

Our Firm Foundation

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Volume 20, Number 5

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*Israel's Last
Encampment*



The Omega of Apostasy

The Omega of Apostasy has been developing in the church for many years. The prophet of the Lord was shown it would come at the end of all things, and would be of a most startling nature. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 197.

We must understand that God tolerated the apostasy for hundreds of years in the history of the Jewish church. At the time of Christ's ministry on earth, the church was in the worst apostasy of all time. Christ challenged the leaders and their apostate structure, and they crucified Him for it.

What is apostasy?—It is insubordination. What is insubordination?—rebellion against God.

"We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel." *Evangelism*, 696 (1901).

Rebellion, insubordination, are the cause of the Omega of Apostasy. Yes, our long delay in completing the gospel commission and the third angels' message is caused by insubordination. The latter rain and loud cry will come only to the true and faithful Seventh-day Adventists who keep the Sabbath according to Isaiah 58:13.

God knew that many of our leaders and members would reject His requirements for salvation—righteousness by faith.

"An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis The light that is to lighten the whole

earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 234–235. See also *ibid.*, 366, 397; *Testimonies to Ministers*, 90–104.

He knew that many of our schools would not follow His sacred plan for training our youth for service to complete the gospel commission.

He knew that few would follow His plan for medical missionary work in sanitariums and treatment rooms.

He knew that our publishing houses would, in the end-time, repeat the history of our publishing house in Battle Creek in which books of a new order were published.

He also knew that many of our people would develop an ecumenical spirit, diminishing the distinction between God's remnant people and the fallen churches of Babylon.

He saw that most of our beloved church would reject the knowledge and the experience that He has made it possible for us to have through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. . . . There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God. The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life." *The Desire of Ages*, 311.

"Only those who live the life of Christ are His co-workers. If one sin is cherished in the soul, or one

wrong practice retained in the life, the whole being is contaminated. The man becomes an instrument of unrighteousness." *Ibid.*, 313.

He gave His messenger Ellen White 25 million words of sacred information; yet He knew that many leaders and members would reject this special gift.

God also knew that He would send many pastors to the Saddleback and Willow Creek churches to be trained in Pentecostal methods of church growth and worship styles. He knew that we would go to the Presbyterians and buy their church-planting program.

He also knows that only a very few will survive the final test of the Omega of Apostasy. See Matthew 22:14; Isaiah 1:9; *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 136.

God knows it all. As with Israel, He is bearing with this insubordination until He takes charge. "God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands." *Testimonies to Ministers*, 300.

It is our prayer at Hope International that we will be willing to allow God to have the reins of our own hearts as He finishes the work that He has started. ✠



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Field Secretary for the Review and Herald, and editor of Our Firm Foundation.



Our Mission

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. — Editors

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Israel's Last Encampment

John Redlich

It has often been said that the Spirit of Prophecy is as a pilot, guiding a ship through treacherous waters in the last days. What a gift of love the Lord has given His people—a source of truth and knowledge designed especially to be a safeguard, helping anyone who should care to share in its purpose!

Often the Spirit of Prophecy complements the message of the Bible, helping the student to be deeply impressed by the message of the Lord. Here is one such passage:

“We must sanctify ourselves and our households to God. We must bring Jesus into our hearts and our homes, and we must seek every day to instruct others in regard to the claims of the law of God and the plan of salvation, that they may have a knowledge of Jesus.”
Review and Herald, July 29, 1890.

The warning found in this passage alerts us to a necessity, not a suggestion. It highlights the truth that sanctification is a requirement of the Lord. Sanctification is, simply put, being made holy. All who will be saved in the last day, shall be set aside as holy—sanctified. We will see in this study how this truth, as found in the Spirit of Prophecy, complements the truth of Scripture.

Joshua Ordained to Lead Israel

Moses had fallen asleep in the Lord. Joshua was now the acknowledged leader of Israel. By God's

own words, Joshua was commissioned to lead the Israelite nation into the Promised Land. “Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. a . . . I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.”
Joshua 1:2–6.

What was the response of the people? “All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.” Verses 16–17.

“The history of Israel was to be placed on record for the instruction and warning of coming generations.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 420. Hopefully, through this study, we will be able to see that what happened to the Israelites on the banks of the Jordan is what will happen to us. History often repeats itself, and it is no coincidence that what happened to literal Israel often finds its ultimate fulfillment, and application, in the experience that you and I are living as Spiritual Israel.

Crossing the Jordan

God gave Joshua strict instructions concerning the crossing of the Jordan, and the long awaited entering of the Promised Land, but how were they to cross the Jordan? The waters were at flood level, and there where no bridges. God had given Joshua all the details of the crossing of the Jordan except where to cross; however, Joshua reasoned in his heart that if God had given so many instructions, surely He would provide the passage.

Joshua commanded the people of Israel that the time was at hand to cross the Jordan. Leaving their camp in the acacia groves, with supplies enough for three days, the Israelites descended to the banks of the Jordan, and there set up one last temporary camp east of the Promised Land. They camped there for three days, each one with an eye on the roaring Jordan and an eye on the Promised Land, and each one with a job at hand. “And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5.

Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves!” Consecrate yourselves to the Lord. See if there be any wicked way in you and remove it. Make yourselves holy in the Lord, because tomorrow we cross over into the Promised Land. This is important! The children of

Israel were to sanctify themselves before they crossed over into the Promised Land.

Joshua gave strict orders as to how the children of Israel were to cross the Jordan: "And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; and they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore." Verses 3:2-4.

If the details of this crossing were not very important, surely Joshua would not have wasted his time giving them. Sister White writes, "At the appointed time began the onward movement, the ark, borne upon the shoulders of the priests, leading the van. The people had been directed to fall back, so that there was a vacant space of more than half a mile about the ark. All watched with deep interest as the priests advanced down the bank of the Jordan. They saw them with the sacred ark move steadily forward toward the angry, surging stream, till the feet of the bearers were dipped into the waters. Then suddenly the tide above was swept back, while the current below flowed on, and the bed of the river was laid bare." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 484.

Everyone watched with baited breath to see what would happen when the priests bearing the ark reached the raging waters of the Jordan River. Then, just at the moment that the priests dipped their feet into the waters of the Jordan, the raging currents were stopped upstream, and the remaining waters flowed down stream, and there, in the middle of the river's bed, stood the priests holding the ark, standing on dry ground.

The Lord had prepared for the children of Israel a passage, once again, through the waters that would have been a barrier. "When the people had all passed over, the ark itself was borne to the western shore. No sooner had it reached a place of security, and 'the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land' (Joshua 4:18), than the imprisoned waters, being set free, rushed down, a resistless flood, in the natural channel of the stream." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 484. Finally,

and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it."

In order to cross the Jordan they had to follow the Ark. The Ark of the Covenant was the visible representation of God to the children of Israel. To them it represented God's character of mercy and justice.

Now look at Revelation 14:12: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

In the last days, God's people will be those who reflect God's character of mercy and justice, for they keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the feet of the Israelites were standing on Canaan's soil!

Written for Our Admonition

Remember the words of inspiration saying, "The history of Israel was written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." *The Paulson Collection*, 143; see also 1 Corinthians 10:11; *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 162. How can we apply the experience of the Israelites crossing the Jordan to our experience as Spiritual Israel?

I believe that we are living in the last days of this Earth's history. I believe that we are about to end our wanderings in the wilderness of this sinful world. Since we will soon cross over into the heavenly Canaan, it is interesting to note that the experience of the crossing of the Jordan by the ancient Israelites parallels what our experience will be. Notice the parallels.

Following the Ark—"And they [the officers] commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God,

In the last days, God's people will be those who reflect God's character of mercy and justice, for they keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The Ten Commandments are a transcript of God's character of mercy and justice. God's remnant people have not discarded God, but have embraced Him.

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb." Revelation 14:4.

Sanctify Yourselves—"And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you." The Israelites were to sanctify themselves before they were able to enter the Promised Land.

Surely, if they had to sanctify themselves before entering Canaan, we are to sanctify ourselves before we enter heaven. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is

truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." John 17:17-18. Acts 20:32 says, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Our inheritance, the heavenly Canaan and the earth made new, are for those who are sanctified!

Joshua Magnified—Joshua 3:7 tells us, "And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee."

The Waters Rolled Back—Joshua 3:15-16 says, "And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) that the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon a heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho."

Just as the Jordan rolled back to allow passage to Canaan, so too will the expanses of the heavens

priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before."

I guess this is the sad part of the story. When everyone had crossed over, and the priests had left the dry bed of the Jordan, no sooner did the soles of their feet touch dry ground, that the waters of the Jordan returned sealing the passage to Canaan.

When Jesus comes again He will be King of kings and Lord of lords, and the sky will recede as a scroll. When Jesus comes again and gathers His elect from the four corners of the earth, there will be no second chances for those who rejected Christ by choice or action. The passage to the heavenly Canaan will be sealed:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11-12.

Camped on the Jordan

I believe God's church is camped on the banks of the "Jordan River," our last encampment. The exact date of Christ's return is not known to me or to you, but I have confidence in saying, as Joshua did, that we are going to cross over into the Heavenly Canaan on the "morrow" — meaning very soon.

What were Joshua's personal words of instruction to the children of Israel? Sanctify yourself.

What are the words of Jesus to each of us as we prepare to enter heaven? Sanctify yourself. See if there be any wicked way in thee. ✨

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Just as the Jordan rolled back to allow passage to Canaan, so too will the expanses of the heavens roll back to give us passage to the heavenly Canaan

Joshua was magnified in the sight of the Israelites in that the Lord did all that Joshua said He would do. Joshua is a type of Jesus Christ. Just as Joshua was magnified in the crossing of the Jordan, so too will Jesus (Yeshua), be magnified when the saints are taken to the heavenly Canaan:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. . . . And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:11-16.

Jesus was killed as a criminal on the cross of Calvary, but in His return, on the day that he collects His ransomed, He will be magnified to the position of King of kings and Lord of lords!

roll back to give us passage to the heavenly Canaan.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:14-17.

No Second Chance to Enter Canaan—Joshua 4:18 reads, "And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

Anonymous

In *The Bible Training School*, October 1, 1916, Mrs. White wrote the following words, "In temporal matters many act with far more prudence and consideration than in spiritual things. They do not begin their worldly transactions in a haphazard, thoughtless way. They teach God's people a lesson. We are not to rush into the acceptance of the Gospel without any fixed stability of purpose. If we receive Jesus Christ, we must receive all the conditions, all the requirements." What are these requirements and conditions?

Jesus warned, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And

then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21-23.

What sobering words to hear from the Master's lips! What we find here is this: Jesus does not accept false professors. This is the critical message for this hour. We are living in a time when the idea of unconditional acceptance is sweeping through Adventism. Many churches have it as their church motto: "unconditional love, acceptance and forgiveness." I have been in Sabbath school classes where people have said, "But God offers forgiveness without conditions." There are many people who hold this as the precious truth of the gospel, but in this passage Christ said to false professors, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." Verse 23, NKJV.

I came across this remarkable statement: "The unconditional pardon of sin never has been and never will be. Such pardon would show

the abandonment of the principles of righteousness which are the very foundation of the government of God." *The Youth's Instructor*, June 13, 1901.

This statement should not surprise us. We know that in the message to the Laodiceans the Lord says, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Revelation 3:16.

Comfort and Peace in the Truth

I suspect that one of the reasons we do not like this message is because we are so eager to comfort people who are weighed down with guilt and who come to our churches. When we seek to help these people, the enemy steps in and says, "Let me tell you how to bring comfort," and he urges us to leave behind the truth of God's Word and present a message that sounds pleasing.

You and I know that we need truth more than comfort, and the good news is we do not have to choose between the two. One of my favorite quotations tells us, "There is comfort and peace in the truth

but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood." *Desire of Ages*, 671. This is good news! We can share the truth and in so doing we will bring comfort to these precious souls that are so weary and laden down.

Why is this such a vital topic? Inspiration provides the answer. "Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will

believe, is related to the poor track record that we see in evangelism. We have not clearly laid out to newcomers what the conditions of acceptance are, and these poor souls, desiring in their hearts to find acceptance with God, can never find that peace when they are not presented with the conditions. Consider what Mrs. White wrote in *Review and Herald*, July 2, 1895, "There are souls perishing. They must know the terms of salvation.

of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 152. The publican in this parable recognized his sinfulness, and he humbly confessed it before God.

Friends, I believe that we need the spirit of confession in a much larger measure, yes, even in conservative Adventist circles. How often, when we are convicted of a truth, we say, "Thank you, Lord, for that new truth. I am going to follow it," but we bypass the step of confessing our sin! With a soul agony we need to bow before God and plead for His forgiveness. Contemplate this:

"Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance." *Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 2, 456.

"There are souls perishing. They must know the terms of salvation. They must be taught that the conditions of acceptance are the same now as they were in Adam's day."

cleanse us; yet *we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance.*" *Steps to Christ*, 95. [All emphasis supplied unless otherwise indicated.]

Has God clearly told us what these conditions are? "*The conditions are plainly stated, and those who read the Word need make no mistake. If we will prove ourselves true and faithful, the Lord will comply with the conditions He has made.*" *Signs of the Times*, March 15, 1899.

I want to bring your attention to another statement that reveals just how vitally important this subject is, particularly in the time in which we are living:

"As laborers together with God, we need to know what is required of us. *Let none sit down at their ease and say, Christ has done all that is necessary.* Surely it were better that Christ's sacrifice had never been made, than that it should be made to minister to sin. *It is this kind of religion that makes the cross of Christ of no effect.*" *Review and Herald*, August 21, 1900.

The importance of the issue of the conditions of acceptance, I

They must be taught that the conditions of acceptance are the same now as they were in Adam's day."

1. Recognize and Acknowledge Your Guilt

What is the very first condition of acceptance with God? We can find it by studying the parable Jesus told in Luke 18:10-14:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Sister White wrote these words of commentary about this parable, "The sense of need, the recognition

2. Obey God's Commands

Condition number two is obedience. "Many are forfeiting the condition of acceptance with the Father. We need to examine closely the deed of trust wherewith we approach God. If we are disobedient, we bring to the Lord a note to be cashed when we have not fulfilled the conditions that would make it payable to us. We present to God His promises, and ask Him to fulfill them, when by so doing He would dishonor His own name." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 143.

Do you remember the words of Matthew 7:21? "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Friends, if we contemplate these words we will see that obeying is a part of the very first response to Jesus, if it is a true, heartfelt response. You cannot even come to Christ without obeying.

In John chapter five you can read the story of the man healed at the pool of Bethesda. Burdened by a load of sin and infirmity he lay

despondently waiting, all hope of healing nearly extinguished. Jesus spoke to him and said, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." The Bible tells us that he did and he was healed.

Which took place first—The miraculous healing or his obedience to Christ's command? The servant of the Lord provides this insightful commentary in her description of the miracle:

"Jesus does not ask this sufferer to exercise faith in Him. He simply says, 'Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.' But the man's faith takes hold upon that word. Every nerve and muscle thrills with new life, and healthful action comes to his crippled limbs. Without question he sets his will to obey the command of Christ, and all his muscles respond to his will. Springing to his feet, he finds himself an active man." *The Desire of Ages*, 202–203.

This man heard the Word, received the Word, and then he made a decision to act on the Word. I do not know how to separate the healing from the obedience, but the point is this, he set his will to obey and the divine power surged through him to bring healing to his body and give him the strength to obey.

I was recently in a circle of friends and someone said, "Well, you can't obey until you are converted." I found something that arrested my attention in the Spirit of Prophecy. "Until Christianity is planted in the heart, it cannot control the life, for it is the evil in the heart that must be corrected. It is not enough to have a form of godliness without holiness to the Lord, for it is like cleansing the outside of the cup while impurities remain within. A belief of doctrines, however pure they may be, will not save a soul from death, unless they are brought into contact with the life. *The heart must be purified through obedience to the truth.*" *Signs of the Times*, May 7, 1894. Conversion is

worked out in the heart through obedience to the truth.

A man that I know comes to my mind. He is trapped in spiritual paralysis because he is waiting to read the right motives in his own heart before he will choose to obey, because someone told him, "If your heart is not right, do not waste your time obeying." Have you heard people saying this? I read that the heart must be purified *through obedience to the truth.*

Here is another inspired statement: "The sign of God is sanctification through obedience to the truth." *Ibid*, November 22, 1899. If you and I want to experience conversion and sanctification we must

touch not the unclean He will receive us. Here are the conditions of our acceptance with God. We have something to do ourselves. . . . But here is a grand promise: 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate.' Separate from what? The inclinations of the world, their tastes, their habits; the fashions, the pride, and the customs of the world. 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you.' In making this move, in showing that we are not in harmony with the world, the promise of God is ours. He does not say *perhaps* I will receive you; but, 'I *will* receive you.' It is a positive promise. You have a

When we hear the Word spoken, we must grasp it by faith and set our wills to obey. As we step out in faith to comply with God's commands, . . . He will give us the strength and power to obey.

choose to obey the Word. Like that man at the pool, when we hear the Word spoken, we must grasp it by faith and set our wills to obey. As we step out in faith to comply with God's commands, He will cleanse our hearts and give us the strength and power to obey.

3. Separate from the World

Condition number three is separation from the world: "The condition of our acceptance with God is a practical separation from the world. The Lord calls upon us as a people, 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate,' 'and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you.' 2 Corinthians 6:17." *Counsels on Health*, 51.

"Here is a promise to us on condition of obedience. If we will come out from the world, and be separate, and

surety that you will be accepted of God." *Signs of the Times*, January 31, 1878. Italics in original.

We need to present this to the newcomers, to the babes who come to learn the truth. They need to learn that this is a condition of acceptance with God. ✠

Next month we will conclude this article with five more conditions.

If One of Them

*Russell & Colin
Standish*



Satan desired to destroy the ministry of John the Baptist. In Herod and his degraded and despicable de facto wife, Herodias, Satan found his allies to achieve his will.

But they did not bear this responsibility alone. Many civic leaders and likely some religious dignitaries in God's church of the First Advent shared the culpability.

When Salome, at the instigation of Herodias, her wicked mother, uttered the fearful words, "I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist" (Mark 6:25), not one of these leaders and members of God's church who

were assembled at Herod's banquet offered a word of protest. Not one! All stood guilty of the murder of John the Baptist.

Notice Sister White's words. Please read them carefully:

"Herod was astonished and confounded. The riotous mirth ceased, and an ominous silence settled down upon the scene of revelry. The king was horror-stricken at the thought of taking the life of John. Yet his word was pledged, and he was unwilling to appear fickle or rash. The oath had been made in honor of his guests, and if one of them had offered a word against the fulfillment of his promise, he

would gladly have spared the prophet. He gave them opportunity to speak in the prisoner's behalf. They had traveled long distances in order to hear the preaching of John, and they knew him to be a man without crime, and a servant of God. But though shocked at the girl's demand, they were too besotted to interpose a remonstrance. No voice was raised to save the life of Heaven's messenger. These men occupied high positions of trust in the nation, and upon them rested grave responsibilities; yet they had given themselves up to feasting and drunkenness until the senses were benumbed. Their heads were

turned with the giddy scene of music and dancing, and conscience lay dormant. By their silence they pronounced the sentence of death upon the prophet of God to satisfy the revenge of an abandoned woman." *The Desire of Ages*, 221–222.

"If one of them!" Just one! One voice in that large crowd of men who "occupied high positions of trust in the nation," those men who "had traveled long distances in order to hear the preaching of John." Those men who well "knew him to be a man without crime, and a servant of God," those men who were "shocked at the girl's demand," one voice alone was required to stay the execution of John, the prophet of the first advent, and sustain his godly witness.

We, as ordained ministers of the gospel, refuse to remain silent while God's last-day messenger, the prophet of the second advent, has her witness destroyed posthumously. We will rise our voices in her defense. We call upon every faithful layperson, every faithful pastor, every faithful church administrator, to rise up and do likewise, not because we have done so, but because God demands it. To remain silent in this era of crisis, is a sin of great magnitude.

"What astonishing deception and fearful blindness had, like a dark cloud, covered Israel! This blindness and apostasy had not closed about them suddenly; it had come upon them gradually as they had not heeded the word of reproof and warning which the Lord had sent to them because of their pride and their sins. And now, in this fearful crisis, in the presence of the idolatrous priests and the apostate king, they remained neutral. If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 280–281.

The last sentence of this passage is well known to many sincere Seventh-day Adventists. Less often is read the preceding words of the paragraph. Sister White is here referring to Elijah on Mount Carmel. We are informed that all Israel was present (1 Kings 18:19). This vast crowd clearly included the, "seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal." 1 Kings 19:18.

Yet when Elijah made his challenge to the people in the presence of King Ahab and the apostate prophets, the courage of these non-Baal worshipers apparently failed them for, "the people answered him not a word." 1 Kings 18:21.

None, Elijah excepted, dared to raise his voice in defense of the faith, not one! Despite the fact that the passage quoted above from the Spirit of Prophecy refers to the spiritual crisis in Elijah's day, the

deftly inserted it among us with subtle sophistries.

As at Herod's feast, when those who knew the holy credentials of John the Baptist remained silent, so did most Seventh-day Adventists, even daring to charge those who risked all and cared only for the integrity of God's truth, with being critical of the church. Such committed the fearful sin of neutrality and even hostility to God's truth, in a shameful crisis.

No position in the church organization, or the local church, no fear of the destruction of reputation, no dread of ecclesiastical denunciation or ostracism, will stand as a valid excuse or will avail in the judgment. Remember, "if one of them had offered a word against the fulfillment of his promise, he would gladly have spared the prophet. . . . Herod waited in vain to be released from his oath."

*In a church, one man, one woman,
who is filled with courage, can make
a real difference. Just one!*

title of the chapter clearly demonstrates that Sister White's focus is not upon God's church in the ninth century B.C., but our church, for the title of the chapter is "The Loadicean Church." The message is for us.

Countless thousands of truth-believing Seventh-day Adventists in the 1950's, 1960's, 1970's and the 1980's, chose to remain silent when wolves determinedly attempted to demolish our faith by the inroads made by the New Theology into the body of doctrines delivered to the saints of God. The New Theology was promoted in our midst by College professors, church administrators and church pastors who

In a church, one man, one woman, who is filled with courage, can make a real difference. Just one! In A.D. 31 one man did stand alone in the midst of seventy and in so doing he saved the lives of the apostles Peter and John. His name was Gamaliel.

"So enraged were the Jews at these words [of Peter charging them with the murder of the Messiah] that they decided to take the law into their own hands and without further trial, or without authority from the Roman officers, to put the prisoners to death. Already guilty of the blood of Christ, they were now eager to stain their hands with the blood of His disciples.



“But in the council there was one man who recognized the voice of God in the words spoken by the disciples. This was Gamaliel, a Pharisee of good reputation and a man of learning and high position. His clear intellect saw that the violent step contemplated by the priests would lead to terrible consequences. Before addressing those present, he requested that the prisoners be removed. He well knew the elements he had to deal with; he knew that the murderers of Christ would hesitate at nothing in order to carry out their purpose.

“He then spoke with great deliberation and calmness, saying: ‘Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much

people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.’

“The priests saw the reasonableness of these views, and were obliged to agree with Gamaliel.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 82–83.

One man’s voice had prevailed!

Notice that in the days of Elijah, God’s church had gradually permitted itself to slide into apostasy. Faithful witnesses were ignored. Look at the words quoted previously once more:

“This blindness and apostasy had not closed about them suddenly; it had come upon them gradually as they had not heeded the word of reproof and warning which the Lord had sent to them because of their pride and their sins. And now, in this fearful crisis, in the presence of the idolatrous

priests and the apostate king, they remained neutral.”

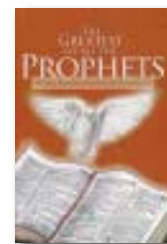
As a people in the twentieth century, we did not protest in support of our God-bestowed faith. We did not earnestly seek the Lord to preserve it. While a few pastors, administrators, theologians, evangelists and laymen, rose in its defense, they were marginalized by those who loved the sin-tolerant words of the New Theology. Others who still believed the truth, sat in cowardly silence lest they, too, be marginalized, covering their failure to defend the truth by claiming loyalty to God’s Church and an aim to keep the peace. Such conduct is disloyalty of the worst order. It is covert rebellion against God. It is sin of the greatest magnitude.

When gross apostasy entered the Christian Church in the fourth century, God had a faithful few who boldly and openly denounced the iniquity in the face of imprisonment, torture and death. These noble saints must be our example today:

“To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.” *The Great Controversy*, 45. ✠

Russell Standish, speaker and author, writes from Australia, where he directs Remnant Ministries.

Colin Standish, president of Hartland Institute, writes from Rapidan, Virginia.



This article was taken from *The Greatest of All the Prophets*, by Russell and Colin Standish. You may purchase this book from Hope International for \$16.99 plus shipping & handling (see page 30).



Church Planting Starts Offshoot

Vance Ferrell

The “celebration church” movement began in the Adventist denomination in the late 1980s, in a desperate attempt to bring more people into the church more quickly—to replace the conservative believers which were being crowded out by new theology pastors.

Prior to that time, our evangelism was generally keyed to conversion to Christ and acceptance of our doctrinal beliefs and standards. But the celebration movement was a radical departure, centered around using modernist entertainment in Sabbath services to attract newcomers which would hopefully result in baptisms.

Pastors from all over the continent were sent to David Snyder’s Milwaukie, Oregon, celebration church for training. Snyder, who in earlier years had studied acting and theatrical work, was ideally suited for the task.

Under this plan, when a regular Adventist church was switched over to the celebration pattern by its pastor, faithful believers became upset and tended to leave. The new people coming in believed and practiced no standards; they gave little in tithes and offerings. The older members who left took their donations with them. Church lead-

ers discovered that they were losing rather than gaining.

Within a very few years, Snyder and other celebration pastors began leaving the denomination, sometimes taking members and even entire local churches with them.

SEEDS: A New Model

So our leaders sought for something new. They adopted ideas publicized by two Protestant megachurches: Willow Creek, in northern Illinois, and Saddleback Church in southern California.

The new model for quickly making “Adventists” was called “church planting.” This new concept allowed for the same format as the celebration church (with its bands and drums, hand-raising, theatrical skits, wild music, and all the rest)—but with one exception: Instead of changing an established Adventist church into a celebration church, an entirely new church was raised up in a different location. In this way, a new celebration church could be started without disturbing historic believers in their established churches.

Church planting became the big push in the mid- and late-1990s, as efforts were made to start brand new celebration churches.

In 1996, the SEEDS conferences began, training Adventist pastors and promoting the new-style planting of celebration churches.

Ron Gladden

In this project, one man quickly rose to a position of great influence: Ronald Gladden. His combination of imaginative speaking with eager, enthusiastic activity led him to become one of the most prominent and successful “church planters” in the denomination. More than any other church worker in recent years, Gladden has led out in urging the planting of new celebration churches which are based on “grace, only grace”—a quite similar concept to the “once saved, always saved” of the Southern Baptists.

(The Southern Baptist version is this: Once you accept Christ, you cannot be lost regardless of what you do. Our new-theology version is: Once you accept Christ, you are saved; and your future behavior does not matter.)

Although our name for it had been changed from “celebration church” to “church planting,” the underlying concept had not changed: Use entertainment to bring people into the church; beliefs and standards are not particularly important. Knowing doctrines,

understanding Bible principles, and being aware of the existence of Spirit of Prophecy books is unimportant. Just get them in and, hopefully, get them to donate.

In the course of his work, Gladden made contacts with liberal Seventh-day Adventists all over America. He found that many of them were dissatisfied with having any restrictions on their beliefs or living standards. Although the denomination has become very lax in recent decades, it still maintains some standards. Most liberals find them offensive and want more freedom. The desire for freedom from rules and regulations underlies new theology teachings; indeed, it is the reason people are attracted to the concept and accept it.

Ron Gladden plans to now fill this niche by forming a network of churches that are operated on a congregational model and loosely organized under the banner of his newly established "Mission Catalyst Network."

There are only four things that Gladden requires of a member church:

"(1) The church is non-negotiably outreach focused; (2) the

church affirms and agrees to teach the doctrines as stated on the Commitment to Mission form; (3) the church is involved in a mission project at least 100 miles from its community; (4) the church sends 10% of its tithe and local giving to the network support office so we can plant more churches and resource the congregations. Everything else is determined by the leaders of the local church. Examples include: worship style, role of men and women in ministry, who can start a church and where, pastoral selection, pastoral tenure and pastoral salary."¹

Only churches that agree with all four points above may be members of the network.

There is one major weakness which Ron may not recognize: Most liberals are not interested in evangelism. They want to relax, be entertained at church service, and be told once again in the sermon that they are already saved. After church, they may want to go to a restaurant, have some wine with their meal, and go home and watch football on television.

Although Gladden has made assertions that his "network's" doc-

trines are in total agreement with all of the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church, he supplies his own list of ten doctrines—"a minimum number of beliefs that help bring a coherent voice to our message." While these doctrines acknowledge our need to keep the seventh-day Sabbath and also the fact that the dead are asleep, awaiting the resurrection, there are other important doctrines that are not mentioned—including our need to study the Bible; the need to appreciate and study the Spirit of Prophecy; and the need to repent of our sins.

Ron Gladden's view on salvation is that of Desmond Ford and fellow travelers: "salvation by grace alone." Why Gladden bothers to keep the Sabbath is a mystery. Like so many others who accept the teaching of salvation-in-sin, eventually he will most likely leave Adventism entirely and unite with the Sundaykeepers. ❄

Note:

¹ See <http://www.plantthefuture.org/faqs.html>.

Vance Ferrell writes from Tennessee, where he operates his ministry Pilgrim's Rest.

What Is the Significance?

Why take the time and space to mention Ron Gladden and his offshoot? Primarily for this reason: We long for our fellow members and church leaders to learn lessons from the past. When we lower the standards and minimize the unique message that God has given us as a people in order to draw large numbers into the church, we end up with members who have little or no commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist message and movement.

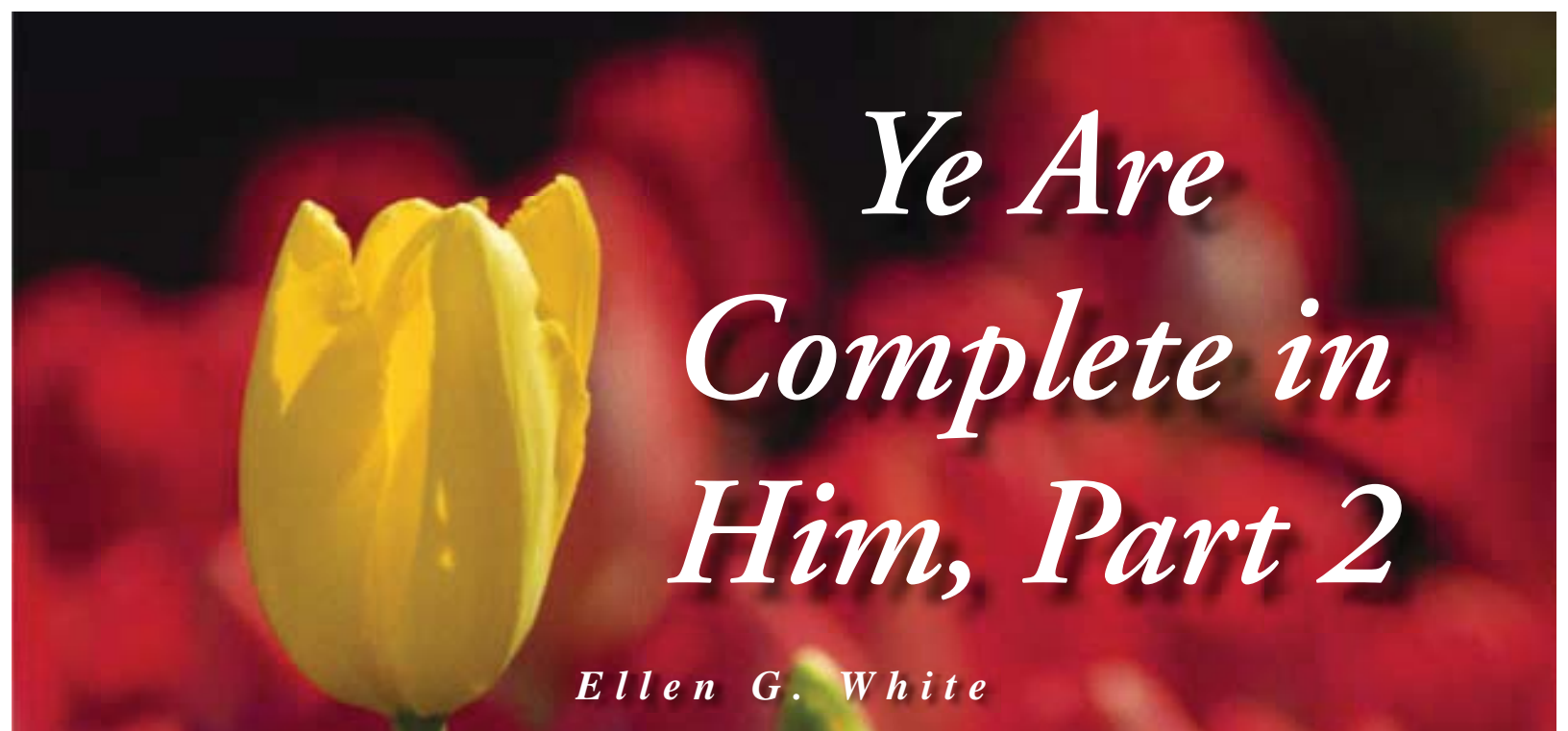
In an August 10, 2004, letter to the conference presidents in the North American Division, Elder Don Schneider broke the sad news regarding Ron Gladden and the direction that Mr. Gladden was going. Elder Schneider stated that no pastors in the "Mission Catalyst Network" would have credentials from the Adventist church, and no churches in that network would be part of the Adventist church.

In the final paragraph of his letter, Elder Schneider stated, "We've had significant success in planting churches in the past eight years since we first established the SEEDS conferences. We've planted about 1,000 churches, most of which are still healthy, growing parts of the denomination."

This paragraph ought to give us all pause for great concern. About 1,000 churches have been "planted" since 1996, many of them being started by Ron Gladden or others who embrace similar philosophy—that just about anything goes as long as we can get more people coming to church.

We may not yet perceive a mass exodus as a result of this "church planting," but we should be prepared to see most of these churches quickly abandon their loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist movement when it becomes unpopular to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

We appeal to our leaders, Wake up! Let us follow God's inspired principles, so clearly outlined in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, so that the faith of our converts might be built on the solid rock. Only then can we expect to spend eternity with a harvest of souls.—*Editors*



Ye Are Complete in Him, Part 2

Ellen G. White

We should take time to study the Bible; for we must know what saith the Scripture. The Bible is the garden of God, and as we see the lovely flowers of promise that have been placed there, we should gather them to our souls. For "exceeding great and precious promises" are given unto us, that by these we might become "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. Does this mean that you are not to associate with the world? — No; for how can you bring to them the light of truth if you do not come in contact with them? But you cannot do them good if your association with the world leads you to beg the world's pardon for your faith in Christ; for then you do not mould the world, but the world moulds you.

Jesus has signified what is to be your position in the world. He says, "Ye are the light of the world." "He that followeth me shall not walk in

darkness, but shall have the light of life." Matthew 5:14; John 8:12.

Since God has given us this assurance, why is it that we see so many clouded, mixed experiences? It is because many of the professed followers of Christ have given "heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1. It is because they have not responded to the drawing of Christ. When you do this, you draw others to Him by your consistent life and Christian example: for by faith you become rooted and grounded in the truth.

You must search the precious Word of God, that you may know what is truth. Jesus prayed that His disciples might be sanctified through the truth. And no one can be safe in thinking that he can permit himself to indulge in any sin, however secret it may be; for God requires truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden parts wisdom.

You need not feel complacency because you are sure that your brethren do not know of your misdeeds. Does not One who is acquainted with your brethren know all about your life? Does not He read your heart as an open book? You cannot indulge in any sin, and still be a witness for the Lord, for in works you deny Him.

Where is the holy boldness that should characterize your faith and prayers, because you are not condemned before man and God, but can lift up holy hands without wrath or doubting? Where is your ringing testimony on the side of truth? If you are indulging in known sin, you cannot utter words to the glory of God, because there is something in your heart that condemns you. The Spirit of God is not in your soul.

But let the heart with all its affections be just where it belongs, surrendered to God, and you will have joy and peace in the Holy Ghost. Your intellect, your ability, your powers of soul, body, and spirit, have been purchased at an infinite price by the Son of God, and they all belong to Him. And yet though Christ has redeemed men, how few render to Him that which is His own. How many rob Him in thought and in service. O, shall we not gird up the loins of our minds, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, and hope unto the end for the grace that shall be given unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ? See 1 Peter 1:13; 2 Corinthians 10:5.

You cannot enter heaven with any deformity or imperfection of character, and you must be fitted

for heaven now in this probationary life. If you would enter the abode of the righteous when Christ shall come, you must have the deep movings of the Spirit of God, that you may have an individual experience, and be "complete in Him" who is the "fulness of the Godhead bodily." Colossians 2:9-10. Through the power of the righteousness of Christ, we are to depart from all iniquity. There must be a living connection of the soul with its Redeemer. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God, that the

weakened your own spirituality, grieved the heavenly angels, and wounded and bruised the loving heart of your Redeemer. When you have asked Jesus in contrition of soul for His forgiveness, believe that He has forgiven you. Do not doubt His divine mercy, or refuse the comfort of His infinite love.

If your child had disobeyed you, and committed wrong against you, and that child should come with a breaking heart to ask forgiveness, you know what you would do. You know how quickly you would draw your child to your heart, and assure

and repent of our sins, and unite ourselves to Christ as the branch is united to the vine. Jesus says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. Jesus is drawing all men; who will respond to this drawing? Many will be greatly influenced by the life and example of those who profess to have responded to this divine love that is drawing the hearts of men. Many will watch you who profess His name, to see whether it makes you better men and better women. They will watch to see if you are Christlike, kind and courteous in your family. The Lord has said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 7:20.

Your home life is an index to your Christianity. What a man is in his family, is just what he is in the sight of God. Those who profess to be followers of Christ will reveal just what is their attitude towards Christ in the home circle. As the mothers brought their children to Christ that He might place His hands upon them, and bless them, so parents should take their children to Him today. Talk to your children of Jesus, tell them of His love, and how desirous you are to have them Christ's children. The agencies of heaven will cooperate with you in your work of drawing the children to Jesus.

God is a lover of the beautiful, but that which He most loves is a beautiful character. These lovely flowers on the desk today are an expression of the love of God to us. Flowers are the adornments that God has made for the earth. Christ has said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Matthew 6:28-29. Jesus tells us that there is something higher

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What a man is in his family, is just what he
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soul may grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.

But how many do not pray. They feel under condemnation for sin, and they think they must not come to God until they have done something to merit His favor, or until God has forgotten about their transgressions. They say, "I cannot hold up holy hands before God without wrath or doubting, and therefore I cannot come." See 1 Timothy 2:8. So they remain away from Christ, and are committing sin all the time in so doing, for without Him you can do nothing but evil. See John 15:4.

Just as soon as you commit sin, you should flee to the throne of grace, and tell Jesus all about it. You should be filled with sorrow for sin, because through sin you have

him that your love was unchanged, and his transgressions forgiven.

Are you more merciful than your merciful Heavenly Father, who so loved the world "that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"? John 3:16. You should go to God as children go to their parents. Ask your Heavenly Father to forgive your errors, and pray that through the grace of Christ you may be able to overcome every defect of your character.

Jesus came to this world to "save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21. He will not save us in our sins, for He is not the minister of sin. We must respond to the divine drawing of Christ,

for our consideration and aims than what we shall eat, and what we shall drink, and “wherewithal we shall be clothed.” Verse 31.

It is beauty of character that shall not perish, but last through the ceaseless ages of eternity. “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” 1 Peter 3:3–4.

Jesus would have the fathers and mothers teach their children this beauty of character. He would have them teach their children that God loves them, that their natures may be changed, and brought into harmony with God. Do not teach your children that God does not love them when they do wrong; teach them that He loves them so that it grieves His Spirit to see them in transgression, because He knows they are doing injury to their souls. Do not terrify your children by telling them of the wrath of God, but rather seek to impress them with His unspeakable love and goodness, and thus let the glory of the Lord be revealed before them. ✠

Concluded next month.

Bible Echo and Signs of the Times, February 1, 1892. A discourse in Melbourne, Australia, December 19, 1891.



Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.

Photo © PhotoDisc



The Barren Fig Tree

Ellen G. White

The treatment of the barren fig tree by the Saviour of the world shows how all pretenders to godliness will be treated. See Matthew 21:18–20. He pronounced upon it His withering curse and left it seared and sapless, rejected by God. This tree represents the Jews, who refused to respond to the love of Christ. Despite all the privileges and opportunities granted them, they brought forth only briars and thorns—no fruit to the glory of God.

This blighted tree was a parable to the house of Israel—a most impressive lesson. It is also a lesson to the professed followers of Christ

to the world with high profession, but are utterly devoid of that vital piety which alone God recognizes as fruit.

There is a decided lack of piety among us as a people. The true burden of the work for the salvation of souls does not rest upon us as it should. Like the barren fig tree, many flaunt their foliage-covered branches before the Lord, proudly claiming to be His commandment-keeping people, while the heart-searching God finds them destitute of fruit.

We boast of our advancement in the truth, but our works do not correspond with our profession.

lukewarmness and unfaithfulness which would exist in the last days was described by the great apostle in these words:—

Our Saviour never turned away from the truly penitent, no matter how great their guilt. But He hates all hypocrisy and vain display.

in every age. Reaching through all time, it speaks in unmistakable language to all formalists and boasters of godliness who stand forth

We are sadly deficient in spirit, energy, and life. Leaf-covered trees are plenty, but they are destitute of fruit. The fearful condition of

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:

from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

We learn from the Sacred Record that this tree, upon which hung not a redeeming cluster of fruit, was clothed with green foliage. Notice the words. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." The doom of the fruitless fig tree has an application to individual professors who manifest the natural tendencies of the unrenewed heart and contradict their faith by their daily life. They do not represent to the world the character of Christ because they have not Christ in them.

Our Saviour never turned away from the truly penitent, no matter how great their guilt. But He hates all hypocrisy and vain display. He addressed with the most severe and unqualified reproof the Pharisees and hypocrites represented by the fig tree covered with green foliage but destitute of fruit.

Fruitless professors, sad indeed is your fate; for the open sinner



And as we see the many who profess to be God's commandment-keeping people, whose lives show that they do not the will of our Father which is in Heaven, we can come to only one conclusion—that in the doom of the fig tree which bore no fruit, and upon which fell the withering curse of God, they may read their own fate.

The compassion and tender love of Jesus for those for whom He died is without parallel. But when His love and mercy are insulted, when His life and example are misrepresented by those professing to be His followers, severe retribution will surely follow. Christ has bought man with an infinite price. Soul, body, and spirit—all that constitutes the man—is the rightful property of our Saviour; and when He sees the body, the temple of the soul, defiled and degraded by indulgence of appetite and lustful passion, and the heart polluted and defiled by sin—when He sees the soul which

was the purchase of His blood, proving a curse rather than a blessing to the world, He dooms it as He did the fig tree, and it becomes a fearful monument of His righteousness and avenging wrath.

Jesus is wounded and insulted by His professed followers whose unconsecrated lives disgrace their profession. He would purify the temple courts of the soul; but if His efforts to warn and reprove are not heeded, His forbearance and compassion will be changed to severity and judgment. ❀

Review and Herald, January 11, 1881.



Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God's people around the world.

stands in a more favorable position in the sight of God. The blight of God's curse is upon that class who hide the deformity of their lives under a profession of godliness. John, that bold, undaunted reprover of sin, who came to prepare the way for Christ's first advent, thus addressed the multitude that flocked to hear him: "Therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matthew 3:10. Terrible words!



James White: Laying the Foundations

Virgil Robinson

Returning from the Middletown post office one morning, Albert Belden went to the upstairs room where James and Ellen White were living and handed them a letter. It was from Hiram Edson, who was the first to receive light on the sanctuary and the reasons for the disappointment of 1844.

"What does he say?" asked Ellen, as James glanced over the letter.

"There are plans to hold a meeting of all the believers. It will be held in Volney, in western New York, sometime this summer. Brother Edson invites us to meet with them."

"I think we ought to go," said Ellen decisively, "Don't you?"

"Yes, we must go if at all possible. But he points out in his letter that the brethren are poor, and will

be able to do little to help pay our expenses."

"That is a problem, but I think the Lord will show us what to do," said Ellen encouragingly.

James did not sit at home and wait for pennies to fall from heaven to help him get on with the Lord's work. He, with two brethren, George W. Holt and John Belden, contracted to mow one hundred acres of hay, for which they would be paid \$87.50.¹

It was hot work, and to swing the heavy scythe took almost more energy than James possessed. Many times he knelt and prayed for strength to continue.

One day he wrote in a letter to his friend Stockbridge Howland: "It is rainy today, so that I do not mow, or I should not write. . . . God gives me strength to labor hard all day. . . . Praise the Lord! I hope to

get a few dollars here to use in the cause of God."²

This last sentence is significant. All his life James White would be searching for and finding ways to get dollars with which to advance the work of God on earth.

After five weeks in the hayfield James received forty dollars. With this he and Ellen purchased some new clothing. The remainder was used to pay their fare to the meetings in Volney and return. When they took the boat for New York City, little eleven-month-old Henry was left at Middletown with a friend, Miss Clarissa Bonfoey. This was the first time Ellen White and her baby were apart for even a single night.³ But it was not to be the last. . . .

There were between 35 and 40 persons present at this second Sabbath conference, which was

held in David Arnold's barn.⁴ James was distressed to discover that the brethren were disagreeing on nearly every point of doctrine. Each had pet theories to which he clung and which he tried to force upon everyone else. . . .

The discordance among the group caused a heavy burden to rest upon Ellen White. During the conference the Lord gave her a vision revealing the various errors of those present. Many of them were seeing the Lord's servant in vision for the first time. The Spirit of God entered powerfully into the assembly, and when Ellen came out of vision and clearly pointed out the true teachings of the Bible, her message was believed to be from God. The meeting closed triumphantly.⁵ James was seeing that the Spirit of Prophecy, as manifested through his wife, could prove to be a great unifying factor among the believers.

Shortly afterward the third conference was held in Hiram Edson's barn. Edson lived some 60 miles east of Volney, near Port Gibson, New York. Again there were differences of opinion in interpreting points of doctrine. Again the testimony of the Lord's servant brought peace and unity.

The Whites, Joseph Bates, and H. S. Gurney, an evangelistic singer, were now ready to return to New England. . . .

After spending several days with believers along their route, the Whites, Gurney, and Bates, now at Brooklyn, planned to catch a boat for Middletown, Connecticut. . . .

Arriving at Rocky Hill, Connecticut, the Whites attended a Sabbath conference held there early in September. This was the fourth conference of 1848.⁶

Throughout the trip Ellen had been longing to see her baby, Henry. Now, back at Middletown, her first thought was of him. She found him sick, and his condition continued to worsen; it was felt by some that he would not live long. But God heard the earnest prayers that were

offered daily, and after a time the child began to mend.

In October James and Ellen set out for Maine, taking Henry with them. At Topsham they were happy to meet their old friends, the Howlands, again. And at Topsham the fifth Sabbath conference was held, October 20–22, during which the great foundation truths that had been established at the previous conferences were reviewed and built upon. In order to spread the truths unfolded at the conferences it was felt that a paper should be published and sent everywhere.

Another general meeting was called to meet in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in mid-November.

"How can we take little Henry with us?" the Whites asked themselves. "Winter is coming, and travel is difficult for anyone at this season."

After laying their problems before the Lord they reached two decisions. First, they would go to Dorchester. Second, they would leave little Henry in the care of the Howland family, where he could live an undisturbed life and be brought up properly.

The time came for the heartsore parents to leave Topsham. Sadly they kissed their little boy, now fifteen months old, and placed him in the arms of Sister Howland. The sad little face he wore when they left him haunted them for days. But they knew they were walking in the path of duty and could leave their own future, as well as that of the child, in the hands of God.⁷

A number of leaders had gathered for study at Dorchester. As at the previous conference in Topsham, one of the subjects discussed was how the wonderful truths they had studied could be brought to the attention of the scattered Adventists. Joseph Bates's 48-page pamphlet about the Sabbath had been instrumental in bringing a number of honest-hearted families into what they were already beginning to call "the truth."

"I have wanted to print our message for some time," James White had declared at Topsham. "But before we can do so, we must have money. I certainly have none with which to launch such an enterprise." The others present had no money to spare, either. And no one knew how the problem was to be solved.⁸

Before the Dorchester conference ended, Ellen White was given a most important vision. When it was finished she spoke to her husband, relaying instruction that he knew had come directly from Heaven:

"I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world."⁹

But *how, when, where*, was the paper to be printed? And *with what*? James White began searching for the answers. ❀

Virgil Robinson was the great-grandson of James and Ellen White on his mother's side and the great-grandson of William Farnsworth (one of the first Seventh-day Adventists) on his father's side.

References:

- ¹ *Life Sketches* (1915), 109.
- ² *Ibid.*
- ³ *Life Sketches* (1888), 246–247.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, 247–248.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, 248.
- ⁶ Arthur L. White, *Ellen G. White: Messenger to the Remnant*, Ellen G. White Publications, 38–39.
- ⁷ *Life Sketches* (1888), 255.
- ⁸ *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*, vol. 1, 194.
- ⁹ *Life Sketches* (1915), 125.



This article was taken from Virgil Robinson, *James White*, 48–53. This book is available from Hope International for \$11.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30).



The Alpha and the Omega of Deadly Error, Part 6

The Situation We Face

A Review of Significant Warnings
and Special Instruction From the Spirit of Prophecy

F. M. Wilcox

We may well consider what we face, provided no solution is found to this question we are considering. Suppose our teachers continue the practice which many of them are now following, of going to worldly schools to secure advanced educational standing? What would be the result? The result in our schools would be the same that has come to some of the colleges of the great denominations around us. And what is that? We answer. The philosophies of evolution, of naturalism, of higher criticism, taught in the great universities and divinity schools, have honeycombed the great professed church of Christ. Ministers of the gospel and others

have imbibed these errors, and by their preaching are molding the great Christian church at the present time. Regarding this, Dr. B. H. Carroll, a prominent Baptist clergyman, says:

“The cuckoos of skepticism have first covertly laid their eggs in the nests of Christian colleges and seminaries, and lo! An alien brood has been hatched out. Later and openly, every vital doctrine of the gospel has been defiantly assailed and bombarded from these Christian citadels by a teaching force that scorns responsibility to God or man. No vagary of speculative and unverified philosophy has been too extravagant for their advocacy. The inspiration of the

Scriptures, their integrity as a canon, the divinity of our Lord and His expiatory sacrifice, the whole office work of the Holy Spirit, and the very necessity for Saviour or Spirit have been openly and scornfully denied.” *The Crisis of the Church*, 49.

An SOS Call

This fear that the pagan philosophies taught in many of the universities will permeate the public schools of secondary grade is felt by some who still remain true to the old-time fundamentals. This is illustrated in the following quotation which we take from the September number of the *Christian Fundamentalist*.¹ Dr. A. N. Hall,

writing on "The Solution of the Sin Problem," has this to say about the influence of this teaching:

"After preaching the graduation sermon for one of the high schools in my home state, I sat out under the silent stars with the principal of that school, waiting for the train which was to bear me home. I ventured to ask, 'What do you consider your greatest problem in education?' and without a moment's hesitation he answered. 'The atheism that comes down into our grade and high schools through the teachers who are graduates of our state university.'

"The president of a state university said to me only a few months ago, 'If some way is not found to Christianize education, we will be worse off than if we did not have it.' Education has utterly failed to solve the sin problem."

A similar cry of distress is sounded by A. T. Osbron in a recent number of the *Register of Mobil, Alabama*:

"I am a minister, 'in good and regular standing,' in one of the major churches of our country, and this is an 'SOS' to my fellow preachers.

"My young people are returning from college and university, and telling me that the language spoken by Jesus and His disciples was the Aramaic, and since the oldest manuscript in existence is written in the Greek, that it is misleading for the publishers to print 'translated out of the original tongue,' as we find in all of our Bibles.

"They tell me the story of creation, the fall, and the flood did not appear in the Jewish writings until after the Babylonian captivity, and that these same stories had been told in several nations long before the Hebrew nation came into existence; that the garden of Eden is none other than the Persian Paradise, and that the talking snake is a Parsi serpent.

"They tell me that the scientific world has unmistakable evidence that this old world of ours has

been millions of years in forming, instead of six thousand years as taught by the church, and that the special creation of man as told in Genesis is misleading and untrue.

"Nor do they stop here, but with an irresistible logic they relegate to the folklore of yesterday most of the doctrines of our churches and declare that a college incandescent and church dogma are uncomfortable bedfellows. In short, I am finding that the doctrines of the church and a scientific education are at strange variance and that we are educating our children away from the church.

"This situation is serious! What shall we do?"

And well may Seventh-day Adventists raise this same question in relation to the dangers threatening the youth of this church. It is an SOS cry in our experience.

Effects on Foreign Missions

What effect is this seductive teaching having upon the foreign missionary operations of the great churches of the land? It is cutting

The bane in the mission fields today is philosophical teaching emanating from the church at home, which discredits Christ and the transforming power of His saving gospel.

the nerve and sapping the very life of foreign mission advance. The cry has come up from devoted missionaries laboring under the great church boards, that the bane in the mission fields today is philosophical teaching emanating from the church at home, which discredits Christ and the transforming power of His saving gospel—a teaching which in its professed broad-mindedness seeks the good in the religions of paganism, and endeavors to find a *rapprochement*² between

these religions and the religion of Jesus Christ.

This teaching in the universities and seminaries has likewise affected, in a large measure, missionary recruits. Many a young man who entered upon training in these schools in the homeland with the definite purpose of giving his life to the work of foreign missions, has been diverted from his purpose simply because he saw no reason why he should carry to the heathen a religious philosophy no better than their own.

We Face This Same Crisis

And we face precisely this same crisis in our own church work. If



with unbelief in the fundamental principles of this message?

And this is more than a groundless fear. The philosophy of university teaching is that every man must bring an open mind to the consideration and investigation of every question; that the more he is ham-

pered by preconceived opinions, the less progress he can make in the pursuit of real intellectual attainment. And particularly is it felt that religious conviction closes the mind to the pursuit of true knowledge.

A concrete example of this was seen in one of the great universities

a year ago. At a university summer school attended by some of our own teachers, it was taught that children should not be instructed in religious matters until they had attained at least to the age of eighteen years; otherwise they would be hampered in the pursuit of knowledge.



The Train

by Diane Styles, of Melbourne, Australia.
Inspired by the vision recorded in *Early Writings*, 88.

Out from the edge of darkness
Was heard the roar of a train,
Traveling faster and faster,
As nearer and nearer it came.
Then sounds of laughter, with music and song
Heard above the clattering wheels;
A restaurant car with its windows ajar
Was serving wine with extravagant meals.

There was standing room only
In the carriages bright,
And the people inside were planning
For years of ease and delight.
The pastor was inviting all to a meeting
At which would be feasting and fun,
And if the noise spilled out into the church service,
He felt no harm would be done.

I then saw our Tess with dear little Sam
Cradled lovingly close to her breast,
And Nicholas, my brother was boasting to the conductor
Of Sam's talents, and how much they'd been blessed.
The conductor was smiling—he gave praises to God
For Sam, and spoke of God's grace;
Then he paused to turn to the window,
And I cried as the light hit his face.

On one side was the face of an angel,
radiant with beauty and grace;
On the other the face of a demon,
twisted with evil and hate.
His eyes were exceedingly cunning,
and he spoke with words so kind,
And all who were gathered rejoiced at his presence
and obeyed his commands, as if blind!

The carriages had words painted on them —
“Procrastination” read the first one in sight;
“We’re being saved while sinning” bragged the second;
the third: “Rejection of light”;
Another “Eat, drink and be merry —
tomorrow will always be there”;
Followed by one with a bold banner blazing,
“No time for study or prayer.”

“No time for a look at the Saviour”
was the saddest to behold,
And, “Ministers who gave not the warning
to the confused and wandering fold.”
I could stand no more, and cried out, “Stop the train!”
And met Satan's enraged, evil glare.
But — “too late” the wheels said, a-clacking —
“Too late for your burden of care.”

The Saviour's love they've rejected
and neglected His sacrifice dear.
The time given to them they've wasted,
and mocked at the warnings so clear.
They've chosen this other master,
and have refused to tear themselves free.
At the end of their journey lies waiting —
death for eternity.”

I woke to feel my tears falling,
so relieved things were not as they seemed!
Or, I thought again — weren't they?
Wasn't reality the same as the dream?
I had been thinking of buying a ticket
for this journey of pleasure and gain,
But I shuddered, and praised God for His blessing,
for the chance to start over again.

Is this the sort of philosophy that we want brought back into our colleges and academies where teachers are trained for our elementary schools? Contrast this teaching with the teaching of the Maker who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not." Luke 18:16.

Faithfulness and Loyalty Demanded

We cannot believe that God would permit this situation to be created; but with a knowledge of this possibility, how recreant³ shall we be to our trust if we fail to meet fearlessly and unflinchingly the crisis in our present educational situation. We can meet it, we believe, only by warning our youth against intrusting their education to the schools where the omega of error is being taught, and in providing some means whereby our educational needs may be met.

We can meet the crisis, but not by depending upon Egypt for help. This was the mistake of Israel of old, and in the text at the head of this article, Isaiah 31:1–3, God faithfully warned them against this danger. The warning is for us likewise, as we are tempted to seek to the god of Ekron for help instead of to the God of Israel. ✠

References:

- ¹ World's Christian Fundamentals Association, Minneapolis, MN, vol. 4, no. 3.
- ² Rapprochement: a reconciliation, or re-establishment of cordial relations
- ³ Recreant: cowardly

Source: "Why Our Educational Symposium? The Alpha and the Omega of Deadly Error: A Review of Significant Warnings and Special Instruction from the Spirit of Prophecy, in Two Parts—Part 2," *Review and Herald*, Takoma Park, Washington, D.C., October 23, 1930, 6–7.



Francis McLellan Wilcox served the Seventh-day Adventist church as author, minister, and administrator and was the editor of the *Review and Herald* from 1911 to 1944.

Historical Footnotes

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." —E. G. White, *Life Sketches*, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith, and *further study* into "the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

1. What was the first name of the current Loma Linda University?
 - a. Loma Linda School of Evangelism
 - b. College of Evangelists
 - c. Emmanuel Missionary College
 - d. College of Medical Evangelists
2. Who wrote *The Seer of Patmos*?
 - a. O. A. Olsen
 - b. J. N. Andrews
 - c. S. N. Haskell
 - d. Uriah Smith
3. Healdsburg College was the name of what current college?
 - a. Pacific Union College
 - b. Southern University
 - c. Atlantic Union College
 - d. Southwestern Adventist University
4. Clarence C. Crisler was a secretary to whom?
 - a. John H. Kellogg
 - b. James White
 - c. Arthur White
 - d. Ellen White
5. *The Cross and Its Shadow* was written by which Adventist pioneer?
 - a. A. F. Ballenger
 - b. A. T. Jones
 - c. S. N. Haskell
 - d. E. J. Waggoner
6. Who preached Ellen White's funeral?
 - a. S. N. Haskell
 - b. Willie White
 - c. Dr. J. H. Kellogg
 - d. W. A. Spicer
7. How many years did Ellen White live after her husband James died?
 - a. 22 years
 - b. 18 years
 - c. 43 years
 - d. 34 years
8. Pictures were made and sold of a group of old Adventist veterans for what cause?
 - a. To rebuild Battle Creek Sanitarium.
 - b. To build the Ellen G. White Memorial Hospital.
 - c. To purchase the "Morning Star."
 - d. To build Oakwood College.
9. Who, outside of family members, was most closely connected with Ellen White?
 - a. Uriah Smith
 - b. Dr. J. H. Kellogg
 - c. S. N. Haskell
 - d. D. M. Canright
10. Who wrote the well known Adventist hymn, "O Brother, Be Faithful"?
 - a. J. N. Loughborough
 - b. James White
 - c. Uriah Smith
 - d. Edson White

Answers: 1:B, 2:C, 3:A, 4:D, 5:C, 6:A, 7:D, 8:B, 9:A, 10:C
 Source: For specific references to any answer, please contact Hope International.



Photo: ©Corel

Persecution in Laos

News Item: “Despite communist authorities’ strongest efforts, hundreds are coming to Christ in Laos, many after witnessing the Lord’s miraculous healing power. Authorities in Laos have done their utmost to intimidate Christians and stop the spread of the gospel. They have closed church buildings and forbidden believers from reentering them. Some brave Christians continue to meet together in closed buildings, knowing they could be arrested at any time. Officials threaten believers with imprisonment and heavy fines if they tell others about or attempt to convert them to Christ. . . . As God uses miracles to open people’s hearts, churches in Laos are growing in a way Christians have not seen for many years. Even the fiercest government threats cannot stop it.” “Religion Today Summaries,” *Crosswalk.com*, November 9, 2004.

End-time Perspective: “And other sheep I have, which are not

of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” John 10:16.

We need to pray for our persecuted brethren all over the world, including those not of our faith, the day is coming that many of them will be joining us as they hear and understand the truth.



Photo: ©Photodisc

Scientists Debate Blending Species

News Item: “In Minnesota, pigs are being born with human blood in their veins. In Nevada, there are sheep whose livers and hearts are largely human. In California, mice peer from their cages with human brain cells firing inside their skulls. . . .

“Biologists call these hybrids chimeras [pronounced ki-MER-ahs], after the mythical Greek creature with a lion’s head, a goat’s body and a serpent’s tail. They are products of experiments in which human stem cells were added to developing animal fetuses. . . .

“With no federal guidelines in place, an awkward question hovers above the work: How human must a chimera be before more stringent research rules should kick in? . . .

“In one ongoing set of experiments, Jeffrey Platt at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., has

created human-pig chimeras by adding human-blood-forming stem cells to pig fetuses. The resulting pigs have both pig and human blood in their vessels. And it’s not just pig blood cells being swept along with human blood cells; some of the cells themselves have merged, creating hybrids.

“It is important to have learned that human and pig cells can fuse, Platt said, because he and others have been considering transplanting modified pig organs into people and have been wondering if that might pose a risk of pig viruses getting into patient’s cells. Now scientists know the risk is real, he said, because the viruses may gain access when the two cells fuse.” Rick Weiss, *The Journal Gazette*, Fort Wayne, Ind., November 21, 2004, 6A.

End-time Perspective: “But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, 69

“The swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.” Leviticus 11:7–8.

Berean Bookstores Open On Sunday

News Item: “Brian Hanley, a New Jersey resident and former [Family Christian Bookstore] FCB, customer, started an online petition asking Family Christian

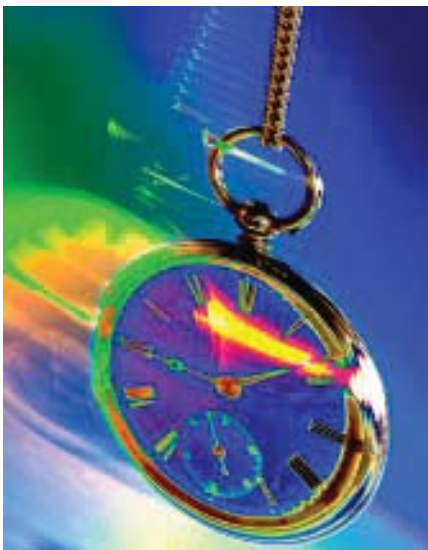


Photo: ©Brand X Photos

Bookstores to 'uphold the Fourth Commandment,' and charged the company with 'breaking God's law' by being open on the Sabbath [Sunday]. . . .

" 'It's simply breaking God's law to be open on Sundays,' Mr. Cully [owner of Evangelical Bible Bookstore] said. 'I don't work on Sunday because God says not to in His word. The Fourth Commandment says, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall do no work." ' . . .

A call to the Family Christian Bookstores national customer-service center revealed the number of books in its inventory specifically about the Sabbath—zero." *World*, November 13, 2004, 34–35.

End-time Perspective: Not only are they wrong about the true Sabbath day, they also misrepresent the issue calling it "a Sabbath" rather than "the Sabbath." And the last statement is a telling one—no books on the Sabbath, period. It is no wonder the Babylonish churches' understanding of the Sabbath of the Lord is misrepresented and misunderstood.



Photo: ©Photodisc

Child Rearing in Gay Marriages

News Item: "The 2000 census found that more than 150,000 same-sex couples have at least one child under 18 in the home. Kids are being raised by gay parents in 96 percent of the counties in the United States. . . .

"Experts believe the census numbers don't come close to a full count, since they exclude kids with a gay parent living outside the home. Include those kids and the number is in the millions, says the American Bar Association." Dirk Johnson and Adam Piore, "Home in Two Worlds," *Newsweek*, October 10, 2004, 53.

End-time Perspective: " 'When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. . . .

" 'Wherefore God also gave them . . . over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.' Romans 1:21–24, 28–32. The restraints of God's Word and His Spirit rejected, there were no depths of sin too low for them to reach." *Review and Herald*, January 29, 1914.



Photo: ©Photodisc

Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage

News Item: "One of Canada's major Protestant denominations is calling on that nation's highest court to legalize homosexual 'marriage.' The United Church of Canada, an amalgamation of Presbyterian and Methodist congregations in that country, is arguably one of the most liberal denominations in North America. The UCC was one of the first churches to ordain homosexual pastors and has now joined with those calling for the legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide." "Religion Today Summaries," *Crosswalk.com*, October 11, 2004.

End-time Perspective: "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly." Genesis 13:13.

"The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God's mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 164–165.

We must pray for these people and the terrible blindness they are in. There is so little time left before God's forbearance is exhausted. Let us also praise God for another day in which to work to pull some more brands from the fire! See Amos 4:11. ❀

Contributor: Joe Olson

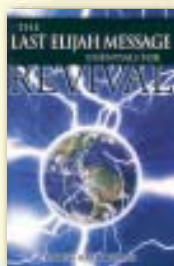
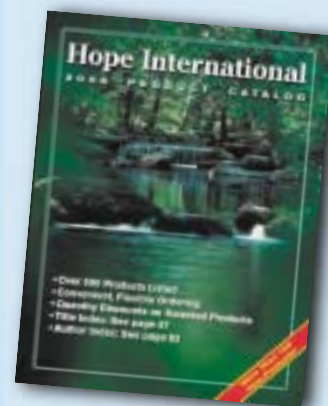
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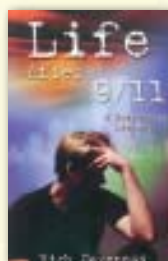
Batchelor, Doug

Last Elijah Message: Essentials for Revival, The

Learn how purity, sacrifice, reverence, faith, obedience, and more are essential to the work of revival. You will be convicted to awaken your spiritual life, and you will be blessed.

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Cavness, Rich

Life After 9/11

In just one tragic day, men and women across the nation felt the same cosmic shockwave and sensed a new, urgent life-changing need. This book explores five key spiritual lessons uncovered from the horrifying destruction of 9/11.

Paperback, 96 pages, 2003

BECR-L911 \$5.99



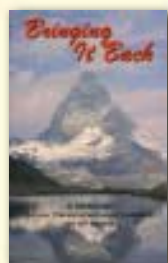
Crews, Sharon Thomas

Faithful Witness, The

Have you ever been perplexed by the great number of English Bible versions? Have you wondered which one you should choose as your primary study Bible? This booklet will help you find the answers.

Paperback, 47 pages, 1990

BECS-FWIT \$0.95



Ferrell, Vance

Bringing it Back

This little book explains the simple steps needed to strengthen our denomination so it can more fully do the work God intended for

us to do in these final hours of earth's history.

Paperback, 128 pages, 2004

BEFV-BIBA \$1.95
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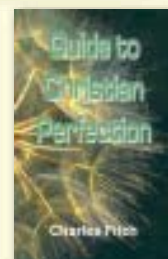
Fitch, Charles

Guide to Christian Perfection

Written in 1840, Charles Fitch was convicted by the Holy Spirit regarding sanctification. Before the Advent movement began this pastor wrote a biblical defense of the doctrine of Christian perfection.

Paperback, 80 pages, 1997

BEFC-GTCP \$7.99



Jones, A. T.

Third Angel's Message, The

These 26 sermons were given by A.T. Jones at the General Conference of 1895. They present the righteousness of Christ in the context of religious liberty.

Paperback, 253 pages, 2004

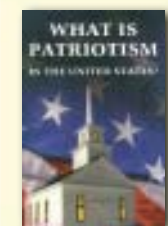
BEJA-TAME \$14.99

What Is Patriotism in the United States?

A sermon from 1896 by religious liberty champion, A. T. Jones. Though the issues were different in 1896, the principles regarding the separation of church and state are ever the same.

Paperback, 32 pages, 2004

BEJA-WIPI \$2.99

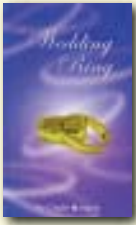


Kay, Leslie

To Live in His Sight

Revival! It's a word that conjures images of sawdust-strewn tent meetings and charismatic evangelists, of fever-pitch excitement and





perhaps even rank fanaticism. But what is revival really all about? This book will help you discover the answer.

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Morgan, Clyde

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Many church leaders have voiced their opinions regarding the wedding ring, but what does the Bible say about it? This book compares the popular views with the unchanging Word of God.

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BEMC-WRIN \$3.99

Richards, H. M. S.

Promises of God, The

Now in this classic devotional, first published in 1956, author H.M.S. Richards (1894–1985) shares the bedrock certainties that lay at the core of his being.

Hardcover, 371 pages, 2004
BERH-POGO \$12.99

Robinson, Virgil

James White

This well-written biography of James White was written by one of the great-grandsons of Ellen and James White and constructed from the documents of the time.

Paperback, 316 pages, 2005
BERV-JWHI \$11.99

Sparks, Vernon

Authority in God's Church

The counsel contained in this book will help us to understand true loyalty to God and the need for obedience to His inspired Testimonies for His beloved church.

Spiral Bound, 226 pages, 2004
BESV-AIGC \$6.49

Spear, Ron

Final Generation and the Fourth Angel, The

Is there something special about the final generation of God's people? What must we do to prepare for the loud cry of the fourth angel? Get Inspired answers to these questions and much more.

Paperback, 157 pages, 2004
BESR-FGFA \$3.99

Standish, Russell R./Standish, Colin D.

Greatest of All the Prophets, The

In 2004, under the guise of protecting the Spirit of Prophecy, the South Pacific Division launched an eight-pronged attack against the Testimonies of God. This book thoroughly documents, examines, and refutes this attack.

Paperback, 412 pages, 2004
BESR-GOAP \$16.99

Tsatalbasidis, Karl

Drums, Rock, and Worship

This book explores the complex relationship of worship and popular music, and especially the drum set, with concise, convincing reasoning. An eye-opening study that will benefit leaders and laity alike.

Paperback, 72 pages, 2003
BETK-DRWO \$4.99

White, Ellen G.

Road to Redemption, The

A beautiful new edition of the classic masterpiece *Steps to Christ*.

Paperback, 96 pages, 2004
BEWE-RTRE \$3.99

Bibles

God's Word

KJV Holy Bible and the History of Redemption

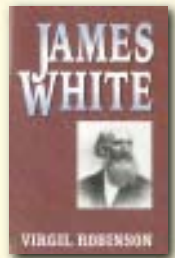
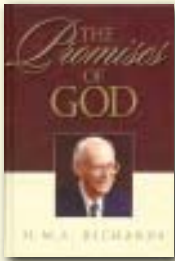
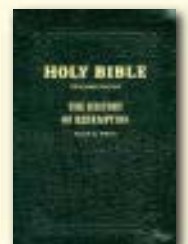
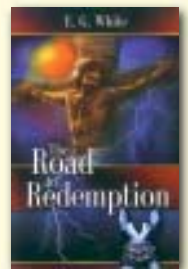
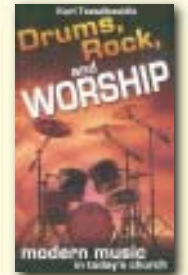
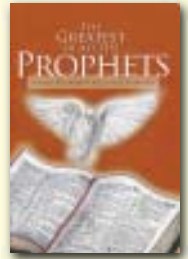
A leather-bound study Bible that also includes the full text of the Conflict of the Ages books (PP, PK, DA, AA, GC) plus MB, COL, and SC. Includes scripture cross-references only to these eight S.O.P. books. Includes maps. (No marginal references, concordance, or subject index.)

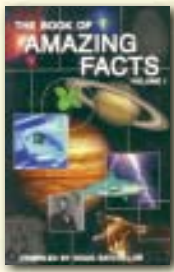
Leather-bound, Black, (No zipper), KJV, 2285 pages
BEGW-KHBH \$54.99

Study Bible and Hymnal

This Bible has all the features of the Deluxe Study Bible, but also includes the complete Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal. A high-quality zippered binding of genuine leather protects this Bible for a life time of study and song.

Leather Zipper Cover, 2 Ribbon Markers
BEGW-SBHY \$84.99





Outreach

Batchelor, Doug

Book of Amazing Facts, Vol. 1, The

Whether you're preparing a sermon, need an illustration for a children's story, or just enjoy interesting trivia, this book is sure to be a wonderful resource in your home or office.

Paperback, 136 pages, 2002

BEBD-BOAF

\$7.99

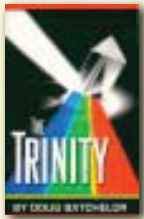
Trinity, The

The mystery of the triune God is under attack! Learn how to defend this essential tenet from dangerous assault.

Paperback, 32 pages, 2003, 3 1/2 x 5 1/2

BEBD-TRIN

\$0.79



Health

Heathman, Lee, Tillotson, Mildred

Leaves From the Tree of Life

This is a practical manual based on biblical principles. Eight chapters are devoted to exploring the basic laws of health and showing how these principles can help enhance and lengthen a person's life. Then follow 71 pages of recipes to put these principles into practice.

Paperback, 84 pages, 2004

BEHT-LFTL

\$15.99



Roberts, Tom

100% Organic Pest Control

Insects, good and bad, are the most common "wild animals" we observe in the garden. The question most gardeners ask is "What do I do about the bugs?" Here are some alternatives to the use of persistent or broad range poisons. This outline should help you with your own experimentation – the trial and error process that is a large part of the fun and delight in gardening.

Paperback, 90 pages, 1998

BERT-1OPC

\$10.99



Sanidad, Benjamin

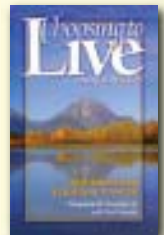
Choosing to Live

In 1996 Dr. Sanidad was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus, a disease usually fatal within months. Resigned to die he underwent surgery but then something changed. He renewed and deepened his faith in God and began to fight for survival. Refusing chemotherapy, he chose an alternative, natural treatment. Four years later, Dr. Sanidad returned to work. Now you can benefit by learning from his experience.

Paperback, 192 pages, 2001

BESB-CTLI

\$6.99



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Letters to the Editor



Thank you for your letter. We feel very blessed by our great and gracious Lord Jesus Christ to be able to assist from time to time. We are very thankful that someone sent you our name and address so that we were able to begin receiving *Our Firm Foundation*. We are so blessed with each and every issue.

We would be interested in attending meetings put on by Hope International in our area.

LB, Georgia

We are still excited about this wonderful message. It is thrilling when one gets to hear the undiluted truth. It has changed each of us who care about what we experience in our churches and we are asking God to show us what to do. Please pray with us to find a place for worship.

VW, Illinois

I just want to take a moment to express my heartfelt and deepest appreciation to each of you for your hard work and dedication for the past year to advance the cause of God here on earth. Enclosed please find a small token of appreciation to you for your organization.

YN, Mississippi

I am so thankful for *Our Firm Foundation*, which helps us to grow spiritually because the articles are all based on the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. My

sincere desire is that we all strive to search the Scriptures and read the Spirit of Prophecy books so that our minds will be filled with God's love, know Him more, and deepen our love for Him. I am anxious to receive the books I ordered.

May your ministry be guided only by the Holy Spirit.

T, Texas

How did I hear about Hope International? Well, your publication was just a pleasant surprise in my mail one day. On reading the articles, I believed I had found a paper on par with the old *Review and Herald* my mother used to receive some forty or fifty years ago.

Some of our publications have lost substance, so I was delighted and blessed to come across one of such high caliber.

Keep up the good work. I will be sharing future publications with all my friends as well as any of my family who will read.

MS, Missouri

I am sure glad the Lord led us to Hope International. The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is the armor we need. Jesus is coming soon!

RP, Utah

My son and I listened to a video from last camp meeting, entitled "Teasing the Beast," by Richard Harris. It was so good. We are not getting this kind of ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist church that we attend.

I just finished reading *Patriarchs and Prophets* and also

The Final Generation and the Fourth Angel by Ron Spear. I love reading Ron Spear's books because he quotes so much from Ellen White's books that most people don't have, and I thank the Lord for good, straight teaching.

How can we encourage people to come out of Babylon's other churches when our church goes to other churches and we send out ministers to Rick Warren and other people for help with church growth?

AD, Michigan

We received your magazine just today. We have never seen it before. It is really nice. We would like to help you advertise by sharing the magazine with the members of our church. If you have a set of magazines to pass out or even old magazines to send as samples we would be glad to pass them out. In the mean time we will pass around the one you sent us.

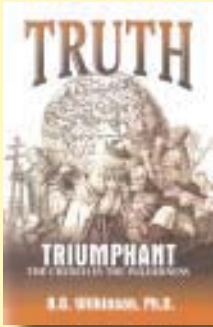
We were not even on your mailing list, as the magazine we received came in my mother's name. My husband was quite intrigued with your "Historical Footnotes" section and thought it might be a fun thing for the members.

EB, California

We received the books, and we want to thank you for your efficient service. Thank you for *Our Firm Foundation*; it keeps us in contact with true Christians, and it is so encouraging. We pray that the Lord will bless your many undertakings.

RP

New Books at Hope International!



Truth Triumphant

By Benjamin G. Wilkinson

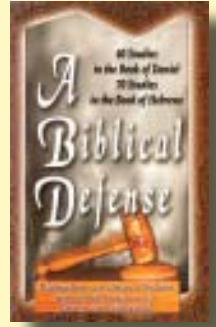
This powerful book is once again available from Hope International. In this book you will read:

- A gripping account of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles as those doctrines were preserved through the Dark Ages by heroes of the cross.
- The valiant struggle of the Waldenses to preserve the Bible and the pure doctrines of the apostles.
- The march of truth under the hand of God in Ireland, Scotland, England, Syria, India, China, the Philippines and other countries.
- The triumph of truth in the period from 538 to 1798 A.D., a chapter of God's leadings long hidden by intolerance and falsehood.

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A Biblical Defense

By Vance Ferrell

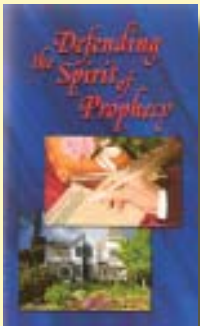


While some have attacked the foundations of our sanctuary beliefs in Daniel and Hebrews, this book reveals how solidly the bedrock of our faith has been laid.

Overwhelming biblical evidence is presented that each of our special controverted historic beliefs in Daniel and Hebrews is correct.

You will gain renewed confidence in how firmly the foundations of our faith have been laid. Share copies of it with fellow believers. Mail copies to friends and church officials.

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Defending the Spirit of Prophecy

By Vance Ferrell

Was Ellen G. White guilty of plagiarism? Have her books been tampered with? These questions and more are answered in this 270-page book.

In Part 1, you will learn about the *Ramik Report* and The *Desire of Ages Project*—both disproving the allegation that Ellen White was guilty of copyright infringement and borrowing from other authors on a large scale. The author also shows that Ellen White used literary methods similar to what the Bible writers used.

Part 2 shows that God has protected Ellen White's writings from tampering. It includes the story behind the various versions of The Great Controversy.

Part 3 answers the questions, What is the purpose of the Spirit of Prophecy? How were we given our doctrinal positions?

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