

# Our Firm Foundation

## Lessons from the Apostasy at Sinai

Volume 17, Number 5

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The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-transferability of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary





# Repeating the History of the Ancient Church

Since the great tragedy of September 11, 2001, we have seen tremendous changes in our world. The people of our freedom-loving country are now ready to give up certain freedoms in our desperate effort to fight terrorism. We have now a better understanding of the fulfillment of the prophecy of the second beast of Revelation 13.

Our country—the United States of America—founded upon the principles of religious freedom, is now beginning to speak more like a dragon, as was prophesied. This is a wake-up call to every Seventh-day Adventist and to those who are studying the prophecies in the churches of Babylon. Time is running out for the world, and for the church. Probation is soon to close. The end will come suddenly, unexpectedly.

It is past time for every Seventh-day Adventist to have the truth planted in the heart so that we will not be moved by the terror of the time of trouble, which now is before us. Daniel's prophecy is soon to become a horrible reality.

"Scenes similar to those described in these words [Daniel 11:30-36] will take place. We see evidence that Satan is fast obtaining the control of human minds who have not the fear of God before them. Let all read and understand the prophecies of this book, for we are now entering upon the time of trouble spoken of:

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in

the book.' Daniel 12:1." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, 394.

"All persons who might have understood the prophecies, but who did not read and search to see if they were applicable to this time, and concerned their individual selves, will be taken in the snare, and suffer eternal loss. They will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." *Review and Herald*, December 26, 1899.

Dear reader, please take warning; we are the privileged final generation. Our High Priest is about to leave the Most Holy Place. Jesus is coming very soon. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is now about to enter into the final test. Everything that happened in the church in Christ's day will be repeated in our day.

"The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ—how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 406.

"The remnant church is called to go through an experience similar to that of the Jews." *Ibid.*, 387.

God has told us, if we follow the apostasy of the world, we must suffer a greater punishment than theirs:

"Our compassionate Redeemer, foreseeing the perils that would surround His followers at this time, has given them special warning: 'Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be over-

charged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.' Luke 21:34-36. 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." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 100.

We must now study diligently as faithful watchmen on the walls of Zion. Pray earnestly to receive the early and latter rain, and to be willing to be made willing to obey without a single compromise, that we may now become the powerful witnesses of His mighty power in this final crisis hour; that we may exemplify the great experience of knowing Jesus, walking with Him, talking with Him, so that we may soon live with Him. It should be the aim of every Seventh-day Adventist to be prepared for translation.

"God's people will separate themselves from the unrighteous practices of those around them, and will seek for purity of thought, and holy conformity to His will, until His divine Image will be reflected in them. Like Enoch they will be fitting for translation to Heaven. While they endeavor to instruct and warn the world, they will not conform to the spirit and customs of unbelievers, but will condemn them by their holy conversation and godly example." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 59.

May this be our experience each day until we meet at Jesus' feet. ✨



It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work 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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# Lessons from the Apostasy at Sinai

*Ellen G. White*

Satan is the leader of every species of rebellion today, as he was the originator of rebellion in the courts of heaven. Standing next to Christ in power and glory, yet he coveted the honor that belonged to the Son. He desired to be equal with God. To carry out his purpose, he concealed his true designs from the angels, and worked deceptively to secure their allegiance and honor to himself. By sly insinuations, by which he made it appear that Christ had assumed the place that belonged to him, Lucifer sowed the seeds of doubt in the minds of many of the angels; and when he had won their support, he carried the matter to God, declaring that it was the sentiment of many of the heavenly beings that he should have the preference to Christ.

We shall not at this time follow the immediate results of Satan's rebellion and his expulsion from heaven, but let us consider how his deceptive work is being continued today among those who profess to be the loyal people of God. In the hearts of many church members there is being carried on today the same work of rebellion and disaffection, and the result is injury and

weakness to the church. The artful foe has found a place in many hearts that should have no room for the selfish, ambitious principles that are being promulgated. For years the enemy has been seeking to bring false theories into the churches; and God alone can help us to meet his work successfully.

Satan sought to produce the same results among the people of Israel as they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan. God took Israel from the bondage of slavery, and under His own guidance brought them into the Promised Land. Moses, their visible leader, received instruction for them directly from God. But in spite of the wonderful evidences the people received that God was working in their behalf, they continually murmured and rebelled. God gave positive evidence that He ruled in the heavens; again and again, rebellion was punished with death. Only two of those who as adults left Egypt, saw the Promised Land. The wanderings of the people were extended until the rest were buried in the wilderness.

Today Satan is using the same devising to introduce the same evils, and his efforts are followed

by the same results that in the days of Israel laid so many in their graves. Let us study the record of how Israel, in the sight of the mount on which they had shortly before seen so wonderful a display of God's power, were led into idolatry. While Moses was in the mount with God, receiving the sacred oracles, the people, in Aaron's charge, were worshiping a golden calf, while their leading men proclaimed the sacrilegious message, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." Exodus 32:4.

"When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and

fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

“And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” Verses 1-8.

From this record, we may learn how little dependence can be placed in men who trust in men, and do not make God their reliance. Those who are living in these last days are in the greatest danger of placing their confidence in men rather than in the true and living God. The Lord has given instruction that the history of the apostasy of Israel is now to be presented, because men who in the past have had great light have become self-sufficient, and are looking to men, trusting in human leaders, who are themselves practicing evil. Men who ought to stand as firm as a rock to principle are treading in the same path that the Israelites followed. “Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1. This is the snare that has come into our ranks. There are wrong sentiments that have to be met. There are men who are acting the part of Aaron at the very time when every soul should be working to seal the law among God’s disciples. They are building up the very things that God has specified should not be built up.

A great deal of time and labor and anxiety are required to counterwork the ingenuity of satanic agencies that are pressing their way among those who are ready to accept wrong philosophy, to cause confusion and division. Every jot of influence is needed to discern the great evils of Satan’s devisings, and to keep souls from being drawn into the net of the modern Aarons who are saying, “These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”

Long before, the Lord could have told Moses what was taking place. He could have revealed that Aaron could not be depended upon. But for wise and holy purposes, He permitted the evil to develop. He suffered this shameful

and concerning whom God Himself had testified, “I know that he can speak well” (Exodus 4:14), who had failed to check the idolaters in their heaven-daring purpose. He by whom God had wrought in bringing judgments both upon the Egyptians and upon their gods, had heard, unmoved, the proclamation, “These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” It was he who had been with Moses in the mount, and had there beheld the glory of the Lord, and who had seen that in the manifestation of that glory there was nothing of which an image could be made—it was he who had changed that glory into the similitude of an ox. He to whom God had committed the

*The Lord sees what is in the hearts of men. At times He permits evils to take place that He may prevent still greater evils that would appear unless He permitted the designs hidden in human hearts to work out.*

representation to come to its height. Then when the leading men had done all that it was in their power to do, He sent Moses down to punish the transgressors. The Lord sees what is in the hearts of men. At times He permits evils to take place that He may prevent still greater evils that would appear unless He permitted the designs hidden in human hearts to work out.

Mark God’s words to Moses concerning this apostasy. They “have corrupted themselves,” He said, “they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them.” Every man is tempted when he is drawn aside by his own lusts.

The fact that Aaron had been blessed and honored so far above the people was what made his sin so heinous. It was Aaron, “the saint of the LORD” (Psalm 106:16), that had made the idol and announced the feast. It was he who had been appointed spokesman for Moses,

government of the people in the absence of Moses, was found sanctioning their rebellion. “The LORD was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him.” Deuteronomy 9:20. But in answer to the earnest intercession of Moses, his life was spared: and in penitence and humiliation for his great sin, he was restored to the favor of God.

If Aaron had had courage to stand for the right, irrespective of consequences, he could have prevented that apostasy. If he had unswervingly maintained his own allegiance to God, if he had cited the people to the perils of Sinai, and had reminded them of their solemn covenant with God to obey His law, the evil would have been checked. But his compliance with the desires of the people, and the calm assurance with which he proceeded to carry out their plans, emboldened them to go to greater lengths in sin than had before entered their minds.



Of all the sins that God will punish, none are more grievous in His sight than those that encourage others to do evil. God would have His servants prove their loyalty by faithfully rebuking transgression, however painful the act may be. Those who are honored with a divine commission, are not to be weak, pliant timeservers. They are not to aim at self-exaltation, or to shun disagreeable duties, but are to perform God's work with unswerving fidelity.

Only a few days had passed since the Hebrews made a solemn covenant with God to obey His voice. They had stood trembling with terror before the mount, listening to the words of the Lord, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3. "They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image. Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox." Psalm 106:19-20. How could greater ingratitude have been shown, or more daring insult offered, to Him who had

behold, it is a stiffnecked people: now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation." Exodus 32:7-10.

God declared that He would disown the people. He gave them [acknowledged] their true character—a stiffnecked people, who would not respect His law or come under His rule. "Let me alone," He said to Moses, "that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation."

Moses was tested with the promise of great honor. The Lord would place him at the head of a great nation. Had Moses possessed a narrow, selfish spirit, how quickly he would have grasped such an offer. But he would not listen to the promise of preferment. He continues to plead for the erring people. His one great desire is that the glory of God shall be maintained. Above all else he longs for the salvation of this people for

Thy people, he says. Thou art their God and Owner. Thou broughtest them forth out of the land of Egypt. I did only what Thou commandest me. I was but thine instrument, obeying the orders Thou gavest me. Thou, and Thou alone, couldst do this work. The eyes of all the nations are upon Israel, a people so strongly saved. Oh, do not permit the throne of thy glory to be disgraced!

"LORD," he pleads, "why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent [What an argument!] of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever." Verses 11-13.

As Moses interceded for Israel, his timidity was lost in his deep interest and love for those for whom he had, in the hands of God, been the means of doing much. The Lord listened to his pleadings, and granted his unselfish prayer. God had proved His servant, He had tested his faithfulness and his love for that erring, ungrateful people, and nobly had Moses endured the trial. His interest in Israel sprang from no selfish motives. The prosperity of God's chosen people was dearer to him than personal honor, dearer than the privilege of becoming the father of a mighty nation. God was pleased with his faithfulness, his simplicity of heart, and his integrity, and He committed to him, as a faithful shepherd, the great charge of leading Israel to the Promised Land.

The record shows that prayers of faith, though offered by frail

*God would have His servants prove their loyalty by faithfully rebuking transgression, however painful the act may be.*

*Those who are honored with a divine commission, are not to be weak, pliant timeservers.*

revealed Himself to them as a tender Father and an all-powerful King?

Moses in the mount was warned of the apostasy in the camp, and was directed to return without delay. "Go, get thee down," the Lord said; "for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

"And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and,

whom the Lord has worked so wondrously. Their remarkable experience in escaping from slavery, the flight from Egypt, the passage through the Red Sea—these are stamped on his mind as if graven in a rock, and he will not let Israel go.

Oh, the power of prayer! Moses fills his mouth with arguments that express his own faith in God; and the Lord, who is testing and trying him, is not angry with him because of his importunity. God has said, "Thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt." But in his prayer Moses denies this honor. In humble, but determined assurance, he turns the people back upon God. They are

human beings, have power with God. The earnest cry, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me" (Genesis 32:26), has saved many a soul. If there were far more urgent intercessions for perishing souls, there would be far more souls saved. Of Christ it is written, "He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him." Isaiah 59:16. He wondered that there was no man who would lay hold by faith on his fellow men, and save them with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garments spotted by the flesh.

"He put on righteousness as a breastplate." Verse 17. Christ was not covering up the sins of the transgressor, but was making the most determined effort to bring the sinner to a sense of the sinfulness of sin. His own hatred of sin, His own integrity, brought salvation to the sinner. "He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever." Verses 17-21.

"And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on

both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.

"And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.

"And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing; and Moses' anger waxed hot, and

*The earnest cry, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me" (Genesis 32:26), has saved many a soul. If there were far more urgent intercessions for perishing souls, there would be far more souls saved.*

he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

"And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?" Exodus 32:15-21. The sin of idolatry is a fearful sin, and Aaron, as a magistrate, should have faithfully discharged his duty, instead of engaging with the people in sin. It was Moses who interceded with God to spare his life. Aaron was saved by the prayer of Moses. Aaron did repent, or the Lord would not have pardoned his transgression. He did not stand out in rebellion, but took his stand with Moses; and notwithstanding he had taken sides with the idolaters, he was saved.

All the people had the opportunity of demonstrating their repentance, and thus saving their lives. "Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the

LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him." Verse 26. All were given the opportunity to be loyal to God. All who humbled themselves before Him, and placed themselves on His side, showing that they desired to obey Him, would be pardoned, while those who would not yield would condemn themselves as rebels. There would be no excuse for them. All were given the opportunity of repudiating their past idolatrous conduct, and of showing their determination to be true. But in the very presence of God many refused to repent. They were stubborn in their rebellion.

To the sons of Levi, who had taken their stand with him, Moses said, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day." Verses 27-29.

The Israelites had been guilty of treason, and that against a King who had loaded them with benefits, and whose authority they had voluntarily pledged themselves to obey. That the Divine government might be maintained, justice must be visited upon the traitors. Yet even here God's mercy was displayed. While He maintained His law, He granted freedom of choice

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# The Threefold Fall of Babylon

Ralph Larson

We are hearing voices among us, pronouncing that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has become a part of fallen Babylon, and that all of God's faithful people must now come out from her or be lost. This is not new. At various times in the history of our church persons have risen up with the same or similar messages—despite the fact that Ellen White has borne her testimony against these messages in terms that would seem to be unmistakably clear.

Ellen White describes the fall of Babylon as a *threefold* fall, with three distinct and separate falls occurring in three different periods of time. They are:

1. The *Partial and Incomplete* fall of Babylon in 1844;
2. The *Continuing and Progressive* fall of Babylon from 1844 until the passing of the worldwide Sunday law; and
3. The *Final and Complete* fall of Babylon when the worldwide Sunday law is passed.

Let us examine her statements regarding each phase of the fall in their order:

## **I. The Partial and Incomplete Fall of Babylon in 1844**

Ellen White wrote: "The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel *did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844*. The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the Advent message; *but that fall was not complete.*" *The Great Controversy*, 389. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Was Ellen White alone in her conviction that the churches

experienced a moral fall in 1844?—Not by any means. Uriah Smith, in his book, *Daniel and the Revelation*, fills eight pages (655–662) with quotations from America's leading religious journals regarding that time, which echo Ellen White's judgment, with emphasis. We present a sampling:

From the *Oberlin Evangelist*, November, 1844: "Some of our religious journals deplore, and all attest the fact that revivals have almost ceased in our churches. It is long since a period of so general dearth has been known."

From the *New York Christian Advocate*, 1883: "Disguise it as you like, the church, in a general sense, is spiritually in a rapid decline."

From the *Christian Palladium*, 1844: "In every direction we hear the dolorous<sup>1</sup> sound, wafted on every breeze of heaven, chilling as the blast from icebergs of the north, settling like an incubus<sup>2</sup> on the breasts of the timid, and drinking up the energies of the weak, that lukewarmness, division, anarchy,



and desolation are distressing the borders of Zion.”

From the *Religious Telescope*, 1844: “We have never witnessed such a general declension of religion as at the present.”

Smith quotes similar statements from the Baptist, Congregationalist, and Methodist journals.

So Ellen White was far from being alone in recognizing the fall of the churches. Remember that this is only a sampling. Smith fills eight pages of his book with such quotations.

This brings us to the second time period. As we move into the second and third phases of Babylon’s fall, we pause to mention that some have looked at Ellen White’s statement after the 1888 conference, “We hoped that there would not be the necessity for another coming out,” and wondered if she were anticipating such a thing. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 229. We trust that a thoughtful consideration of the evidence to follow will provide a satisfactory answer to that question.

## 2. The Continuing and Progressive Fall of Babylon—From 1844 Until the Passing of the Worldwide Sunday Law

Ellen White wrote: “But the message of the second angel [Babylon is fallen] did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the Advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. . . . The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel [Babylon is fallen]. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.” *The Great Controversy*, 389.

“The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 [Babylon is fallen] is yet future.” *Ibid.*, 390.

What, then, brings about the culmination of apostasy and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8? We will find the answer to this question on these same two pages of *The Great Controversy*.

## 3. The Final and Complete Fall of Babylon at the Passage of the Worldwide Sunday Law

Look again at these words: “Not yet, however, can it be said that ‘Babylon is fallen . . . because she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ She has not yet made all nations do this. . . . The work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.” *Ibid.*, 389.

*“This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work.”*

“The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work ‘with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;’ and they that ‘received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,’ will be left to receive ‘strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9–11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. . . .

“Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6–12, the church will have *fully reached* the condition foretold by the second angel [Babylon is fallen], and *the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon* to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be

given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. When those that ‘believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness’ (2 Thessalonians 2:12), shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie, then the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and *all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: ‘Come out of her, my people.’* Revelation 18:4.” *The Great Controversy*, 389–390. Please notice that there will still be true children of the Lord in Babylon at this time.

“Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy [Revelation 18:1–4], it is declared: ‘Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.’ Revelation 18:5. She has filled up the measure of her

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

Lest there be any uncertainty about describing this as the time of the worldwide Sunday law, just read the next paragraph:

“Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war

against the commandments of God, will decree that 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by *the observance of the false sabbath*. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts." Ibid.

So the following certainties would appear to be established beyond question: 1. The final and complete fall of Babylon is at the time of the worldwide Sunday law, and that is the time for the final call to "Come out of her my people." 2. We are now in the time of the *progressive* fall of Babylon, when the *final*

- Purgatory
- Prayers for the dead
- Invocation of saints
- Eternal torment
- Universalism
- God's law abolished
- Sunday Sabbath

In the Stanton letter, *Testimonies to Ministers*, 61, she refers to these:

- Natural immortality of the soul
- Eternal torment
- Denial of the pre-existence of Christ
- Sunday

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not presently teaching any of these false doctrines, and is light-years away from being able to force any of them upon the world. How then can it be argued that although the mother-Babylon is not

God has not spoken by him, neither has He given a message to him, but he has run before he was sent." Ibid., 41. Would she not bear the same testimony today?

Although Ellen White wrote much about a last-day separation in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she uniformly refers to those who leave as the unfaithful – not the faithful. Observe:

"Company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe." *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 41.

"Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 81.

"God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat." Ibid., 707.

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren." *The Great Controversy*, 608.

"The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while *the sinners in Zion will be sifted out* – the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 380.

Finally, let us consider the qualifications and the opinion of W. C. White, who served for many years as Ellen White's secretary:

"While we were in Australia the Lord instructed me that W. C. White

*"Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat."*

call "Come out of her my people" cannot be properly applied – even to Babylon – much less to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are justified in warning people about the *progressive* fall of Babylon, but not in declaring its *final* fall. 3. Those who try to apply the final fall and the final appeal to the present-day Seventh-day Adventist Church are obviously blazing their own trail and writing their own script, and are desperately out of harmony with the inspired writings of Ellen White.

Several more evidences should be briefly considered; Ellen White defines Babylon by its *false doctrines* – not by the shortcomings and sins of its people. In *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 235, she lists the following false doctrines:

- Temporal millennium
- Natural immortality of the soul

yet completely fallen, and the daughter-Babylons are not yet completely fallen, yet the Seventh-day Adventist Church has become Babylon and has thereby become completely fallen? How can Babylon transfer to the Seventh-day Adventist Church something that she herself does not yet have, a completely fallen condition?

Ellen White wrote a very stern rebuke regarding a certain Brother Stanton for calling the Seventh-day Adventist Church Babylon, and included this line: "When ('at whatever time' – Webster) anyone arises, either among us or outside of us, who is burdened with a message which declares that the people of God are numbered with Babylon, and claims that the loud cry is a call to come out of her, you may know that he is not bearing the message of truth. Receive him not, nor bid him Godspeed; for



should be relieved from the many burdens his brethren would lay upon him, that he might be more free to assist me in the work the Lord has laid upon me. The promise had been given, 'I will place My Spirit upon him, and give him *wisdom*.'

"Since my return to America I have several times received instruction that the Lord has given me W. C. White to be my helper, and that in this work the Lord will give him of His Spirit." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 50.

"After this experience, light was given me that the Lord had raised me up to bear testimony for Him in many countries, and that He would give me grace and strength for the work. It was also shown me that my son, W. C. White, should be my helper and counselor, and that the Lord would place on him the spirit of wisdom and of a sound mind. I was shown that the Lord would guide him, and that he would not be led away, because he would recognize the leadings and guidance of the Holy Spirit. . . .

"The Lord will be your instructor. You will meet with deceptive influences; they will come in many forms, in pantheism and other forms of infidelity; but follow where I shall *guide* you, and you will be safe. I will put My Spirit upon your son, and will strengthen him to do his work. He has the grace of humility. The Lord has selected him to act an important part in His work. For this purpose was he born.'

"This word was given me in 1882, and since that time I have been assured that the grace of wisdom was given to him. More recently, in a time of perplexity, the Lord said: 'I have given you My servant, W. C. White, and I will give him judgment to be your helper. I will give him skill and understanding to manage wisely.'" *Ibid.*, 54-55.

And here is the testimony of W. C. White as found in *Ellen G. White, The Later Elmshaven Years*, 428:

"During our conversation, I told her [a certain lady] how Mother regarded the experience of the

remnant church, and of *her positive teaching that God would not permit this denomination to so fully apostatize that there would be the coming out of another church.*"

Dismayed as we all are by the continuing revelations of evil being introduced into the Seventh-day Adventist Church—some by knaves, and some by fools—we must not let the devil use one of his oldest tricks on us, the device of "divide and conquer." If he can get the people of the historic Adventist movement to divide over the question of calling the church "Babylon," then he will have gained a signal victory. Let us not let him get away with it. Let us

*If you have been impressed by arguments that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, please take another look at the evidence.*

press together to stand unitedly and firmly upon our solid platform, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. And if you have been impressed by arguments that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, please take another look at the evidence.

Now a question: What kind of an uncaring and incompetent God would call His people into a special church, and give them no clear and specific answer to the vitally important question as to when they should all abandon that church? Should there not be a clear "Thus saith the Lord" regarding such an important point?

**"Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain 'Thus saith the Lord.'"** *The Great Controversy*, 595.

Note that this must be a statement, not an interpretation wherein someone says, "Ellen White wrote *this*, but it means *that*." I have seen large compilations of such interpretations, apparently prepared on the assumption that some number of interpretations can equal a state-

ment, but this is not true. Ten, or twenty, or a hundred times zero is still zero. One "Thus saith the Lord" is quite enough. There is no need to repeat it many times.

And let us ever bear in mind such statements as these:

"A wealth of moral influence has been brought to us in the last half century. Through His Holy Spirit the voice of God has come to us continually in warning and instruction, to confirm the faith of the believers in the Spirit of Prophecy. Repeatedly the word has come, Write the things that I have given you to confirm the faith of My people in the position they have taken. Time and trial have not

made void the instruction given, but through years of suffering and self-sacrifice have established the truth of the testimony given. The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 41.

"Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last." *Ibid.*, 55.

So we must courteously and kindly say to those who want us to now call the church Babylon and come out of her, "Please show us a 'Thus saith the Lord.'" Nothing else will do." ✨

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> "Sorrowful; doleful; dismal." *American Dictionary of the English Language*, Noah Webster, 1828.
- <sup>2</sup> "The nightmar[e]; an oppression of the breast in sleep, or sense of weight, with an almost total loss of the power of moving the body, while the imagination is frightened or astonished." *Ibid.*



# A Compass, a Pilot, a Lens

*Harvey Steck*

Our family and friends took our daypacks and headed up a trail in one of Washington's Cascade foothills. We looked forward to a refreshing Sabbath afternoon hike in God's Second Book. The trail led us through old woods, new growth in logged areas, and along the top ridge of a mountain.

Too soon it was time to turn back in order to get to the car before dark. On our way back, a dense, chilly fog blew in—so dense that we could not see a short distance ahead, or even from which direction the sun was shining. Now we were eager to get back!

Soon we came to a junction where we would turn left to continue on the trail back. There was an old logging road that continued straight ahead however, and someone in our party suggested that it looked like a shortcut to the car. What a welcome suggestion, since it *felt* like that road would lead us more quickly to a warm, dry place!

While some of us felt uncertain about this shortcut, *all* of us wanted to believe that we were right. If only we had a compass, we could know for sure whether we were headed in the right direction.

As we continued on, some of us began to express doubts about our direction. Could we really be confident that this road would lead us back? What if we were headed in the wrong direction? We might end up retracing our steps after dark—without flashlights.

With no confirmation that we were indeed on the right path, we concluded after a while that we had better retrace the road back to the familiar trail. Time was wasted; our feelings had misled us. If only we had had a compass!

## **Shortcuts? Which Way Is North?**

Today, in the path of life, we hear of many "shortcuts"—this way or that. Many voices are luring our senses, our feelings, tempting us to do what *feels* right.

Society says, "If it tastes good, eat it; if it looks good, buy it; if it feels good, do it." There is no regard for principle—no effort to evaluate whether what we want is for our best good. Feelings are controlling many people through alcohol, drugs, sexual immorality, the passion for making money, and so forth.

Voices in the world are saying, "This way is North." Others say,

"That way is North. I know the right direction."

"I know the future. I know the way of salvation. There's an easier, shorter way to heaven than the path we've been traveling."

"You used to think that North was *that* way, but 'times have changed,' and we're in a different culture today."

"You used to think that you needed to pay strict attention to the compass. The *truth is*, don't worry, you'll be just fine as long as you're with the rest of us—headed in the same general direction. However, by the way, what's North for you may not be North for someone else, so don't be hasty to tell others they're headed in the wrong direction."

## **Do We Have a Compass?**

When it comes to spiritual values and decisions, what is to be our compass?—"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105.

Ellen White wrote these words, almost 100 years ago:

"The words of the Bible and the Bible alone should be echoed from the pulpits of our land. This Book is our great Director, given us by God. It is a Lamp to our feet and a Light to our path. . . .



“We all need a guide through the many straight places of life, as much as the sailor needs a pilot over the sandy bar or up the rocky river; and where is this Guide to be found?—We point you to the Bible.

...  
“The sailor who has in his possession chart and compass, and yet neglects to use them, is responsible for placing the lives of those on board his vessel in peril. The vessel may be lost by his neglect. We have a Guidebook, the Word of God, and we are inexcusable if we miss the way to heaven, for plain directions have been given us.” *Signs of the Times*, March 21, 1906.

Friends, the Bible is our Guidebook—our Compass—that shows us the way to heaven. Are you familiar with that Compass? Have you learned how to depend upon it?

If we do not become acquainted with our Compass in times of ease, it will be nearly impossible to develop the faith in it that we will need when doubts and fears are pressing in upon us.

### Losing Our Bearings

Have you noticed our human tendency to easily lose our bearings? If you needed to backpack through wilderness territory to a destination 100 miles away, and you walked three miles per day, drifting *just one degree* more off course each day, would you reach your destination?—No, not even if you *felt* you were headed in the right direction! Your only safety would be to frequently check your course against a map or a compass or established landmarks.

Because we tend to drift spiritually, God’s instructions to Adam were not sufficient for all mankind and for all time:

“If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would

never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God’s law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it

come down from Heaven, how did they respond?—“When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.” Verse 39.

*The Bible is our Guidebook—our Compass—that shows us the way to heaven. Are you familiar with that Compass? Have you learned how to depend upon it?*

to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone. And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 364.

### God’s Messengers Precede Judgment

Because God first loved us He made one attempt after another to help us see His character, the true principles of His law, and how we have deviated from it.

When God was about to do something major in this world, He sent His messengers (prophets) to warn the people. Before God judged the world with the flood, He sent Noah. See Genesis 6:13–14. Before God sent plagues upon Egypt, He sent Aaron and Moses with a message to Pharaoh. See Exodus 7:1–2.

It seems that virtually all of the prophets after Moses were sent to show the people how they had wandered astray, and to appeal to them to return to the principles recorded by Moses in the Pentateuch.

When God’s church rebelled against Him and worshiped the gods of the nations around them, He sent Elijah, the prophet. His appeal was, “How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.” 1 Kings 18:21. The people were speechless, but later, when they saw the fire

Years later, after God’s people had long been in apostasy, God allowed Babylon to bring judgments upon Israel to see if they would be weaned from idolatry. At the time surrounding the captivity, God sent probably more prophets to His people than at any other time in Earth’s history.

God spoke to His people through the prophet Jeremiah:

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.”

Did the people listen to God’s messenger, His prophet?—“They said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.” Jeremiah 6:16–19. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

God spoke through Isaiah, saying, “This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.” Isaiah 30:9–11.

## The Elijah Message

Just before the first advent of Christ, God again sent a messenger—John the Baptist, bearing the Elijah message. Christ said of John, “But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written,

What is the purpose of this gift (and the other gifts) of the Spirit?—“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the

and in the book he tells the sailors that when they near their destination a pilot will be provided to give the necessary detailed guidance for that time. Now, if the sailors claim that they have all the information they need in the book, and that they do not need the pilot, they have in fact rejected the book and its author. You may read this illustration in more detail in the accompanying article by Uriah Smith entitled, “Do We Discard the Bible By Endorsing the Visions?”

If our Bible tells us that God will send us a prophet—or messenger—in the last days, and we reject that prophet, then we are also rejecting the Bible and its Author.

*Here we have it in God’s Word; and yet, there are some who claim to be loyal to the Bible while claiming to have no use for the prophetic work that it predicts!*

Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. . . . And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.” Matthew 11:9–11, 14.

Did Elijah or John the Baptist have any “new light”?—No. Their message was one of reform. It was their mission to draw the attention of the people back to the truths they already possessed.

## The Christian Church

Again, with the formation of the New Testament Christian church, God sent apostles and prophets to help guide His people. Does the Bible teach us that these New Testament prophets were the last that God would send to His church?—“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet *before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*” Malachi 4:5.

“And it shall come to pass *in the last days*, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” Acts 2:17.

Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.” Ephesians 4:11–14.

Can we claim that these goals have been achieved within God’s church?—If not, then there is still a need for the gifts of the Spirit, including the gift of prophecy. Indeed, Revelation tells us that one of the identifying marks of God’s remnant church is the presence of the prophetic gift. See Revelation 12:17; 19:10.

Praise the Lord! Just before Jesus comes again, when this world is under more deception and turmoil than at any other time in its history, God promised that He would restore the gift of prophecy. Here we have it *in God’s Word*; and yet, there are some who claim to be loyal to the Bible while claiming to have no use for the prophetic work that it predicts!

## A Pilot

Now, if we accept the Bible as “a sufficient and only reliable rule of life,” how shall we relate to a prophet if God should send one in our day?—Uriah Smith illustrated this question this way: An owner of a ship writes a book of directions,

## A Lens

We could also liken the work of God’s prophets to a lens or a telescope. Just as a prophet reveals no *new* truths, so a lens does not make anything new, but it focuses our eyes on details we would not have seen before.

## Tests of a Prophet

God said in Numbers 12:6 that He would make Himself known to prophets through visions and dreams. When someone comes to us claiming to have a message from God, to have received visions or dreams, how do we know that he is sent of God?—Here is a brief summary:

1. They must be in accordance with God’s established Word—“to the law and to the testimony.” See Isaiah 8:20.
2. Their prophecies are one hundred percent accurate. See Jeremiah 28:9.
3. They bear good fruit. See Matthew 7:15–20.
4. They will uplift Christ, seeking His glory and not their own. See John 5:39; Luke 24:27; 1 John 4:1–3.



A telescope does not make stars, but it helps us see what we could not see otherwise—even though they were there all the time.

Could that be why prophets were called “seers”?

### God’s Gift to the Remnant Church

Seventh-day Adventists believe that God has given this prophetic gift of the Spirit to His last-day church through the ministry of

Ellen G. White. Her ministry meets each test of a prophet with flying colors.

She is that pilot!

Ellen White’s inspired messages do the work of a lens and a tele-

scope, bringing vital truths into view so that we need not miss the important details.

Once again, God is about to send judgment—this time upon the whole earth. This is a most serious

*Ellen White’s inspired messages do the work of a lens and a telescope, bringing vital truths into view so that we need not miss the important details.*

## Ellen White’s Claims

**All From God**—“In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 67.

**Of the Spirit, or of the Devil**—“God is either teaching His church, reproving their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The *Testimonies* are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil. In arraying yourself against the servants of God you are doing a work either for God or for the devil.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 230.

**Making of None Effect**—“Many times in my experience I have been called upon to meet the attitude of a certain class, who acknowledged that the *Testimonies* were from God, but took the position that this matter and that matter were Sister White’s opinion and judgment. This suits those who do not love reproof and correction, and who, if their ideas are crossed, have occasion to explain the difference between the human and the Divine.

“If the preconceived opinions or particular ideas of some are crossed in being reproved by *Testimonies*, they have a burden at once to make plain their position to discriminate between the *Testimonies*, defining what is Sister White’s human judgment, and what is the Word of the Lord. Everything that sustains their cherished ideas is divine, and the *Testimonies* to correct their errors are human—Sister White’s opinions. They make of none effect the counsel of God by their tradition.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 68.

“Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish.’ Proverbs 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.” *Ibid.*, book 1, 48.

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

time, for before Christ comes He promises to demonstrate to the universe that, with His divine power and the filling of His Holy Spirit, His people will remain loyal to Him in the face of Satan’s greatest deceptions.

The ministry of Sister White is ordained to prepare our characters for the judgment hour. Do we appreciate it?

### Correcting Our Course

In my study, I have found that the Lord speaks often to my heart through the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. Let me share with you three gems that illustrate how this gift has helped me to correct my course:

1. I have been reminded of how important it is for me to take time with my children in studying their Sabbath school lesson with them and in helping them to commit the lesson to memory:

“Fathers and mothers should so exalt the privileges of the Sabbath school as to take time to see that their children learn their lessons perfectly every Sabbath. They should even take more interest in having these well learned than in having their lessons in the day school properly prepared. . . . Every lesson should be thoroughly committed to memory by both teacher and scholar, so that it will be of some benefit to them in afterlife.” *Review and Herald*, December 12, 1878.

**continued on page 26...**



# Generosity

*This month we share with you the last in a series of articles that discuss how we can cultivate Christian character traits in the hearts of our children. "The Garden of the Heart," in the February 2001 issue of Our Firm Foundation, laid the foundation for this series. It is available upon request.*

*The Editors*

**G**enerosity means that we gladly and unselfishly give of ourselves, our time, and our possessions, to help others. We give of ourselves to meet another's needs. This is true generosity. The Bible says, "God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7. The first place such generosity should be seen is in our homes.

Generosity, like all of the character traits that we have studied in this series, is cultivated by example. How do we relate to our children?—If we have no time for them, we will teach our children to become self-focused. If we pass by people in need when we have the ability to help them, our children will also learn to be selfish. Our example is the most powerful tool we have to teach generosity, but there are other important ways that we can cultivate this character trait on a daily basis.

One of the easiest times to begin teaching generosity is while teaching our children how to share. If you have more than one child, this is something you are no doubt working on already. However, those of you with only one child must be more creative. You can have him or her share things with you. Say, "May I have a turn with that please?" Teaching children to share cultivates a spirit of giving.

It is important that we distinguish between true and false

generosity. If your older child is playing with something, and the younger child walks up to him and says, "I want a turn with that! Give me a turn!" What do you do? Many parents will say, "Give it to your little brother. Share now and be nice." Is this really teaching the lesson we desire to teach? We may be teaching the older child to share generously, but we are also cultivating a selfish spirit in the younger child, and both children will see the inequality in the way that they are being treated.

We need to teach sharing equitably in the home. The older child needs to know how to share with the younger child, but not when the younger child is demanding it in a wrong spirit. Cultivate generosity in your 16-month-old, in your 20-month-old, in your 4-year-old so that they too can share. True generosity comes from a heart that is willing and contented. It leads the child to give to others, not because they must, but because they want to, and with a cheerful, happy spirit. If the cheerfulness is missing, the motivation is not really generosity.

We want to see our children have a true spirit of generosity—generosity that prompts them to pass the tray of cookies to everyone else first, and if there is only one left, and three of the people at the table took two each, that they will be contented with what is left. Then maybe another child will say, "Oh, you only have one cookie. I will share half of my second one with you." In these little things, God is asking us to cultivate these character traits in our children.

## Love

In this series, the character trait that we have not studied, and that I purposely left out, is love. Love is

the primary character trait, but did you know, in reality that is what we have been studying in each lesson? When we teach our children to obey, we are cultivating love in that child's heart. When we teach them to be self-controlled, with their hearts under the control of Christ, we are teaching them to be loving. When we teach them to be kind we are teaching them to love one another. When we teach them to be diligent, honest and persevering, we are cultivating the plant of love. Love is the true basis for every one of the attributes we have considered. When we read the beautiful description of love in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, we see all of the pieces in place.

I want to encourage you, dear parents. As we work and pray for our children, the Holy Spirit will work in their lives. Their old natures will be changed and these new and precious character traits can become their new inclinations. I hope that our studies have been a blessing to you, and that you have learned simple ways to daily help your children develop Christlike characters. May the Lord, who is our only hope and strength, be your Guide and Help in this most precious of responsibilities. ✨

*Series Concluded.*



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in  
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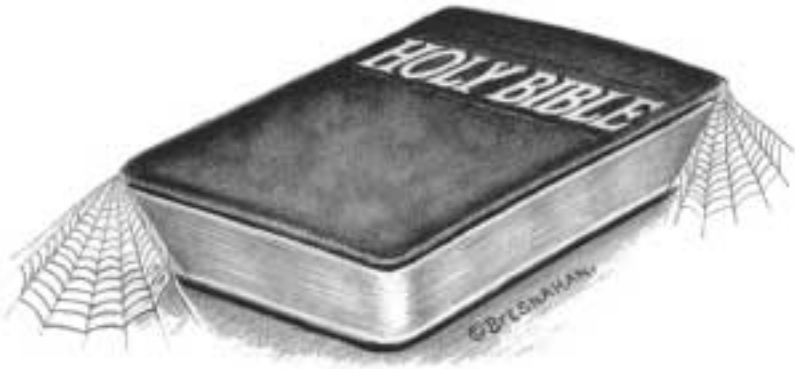
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# Do We Discard the Bible By Endorsing the Visions?



*Uriah Smith*

“**T**he Bible, and the Bible alone,” “The Bible in its purity,” “The Bible a sufficient and only reliable rule of life” . . . is now the great cry of those who are giving vent to their opposition to the visions, and are working with their might to prejudice others against them. . . .

The Protestant principle, of “the Bible and the Bible alone,” is of itself good and true; and we stand upon it as firmly as anyone can; but when reiterated in connection with outspoken denunciations of the visions, it has a specious appearance for evil. So used, it contains a covert insinuation, most effectually calculated to warp the judgment of the unguarded, that to believe the visions is to leave the Bible, and to cling to the Bible, is to discard the visions. For the sake of those who may be liable to be misled by such a course, let us give it a moment’s candid examination:

1. When we claim to stand on the Bible and the Bible alone, we bind ourselves to receive, unequivocally and fully, all that the Bible teaches. This being a self-evident proposition, we pass on to inquire what the Bible teaches concerning the outpouring of the Spirit, its operations, the gift of prophecy, visions, and so forth.

It is the prerogative of this dispensation over all others, to

rejoice in the outpouring of the Spirit. It is called emphatically a dispensation in which we have the “ministration of the spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:8. The prophecy which gleamed like a star of hope before the ancient prophets, was this: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.” Acts 2:17; see also Joel 2:28. This prophecy applies to this dispensation, and its fulfillment commenced, but only commenced, on the day of Pentecost. And what follows the outpouring of the Spirit? — “Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.” The very next announcement after the fact that the Spirit was to be given, is that the gift of prophecy will be exercised. Now just so sure as one part of the prophecy is fulfilled, and God grants His Spirit to His people, just so sure the other part will be fulfilled, and prophesyings, dreams, and visions, will be manifested in their midst; for they are connected together, one and inseparable.

Further, we find Christ giving to His disciples as the best legacy He could leave His church, the promise of the Spirit of truth, or the Comforter, to be with them and lead them into all truth. He gave them this as the promise best calculated to comfort their sorrow-

ful hearts in view of His separation from them. The next most desirable object to His personal presence, would be the presence and operation of His Spirit.

Again, we find emblazoned as it were in golden characters on the very face and front of much of the New-Testament record, the fact that God has placed, set, and established in His church, the gifts of His Spirit. It is declared to be the one Spirit of God, with a diversity of operations. And these results will follow the presence of the Spirit of God, as surely as effect follows cause. As the engine moves on [by] the application of steam, or the water wheel revolves under the impulse of the waterfall, so the gifts of the church, prominent among which are visions, will inevitably follow the operation of the Spirit of God with power.

So that if we believe in the Spirit at all, we must believe in these, the appointed channels through which God has told us that it shall manifest itself.

2. What is the object of these gifts? — Christ explicitly informs us that they are given to comfort His people, and lead them into truth; and the apostle responds, “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the

faith." Ephesians 4:12-13. Most glorious and desirable objects; and criminally indifferent to his own spiritual interests must that person be, who is not reaching forward to them with all his heart, or who would oppose any of the means by which God would help us to attain them.

3. How long were these gifts to continue? — (1.) The prophet declared that they should be given for the last days; but if they are withdrawn for any time before the very last day, this statement cannot be true; for they must cover all the intervening ground, from the time they are placed in the church till the last day comes — till the close of

thus far in this article, as he must be if he stands upon his acknowledged position of the Bible and the Bible alone, this point will not detain us long. We need not remind him that in all questions between opinions and institutions, "there is a presumption in favor of the old opinion and established usage: and he who attacks the question, assumes the burden of proof: and unless he can bring proof to the contrary, the old opinion and institution must stand." *Tappan, 427.*

Apply this principle to the question in hand: From the very commencement of the third angel's message, there have been visions

from beneath. But these manifestations do in the strictest manner accord with the teachings of the Word of God, and lead us to study and prize it; while we might safely challenge the world to show a single instance where their influence has tended to depravity and corruption, or where it has not on the other hand tended to lead all who would receive them, to holiness and purity of heart.

On the supposition, now, that these are not the work of the Spirit of God, as they must then be the work of the Devil, we inquire, Has the Devil thus fallen in love with truth and righteousness? Has he made a league with the Word of God, to sustain and uphold it? Has he so far lost sight of the interests of his own kingdom as to lend his efforts to root out all false doctrines from our belief, and all seeds of unrighteousness from our hearts, that we may have truth without error, and live a life without sin?

In view of all these considerations, what shall we conclude? — Those who reject these manifestations, do so not only without evidence, but against all evidence. Those who profess to stand on the Bible and the Bible alone, are bound to receive what the Bible tells them will exist, and commands them to respect.

### **The Book and the Pilot**

One illustration may help to set this matter in a still clearer light. Suppose we are about to start upon a voyage. The owner of the vessel gives us a book of directions, telling us that it contains instructions sufficient for our whole journey, and that if we will heed them, we shall reach in safety our port of destination. Setting sail we open our book to learn its contents. We find that its author lays down general principles to govern us in our voyage, and instructs us as far as practicable, touching the various contingencies that may arise, till the end; but he also tells us that the latter part of our journey will be especially perilous; that the features of the coast are ever changing

*These manifestations do in the strictest manner accord with the teachings of the Word of God, and lead us to study and prize it.*

this dispensation; (2.) The necessity which led God to place them in the church at first, is a necessity which has existed all along till the present time, and will exist till the close of the present state of the Church's pupilage; and no one, we have charity to believe, will be disposed to accuse the Divine Wisdom of withdrawing the means given to supply a certain necessity, while that necessity exists. We accordingly find Paul declaring explicitly that these things shall continue till the perfect state is come. See 1 Corinthians 13.

So far then, all is established and plain. We have seen that there would be manifestations of the Spirit, including visions, in the church, and that they should continue till the end. But perhaps the objector may make one more stand behind such a position as this: "I admit that there were to be visions among God's people before the end, but I cannot endorse the ones already manifested." If the one who thus objects is with us, in all the conclusions we have reached

among us. They have been received by the body as genuine manifestations of the Spirit of God. They have comforted the desponding and corrected the erring. They have confirmed the doubting, and strengthened the weak. And the truest friends of the cause have cherished and loved them most. It must be a radical revolution, therefore, that would lead us to abandon these for the uncertainties of the future. But as such manifestations were to be in the church, the whole weight of evidence goes in favor of these, unless it can be shown that they are positively and radically defective.

How then shall we satisfy ourselves on this point? — The Bible gives us an infallible test for all these things: By "the law and the testimony" (Isaiah 8:20), and "by their fruits" (Matthew 7:20), we are to judge them. Whatever contradicts in no slightest particular the law and the testimony, and, in addition to this tends to elevate, ennoble, and purify, we may be sure comes from Above, and not



by reason of quicksands and tempests; "but for this part of the journey," says he, "I have provided you a pilot, who will meet you, and give you such directions as the surrounding circumstances and dangers may require; and to him you must give heed." With these directions we reach the perilous time specified, and the pilot, according to promise, appears. But some of the crew, as he offers his services, rise up against him. "We have the original book of directions," say they, "and that is enough for us. We stand upon that, and that alone; we want nothing of you." Who now heed that original book of directions? Those who reject the pilot, or those who receive him, as that book instructs them? Judge ye.

But some, through lack of perception, or lack of principle, or the ebullitions<sup>1</sup> of an unconquerable prejudice, one, or all combined, may meet us at this point like this: "Then you would have us take Sister White as our pilot, would you?" It is to forestall any efforts in this direction, that this sentence is penned. We say no such thing. What we do say is distinctly this: that the gifts of the Spirit are given for our pilot through these perilous times, and wherever and in whomsoever we find genuine manifestations of these, we are bound to respect them, nor can we do otherwise without insofar rejecting the Word of God, which directs us to receive them. Who now stand upon the Bible, and the Bible alone?

Let no one then be frightened at this false alarm. A moment's consideration will show who receive the Bible, and who do not. Whoever receives it fully, will receive the pilot according to its directions. We do not, then, discard, but obey, the Bible by endorsing the visions; while we should just so far reject and disobey it, as we should refuse to receive the provisions it has made for our comfort, edification, and perfection. ✨

*Review and Herald*, January 13, 1863.

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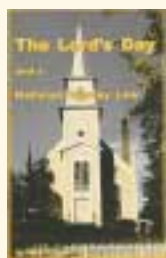
<sup>1</sup> "A sudden violent outpouring, as of emotion." *The American Heritage College Dictionary*, 433.



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# *These Men Have Been With Jesus*

*Clark Floyd*

**W**hat a time in which to live! Many of the prophets would have liked to have lived in our day. We have more light than any generation before us, and we are now on the very verge of the second coming of Jesus! Some who will read this article have had the great privilege of being born into a Seventh-day Adventist family, while others, like myself, came into the Seventh-day Adventist message through evangelistic meetings. However, few of us realize the great privilege and opportunity we have to know the three angels' messages as taught from the Bible by our Seventh-day Adventist pioneers.

Most of us were born in a country in which Christianity is in the majority. Bibles are plentiful, and the opportunity to know the truth of God's Word is readily available. Yet it can be said of many of us: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16.

Our responsibility becomes even greater when we realize the impact of the following words: "The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there." Psalm 87:6. By birth in this country (the USA), our opportunity for light has been much greater than others have had who were born in heathen countries:

"God's test of the heathen, who have not the light, and of those living where the knowledge of truth and light has been abundant, is altogether different. He accepts from those in heathen lands a phase of righteousness which does not satisfy Him when offered by those of Christian lands. He does not require much where much has not been bestowed." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1121.

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever

much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:47-48.

I repeat: What a responsibility we have as Seventh-day Adventist Christians!

"We are living in the last days, when error of a most deceptive character is accepted and believed, while truth is discarded. The Lord will hold both ministers and people responsible for the light shining upon them. He calls upon us to work diligently in gathering up the jewels of truth, and placing them in the framework of the gospel. In all their divine beauty they are to shine forth in the moral darkness of the world. This cannot be accomplished without the aid of the Holy Spirit, but with this aid we can do all things." *Gospel Workers*, 289.

"God is the great I AM, the Source of being, the Center of authority and power. Whatever the condition or situation of His creatures, they can have no sufficient excuse for refusing to answer the claims of God. The Lord holds us responsible for the light shining upon our pathway. We may be



surrounded by difficulties that appear formidable to us, and because of these we may excuse ourselves for not obeying the truth as it is in Jesus; but there can be no excuse that will bear investigation. Could there be an excuse for disobedience, it would prove our heavenly Father unjust, in that He had given us conditions of salvation with which we could not comply." *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 296.

"As we have followed down the chain of prophecy, revealed truth for our time has been clearly seen and explained. We are accountable for the privileges that we enjoy and for the light that shines upon our pathway. Those who lived in past generations were accountable for the light which was permitted to shine upon them. Their minds were exercised in regard to different points of Scripture which tested them. But they did not understand the truths which we do. They were not responsible for the light which they did not have. They had the Bible, as we have; but the time for the unfolding of special truth in relation to the closing scenes of this earth's history is during the last generations that shall live upon the earth." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 692-693.

The light and the responsibility that we have is also in the area of health reform:

"At the time the light of health reform dawned upon us, and since that time, the questions have come home every day, 'Am I practicing true temperance in all things?' 'Is my diet such as will bring me in a position where I can accomplish the greatest amount of good?' If we cannot answer these questions in the affirmative, we stand condemned before God, for He will hold us all responsible for the light which has shone upon our path. The time of ignorance God winked at, but as fast as light shines upon us, He requires us to change our health-destroying habits, and place ourselves in a right relation to physical laws." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 19-20.

Brothers and Sisters, the signs happening all around us indicate that the remaining time for us upon planet earth is very short. God is looking for a people who will carry His work forward. The giving of the loud cry must be just over the horizon! Where will each of you stand when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit comes in an even greater measure than at Pentecost?

Ellen White tells us: "That which was essential for a successful Christian experience in the days of the disciples, is essential in our day." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 186.

*"The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ."*

Before His crucifixion and during His ministry, Jesus told the disciples about the events that would transpire resulting in His death and resurrection. And even though He was quite clear in what He said, the disciples did not understand. They had among them jealousies—as demonstrated in their failure to heal the demon-possessed boy, in their striving for the highest position, and in their refusing to wash one another's feet. They were "lukewarm."

But these jealousies were swept away by the agonies of the crucifixion, the glories of the resurrection, and the majesty of the ascension. Jesus then told them what their mission would be: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

Then the disciples "continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." Verse 14.

"The disciples of Christ had a deep sense of their own ineffi-

ciency, and with humiliation and prayer they joined their weakness to His strength, their ignorance to His wisdom, their unworthiness to His righteousness, their poverty to His exhaustless wealth. Thus strengthened and equipped, they hesitated not to press forward in the service of the Master." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 57.

"The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ." *Ibid.*, 37.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. . . . And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:1, 4.

When the religious leaders and others "saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13.

"Under the training of Christ the disciples had been led to feel their need of the Spirit. Under the Spirit's teaching they received the final qualification, and went forth to their lifework. No longer were they ignorant and uncultured. No longer were they a collection of independent units or discordant, conflicting elements. No longer were their hopes set on worldly greatness. They were of 'one accord,' 'of one heart and of one soul.' Acts 2:46; 4:32. Christ filled their thoughts; the advancement of His kingdom was their aim. In mind and character they had become like their Master, and men 'took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.'" *The Acts of the Apostles*, 45.

Jesus tells us today, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20.

He counsels with us to obtain from Him gold tried in the fire, white raiment, and eyesalve. See verse 18.

"He who called the fishermen of Galilee is still calling men to His service. And He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples. However imperfect and sinful we may be, the Lord holds out to us the offer of partnership

with Himself, of apprenticeship to Christ. He invites us to come under the divine instruction, that, uniting with Christ, we may work the works of God." *The Desire of Ages*, 297.

Christ's disciples "were to serve God daily with undivided affection, and then trust Him." *The Desire of Ages*, 355.

"When Christ ascended to heaven, the sense of His presence was still with His followers. It was a personal presence, full of love and light. . . .

"Henceforth through the Spirit, Christ was to abide continually in the hearts of the

children. Their union with Him was closer than when He was personally with them. The light, and love, and power of the indwelling Christ shone out through them, so that men, beholding, 'marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.' Acts 4:13. All that Christ was to the disciples, He desires to be to His children today." *Steps to Christ*, 73-75.

Brothers and Sisters, will you not from this very day forward try to represent Jesus to the world? May it soon be said of you, that you have "been with Jesus." ✨

### continued from page 7...

and opportunity for repentance for all. Only those were cut off who persisted in rebellion.

Love, no less than justice demanded that for this sin judgment should be inflicted. God is the

speedily visited upon transgression, the same results would have again been seen. The earth would have become as corrupt as in the days of Noah. Had these transgressors been spared, evils would have followed greater than resulted from

should be cut short in their evil course. Had their lives been spared, the same spirit that led them to rebel against God would have been manifested in hatred and strife among themselves, and they would have eventually destroyed one another. It was in love to the world, in love to Israel, and even to the transgressors, that crime was punished with swift and terrible severity.

In this our day, when many, even among those who claim to be numbered among God's people, are not fully decided as to the right course, the Lord is calling for men who will move steadfastly in the path that He has marked out, and with unshaken determination carry out His purposes. Those who occupy positions of responsibility should know what saith the Lord. Like Moses of old, they should stand unflinchingly for the right, stemming the current of evil. In the critical times in which we are living, men of determination are needed—men who will stand stiffly for the truth at all times and under all circumstances—men who, when they see that others are becoming untrue to principle, will lift their voice in warning against the danger of apostasy. ✨

*Review and Herald*, February 4, 11, 1909.

*"Those who occupy positions of responsibility should know what saith the Lord. Like Moses of old, they should stand unflinchingly for the right, stemming the current of evil."*

Guardian as well as the Sovereign of His people. He cuts off those who are determined upon rebellion, that they may not lead others to ruin. In sparing the life of Cain, God had demonstrated to the universe what would be the result of permitting sin to go unpunished. The influence exerted upon his descendants by his life and teaching led to the state of corruption that demanded the destruction of the whole world by a flood. The history of the antediluvians testifies that long life is not a blessing to the sinner; God's great forbearance did not repress their wickedness. The longer men lived, the more corrupt they became.

So with the apostasy at Sinai. Unless punishment had been

sparing the life of Cain. It was the mercy of God that thousands should suffer, to prevent the necessity of visiting judgment upon millions. In order to save the many, He must punish the few. Furthermore, as the people had cast off their allegiance to God, they had forfeited the Divine protection, and, deprived of their defense, the whole nation was exposed to the power of their enemies. Had not the evil been promptly put away, they would soon have fallen a prey to their numerous and powerful foes. It was necessary for the good of Israel, and was also a lesson to all succeeding generations, that crime should be promptly punished. And it was no less a mercy to the sinners themselves that they





## Bible Marking

“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

1 Peter 3:15. We need to be able to give an answer for our faith. Marking your Bible can give you the edge you need. It takes work, but the rewards are worth all the effort.

We pray that you will be blessed by these studies. As you mark them, may you be encouraged to spend more time in God’s Word and to search out the hidden things of God. Always be sure to look for opportunities to share them with others.

The Editors

### Bible Marking Directions

- On a blank page in the front or back of your Bible, write the study title, the code, and the first reference. This month’s entry would appear as follows:

**Spiritual Gifts, SPG1:  
Ephesians 4:8.**

- Turn to the first verse and write the comment (if you wish to use the comments), and the next reference in the margin near it. If the comment is long, you can write it at the top or bottom of the page, with an asterisk or the code of the study to refer you to it.

- Turn to the next text and repeat the process until you reach the end. Beside the last text, write “**End SPG.**”

- Go through the study to check for broken links.

- Share the study with others!

Where do spiritual gifts come from? Who has them? How do we know whether someone claiming to have them, or manifesting “spiritual” occurrences, is empowered by God? Having this knowledge, we may help those within our sphere of influence to benefit by these gifts from God and to be warned against the deceptions daily gaining ground in the world around us.

## Spiritual Gifts

### Code: SPG

**SPG1: Ephesians 4:8.**

Spiritual gifts come from Christ.

**SPG2: 1 Corinthians 12:11.**

Spiritual gifts all come through the Holy Spirit.

**SPG3: 1 Corinthians 12:28.**

Spiritual gifts belong to the church exclusively.

**SPG4: 1 Corinthians 14:1.**

The gift of prophecy is one of the most profitable gifts.

**SPG5: Revelation 12:17.**

The remnant church will “have the testimony of Jesus.”

**SPG6: Revelation 19:10.**

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

**SPG7: Numbers 12:6.**

True prophets have visions and dreams from God.

**SPG8: Matthew 24:24.**

False Christs and false prophets will arise.

**SPG9: Deuteronomy 18:22.**

The prophet is false if his predictions fail.

**SPG10: Deuteronomy 13:1–3.**

The prophet is false if he leads people away from God.

**SPG11: 1 John 4:3.**

The prophet is false if he denies the incarnation of Jesus.

**SPG12: Matthew 7:15–16.**

The prophet is false if his fruits are not good.

**SPG13: Isaiah 8:19–20.**

The prophet is false if he speaks not according to God’s Word.

**SPG14: Ephesians 4:12.**

Spiritual gifts build up the church.

**SPG15: 1 Corinthians 1:6–8.**

The remnant church will have all the gifts. ✨



# Ask For the Old Paths

*Bill Humeniuk*

Recently, I received two letters from people outlining their studies on the Holy Spirit. They used the Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy writings—often wrested or out of context—to show why they believe the Holy Spirit is not a person of the Godhead, but simply an influence or a Spirit going forth from God the Father and the Son.

Others write that the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has become Babylon. These, also, go to great lengths to prove their point.

Someone else wrote a letter saying that we should keep the Feast Days, indicating that he thought they still have application today.

Still others write or call and tell us of difficulties—severe trials, deep sorrows, heartaches, hardships, unexpected loss of loved ones taken in their prime, and terrible loneliness. They ask, Why? Why don't my trials end? They continue for years!

God's people are involved in the great controversy between Christ and Satan, as was Job during his terrible ordeal. Though questioning God as to why, Job submitted to God:

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Job 13:15.

Paul tells us, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12.

Do you hold to points of doctrine differing from those which were established by our pioneers shortly after 1844, and which were confirmed by the Holy Spirit through Ellen White? If so, we urge you to take heed to "stand on the platform of eternal truth." *Evangelism*, 229. Heed God's Word so that you are not "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Timothy 3:7. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Today, God says to us, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14. Let us proceed to humble ourselves, pray, and seek His face as we pursue our study.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We

will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken [listen] to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken." Jeremiah 6:16-17.

The Lord fervently desired to save His people from evil error and great destruction. Please read Jeremiah 2-7, all six chapters, to get the entire picture of God's whole-hearted attempt to save His people. The Lord, in Isaiah 30:21, states, "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." "Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go." Isaiah 48:17.

Through Moses and all the prophets, God appealed to His people to follow Him in His paths. "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left." Proverbs 4:26-27.

How many of us stop and pray earnestly in a pleading voice from our heart for God to keep us from self, from our own thoughts or interpretations, and to keep us in what has been established by the



prophets, the apostles, and our pioneers, whom God used mightily? Are we pleading that He will keep us through the trials and the hardships, trusting enough to leave the *whys* to Him?

David plead under inspiration, "Hold up *my goings* in *thy paths*, that my footsteps slip not." "Shew me thy ways, O LORD; *teach* me thy paths. *Lead* me in *thy truth*, and *teach* me." Psalm 17:5; 25:4-5.

He recognized the truth, and that it is only found in the Lord of hosts, not in himself – although a mighty warrior and the king of Israel surrounded by many counselors:

"Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth. Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever." Psalm 119:151.

Nothing has changed. Time has not changed the truth, neither has our technology, knowledge, or intellect. Truth is forever – eternal – for it is Christ Himself. See John 17:17. Paul stated, "Jesus Christ the *same* yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8. David said, "For ever, O LORD, *thy word* is settled in heaven." "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:89, 105.

Oh my dear people, *ask* for the *old paths*, where is the good way, and *walk* in it. This is no time to play with sin, theology, fables, and error – or even to play with truth! "No church can advance in holiness unless its *members* are earnestly seeking for truth as for hid treasure." *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 345.

Are we searching the writings to find support for our fanciful, speculative theories? – Listen to what inspiration states: "Instead of carefully studying God's Word with humility of heart to obtain a knowledge of *His will*, many seek only to discover something *odd* or *original*." *Ibid.*, 343.

The apostle Peter uses a phrase which I have grown to love: "Giving all *diligence*" (2 Peter 1:5),

and in verse 10, "give *diligence* . . . [and] ye shall never fall," then you will have "not followed cunningly devised fables" (verse 16), but rather the "more sure word of prophecy" (verse 19), because they "came not in *old time* by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Verse 21.

"I take the Bible just as it is, as the Inspired Word. I believe its utterances in an *entire Bible*. . . . We thank God that the Bible is

Lord, so *walk* ye in him." Colossians 2:6. "As ye have received of us *how* ye ought to *walk* and to please God, so ye would abound more and more." 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

Paul suffered heavily for the cause of God. He was a "success" in the world, but when called of Christ personally on the road to Damascus, that was it! He accepted the call of Christ and walked in the old paths to the point of sacrificing his life. It was

*God is calling to us this very hour through warnings in our world, in nature, and through trials and difficulties, "Do not give up." This is the time to "ask for the old paths and to walk therein."*

prepared for the poor man as well as for the learned man. It is *fitted* for all ages and all classes." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 944-945.

I believe, my fellow travelers, that we are reaching a crisis in our world, in our beloved church, and in our own lives. We have a bloodstained pathway to walk in. God is calling to us this very hour through warnings in our world, in nature, and through trials and difficulties, "Do not give up." This is the time to "ask for the old paths and to walk therein." We need to learn to *endure*, for "fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." 1 Corinthians 3:13. Hardships will come, and we must endure as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. See 2 Timothy 2:3.

### Examples Before Us

Jesus walked this life of self-denial and self-sacrificing love. Jesus personally invites us, "If any man will *come after me* [walk with Me], let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and *follow me*." Luke 9:23.

Did the apostle Paul know self-denial and what it means to follow Christ? – "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the

worth it. He heard the sound of the trumpet, he heard the sound of *victory*, and he hearkened to the voice of God.

Paul even beseeched the brethren, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand." 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2.

He then outlined in verses 3-11 that great developments would occur in the religious world through the devil and through the man of sin, causing great deceptions to those who love not the truth, warning them to "stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been *taught*." Verse 15.

The apostle John heard the call, listened, and accepted; he gave up all for Christ. He asked us that since we abide in Christ "to walk, even as he [Christ] walked." Then he said to abide in the "old commandment which ye had from the beginning." 1 John 2:6-7. John calls us to *walk* in the truth, to love one another, and to *walk* according to the commandments we had from the beginning.

## It Is Worth It!

Oh my dear people, it is worth all that it takes to walk in the *old paths*. “Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Genesis 5:24. Enoch walked in the old paths.

Moses also walked the old paths, forsaking the paths of Egypt (the world). By faith he saw Him

lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. . . . That ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.” Ephesians 4:1-3, 17. Read all of chapter 4. What an experience can be ours! Then trials, difficulties, unanswered questions in this life,

borne. . . . Today the hand that was pierced is reached forth to bless more abundantly His people that are in the world.” *The Desire of Ages*, 480.

“Now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8.

As I review the path set before God’s people, I recognize that it is not easy; but it was not easy for the prophets, the apostles, or our pioneers either. Jesus has also gone before us, so let us lay aside our present pet ideas and follow Him. But neither should we float along with the popular current. We are to lay it aside, “come out from the world,” and “walk with God.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 535.

With all our hardships and difficulties, we sometimes ask ourselves, is it worth it? — For the answer, those of you who have *Testimonies*, vol. 2, take the time to read *An Impressive Dream*, pages 594–597, about the pathway to heaven. Please read it. Do not get sidetracked — put this magazine down immediately, and read the above-mentioned article.

Jesus will not fail us. Come, “follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” Revelation 14:4. Then we will be among the Redeemed. It *will* be worth it! ❄

*“The way to heaven is consecrated by the Saviour’s footprints. The path may be steep and rugged, but Jesus has traveled that way; His feet have pressed down the cruel thorns, to make the pathway easier for us.”*

who is invisible. See Hebrews 11:24–27. During that walk he saw and spoke with God face to face. See Exodus 33:11. Hardships were plenty, difficulties abounded; yet, he beheld the Invisible. Was it worth it? — Yes! Michael the archangel — Jesus Christ — resurrected Moses, personally calling him up from the grave. See Jude 9.

I beseech you as did Paul, a prisoner of the Lord, “That ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all

misunderstandings, and pet interpretations would all appear as nothing. Jesus has gone before us; He knows the pathway.

“ ‘When He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them.’ The way to heaven is consecrated by the Saviour’s footprints. The path may be steep and rugged, but Jesus has traveled that way; His feet have pressed down the cruel thorns, to make the pathway easier for us. Every burden that we are called to bear He Himself has

## continued from page 15...

2. When I have allowed myself to fret and speak impatiently, I have made an offering to “his satanic majesty”:

“Unless we control our words and temper, we are slaves to Satan. We are in subjection to him. He leads us captive. All jangling and unpleasant, impatient, fretful words are an offering presented to his satanic majesty. And it is a costly offering, more costly than any sacrifice we can make for God, for it destroys the peace and happiness of whole families, destroys health, and is eventually the cause of forfeiting an eternal life of happiness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 310.

3. While it is often a thankless task, we must be faithful in bearing the straight testimony to God’s people:

“In this fearful time, just before Christ is to come the second time, God’s faithful preachers will have to bear a still more pointed testimony than was borne by John the Baptist. A responsible, important work is before them; and those who speak smooth things, God will not acknowledge as His shepherds. A fearful woe is upon them.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 321.

## Conclusion

Friends, you may already share my conviction that the

writings of Ellen G. White are God’s gift to us. If so, what is your response? Are we studying? Are we applying each principle as we go? Are we a living example of God’s final generation? Are we daily seeking the robe of Christ’s righteousness and the filling of God’s Spirit? If we are not having these experiences, we are a curse to God’s church, for we cast a shadow upon those truths to which we ascribe.

Let us each commit ourselves to use diligently the compass, the pilot, and the lens, that God has provided for this final generation. By His grace let us earnestly seek God’s grace that we might perfectly reflect His character. ❄



**Lawmakers “Sanction” Use of District-Approved “Porn”**

**News Item:** “Instructions on homosexual sodomy and a glorified account of lesbian pedophilia are among the instructional materials approved by the Los Angeles Unified School District [LAUSD] for use in ‘diversity’ and ‘safety’ programs being presented to elementary through high school students.

“The sexually explicit materials promoting homosexuality were highlighted late last week at a California State Assembly committee hearing. Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy, R-Monrovia, provided excerpts in support of his legislative bill AB 1326, which is aimed at prohibiting the promotion of homosexuality in public education. The measure was summarily defeated without discussion.

“The material is being put forward under the guise of tolerance and diversity, but it’s inappropriate. It’s lewd and lascivious . . . and . . . embarrassing. Here I sit in my office reading my porn. It made me turn red, and I don’t easily turn red,” Mountjoy told *WorldNetDaily*. Mountjoy concludes the committee’s vote against his bill sanctions continued use of the material in public schools.

“Among the materials is a ‘Models of Pride II’ reading list . . . consisting of ‘a few of the many titles that can help you deal with issues, and help parents understand and accept their gay and lesbian children.’

“I challenge every parent and school board member to review these books and decide if they are appropriate for our children,” said Mountjoy. ‘If you have trouble finding them, contact the LAUSD.

They can give you the names of the “adult” bookstores they recommend.’ ” *WorldNetDaily.com*, January 24, 2002.

**End-Times Perspective:** Not only are adults promoting sin to other adults and being proud of it, but in this news report, we see that they are taking advantage of immature, innocent, and moldable minds of young children, instructing them in ways of sin that the children most surely have not even thought of.

Lot, by his choice of locating his home in the Valley of Siddim for worldly advantages, subjected his family to the awful influences of city life—and lost all of them. Most rejected the warning and died in the fire. Two daughters did escape with Lot; yet, they had no idea how to trust in God either. The solution they employed later on to solve their problem with producing offspring is clear evidence of the ways, and the extent to which living in Sodom had influenced them.

Jesus reminded us in Luke 17:28–30 that everyday activities continued undisturbed in Sodom

and Gomorrah right up to the time that fire from heaven came down and destroyed the cities of the Valley of Siddim.

We may think that because cities, states, or countries are not being destroyed today by fire from heaven as a result of their wickedness, that God is not taking notice, or that He has changed His attitude about sin. Peter tells us in his second letter, chapter 2, verse 6, that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is an “example” to those of us who live after them. That fire was actually a miniature demonstration of God’s final judgment—when the whole earth will be burned up. See Revelation 19:20; 20:9.

“As in the days of Noah and Lot, there must be a marked separation from sin and sinners. There can be no compromise between God and the world, no turning back to secure earthly treasures. ‘Ye cannot serve God and mammon.’ Matthew 6:24.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 167.

If you are in a similar situation as Lot, *pray, repent, and escape for your life*, while probation still lingers! ✠



**Two Beasts, Three Deadly Wounds, and Fourteen Popes**  
*Russel R. Standish and Colin D. Standish*

The book of Revelation has been characterized as a mystery. Yet the book describes itself as the “Revelation of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 1:1. A revelation is the opposite of a mystery.

Revelation, chapter 13, presents two of the most curious beasts imaginable. The spotlight of this book is on these two apparently incomprehensible beasts—one of which received a deadly wound in one of its heads. Prophecy stated that this mortal injury would be healed, and that the power represented by the beast would be admired worldwide.

The authors present a detailed history of the fourteen popes who have occupied the papal throne since the infliction of the deadly wound. The part played by each pontiff in the healing process is carefully documented. The reader will find compelling evidence that the deadly wound is now so well healed that there remains virtually no trace of the scar.

This book is for all minds, a challenge to all hearts, and a timely wake-up call for humanity.

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# To All Who Love the Blessed Hope

Ellen G. White

*At times there are those among us who seem to be sincerely defending a position that they believe can be sustained by the Bible but not by the writings of Ellen G. White. The position they defend may, in fact, be directly opposed by her counsel.*

*Some of these people tell us that Ellen White claimed that she was a lesser light, leading us to the greater light. Did Sister White in fact make such a claim? If so, what did she mean by it?*

*We believe our readers, while seeking to answer this question, will appreciate this article, which contains the one statement that we have seen (which is also quoted in a number of compilations) in which Ellen G. White refers to herself as a "lesser light."*

The Editors of *Our Firm Foundation*

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"Elmshaven," St. Helena, California, December 6, 1902.

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

The new year is just before us, and plans should be laid for earnest, persevering effort in the Master's service. There is much to be done to advance the work of God. I have been instructed that the canvassing work is to be revived, and that it is to be carried forward with increasing success. It is the Lord's work, and a blessing will attend those who

engage in it with earnestness and diligence.

I thank my Heavenly Father for the interest that my brethren and sisters have taken in the circulation of *Christ's Object Lessons*. By the sale of this book great good has been accomplished, and the work should be continued. But the efforts of our people should not be confined to this one book. The work of the Lord includes more than one line of service. *Christ's Object Lessons* is to live and do its appointed work, but not all the thought and effort of God's people are to be given to its circulation. The larger books, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Great Controversy*, and *The Desire of Ages*, should be sold everywhere. These books contain truth for this time—truth that is to be proclaimed in all parts of the world. Nothing is to hinder their sale.

The effort to circulate *Christ's Object Lessons* has demonstrated what can be done in the canvassing field. This effort is a never-to-be-forgotten lesson on how to canvass in the prayerful, trustful way that brings success.

Many more of our larger books might have been sold if church members had been awake to the importance of the truths these books contain, and had realized their responsibility to circulate them. My brethren and sisters, will you not now make an effort to circulate these books? And will you not bring into this effort the enthu-

siasm that you brought into the effort to sell *Christ's Object Lessons*? In selling this book many have learned how to handle the larger books. They have obtained an experience that has prepared them to enter the canvassing field.

Sister White is not the originator of these books. They contain the instruction that during her lifework God has been giving her. They contain the precious, comforting light that God has graciously given His servant to be given to the world. From their pages this light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Saviour. The Lord has declared that these books are to be scattered throughout the world. There is in them truth which to the receiver is a savor of life unto life. They are silent witnesses for God. In the past, they have been the means in His hands of convicting and converting many souls. Many have read them with eager expectation, and, by reading them, have been led to see the efficacy of Christ's atonement, and to trust in its power. They have been led to commit the keeping of their souls to their Creator, waiting and hoping for the coming of the Saviour to take His loved ones to their eternal home. In the future, these books are to make the gospel plain to many others, revealing to them the way of salvation.

The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line,

precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth.

My brethren and sisters, work earnestly to circulate these books. Put your hearts into this work, and the blessing of God will be with you. Go forth in faith, praying that God will prepare hearts to receive the light. Be pleasant and courteous. Show by a consistent course that you are true Christians. Walk and work in the light of Heaven, and your path will be as the path of the just, shining more and more unto the perfect day.

Take the books to businessmen, to teachers of the gospel, whose minds have not been called to the special truths for this time. The message is to be given "in the highways" – to men who take an active part in the world's work, to the teachers and leaders of the people. Thousands can be reached in the most simple, humble way. The most intellectual, those who are looked upon as the world's most gifted men and women, are often refreshed by the simple words of one who loves God, and who can speak of that love as naturally as the worldling speaks of the things that interest him most deeply. Often the words well prepared and studied have but little influence. But the true, honest expression of a son or daughter of God, spoken in natural simplicity, has power to open the door to hearts that have long been closed against Christ and His love.

Let no one think that he is at liberty to fold his hands and do nothing. That anyone can be saved in indolence and inactivity is an utter impossibility. Think of what

Christ accomplished during His earthly ministry. How earnest, how untiring, were His efforts! He allowed nothing to turn Him aside from the work given Him. Are we following in His footsteps? He gave

God. He grappled with temptation, overcoming in our behalf. The Son of God, pure and unsullied, bore the penalty of transgression, and received the stroke of death that brought deliverance to the race.

*Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light.*

up all to carry out God's plan of mercy for the fallen race. In the fulfillment of the purpose of Heaven, He "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:8. He had had no communion with sin, had known nothing of it; but He came to this world, and took upon His sinless soul the guilt of sinful man, that sinners might stand justified before

It was Christ's joy to help those in need of help, to seek the lost, to rescue the perishing, to lift up the bowed down, to heal the sick, to speak words of sympathy and consolation to the sorrowing and the distressed. The more fully we are imbued with His Spirit, the more earnestly we shall work for those around us; and the more we do for others, the greater will be

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our love for the work, and the greater our delight in following the Master. Our hearts will be filled with the love of God; and with earnestness and convincing power we shall speak of the crucified Saviour.

I ask those to whom the light of truth has come: What are you going to do during the year that is just opening? Will you stop to quarrel with one another, to weaken and destroy the faith of humanity in humanity? Or will you devote your time to strengthening the things that remain, that are ready to die? As our people engage

what to say and do. By comforting others, they themselves will be comforted.

I ask you, dear Christian workers, to do what you can to circulate the books that the Lord has said should be sown broadcast throughout the world. Do your best to place them in the homes of as many people as possible. Think of how great a work can be done if a large number of believers will unite in an effort to place before the people, by the circulation of these books, the light that the Lord has said should be given them. Under divine guidance, go forward in the

not let Satan quench the last spark of hope in their hearts. Of the erring, trembling one, struggling with evil, Christ says, "Let him come to me" (see Matthew 11:28-30); and He places His hands underneath him, and lifts him up. The work that Christ did, you, as His evangelists, can do as you go from place to place. Labor in faith, expecting that souls will be won to Him who gave His life that men and women might stand on God's side. Draw with God to win the drunkard and the tobacco devotee from the habits which debase them till they are below the level of the beasts that perish.

The Lord calls for many more to engage in the canvassing work in the year 1903. For Christ's sake, my brethren and sisters, make the most of the hours of the new year to place the precious light of present truth before the people. The Angel of the covenant [Christ] is empowering His servants to carry the truth to all parts of the world. He has sent forth His angels with the message of mercy; but as if they did not speed on their way fast enough to satisfy His heart of yearning love, He lays on every member of His church the responsibility of proclaiming this message. "Let him that heareth say, Come." Revelation 22:17. Every member of the church is to show his loyalty by inviting the thirsty to drink of the Water of Life. A chain of living witnesses is to carry the invitation to the world. Will you act your part in this great work?

Jesus is calling for many missionaries, for men and women who will consecrate themselves to God, willing to spend and be spent in His service. O, can we not remember that there is a world to labor for? Shall we not move forward step by step, letting God use us as His helping hand? Shall we not place ourselves on the altar of service? Then the love of Christ will touch and transform us, making us willing for His sake to do and dare. ✨

*Review and Herald*, January 20 & 27, 1903.

*I ask you, dear Christian workers, to do what you can to circulate the books that the Lord has said should be sown broadcast throughout the world.*

in earnest work for the Master, complaints will cease to be heard. Many will be roused from the despondency that is ruining them body and soul. As they work for others, they will have much that is helpful to speak of when they assemble to worship God. The testimonies they bear will not be dark and gloomy, but full of joy and courage. Instead of thinking and talking about the faults of their brethren and sisters, and about their own trials, they will think and talk of the love of Christ, and will strive earnestly to become more efficient workers for Him.

Many are sad and discouraged, weak in faith and trust. Let them do something to help someone more needy than themselves, and they will grow strong in God's strength. Let them engage in the good work of selling our books. Thus they will help others, and the experience gained will give them the assurance that they are God's helping hand. As they plead with the Lord to help them, He will guide them to those who are seeking for the light. Christ will be close beside them, teaching them

work, and look to the Lord for aid. The Holy Spirit will attend you. Angels of heaven will accompany you, preparing the way.

If you have neglected the sowing time, if you have allowed God-given opportunities to pass unimproved, if you have given yourselves up to self-pleasing, will you not now repent, before it is forever too late, and strive to redeem the time? The obligation to use your talents in the Master's service rests heavily upon you. Come to the Lord, and make an entire surrender of all to Him. You cannot afford to lose one day. Take up your neglected work. Put away your querulous [peevish] unbelief, your envy and evil thinking, and go to work, in humble faith, and with earnest prayer to the Lord to pardon you for your years of unconsecration. Ask the Lord for help. If you seek Him earnestly, with the whole heart, you will find Him, and He will strengthen and bless you.

In your work you will meet with those who are fighting against appetite. Speak words that will strengthen and encourage them. Do





Hi to all, and thanks to our God for people like you all and may He keep blessing you in His great work. This is my contribution to help get God's Word out. Please pray for my family.

*FS, North Carolina*

My husband and I have been going through periodicals saved from the 70s and were looking at the articles in the *Review* written at that time. They were so "meaty" in comparison to now. We are thankful for the *Our Firm Foundation*, which once again gives us "meat" preparing us for what's ahead. I just wish every Adventist home were receiving it.

Please pray for our adult children—one no longer professing the faith, and, I fear, the other concerned with the cares and pleasures of this life.

*ES, Indiana*

I wish to have my subscription to continue in 2002. *Our Firm Foundation* magazine has been so inspirational to me for two years now. My thanks to all the writers of the many articles. They give so much courage and strength as they broaden my knowledge of the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy. These two things give us hope and courage for the future time we have in this world even though it will be short.

My prayers are with you all as you prepare the much-needed messages from the many brethren who write them. Keep up the good work.

The many subjects in the *Our Firm Foundation* help me to feel the need to prepare my heart to meet the Lord's standard in the judgment. I recognize my need to allow Jesus to lead me in the path of righteousness. We are frail human beings in need of the true Word of God, along with the messages from the Lord's messenger—Sister E. G. White.

The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy have proven to bring many blessings into my life all through my 73 years on this earth.

Time is short! We have to get our house in order. Satan is exercising his power to deceive the vast majority of the people in apostasy and error. So many are putting the words of man above the true Word of God. Acts 5:29; Matthew 4:10; 1 Corinthians 2:5; Psalm 118:8. The foolishness of man will soon be put to rest.

*CH, Nebraska*

I don't know how long you've had the four angels' messages logo up, but I say PRAISE THE LORD!!!

I'm so glad to see that others recognize that we are beyond just the three angels and are now in the time of the fourth angel who is repeating the first three. Time is short and probation will close shortly. Thank you for hanging in there through all the trials the conference has put you through.

*WF, email*

Thank you for being a channel of blessing to me. I'll be sure to pass the blessings along.

Please remember me and my family in prayer.

*RB, email*

## From Overseas

I am a boy of 24-years-old and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. My church is organizing three different open-air crusades. We need Bibles and other books to give to the visitors—*Patriarchs and Prophets, Bible Readings for the Home, Ministry of Healing, Messages to Young People, Great Controversy, Desire of Ages, Acts of the Apostles, Happiness Digest*, and other health books and family Bible-reading books—anything that would benefit us. Most of our listeners are Muslims, whose families or parents do not want them to come and listen to the sermons nor allow us in their homes, but with the books, we can reach them. We will also pray for them as they read the books themselves. We aim to open up new churches at the three places

where the crusades are being held to help Christ's Second Coming to come fast.

May the good Lord bless you as you help to make His Second Advent come as early as possible. Amen.

Maranatha! Maranatha! Maranatha!!! We are united by the Word, since the Love of God constraineth us. Christian songs also needed.

*ZO, Ghana*

Greetings to you all at Hope. I am praying that the Lord will continue to bless your ministry.

Thank you very much for your mailbag containing the literature and a couple of books. I am very grateful to you. It is very kind of you. I have already started distributing the literature. Believe me, the Christians who observe Sunday are in shock of the light. . . . Of course, very few could read English. The majority are Telugu speaking, not educated people. Some can understand when I read to them in English and translate for them. They ask me, "Is that right?" and, "Why do our pastors (reverends) not teach this?" Some people tell me that they asked their pastors, but they have no answer, except to say that it is because of His resurrection day that they observe on Sunday. That fact was admitted in one of the large public meetings in a big ground here.

I must say a few words about terrorism. My heartfelt condolences to all the families who lost their loved ones at the World Trade Center and other places. I am anxious to tell the people of the USA to be strong and courageous. These are the last days—time of the end events. My sympathies to all of you. Do not be afraid of life. Keep going. You are very compassionate loving people. God bless America. My prayers are for you all.

I humbly request you to pray for me and my family. I am an Adventist evangelist taking care of two churches and ten companies.

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you a million times for sending the mailbag and the magazines.

*MR, India*



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# The Law of God

We are excited about our new brochure on "The Law of God." This tract presents the Ten Commandments as found in Exodus 20:2-17 in comparison with the Ten Commandments as changed by man. The simple gospel is also presented to the readers, and they are encouraged to submit their request for a free copy of *Final Conflict Between Truth and Error*, a free Bible course, and/or a free *Panorama of Prophecy* CD.

There are two ways you can distribute this brochure:

1) You can sponsor a bulk mailing to *every home* in a given postal route or ZIP code area, which is an excellent tool to uplift the Law of God—perhaps even more effective than the newspaper ads. The cost to send this colorful tract out, including postage, will be about **20¢ each**.

2) You may give out the brochures individually. Try sending them with your bill payments, giving them out at flea markets and fairs, or visiting your neighbors door-to-door. Order some today!



- 1-49 brochures: **20¢ each**
- Packets of 50: **\$5 per packet (10¢ each)**
- Cases of 500: **\$40 per case (8¢ each)**
- 5000 or more: Please inquire.

If you need a free sample of this brochure, please contact us, and we will be happy to send you one.

**Catalog # TEHI-LOGO**  
See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

Hope International  
P.O. Box 940  
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