



Our Firm Foundation

Volume 15, Number 11

November 2000

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No Time to Celebrate

Many of our churches are celebrating on Sabbath morning—strange music pervades the services. However, this is not the time to celebrate. We are now facing the most awesome days in the history of the great controversy. Yes, the history of the great Adventist movement—from its beginnings in 1843–1844, through the Midnight Cry and the disappointment of October 22, 1844—was prophesied in Revelation, chapter 10. The mighty Angel—Christ—revealed it in the little book, which John was commanded to eat up, that it would be sweet in his mouth and bitter in his belly. The Holy Spirit revealed the true understanding of this important prophecy to the pioneers, who were praying and carefully studying the Word of God. In the joy of their discovery of this light they moved forward, searching for more present truth. The Gift of Prophecy was given by God in that very important moment, for the Seventh-day Adventist Church had then been given the great responsibility of completing the Reformation started centuries before by the reformers.

We were told that after the 1888 General Conference, the fourth angel of Revelation, chapter 18, came again to bring power to the third angel's message and to swell it into a loud cry. However, Satan defeated God's great opportunity to cut His work short in righteousness.

"Let everyone who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming, search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living. Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, that he may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Search for the

truth as for hidden treasures, and disappoint the enemy. The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth. For it is the work of everyone to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him. See John 5:39.

"If you would stand through the time of trouble, you must know Christ, and appropriate the gift of His righteousness, which He imputes to the repentant sinner."¹

The long delay of the latter rain and the loud cry, explained in *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 193–194, is in the first, second and third watch. Sadly, very few Seventh-day Adventist leaders, pastors, and laity were willing to be made willing to obey the commandments of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as the ancient Israelites were turned back into the wilderness because of their apostasy—rebellion against God and His plans for His church, with only two of the original church members eventually entering into the Promised Land—we today can trace the footsteps of God's modern church.

God sent His plans for His remnant church—the Seventh-day Adventist Church—through our prophet Ellen White so as to bring the great controversy to a close soon after 1844. God's blueprint for educating our youth as evangelists, pastors, medical missionary workers, and teachers was part of His master plan to cut His work short

in righteousness. Hundreds of thousands of pages of inspired directions that came right from the throne room in heaven to the leaders was ignored and rejected—resulting in the long delay,² and the final apostasy of the church—the Omega.³ As the result of our failure to follow God's plans, we have been turned back into the wilderness for more than a hundred years.

In the year 1900, the prophet, looking back at the message of 1888—righteousness by faith—wrote the following sad explanation:

"Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God."⁴

God has told us by His prophet that just before probation closes, drums, dancing, and the devil's music would come into some of our churches. Clearly, our rebellion will soon meet the wrath of God. This certainly is no time to celebrate, but a time to repent of our foolishness and insubordination—a time for revival and reformation.⁵

"If the church pursue a course similar to that of the world, they will share the same fate. Nay, rather, as they have received greater light, their punishment will be greater than that of the impenitent."⁶

Let us fervently pray—sigh and cry before the altar—that eyes will be opened and hearts will be changed and that our beloved church will become faithful to its calling before it is forever too late. ✠

Ron Spear, Executive Editor

REFERENCES:

- ¹ *Selected Messages*, book 1, 362–363.
- ² See *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 194.
- ³ See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 193–206.
- ⁴ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 450.
- ⁵ See *Selected Messages*, book 2, 35–37; *Evangelism*, 696.
- ⁶ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 100.

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.
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The Dual Baptism

Two Baptisms Necessary

Here, in more specific terms than His opening statement, Jesus explains the two necessary elements of salvation—the birth by water and the birth by the Spirit.

Because Jesus is our Example in all things, we would expect that Jesus was born of water and of the Spirit. Indeed, scripture makes that very plain: “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17.

Not only was Jesus immersed under the waters of the Jordan but there was also a visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and an audible declaration by the Father that Jesus was indeed God’s beloved Son. It takes but a moment’s reflection for each of us to realize that no such miraculous, divine demonstration took place at our own baptism. Does this mean that we have not been born of the Holy Spirit?

The counsel that came to Nicodemus is vital for every seeker after Jesus. Although water baptism is certainly necessary, it alone is not sufficient to cause us to “enter into the kingdom of heaven.” It has been my observation that few Seventh-day Adventists have ever deeply considered what it means to be born of the Spirit. However, if we plan to be saved one day soon, it is essential that we know from the Scriptures what it means to be born of water *and* of the Spirit.

Colin Standish

In the solitude and secrecy of night, Nicodemus earnestly seeks the Saviour. His life is missing something vital. “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” John 3:2.

By addressing Jesus as “Rabbi,” it is likely that Nicodemus meant to flatter Him, for at the time of this encounter there were three levels of rabbis, each one wearing a distinctive garb. Jesus wore, not the garb of even the lowest level of rabbi, but the simple garb of the Galileans. But there was no way that Nicodemus could flatter Jesus, for He was indeed the Rabbi of rabbis, the Master Teacher—the Model for all who would teach the gospel.

Penetrating the unspoken questions of Nicodemus, “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Verse 3.

Nicodemus is shocked! He—a Jew, a powerful Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin—must be born again, or he will not be saved in the kingdom of God? “Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” Verses 4-5.

The Baptism of John

In Ephesus Paul found “certain disciples” who had been baptized by John many years before. See Acts 19:1, 3. They had traveled to Jerusalem for one of the feast days of the Jews where they heard of a man proclaiming a powerful message by the river Jordan, so they journeyed the twenty-seven miles from Jerusalem downhill into the desert and there listened to John’s Spirit-filled message. Under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, they were baptized. Though they had come under deep conviction by the Holy Spirit, it is clear that they had not heard John preach concerning His work, for they answered, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” Verse 2.

Now, John had mightily spoken on the Holy Ghost at other times (see Matthew 3:11), but, in the case of these twelve men, it was necessary to explain to them the fuller ministry of the Holy Spirit and the mission of Jesus Christ.

First, Paul explained the nature of John’s baptism: “John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” Acts 19:4.

Luke also said of John the Baptist, “And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” Luke 3:3.

The record in Matthew leaves no doubt that the baptism of water symbolizes the essential element of repentance in our salvation: “I [John] indeed baptize you with water unto repentance.” Matthew 3:11.

These statements give great significance to the words of Jesus to Nicodemus that he must be born of water. Baptism by immersion symbolizes repentance and the forgiveness of sins, the washing away of our life of disobedience and rebellion against God—in a word, justification.

Infant sprinkling cannot symbolize this experience, for an infant cannot repent. Neither can

sprinkling symbolize the burial of the old man of sin and the resurrection to a new life in Christ.

Now we must address the second part of John’s statement in Matthew 3:11: “But he that cometh



after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

What Is the Baptism of the Spirit?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is just as essential as the baptism of water. In his Pentecostal sermon, Peter makes clear reference to both

Drawing again upon Peter’s testimony given under Inspiration, we can understand this baptism of the Spirit in a fuller sense: “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” 1 Peter 1:22–23.

If we are to be truly born again, we must seek for forgiveness from Jesus Christ, and we must allow the power of the gospel to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This insight gives us the plainest testimony that the saving gospel of Jesus Christ is not limited to justification.

Baptism of the Spirit—Not Necessary?

On the basis of Jesus’ dialogue with Nicodemus, we must reject the doctrine that the gospel is justification alone. This erroneous doctrine teaches that sanctification

If we are to be truly born again, we must seek for forgiveness from Jesus Christ, and we must allow the power of the gospel to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

baptisms: “Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.” Acts 5:31–32.

Verse 31 clearly expresses the baptism of water from which we receive forgiveness through repentance of our sins. Verse 32 addresses the work of the Holy Spirit, who is given to them that obey God.

Truly the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of obedience. It is a baptism of purification in our lives—that is, sanctification.

is a good principle that demonstrates the justifying power of Christ, but it does not contribute to our salvation.

This false gospel has gained an alarming foothold among Seventh-day Adventists. Some have stated that the subjective gospel (which, they say, is the imparted righteousness of Christ) does not contribute to our qualification for heaven, but that it gives evidence of the reality of Christ’s imputed righteousness in the life. This concept has been vigorously promoted by some sincere brethren, but it is a false gospel. It does not

(Continued on Page 30)



The Latter Rain

-Ron Spear

The latter rain is the powerful vehicle that God will use to finish the work of giving the third angel's message to the world when it is joined with the fourth angel of Revelation 18.

God attempted to pour out this latter rain upon us, His people, in the past, but we rejected it. What can we do now to prepare our hearts to receive it?

First of all, we must remember that the angels of Revelation 14:6-12 and Revelation 18:1-4 are only symbols which God has used to depict a people who understand and obey the requirements God has set forth that we may receive the Holy Spirit in all its fullness. We must remember that God never took the Holy Spirit away from the church; the church took itself away from the Holy Spirit.

We find that soon after 1844, God was ready to cut His work short in righteousness, but the church—its leaders, pastors, and laity—did not understand the requirements for receiving the Holy Spirit in its fullness.

“Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith, and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the

salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward.”¹

The work could have been completed soon after the Great Disappointment, but four things kept the church from receiving the latter rain and finishing the work:

“In the period of doubt and uncertainty that followed the Disappointment, many of the advent believers yielded their faith. Dissensions and divisions came in. The majority opposed with voice and pen the few who, following in the providence of God, received the Sabbath reform and began to proclaim the third angel's message.”²

1. A period of doubt took possession of the majority of leaders and laity.

2. There was uncertainty, and many yielded their faith.

3. There were dissensions and divisions.

4. Because of these first three things, the majority of the people opposed the providence of God. While they refused Sabbath reform the fourth angel could not join the third angel's message. They could not enter into the experience of the Holy Spirit in the early rain because of their unbelief. “So we see that

they could not enter in because of unbelief.” Hebrews 3:19.

This great opportunity of the latter rain was again offered to the church in 1888 at Minneapolis:

“The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.”³

Soon after the Minneapolis meetings, our prophet gave us a message from God, telling us that the leaders and laity had failed the test—the loud cry had been virtually silenced, and the leaders took the church back into a wilderness experience where the church at large remains to this day. The inspired evidence for this declaration is in the following statements:

“An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren {E.J.} Waggoner and {A.T.} Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them.

The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world.”⁴

Satan led many of us to shut away the experience of the second Pentecost—the latter rain. How do we reject the Holy Spirit?

“The Spirit of God is departing from many among His people. Many have entered into dark, secret paths, and some will never return. . . . Many have listened to the truth spoken in demonstration of the Spirit, and they have not only refused to accept the message, but they have hated the light. These men are parties to the ruin of souls. They have interposed themselves between the heaven-sent light and the people. They have trampled upon the Word of God and are doing despite to His Holy Spirit. I call upon God’s people to open their eyes. When you sanction or carry out the decisions of men who, as you know, are not in harmony with truth and righteousness, you weaken your own faith and lose your relish for communion with God.”⁵

In the 1888 experience, the leaders lost sight of Jesus. This was the main reason for the rejection of the great message of the Righteousness of Christ, our sin-pardoning Saviour. Therefore, the Spirit of God was departing from among the leaders, pastors, and laity. Many hated the messages. What a tragedy!

The Purpose of the Third and Fourth Angels’ Messages

Because many had lost sight of Jesus, the message of Waggoner, Jones, and Ellen White was to again present Jesus and His sacrifice for the sins of the world. It presented justification and sanctification through faith, which is manifested

in loving obedience to the commandments of God.

The 1888 message presented the gospel to the church in clear, distinct lines—combining the faith of Jesus and the law, resulting in an experience of victory over all sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This message of the third angel was to be given to the world with a loud voice through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Many of us today are also rejecting that great experience which God offered to the leaders at Minneapolis. We are looking to man and expecting much from man, but we are not looking to Jesus. Yet the faith of Jesus is the very life of the church!

“The third angel’s message is the proclamation of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. . . . What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third

world, but it will be understood only by those who are seekers for truth. “Come out of her, my people . . . [and] be not partakers of her sins.” Revelation 18:4.

Only those who have developed the character of Jesus will give this message. When the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in His peculiar people, then and then only will the showers of the latter rain come to the faithful, loyal, and obedient sons and daughters of God.⁸

All through the history of the six thousand years of the great controversy there have been some who have had the Holy Spirit in its fullness. At the first Pentecost the one hundred and twenty in the upper room came into the unity of the faith. Self-denial and sacrifice became a way of life. They would rather die than sin. Their characters were filled with love for Jesus, for

When the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in His peculiar people, then and then only will the showers of the latter rain come to the faithful, loyal, and obedient sons and daughters of God.

angel’s message?—Jesus becoming our Sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.”⁶

The Holy Spirit poured out in the fullness of the latter rain was withheld from the church after 1844 and 1888 because of legalism. They had the law, but not the faith of Jesus for the power to keep the law: “If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel’s message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand.”⁷

The great experience of the fourth angel’s message of Revelation 18 is to be given to the

His sacrifice, and for the lost souls of the whole human family. Indeed, the showers of the early rain of the Holy Spirit carried the message to all the world!

How Can I Receive the Holy Spirit?

We can have the Holy Spirit in its fullness every day by merging our will with the will of God just as Jesus did by surrendering His will continually to His Father.

“You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will.”⁹

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus

through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.”¹⁰

Character perfection prepares God’s faithful people for the experience of the latter rain and the loud-cry movement:

“The Lord chooses His own agents, and each day under different circumstances He gives them a trial in His plan of operation. In each true-hearted endeavor to work out His plan, He chooses His agents not because they

who would be workers together with God must strive for perfection of every organ of the body and quality of the mind. True education is the preparation of the physical, mental, and moral powers for the performance of every duty; it is the training of body, mind, and soul for divine service. This is the education that will endure unto eternal life.”¹¹

Character development is a progressive experience in overcoming every cultivated and inherited weakness to sin.¹² We can

special testing truths for these last days presented to them under circumstances that brought conviction to heart and mind; therefore they have not, by rejecting light, severed their connection with God. Many there are who have faithfully walked in the light that has shone upon their pathway. They hunger to know more of the ways and works of God. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to Heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the very verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.”¹³

Heaven is preparing for a mighty movement that will finish the great controversy. Will we be a part of that movement?

Let us not forget Jesus’ words: “Many are called, but few are chosen.” Matthew 22:14. May we prepare our characters now through a daily, living experience, that we might receive the latter rain and help hasten the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! ✠

Heaven is preparing for a mighty movement that will finish the great controversy. Will we be a part of that movement?

are perfect but because, through a connection with Him, they may gain perfection. God will accept only those who are determined to aim high. He places every human agent under obligation to do his best. Moral perfection is required of all. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrongdoing. We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin. All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and everyone who receives Christ as a personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes. And those

have the experience of the fullness of the Holy Spirit as our will is constantly submitted to Christ. But God has a time for the latter rain to fall.

The loud cry could have taken place soon after 1844, and again after 1888, but the experience and characters of the leaders and laity could not justify that glorious event. God could not trust them with this great power. Today God’s people who are seeking for the experience of the Holy Spirit may be found in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as well as in other churches:

“The Lord has His representatives in all the churches. These persons have not had the

References:

- ¹ *Selected Messages*, book 1, 68.
- ² *Ibid.*
- ³ *Ibid.*, 363.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, 234–235.
- ⁵ *Testimonies to Ministers*, 90–91.
- ⁶ *Selected Messages*, book 3, 172; see also *ibid.*, 168, 184.
- ⁷ *Gospel Workers*, 161.
- ⁸ See *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69.
- ⁹ *Temperance*, 113.
- ¹⁰ *Steps to Christ*, 48.
- ¹¹ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 330.
- ¹² See *The Desire of Ages*, 671; *Education*, 258.
- ¹³ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 70–71.

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The Perils and Privileges of the Last Days

-Ellen G. White

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

To the early church the hope of Christ's coming was a blessed hope, and they were represented by the apostle as waiting for His Son from heaven, as loving His appearing. As long as this hope was cherished by the professed followers of Christ, they were a light to the world. But it was not the design of Satan that they should be a light to the world; and because iniquity abounded, the love of many waxed cold, and the unfaithful servant is represented as saying, "My lord delayeth his coming." Luke 12:45; Matthew 24:48. As a result of loss of faith in the appearing of Jesus, the unfaithful servant begins to smite his fellow servant, and to eat and drink

with the drunken. Satan was at work to cause apostasy in the early church; and in accomplishing his purpose, doctrines were introduced through which the church was leavened with unbelief in Christ and His coming. The adversary of God and man cast his hellish shadow athwart the path of the believers, and dimmed their star of hope, even their faith in the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The hope which had been so precious to them lost its attractions; for the specious delusions of Satan almost wholly extinguished the light of salvation through the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, and men were led to seek to make an atonement through works of their own—by fasts and penances, and through the payment of money to the church. It was more agreeable to the natural heart thus to seek justification than to seek it through repentance and faith, through belief in, and obedience to, the truth. During the ages of apostasy, darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Reformation aroused the inhabitants of earth from their deathlike slumber, and many turned away

from their vanities and superstitions, from priests and penances, to serve the living God, to search in His Holy Word for truth as for hidden treasure. They began diligently to work the mine of truth, to clear away the rubbish of human opinion that had buried up the precious jewels of light. But as soon as the work of reformation began, Satan with determined purpose sought the more zealously to bind the minds of men in superstition and error. When he found that he could not prevent them from investigating the Word of God, or deter them from accepting the truth, through forcing erroneous doctrines upon their attention, he thought to intimidate them by threatening and persecution, and thus to quench the heavenly light that was shining upon men, revealing the character of God, and making manifest the malignity of the arch-deceiver.

That which Satan has led men to do in the past, he will if possible lead them to do again. The early church was deceived by the enemy of God and man, and apostasy was brought into the ranks of those who professed to love God; and today, unless the people of God awake out of sleep, they will be taken un-

awares by the devices of Satan. Among those who claim to believe in the near coming of the Saviour, how many are backslidden, how many have lost their first love, and come under the description written of the Laodicean church, denominating them as neither cold nor hot. Satan will do his utmost to keep them in a state of indifference and stupor. May the Lord reveal to the people the perils that are before them, that they may arouse from their spiritual slumber, and trim their lamps, and be found watching for the Bridegroom when He shall return from the wedding.

The days in which we live are eventful and full of peril. The signs of the coming of the end are thickening around us, and events

morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping." Mark 13:35-36.

There is great need that our weakening faith should be quickened, and that we should ever keep before the mind the evidences that our Lord is soon coming, that we may ever be found not only waiting, but watching and working. We are not to be found in idle expectancy; for this leads to carelessness of life, and deficiency of character. We are to realize that the judgments of God are about to fall upon the earth, and we should most earnestly present before the people the warning that the Lord has commissioned us to give: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth. For it is the work of everyone to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him. See John 5:39.

If you would stand through the time of trouble, you must know Christ, and appropriate the gift of His righteousness, which He imputes to the repentant sinner. Human wisdom will not avail to devise a plan of salvation. Human philosophy is vain, the fruits of the loftiest powers of man are worthless, aside from the great plan of the Divine Teacher. No glory is to redound to man; all human help and glory lies in the dust; for the truth as it is in Jesus is the only available agent by which man may be saved. Man is privileged to connect with Christ, and then the Divine and the human combine; and in this union the hope of man must rest alone; for it is as the Spirit of God touches the soul that the powers of the soul are quickened, and man becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. He was manifested to bring life and immortality to light. He says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. The psalmist declares, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130.

Then let us study the Word of God, that we may know Him in whom there is no darkness at all. Jesus says, "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. The theme that attracts the heart of the sinner is Christ, and Him

Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, that he may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

are to come to pass that will be of a more terrible character than any the world has yet witnessed. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." 1 Thessalonians 5:3. But to those who have the light of truth, it has been written, "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." Verses 4-6. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Romans 13:11-12. "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the

Matthew 24:21. "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:26-28.

Let everyone who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming, search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living. Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, that he may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Search for the truth as for hidden treasures, and disappoint the enemy. The time of

crucified. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus stands revealed to the world in unparalleled love. Present Him thus to the hungry multitudes, and the light of His love will win men from darkness to light, from transgression to obedience and true holiness. Beholding Jesus upon the cross of Calvary arouses the conscience to the heinous character of sin as nothing else can do. It was sin that caused the death of God's dear Son, and sin is the transgression of the law. See 1 John 3:4. On Him was laid the iniquities of us all. The sinner then consents unto the law that it is good; for he realizes that it condemns his evil deeds, while he magnifies the matchless love of God in providing for him salvation through the imputed righteousness of Him who knew no sin, in whose mouth there was found no guile.

The truth is efficient, and through obedience its power changes the mind into the image of Jesus. It is the truth as it is in Jesus that quickens the conscience and transforms the mind; for it is accompanied to the heart by the Holy Spirit. There are many, who, lacking spiritual discernment, take the bare letter of the Word, and find that unaccompanied by the Spirit of God, it quickens not the soul, it sanctifies not the heart. One may be able to quote from the Old and the New Testament, may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Word of God; but unless the Holy Spirit sends the truth home to the heart, enlightening the mind with divine light, no soul falls upon the Rock and is broken; for it is the divine agency that connects the soul with God. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit of God, we shall not be able to discern truth from error, and shall fall under the masterful temptations and deceptions that Satan will bring upon the world. We are near the close of the controversy between the Prince of Light and the prince of darkness, and soon the delusions of the enemy will try our faith, of what sort it is. Satan will work miracles in the sight of the beast, and

deceive "them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast." Revelation 13:14.

But though the prince of darkness will work to cover the earth with darkness, and with gross darkness the people, the Lord will manifest His converting power. A work is to be accomplished in the earth similar to that which took place at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the days of the early disciples, when they preached Jesus and Him crucified. Many will be converted in a day; for the message will go with power. It can then be said: "Our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost." 1Thessalonians 1:5. It is the Holy Spirit that draws men to Christ; for He takes of the things of God, and shows them unto the sinner. Jesus said: "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John 16:14.

The work of the Holy Spirit is immeasurably great. It is from this Source that power and efficiency

"I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Revelation 13:11-15. "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called,

As Christ was glorified on the Day of Pentecost, so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy.

come to the worker for God; and the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, as the personal presence of Christ to the soul. He who looks to Christ in simple, childlike faith, is made a partaker of the divine nature through the agency of the Holy Spirit. When led by the Spirit of God, the Christian may know that he is made complete in Him who is the Head of all things. As Christ was glorified on the Day of Pentecost, so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy. The prophet describes the enemy's plan of battle saying:

and chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:14. "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. . . . And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Revelation 18:1-2, 4-5.

The people of God are to be called out from their association with worldlings and evildoers, to stand in the battle for the Lord against the powers of darkness. When the earth is lightened with the glory of God, we shall see a work similar to that which was wrought when the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed the power of a risen Saviour. The light of Heaven penetrated the darkened minds of those who had been deceived by the enemies of Christ, and the false representation of Him was rejected; for through the efficiency of the Holy Spirit they now saw Him exalted to be a Prince and Saviour, to give repentance unto Israel, and remission of sins. They saw Him encircled with the glory of Heaven, with infinite treasures in His hands to bestow

gluttony, of eating with publicans and sinners; the one who was bound, and scourged, and crucified. We believe in Him as the Son of God, the Prince and Saviour." The revelation of Christ by the Holy Spirit brought to them a realizing sense of His power and majesty, and they stretched forth their hands unto Him by faith, saying, "I believe." Thus it was in the time of the early rain; but the latter rain will be more abundant. The Saviour of men will be glorified, and the earth will be lightened with the bright shining of the beams of His righteousness. He is the Fountain of Light, and light from the gates ajar has been shining upon the people of God, that they may lift Him up in His glorious character before those who sit in darkness.

Christ has not been presented in

leaven; for there is no working principle in all their labor, and they fail to win souls to Christ. They do not appropriate the righteousness of Christ; it is a robe unworn by them, a fullness unknown, a fountain untouched.

O that the atoning work of Christ might be carefully studied! O that all would carefully and prayerfully study the Word of God, not to qualify themselves for debating controverted points of doctrine; but that as hungry souls they might be filled, as those that thirst, be refreshed at the Fountain of Life. It is when we search the Scriptures with humble hearts, feeling our weakness and unworthiness, that Jesus is revealed to our souls in all His preciousness. When we become partakers of the divine nature, we shall look with abhorrence upon all our exaltation of self, and that which we have cherished as wisdom, will seem as dross and rubbish. Those who have educated themselves as debaters, who have looked upon themselves as sharp, keen men, will view their work with sorrow and shame, and know that their offering has been as valueless as was Cain's; for it has been destitute of the righteousness of Christ.

O that we as a people might humble our hearts before God, and plead with Him for the endowment of the Holy Spirit! If we came to the Lord in humility and contrition of soul, He would answer our petitions; for He says that He is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than are parents to give good gifts to their children. Then would Christ be glorified, and in Him we should discern the fullness of the Godhead bodily. For Christ has said of the Comforter, "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John 16:14. This is the thing most essential to us. For "this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3. ❀

Review and Herald, November 22, 29, 1892.

It is Christ in His fullness as a sin-pardoning Saviour, that the sinner must see; for the unparalleled love of Christ, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, will bring conviction and conversion to the hardened heart.

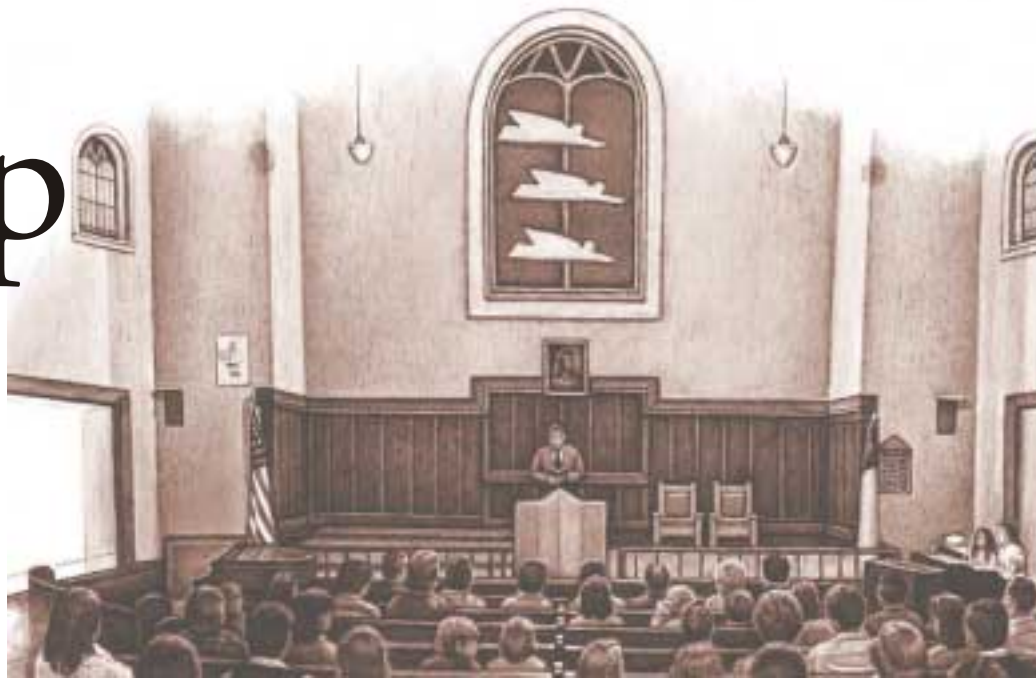
upon those who turn from their rebellion. As the apostles set forth the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father, 3,000 souls were pricked to the heart, and they were made to see themselves as they were, sinful and polluted, and Christ as their Saviour and Redeemer. Christ was lifted up, Christ was glorified, through the power of the Holy Spirit resting upon men. By the eye of faith these believers saw Him as the One who had borne humiliation, suffering, and death, that they might not perish, but have everlasting life. As they looked upon His spotless righteousness, they saw their own deformity and pollution, and were filled with godly fear, with love and adoration for Him who gave His life a sacrifice for them. They humbled their souls to the very dust, and repented of their wicked works, and glorified God for His salvation.

They said one to another, "This is the very one who was accused of

connection with the law as a faithful and merciful High Priest, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He has not been lifted up before the sinner as the Divine Sacrifice. His work as Sacrifice, Substitute, and Surety, has been only coldly and casually dwelt upon; but this is what the sinner needs to know. It is Christ in His fullness as a sin-pardoning Saviour, that the sinner must see; for the unparalleled love of Christ, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, will bring conviction and conversion to the hardened heart. It is the divine influence that is the savor of the salt in the Christian. Many present the doctrines and theories of our faith; but their presentation is as salt without savor; for the Holy Spirit is not working through their faithless ministry. They have not opened the heart to receive the grace of Christ; they know not the operation of the Spirit; they are as meal without

Worship That Pleases God

Milton
Wainright



As Jesus entered into a village on one occasion, “there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.” Luke 17:12-14.

Jesus had just poured out His healing love and blessing on ten lepers. Now He had sent them on, asking nothing in return. Yet His heart longed to receive love, gratitude, and worship. In our human experience, the deeper one loves another, the deeper he is hurt if his love is not appreciated and returned—even more was it so for the Son of God.

“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?” Verses 15-17.

In heaven, where love flows both ways, God constantly pours out His infinite love on all His creatures. His chief concern is, Are they happy in My love? Do they love Me as I love them? How can we, as God’s creatures, reassure

Him of our love and gratitude?—In the same way as did the Samaritan leper.

We might picture God like Martha—busy supplying food, protection, shelter, and every breath and pulse of His vast creation. And what can we do for Him? Can we tend His gardens, and fix His meals? Can we clean His house and wash His clothes?—No, He needs no such services.

The Object of True Worship

Is there nothing we can do in return to God for all that He does for us?—Yes, there are two things: first, we can pour out our heartfelt thanks and glorify Him; second, we can seek to reconcile others to Him through our loving words and example. See 2 Corinthians 5:18.

The Samaritan made Jesus happy, but the other nine hurt Him. Of course, the Samaritan was happy when he worshiped Jesus, but his *object* in worshiping Him was to make Christ happy by expressing his love to Him—not to seek more happiness or pleasure for himself. Worship is for God’s pleasure—not for our own. However, the worship of God will bring to the worshiper a true sense of peace and happiness. When we put God’s pleasure first, He will give us the peace and joy that result from knowing that our hearts are one with His.

A deepening knowledge of God’s loving character reveals to us that we cannot please Him by torturing or afflicting ourselves. The basis of true worship is that God has filled our hearts with such love for Him that our love overflows back to Him. True love for God will include nothing in our worship that is disrespectful of God or that is displeasing to Him.

Inventing New Worship Styles

Let us take a closer look at true worship in the Old Testament. Worship in Eden had been a totally joyous experience, but the entrance of sin brought great changes. As the innocent lamb was sacrificed, the hearts of God’s children were torn with shame and remorse for their sins against a loving and merciful God.

False worship was invented by men who turned from the one true, living God. They had no option but to invent their own gods and counterfeit worship styles. In place of the shame, remorse, and pain that repentance brings, they chose every pleasure and excess known to man. Men fashioned the physical appearance of their gods in their own likeness, and then said, “Our gods want wine, women, and song.”

Satan masterminded these inventions, for he anxiously hoped that false worship would sweep away true worship.

He knew that some people would be satisfied with a party-style worship, while others would want something deeper. Since God's people were sacrificing animals, according to God's instructions, Satan led some of his people to try to outdo them by sacrificing their children.

A hallmark of true worship is to follow God's directions. False worship either sets these directions aside or goes beyond them.

Satan's Snares

How did true worship fare in Old Testament times? Alas, God's true worshippers were few, for even His own people were continually attracted to false worship.

Satan had control of the masses; they built the great temples, many of the ruins of which remain to this

Forty years later Satan was desperate. Israel was at Baal-Peor on the borders of Palestine—the strategic hub of the then-known world. God aimed to plant His people in Canaan and use its advantages to further His kingdom.

What could Satan do to prevent Israel from overwhelming his people and possessing his territory?—His only hope lay in luring Israel away from God. Satan knew that if God did not give Israel the land, they would be as powerless as they had been at Kadesh-Barnea forty years before. See Numbers 14:40–45.

Satan saw two influences he could use to his advantage: first, Israel regarded Balaam as a prophet of God (although he had actually apostatized);² second, because the Moabites and Midianites were

“At Balaam's suggestion, a grand festival in honor of their gods was appointed by the king of Moab, and it was secretly arranged that Balaam should induce the Israelites to attend. He was regarded by them as a prophet of God, and hence had little difficulty in accomplishing his purpose. Great numbers of the people joined him in witnessing the festivities. They ventured upon the forbidden ground, and were entangled in the snare of Satan. Beguiled with music and dancing, and allured by the beauty of heathen vestals [temple virgins], they cast off their fealty to Jehovah. As they united in mirth and feasting, indulgence in wine beclouded their senses and broke down the barriers of self-control. Passion had full sway; and having defiled their consciences by lewdness, they were persuaded to bow down to idols. They offered sacrifice upon heathen altars and participated in the most degrading rites.”⁴

Twenty-four thousand died in the plague that followed. Israel's inheritance was in sight, just over the river, but many lost it through false worship.

On the Borders of Heavenly Canaan

Is this chapter in ancient history relevant to us today as we camp on the borders of the heavenly Canaan?—Indeed, it is!⁵

Are not many of us today beguiled as was Israel by the sensual, self-indulgent forms of religion? “A religion that seeks only to gratify the eye, the ear, and the taste, or that sanctions self-indulgence, is not the religion of Christ.”⁶

During the disappointment in 1844 Satan tried to bring in false worship, and from time to time he repeats this attack. In 1900 he mounted a major offensive through the “holy flesh” movement in Indiana. With the best of motives, some of our misguided people at that time used “a big bass drum” and other instruments to work up the congregation.⁷ Elders S. N. Haskell and A. J. Breed were sent to

Are we Adventists sensing the momentous times in which we are living? Are we learning the divine lessons from our past history?

day. As Jesus said, few find the narrow way to life, while many are traveling on the broad way to death. See Matthew 7:13–14.

During the years of Egyptian slavery, true worship was almost impossible. The Egyptian masters would not permit the Israelites to carry on with the required sacrifices or with Sabbathkeeping.¹ See Exodus 5:4–5; 8:26.

At Sinai, Israel was formed into a nation to be governed by God's laws and to honor Him through true worship. Unfortunately, Israel had been exposed to false worship with all its appeal, and many were not impressed as they saw true worship being revived. While Moses remained in the Mount, they saw their chance to institute the worship style they wanted. When Moses returned, three thousand were ready to stand their ground and die rather than to accept true worship. See Exodus 32:28.

relatives of Israel,³ they could associate with Israel without creating suspicion.

With these advantages, what would Satan do to overthrow God's plan for Israel?

“At first there was little intercourse between the Israelites and their heathen neighbors, but after a time Midianitish women began to steal into the camp. Their appearance excited no alarm, and so quietly were their plans conducted that the attention of Moses was not called to the matter. It was the object of these women, in their association with the Hebrews, to send them into transgression of the law of God, to draw their attention to heathen rites and customs, and lead them into idolatry. These motives were studiously concealed under the garb of friendship, so that they were not suspected, even by the guardians of the people.

Indiana to meet the fanaticism, and Sister White's warnings are recorded for our benefit:

"The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings. The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls. A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted

aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit's working."⁸

Are we Adventists sensing the momentous times in which we are living? Are we learning the divine lessons from our past history?

We believe we are living in the last days when the deadly wound will be healed, and all the world will wonder after the beast. We know that few will find the path to life—while the masses will take the broad way to destruction.

We know that we will not be popular. The world that hated our Master will hate us, too. Our success is not measured by the numbers we draw. We may feel as though we are a dismal failure until, in utter amazement, we hear the words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34; see also verses 31–40. Lord, are You sure You have the right people?—"Yes, yes. I mean you. Come home!"

Friends, we long to hear these most beautiful words. Our inherit-

ance is in sight! Shall we risk losing so great a salvation through false worship? Shall we allow the self-centered spirit exhibited by the nine lepers to lure us down the broad road to destruction?

May the example of the Samaritan leper inspire us to the kind of worship that pleases God. May we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to the Lord, seeking by His grace to take up our cross and follow Him. ✠

Milton Wainright, a carpenter, writes from New Zealand.

References:

¹ See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 336, 757.

² See *ibid.*, 439, 454.

³ Moab was the son of Lot by his older daughter (Genesis 19:37), and Midian was a son of Abraham by Keturah (Genesis 25:1–2).

⁴ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 454.

⁵ The parallels between the Exodus and Advent movements are so incredible that more than 60 years ago Elder Taylor G. Bunch presented a series of Sabbath afternoon vesperers at the Battle Creek Tabernacle which were later published in the book entitled *The Exodus and Advent Movement in Type and Antitype*. This book may be purchased from Hope International.

⁶ *The Acts of the Apostles*, 317.

⁷ See *Selected Messages*, book 2, 31, 34.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 36.

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Congress Defends Vatican

News Item: “The Vatican should keep its voice at the United Nations. That’s the overwhelming verdict of the U.S. House in a vote that supporters of the Holy See are calling ‘historic.’ ”

The resolution was supported by a nearly unanimous vote of 416 to 1. The only dissenter, Rep. Pete Stark, objected to the bill as being an unconstitutional “establishment of religion.”

Responding to criticism of the vote by the group that is spearheading the opposition to the Vatican’s UN role, Representative Chris Smith said, “Today Congress has sent a clear message that this shameful eruption of anti-Catholic bigotry will not be tolerated.” In just four months Catholics rallied “the support of over 4,000 organizations from more than 70 countries to support the Holy See’s status.” *National Catholic Register*, July 23–29, 2000.

New Catholic President of Mexico Seeks to Promote Catholicism

News Item: “The election of Vicente Fox, a Catholic, as the new president of Mexico was aptly described by one South American political analyst as ‘the Latin American equivalent of the fall of the Berlin Wall.’ ”

The defeated government had exercised total domination of Mexican politics for the past 71 years.

Mexico’s Constitution of 1913 “nationalized [Catholic] Church property, prohibited the Church from taking part in education or owning media, banned religious activities outside churches, limited the number of priests and declared that the Church had no legal status.” The Constitution was amended in 1992 to give the Catholic Church legal status; however, several restrictions were retained.

Jesuit-educated President Fox endorses Catholic schools and a

Catholic influence upon public education. He also favors allowing the Catholic Church to own mass media, and promises to strengthen Mexico’s pro-life status. *National Catholic Register*, July 16–22, 2000.

Presbyterian Church Struggles With Doctrine

News Items: “The Presbyterian Church in America, meeting for its annual general assembly, has approved a policy permitting women to teach—but not preach—and adopted a measure permitting a diversity of interpretations regarding the Creation.”

In another decision the assembly voted to seek to have the Christian Reformed Church of North America expelled from an association of denominations because of its ordination of women pastors and elders. *Christian News*, July 3, 2000.

The Presbyterian Church in America has also been struggling with the issue of same-sex union ceremonies. In the absence of a specific position, its highest court upheld this practice (*Christian News*, June 5, 2000); however, the Church’s annual assembly overrode their decision by narrowly voting to ban the ceremonies. Its 173 regional presbyteries must yet approve this vote. The Church remains quite polarized on this issue which promises to provide further struggles in the future (*Christian News*, July 10, 2000). Additionally, the Church faces internal pressure to approve the ordination of active homosexuals (*Christianity Today*, August 7, 2000).

Lutherans Also Struggle

News Item: In the face of official church policy that merely discourages the blessing of gay couples, 2 of the 65 regional synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have voted to bless gay unions in their jurisdictions. *Christian News*, June 12, 2000.

Southern Baptist Conservatism Strengthens

News Items: “The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has sparked

another national controversy by adopting strict interpretations of Scripture—including barring women from pastorates—in a move to counter liberal culture.”

The SBC stated that while “both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.” *Christianity Today*, July 10, 2000.

Additionally, the SBC closed a loophole regarding the authority of Scripture that the liberal faction had been using to maintain their influence. The convention ruled that the Bible, rather than being limited to “the record of God’s revelation of Himself to man,” indeed “is itself God’s revealed Word in written form.” *World*, June 24, 2000.

Demon Possession Increasing in the Church of England and the Catholic Church

News Item: “Demon possession and exorcism are increasing in the Church of England. A church report says there is a huge increase in the number of people seeking deliverance from demonic spirits, The Times of London said. Some churches are stopping in the middle of services to deal with what are believed to be demonic manifestations, including shrieking and collapsing to the floor. . . .

“The Roman Catholic Church also reports an increase in exorcisms. . . . The Vatican recently revised the rite for conducting exorcisms and about 300 priests in Italy perform them, up from 20 six years ago, the Times said.” *Christian News*, May 15, 2000.

Former Adventist Pastor Scams Churches and Investors of \$11 Million

News Item: “An offshore stock scam in which a former pastor bilked his own congregations and other investors of \$11 million has cost the Vancouver-based brokerage he used nearly half a million dollars in fines and penalties. . . .

“A former Seventh Day Adventist pastor from San



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Bernardino, Calif., [Gary] Stanhiser masterminded a fraudulent offshore investment scheme in which about 300 investors lost \$11 million between 1995 and 1997.

"Many of those investors were church members in B.C. and California. Stanhiser was fined \$100,000 by the BCSC last March and was banned from the B.C. securities market for life." *The Province* (Vancouver, B.C.), June 30, 2000.

The AIDS Pandemic

News Items: "AIDS is fast becoming the most efficient killer of young adults in history. In four African countries, including Botswana and Zimbabwe, at least half of all 15-year-olds will die of the disease, according to a report by the United Nations AIDS program. Hospitals are packed, even as health-care workers die at alarmingly high rates. . . ."

"The AIDS scourge has claimed nearly 19 million lives in just over two decades. UNAIDS projects that the death toll will double within a decade. A study being released this week by the U.S. Agency for International Development predicts that by 2010, life expectancy in the hardest-hit African nations will fall to 30 years, less than half of what it would be without AIDS." *U.S. News & World Report*, July 10, 2000.

"As a metaphor for hopelessness, it's hard to equal the AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Twenty-four million of the area's people are HIV positive—70% of the world's infected population. Thirteen million Africans have already died of AIDS, and 10 million more are expected to die within five years. In South Africa, 1 in 5 adults is infected; in Botswana the rate of infection is 1 in 3; in Zimbabwe it is 1 in 4. According to the U.S. Census

Bureau, by 2003, AIDS-related deaths will slow population growth in some of these nations to zero, and the population in Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa will actually start to decline. . . . Said the Census Bureau's Karen Stanecki at last week's 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa: 'It is hard to comprehend the mortality we will see in these countries.' But terrible as these numbers are, they're bound to get worse." *Time*, July 24, 2000.

"HIV infection rates are far higher among African teenage girls than among boys." Also, in Africa "AIDS already has left more than 12 million orphans. Other studies are equally alarming. In Luanshya, Zambia,



missionary Robert Bona recently tested 200 teenage schoolgirls for HIV. All but four were HIV-positive." *Newsweek*, July 17, 2000.

"It is the latest news from other regions of the globe that can scare even the most callus. For example, the epidemic is now spreading fastest not in Africa but in Eastern Europe. India is poised to become the next hotbed of AIDS, and China saw a 60 percent increase in its cases of infection last year. More chilling still are reports from Brazil—a nation often praised as a model of effective national efforts against AIDS—that not only is HIV infection on the rise once again, but that strains of the re-emerging virus appear to have become resistant to

available drugs." *U.S. News & World Report*, July 24–31, 2000.

"Bible translation is [in] a race against time in Southern Africa because AIDS is reducing a tribe's population so fast that no member may still be alive when the Bible in its language is delivered. . . . In a recent UN report, about 5,500 Africans die of AIDS-related illnesses every day." *Christian News*, April 24, 2000.

The Next Step—The Futile Care Theory

News Item: Already medical treatment is being denied or withheld from many patients, young and old, without their consent or without informing them of treatment options under the policy called "futile care" — also known as "non-beneficial care."

"Doctors and hospitals practice 'futile care' when they set predetermined age limits, medical conditions, or disease states for which medical treatment beyond keeping a patient fed and comfortable is deemed 'inappropriate.' Patients who fall into particular categories are refused non-palliative medications, testing, and even life support—whether the patient, or the patient's family, want the treatments or not."

Under this plan AIDS patients—and other terminal patients—could be allowed to die without being given options of life-support equipment that would extend their lives. An example is the case of a baby boy, born after only a 23-week gestation period, who required kidney dialysis to stay alive. "Doctors ordered the dialysis removed against his parents' wishes—in effect, ordering the baby's death." The parents had to obtain a court order to continue the boy's treatment. As a result the boy lived for several more years—to the age of five. A San Jose hospital refuses CPR to patients with severe

dementia, limiting treatment to those dependent upon intensive care or with terminal conditions.

Doctors base decisions upon their subjective view of the patient's current or future "quality of life." "Doctors now also sometimes attempt to starve or dehydrate conscious people." Two conscious, mentally disabled patients would have died of dehydration if relatives had not intervened.

"If we are refusing to resuscitate patients with severe dementia, how long will it be before we do it to those who are merely mentally ill? Or those who are simply old or poor? Once futile-care is legally entrenched . . . we will be well down the road to wholesale health care rationing." *World*, July 15, 2000.

Homeschooling Gets Attention

News Items: Homeschooling received high marks at the National Spelling Bee held last June. First, second, and third place winners were all homeschoolers. First place winner, George Thampy, age 12, one week earlier took second place in the National Geography Bee. *World*, June 17, 2000.

This follows on the heels of last year's release of a well-written book entitled, *For Common Things: Irony, Trust, and Commitment in America Today*, that caught the attention of the book world and critics because its author, a 24-year-old Harvard graduate who is currently a student at Yale, Jedediah Purdy, was homeschooled in the foothills of West Virginia.

"The National Home Education Research Institute reports that between 1.3 million and 1.7 million [U.S.] school-age children—about 3 percent—are currently homeschooled."

Homeschooling, with its personalized, parent-child approach, is proving to be superior to conventional schooling. "About a quarter of homeschool students are enrolled one grade or more above their age-level peers, and their median scores on tests are 'well above' those of public- and private-

school students." *U.S. News & World Report*, June 19, 2000.

While in America homeschooling is gaining wider public acceptance, "in Europe homeschooling is still far outside the mainstream. Most countries tolerate it, but none encourage it and in some, like Germany, it is illegal."

There are probably a few hundred Christian families homeschooling in Germany, many "underground," in the face of compulsory public education that teaches sex education with an acceptance of homosexuality and "occultism" (in-class meditation sessions), while social-engineering "a 'German mindset' that promotes 'fitting in' and submission to the state."

Homeschooling is discouraged in Switzerland, but legal in two-thirds of its 26 districts. In one small homeschool association, over one-third of its members are public school teachers, who "know what's going on." *World*, July 15, 2000.

Public education received flak in the United States over a testing scandal. "In suburban Potomac, Md., an elementary-school principal resigned last month after parents complained their children were coached to give the right answers on state tests. In Ohio, state officials are investigating charges of cheating by teachers at a Columbus elementary school that was recently praised by President Clinton for raising test scores. And in New York City, more than four dozen teachers and administrators from 30 schools stand accused of urging their students to cheat on various standardized city and state tests."

Increasingly a problem, "an alarming number of teachers and principals face charges of fixing the numbers on high-stakes tests that determine everything from whether an individual kid gets promoted to an entire district's annual budget."

A Texas grand jury last year indicted an entire school district with charges of criminal tampering. "In what was believed to be the

country's first prosecution of a school district, investigators alleged that low-scoring students were excluded from the test, thus raising the overall results." *Newsweek*, June 19, 2000.

Religion a Boon to Health

News Item: "A wide-ranging review of health research confirms that if you attend religious services regularly, you live longer.

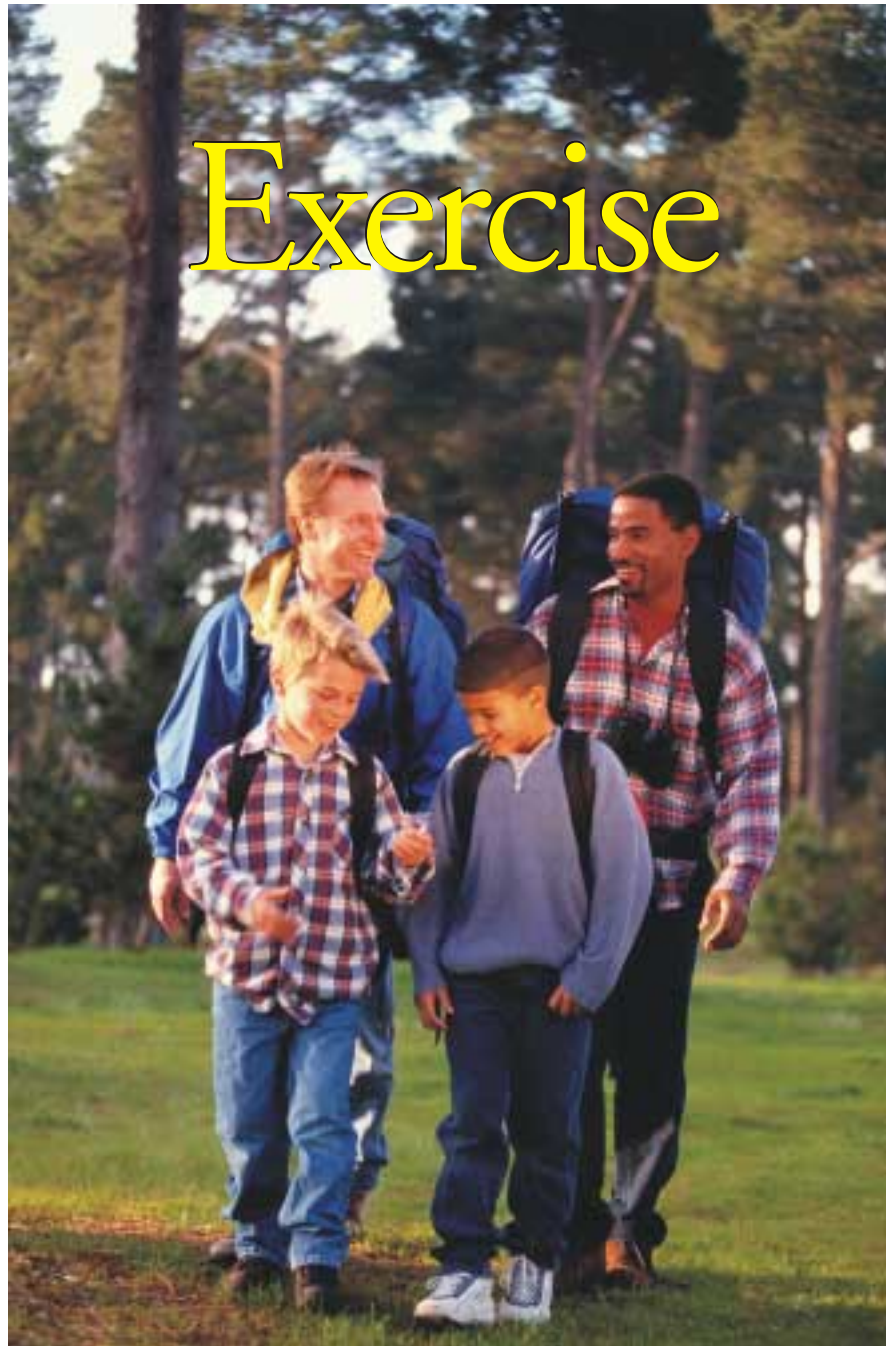
"The report, published in the American Psychological Association's journal *Health Psychology*, looked at 42 health studies involving almost 126,000 people. Its conclusion—you are 29 percent more likely to live longer if you are involved in religion than if you are not." *Adventist News Network*, June 20, 2000.

End-Time Perspective: The Papacy continues to advance its influence and prestige both in America and around the world, while Protestant churches are in disarray over homosexuality and other issues. See *The Great Controversy*, 581, 383.

A bright spot is the courageous stand of the Presbyterians and Southern Baptists regarding the Biblical role of women in the church. It is unfortunate that some Seventh-day Adventists are rebellious against the Bible teaching on this issue.

The AIDS crisis that is decimating Africa shows signs of spreading as a pandemic into other world regions, while Western society continues to degrade the sanctity of human life. Evangelism and examples of godly Christians are needed as never before.

The need to educate our children in a godly church school or homeschool is imperative to their temporal and eternal destinies, for Satan seeks to use society's wickedness to assault their minds. Our only safe refuge that can be found is in Christ! Only He can offer us health and happiness both now and forevermore! See *Pacific Union Recorder*, 11-21-01. ❀



And the LORD God took the man [Adam], and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Genesis 2:15. God's original plan was for people to be active. Physical activity is necessary to maintain all our functional body units and to keep a reserve physical capacity to handle emergency situations.

Today, in many parts of the world, people are forced to be physically active just to survive.

They must obtain food and clothing, build shelters, travel great distances on foot, and work with their hands in a variety of life-sustaining occupations. In our society, however, we have found ways to get around most of these problems. Automobiles carry us where we want to go, and machines do much of our work for us. Industry and commerce have become specialized to the point that most people are involved in occu-

pations not requiring very much physical labor.

Some vigorous physical activity on a regular basis is needed in order to prevent our bodies from deteriorating. Syndromes of disuse are many – including obesity, lack of endurance, general muscle weakness, protruding abdomen, chronic lower-back pain, muscle stiffness and soreness, low-breathing capacity, intolerance to stress, elevated, resting pulse rate and

blood pressure, increased blood-fat levels, and increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

Physical fitness is comprised of several components. Endurance is the ability to perform work for sustained periods of time without undue fatigue. It is dependent upon several factors. Chief among them is the ability of the cardiovascular system to supply oxygen-rich blood to the muscle cells and for these cells to utilize oxygen and fuel to produce energy.

Endurance is best improved by systematically, but gradually, increasing the time one spends in regular periods of mild to moderate exercise. Mild to moderate exercise might be: 15–60 minutes of walking, jogging, bicycling, swimming, or doing manual labor at a pace that causes the heart rate to increase and be maintained at from 50 to 85 percent of its capacity for the duration of the exercise period. A 37-year-old man, with a resting heart rate of 72, wanting to exercise at 70 percent capacity, would calculate his target heart rate with this equation:

$$(220 - 37 - 72) \times 70\% + 72 = 150$$

In this example 150 beats per minute would be the target heart rate. For those less adept at math, there is always the “talk test” to guide you. It works like this: “If you can’t carry on a conversation, you’re exercising too hard. If you can sing, you’re exercising too easy.” When you exercise this way, you are maintaining a “steady state.” This continuity is necessary to develop endurance and the “training effect.” Such endurance training must occur about every other day.

Another component of physical fitness is muscle strength. The bigger the muscle, the larger the muscle fibers are that do the work. This is comparable to a wire cable—the larger the wires, the stronger the cable you have. However, a muscle may look big on the outside, but may actually contain a great deal of fat. Often size can be deceptive when it comes to strength.

Physical strength also involves the bone-mineral density. Brittle

bones could give way simply from the stress of one’s own muscles pulling hard on them.

Muscle mass is increased and strength developed by systematically and gradually increasing the resistance against which a muscle is made to work. Common methods include: weights, isometrics, dynamic tension, and manual labor.

Flexibility involves the degree to which our muscles, joints, ligaments and tendons allow us to move in our full range of motion. Common problem areas include: the lower back, shoulders, chest-muscle groups, and the back of the legs. These muscles become tight, and we lose mobility because of prolonged periods of sitting, improper body alignment or posture, and lack of exercise.

There are specific stretching exercises that can be done to correct and maintain our full range of motion in all the muscle groups. Also the habit of maintaining proper posture at all times needs to be learned.

Whichever stretches you are doing, it is always best to stretch slowly and easily. Gradually allow the muscle to relax and reach a full stretch. Never jerk, bounce, or force a stretch, for you could do serious injury to yourself. In time the muscle will lengthen to its full potential. Back pain or any persistent pain could be serious and should be evaluated by a physician so that the cause may be determined and appropriate treatment given.

Body composition can be considered as an element of physical fitness. This term commonly refers to the percentage of body fat. Maximum levels for health might be 15 percent fat in men and 22 percent fat in women. Many men are averaging 24 percent fat and women 35 percent. Ideally, we should strive to maintain a healthy percentage of body fat, as well as a good overall weight that suits our occupation, height, and frame.

The amount of exercise necessary for most people to achieve metabolic body fat changes, exceeds

that which would be required to simply get in shape. Take at least one month to slowly work up to about an hour of continuous moderate exercise five or six times per week. This should be enough time to burn the recommended 500 calories’ worth of exercise per day, or 2,000–3,000 extra calories per week, which seem to be the average amount required for a weight-loss program.

Now that you know what physical fitness is and what exercise can do for you, you are ready to blast off! Right?—Just a minute. The conservative approach would be to have medical clearance, if any of the following situations apply: past age 30 and have not been exercising, overweight, have a history of high blood pressure or heart trouble, or have not had a checkup in the past year.

The liberal approach would be, if there are no obvious warning signs, to go ahead and start exercising. Just make sure you start out easy and progress gradually. Learn how to exercise correctly and take care of yourself.

Some general guidelines and precautions include not engaging in strenuous exercise for an hour or two after eating. (Light exercise after eating is good, though, as it aids digestion.) The same holds true when you are sick or not up to par—vigorous exercise is out, but light exercise might be beneficial in some cases. Aches and pains may be avoided by not attempting to do too much too soon, using proper form, and having good shoes, clothing, and any other equipment you may need.

Serious warning signs during exercise may include unusual shortness of breath, weakness, heart irregularities, or pressure or pain sensations that can be anywhere from the wrists to the pit of the stomach to the jaws and between the shoulder blades. In these instances you should discontinue exercising and see a physician right away. Other signs—such as dizziness, nausea, side aches, prolonged recovery, and miscellaneous aches

and pains—may be attended to by yourself first. If no relief is obtained, or if in doubt, see a physician.

A good, streamlined, overall exercise routine might look something like this: first, have a five-minute warm-up period consisting of stretching and a few calisthenics. This will get the body prepared for what is to follow and help prevent injuries. Then, do five minutes of some muscle-toning exercises. Work the upper body and abdomen if your main endurance exercise is going to be mostly using the leg muscles—as in walking, jogging, or cycling. Now get into your endurance-building phase. Start out easy for the first few minutes, and progress up to your training level of intensity. Keep it up for 15–30 minutes. Some exercises that are aimed only at working the muscles, and not the cardiovascular system, do not qualify for fulfilling this phase of the exercise program. Also, exercises that are too short, too intense, or too easy, will not allow you to reach your training heart-rate level in a reasonable length of time and maintain it for the duration of the training phase.

Do not stop abruptly when you are done. Slow down and keep moving at an easy pace. This cooling-off period should last five to ten minutes. Your pulse rate should be below 100 beats per minute within three to five minutes after entering the cool-down part. If it is not, you may be overdoing it. You can easily feel your pulse at your wrist or on the side of your throat. You can count for ten seconds, and multiply by six, to get your heart rate for one minute. An exercise program like this should be done at least three to four times per week, or every other day.

Each time we exercise we place a demand on the body. The body will adapt to those demands. This is known as the “overload principle” and is the basis for maintaining and improving fitness. In short, to get anything out of it, you have to put something into it—and that spells work!

The idea of “work” turns many people away from exercising. Many people feel that they are already overworked, so why go out looking for more? But, as has already been explained, few people’s work is the kind of work that will promote physical fitness. For these people especially, a fitness program would give them more energy in the long run by helping their bodies to become stronger and function more efficiently.

Still, there are others who do not think they have the time. But we simply need to make time, because we need exercise for health. Cut down on other things. If our own physical well-being is not a high enough priority, what is?

Many people are ready and willing to exercise, but they lack motivation. They cannot seem to start, or once they start, they do not stick with it. Fear of death prevents some people from exercising, while it encourages others to exercise. If an exercise program is properly entered into and carried out, we need not be afraid. The vast majority of people have much more to fear from not exercising than from exercising. But fear is really a poor source of motivation. Knowledge of all the benefits helps some, but it does not seem to work in motivating people who are not interested.

For most people the essential ingredients to getting started on an exercise program are that it needs to be fun, convenient, and not too difficult. Injuries discourage people from continuing the program, so they should be avoided by taking necessary precautions.

Consider the exerciser, the environment, and the exercise. Strive for a happy union of all three. Other motivating factors include having a regular routine that you stick to, joining an organized program with trained leadership, or having group participation. Obtaining positive feedback from other people, getting results, and charting your progress so that you can see and keep track of how you are doing, are all helpful ideas. The approval of your doctor, as well as doing better on your physical

exam this year than you did last year, are good incentives.

Self-disciplined individuals and people who lead well-regulated lives find sticking to any program, including exercise, easier. These qualities are largely picked up in childhood. People who do not acquire them early in life may have a more difficult time, but, nevertheless, it can be done. After all, everything we do in life is ultimately a daily decision. We are always making decisions. Making the right ones can be made easier if we concentrate more on living one day at a time. As we do this, we will find ourselves taking advantage of opportunities more, and reacting to the consequences of our neglect less.

Many people have found a “fountain of youth” for themselves in their exercise program, and that is enough to keep them motivated. But neither exercise, diet, stress management, or anything else, will keep us going forever. Everyone knows that these bodies of ours are slowly wearing out. We can slow down significantly the rate of decline, but someday the silver cord will break. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was.” Ecclesiastes 12:7. This ending would be sad, but it is not really the end.

Soon, when Jesus returns, all the righteous who have ever lived will come forth from the grave, and, together with the living righteous, they will receive perfect, immortal bodies. “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18. ❀

Kurt Unglaub, M.P.H., wrote this article while he was an instructor at Life Abundant Missionary Institute. He is now working as an instructor at Laurelwood Academy in Oregon.

The Mark of the Beast

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 Holy Word.

The Editors

Bible Marking Directions

1. In this month's study our Bible marking key letters are **MB**, which represent "**The Mark of the Beast**."
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: "**The Mark of the Beast**," **1MB: Revelation 14:9-11,14**.
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 MB**."

1MB: Revelation 14:9-11, 14.

In the closing era of earth's history just before Christ appears in the clouds at the last day to reward every man, God will send a special message warning every person not to receive the mark of the beast. The receiving of this mark is the result of worshiping the beast and his image. The terrible punishment of which God warns should make us determine never to receive the mark of the beast, even if our faithfulness to God should cost us our lives.

2MB: Revelation 13:18.

This beast power, whose mark we are warned to avoid, is the Papacy. The pope's leading title, VICARIUS FILII DEI (meaning "Vicar of the Son of God"), when counted according to the Roman numerical value of the letters, equals exactly 666. Since the beast is symbolic of the Vatican power, the mark of the beast must be some institution of Catholicism, which will distinguish those who adopt it as obeying her human authority in preference to obeying God on that point.

3MB: Romans 6:16.

Whatever power we obey in religion, we are the servants of that power. Two questions will show plainly what is involved in this matter of the mark of the beast:

1. When a person keeps the seventh day, Saturday, as the Sabbath, whom does he obey? There can be only one answer: that

person is obeying God, for that is what God has decreed in the fourth commandment of the Ten Commandments. See Exodus 20:8-11.

2. When a person keeps the first day of the week, Sunday, as the so-called sabbath, whom is he obeying? He is not obeying God by keeping the first day, because God never told anybody to keep holy the first day of each week. Whom then is he obeying? He is obeying the command of the Vatican power, which has attempted to substitute the first day as a holy day in place of the seventh day, which Christ sanctified—or set apart for man—in the beginning of time. See Genesis 2:1-3. Thus it is made plain in the light of God's message that when we choose to keep the seventh day, we are marked as worshipers of the Creator, the only true God. See Exodus 31:16-17. However, if we choose the Catholic Sunday in place of God's seventh-day Sabbath, we are marked as being followers of the beast power.

4MB: Matthew 15:9.

When we substitute a human ordinance in place of what God has ordained, we worship Him in vain.

5MB: Revelation 13:16-17.

An attempt will be made to enforce the mark of the beast upon all people. Each person will have to decide whether he will obey God and keep the seventh day, or whether he will obey the beast power and keep the first day, which this power has sought to put in the place of God's

day. Those who receive the mark of the beast in their foreheads represent those who accept the arguments of the Papacy instead of Scripture, while those who receive the mark in their hands represent the ones who give in to fear or persecution. Loyalty to God will be demonstrated by a steadfast obedience to God and Scripture in the face of the prohibition to buy or sell, and eventually in the face of death.

6MB: Revelation 13:8.

All the world will obey the beast power, except a few who will be loyal to God, as the three Hebrews were in the vast throng of Babylon. The book of Revelation shows that in the testing time every person will

have to choose whether he will receive the seal of God in his forehead, or whether he will receive the mark of the beast in his forehead or in his hand. Whichever mark we choose—for God or for the beast, for Christ or for the antichrist—will seal our eternal destiny. God holds out the Sabbath as the sign of His power. See Ezekiel 20:12, 20. The beast power holds out Sunday as the sign of its power. Which one do you choose?

7MB: Acts 5:29.

We should decide now to obey God rather than man. It is dangerous to delay in making this important decision. The loving God of the universe has prepared a way

for our escape and a home for those who choose to love and obey Him.

8MB: Revelation 14:12.

The only way we can avoid the mark of the beast is to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. If you have made that decision, then stick to it. If you have not, then put yourself on God’s side this very moment by deciding to obey Him and keep His day holy. “Choose you this day whom ye will serve. . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15. ☞

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

Healthy Savings

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Something Better, God’s Original Design, Live Foods

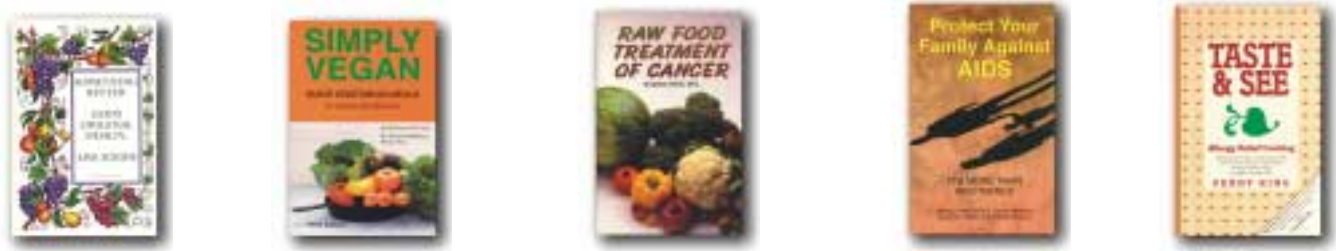
by Katy Chamberlin	\$7.95	\$6.⁹⁵
This book exposes some of the myths and prejudices against a diet high in live foods. Better overall health, more energy, and clearer minds can be achieved when following <i>God’s Original Design, Live Foods</i> .			

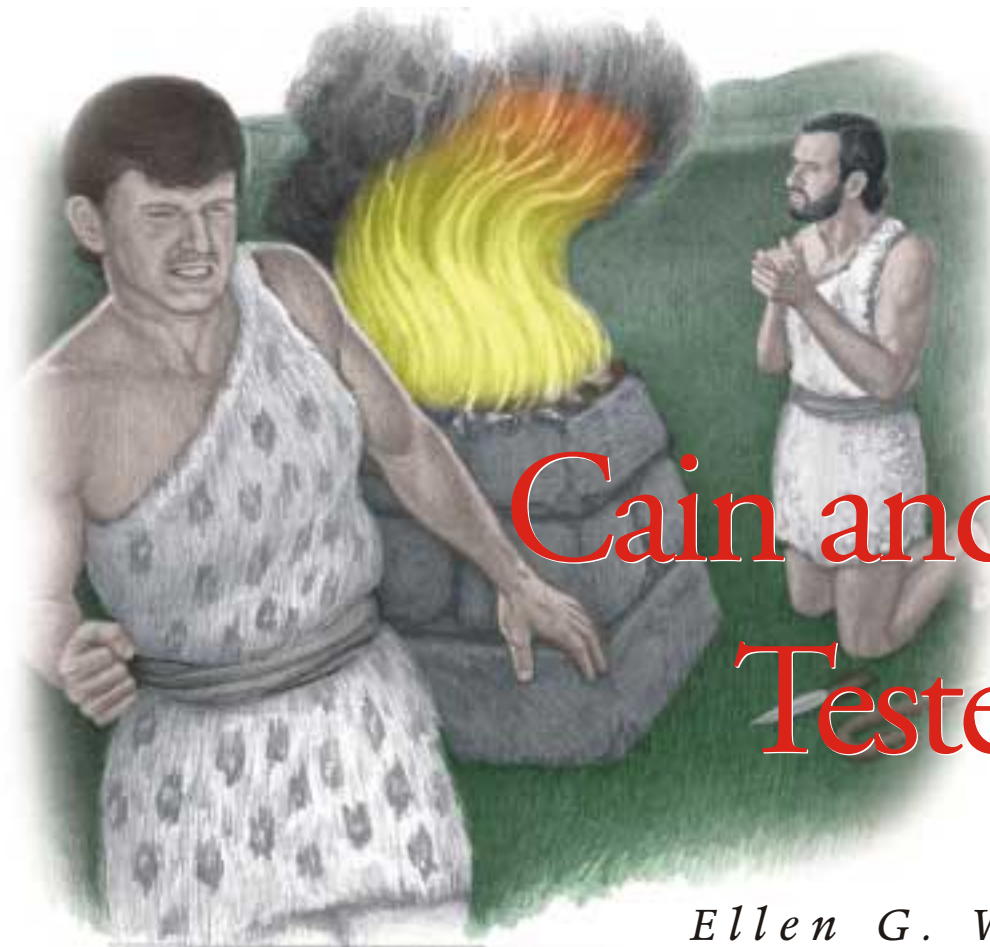
Simply Vegan by Debra Wasserman	\$12.95	\$10.⁹⁵
<i>Simply Vegan</i> is more than just a cookbook. It is a guide to a non-violent, environmentally sound, humane lifestyle. Over 160 vegan recipes that can be prepared quickly.			

Raw Food Treatment of Cancer by Kristine Nolfi, M.D.	\$3.95	\$2.⁹⁵
This book documents the importance of raw vegetables in the diet, of healing, and of general good health. Dr. Nolfi was a physician in Denmark for over 50 years.			

Protect Your Family Against AIDS by Jeffrey D. Wehr, M.T.S., Marlene E. Wehr, B.S.	\$7.95	\$5.⁹⁵
The “Immune for Life” program is designed to make your immune system as strong as possible. Through proper nutrition, exercise, and a positive attitude, we can cooperate with the Great Physician and our immune system in fighting off disease. AIDS is not only preventable but also reversible. The key is the effectiveness of our immune system.			

Taste & See: Allergy Relief Cooking by Penny King	\$11.95	\$9.⁹⁵
Kitchen-tested recipes containing NO meat, dairy products, vinegar, sugar, wheat, baking powder, or eggs, and little or no salt, or fat.			





Cain and Abel Tested

Ellen G. White

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering; but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." Genesis 4:3-8.

Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam, were unlike in character.

Cain cherished feelings of rebellion and murmuring against God because of the curse pronounced upon the ground and upon the human race for Adam's sin; while Abel had a spirit of meekness and of submission to the authority of God.

These brothers were tested, as Adam had been tested before them, to see if they would be obedient to God's requirements. They had both been instructed in regard to the provision made for the salvation of man. Through the system of sacrificial offerings, God designed to impress upon the minds of men the offensive character of sin, and to make known to them its sure penalty, death. The offerings were to be a constant reminder that it was only through the promised Redeemer that man could come into the presence of God. Cain and Abel understood the system of offerings

which they were required to carry out. They knew that in presenting these offerings they showed humble and reverential obedience to the will of God, and acknowledged faith in, and dependence upon, the Saviour whom these offerings typified.

Cain and Abel erected their altars alike, and each brought an offering. Cain thought it unnecessary to be particular about fulfilling all the requirements of God; he therefore brought an offering without the shedding of blood. He brought of the fruits of the ground, and presented his offering before the Lord; but there was no token from Heaven to show that it was accepted. Abel entreated his brother to come into the presence of God only in the divinely prescribed way. But his remonstrances made Cain all the more determined to carry out his own

purpose. As the eldest, he felt above being advised by his brother, and despised his counsel.

Abel brought of the firstlings of the flock, the very best, as God had commanded him. In the slain lamb he sees by faith the Son of God, appointed to death because of the transgression of His Father's law. God has respect to Abel's offering. Fire flashes from Heaven, and consumes the sacrifice of the penitent sinner.

Cain now has an opportunity to see and acknowledge his mistake. He may change his course of action, and testify his obedience by presenting an offering precisely in accordance with the divine specification; and He who is no respecter of persons will have respect to the offering of faith and obedience.

After the disrespect shown to His commands, God does not leave Cain to himself; but He condescends to reason with the man that has shown himself so unreasonable. "And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?"

The Lord was not ignorant of the feelings of resentment cherished by Cain; but He would have Cain reflect upon his course, and, becoming convinced of his sin, repent, and set his feet in the path of obedience. There was no cause for his wrathful feelings toward either Cain's brother or his God; it was his own disregard of the plainly expressed will of God that had led to the rejection of his offering. Through His angel messenger, God said to this rebellious, stubborn man: "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." "If thou doest well" — not having your own way, but obeying God's commandments, coming to Him with the blood of the slain victim, thus showing faith in the promised Redeemer, who, in the fullness of time, would make an atonement for guilty man, that he might not perish, but have eternal life.

"And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over

him." Abel's offering had been accepted; but this was because Abel had done in every particular as God required him to do. This would not rob Cain of his birthright. Abel would love him as his brother, and as the younger, be subject to him.

Thus the matter was plainly laid open before Cain; but his combativeness was aroused because his course was questioned, and he was not permitted to follow his own independent ideas. He was angry with God and angry with his brother. He was angry with God because He would not accept the plans of sinful man in place of the divine requirements, and he was angry with his brother for disagreeing with him. Satan presents a temptation. The thought that he

submitted to the judgment of his elder brother; and Cain was enraged to the highest degree that Abel did not sympathize with him in his disaffection. Abel would yield when conscience was not concerned; but when the course of the God of Heaven was brought in question, and Cain spoke derisively of the sacrifice of faith, Abel was courageous to defend the truth. Cain's reason told him that Abel was right when he spoke of the necessity of presenting the blood of a slain victim if he would have his sacrifice accepted; but Satan presented the matter in a different light. He urged Cain on to a furious madness, till he slew his brother, and the sin of murder was laid upon his soul.

There was no cause for his wrathful feelings toward either Cain's brother or his God; it was his own disregard of the plainly expressed will of God that had led to the rejection of his offering.

suggests is a terrible one; will Cain receive it? — Yes; he is opening the door of his heart to the whisperings of Satan. Envious and jealous of the preference shown to his younger brother, he will not hesitate to take his life.

Cain invites Abel to walk with him in the fields, and he there gives utterance to his unbelief and his murmuring against God. He claims that he was doing well in presenting his offering; and the more he talks against God, and impeaches His justice and mercy in rejecting his own offering and accepting that of his brother Abel, the more bitter are his feelings of anger and resentment.

Abel defends the goodness and impartiality of God, and places before Cain the simple reason why God did not accept his offering.

The fact that Abel ventured to disagree with him and even went so far as to point out his errors, astonished Cain. It was a new experience; for Abel had hitherto

Some time had elapsed since the death of Abel. "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" Verse 9. How true it is that one sin leads to another; and how forcibly is this truth illustrated in the case of Cain! He seemed surprised at the question, "Where is Abel thy brother?" He had gone so far in sin, had so far yielded himself to the influence of Satan, that he had lost a sense of the presence of God, and of His greatness and knowledge. So he lied to the Lord to cover up his guilt. Cain knew very well where his brother was; and God knew where he was, for there was a Witness to the bloody deed.

The spirit of Satan had entered into Cain. Satan was an accuser, and Cain began his evil course by accusing God of partiality and injustice. Satan was a deceiver, and Cain deceived Abel by inviting him into the field when murder was in

his heart, that he might do the dark deed in secret. Satan “was a murderer from the beginning;” and he instigated Cain to do the same cruel work. “He is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44); and here, too, Cain showed himself an apt and proficient pupil.

Again the Lord said to Cain. “What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.” Genesis 4:10. God had given Cain an opportunity to confess his sin before sentence should be pronounced against him. He had had time to reflect. He knew the enormity of the deed he had done, and of the falsehood he had told to conceal it. But he was rebellious still. The hand that had been stretched out against his brother was stretched out against God; and had the power been his, he would have silenced the accusing voice of God, as he had that of his brother.

be tested as they were. Abel bore the proving of God. He revealed the gold of a righteous character, the principles of true godliness. But Cain’s religion had not a good foundation; it rested on human merit. He brought to God something in which he had a personal interest—the fruits of the ground, which had been cultivated by his toil; and he presented his offering as a favor done to God, through which he expected to secure the divine approval. He obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice; but it was only a partial obedience. The essential part, the recognition of the need of a Redeemer, was left out.

As far as birth and religious instruction were concerned, these brothers were equal, though Cain, being the first-born, was in some respects the favored one. Both were sinners, and both acknowledged the claims of God as an object of

trusting in the atonement that was there to be made, he had the witness that he was righteous and his offering accepted.

How did Abel know so well the plan of salvation?—Adam taught it to his children and grandchildren. And the apostle says that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17. After Adam had sinned, a feeling of terror seized him. A constant dread was upon him; shame and remorse tortured his soul. In this state of mind he wished to be as far removed as possible from the presence of God, whom he had so loved to meet in his Eden home. But the Lord followed this conscience-stricken man, and while he condemned the sin of which Adam had been guilty, gave him words of gracious promise. In pronouncing the curse upon the deceiver, God had said: “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:15.

This was the first gospel sermon ever preached to fallen man; this promise was the star of hope, illuminating the dark and dismal future of the race. Adam gladly received the welcome assurance of deliverance, and diligently instructed his children in the way of the Lord. This promise was presented in close connection with the altar of sacrificial offerings. The altar and the promise stand side by side, and one casts clear beams of light upon the other, showing that the justice of an offended God could be appeased only by the death of His beloved Son. The bleeding victim consuming on the altar illustrated Adam’s teachings, and thus the sight of the eyes deepened the impression made by the hearing of the ear.

Abel heard these precious lessons, and to him they were like seed sown on good ground. Cain also heard them. He had the same privileges as his brother, but he did not improve them. He ventured to go contrary to the commands of God; and the result is strongly

These two brothers, Cain and Abel, represent the whole human family. They were both tested on the point of obedience, and all will be tested as they were.

Cain has proved himself incorrigible, and sentence is no longer deferred. The divine voice that has been heard in entreaty and expostulation pronounces the terrible words: “And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand; when thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.” Verses 11–12. In remorse and anguish, but not in repentance, Cain exclaims, as many who have rejected the Word of the Lord have done, and will do again, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.” Verse 13.

These two brothers, Cain and Abel, represent the whole human family. They were both tested on the point of obedience, and all will

worship. To all outward appearance, their religion was the same up to a certain point of time; but the Bible history shows us that there was a time when the difference between the two became very great. This difference lay in the obedience of one and the disobedience of the other.

The apostle says that Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. See Hebrews 11:4. Abel grasped the great principles of redemption. He saw himself a sinner; and he saw sin, and its penalty, death, standing between his soul and communion with God. He brought the slain victim, the sacrificed life, thus acknowledging the claims of the law which had been transgressed. Through the shed blood he looked to the future Sacrifice, Christ dying on the cross of Calvary; and,

presented before us. Cain was not the victim of an arbitrary purpose; one was not elected to be chosen of God, and the other to be rejected. The whole matter rested upon doing or not doing as God had said.

In the case of Cain and Abel we have a type of two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time; and this type is worthy of close study. There is a marked difference in the characters of these two brothers, and the same difference is seen in the human family today. Cain represents those who carry out the principles and works of Satan, by worshiping God in a way of their own choosing. Like the leader whom they follow, they are willing to render partial obedience, but not entire submission to God. Man, in the pride of his heart, would like to believe that he can confer some favor upon God; that our heavenly Father may be the receiver, and not always the giver. But God will not be bribed. He says: "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." Psalm 50:10. "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." Verse 12. Man has nothing to give that he has not first received from God.

The Cain class of worshipers includes by far the largest number; for every false religion that has been invented has been based on the Cain principle, that man can depend upon his own merits and righteousness for salvation.

The great controversy from Adam's day down to our time has been on the point of obedience or opposition to God's law; and every soul will be found on the side of the obedient or the rebellious. Satan, who was once a mighty and lofty angel in Heaven, is the leader of the rebellion against God. From the first it has been his object to dethrone God, by breaking down the rules of His government. He had induced angels to join him in Heaven; and when Adam sinned, he thought to carry the whole human race on his side. The declaration of God, "I will put

enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed," was the first intimation Satan received that the world would not be given over to his dark sway, but that man would have a Redeemer. There is naturally no enmity between fallen angels and fallen men. Both are evil; and evil, wherever it exists, will league against the good.

Man was promised a Redeemer, and was granted a second trial, to see if he would develop a righteous character; but he is left a free moral agent. And in all ages the multitudes have accepted the Cain principle, and have maintained that a partial obedience is all that is necessary. They have claimed a

In all ages the multitudes have accepted the Cain principle, and have maintained that a partial obedience is all that is necessary. They have claimed a right to the favor of God, while disregarding His positive commands.

right to the favor of God, while disregarding His positive commands. This is the position of the Christian world today. God has given men a code of laws, and the fourth precept of that code enjoins the observance of the Sabbath as a memorial of Creation. There is but one Sabbath of the Lord, and that is the seventh day. Special injunctions have been laid upon men to remember this day to keep it holy; but many show their contempt for the divine authority by keeping, in its place, a day which God has given them as a day of labor.

Those who cherish error have ever manifested a spirit of intolerance toward the obedient children of God. They are actuated by the spirit that led Cain to slay his brother. "And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." 1 John 3:12. Abel, the first martyr, was not old and feeble, but a youth, full of life and vigor; but he lay down his life for the truth of God. And all the way down through the

ages there have been some who have lost their lives because of their adherence to religious principles.

Our Saviour Himself was a victim of religious intolerance. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:11. Had He praised and exalted men, had He called corruption purity, and given license to human creeds by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, they would have received Him gladly. But His zeal for God, the righteous fervor with which He denounced every abomination that was done in the land, and, above all, the sinless purity of His own character, aroused the bitter hatred of the "whited sepulchers" (see Mat-

thew 23:27) who deceived the people by the appearance of great sanctity. Satan and evil angels united with evil men to destroy from the earth the Champion of truth. There was a bruising of the heel of the seed of the woman, when Christ was scorned as a deceiver, and was hunted down and put to death as a criminal; but could Satan have induced Him to commit one sin, there would have been a bruising of the head, and the world would have been abandoned to the power of the prince of darkness.

The religion of Christ is for men to accept, with all its inconveniences. They may invent an easier way; but it will not lead to the city of God, the saints' secure abode. Only those who "do his commandments," will have "right to the tree of life," and "enter in through the gates into the city." See Revelation 22:14. ✠

Signs of the Times, December 16, 1886.

O Worship the Lord

Clark Floyd



Since the beginning of the great controversy Satan has continually sought to receive the worship that is due only to God.

In ancient Babylon, Satan attempted to work through King Nebuchadnezzar to procure the worship of the various national leaders of Babylon:

“That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: and whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” Daniel 3:5-6.

Note that the form or attitude of worship required here was to “fall down”—to kneel or prostrate oneself—before the heathen image. This would be a public display of obeisance and worship to the heathen god represented by the image as well as to the king himself. Satan was seeking for himself, through the king, that which is due only to God.

The three Hebrew friends of Daniel refused to comply with the

order and were consequently thrown into the fiery furnace—only to be subsequently rescued by our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. What a witness they were to King Nebuchadnezzar and to the other officials gathered for this occasion!

Soon after His baptism “was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.” Matthew 4:1. As part of the temptation He faced, the devil offered Jesus “all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.” He said to Jesus, “All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” Verses 8-9. Here again the devil specifies that the worshiper is to kneel or prostrate himself.

In Revelation 13, Satan seeks, through worldly powers, to obtain the worship of the whole world: “And all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast.” Revelation 13:3-4.

Scriptural Examples of Worship

Truly, worship is an issue in the great controversy between Christ and Satan. In the third angel’s message, we are told the conse-

quences of worshipping the wrong power in this controversy. “If any man worship the beast and his image . . . the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation.” Revelation 14:9-10.

But God has a people that worship Him only. “God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” Romans 11:2-5.

The worship by God’s remnant people is due to God alone. “Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:7.

But what form or attitude should that worship take? "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that *unto me every knee shall bow.*"¹ Isaiah 45:22-23; see also Romans 14:11-12.

In speaking of Jesus, Paul said, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:9-11.

In Psalm 95:6 we are instructed, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Jesus is not only our Substitute but also our Example. In praying to the Father, Jesus "was withdrawn from them [the disciples] about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed." Luke 22:41.

And the disciples "that were in the ship came and worshipped him [Jesus], saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God." Matthew 14:33.

And another time, after the resurrection, "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary" were met by Jesus, "and they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him." Matthew 28:1, 9; see also verses 16-17.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew term used most often for worship is *shachale*, which means to prostrate in homage or to bow down. The Greek term in the New Testament used most often for "worship" is *proskuneo*, which means to prostrate oneself, or to pay homage.²

As we seek further in the Bible for examples of worship, we find that Daniel "kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God." Daniel 6:10.

Ezra's testimony is, "I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God." Ezra 9:5.

Solomon "kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his

hands toward heaven" and prayed. 2 Chronicles 6:13.

As he was being stoned, Stephen "kneeled down" and prayed. Acts 7:60.

Paul, after he had spoken to the believers, "kneeled down, and prayed with them all." Acts 20:36. And when escorted out of the city by the faithful, Paul and the others "kneeled down on the shore, and prayed." Acts 21:5. In Ephesians 3:14 Paul states, "I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Peter, when before the body of Tabitha, "kneeled down, and prayed." Acts 9:40.

In the book of Revelation, through John, we are given visions of some of the activities in heaven. In Revelation 4:10 we see that "the four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne,

offering prayer to the Sovereign of the universe. Where have our brethren obtained the idea that they should stand upon their feet when praying to God? One who has been educated for about five years in Battle Creek was asked to lead in prayer before Sister White should speak to the people. But as I beheld him standing upright upon his feet while his lips were about to open in prayer to God, my soul was stirred within me to give him an open rebuke. Calling him by name, I said 'Get down upon your knees.' This is the proper position always."³

In studying the Spirit of Prophecy with regard to the topic of the attitude or posture we should assume in prayer in our worship services, it appears that we should kneel for the opening prayer ("this is the proper position always"), but that we might stand for the prayer

*The Scriptures have abundant examples of worship,
and many seem to connect worship with
kneeling before God.*

and worship him that liveth for ever and ever." This worship by the elders is repeated in Revelation 7:11: "The angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God." See also Revelation 5:14; 11:16; 19:4.

As can be seen from all the preceding quotations, the Scriptures have abundant examples of worship, and many seem to connect worship with kneeling before God.

Sister White's Counsel

Ellen G. White also has counsel to give us in regard to our attitude—or posture—in time of prayer. One interesting statement relates an incident that occurred in Battle Creek:

"I have received letters questioning me in regard to the proper attitude to be taken by a person

of consecration or benediction at the end of the service.⁴ Our kneeling in prayer shows our dependence upon God. It is an outward act to show our inward condition and submission.

We are assured in other passages that it is appropriate to offer up petitions to God while "in the crowds of the street," "in the midst of a business engagement," "when engaged in our daily labor," and "as we walk by the way." "It is not always necessary to bow upon your knees in order to pray. Cultivate the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor."⁵

According to Sister White's family, she bowed her head—not her knees—for the prayer for the meals.⁶ She encouraged prayer wherever and whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Sister White relates her experiences as a youth in visitation: "I remember when the converting power of God came upon me in my childhood I wanted everyone else to get the blessing that I had, and I could not rest till I had told them of

gave up, everyone would be on her knees and we would pray together for hours, till the last one would say, 'I believe that Jesus has forgiven me my sins.' Sometimes the sun would begin to make its appearance in the heavens before I

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. . . . Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." Isaiah 6:1-5.

Jesus did not merely *tell* us how much He loves us; He *showed* us by going to the cross. My brother, my sister, let us not only tell Jesus how much we love Him; let us also show Him in our attitude of reverence and submission to Him. ✠

Let us not only tell Jesus how much we love Him; let us also show Him in our attitude of reverence and submission to Him.

it. I began to visit with my young companions and went to their houses to talk with them and tell them my experience, how precious the Saviour was to me, and how I wanted to serve Him, and how I wanted them to serve Him also. So I would talk of the preciousness of Christ, and I would say, 'Won't you kneel down and pray with me?' Some would kneel and some would sit in their chairs, but before we

would give up the struggle. There is a great power in Jesus."⁷

A Call to Reverence

We are involved with the Sovereign God of the Universe. Isaiah gives us a behind-the-scenes view of what our attitude should be toward our God:

"I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

References:

¹ All emphasis supplied.

² See Strong's Concordance, O.T. #7812; N.T. #4352.

³ Selected Messages, book 2, 311.

⁴ See *ibid.*, book 3, 266-270, including footnotes.

⁵ *Ibid.*, book 2, 316.

⁶ See *ibid.*, book 3, 270, footnote.

⁷ Welfare Ministry, 99.

The Dual Baptism

(Continued from Page 5)

reflect the teachings of Jesus. Rather, it reflects the deceptive teachings of many of the fallen churches of Christendom.

Each reader would be greatly blessed by Paul's wonderful enunciation of this truth in his epistle to the Romans, chapter 6.

The Two Baptisms in the Bible

God's chosen vessels who prepare men and women for baptism must explain the fullness of the gospel—both justification and sanctification. Notice how the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy often put these two experiences together:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins [justification], and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [sanctification]." 1 John 1:9.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus [justification], who walk not after the flesh, but after

the Spirit [sanctification]." Romans 8:1.

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh [justification]: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit [sanctification]." Verses 3-4.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water [justification] and of the Spirit [sanctification], he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5.

"And forgive us our debts [justification], as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil [sanctification]: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:12-13.

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is

righteous [justified], let him be righteous [justified] still: and he that is holy [sanctified], let him be holy [sanctified] still." Revelation 22:11.

"While God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul."¹

God has given us a full and complete gospel—a gospel that redresses the sins of our lives and reclaims us into the purity of His life. May we be so surrendered to Jesus day by day that our sins will be forgiven and our hearts purified. ✠

References:

¹ *Selected Messages*, book 1, 366; see also *ibid.*, book 3, 204.

Have a letter to share?

contact editor@hopeint.org or see page 3 for our mailing address.



Your magazine *Our Firm Foundation* was wonderful and I read every article! Wish I could send it to two of my friends in the near future. I'm almost 96 but, Praise God, I'm doing good, and, Praise God, I can read. Would like to get it monthly. It's excellent!

WR, Georgia

What a special and wonderful camp meeting we had there [at Hope International] this year! One of the best, more inspirational, camp meetings I've ever gone to, and I've gone to a lot of camp meetings in my 75 years.

All the speakers were so filled with the Holy Spirit that we came away each day so blessed and feeling like we had a new lease on life!

AB, Oregon

Here is my request to receive your *Our Firm Foundation*.

God bless you in your continuing ministry and faithfulness to Him.

JB, Texas

From Overseas

I'm writing this letter to express my sincere thanks for the support you have been giving to spread the Word of God.

I received from you a parcel two weeks ago and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for what you have done. May the Lord God of our fathers bless you all!

BN, Ashanti

I thank you very much for *Our Firm Foundation*. I want to assure you that after I read those magazines I came to understand what Bible prophecy stands for. I would like you to send me one English Bible.

Those magazines also broadened my understanding of the health message and its significance. And I would like to thank you for more tracts you are sending over. Also I would like to thank you for more information about the Bible prophecy that you sent.

VM, Fiji Islands

I greet you all in the name of our wonderful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! I hope you are still striving to spread the Word "to all nations" and I assure you the Lord is going to reward you.

I would like you to know how grateful I am for the magazines that I received the whole of last year and some which I recently received. Your magazines are a blessing to me! I enjoy each and every page. During these past years I have grown spiritually and my faith has increased and also my knowledge of God has deepened through *Our Firm Foundation*. They are so informative and enlightening and I pray that the Lord continues to bless your wonderful ministry.

AC, Bulawayo

I am sincerely thankful for the gift of spiritual books and magazines and audio tapes. The work you are doing is beyond any appreciative language! I am praying for the success of our work of saving souls in literature distributing. May God bless you abundantly that you may continue spreading good news for the salvation of many.

After testing *Our Firm Foundation* magazines, I feel I cannot do without them. Therefore I am asking that you continue sending me the above magazines and others.

DM, Zambia

I am very thankful for the books and *Our Firm Foundation* magazines which you posted to me.

I do believe that I and the majority of the people in Mankessim would not have had opportunity to obtain these books and magazines had it not been for your generosity. I would also like to thank those who contribute towards the success of your publications.

As I receive these books and magazines I assist many people to see the light of Jesus Christ in these days of false doctrine.

I am grateful for your prayers and for *Our Firm Foundation*! I look

forward to it each month! It seems there's always something in it which is a message from God for my particular trial.

Once again may the Good Lord continue to bless you!

KE, Ghana

I am very happy to write you this letter. I want to thank you so much for the good work done for the past years spreading the Adventist message, especially throughout Africa. May God richly bless you!

My main request or my aim of writing this letter is to thank you and make a request for evangelistic materials such as books, pamphlets, and magazines.

We really used those that you sent earlier and by God's grace many will be saved through them.

May God richly bless you!

EH, Ghana

I was touched by your book *Earth's Final Warning*. It was like manna from Heaven to me! I am still going through it again and again to make sure I got much out of it.

DM, Zimbabwe

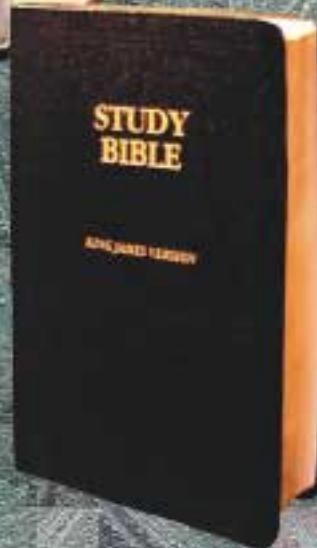
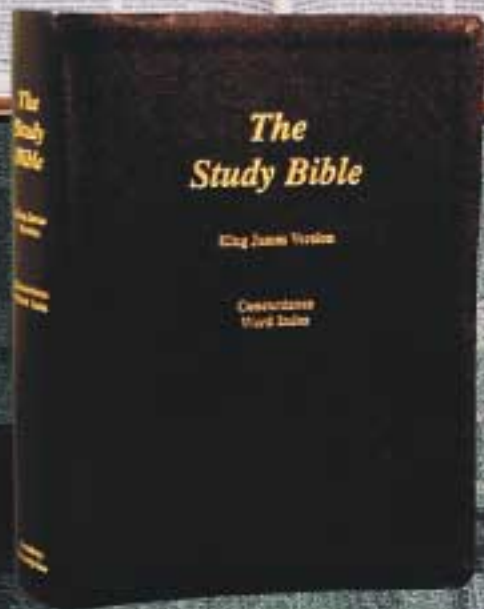
I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I believe in the teachings of the books you sent me, and I love to share the last messages of mercy, third angel's message, with my friends to prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming. As a matter of fact, Seventh-day Adventists are ordained of God to do a special work of enlightening the world with the everlasting gospel. We have one mission while we live—and only one—and that is to give the three angels' messages. Anything that does not pertain to this is not worthy of our time. Something startling and tremendous is about to occur in this world. "The day of the LORD cometh." Zechariah 14:1. "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1.

CC, Zambia

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