

Our Firm
Foundation

**Terrorism
and the Demise of
Religious Liberty**

Volume 17, Number 9

September 2002

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary



Only a Short Time Left

Three years ago the whole world was approaching the end of the millennium with great anxiety. Would the world's giant computer systems fail? Americans spent millions of dollars for generators, food, and water. When the new millennium dawned, there was a great sigh of relief. Most computers were working, paychecks were in the mail, and life continued with hardly a disturbance for most people.

Y2K is now history—and so is another day, September 11, 2001. The world, especially America, is approaching the upcoming September 11 with a certain reverence for the thousands of people who died in the tragedy in New York City and Washington, D.C. The stock market is very nervous. Investors are in a near panic. Afghanistan, Al-Qaida, Taliban, and Islam all have become familiar words, even to schoolchildren.

Americans and the world are being conditioned for another war—the invasion of Iraq. The American people are ready to support legislation that will curtail their freedoms in order to “preserve their lifestyle.” The prophecies of Revelation, chapter 13, are being fulfilled.

Our president has made it very clear that anyone who does not support American policies for preserving the peace is a terrorist. When America began to “speak as a dragon,” the world—even some of the Islamic nations—scrambled to be part of the anti-terrorist coalition.

The Religious Right [Protestantism] has reached across the gulf to clasp hands with the pope. The president and his cabinet advisors are very much aware that winning

his second term in office will depend on the Catholic vote and the support of the Christian Coalition. Every day America takes another step toward enforcing the image to the first beast of Revelation, chapter 13—the Papacy. The Sunday laws hang ominously over our confused world.

Business is attempting to return world travel to normal. Yet, people anxiously examine the faces of their fellow travelers as they stand in long lines while security officers examine their carry-on bags—and even their shoes!

We see “men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Luke 21:26.

The end of all things is at hand. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is possibly in the worst apostasy in the church’s history—the Omega. God is preparing a people around the world for the latter rain. Only those who are willing to be made willing to obey all known truth, without a single compromise, and are seeking for the experience of the high standard of righteousness in Christ Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and growing in grace daily through careful study of the Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy, will be part of the great final movement, which God is preparing in order to give the loud cry to the world. See Revelation 18:1–4. These are the sighing and crying ones scattered around the world who are depicted by our prophet in *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 209–210.

Quite possibly the judgment of the living will soon begin. Ezekiel 9:1–6 will be completely fulfilled, and God’s final judgment will begin within the ranks of the

Seventh-day Adventist membership and its ministry. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 211. Ezekiel, chapter seven, prefaces the eighth chapter with the warning, “an end is come, the end is come.” Verse 6. The eighth chapter reveals the abominations that are in the church at the end-time, and introduces the ninth chapter—the sealing of God’s faithful, obedient, commandment-keeping people and ministry. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 75–83, 209–211, 217; *ibid.*, vol. 8, 249–251.

Jesus’ words warn us that only a few Seventh-day Adventists are ready to qualify in the preparation for eternal life:

“For many are called, but few are chosen.” Matthew 22:14. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 10, 50, 136; *ibid.*, vol. 2, 355.

God’s standard of righteousness is the perfect character of Christ—victory by the power of the Holy Spirit over all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to sin. See *The Desire of Ages*, 311, 313, 671; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69, 330. May each reader pass to this high mark of the calling in Christ Jesus.

“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13.

“Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. By prayer, by the study of His Word, by faith in His abiding Presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 182.

May each of us be among the sealed—among the 144,000—is my prayer. ✨



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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Terrorism and the Demise of Religious Liberty

Hal Mayer

The morning of September 11, 2001, was bright and clear. The nation was quiet for a few hours, until four aircraft were hijacked, and three were successfully crashed into prominent symbols of American culture. Immediately our nation went into a panic, and nothing has been the same since.

As the terrorists were laying their plans, they had no idea that angels of God were involved. Sometime before September 11, the angels, who had previously been holding back the winds of strife, let loose a little which allowed those evil plans to succeed. September 11 was critical to the development of earth's final movements. God's people needed awakening, and the world needed to be sensitized to ask deeper spiritual questions.

Satan's plan was to create an environment in which he could develop the mechanisms to enforce the "no buy, no sell" decree of Revelation 13:17 on all true believers. In a speech on September 24, 2001, President Bush announced an executive order freezing the assets (no buy, no sell) of certain organizations. In that speech he made it clear that he was establishing global networks and controls to search and destroy terrorist organizations, and that the U.S. would

pressure other nations to join this effort:

"This executive order means that United States banks that have assets of these groups or individuals must freeze their accounts. And United States citizens or businesses are prohibited from doing business with them. . . . We're putting banks and financial institutions around the world on notice. . . . If they fail to help us by sharing information or freezing accounts, the Department of the Treasury now has the authority to freeze their bank's assets and transactions in the United States. . . . If you do business with terrorists, if you support or sponsor them, you will not do business with the United States of America. I want to assure the world that we will exercise this power responsibly. But make no mistake about it, we intend to, and we will, disrupt terrorist networks. . . . We've established a foreign terrorist asset tracking center at the Department of the Treasury to identify and investigate the financial infrastructure of the international terrorist networks. . . . Money is the lifeblood of terrorist operations. Today, we're asking the world to stop payment."¹

President Bush also said that he was going to implement other global strategies to crush the

terrorists. That speech was all about the terrorists—on the surface. But Satan has a larger plan—he wants to bring the whole world under his control. His plan is to prevent God's people from giving the last message. President Bush is certainly unaware of it, but the real agenda behind the terrorist attacks was to establish international systems and mechanisms to eventually enforce similar decrees against God's people. These decrees could not be enforced without global systems in place, fine-tuned and well-practiced. The terrorists provided a seemingly genuine excuse to destroy civil liberties—no doubt a prelude to destroying the religious liberties of God's people.

A similar speech about God's people has no doubt been made by Satan in the unseen world. The President's speech sounds like Revelation 13 in modern parlance—though for the moment directed at another target. For a shocking insight into the future of God's people, read the full text of the President's speech, referred to above, and insert the word "Adventist" wherever President Bush used the word "terrorist."

The attacks and subsequent changes have struck at the heart of the U.S. Constitution. Note this prophetic prediction:

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the Papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 451.

Every Principle Repudiated

The September 11 attacks were so horrific that they created a long-term environment of fear—and of reduced concerns about constitutional rights. Fear of new attacks will keep even those reduced concerns from becoming significant. Considerable discussion in the press about the balance between civil liberties and security, in effect, puts opposition to constitutional overrides to rest. In spite of these assurances, there has been a dramatic shift away from personal liberties. Americans have willingly allowed the President to assume unprecedented powers over their lives. Every week the newspapers report more changes in the name of security at the expense of civil rights and privacy. Many of them may well be the only thing a human government can do to try to protect its people. Does America realize that it is now willingly repudiating by leaps and bounds the principles of its Constitution?

A Global Infrastructure

The “no buy, no sell” law could not be fulfilled on a global scale before September 11, 2001. The mindset of Americans had to be changed about their liberties. The global infrastructure to regulate, control, and enforce this law is daily advancing at a frightening

pace. President Bush said that he is developing a global system with the ability to pressure other nations. That is not easy. However, they are all getting used to it, and they will ultimately cooperate.

Banks worldwide are cooperating. Secure banking places, such as the Caribbean Islands, will no longer be entirely private. The Germans have been cooperating, and have already arrested a number of people with connections to the terrorists. A global communication system is being developed

“Our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions.”

between the CIA, the FBI, and their equivalent organizations in other countries, to gather and share information. A new Operation TIPS (Terrorism Information and Prevention System), proposed by President Bush, would recruit 1 million people to spy on, and then report on, their fellow citizens in a modern version of Nazi Germany.² This would link up with similar international programs. All of this takes time to organize, refine, and implement, but Satan knows that he cannot enforce the Sunday law without a well-developed, global control system.

Law Enforcement Cooperation

International law enforcement cooperation is essential to enforcing the global Sunday law. Since September 11, international law enforcement operations are developing and cooperating together. Wiretap rules have been liberalized. Cell phones, the internet, and traditional communications are all subject to new rules affecting private citizens. Prior to September 11, these things would have been considered clearly unconstitutional. But all of them are essential to the global system to strike against God’s people.

A Global “Justice” System

Based in the Netherlands, but run by an increasingly powerful and demanding UN, an International Criminal Court (ICC) has been established.³ The ICC is now open for business and is prepared to supersede the court systems of the world. Even though the U.S. has not joined in the ICC treaty, it does not object to the court in principle, but as it would be applied to U.S. soldiers on peace-keeping missions.

The ICC is a system of secret tribunals—not a jury of peers. If you are convicted of a crime, you can be sent to a prison anywhere in the world—not necessarily in your home country. Appeals are made to the same body that originally convicted you—not to an impartial court of appeals. How difficult do you think it would be to extradite and arraign people before the ICC for violating the blasphemy laws of Great Britain, Europe, or the Vatican, though the “crime” was committed in America? The ICC is being modeled on nearly the same principles as was the Inquisition centuries ago.

Military tribunals are also secret; they do not have the same restrictions as do civil courts. These courts are being restructured to be used whenever prisoners are deemed to be part of a military operation. The original intention is to arraign those involved in international terrorism. But governments are already expanding definitions dramatically, and we can imagine that some of God’s people could be tried in some of these courts. Military tribunals now have a loosened attorney-client privilege. Conversations between alleged criminals and their lawyers

can now be monitored. This is not planned for civil courts yet—at least not publicly. Nor is it planned for American citizens—yet! First, the American public must be tested to see if they will tolerate it, at least at some level, before it is tried on citizens or the civil courts.

Suppose that national security interests began to include church activities. Certain church groups and their members could potentially be defined as military combatants, even though they are merely church members. Does that sound far-fetched?—Not in the wake of the recent use of mosques to organize terrorist cells. When laws and definitions of crime are expanded, making certain religious ideas or practices illegal, these tribunals are likely to be used in

in lock down. There are only so many ways to access them. During lock down, every vehicle would be observed as it leaves or enters the city. The National Guard or Reserves would have the authority to search any vehicle. It would be very easy for the government to lock down a city or a community so that everyone coming in and going out would be searched or subjected to ID checks. Does that sound ominous?

National Identification Cards

Technology is available for a national ID card or a coordinated driver's license program. President Bush is proposing an obligatory system. The ID system could be used to authorize (or deny) any and all banking transactions,

Hamis is considered to be an extremist organization. And there are others. We are told that the *Koran* advocates the exercise of violence toward anyone who refuses to become Muslim; nonetheless, a distinction is being made in the media between "tolerant moderates" and "extremists." Islam, they say, is peace-loving, except for these "extremists." The military has been spending time practicing their skills in hunting down religious extremists from cave to cave. When you have to flee to the rocks and mountains, the military will have the skills and equipment to rout you out. Because bin Laden has been quite elusive, the military is developing systems that eventually can be used against God's people. You will be more helpless than bin Laden, unless you have the angels of God to make you invisible.

There will be attempts to curtail the operation of "extremist" groups operating under cover of religion. Do you think that Adventists will be divided into "mainline" and "extreme" groups? Mainline Adventists would be considered balanced and acceptable, like most Muslims. Those who are faithful to Christ, love the truth enough to die for it, have high standards, and are unwilling to compromise, are the people who will be profiled and painted with the extremist brush, and will be treated very differently from "mainline" Adventists.

"Detainees"

Notice also how the Taliban captives have been treated. They were given a unique legal description. They are not POWs, but "detainees." Under the Geneva Convention POWs have certain rights. However, detainees have no rights. American leaders are trying to assure the people that these detainees are being treated with rights compatible with the Geneva Convention—and they may be. Under the definition of detainees, however, there is no legal reason why they cannot be treated in unconstitutional ways. Civilian observers are not permitted at Guantanamo Bay. Thus, no one

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ways originally thought impossible. The system being established now can easily be manipulated and eventually transformed and used against God's faithful people.

Immigration

Immigration laws in America are changing to adjust the way immigration issues are handled, including student visas. A tracking system is being developed because many foreign students drop out of school and remain in America illegally. Some of them were found to be part of the Al-Qaida network. That could eventually threaten the freedom of Hartland College and other faithful colleges to train foreign students.

Security of Major Target Areas

Major target areas, such as large cities, are the subject of "anti-terror" measures. The terrorist attacks have created the "need" to be able to "lock down" cities. Imagine what New York City or San Francisco would be like when

including those of supermarket and gasoline sales. It is only a matter of getting the people—American citizens—to accept the idea. A few more attacks, or other national crises, and they will willingly accept these measures—and more!

Food Sources

There has also been talk about the vulnerability of food sources. Is it possible that food will become so controlled that selected individuals or groups—even God's people—will be prevented from obtaining it?—Certainly, it could be made difficult for them to obtain food from the usual sources. Is Ellen White's counsel concerning country living relevant for us today?

The Military

Did you notice that most of the military action in Afghanistan since September 11 has been focused on a few isolated religious "extremists"? The Taliban is considered to be extremist. Osama bin Laden is considered to be an extremist.

outside of the military really knows for sure how the detainees are being treated.

Think how faithful souls, “detained” on one pretext or another, are likely to be treated. This special classification of the Taliban captives is making the American public become accustomed to quarantining. Who is going to question the treatment of Adventist detainees while the chaos and awesome conflict over the coming Sunday law rages? The war against the Taliban is being used to condition Americans to not question matters of “national security.”

Religious Extremists

Police agencies have admitted that they are carefully monitoring and gathering intelligence on what they perceive to be extremist Islamic groups. What is an extremist group? Is it not a group that has beliefs that are not within the “normal” mainstream of their religion or society?

Americans are being cultivated – educated – to fear those labeled as religious extremists and those with deep religious convictions. In the past Americans have been willing to tolerate more religious diversity and even religious exclusivity. But not anymore! The Taliban and other religious extremists of the Islamic world are giving the U.S. plenty of opportunity to develop hostility to religious extremism.

Religious Profiling

In Germany today, dramatic changes are taking place beneath the surface. Germans are quietly acquiescing to government intrusion into, and restrictions on, their lives that a short time ago would have been unthinkable. Many of Germany’s colleges and universities have begun opening their file cabinets and computer hard drives to criminal investigators seeking financial, educational, and travel information which fits their profile of the “typical” terrorist. Profiles of religious extremists are being developed in America as well.

Suppose a profile of a Seventh-day Adventist extremist is devel-

oped. What might it include? – Perhaps home-schooled children; belief that the end of the world is at hand; belief in “extreme” religious views, such as the Papacy being the biblical antichrist, willingness to be martyred for keeping the Sabbath, and so on. The definition might include that an SDA “extremist” knows his Bible very well, subscribes to certain kinds of magazines and literature, goes to certain types of places, and buys only certain kinds of foods. It is not difficult to develop a profile. The concept of profiling, coupled with

and these men withdrew their statement. In actuality, even though they did not see the whole picture, Falwell and Robertson had identified a biblical principle: “Righteousness exalteth a nation” (Proverbs 14:34), and when the nation separates itself from righteousness, the angels of God withdraw their protection.

So, when there is one natural disaster after another in succession, who is going to get the blame? – “We’ve got to get America back to God,” will be the cry. And the conclusion will be that there are

The definition might include that an SDA “extremist” knows his Bible very well. He subscribes to certain kinds of magazines and literature.

other surveillance and control systems, will make it easy for faithful Seventh-day Adventists to be tracked and eventually hunted down.

How Soon?

A friend of mine recently said to me, “Yeah, but this all can’t happen very fast. It will take a while.” Yet, how long did it take America to react to the spectacular terrorist attacks? – In one year’s time dramatic changes have occurred in America and the “free” Western World, which have opened the way for the oppression of God’s people. The terrorist attacks were obviously humanly orchestrated; it is easy to point the finger. But what happens when natural disasters of gigantic magnitude wreak devastation on the cities of the earth by earthquakes, hurricanes, huge tornadoes, and so on? To whom then will the finger be pointed?

Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson pointed the finger. They said that the reason for the terrorist attacks was because of our national tolerance of the homosexuals, the purveyors of pornography, and the abortionists in our midst. There was a media outcry against this supposedly illogical conclusion,

just a few people who are preventing it from happening. “They are not going along with the new Sunday law and are jeopardizing national security. We’ve got to freeze their assets. We’ve got to prevent them from doing what they are doing.” How tempting would it be for SDA Church leaders to distance themselves from anything that might be considered extreme! All it would take is fear. It could happen almost overnight, as did the national changes after the terrorist attacks.

The Terrorists and the Papacy

Many wonder how the September 11 attacks fit into the prophetic role of the Papacy. The greatest terrorist organization in history is the Church of Rome. How were the Waldenses, Huguenots, and other religious dissenters, treated by the Roman popes? – It was nothing short of terrorism. And Satan is planning it again. While the pope is apologizing for the atrocities that the “sons of the church” committed, it is apparently only political rhetoric.

Rome is now courting Islam. Consider the pope’s May 2001 visit

continued on page 11...

The Remnant Church: Under Divine Rebuke

Ron Spear

The history of the church in Egypt and in the wilderness wanderings is a very sad story. It is true that even in their rebellion God, in His great love for His church, was with them. They increased their membership and their material wealth, but they were in a deplorable spiritual condition. Their tragic history is revealed in the following Scriptures:

“Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD. Also in Horeb ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you. . . . Likewise when the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you; then ye rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and ye believed him not, nor hearkened to his voice. Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.” Deuteronomy 9:7-8, 23-24.

“And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? . . . Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.” Psalm 78:17-19, 41-42.

Where had they failed? Moses reveals the answer: “For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death? Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them. For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.” Deuteronomy 31:27-29.

God Forgotten

The leaders, priests, and people had forgotten God. There was no faith:

“Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel. For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear unto their fathers, that I will floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.” Verses 19-20.

What a great tragedy! With the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day, the manna for their food, a river of water from the rock to supply their thirst, with all of this evidence of God’s supreme love for them, they had no faith. They forgot God and His great love.

Without faith in God’s love and protection, there is rebellion and apostasy. Therefore, God could not fulfill to them His promise—the Promised Land, Canaan—because of their unbelief:

“But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” Hebrews 3:17–19.

Under Divine Rebuke

During Israel’s wilderness wanderings, there is very little recorded history, for they were under divine rebuke:

“For nearly forty years the children of Israel are lost to view in the obscurity of the desert. ‘The space,’ says Moses, ‘in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD swore unto them. For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.’ Deuteronomy 2:14–15.

“During these years the people were constantly reminded that they were under the divine rebuke. In the rebellion at Kadesh they had rejected God, and God had for the time rejected them. Since they had proved unfaithful to His covenant, they were not to receive the sign of the covenant, the rite of circumcision. Their desire to return to the land of slavery had shown them to be unworthy of freedom, and the ordinance of the Passover, instituted to commemorate the deliverance from bondage, was not to be observed.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 406.

Because of Israel’s rebellion against the covenant they had made with God, they were deprived of the rites of the covenant—circumcision and the Passover.

Their rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea showed that they desired the slavery of Egypt rather than the freedom God had provided. God’s divine rebuke of partial rejection continued until the crossing of the

Jordan into the Promised Land. On that day, the reproach of Egypt was removed.

This generation knew nothing of Egypt; only Caleb and Joshua were to enter into the Promised Land from the old generation. While Israel camped at Gilgal, Joshua circumcised the children of Israel, and they kept the Passover.

Meaningless Ordinances

Most of the leadership and priests knew nothing of righteousness by faith as an experience; consequently, God restricted the covenant ordinances of circumci-

sion and the Passover for 38 years, as a constant reminder to Israel of their breaking of the covenant with God.

“A short distance from Jordan the Hebrews made their first encampment in Canaan. Here Joshua ‘circumcised the children of Israel . . . and the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover.’ Joshua 5:3, 10. The suspension of the rite of circumcision since the rebellion at Kadesh had been a constant witness to Israel that their covenant with God, of which it was the appointed symbol, had been broken. And the discontinuance of the Passover, the memorial of their deliverance from Egypt, had been an evidence of the Lord’s displeasure at their desire to return to the land of bondage. Now, however, the years of rejection were ended. Once more God acknowledged Israel as His people, and the sign of the covenant was restored. The rite of circumcision was performed upon all the people who had been born in the wilderness. And the Lord declared to Joshua, ‘This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from

off you,’ and in allusion to this the place of their encampment was called Gilgal, ‘a rolling away,’ or ‘rolling off.’” *Ibid.*, 485–486.

Let us look back in review over Israel’s 40 years in the desert, and their apostasy—the golden calf; the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and 250 leaders of great renown; and finally, Kadesh-Barnea. God’s lessons of obedience to His orders—His plans through the prophet Moses—were never accepted by the leaders, priests, and people. They were sorry for the *consequences* of their rebellion and apostasy, but their history shows

Israel’s rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea showed that they desired the slavery of Egypt rather than the freedom God had provided.

only a very small remnant accepted God’s rebuke and experienced the righteousness-by-faith experience in loving obedience to the sacred Lawgiver at Sinai.

“It was the design of God that Moses should frequently remind Israel of their transgressions and rebellion, that they might humble their hearts before God in view of their sins. The Lord would not have them forget the errors and sins which had provoked His anger against them. The rehearsal of their transgressions, and of the mercies and goodness of God to them, which they had not appreciated, was not agreeable to their feelings. Nevertheless, God directed that this should be done.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 320.

The Great Advent Movement

Today, God’s remnant people are following in the same path of rebellion as Israel, our ancient counterpart. We are now in a sad spiritual state. True, we have steadily increased our membership (currently twelve million souls), we have improved our organization, we have extended our influence,

and much of our wealth is invested on Wall Street. But we have lost our first love, and we are luke-warm and spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. See Revelation 2:1-5; 3:14-22.

We have been told by our prophet that we are under divine forbearance and rebuke. We question, Why?—Here is the inspired answer:

“I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the

shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

The question is, Are we still God’s peculiar people?—No; we are a chosen generation, *but we are not a holy nation or a peculiar people.* What a tragedy! And all of this is largely because the *Testimonies* are unheeded—and many among us no longer believe them. There are only a few, a very small remnant, who believe. See Isaiah 1:9.

Jews, many have closed their eyes lest they should see; but there is a great peril now, in closing the eyes to light, and in walking apart from Christ, feeling need of nothing, as there was when He was upon earth.” *Review and Herald*, August 26, 1890.

The Laodicean message is here called “the rebuke of God,” and Laodiceans are said to be “walking apart from Christ.” How many of us have closed our eyes like the Jews? There is no question—Inspiration is very clear: As ancient Israel was under divine rebuke, so the remnant Seventh-day Adventist Church is under rebuke because of our rebellion, apostasy, and insubordination to God’s plan and orders. We have been walking apart from Christ. We are just like the Jews.

The question we must now face and answer is, Will we receive Christ’s rebuke in humility? The Laodicean condition is caused by our feelings of self-satisfaction—that we need nothing from Jesus. The rebuke of God is upon us because of our neglect of solemn responsibilities. And His great blessings have been withdrawn because His instructions, warnings, and rebukes have not been heeded.

Listen now to the inspired evidence:

“It is a solemn and terrible truth that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel’s message are now becoming listless and indifferent! The line of demarcation between worldlings and many professed Christians is almost indistinguishable. Many who once were earnest Adventists are conforming to the world—to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. Instead of leading the world to render obedience to God’s law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression. Daily the church is becoming converted to the world. How many professing Christians are slaves of mammon! Their indulgence of appetite, their extravagant expenditure of money for selfish gratification, greatly dishonors God.

We are a chosen generation, but we are not a holy nation or a peculiar people. What a tragedy! And all of this is largely because the Testimonies are unheeded.

same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God’s peculiar people. You are having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Your concord with unbelievers has provoked the Lord’s displeasure. You know not the things that belong to your peace, and they are fast being hid from your eyes. Your neglect to follow the light will place you in a more unfavorable position than the Jews upon whom Christ pronounced a woe.

“I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience. I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue. No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds.” *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 75-76.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should

Healing Our Apostasy

The Laodicean message must be given for the healing of our backslidden apostasy. Christ’s message in Revelation 3:19—“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten”—indicates that the Laodicean Church is under the divine rebuke because of her spiritual state. The Laodicean message is a divine rebuke. It is evidence of a partial rejection or separation. It is evident that the union between Christ and the church is not complete, for Christ is not in the innermost sanctuary of the hearts of His people; He does not have full possession of his church-temple. He is seen outside the door knocking and pleading to be invited in.

“Since the time of the Minneapolis meeting, I have seen the state of the Laodicean Church as never before. I have heard the rebuke of God spoken to those who feel so well satisfied, who know not their spiritual destitution. Jesus speaks to these as He did to the woman of Samaria: ‘If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.’ John 4:10. Like the

“And through lack of zeal for the promulgation of the third angel’s message, many others, while not apparently living in transgression, are nevertheless as verily lending their influence on the side of Satan as are those who openly sin against God. Multitudes are perishing; but how few are burdened for these souls! There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon many of the people of God, which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 118-119.

A Promise of Hope

There is hope for all who are now willing to reform and be obedient to known truth. I will close with this inspired statement: “There will be a sharp conflict between those who are loyal to

God and those who cast scorn upon His law. Reverence for God’s law has been subverted. The religious leaders are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. As it was in the days of ancient Israel, so

The loyal will not be carried away by the current of evil. They will not throw contempt on that which God has set apart as holy. They will not follow Israel’s example of forgetfulness; they will call to

“Instead of leading the world to render obedience to God’s law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression.”

it is in this age of the world. But because of the prevalence of disloyalty and transgression, will those who have revered the law of God now cherish less respect for it? Will they unite with the powers of earth to make it void?

remembrance God’s dealings with His people in all ages, and will walk in the way of His commandments.

“The test comes to everyone. There are only two sides. On which side are you?” *Ibid.*, 120. ✨

continued from page 7...

to one of Islam’s holiest sites – the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria. There he worshiped and led in Christian prayers, while his Moslem counterpart led in Moslem prayers. The pope, however, has never repudiated the dogma that “justified” the Inquisition, the Crusades, and the extermination of heretics and infidels. And there is still intolerance wherever Rome can get away with it. Half a world away from Damascus, Protestant Evangelicals are persecuted in Mexico by their Catholic neighbors.

Even the term “religious intolerance” is being redefined. It no longer refers to the intolerance of Rome. In this age of ecumenism, it now refers to anyone who speaks the truth about apostate churches, including Rome. The new intolerance is labeled “bigotry,” or “religious extremism,” and is considered to be as bad as the terrorists.

God showed John a time when America would cause all, “both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of

his name.” Revelation 13:16-17. Do you think we are getting close to that time? The September 11 attacks created the environment for a giant step forward in the fulfillment of prophecy. But future terrorist attacks will make the controls, surveillance, and restrictions even more compelling, while Satan does a parallel maneuver to isolate and restrict God’s people.

How soon will these new global systems be expanded from their original purpose, and be used to oppress God’s remnant people? – No one can really say, but once America is accustomed to the new system, and familiar with how it works, it will be an easy transition to start using it on U.S. citizens accused of other religious “crimes.”

The future is ominous. Satan is going through very large and expensive maneuvers just so he can control and oppress the small group of God’s true people. He is building a global economic, police, and justice system just for God’s faithful people. He is very serious! As you contemplate the news in the future, pay attention to the underlying principles behind it.

Realize that there are unseen agencies with an agenda beneath the surface. However, prophecy

enables us to understand God’s long-range purpose. We can foresee those things that tell us that the end is near. God is bigger than all of Satan’s devices. God can and will protect His people according to His purpose.

The global and national events of this last year are a serious warning to God’s people. Never has there been a more important time to plead with God for His Holy Spirit to give you power to overcome sin and represent Him fully in character. Never has there been a more opportune time to seek righteousness and the perfect love that casts out all fear and brings the peace that only God’s Holy Spirit can place in your heart. Now is the time to obey God’s instruction to move into the country. September 11 dramatically changed the liberty environment in America and the world. We must rethink our priorities and invest our resources in soul-winning work. Let us humble ourselves before God and plead for His people. ✨

References:

¹ See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010924-4.html>

² www.citizencorps.gov

³ www.un.org/law.icc



Great Power and Glory

Bill Humeniuk

It has been reported in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News & World Report* magazines how America and the rest of the world are preparing to meet greater threats from terrorists. The FBI and Vice President Dick Cheney said we should expect something more to happen. It is not a question of *if*, but *when*; yet, it will be unexpected.

Dr. Robert Morey, an expert on Islam, reported to the FBI that he was told by contacts in the intelligence community that they feared Muslim Pakistanis have brought into the United States three “dirty bombs,” which are small nuclear devices. See *Assist News Service* (ANS), March 19, 2002, (www.assist-ministries.com).

Michael T. Osterholm and John Schwartz, in their book *Living Terrors*, 54–55, have reported that the Islamic Jihad organization has planned 100 attacks against the United States, Israel, and public figures in different parts of the world using chemical and biological weapons.

On March 31, 2002, Fox News reported that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who, by the way, has repeatedly met with the pope, has called on the Arab world for millions of martyrs to make suicide attacks on the United States and its outposts in the Middle East.

Why am I reporting these developments? Why be concerned about the news of the world? What difference does it make? — Because we have been warned time and again in the Scriptures and through the Spirit of Prophecy that great developments are in the making, and a crisis is approaching of the greatest magnitude; yet we, who claim to be the people of God, are living on indifferently, careless, and in pursuit of worldly happiness.

We have been warned to get out of the cities, yet today, some of us are still deep in the heart of the cities, clinging to the things they have to offer — but not for long.

Suddenly, unexpectedly, the crisis will come upon us. Why? —

Because many are ignoring the warning given to us by the servant of the Lord.

Impending Disaster Predicted

“He [Satan] will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. . . . Destruction will be upon both man and beast.” *The Great Controversy*, 589–590.

“‘Out of the cities! out of the cities!’ — this has been my message for years.” *Counsels on Health*, 231. “‘Out of the cities, out of the cities!’ she declared; ‘this is the message the Lord has been giving me.’” *Life Sketches*, 409.

“The time is near when the large cities will be visited by the judgments of God. In a little while these cities will be terribly shaken. No matter how large or how strong their buildings, no matter how many safeguards against fire may have been provided, let God touch these buildings, and in a few minutes or a few hours they are in ruins.

“The ungodly cities of our world are to be swept away by the besom of destruction. In the calamities that are now befalling immense buildings and large portions of cities God is showing us what will come upon the whole earth. He has told us: ‘Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it [the coming of the Son of man] is near, even at the doors.’ Matthew 24:32-33.” *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 83.

“I have seen the most costly structures in buildings erected and supposed to be fireproof. And just as Sodom perished in the flames of God’s vengeance, so will these proud structures become ashes. . . . The flattering monuments of men’s greatness will be crumbled in the dust, *even before* the last great destruction comes upon the world.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 418-419. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

“The cities of today are fast becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. The many holidays encourage idleness. The exciting sports—theatergoing, horse racing, gambling, liquor-drinking, and reveling—stimulate every passion to intense activity. The youth are swept away by the popular current.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 54.

“Oh, that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry.” *Eoangelism*, 29.

“Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by *diligently studying* the Word of God and striving to *conform* their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and a reformation.” *Prophets and Kings*, 626.

What other reasons do God’s people need to get out of the cities?

What other reason do we need to *prepare* earnestly for what is coming on the earth?—“A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it?” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 315.

Peter and the Cross

I believe that many of us in denominational churches, self-supporting home churches, and in our work for the Lord are like Peter: “Peter did not desire to *see the cross* in the work of Christ.” *The Desire of Ages*, 415. Oh the cross, the path of self-denial on a daily basis! “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him

of His righteousness, bring the sinner to His right mind, and teach him and fit him up to be a laborer together with God.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 199.

United in Christ

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.” 1 Corinthians 3:11-13.

“Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the Word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts.”

deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23. “Follow Me” on a daily basis. Yes, this should call forth from us the response from the old hymn, “Take the world, but give me Jesus.” Are you willing? Are you *really* willing?

“Jesus looked upon the world in its fallen state with infinite pity. He took humanity upon Himself that He might touch and elevate humanity. . . . But it was written of Him that ‘He shall not fail nor be discouraged’ (Isaiah 42:4), and He went forth in *the path of self-denial and self-sacrifice*, giving us an example that we should *follow in His steps*. We should work as did Jesus, departing from our own pleasure, turning away from Satan’s bribes, despising ease, and abhorring selfishness, that we may seek and save that which is lost, bringing souls from darkness into light, into the sunshine of God’s love. We have been commissioned to go forth and preach the gospel to every creature. We are to bring to the lost the tidings that Christ can forgive sin, can renew the nature, can clothe the soul in the garments

The groundwork, the foundation has been laid by no other than Jesus Christ; not the church, not the authorities in the church, not anyone in self-supporting ministries. We need to especially remember this as we can all see blowing many winds of doctrine and interpretations—and in some cases outright apostasy.

“Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22.

As you see, there is only one foundation, only one Rock—Jesus Christ: “For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” 1 Corinthians 10:4. And there is only one body in Christ: “So we, being many, are one body in Christ,

and every one members one of another.” Romans 12:5.

Is Christ truly the *head* of this *one body*? “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” Ephesians 5:23–24; see also Ephesians 4:12–16; Colossians 1:18, 24. To prepare in this final hour means to follow Christ and what He has laid out for His people.

While the church is Christ’s body, we cannot focus our eyes on the church. The church is not what carries us through, but Christ can

they behold the transformation of character brought about in those who yield themselves to God, and they express their joy in songs of rapturous praise to God and to the Lamb. . . . They see them becoming prepared by a Christlike experience to suffer with their Lord, and afterward to be partakers with Him in His glory in heaven above.

“God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The church is the depository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through the church eventually will be made manifest the *final* and *full*

‘another angel’ is to ‘come down from heaven, having great power,’ and the earth is to be ‘lightened with his glory.’ The Spirit of the Lord will so graciously bless consecrated human instrumentalities that men, women, and children will open their lips in praise and thanksgiving, filling the earth with the knowledge of God, and with His unsurpassed glory, as the waters cover the sea. . . .

“As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, ‘the time of Jacob’s trouble,’ they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their *faces* will shine with the *glory* of that light which attends the third angel. . . .

“The proclamation of the gospel is the only means in which God can employ human beings as His instrumentalities for the salvation of souls. As men, women, and children proclaim the *gospel*, the Lord will open the eyes of the blind to see His statutes, and will write upon the hearts of the truly penitent His law. The animating Spirit of God, working through human agencies, leads the believers to be of one mind, one soul, unitedly loving God and keeping His commandments—preparing here below for translation.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 984.

“When the third angel’s message shall go forth with a loud voice, the whole earth shall be lightened with His glory, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon His people. The revenue of glory has been accumulating for this closing work of the third angel’s message. The prayers that have been ascending for the fulfillment of the promise, the descent of the Holy Spirit, not one has been lost. Each prayer has been accumulating, ready to overflow and pour forth a

“Through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory.”

and does because He is the *head* of the *body*, the church. It is He who carries the church through persecution; even when it appears to be decimated, it is not. See *Selected Messages*, book 2, 380.

A mighty shaking is coming to the church; Christ will purge His floor. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 80. But praise God; He is preparing a people for the final days, the loud cry, and His soon coming. Though a crisis is coming, though the church falters and a mighty shaking occurs, His body, the church, the final remnant, will come through. Notice the following statement:

“Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reprovved, warned, and counseled, is the only object upon earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard. . . . Angels are amazed as

display of the love of God to the world that is to be *lightened* with its *glory*.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 49–50.

God’s people, the church, will reveal the love of God that will lighten the world with “its glory.”

Power and Glory

God has called a people to proclaim the three angel’s messages, yet the work advances slowly. Even though we preach via satellite, radio, TV, and through other evangelistic methods, the work is hardly making headway. We desperately need the fourth angel to add power and glory to the three angels’ messages.

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.” Revelation 18:1.

Notice also the Spirit of Prophecy comments on this chapter: “The prophecies in the eighteenth [chapter] of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel’s message,

healing flood of heavenly influence and accumulated light all over the world." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 180-181.

The latter rain of the fourth angel is going to add "great power" to the work. Then men, women, and children will respond as God's messengers "proclaim the name of the Lord." I believe that this event is soon to happen. God will take the reins in His own hands and finish the proclamation of the three angels' messages by simple means. See *Testimonies to Ministers*, 300.

God's Glory

Can you imagine children filled with "great power" — the latter rain — revealing God's glory? What is this glory that will be added, besides the great power? Is it God's majesty, power, or fire that flashes here and there from heaven? — Listen: "To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 979.

For further study on the glory of God, let us consider the experience of Moses. We must remember that Moses was the meekest man on earth. See Numbers 12:3. The 40 years he spent herding sheep in the wilderness molded and shaped him into a very humble character. Now, in the thirteenth verse of Exodus 33, Moses asked God, "shew me now *thy way*, that I may *know thee*." Then in verse 14, God said, "My presence shall go with thee." When you desire to know God with all your heart, He will reveal Himself to you, and His presence will go with you.

Then, notice the concern of Moses in verse 16, "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." Then a deep, personal connection is expressed by God: "I will do this

thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found *grace* in my sight, and I *know thee* by name." Verse 17.

Oh, my dear reader, we must strive for such a deep, abiding connection with God that He knows us by name.

In verse 18, Moses expresses, "I beseech thee, shew me *thy glory*." If this would have been a casual, presumptuous request, I believe Moses would have died; but this was not the case. He was talking to God, pleading for his people, seeking pardon for them, and asking for assurance; this was a heart-to-heart connection and conversation. So God says, "I will make *all my goodness* pass before thee, and I will *proclaim the name of the LORD* before thee;" but, "while my glory passeth by . . . I will put thee in a cleft of the rock." Verses 19, 22.

that it is acceptable. No, my dear people; when Moses beheld the name of the Lord — not His glorious illuminated majesty, but the Lord God with all the traits of His majestic character — look how he responded: "And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped." Verse 8. Now, *that* is worship; that is reverence.

Moses understood and *knew God*, because the rest of chapter 34 tells us that Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on the mount with God. He had such an intimate connection with God that "the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him." Verse 30. So he put a veil over his face. The "*name of the LORD*," and *the Lord God's glory* shone in and through Moses from the heart to his face — fully, yes, fully revealing the character of God, "His glory."

The 144,000 . . . worship God as did Moses, not celebrating as Aaron did, with feasting and music.

It appears that there is also a connection between the law of God and His glory. In Exodus 34:1-4, God wrote the Ten Commandments again on two new tables of stone. Then, in verses 5-7, "The LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.*"

Do you think that after God revealed Himself and proclaimed the name of the Lord with all the traits of the great *I AM* — the details of His character — do you think that Moses just stood there, prayed, and lifted up his hands in praise? Often that is what we do, and we think

The 144,000

This is the glory that will lighten the world. The 144,000 will so fully reflect every aspect of God's character as listed in Exodus 34:6-7, that in Revelation 14:1, it says that they stood with the Lamb and had "his Father's name written in their foreheads." Yes, they had the "name of the Lord" in their hearts; they knew the Lord, and the Lord knew them. So vital and close a connection will they have with God that they, too, have their faces lighted up, proclaiming the everlasting gospel with "great power and glory" during the loud cry.

The 144,000 are also fearing God and giving glory to Him; that is, they are returning to God His glory, which is His character. They worship God as did Moses, not celebrating as Aaron did, with

feasting and music—no, no, but bowing their heads to the earth and worshipping the name of the Lord.

Notice what the servant of the Lord wrote: “Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. See Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.” *The Great Controversy*, 612.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

When we spend time with Jesus, daily making that “vital connection with God,” not celebrating, but meditating in total communion with Him, seeking “with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action,” how can we not reflect Christlikeness and holiness? See *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 334, 332.

The apostle Paul understood; he knew God: “The name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you.” 2 Thessalonians 1:12.

Truly, the latter rain empowers the faithful remnant, the last generation, to so fully reflect Jesus that the world will see Jesus in us. Can you imagine the 144,000 with their faces all lighted up with God’s glory, going from door to door with the influence of Christlikeness? Their powerful testimony may even attract media coverage. It will certainly light up the world with “His glory.” “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27. What is the glory of the mystery? It is the divine, holy attributes of the Godhead revealed in Christ which Moses, Enoch, and Elijah all saw and reflected, and the final generation will see and reflect, revealing

to the Gentile world the hope of “glory.” “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 3:18.

Do you see it? Are you beginning to experience it? If not, fall on your knees at this moment and plead with God and study His Word, surrendering all to Jesus that He may have His way in you. Then His character can be perfectly reproduced in you, His people, His church, the hope of glory. Not until then will He come to claim His own. See *Ibid.*, 69.

For years I sang the familiar hymn *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus* without much thought or impression on my mind. But not anymore; this study has changed that; it has changed my character, thoughts, and desires forever. No, I have not reached the goal, but by God’s grace I will, and so can you—beginning now!

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim
In the light of His glory and
grace.”

Oh, may this be the experience of each one of us, what do you say? As we have this experience, we are preparing for the final crisis, the loud cry, the time of trouble, and the coming of our Lord and God.

This is the hour, brothers and sisters; this is the opportunity. Are we going to squander it? This is the time for our beloved church, the body of Christ to show forth His glory. It is a solemn hour to seek the Lord and prepare for the crisis that is breaking upon the earth. Please join me in seeking to “reflect the glory of the Lord” with “great power” to proclaim the three angels’ messages, hastening the coming of our Lord. ✨

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A New Heart

Leola Rosenvold

The pale, drawn, and haggard face of a man named Albert appeared on our local television news screen. He had only a short time to live—that is, unless an organ donor could be found. If his life were to be spared, he must in the near future undergo a heart transplant. Physicians had said that they could do nothing to mend his “old” heart. Replacing a valve or repairing any other “portion” of his heart would not help him. He needed a whole new heart. Being in his early 30s and having a wife and children, he was understandably troubled and anxious!

The community solicited funds for his anticipated surgery. We saw his face on the TV screen day after day as the amount being collected was reported. Finally the day arrived when, upon answering the telephone, he heard those welcome words: “A donor heart has been found!” Immediately his mind was filled with hope and rejoicing! After the proper preparation was made, Albert surrendered himself fully into the hands of his physician. The surgery was successful, and, after some weeks had passed, his face appeared again on the television news.

What a transformation! What a change! No longer was Albert pale

and haggard. His life had been restored; his face shone with a healthy radiance; his eyes were bright! His joy and thanksgiving were reflected upon the entire community where he lived. All the people rejoiced with him! Sadly, he meditated over the fact that someone had lost his life to make it possible that he might live. Now, let us consider some spiritual lessons from Albert’s experience.

A Divine Remedy

Before he received a new heart, Albert was a sick and dying man. Today, many are as sick spiritually as Albert was physically. To use a Bible term, their hearts are *natural* or *carnal*, and their characters are so diseased that they do not have long to remain spiritually alive. Note God’s descriptions of such a heart. He declares that: “Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil *continually*.” Genesis 6:5. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” Mark 7:21-23.

Spiritually speaking, men do not always realize the extent of the diseased condition of their hearts. That is, not until they look into the mirror of God’s law of Ten Commandments. It is then that they see themselves as they actually are—wretched and hopelessly near death. They long to be forgiven.

That remedy is the gospel. An important passage is found in the Spirit of Prophecy book *This Day With God*, 224: “The truths of the gospel are not unconnected; uniting they form one string of heavenly jewels . . . and like *threads of gold* they run through the whole of Christian work and experience.”

God’s precious, sparkling gospel truths unite to form one golden string of remedial heavenly gems. These truths can be plucked off the string, as it were, and examined or discussed one by one. The first sparkling gem of truth we will pluck off to examine is called justification. In examining this jewel of truth, may we use an allegory?

A Man Named Larry

George had a friend named Larry, who seemed extremely discouraged and despondent. George told Larry of some of the wonderful, encouraging gems of

truth to be found in the Bible. He urged him to study God's Word. Larry was convinced of his need to study. When he opened his Bible he knew not where to begin. So he read through Genesis and into Exodus. But when he reached Exodus 20, he became startled, for upon comparing himself with God's law, he was faced with the shocking revelation of his truly diseased spiritual condition! "Is this the reason for my mental despondency?" he asked himself. Without realizing it, Larry echoed the words of Paul, as he cried out: "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me?" Romans 7:24. Larry felt desperate! "Is there no remedy?" he exclaimed.

anxious, to perform the needed operation for you, without which you will surely die! My services will be donated; your new heart will be *free*. If you cooperate, you will be born again into a new life altogether."

Larry Seeks Counsel

At this point Larry went to his friend George for counsel. George explained that as in a physical heart transplant, in order to receive a new spiritual heart transplant, it is necessary to undergo a spiritual preparation.

George took down the first book of *Selected Messages*, and turned to page 393. After carefully explaining to Larry that this was not just any

Larry understood: "When I come to Jesus 'just as I am,' believing that God's Word and its promises are true, the Physician will send the Holy Spirit to help me prepare."

"Right," answered George.

George explained further: "The Physician has given to every man a measure of faith or belief, that he may respond to His calling. However, in order for a man's faith to increase he must 'come' to the Great Physician to receive, not only repentance, but also a greater measure of faith—even a faith that will make salvation by grace possible."

In His Bedroom

Larry hurried home. In his bedroom with his Bible opened before him, Larry fell upon his knees. His attention was drawn to the cross of Christ. While kneeling at the foot of the cross, looking up at Jesus, these words burned into his soul: "A Donor has been found!" Jesus Himself had passed through a horrible death on the cross in order that Larry, a repentant sinner, might live! It was with sadness that Larry realized that for him to live, Someone had to die—and that Someone was his divine Surgeon, Jesus Christ, God's own dear Son!

He read aloud this precious promise from God's Word:

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26.

Larry prayed for the promised Helper. His prayer was answered. The Spirit led him into a true sorrow for his sins, into *repentance* and *faith*, and a *full surrender* to the Great Physician, who, as promised, performed the re-creative surgery. Larry had obeyed as he heard the Physician plead: "My son, give me thine heart." Proverbs 23:26. But, oh! What an exchange! Larry had received a clean (unselfish), new, healthy heart in exchange for his sinful, selfish, spiritually diseased

"There is nothing that can be done to repair or patch up your old heart. It will be necessary for you to undergo a spiritual heart transplant!"

A Spiritual Heart Transplant

Larry was filled with joyful excitement, however, when he turned to the New Testament. "Yes! There is a remedy for all sin-sick souls! It is found in Jesus Christ—our spiritual Physician!" He listened as he heard the Physician invite: "Come unto Me." Matthew 11:28. Larry responded. He cast himself upon Christ's mercy.

Jesus looked upon him with love and tender compassion. He began to explain the remedy to Larry. He spoke in somewhat the same words as He did to Nicodemus that night so long ago. See John, chapter 3. "You need a *new heart*," Jesus explained. "There is nothing that can be done to repair or patch up your *old heart*. It will be necessary for you to undergo a spiritual heart transplant!" Larry felt uncomfortable. Like Nicodemus, he wondered, "How could this be?"

But the Physician was still speaking: "I am willing, even

book, that it was an inspired book, he read the following to him:

"In order to obtain the righteousness of Christ [a new heart], it is necessary for the sinner to know what that repentance is which works a radical change of mind and spirit and action."

Larry's eyes were fastened upon George. George looked up, and said, "Next the author asks two questions: 'Who is desirous of becoming truly repentant? What must he do?' Listen closely, Larry," George advised, "for the author answers her own questions." Larry leaned forward so he would not miss the answer:

"He must come to Jesus, just as he is, without delay. He must believe that the Word of Christ is true, and, believing the promise, ask, that he may receive. When sincere desire prompts men to pray, they will not pray in vain. The Lord will fulfill His Word, and will give the Holy Spirit to lead to repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

heart! "Praise God," Larry's sins were forgiven. Through faith, Larry had received the sparkling gift of justification!

The Physician Sends a Message

We interrupt our allegory of Larry momentarily. God sent an important message to His church. It is a very sobering message. God warns us through Ellen White that, as a people, we have at times neglected to teach these preparatory truths to souls who are seeking salvation. Surely we do not consider these truths as unnecessary or as an "unpleasant duty"! If we have fallen into this trap, let us heed the following rebuke:

"Some open revival meetings, and by this means call large numbers into the church. But when the excitement is over, where are the converted ones? Repentance and confession of sin are not seen. The sinner is entreated to believe in Christ and accept Him, without regard to his past life of sin and rebellion. The heart is not broken. There is no contrition of soul. The supposed converted ones have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.

"The Old and New Testament Scriptures show us the only way in which this work should be done. Repent, repent, repent, was the message rung out by John the Baptist in the wilderness. Christ's message to the people was 'Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.' Luke 13:5. And the apostles were commanded to preach everywhere that men should repent.

"The Lord desires His servants today to preach the old gospel doctrine—sorrow for sin, repentance, and confession. We want old-fashioned sermons, old-fashioned customs, old-fashioned fathers and mothers in Israel. The sinner must be labored for, perseveringly, earnestly, wisely, until he shall see that he is a transgressor of God's law, and shall exercise repentance toward God, and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ." Ibid., book 2, 19.

"Believe, believe, only believe" is not enough. The devils believe and tremble. A lukewarm Laodicean may believe all of the truth and God's promises, but he is not "being saved" thereby, for he is not converted. Jesus said in John, chapter 3, that unless a man is "born again" he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. An unconverted one believes only with the measure of faith that is given to all men.

We are to teach new converts that it is "by *repentance* and *faith* we are justified before God, and through divine grace enabled to render obedience to His commandments." *The Sanctified Life*, 81.

"The Lord desires His servants today to preach the old gospel doctrine—sorrow for sin, repentance, and confession. We want old-fashioned sermons, old-fashioned customs, old-fashioned fathers and mothers in Israel."

Back To Larry

Albert had received a new physical life through the gift of his donor heart. Just so, an amazing transformation had taken place in the life of Larry. He had received the heart, the mind, and the faith of His Saviour. He was filled with hope, rejoicing, and gratitude. Relieved of the burden of his sins, he was no longer miserable and spiritually wretched. New spiritual life had been put within him. His eyes sparkled with joy! His face shone with a healthy radiance! He reflected his joy and thankfulness upon all with whom he came in contact. He pointed them to the Great Physician, Who alone is able to forgive sins and to heal spiritual diseases.

Wonder of wonders! Oh, how could it be? The entire community where he lives became aware of the change in Larry. No longer was he morose and discouraged. His heart thrilled as he related to others that his heart Donor and Surgeon, Jesus Christ, died in order that he, a

sinner, might live! Everyone within the sphere of his influence heard "*the old gospel story*." His words echoed Ellen White's sentiments when she exclaimed: "O Precious, loving, long-suffering, long-forbearing Jesus, how my soul adores Thee! . . . Wonder, O Heavens, and be astonished, O earth, that fallen man is the object of His infinite love and delight." *The Upward Look*, 377.

Larry was often heard inviting his friends and acquaintances to experience the fulfillment of that precious promise offered to all men by the Heavenly Physician: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:

and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26. Larry did not fail to also tell his friends that they must go to Jesus "just as they are," to receive the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Day by day Larry diligently studied God's precious Word. As he increased in wisdom and knowledge, he continued to grow up spiritually in Christ.

A New Mind

In the Bible, being given a new heart is likened to being "born again." We often refer to it as "conversion" or the "new birth." Lest we fail to realize the true wonders of the reception of a "new heart," we will add some additional sparkles that emanate from this gospel truth.

From the inspired writings we are told that many of us, especially the youth, fail to understand the true significance of what it means to have a new heart. Ellen White clearly defines its meaning:

“The youth especially stumble over this phrase, ‘a new heart.’ They do not know what it means. . . . When Jesus speaks of the new heart, He means the *mind*, the *life*, the *whole being*. . . . To have a new heart is to have a *new mind*, *new purposes*, *new motives*.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 100.

Paul understood. He explains: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, *all things* are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

mind; while in a spiritual mind the mind controls the body. How or when will the stony heart be taken away? When “the heart, the mind, are *created anew*.”

Once we have received a new heart, or mind, can it be lost?—Yes! It must be maintained the same way we receive it, through surrender—through the peace and assurance of *constant* surrender! King David was converted in his youth and also in much of his later years.

when he pled, ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God.’ Psalm 51:10. God’s response to such a prayer is, A new heart will I give you. This is a work that no finite man can do. Men and women are to begin at the beginning, seeking God most earnestly for a true Christian experience. They are to feel the creative power of the Holy Spirit. They are to receive the new heart, that is kept soft and tender by the grace of Heaven. The selfish spirit is to be cleansed from the soul.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1165.

When David sinned, he displayed a carnal, selfish, stony heart. This mindset was removed—cleansed from his mind—by the creative power of the Holy Spirit.

As we begin or renew our Christian experience, we must fully surrender to Christ as did David. Then with Christ dwelling in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, we receive a new mind—even the “mind of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 2:16. Let us be glad and rejoice that we can experience such a sparkling gem of gospel truth! ✨

Adapted from the book *Sparkling Gems of Truth*, by Leola Rosewold. You may order your copy from Hope International, shown below.

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How can this be? How does this new life come about?—By a new creation: “The heart, the mind, are *created anew*.” *The Desire of Ages*, 176.

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural working, bringing a supernatural element into human nature.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 17, 314.

God loves us so much that He explains the entire plan of salvation to us very clearly.

A Warning

On the other hand, what is the “stony heart”?—In the same paragraph just quoted from, we are warned: “Unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one.”

Paul states it this way: “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:6. Webster defines “carnal” as: “Of the body or flesh;—opposed to spiritual.” The stony heart—the carnal mind—is controlled by the wicked one. In a carnal mind the body controls the

However, he did not always maintain his surrender. He fell into sin—into grievous sins! Now the question: If one has lost his “born again” experience, how can he regain it? The same way David did.

After David’s great sin, he once again surrendered to the Great Physician, pleading: “Give me a new heart, oh my God.” See Psalm 51. The Spirit of Prophecy has revealed that “One of the most earnest prayers recorded in the Word of God is that of David



Sparkling Gems of Truth

Leola Rosewold
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Some of God’s sparkling jewels are to be found deep in the mines of His Word. Others may lie near the surface. Many neglect the serious study necessary for growth in grace. The string of heavenly gems is left buried beneath all the mundane things we feel are so important, but which in the light of eternity are mere rubbish.

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“I Cannot Come Down”

Ellen G. White

“**W**atchman, what of the night?” (Isaiah 21:11) is the inquiry that should now arise from all hearts. And the true watchman will be able to give the answer, “The morning cometh, and also the night.” Verse 12. This is a day of peril, a day of clouds and thick darkness. Men are blinded, infatuated by the god of this world. They close their eyes to the fearful events that are casting their shadows before. Intoxicated with self-indulgence and luxury, they know not that the tempest is about to burst upon them.

Satan and his hosts set themselves to overthrow the work of God. To fainting, unbelieving souls it may seem that the powers of darkness are about to prevail. Philosophy sets up reason as an antagonist of revelation. Science, falsely so called, directs the minds of men to the book of nature as a contradiction of the Word of God. Critics search the Scriptures to find some pretext for treating with contempt the words of Holy Writ. The base spirit of worldliness leads men to seek to throw off the claims of their Maker. And many who profess to reverence God’s Word make war upon all who proclaim its plain and cutting truths.

At times the clamor of error and heresy seem almost to drown the voice of truth; yet the cry of the

true watchman is still heard sounding from the watchtower, “The morning cometh, and also the night.” We have no thought of discouragement, no thought of fainting or failing. Our only anxiety is to discharge our duty in the fear of God. We know that “God is, and he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (see Hebrews 11:6); he lives and reigns, and all he asks of us is humble faith and willing obedience. Those who occupy themselves in opposing His work and His servants, we leave to serve their own master, while we press forward to spread the triumphs of the cross.

There are many who consider it a mark of intelligence to doubt, and they pride themselves upon their ability to devise objections to God’s Word, to His truth, or to those who proclaim it. One class will bring together disconnected or obscure passages of Scripture, interpret to suit themselves, and then, after perverting or wholly concealing the true meaning they hold them up to ridicule as examples of the absurdities to be found in the Bible. Others attack in a similar manner the words and acts of those whom God calls to lead out in His cause. But are infidels and skeptics the men who devote their lives to noble efforts to reform and elevate mankind? And those who busy

themselves in finding fault with the servants of God—are they laboring with zeal and energy to build up His kingdom?—In this work they have little interest. Their mission is to weaken and tear down. This is the work of Satan, and he employs the ability of every man whom he can control.

There will ever be some who take delight in dwelling upon the real or supposed faults and failures of others, and who employ their time in seeing, hearing, or reporting something that will destroy confidence in the person criticized. Few are without visible faults; in most persons careful scrutiny will reveal some defect of character; and upon these defects in others, some professed Christians delight to dwell. The habit strengthens with indulgence, and a love for gossip becomes their ruling passion. They gather together the tidbits of reports—all of them, it may be, utterly devoid of truth—and feast upon the scandal, and share it with others as a rare delicacy.

A writer asks, Whoever heard of a dove rending the heart of a robin, or of a lamb sucking the blood of a kid? This is the work of hawks and tigers. The true followers of Christ will not be found biting and devouring one another. “This wisdom descendeth not from

above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." James 3:15-16.

Envy and jealousy loose the bloodhounds of suspicion, and minds that love the sport join in hunting down the fair fame of Christ's ambassadors. An unjust insinuation is started, a conjecture is set afloat; and it gathers strength as it passes from one to another of those who desire it to be true. These evil reports are received with great satisfaction by some who have been reprov'd for heinous sins or grave defects of character. They smarted under the reproof, and yet did not reform. Now their consciences are eased; they learn that the reprov'er cannot be trusted; somebody has circulated a damag-

Guard well the avenues of the soul. Place sentinels at the eyes, the ears, the lips. When prevarications and conjectures are brought before you, and your minds are disturbed, go to Jesus, and pray for help that you may not be ensnared by the wiles of Satan.

Many ask, Why do you not contradict these reports? Why allow them to be circulated? The same question has been asked again and again for the last 40 years. My answer is, in the language of one of old, I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down. See Nehemiah 6:3. God has called me to reveal to others by pen and voice, what He has revealed to me. In His strength I must go forward in this solemn and important work, knowing that it is soon

against me. If I were to leave my work to correct every false statement made concerning me, I would have time to do little else. Satan's purpose would be accomplished, could he thus put an end to my labors.

I have not changed in character or in my manner of labor since you first listened to the messages of comfort, encouragement, and warning which God has given me for His people. I am the same in plainness and severe simplicity of dress; the same in bearing an earnest, decided testimony for God; the same in deep interest in the truth. I cherish the same faith, the same hope, the same love for souls for whom Christ died.

Brethren and sisters, have no fears that I shall become disheartened by the cruel attacks of my enemies. I expect them in greater measure, and only wonder that they have not been more frequent. Think of Jesus. How much was said against Him. How He was despised and hated. See Him laboring for a short time in one place, and then forced to hasten to another to save His life, that He might finish His work, and give to the world the light of a pure and noble example. We may strengthen our faith and quicken our love by going often to the foot of the cross, and there contemplating our Saviour's humiliation. Behold the Majesty of Heaven suffering as a transgressor! Spotless purity, untarnished righteousness, did not shield Him from falsehood and reproach. He meekly bore the contradiction of sinners against Himself, and yielded up His life, that we might be forgiven and live forevermore. Are we willing to follow in His steps? The only reason why we do not now suffer greater persecution is, we do not in our lives more faithfully exemplify the life of Christ. I assure you, brethren and sisters, if you walk as He walked, you will know what it is to be persecuted and reproached for His sake.

If we hope to wear the crown, we must expect to bear the cross.

Many ask, Why do you not contradict these reports? Why allow them to be circulated? . . . My answer is, in the language of one of old, I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down.

ing report; somebody has brought an accusation. They leave the distasteful work of caring for their own souls and repenting of their own sins, and climb upon the judgment seat to condemn another.

Brethren and sisters, let not your souls be disturbed by the efforts of those who so earnestly seek to arouse distrust and suspicion of Sister White. These attacks have been repeated hundreds of times during the past 40 years; but my labors have not ceased; the voice of warning, reproof, and encouragement has not been silenced. The evil reports framed concerning me have injured those who circulated them; but they have not destroyed my work. Before some of these opposers had an existence, I was shown what would come, and from what source. In the day of God, those who have been seeking to prove me a deceiver must answer for their course. I appeal to those who love the truth:

to bear the test of the judgment. While false accusers are doing what pleases themselves, I will seek only to please Him who has given me my work. Christ is our leader, and if we follow Him, we shall see His triumph and share His joy.

To those who have long been acquainted with my labors, I leave the burden of stating the truth in these matters. If any who have had an experience in this message and who understand the relation which I have sustained to it, are inclined to believe the false statements of my enemies, nothing that I might say would influence them. Those who make the slanders and those who circulate them are actuated by the same spirit. I do not expect the manufacture and circulation of false reports to cease. As long as I am faithful in reprov'ing sin, and in presenting before the people the perfection of Christian character, Satan's enmity will be stirred

Our greatest trials will come from those who profess godliness. It was so with the world's Redeemer; it will be so with His followers. I should doubt whether I were a child of God, if the world, or even all professed Christians, spoke well of me. Those who are in earnest to win the crown of eternal life need not be surprised or disheartened because at every step toward the heavenly Canaan they meet with obstacles and encounter trials. The opposition which Christ received came from His own nation, who would have been greatly blessed had they accepted Him. In like manner the remnant church receive opposition from those who profess to be their brethren.

But "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28. "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. It is good for me to tread a hard and humble path, to encounter difficulties, to experience disappointments, to suffer afflictions and bereavements. The Saviour knows what is best. Faith grows by conflict with doubt and difficulty and trial. Virtue gathers strength by resistance to temptation. The life of the faithful soldier is a battle and a march. No rest, fellow pilgrim, this side the heavenly Canaan.

When our enemies try to place upon us the black robes of unrighteousness, let us not become exasperated at their injustice. When your efforts are falsified, when your motives and your works are painted in colors black as ink, remember those who were treated the same before you. How have the saints of God in ages past been maligned, traduced, and persecuted! For centuries their names were covered with infamy. All that the hosts of hell could do was done to heap reproach upon them as the vilest of men. But John in holy vision beholds the faithful souls that come up out of great tribulation, surrounding the throne of God, clad in white robes, and crowned with immortal glory.

What though they have been counted the offscouring of the earth? In the investigative judgment their lives and characters are brought in review before God, and that solemn tribunal reverses the decision of their enemies. Their faithfulness to God and to His Word stands revealed, and Heaven's high honors are awarded them as conquerors in the strife with sin and Satan.

Brethren, we can afford to wait. Let our enemies exult because they have represented us in a character to suit their malicious fancy. But Christ will judge righteously, and will reward every man according to his deeds. To the faithful, who have been clothed by their enemies in the black robes of falsehood, He will give the spotless garments of truth and purity.

Let our enemies exult because they have represented us in a character to suit their malicious fancy. But Christ will judge righteously, and will reward every man according to his deeds.

It will do our proud hearts good to suffer reproach for Christ's sake. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matthew 5:10-12.

Take courage, then, when the burden is heavy, when the work moves slowly, and temptations, strong and fierce, surge in upon you. Cease not your effort so long as there is one soul to be warned by your words, one soul to be benefited by your example.

I entreat you to depend less upon your own efforts, and trust more to the power of Christ. Cultivate fortitude, firmness,

patience, humility, and self-control. The God whom we serve will arm us with courage in every emergency; but we must abase self, and let God be all-in-all. It was true faith that gave Caleb courage to bear his decided testimony for God, even when fellow workers stood ready to take his life. God wants brave men in His cause today — men who in His strength are not afraid to do and dare.

The time is short. How will our cases appear in the judgment? What is now our standing before God? Are we closely examining our own hearts? Are we by repentance and confession sending our sins beforehand to judgment, that they may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come? This is an individual work — a work which we cannot safely delay. We should

take hold of it earnestly; our salvation depends upon our sincerity and zeal. Let the cry be awakened in every heart, "What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30.

The adversary of souls is constantly seeking to divert our minds by bringing in side issues. Let us not be deceived. Let enemies handle your name and mine as they please. Let them distort, misrepresent our words and deeds. Let them fabricate falsehoods as best pleases them. We cannot afford to allow our minds to be diverted from Jesus and the preparation of soul which we must have in order to meet Him in peace.

Leave Sister White in the hands of God. If the work in which she is engaged be of God, it will prosper; otherwise it will come to naught. But remember that your own eternal interests are now at stake. The fatal lethargy upon you must now be broken, or it will result in

endless death. "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him." 1 Kings 18:21. In Christ's stead, I beseech you to pray as you never prayed before, to seek earnestly for faith and love, that seem to be almost banished from the earth. Live each day as in the sight of God.

Your case will soon come in review before God; how is it with you, my brother? Are you unprepared for that solemn investigation? Christ alone hath the words of eternal life. Helpless, discouraged, sin-smitten soul, look to Jesus; He will pity, bless, and save you. Let not false teachers confuse your minds and unsettle your faith

as harshness and severity. As he worked at the beginning, so he works in the end, only concealing himself more perfectly from view.

By every conceivable device, the foe is seeking to throw us off our guard. He may first attempt to deceive with smooth words and crafty insinuations; and if these fail, he proceeds to open violence. He has many a deep-laid snare for unwary feet, and those who once become entangled find it almost impossible to extricate themselves. While he praises, flatters, and exalts some, he hurls his fiery darts at others. We must be on guard every moment. Days of peculiar trial, difficulty, and danger are before us.

avail. Every one must live by faith as he is forced into close and apparently deadly conflict with the powers of darkness. Each must stand or fall for himself. The arrows of the destroyer are about to be hurled against the faithful ones, and no earthly power can turn aside the shaft. But could our eyes be opened we could see angels of God encircling the righteous, that no harm may come upon them. We have only to trust in God, and go forward in the way of obedience, and we shall be victorious.

"Now the just shall live by faith." Hebrews 10:38. We must look to Jesus, study His words, pray for His Spirit. We should be more frequently alone with God in meditation and prayer. Let us pray more and talk less. We cannot trust to our own wisdom, our own experience, our own knowledge of the truth; we must be daily learners, looking to our heavenly Teacher for instruction, and then, without regard to ease, pleasure, or convenience, we must go forward, knowing that He is faithful who has called.

We should cultivate a spirit of prayer, not merely praying in our closets, at the family altar, or in public, but having our minds constantly centered on God, taking hold upon His strength, pleading for His grace, confiding in His promises. Let us put on the whole armor of righteousness, which the Captain of our salvation has prepared for us. While we realize our weakness, let us rely upon His strength, and overcome by the grace which He imparts.

There is help in God for every seeker. Great promises are left on record for us. We should keep faith in constant exercise, and it will increase and strengthen. Our hope is in Christ, "whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Colossians 1:28. ✝

Review and Herald, August 28, 1883, originally entitled "Our Present Position."

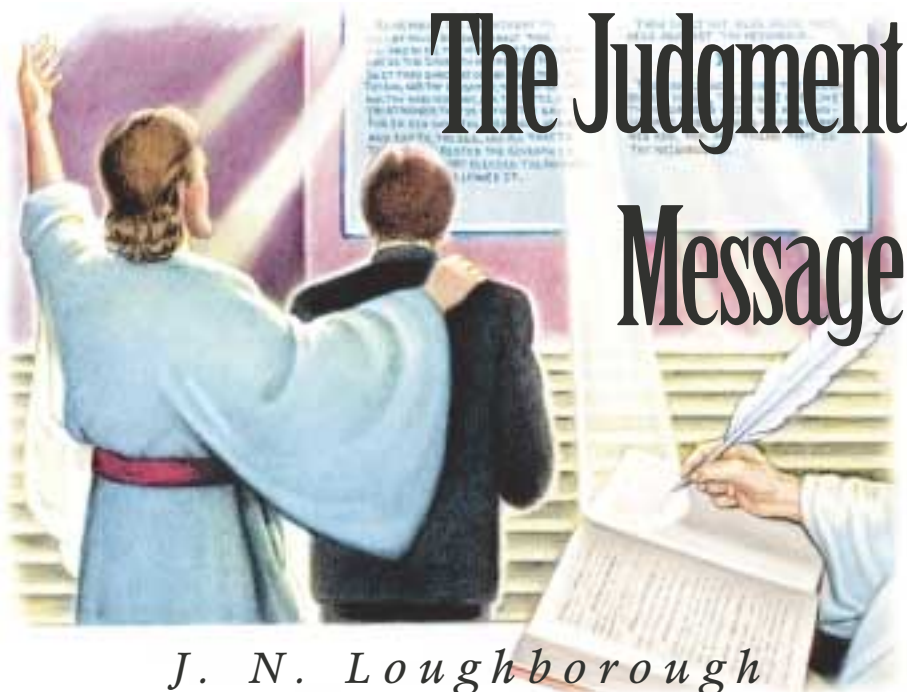
We may expect greater opposition than has yet been experienced. We have heard but the growling of the dragon. This will swell to a roar.

by casting reproach upon those whom God has sent you with messages of warning and instruction. Remember that it is not mere men whom you have to meet, but "principalities and powers, and wicked spirits in high places." See Ephesians 6:12. Now is the very time when Satan is working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.

Many are in reality fighting his battles while they profess to serve under the banner of Christ. These traitors in the camp may not be suspected, but they are doing their work to create unbelief, discord, and strife. Such are the most dangerous of foes. While they insinuate themselves into our favor, and gain our confidence and sympathy, they are busy suggesting doubts and creating suspicion. They work in the same manner as did Satan in heaven when he deceived the angels by his artful representations, placing darkness for light, and making the forbearance and mercy of God to appear

It is not enough that we have the theory of the truth; its principles must be inwrought in the soul, and exemplified in the life, or we shall fall a prey to the delusions prepared for the last days.

We must make up our minds that instead of matters taking a more favorable turn, wicked men, seducing teachers, will grow worse and worse, deceiving themselves and deceiving others. We may expect greater opposition than has yet been experienced. We have heard but the growling of the dragon. This will swell to a roar. We have yet to learn the significance of those words of John: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. We must now make Christ our refuge, or in the days before us our souls will be overwhelmed with darkness and despair. There is a point beyond which human help cannot



The Judgment Message

J. N. Loughborough

Under the symbol of three angels' messages, there is introduced in the book of Revelation a threefold warning which is followed by our Saviour's coming to reap the "harvest of the earth." See Revelation 14:14-15. In the public ministry of Christ, our Lord gave a parable in which He presented not only the seed sowing and the growth of the plants but also the final "harvest." In explaining this parable to His disciples, He told them distinctly that "the harvest is the end of the world" (Matthew 13:39), thus showing that these three messages not only immediately precede the end of the world, but that they contain the truths which are to "ripen" the harvest of the earth—the one class for the heavenly garner, and the other for the winepress of the wrath of God.

The first of these messages proclaims the "everlasting gospel." It is not the work of literal angels visibly to preach the gospel to men, but to minister to those "who shall be heirs of salvation." Hebrews 1:14. In the case of the devoted Cornelius, to whom a glorious angel appeared, it was not to communicate to him the simplest fact of the gospel even, but to tell him where one of God's chosen ministers was, who could and

would teach him the truth. See Acts 10:3-6.

Our Saviour committed the preaching of the gospel to men, and to those faithful in their commission is still His assurance, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.

These angelic messengers of Revelation are regarded as symbols of messages of truth to be proclaimed by men to this last generation. While the visible workers are men, angels, who "desire to look into" (1 Peter 1:12) the truths of the gospel, camp about (see Psalm 34:7) those who, in the fear of the Lord, proclaim His Word.

It is not a new gospel that is to be proclaimed to the last generation, but the same "everlasting gospel." In the first of these three messages, however, there is, connected with the proclamation of the gospel, a *new reason* assigned why men should yield obedience to the Lord. It is found in these words: "For the hour of his judgment is come." Revelation 14:7. When the apostle Paul stood before Felix and "reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled"! Acts 24:25. His trembling, undoubtedly, would have been much greater had the message been, "The hour of his

judgment is come." This first angel's message does not say the judgment is *coming*, but "the hour [period] of his judgment is *come*." (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Such an announcement could only be made at a time when the judgment is actually to begin. If men are to give such a message to their fellow men, the Scriptures must contain a line of prophetic truth, and a prophetic period leading down to the session of the judgment. Do the Scriptures contain such a period?—They do, or men could never, from the Scriptures, give such a message. That period of time is the 2300 days, (see Daniel 8:14) leading down to the cleansing of the sanctuary.

The work of mediation in the earthly sanctuary was a representation, in figure, of the real work of Christ, the true High Priest, as He pleads before His Father, in the heavenly sanctuary, for those who, with truly contrite hearts, confess their sins to Him. See Hebrews 8:4-5; 9:13-14, 24. First, as in the typical service, there is a pardon for the repentant believer; and in the closing of the service (cleansing of the sanctuary), a blotting out of sins, which blotting out is a final decision of the cases of the righteous. In the type, the sins blotted out one year were remembered again the next year (see Hebrews 10:3), because the blood of beasts did not actually take away their sins. In the blotting out to be accomplished by Christ, the sins of His people will be remembered no more. See verse 17. So this final work of Christ, as the true High Priest, in blotting out the sins of God's people—the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary—must be the passing of judgment on their cases.

Cleansing of the Sanctuary

As performed in the Jewish economy, the cleansing of the sanctuary must have been a matter with which Daniel was familiar. It occurred in their service once a

year, on the tenth day of the seventh month. He must also have had some definite idea of the significance of that atonement, as it prefigured the final work to be accomplished by the promised Messiah.

The Jewish people of this day who carefully study their service understand the type, at least. That this is so is seen both in their sayings and in their writings. As proof, your attention is called to the following circumstance: In September 1869, during a series of meetings held at Healdsburg, Cal., a well-educated Jew who resided in that place became much interested in the meetings. Being a man who was very diligent in his mercantile business, it was a matter of great surprise that he should leave his store to attend a meeting in mid-week, and in the daytime. At the

that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people." Leviticus 23:27-29.

In further proof that the Jewish people regard the tenth day of the seventh month as a day of judgment, the following is quoted from one of their journals published in San Francisco. It is called the *Jewish Exponent*, and is an organ of the orthodox Jews west of the Rocky Mountains. In the issue for September 1892, was the announcement that before the next number would be published the seventh month and the Day of Atonement would come. Their name for the seventh month is Tisri, and that of the sixth month is Elul; so the paper stated, "The month of Elul is here, and the

creation and of the universal sovereignty of the Creator, and is called upon to celebrate, with the blast of trumpet, the anniversary, so to speak, of the birth of time and of the coronation of the great King. He is also summoned by the voice of the same trumpet, or 'shofar,' to scrutinize retrospectively his actions of the past year, while he stands trembling before the all-seeing eye of Eternal Justice *sitting on the throne of judgment.*"

Standing in the Lot

From the time that Daniel heard the saint say, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Daniel 8:14), his mind was filled with anxiety as to what should be "the end of these things," and as to how long it should be. See Daniel 12:6, 8. Finally, he is given to understand that a knowledge of the time is not for his day. It is said to him, "Go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." Verse 13.

Some have supposed this language to refer to the final end of the world, and that at that time Daniel, with the rest of the Lord's people, would receive their reward, and stand in their lot of inheritance. The Hebrew word for lot of inheritance, region of country, and so on, we are told is *geh vehl*. That is not the word translated "lot" in this scripture. The word is *goh rahl*. Hebrew scholars tell us that this word occurs 76 times in the Old Testament. It is the same word that is used in speaking of the typical cleansing of the sanctuary, where "lots" were cast to determine which of the two goats was to be slain. As the high priest took the blood of the Lord's goat, and went into the sanctuary to perform the work of cleansing, all Israel stood without, afflicting their souls, and confessing their sins, that they might stand clear, and receive the blessing of the high priest as he would come out of the sanctuary, instead of being classed with the rejected ones, who would be cut off from among the people. Thus, on that day, Israel stood in their lot.

This final work of Christ, as the true High Priest, in blotting out the sins of God's people—the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary—must be the passing of judgment on their cases.

close of the meeting, one of the ministers questioned him regarding the matter. He replied, with seriousness: "Why, elder, a Jew who broke every Sabbath in the year would not dare to work today. This is the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the Jewish seventh month." The minister then asked, "What is the most solemn name your people have for this day?" With a most devout and reverential look, and in a tremulous tone of voice, he replied, "Today is the day of judgment."

The following quotation from the Scriptures represents the Day of Atonement as a decisive day with that people: "On the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in

monitory sounds of the shofar [the trumpet that was to be blown from the first to the tenth day of the seventh month] (see Psalm 81:3-4) are to be heard every morning in the orthodox synagogues, advising preparation for the day of memorial, and the final judgment of *yom kippur*." Hence, as they were in the close of Elul, the sixth month, and Tisri, the seventh month, was about to open, they would every morning, for ten days, hear the trumpet announcing the final day of judgment of that typical system.

Here is the testimony of another, the Rev. Isidore Myer, rabbi of a large congregation in San Francisco. In announcing the Day of Atonement in the autumn of 1902, he explained the significance of the feast thus:

"While crossing the threshold of time from one year to another, the Israelite is forcibly reminded of the

When the final cleansing of the sanctuary should come, at the close of the 2300 days (which comes down a little further than any other prophetic period, at the end of which it could be said, "The *end* of the days"), Daniel's case, with the cases of all the righteous dead, would come in review before God. So Daniel would stand in his lot.

At the close of the 2300 days . . . Daniel's case, with the cases of all the righteous dead, would come in review before God. So Daniel would stand in his lot.

Thus, it is seen that the great period of 2300 days brings us to the investigative judgment. As in the Jewish temple service, the sanctuary was cleansed once every year, it must have been apparent to Daniel that this cleansing at the end of the 2300 days must relate to something besides the yearly typical service. The Lord had instructed His people that when using symbols in prophecy, the time given was counted "each day for a year" (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6), so this period of 2300 years would reach far into the future from Daniel's time.

In the twelfth chapter, this anxious inquiry is found: "How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" and, "O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" Daniel 12:6, 8.

Time Sealed Up

In response to Daniel's inquiry, the angel replied, "O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to *the time of the end*: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4. Again, "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." Verse 9.

What so exercised the mind of Daniel was the "*when*," the "*how long*," and "*what shall be the end*." These were the points that perplexed and troubled the prophet, and these things only were to be sealed up till the time of the end, and not the whole book of Daniel, as some have supposed. These

words were not, then, written in vain, never to be understood; for the time was to come when the wise should understand. See verse 10. When the appointed time should come for this sealed matter to be opened—for the "*when*," the "*what*," and the "*end*" of these periods to be unsealed and made plain—when the time of the end should come, many would "run to and fro" through the Scriptures, searching into these things, and knowledge on the close of these prophetic times would be increased.

What so exercised the mind of Daniel was the "when," the "how long," and "what shall be the end." These were the points that perplexed and troubled the prophet.

That this is the idea conveyed in the foregoing language will be made more clear by the following translations of the text:

Dr. Adam Clarke says, "Many shall endeavor to search out the sense; and knowledge shall be increased—by this means."

In the German Bible of Luther, Revised, we read, "So shall many come over it, and find great understanding."

The German Parallel Bible reads, "Many shall run it through, and so the knowledge will be increased."

The German Bible of L. Van Ess, admitted also by the pope to Catholic readers, translates it, "Many will search it through, and the knowledge will be great."

The Swedish Bible reads, "Many shall search in it, and knowledge shall become great."

The Danish-Norwegian, Revised, reads, "Many shall eagerly search, and knowledge shall become much."

In the prediction concerning the sealing up and the opening of these words, the accuracy of prophetic fulfillment is again seen; namely, that the event, the time, the knowl-

edge of the period of time, shall be sealed up, and when it shall be opened and understood by "many." This event is called "the time of the end."

What Is the Time of the End?

Till the time of the end, this matter should be sealed up. What is the time of the end? It cannot be the actual end of the world, for then this part of Daniel's prophecy would be of no use to mortals; it must therefore refer to a period just before the end. But "things which are revealed belong unto us"

(Deuteronomy 29:29), says the prophet.

To ascertain what is meant by the expression "time of the end," we will notice where the same terms are used in another prophetic scene. In the eleventh chapter of Daniel, a persecuting power is introduced which was to hold its dominion until the time of the end. The Lord says of the work of this persecutor, "And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it [the time of the end] is yet for a time appointed." Daniel 11:35. Protestant commentators are generally agreed in applying the prophecy of this persecuting power to the papal church, which had the civil power in its hands for the appointed time—"time, times, and an half" (Daniel 12:7), the 1260 years from A.D. 538 to 1798. Its civil power was taken away at the end of the "time appointed"—1798. So, at that time, the people had ceased to "fall" by the hand of that persecuting power, as they had previously been falling. This marks 1798 as the time called in prophecy *the time of the end*.

Then, in the light of this prediction, the knowledge of when the 2300 days (the last of all prophetic days) were to close, was sealed up; but when that point of time passed, “many” were to search out, and obtain the light upon the subject. Now, these are the facts in the case; for until the year 1798, the exponents of prophecy had no light as to where the 2300 days would end. They could understand the symbols, the image, and the beasts of

that the date of the 70 weeks was unalterably fixed. Failing to discover that the 70 weeks were the first part of the 2300 days, left the matter *sealed up* until 1798, as predicted.

Coming down this side of 1798, the other part of the prediction is as accurately fulfilled. Again we quote from the same number of the *Midnight Cry*: “Is it not a wonderful coincidence that so many writers, without any knowledge of one another, came to the same conclu-

Sea; Molokaners, on the shores of the Baltic, and so on.

Such a general discovery of light on the close of the 2300 days, and at the time when God predicted that the matter, so long sealed up, would be opened, is not so surprising. It is, however, interesting, after the lapse of years, to bring together the conclusions of the various students who, from the opening of the nineteenth century to 1840, reckoned out the period of 2300 days, and located the 70 weeks as the first part of that period, and then to find the whole period terminating in 1844.

The question arises, Can we rest with certainty that 1844 is the true date for the close of the 2300 days? – Yes; for as surely as a false fulfillment of prophecy cannot come in the right time for the true fulfillment, the conclusion must be correct that 1844 is the true date for the close of that period.

God, who sealed up the knowledge of the time till 1798 and promised that *then* the true light would shine, by His unerring Spirit, guided those who earnestly sought Him to a correct understanding of this time. His time had come for the “knowledge” on that subject to “be increased,” and He guided to the true light.

We have now discovered the period of time, developed in the Lord’s order, when the judgment of the saints would come. With this time as a basis, the message could finally be given, “The hour of His judgment is come.” Mark, it does not say that immediately on the discovery of that period the message would be proclaimed, but that this light previously sealed would be made plain. . . . It will be seen that the Lord just as definitely marks the time when the Advent message would be proclaimed to the whole world. ✨

J. N. Loughborough, *Last Day Tokens*, 35–48.

References:

¹ The *Midnight Cry* is the name of an Advent paper published in New York City from 1842 to 1845.

The discovery that the 70 weeks were the first part of the 2300 days, unlocked the whole subject.

the book of Daniel. They also understood and correctly applied the 70 weeks of the ninth chapter, but could not tell where the 2300 days ended; for, as yet, they had no understanding as to where the days commenced.

Knowledge Increased

In the paper called the *Midnight Cry*¹ of June 15, 1842, we read, “It is truly interesting to find the various independent writers, who, *since* 1798, have seen what was *entirely unperceived before* – that the seventy weeks was a key to the twenty-three hundred days.”

The discovery that the 70 weeks were the first part of the 2300 days, unlocked the whole subject. Whereas, before, they failed to find where the 2300 days commenced, now, as the 70 weeks were the first part of the 2300 days, of course, the two periods must begin at the same date.

Previous to 1798, students of prophecy had light concerning the commencement of the 70 weeks – 457 B.C. Christ’s public ministry, death, and so on, occurred in exact harmony with that date. This exact fulfillment of the Saviour’s mission in harmony with this reckoning, had given them a mighty proof that He was indeed the true Messiah, and

sion about the same time?” And why should it not be so? The Lord’s time had come when He said “many” would receive the light, and His Spirit would lead minds to the truth regardless of distance or countries, and without knowledge one of another.

Before me is a list of 20 different localities where the light was discovered, not by communication one with another, but as the result of diligent searching of the Scriptures, led by the influence of the Spirit of God. Heading the list is William Miller, of the state of New York. Then follow A. J. Krupp, of Philadelphia; David McGregor, of Falmouth, Mass.; Edward Irving, of England; Archibald Mason, of Scotland; W. E. Davis, of South Carolina; Joseph Wolff, who labored in various parts of Asia; Alexander Campbell, in his debate with R. Dale Owen, 1829; Capt. A. Landers, of Liverpool, England; Leonard Heinrich Kelber, of Stuttgart, Germany; Laucunza, of Spain, in his book, “Ben Ezra;” Hentzepeter, of The Hague, Holland; Dr. Capadose, of Amsterdam, Holland; Rau, of Bavaria; priests of Tartary, in 1821; Bible students of Yemen, in the book called “Seera;” Hengstenberg, in another part of Germany; Russians on the Caspian



We Are Still Free To Witness

News Item: “According to report from Associated Baptist Press, the U.S. Supreme Court decided June 17 that anonymous door-to-door proselytizing is protected by the Constitution. In an 8-1 decision, the high court ruled that communities can’t require religious groups to obtain a permit before witnessing door to door.

“The justices sided with Jehovah’s Witnesses, who challenged an ordinance in a small Ohio town requiring canvassers to register with the city, obtain a permit before engaging in door-to-door solicitation and produce the permit if a resident asks. Leaders of the village of Stratton, Ohio, said the ordinance was needed to protect elderly residents against

harassment by solicitors and fraud by con artists going door to door. The town’s Jehovah’s Witnesses refused to apply for a permit, however, saying it was tantamount to forcing them to get permission from the government before preaching to their neighbors.

“The Supreme Court had previously ruled that people may remain anonymous in spreading non-commercial political messages, in order to protect supporters of unpopular views from retaliation. The new ruling extends the same protection to religious speech.” *Crosswalk.com*, June 21, 2002.

End-Time Perspective: This is good news! Let us take full advantage of the little time of peace we have left in this world to give the last warning to a dying world. As for our part here at Hope International we continue to feature the Ten Commandments in newspaper ads and with direct mailings of the *Law of God* brochure. If you would like to help with these projects, please contact us and we will be happy to work with you.

Atheism Is Alive and Well

News Item: “SAN FRANCISCO, June 26— A federal appeals court here declared today that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because the phrase ‘one nation under God’ violates the separation of church and state.

“In a decision that drew protest across the political spectrum, a three-member panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the pledge, as it exists in federal law, could not be recited in schools because it violates the First Amendment’s prohibition against a state endorsement of religion.

“In addition, the ruling, which will certainly be appealed, turned on the phrase ‘under God’ which Congress added in 1954 to one of the most hallowed patriotic traditions in the nation.

“From a constitutional standpoint, those two words, Judge Alfred T. Goodwin wrote in the 2-to-1 decision, were just as objectionable as a statement that ‘we are a nation “under Jesus,” a nation “under Vishnu,” a nation “under

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. 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.



Zeus," or a nation "under no god," because none of these professions can be neutral with respect to religion.'

"The 'under God' clause of the pledge, the panel argued, was added by Congress solely to advance religion in order to differentiate the United States from nations under atheistic Communist rule.

" 'Such a purpose,' Judge Goodwin wrote, runs counter to the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, 'which prohibits the government's endorsement or advancement not only of one particular religion at the expense of other religions, but also of religion at the expense of atheism.' " *New York Times*, June 27, 2002.

End-Time Perspective: Atheistic communism is gone as a political force, however, the atheism that gained political notoriety during the French revolution lives on. The decision to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance is dangerously close to the French legislation of the seventeenth century wherein they voted to officially outlaw God from society.

Watch and pray that you are not found naked on that day. See Revelation 16:15.

Churches in England Unite

News Item: "Church leaders who between them represent all the Christian denominations in the country signed a covenant yesterday in the presence of the Queen committing themselves to working for unity.

"The four presidents of Churches Together in England including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, signed the document at Vicar's Hall, Windsor Castle, at the end of the service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, marking the Golden Jubilee.

"The other three signatories were the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, the Rev. Tony Burnham, Moderator of the Free

Churches, and the Rev. Esme Beswick, representing the smaller Churches. The event began on Saturday with a meeting of 25 representatives from the Church of England, of which the Queen is Supreme Governor.

"The covenant, which quotes Ephesians iv, referring to the 'unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' sets out the Churches' common belief in the triune God of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"In it, the leaders commit themselves to persevering in seeking a common understanding of the Christian message of salvation, and to work towards 'visible unity' of their Churches. They undertake to 'pray, study and work together for the unity and mission of the Church' and to speak with one voice where possible.

"Dr. Carey said that although the Churches were still separate institutions, the past few decades had seen an enormous rapprochement.

"Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor said: 'The ecumenical path we are engaged on is a serious one. What does matter is what unites us. What divides us is still to tackle.' " *The Times (London, U.K.)*, June 6, 2002.

"The Vatican has invited Anglicans, including a woman priest, to an unprecedented conference this week in an attempt to end four centuries of division between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England.

"The Pope, 82 and in failing health, has made ecumenism one of the hallmarks of his pontificate, and has insisted in maintaining a punishing schedule of foreign visits in an attempt to 'heal the divisions within Christianity' by reaching out to the Orthodox and Protestant doctrines.

"In a gesture towards reconciliation, a female Anglican priest has been given a prominent role in the conference despite the Vatican's opposition to the ordination of women.

" 'London is welcomed into the Vatican,' reported *Avvenire*, the

Italian Catholic daily newspaper, yesterday.

"Dr. Judith Maltby, the Chaplain of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, who attended the ceremonial opening of the conference in the richly frescoed 16th-century Salone Sistino of the Vatican in the presence of four cardinals, said that the novelty of a female priest inside the Vatican had caused 'remarkably few ripples.'

"The church historian Eamon Duffy told the conference that many pre-Reformation features of Catholicism survived in Church of England traditions, from passages in the prayer book to stained glass windows. The origins of these traditions, Mr. Duffy said, had initially been 'whitewashed over' by Protestant zealots.

"He said that although some Protestants still saw the Pope as the anti-Christ and some Catholics saw Protestants as heretics, neither side had ever fully succeeded in 'putting clear blue water between them.'

"Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity and one of the driving forces behind the initiative, commented that although the Church of England was still not 'formally' in communion with the Pope, it was certainly the 'time to set aside misgivings, misunderstandings and prejudices.'

"Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria, head of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, said that 'when we Christians are united it will be easier for us to speak with one voice to other religions.' " *Ibid.*

End-Time Perspective: The prophecy of Revelation 13:3 (see also verse 8 and 17:8) saying, "All the world wondered after the beast" is being fulfilled with stunning accuracy before our eyes! Not only in the United States, but around the globe, as these news items show. What a privilege to live in these times. ✠



I am reading your book, "Final Conflict between Truth and Error." I have not yet finished, but I know already that what it contains is the truth.

I was beginning to think that I was the only person on earth who was taught of the Holy Spirit in the things you have pointed out in your book. I thank God for any and all others who God has shown what is obvious to me, but what seems to be hidden from all whom I have been exposed to in the denominational assemblies of the church.

Who are you? Is there an assembly somewhere which you attend? I am a member of His Body. I need to be fed by some additional members. I can find no other person who sees through the strong delusion God has given man so that he should believe Satan's lies. I need your help, please. The Holy Spirit is my Teacher, and I will not buckle under, God willing, but I have felt alone, until now. I know that God is with me, but I need the strength of others with the knowledge of the truth.

God bless you, and your work. So far, I haven't been shown that you are in an attempt to make merchandise of me, like so many others have, so I pray for you to grow powerful in the truth of the gospel and the doctrine of Jesus, the Messiah.

RH, Kentucky

Thank you for sending us the newsletter along with "The Law of God" brochure. I have read it and think this is a "must" to be gotten out to the many people that don't know that *man* changed the day, as the Bible said he would.

My husband (now 81 years old) is a *newly baptized* SDA and is learning all these new truths from God's wonderful Word. We would like to

help others learn also. We live on a very small income and can't spend very much for many brochures, but please send us a packet of 50; we will do our best to get them into the hands of people who need to read them.

God bless you dear people, as you work to win souls for Jesus.

GS, California

A good friend, who is an SDA, has shared with me *Our Firm Foundation*, and I have enjoyed your magazine. It has a good message, how our own SDA church is not living up to their calling. I have been an SDA all my life, but because of secret sins in my life, I had to go to prison, but I am not bitter about coming to prison, because finally, God got through to me, and now I am truly a reborn Christian. I have such great peace now, and I have witnessed to a number of inmates already. I don't have much in my account, but I am sending — towards a subscription, I can send more later when the funds become available.

FK, Michigan

You have given me so much to be thankful for. I feel so very blessed by each study I have received. I pray always that our Lord will bless all the hands of the men and women who are willing in heart and spirit to do His will. We are told in His Word, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22. This is just a note from a brother that is so thankful for the light you have given me.

WK, Florida

A friend of mine from church loaned me a copy of the April 2002 *Our Firm Foundation* magazine. It was a blessing and so rich with wisdom and knowledge. I am enclosing a check toward a subscription, and to be honest, I can't afford the whole amount, but I will be able to send you more in a few months. I have never done this before, but I will repay you later. God knows I will. God bless your work.

JC, New Mexico

From Overseas

I am an Adventist in a village near where you came just recently. Unfortunately, I was sick in bed at that time, so was not able to turn up for your program.

Please, I am in need of some books: *Bible Readings For the Home, Family Bible Studies, The Desire of Ages, Stories Jesus Told, Our Firm Foundation, The Great Controversy, All About Tithes, the Holy Bible*, and any other books which will help link me to the Lord.

MD, Ghana

I received the parcel that you sent me. I retired in May 2001. My main work is reading and sharing the love of God's words. I go to church with my wife. Sometimes we invite others from around and share the books. Some are reformed. Some articles have been very helpful in discussions with others at church.

Please would you send me the following books: the *Holy Bible*, a *Church Hymnal*, and other magazines, pamphlets and booklets. Thank you!!

TP, Myanmar

I am a Seventh-day Adventist member, here at — —. I am looking for books that might give more information about Christ. Please send me also a free Bible School Course.

We shall soon have an effort, so if you can, please send tracts as well.

AN, Malawi

I'm at a certain village here in Kenya spreading the great commission of the three angels' messages to reach the unreached. I've succeeded to organize a Sabbath School where 10 converts usually attend on Saturday. But the problem we have is how to combat these Babylonian churches. So I kindly request your support with spiritual items — inspiration books, Bibles, tracts and magazines. We are looking forward to receiving your great weapons against the devil. Also, please subscribe me to your *Our Firm Foundation* magazine. I will look forward to receiving one soon.

SW, Kenya



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Everyone who came to the Hope International camp meeting in Eatonville this year knows what a tremendous blessing it was. Many said it was the best camp meeting in years. While different speakers met different needs in people's lives, the dominant theme was recognizing end-time events and getting ready for our Lord's soon return.

For those who were unable to attend, we would like to share the blessings with you through the audio and video tapes that are now available.

Speaker /

Tape # Message Title

Maurice Berry

- 1 "The Issue in the Great Controversy"
- 2 "The First Angel's Message"
- 3 "Daniel and the Second Angel's Message"
- 4 "Abomination of Desolation"

Cody Francis

- 5 "Where are the Elijahs?"

Bill Humeniuk

- 6 "The American Diet"
- 7 "Africa Mission Story"
- 8 "Baptism of Fire"

Dr. Sung Min Im

- 9 "Are We Safe Without Health Reform?"
- 10 "How to Cleanse Our Body and Spirit"

Sheldon Parrett

- 11 "Two Rails, One Track"
- 12 "Fearing God Through The Sanctuary"
- 13 "The Third Angel's Message"

Ron Spear

- 14 "Prepare to Meet Thy God"

Colin Standish

- 15 "Witnessing to the Children of Rome"
- 16 "The Army of the Lord"

Russell Standish

- 17 "Twenty Pieces of Silver"
- 18 "Sound an Alarm in My Holy Mountain"

Roundtable

(Ron Spear, Colin Standish, and Russell Standish)

- 19-21 "The Controversy Ended," Parts 1-3

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Video Cassettes: \$10 ea. Set of 21 Videos: \$160

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