceased to be of significance after the cross, then one could rightly accuse God of adding to, and then subtracting from, the moral law. Instead, “the moral law was never a type or a shadow. It existed before man’s creation, and will endure as long as God’s throne remains. God could not change or alter one precept of His law in order to save man; for

He concludes that to diminish the importance of observing the feasts today is a species of idolatry. However, please carefully read the article in this issue of *Our Firm Foundation* entitled “The Law of God,” by Ellen G. White. In the tenth paragraph of that article you will find the sentences which were quoted above. As you read the article, especially the sixth paragraph, you will find that the context clearly indicates that the “statutes” Sister White was referring to were “the statutes concerning marriage, inheritance, and strict justice in dealing with one another.” Regarding these three areas of law, it is easy to see that they were not shadowy types and that they were indeed upholding or guarding the Ten Commandments.

## Example of the Apostles

What about the apostles? Did they keep the feasts? One writer recently gave eight scriptural references which were supposed to give abundant evidence that the apostles did keep the feasts. However, in examining them we find that each text fell into one of these categories:

1) The feast day was mentioned to give a time frame for the context (see Acts 12:1–3; 2:1; 27:9).

2) Paul earnestly endeavored to be at Jerusalem during the feasts because this afforded opportunities for him to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to people from around the world (see Acts 18:21; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 16:8). Since on one occasion he was delayed in his efforts to reach Jerusalem in time for the Passover, he spent the time with some of his converts at Philippi (see Acts 20:6).<sup>12</sup>

3) The spiritual—not literal—application of the feast-day symbols is the subject (see 1 Corinthians 5:7–8).

Thus we find that *none* of these references support the idea that the apostles kept the feast days because they were yet significant—only that they afforded time and opportunity to witness to others.

In conclusion, we find no indication in the Inspired Writings that the feast days are to be kept by us today in a literal manner.

## Responding to “New Light”

If someone came to you with what seemed to be new light, how would you respond? If it seemed plausible, would you accept it without carefully studying it for yourself? Or would you reject it simply because it presented requirements which would be a burden? Let us not measure that which claims to be truth by our own logic or convenience, but rather by God’s Word.

“Truth is eternal, and conflict with error will only make manifest its strength. We should never refuse to examine the Scriptures with those who, we have reason to

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*Paul earnestly endeavored to be at Jerusalem during the feasts because this afforded opportunities for him to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to people from around the world.*

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the law is the foundation of His government. It is unchangeable, unalterable, infinite, and eternal.”<sup>8</sup> “While the Saviour’s death brought to an end the law of types and shadows, it did not in the least detract from the obligation of the moral law. On the contrary, the very fact that it was necessary for Christ to die in order to atone for the transgression of that law, proves it to be immutable.”<sup>9</sup>

### Statutes

One writer has reminded us that the feast days were “statutes.” He then presents us with this quotation of Sister White: “Christ gave to Moses religious precepts which were to govern everyday life. These statutes were explicitly given to guard the Ten Commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon men in every age as long as time should last.”<sup>10</sup>

The ceremonial law was a system of worship established by God to illustrate the plan of salvation, including Christ’s death on the cross—shadows of what was yet future. However, as we have seen with the annual feasts, many of the symbols pointed beyond the death of Christ. The Day of Atonement is another well-known example, which not only symbolized the life and death of Christ, but also pointed forward in time to Jesus’ work of cleansing the heavenly temple and to the eternal banishment of Satan and sin. Yet we are not exhorted to continue observing the Day of Atonement. The fact that these holy days were declared to be “a statute for ever in your generations,” means that these days were to be observed as long as the ceremonial laws were in effect, for this same declaration is made of several aspects of the ceremonial system which have nothing to do with any of the feast days.<sup>11</sup>



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believe, desire to know what is truth as much as we do. Suppose a brother held a view that differed from yours, and he should come to you, proposing that you sit down with him and make an investigation of that point in the Scriptures; should you rise up, filled with prejudice, and condemn his ideas, while refusing to give him a candid hearing?

“The only right way would be to sit down as Christians and investigate the position presented, in the light of God’s Word, which will reveal truth and unmask error. To ridicule his ideas would not weaken his position in the least if it were false, or strengthen your position if it were true. If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that we knew it. There must be no spirit of pharisaism cherished among us. When Christ came to His own, His own received Him not; and it is a matter of solemn interest to us that we should not pursue a similar course in refusing light from heaven.

“We must study the truth for ourselves. No living man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who it is, or in what position he may be placed, we are not to look upon any man as a perfect criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject to one another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment. We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God. We must not become set in our ideas, and think that no one should interfere with our opinions.”<sup>13</sup>

“My soul is much burdened, for I know what is before us. Every conceivable deception will be brought to bear upon those who have not a daily, living connection with God. Satan’s angels are wise to do evil, and they will create that which some will claim to be advanced light and will proclaim it as new and wonderful; yet while in

some respects the message may be truth, it will be mingled with human inventions and will teach for doctrine the commandments of men. If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, it is now.

“Many apparently good things will need to be carefully considered with much prayer; for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from it. But the eye of faith may discern that it is diverging, though almost imperceptibly, from the right path. At first it may be thought positively right, but after a while it is seen to be widely divergent from the way which leads to holiness and heaven. My brethren, I warn you to make straight paths for your feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way.”<sup>14</sup>

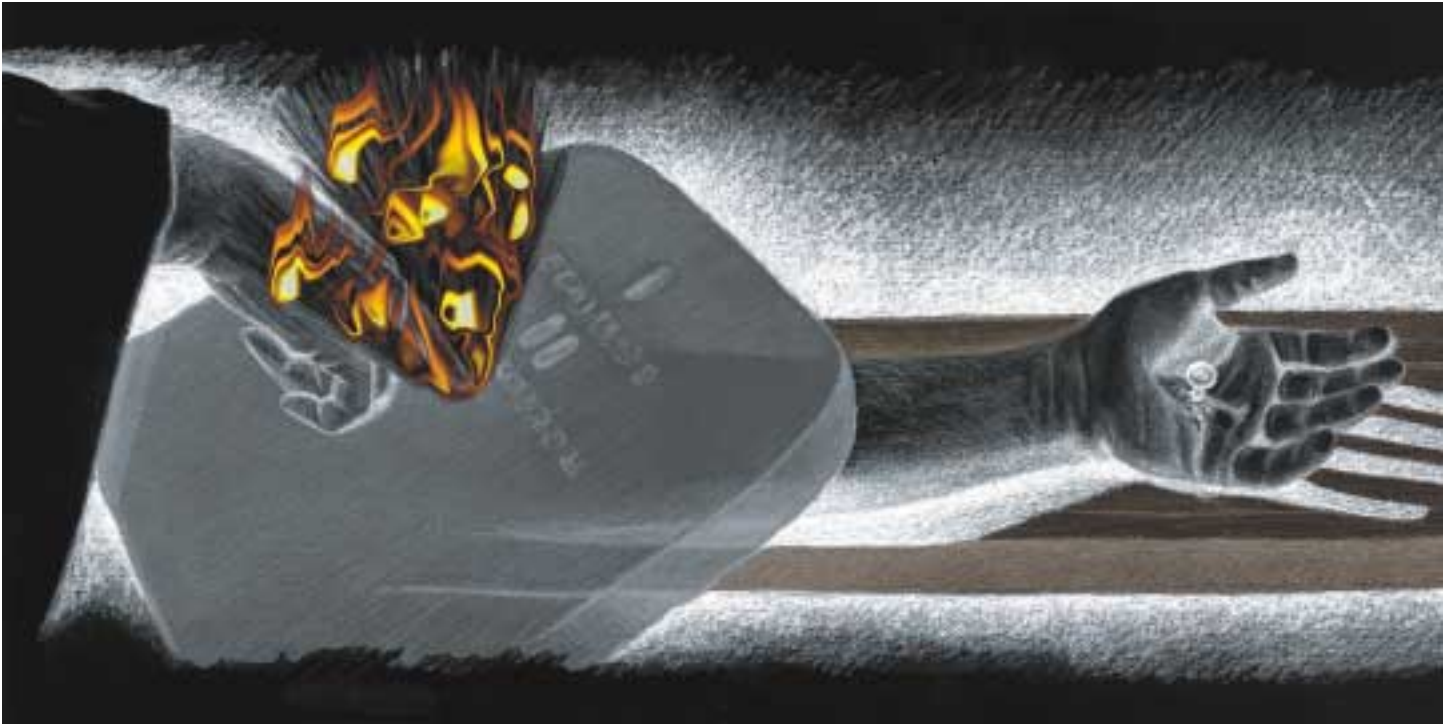
Would not Satan be delighted to see us begin observing Jewish ceremonies which God is no longer requiring us to keep? The Sunday-keeping churches would then feel more strongly that the seventh-day Sabbath is simply one of the Jewish laws done away with at the cross.

When someone presents us with what may be “new light,” let us respond as the Bereans did and study to see whether it is so, whether it is present truth, whether it will truly help us prepare our characters for Christ’s soon coming. ❖

### References:

- <sup>1</sup> See 1 Corinthians 15:12–23; *The Great Controversy*, 399.
- <sup>2</sup> *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 540–542.
- <sup>3</sup> *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 39–40; see also *ibid.*, vol. 2, 573–574; 598–599.
- <sup>4</sup> *Signs of the Times*, vol. 1, 170; all emphasis supplied.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2, 150.
- <sup>6</sup> See *The Great Controversy*, 499; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 39, 88, 117, 142–143; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1162.
- <sup>7</sup> *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 539.
- <sup>8</sup> *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, 1097.
- <sup>9</sup> *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 365.
- <sup>10</sup> *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1104.
- <sup>11</sup> See Exodus 27:21; 28:43; 30:21; Leviticus 6:18, 22; 7:34, 36; 10:9, 15; 16:29, 31; 23:31, 41; 24:3; Numbers 18:23.
- <sup>12</sup> *Sketches From the Life of Paul*, 194–196.
- <sup>13</sup> *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 44–45.
- <sup>14</sup> *Mind, Character, and Personality*, 42.

# The Law of God



*Ellen G. White*

**T**he fact that the holy pair in disregarding the prohibition of God in one particular, thus transgressed His law, and as the result suffered the consequences of the Fall, should impress all with a just sense of the sacred character of the law of God. If the experience of our first parents in the transgression of what many who profess to fear God would call the lesser requirements of the law of God, was attended with such fearful consequences, what will be the punishment of those who not only break its most important precepts, as clearly defined as is the fourth commandment, but also teach others to transgress?

All will yet understand, as did Adam and Eve, that God means what He says. Men who pass on indifferently in regard to the especial claims of God's holy law, and who turn from and reject the

light given upon the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and seek to ease their consciences by following traditions and customs, will be held responsible by God, and in a greater degree, than if Christ had not come to the earth, and suffered on Calvary. The fact that the redemption of man from the penalty of the transgression, required this wonderful sacrifice on the part of Christ, gives unmistakable proof of the unchanging nature of the law of God.

God gave a clear and definite knowledge of His will to Israel by especial precepts, showing the duty of man to God and to his fellow men. The worship due to God was clearly defined. A special system of rites and ceremonies was established, which would secure the remembrance of God among His people, and thereby serve as a

hedge to guard and protect the Ten Commandments from violation.

God's people, whom He calls His peculiar treasure, were privileged with a twofold system of law; the moral and the ceremonial. The one, pointing back to Creation to keep in remembrance the living God who made the world, whose claims are binding upon all men in every dispensation, and which will exist through all time and eternity. The other, given because of man's transgression of the moral law, the obedience to which consisted in sacrifices and offerings pointing to the future redemption. Each is clear and distinct from the other. From the Creation the moral law was an essential part of God's divine plan, and was as unchangeable as Himself. The ceremonial law was to answer a particular purpose of Christ's plan for the salvation of the race. The typical system of sacrifices

and offerings was established that through these services the sinner might discern the Great Offering—Christ. But the Jews were so blinded by pride and sin that but few of them could see farther than the death of beasts as an atonement for sin; and when Christ, whom these offerings prefigured, came, they could not discern Him. The ceremonial law was glorious; it was the provision made by Jesus Christ in counsel with His Father, to aid in the salvation of the race. The whole arrangement of the typical system was founded on Christ. Adam saw Christ prefigured in the innocent beast suffering the penalty of his transgression of Jehovah's law.

The law of types reached forward to Christ. All hope and faith centered in Christ until type reached its antitype in His death. The statutes and judgments specifying the duty of man to his fellow men, were full of important instruction, defining and simplifying the principles of the moral law, for the purpose of increasing religious knowledge, and of preserving God's chosen people distinct and separate from idolatrous nations.

The statutes concerning marriage, inheritance, and strict justice in dealing with one another, were peculiar and contrary to the customs and manners of other nations, and were designed of God to keep His people separate from other nations. The necessity of this to preserve the people of God from becoming like the nations who had not the love and fear of God, is the same in this corrupt age, when the transgression of God's law prevails and idolatry exists to a fearful extent. If ancient Israel needed such security, we need it more, to keep us from being utterly confounded with the transgressors of God's law. The hearts of men are so prone to depart from God that there is a necessity for restraint and discipline.

The love that God bore to man whom He had created in His own image, led Him to give His Son to die for man's transgression, and lest

the increase of sin should lead him to forget God and the promised redemption, the system of sacrificial offerings was established to typify the perfect offering of the Son of God.

Christ was the Angel appointed of God to go before Moses in the wilderness, conducting the Israelites in their travels to the land of Canaan. Christ gave Moses His special directions to be given to Israel. "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.

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*These statutes were explicitly given to guard the Ten Commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ.*

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"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." John 7:37. These words were called out by witnessing a representation by the Jews of water flowing from the flinty rock. This commemoration of bringing water from the rock in the wilderness moves the heart of the Son of God to tenderest compassion and pity for their darkened understanding; for they will not see the light which He has brought to them. Christ tells them that He is that Rock. I am that Living Water. Your fathers drank of that Spiritual Rock that followed them. That Rock was Myself. It was through Christ alone that the Hebrews were favored with the especial blessings which they were continually receiving, notwithstanding their sinful murmurings and rebellion.

In consequence of continual transgression, the moral law was repeated in awful grandeur from Sinai. Christ gave to Moses religious precepts which were to govern the everyday life. These statutes were explicitly given to guard the Ten Commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon men in every age as long as time should last. These commands were enforced by the power of the moral law, and they clearly and definitely explained that law.

Christ became sin for the fallen race, in taking upon Himself the condemnation resting upon the sinner for his transgression of the law of God. Christ stood at the head of the human family as their Representative. He had taken upon Himself the sins of the world. In the likeness of sinful flesh He con-

demned sin in the flesh. He recognized the claims of the Jewish law until His death, when type met antitype. In the miracle He performed for the leper, He bade him go to the priests with an offering in accordance with the law of Moses. Thus He sanctioned the law requiring offerings.

Christians who profess to be Bible students can appreciate more fully than ancient Israel did the full signification of the ceremonial ordinances that they were required to observe. If they are indeed Christians, they are prepared to acknowledge the sacredness and importance of the shadowy types, as they see the accomplishment of the events which they represent. The death of Christ gives the Christian a correct knowledge of the system of ceremonies and explains prophecies which still



remain obscure to the Jews. Moses of himself framed no law. Christ, the Angel whom God had appointed to go before His chosen people, gave to Moses statutes and requirements necessary to a living religion and to govern the people of God. Christians commit a terrible mistake in calling this law severe and arbitrary, and then contrasting it with the gospel and mission of Christ in His ministry on earth, as though He were in opposition to the just precepts which they call the law of Moses.

The law of Jehovah, dating back to Creation, was comprised in the two great principles, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love

before Moses in the wilderness, made the principles of morality and religion more clear by particular precepts, specifying the duty of man to God and his fellow men, for the purpose of protecting life, and guarding the sacred law of God, that it should not be entirely forgotten in the midst of an apostate world.

Professed Christians now cry, Christ! Christ is our righteousness, but away with the law. They talk and act as though Christ's mission to a fallen world was for the express purpose of nullifying His Father's law. Could not that work have been just as well executed without the Only Beloved of the Father coming to this world and enduring grief, privation, and the shameful death of the cross? Ministers preach that the atonement

the will of His Father, became the Author of the statutes and precepts given through Moses to the people of God. Christians who extol Christ, but array themselves against the law governing the Jewish church, array Christ against Christ.

The death of Jesus Christ for the redemption of man lifts the veil and reflects a flood of light back hundreds of years, upon the whole institution of the Jewish system of religion. Without the death of Christ all this system was meaningless. The Jews reject Christ, and therefore their whole system of religion is to them indefinite, unexplainable, and uncertain. They

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*The Jews . . . attach as much importance to shadowy ceremonies of types which have met their antitype, as they do to the law of the Ten Commandments, which was not a shadow, but a reality as enduring as the throne of Jehovah.*

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thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31. These two great principles embrace the first four commandments, showing the duty of man to God, and the last six, showing the duty of man to his fellow man. The principles were more explicitly stated to man after the Fall, and worded to meet the case of fallen intelligences. This was necessary in consequence of the minds of men being blinded by transgression.

God graciously spoke His law and wrote it with His own finger on stone, making a solemn covenant with His people at Sinai. God acknowledged them as His peculiar treasure above all people upon the earth. Christ, who went

gave men liberty to break the law of God, and to commit sin, and then praise the free grace and mercy revealed through Christ under the gospel, while they despise the law of God.

They cast aside the restraint of the law, and give loose rein to the corrupt passions and the promptings of the natural heart, and then triumph in the mercy and grace of the gospel. Christ speaks to such: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21. What is the will of the Father?—That we keep His commandments. Christ, to enforce



attach as much importance to shadowy ceremonies of types which have met their antitype, as they do to the law of the Ten Commandments, which was not a shadow, but a reality as enduring as the throne of Jehovah. The death of Christ elevates the Jewish system of types and ordinances, showing that they were of divine appointment, and for the purpose of keeping faith alive in the hearts of His people. ✨

*Review and Herald, May 6, 1875.*

# letters to the editor

## Have a letter to share?

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Thank you and the other folks at Hope for your work of the gospel. May the Lord be with you all.

*DH, Washington*

Thank you so much for the special issue of *Our Firm Foundation*. I am enjoying it very much! I did not realize how far I had gotten away from God's true last-day message and how much the sermons in our churches have changed. You never hear any health messages or anything on the sanctuary. I really need help in changing my diet. Thank you again for your magazine.

*VE, Wisconsin*

I came home late from church today, as we studied next week's lesson in the afternoon. Found your magazine on the table; it had just come in the mail. It is a wonderful piece and I've read most of it already. I will share it with friends tomorrow. Yes, I would like to subscribe and will be sending my card in with a check for the fee requested. I feel that this is quite a blessing from God! Often I wonder how I get on these mailing lists. Could you tell me?

Again, how did you come about sending "me" this magazine? It is beautiful and so great with the E.G. White and James White writings and all—the best magazine I've seen and read yet (although *Amazing Facts* is very good also)! I've also forwarded your home page to a bunch of church members, and I hope they respond.

Thank you for your wonderful ministry! It is refreshing to find so much truth in so few pages.

*SM, Minnesota*

I just wanted you to know how God worked a miracle this Sabbath. I received the special issue and was so happy to see it! I told my husband I was going to send what

money I could and not feel bad about it. In the center of the magazine was the coupon for 50% off—the exact amount I was able to pay! I was extremely happy for the Lord's intervention!

I still think your magazine is the most informative one for Seventh-day Adventists. May God continue to bless you.

*SK, Maryland*

When doing laundry in a laundromat recently, I put out an old *Our Firm Foundation* on the magazine table, along with a *National Sunday Law* book by Jan Marcussen. Some teenage boys came in and were waiting for a friend to finish her laundry. They began reading this literature! When they left, the literature was gone. May they find salvation in Jesus Christ through this simple witness.

*LL, Montana*

### From Overseas

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the magazines I have received. It is really a great blessing to me and to other people who also read it! I am praying for your ministry, and I am also asking that you retain my name on your mailing list. My faith becomes more firm to our foundation of faith. May God richly and abundantly bless each of you and your ministry as a whole.

*MG, Philippines*

I would like to acknowledge receipt of *Our Firm Foundation* magazines for the month of November and December 1999. May God bless you for publishing and distributing such magazines. I found them to be interesting and easy to understand.

*PC, Zimbabwe*

What your publications, which are falling like the leaves of Au-

tumn, have meant to me will fully be expressed in the New Dawn soon to appear with the clouds of glory. I now look at my choice to become an Adventist as the best choice I will ever make under the sun.

Each article I have read, plus the few messages I have listened to by Brother Colin Standish, have made me thirst like one severely dehydrated. I write to appeal for infusions to rehydrate me.

Because I have problems in subscribing, please send old copies of *Our Firm Foundation*, audio or video cassettes, and books on health reform, the three angels' messages, the 1888 message, etc., to me and my friends with whom I shall be able to present these anchoring messages to our different churches in different forms, except theatrical.

I thank God for continually leading me to springs of living waters—one of which is Hope International!

I shall really look for you brethren on that golden shore in that bright and glorious morning! May the good Lord bless you as you bring the Hope of all nations to hopeless and distressed nations.

*HB, Malawi*

Hope International is God's own industry, which converts earthly raw materials into heavenly spiritual food.

The books you sent to me will work tremendous changes in my life here in prison on death row. The Word of God always teaches me to look beyond the grave with hope in Jesus Christ. I pray that you may continually remember me with some more Spirit of Prophecy literature as I am living in a religiously polluted place where so many corrupted doctrines are taught. Thank you dear brethren for a job well done!

*KA, Zambia*

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